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C3F Reflects on Ice Storm Relief Grants

As the weather turns colder and Northern Michigan prepares for the incoming winter season, there are many stark reminders of the 2025 Ice Storm. In response to that disastrous event earlier this year, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation awarded **\$184,919** in emergency relief grants to local nonprofits, municipalities, schools, and service organizations to aid recovery efforts.

When a massive ice storm swept through Northern Michigan last March, our community faced one of its toughest challenges in recent memory. Amid downed power lines and impassable roads, families were left without heat, businesses experienced losses, and buildings were damaged. Local C3F donors came together with remarkable speed and compassion. Thanks to their generosity, they were able to allocate **Urgent Needs Ice Storm Relief funds** immediately for stocking food pantries, providing critical supplies to those in need, and eventually, cleanup and repair efforts.

Support for Vulnerable Populations: \$40,000 went to organizations serving the hardest-hit populations including seniors, low-income families, and farmers to offer financial assistance to cover the costs of emergency services and home repairs.

- **Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency:** \$20,000
- **The Salvation Army:** \$15,000
- **Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology:** \$5,000

Food Security: \$10,800 was directed to regional food pantries and shelters to stock emergency food supplies, provide hot meals, and distribute bottled water and other resources to families affected by the storm.

- **Beaver Island Christian Church & Food Pantry:** \$1,200
- **Community Food Pantry:** \$1,200
- **East Jordan Care & Share Food Pantry:** \$1,200
- **Good Neighbors Food Pantry of Boyne City:** \$1,200
- **Manna Food Project:** \$5,000
- **Joppa House Ministries:** \$1,000

Economic Impact Relief: \$49,359 was awarded to help local small businesses and nonprofit service providers to recover lost wages, reduce their economic losses, and reopen safely.

- **Boyne Arts Collective:** \$3,052
- **Charlevoix Circle of Arts:** \$1,307
- **Charlevoix Township:** \$10,000
- **Hudson Township Fire and Rescue:** \$5,000
- **Venture North:** \$20,000
- **Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan:** \$10,000

Rebuilding Efforts: \$84,760 was allocated to local organizations, municipalities and schools to cover the costs of facility repairs, debris removal, and rebuilding or replacing damaged equipment and structures.

- **Bergmann Center:** \$5,000
- **Camp Daggett:** \$10,000
- **Charlevoix Children's House:** \$700
- **Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan:** \$600
- **Crooked Tree Arts Center:** \$2,000
- **Hayes Township:** \$10,000
- **Little Traverse Conservancy:** \$17,160
- **Melrose Township:** \$10,000
- **Northern Michigan Equine Therapy:** \$8,500
- **Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity:** \$7,000
- **Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities:** \$5,000
- **Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association:** \$3,800
- **Ziibimijwang:** \$5,000

Community Impact

"These grants represent the strength, resilience, and generosity of our Charlevoix County friends and neighbors," said Sara Ward, C3F President. "By investing in food security, rebuilding efforts, and economic recovery, we ensured that families and businesses got back on their feet after this devastating storm." Bill Conklin, Hayes Township Supervisor had this to say about C3F's grant support, "Charlevoix County Community Foundation was the catalyst for ice storm clean-up in Hayes Township. Without their assistance, I doubt that the ice storm debris would have been cleaned up by this date. Due to their prompt assistance, the Township Board responded favorably to a reduced bid from an out-of-the-area tree/debris contractor to remove the ice storm debris from piles along the roadway at the homes of many Hayes Township residents who needed assistance. Over the course of three months, the majority of the ice storm damage was cleaned up, and the individual property owners in Hayes Township had their yards restored. Thank you for

being readily available to assist and for quickly and kindly responding to the needs of our residents."

Preparing for the Future

C3F's Urgent Needs Fund is active all year round, including for this and other emergencies, by supporting access to food, shelter, safety, healthcare, mental health services, utility assistance, transportation, and more. Community members wishing to contribute to the Urgent Needs Fund can do so through the Foundation's website or by contacting the office directly.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is dedicated to inspiring generosity to drive positive change for the people and places in our area, now and forever. C3F strives to understand the funding gaps in our region, respond to needs, and leverage resources for greater outcomes. Together with donors, C3F is a force for good that's both meaningful and enduring. 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 please contact them at (231) 536-2440 or online at www.c3f.org.

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