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Spotlight



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Cadillac Area Community Foundation continues its support of area community

CADILLAC — The Cadillac Area Community Foundation awarded more than \$1 million in 2024 through grants, scholarships and donor-advised funds to support education, nonprofits and community initiatives across the region.

The foundation, a 501©(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, manages a permanent collection of endowed funds to provide long-term support for the Cadillac area. Oversight is provided by a board of trustees committed to responsible stewardship and advancing the foundation's mission to improve local quality of life.

Foundation trustees include President Erin Barbus; Vice President Jennifer Neff; Treasurer Trent Mulder; Secretary Michael McGuire; and members Dr. Megan Santangelo, Lorri King, Wilbur Potvin, Jennifer Mitchell, Dr. Greg Lamourne, Owen Roberts and Corri Lindell-Denman.

In the spring of 2025, the foundation awarded \$157,000 in scholarships. Of that total, \$54,000 supported students who completed their first year of college, and \$40,900 was awarded to students in their second, third- and fourth-year college, reinforcing the foundation's focus on sustained academic support beyond the freshman year.

To strengthen local nonprofits, the foundation partnered with the Alliance for Economic Success and the Human Leadership Services Council to host a grant-writing workshop attended by representatives from 40 organizations. Consultant Cindy McSurely, who has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, led the training, which included insights into using artificial intelligence in the grant-writing process. A board development workshop is planned for fall.



The foundation's Youth Advisory Committee, made up of students in grades 9-12, awarded \$37,700 since September 2024 to support education, safety and youth development. Funded programs included Tools of the Trade, Shoes for Success, Healing Private Wounds, Shop with a Hero, the CAPS Women's STEM Club, Breakfast with Santa, and several local sports programs.

In total, the foundation awarded \$123,150 in grants to area organizations this year, including Healing Private Wounds, Manton Library, Love INC., Eagle Village, Friends of the White Pine Trail, Up North Arts, Cadillac Leadership, Cadillac Symphony Orchestra and veterans' initiatives.

Looking ahead, the foundation is working to streamline its grant application process, raise visibility and engagement in the community,



promote scholarships for both high school graduates and returning college students, and develop a succession plan to ensure long-term organizational continuity.



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In 2024/2025, \$33,234 in grants were awarded to nonprofits to support projects and programs that positively impact lives in the Missaukee area.

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