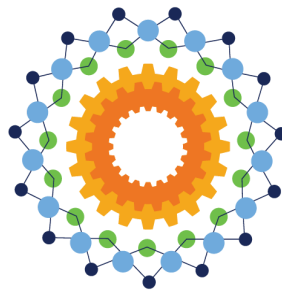


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\$371,500 AWARDED TO 6 NORTHERN MICHIGAN INITIATIVES
Rotary Charities of Traverse City announces Fall 2021 Grant Awards

[Traverse City, MI, December 14, 2021]

Rotary Charities of Traverse City is pleased to announce the recipients of our Fall 2021 Grants, totaling \$371,500. Learn more about the grantees and their initiatives by watching the [Grant Award Announcement livestream](#).

Working in partnership with changemakers, Rotary Charities provides funding, learning, and connections to address our region's complex problems and create community assets for all. Up to \$50,000 is available via the *Assets for Thriving Communities* grant program, which supports initiatives that develop, strengthen, or build community assets that are available to all, or make an existing asset more widely available. Collaborative initiatives targeting the root causes of complex community problems can apply for up to \$150,000 through the *Systems Change Accelerator* grant program. The next deadline to apply for these grants is March 1, 2022. Learn more at RotaryCharities.org/Grants

"We are pleased to partner with these six organizations," said Sakura Takano, CEO of Rotary Charities. "Despite the setbacks and increased need many nonprofits in our region saw over the last year, we were heartened to see organizations pull through and set goals for future-building. We are supporting a variety of community assets, including restoring and expanding historic landmarks, removing barriers to necessary services and outdoor spaces, and addressing the need for mental health and wellness resources in our schools. We are honored to steward resources that demonstrate our commitment to building communities that are adaptive and thriving for everyone."

Fall 2021 Grant Recipients

The Bay Community Theatre, Suttons Bay, MI - \$50,000 Assets for Thriving Communities

The Bay Community Theatre has been awarded \$50,000 to replace obsolete infrastructure and equipment, improvements which will greatly enhance the theater-going experience. Formed in 2019 to operate the theater as a nonprofit, the Bay Community Theatre has seen significant growth in attendance despite the pandemic. It is a vital community asset that creates access and appreciation for cinema, performing, and literary arts by providing a local venue for cultural, intellectual, and educational programs.

The Botanic Gardens at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City, MI - \$50,000 Assets for Thriving Communities

The Botanic Gardens at Historic Barns Park has been awarded \$50,000 in support of their capital campaign to renovate the historic dairy barn as an education center and to create a sensory garden accessible to youth of

all ages and abilities. The Botanic Gardens are a valued community resource that offer opportunities for recreation, learning, respite, and celebration, welcoming visitors of all ages and abilities.

Good Samaritan Family Services, Ellsworth, MI - \$21,500 Assets for Thriving Communities

Good Samaritan Family Services has been awarded \$21,500 to pave their gravel parking lot with asphalt, which will reduce physical accessibility barriers experienced by their clients and the community. Good Samaritan Family Services provides food and emergency assistance, a thrift shop, and life skills classes to over 400 families and neighbors in need each month.

Justice for Our Neighbors, Traverse City, MI - \$50,000 Assets for Thriving Communities

Justice for Our Neighbors has been awarded \$50,000 in support of the pro bono legal services they provide to low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who live and work in the Grand Traverse region. Since 2015, the Traverse City JFON office has served 547 clients from 63 countries, and is the only provider north of Grand Rapids offering free immigration legal services to these populations.

Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority, Kalkaska, MI - \$50,000 Assets for Thriving Communities

The Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority has been awarded \$50,000 in support of a collaborative effort with the North Country Trail and other partners to re-route the trail and create a non-motorized handicap accessible trail and boardwalk along the Boardman River. The project is an integral part of the DDA's long-term focus to connect area non-motorized trails to the Downtown District, providing an asset to trail hikers and nature enthusiasts of all abilities and bringing economic activity to the downtown area.

Traverse City Area Public Schools, Traverse City, MI - \$150,000 Systems Change Accelerator

Traverse City Area Public Schools has been awarded \$150,000 over three years in support of their initiative that seeks to impact and improve community health in the region by creating, promoting, and sustaining policies and practices within the school district that will lead to the establishment and maintenance of healthy, life-long habits for students and staff. TCAPS aims to improve the health and wellness of TCAPS staff and students through the hiring of a dedicated Health and Wellness Coordinator and the implementation of wellness initiatives across TCAPS schools.

To interview a Rotary Charities staff member about these grants or request grantee contact information please contact Miriam Owsley, Strategic Communications Manager, mowsley@rotarycharities.org.

About Rotary Charities:

Following the 1976 discovery of oil and natural gas reserves on property owned by the Traverse City Rotary Club, Rotary Charities of Traverse City was established as the steward of these resources. Since that time, nearly \$65 million in grants have been awarded to nonprofits, municipalities, networks, and tribal nations in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. Today, Rotary Charities is known for its mission of providing funding, learning, and connections to address our region's complex problems and create community assets for all. In recent years, Rotary Charities has evolved from a traditional grantmaking organization to a regional changemaking organization that envisions communities that are adaptive and thriving for everyone. This requires innovative grantmaking, impact investing, and capacity building strategies, as well as effective internal structures to support the work.

To learn more visit rotarycharities.org

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