

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan awards more than  
\$15 million in grants to improve region's quality of life**

*Funds support projects that are vital to the community, children and organizations in southeast Michigan*

*Detroit* – The board of trustees of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan approved \$15,356,557 in grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve the quality of life in the seven-county region and beyond. The board approved the grants at its quarterly meeting in March. The following organizations are among those receiving grants from the Community Foundation:

- **Brookings Institution**, *Washington, D.C.*, \$50,000 to support the second phase of the Great Lakes Economic Initiative.
- **Detroit Zoological Society**, *Detroit*, \$25,000 to support a plan to develop partnerships that will provide greater access for schools and community groups to the zoo facilities and programs, including programs about wildlife, environmental sciences and humane education. The partnerships will also link with local parks systems to promote increased outdoor physical activity.
- **Eastern Market Corp.**, *Detroit*, \$50,000 to support an economic development and land-use plan for the Eastern Market district that will address ways to connect the market to existing and emerging neighborhoods along the Detroit riverfront.
- **Michigan Nonprofit Association**, *Lansing*, \$25,000 to support the Metro Detroit Partnership, a management service organization that prepares nonprofit organizations in southeast Michigan to work more efficiently and effectively to achieve their goals and improve services.
- **County of Washtenaw**, \$50,000 to support a demonstration project of the Food System Economic Partnership to bring more locally produced foods to schools. The farm-to-school project will connect three school systems with local farmers who will provide fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables, and will promote healthy eating habits among students.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan**, *Auburn Hills*, \$45,330 to support “Triple Play,” a program to promote healthy lifestyles of youth through nutrition, physical activity and social recreation.

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- **Coalition On Temporary Shelter, Detroit**, \$9,500 to support a program to strengthen the employability of homeless individuals through technology training and computer software skills.
- **Birmingham School District, Birmingham**, \$11,000 to support a curriculum that will address the needs of children with autism through use of adaptive physical equipment, innovative programs and activities at the Birmingham Public School Center-based Autistic Impaired Program.
- **Northville Public Schools, Northville**, \$15,300 to support a program to help students with developmental disabilities from 16 school districts in Wayne County to gain practical work experience.
- **All The World's a Stage, Clinton Township**, \$7,000 to support the development of an aftercare program for youth released from the Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center. The program will help youths to overcome challenges they may face and will teach them coping methods, communication techniques, respect and cooperation.
- **Warren/Conner Development Coalition, Detroit**, \$4,700 to support the establishment of a community garden. Students from Youth on the Edge of Greatness, an affiliate of the coalition, will create a "community peace garden" to show that they care about their community and their peers. Students also expect to coordinate gardening activities with the school's science teachers and donate produce to local families and shelters.

The **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**, founded in 1984, is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations committed to the future of southeast Michigan. The Foundation works to improve the region's quality of life by connecting those who care with causes that matter. The Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. The Foundation has assets of more than \$530 million and, since its inception, has distributed more than \$247 million through more than 26,285 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties.