



**For immediate release:
March 14, 2025**

**Contact: Sara Ward, President
231.536.2440**

C3F Focuses on Student Success with Grants to Local Schools

In communities across Charlevoix County, schools provide students with a nurturing place for learning and growing. In addition to engaging activities, challenging concepts, and valuable extra-curricular experiences, schools are increasingly providing food and clothing or support navigating post-secondary career paths. With dedicated school personnel as their partners, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) and their donors remove barriers to learning as well as increase opportunities for students to achieve through Student Success grants.

C3F partners with school leaders to offer strategic support to make a difference where tax support can't. Student Success grants are available to schools across Charlevoix County including Beaver Island, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, and East Jordan. Recent grants had a huge impact on each school's ability to provide engaging opportunities and encourage students to become successful community citizens.

In Boyne City, a recent grant supported "Where Everybody Belongs," a mentoring and transition program which offers training, games, and bonding events between 8th grade mentors and 5th graders. This helps make the transition from elementary to middle school easier for students and can even eliminate bullying by bringing students together. This program also builds dynamic youth leaders. One former 8th grade mentor has now become a member of the C3F Youth Advisory Committee representing Boyne City.

In Charlevoix, grant dollars supported the completion of the putting the T in STEM program, to bring more expansive technology equipment to K-6th grade classes. They purchased a 3D printer, Dash Robots, and Code and Go Robots to practice computational thinking, design thinking, coding, programming, and problem solving. In addition, recent Student Success grants also supported purchasing physical education air bikes for the school gym and sensory exploration bins for the Little Rayders program which enriches early education learning through hands-on sensory exploration for their youngest students. Sensory exploration includes the use of thoughtfully curated, interesting, and engaging items that are put together for independent investigation by young students such as the Button Bin which teaches sorting, comparing, and counting, and the Aquarium Bin which fosters discovery, creativity, language, and calming.

In East Jordan, a grant supported reestablishing the EJPS Drama Program so they could put on a theater production for the entire community for the first time in 13 years. To produce quality shows, the program needed to upgrade equipment such as wireless body microphones and stage monitors to allow performers to hear the music. Their first production, the musical "Finding

Nemo," has sparked more interest from students and the program has a goal of producing both a fall and spring production each year.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes and for many purposes. Those contributions are professionally managed to generate income that is used to make grants supporting worthwhile programs, projects, and initiatives right here at home. Currently, more than 328 separate funds make up the Community Foundation, each one created by an individual, family, business, or nonprofit agency. With assets of over \$64 million, the Community Foundation has made grants totaling more than \$39 million since 1992.

For more information about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, or to find out how to support a Student Success Fund for Beaver Island, Boyne Falls, Boyne City, Charlevoix, or East Jordan, contact the Foundation office at (231) 536-2440 or visit the organization's website at www.c3f.org.

###