

## November 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020 Current Projects / Grants

<b>Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce</b> Waterways Festival through Walmart .....	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Cheboygan Area Arts Council</b> Opera House Renovations .....	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Northern Lakes Economic Alliance</b> 2019 Pitch Night .....	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b> Technology Updates .....	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

<b>Cheboygan Visitors Bureau</b> Tourism Marketing Campaign .....	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Greater Mackinaw Chamber of Commerce</b> COVID Grant .....	<b>\$7,333.00</b>
<b>Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce</b> COVID Grant .....	<b>\$13,156.00</b>
<b>Indian River Chamber of Commerce</b> COVID Grant .....	<b>\$9,507.00</b>
<b>Women's Resource Center</b> Grant for Scholarships .....	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

**Cheboygan County Community Foundation's November 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020 Contribution Total:**  
**\$55,496.00**

### Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity Receives \$5,941 in Local Grant Support!



#### **Cheboygan County Community Foundation joins local grant funders to support technology updates for Habitat.**

Many local grant funders recently came together to support Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity (CCHF) with funding for technology updates. In order to become more efficient in their work, much needed technology updates were needed at Habitat. After an initial investment by CCHF, the rest of the funding came from these local grant funders: **Cheboygan County Community Foundation (\$2,500)** and \$3441 from other businesses and agencies.

Funds are being used for crucial technology updates that will allow the staff to operate more efficiently. The funding will allow for the purchase of a new phone system, updated wireless system and security cameras, ReStore register system and an updated computer. The benefits of updating our technology include increased productivity, faster, more powerful, and efficient products lead to getting more work done in less time; therefore, increasing productivity and revenue.

"We are so grateful to have so many local grant funders make an investment into our organization," stated Mandy Martin, Executive Director. "These needed updates will allow us to increase our capacity to serve our community."

### Cheboygan County Community Foundation

OFFICERS: **David Butts, President & CEO**  
**Noreen Keating, Vice-President**  
**James Conboy, Treasurer**

BOARD MEMBERS: **Richard B. Sanford, President Emeritus**  
**Chuck Baase**  
**Tony Eustice**

**Jordan Hogg**  
**Jamie Huber**  
**Matthew Keene**

#### OUR MISSION

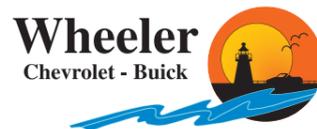
Create a 501(c)3 non-profit county wide Community Foundation to raise and invest tax sheltered funds in support of economic and educational projects.

#### OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to provide a federal and state qualified tax exempt foundation for residents and friends of Cheboygan County to donate income and assets which are federal and state tax deductible. Funds donated to the Cheboygan Communities Foundation are then used to support projects which create jobs, improve local educational opportunities, increase tourism visits, expand retail and commercial offerings, and enhance the overall economic health of Cheboygan County.

The foundation provides grants, scholarships, and other means of financial support for individuals, companies, organizations, non profit agencies, faith based organizations and projects which support our mission and purpose.

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## Economic Development Continues to Move Forward in Cheboygan County

Summer 2020

### Our Members Are Stepping Forward

I want to say hello and thank you to all of our fantastic donors. As you can imagine, it has been incredibly hard to raise funds during this pandemic. The business sponsors who are always so generous have fallen on their own hard times because of the shutdown. It seems unfair to even consider asking them for financial help when, for the most part, they are the ones who need help the most. Still some of them have been able to step forward with financial help. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Our Admiralty Society has stepped up to do it's part as well. Our members have been paying attention and have really come to the aid of this community. Knowing that we have been placing a high priority recently of providing economic help, they continued to give generously and some incredibly generously. Knowing there is someone in the community, like the Community Foundation, who can receive tax deductible gifts and then gather grant applications, evaluate them, and make awards to programs that are most deserving, makes it very easy to give.



**DTE Foundation Donates \$10,000 for COVID-19 Response Efforts**

CCCF recently received a generous grant from the DTE Foundation. Following are excerpts from their letter.

Amount: \$10,000

Grantee: Cheboygan County Community Foundation

Purpose: Support for COVID-19 response efforts

Program: DTE Foundation COVID-19 Funding

We are pleased to announce that the above grant has been made to your organization to support its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts to businesses, non-profit and faith-based organizations.

The DTE Foundation is partnering with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan for this response.

We are pleased to provide this support and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,  
Mariam C. Noland  
President

There are businesses and organizations in this county that may not make it through this pandemic without your support and our CCCF grants. We have given funds to all three Chambers of Commerce (Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, and Indian River) to help some of their struggling members. Your Foundation is also working right now with all three Chambers to come up with an effective means of opening the county up once the shutdown is over. **See more details on page 3.**

The foundation has not forgotten the need to attract tourists and provide spaces for our own families to enjoy. With your financial help, we have partnered with Cheboygan Area Visitors Bureau again this year to increase awareness and drive traffic to our county through late fall. The Children's Trail also came to fruition last year. We are still dedicated to making it a wonderful place and are continuing to work with its developers to make it even better this year. It is located along the Cheboygan River just behind the Cheboygan Ice Pavillion. If you have not seen it yet, you should go see it!

The need has not ended. There are still small businesses and non-profit organizations struggling to hang on. We intend to be there as often as possible to help spur on our local economy. We have not been able to have any fundraisers because of the social distancing and that hurts. That leaves this community in the hands of you, our friends reading this article. Please take the money you would have donated at a fundraiser and please give it now.

This community needs us all to dig a bit deeper than normal and give until it hurts more than ever before. We will evaluate opportunities to help our community, pool your donation with others and leverage your gifts to provide the most benefit to Cheboygan County. This county is about to come back...with a little help from you.

Thank you all so much for being loyal friends of the Cheboygan County Community Foundation.

David R. Butts, CFP, CMFC  
President/CEO  
Cheboygan County Community Foundation

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[www.cheboyganfoundation.org](http://www.cheboyganfoundation.org)

Cheboygan County Community Foundation • P.O. Box 494 • Cheboygan, MI 49721

## Cheboygan County Communities Foundation Receives \$35,000 Bequest



The Cheboygan County Community Foundation has received a \$35,000 bequest from the estate of Linda Widrig Neuss. On behalf of the Foundation, president Dave Butts acknowledged the gift with gratitude. "It will greatly enhance the Foundation's mission to support the economic wellbeing of the County of Cheboygan. It could not have come at a better time given the impact the pandemic has had on our local business community." Since it was founded in 2011 the Foundation has given out 42 grants whose total exceeds \$135,000 to support businesses in the County.

From the time Linda moved to Mullett Lake in 2007 she became active in the Cheboygan community. Her professional career with Ernst & Young, where she became Director of Professional Services, made her invaluable to the organizations in Cheboygan she served. Linda was on the boards of the Cheboygan Economic Development group and the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan. Her tenure

with both of those organizations included time as their president. She was instrumental in the establishment of the North Central Michigan College campus in Cheboygan. As evidenced by the bequest, Linda was also a great supporter of the Community Foundation.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, David Butts thanked Linda's family for all that she did including her children Lindsey Neuss Wolf, and Christina Neuss; her brother David Widrig; and sister Lisa Widrig Cover.

### Cheboygan Yacht Club Donates \$1,000 to CCCF



The Cheboygan County Community Foundation has been emphasizing economic development in Cheboygan County and is pleased to announce a

successful funding initiative during the challenge of the COVID-19 shutdown.

The foundation said the positive response of its neighbors represents a generous investment in Cheboygan's recovery from the COVID-19 business suspension. Individuals and businesses like the Cheboygan Yacht Club have committed funds.

"Please accept this \$1,000 donation on behalf of the Cheboygan Yacht Club for the Community Foundation. So many businesses in Cheboygan are hurting and we hope this helps out. Making this gift to the CCCF and allowing it to run through their grant making process not only protects our tax status, but capitalizes on their grant making expertise so the grant can be most effective," said Cheboygan Yacht Club Commodore Matthew J. Behan.

### Cheboygan County Community Foundation Donates \$10,000 to Opera House for Capital Improvements



"The board recognized the importance of the Opera House to the community and is happy to have been able to make this grant," said Dave Butts, President of the Foundation. "The Opera House is a lynch pin to the success of downtown Cheboygan."

"This is a substantial gift. We finally have enough money to make a real difference," said Kathy King Johnson, executive director of the Cheboygan Area Arts Council. "We struggled for years to get consistent heating and cooling to the theater, and to the offices. We are so thankful to the Cheboygan County Community Foundation for their generous gift."

## Cheboygan County Community Foundation Provides Critical Recovery Aid Funding for Area Chambers of Commerce



Indian River Chamber of Commerce  
Director, Debbie Willey

### Cheboygan County Chambers of Commerce Receive \$30,000.00 Grant from Cheboygan Community Foundation to Aid the Recovery of Small Business

The Board of Directors of the Cheboygan County Community Foundation, at its May meeting, voted to provide grants to the three Cheboygan County Chambers of Commerce based on the number of paid members of each with the total allocated amount to be divided being \$30,000.00.

Based on the number of members the funds were divided as follows:

- Indian River, 258 members: \$9507.30
- Mackinaw City, 199 members: \$7333.15
- Cheboygan, 357 members: \$13,155.45

In the grant announcement letter, the foundation explained to the chambers that "the funds are being provided... with the understanding they will be used to support their communities' businesses efforts to re-open in a safe and orderly manner when permitted..."

"These grants are an acknowledgment of all the great work each of your organizations do," explained Foundation Board Member and Treasurer, Jim Conboy. In a remote meeting through the Zoom platform, Executive Directors Jamie Westfall (Mackinaw City), Scott Herceg (Cheboygan), and Debbie Willey (Indian River) met with Jim Conboy, and Board Member and President, David Butts, to express their heartfelt gratitude for the unexpected financial support, which all three chambers

recognize as life-saving funds for their organizations. Each of the Chambers have experienced significant reduction in income during the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary cancelation of public gatherings and events.

Chambers of Commerce are heavily dependent on non-dues revenue such as community festivals, events, and publications, which have all been cancelled or downscaled heavily since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, because of their tax status as 501c6 organizations, Chambers of Commerce are not eligible for any of the State or Federal support dollars that have been offered to other businesses and non-profits through multiple programs.

"Our number one mission is to support our business communities and help our members be as successful as they can be, said Cheboygan Executive Director Scott Herceg. That mission has never been more important than right now during this coronavirus and the mandatory shutdown measures put in place to stop the spread of



Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce  
Director, Jamie Westfall

the virus," Herceg continued. "We never closed, added Mackinaw City Director Jamie Westfall, we just started working from home. But we continued to write letters and make phone calls to our contacts in the government and the health sectors to make sure our business communities got all the information that they needed." Indian River Director Debbie Wiley agreed, "Our offices have been closed to the public, but we have been busy. This support couldn't have come at a better time. Our fundraising events have all been canceled but our support of the business community must continue. These dollars from the Foundation will allow us to continue to operate. We are extremely grateful for the support."



Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce Director,  
Scott Herceg with his son, Bennett