



Hillsdale County
community foundation™
For good. For ever.®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hillsdale County Community Foundation in Top Philanthropic Tier Nationally

HCCF Again Meets Rigorous Standards for Quality and Accountability

Hillsdale, MI, September 14, 2011 –

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation recently received notification that it has again met the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The notice comes from the Council on Foundations, a national professional association based in Washington, D.C.



“This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations,” said

Steve Gunderson, Council on Foundations president and chief executive officer. “It

says that the Hillsdale County Community Foundation has demonstrated a commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability.”

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. The program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

“This is critical to our existence,” said Sharon Bisher, HCCF Executive Director. “When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or make a donations, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and enable them to support the causes that matter the most to them. The National Standards reconfirmation process demonstrates our ability to do this effectively and with the highest level of accountability.”

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to advance a cause such as education or human services, support local organizations, provide flexible support for community needs or recommend individual grants. In addition to affirming the organization's philanthropic services, the reconfirmation validates HCCF's grantmaking practices for the nonprofit community.

"Some say it's easier to create wealth than to give money away wisely," said David Pope, HCCF Board Chair. "There's some truth in that. Grantmaking is a lot like investing...we need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. When you see the National Standards Seal, you can be assured that we're committed to meeting the highest standards for grantmaking as well."

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation was established in 1991 "For **good**. For **ever**." As a community grant-making foundation, it provides seed money to organizations and institutions that have identified problems and have designed constructive action programs aimed at solutions. A majority of the Foundation's grant making is focused on the areas of youth, leadership, philanthropy and volunteerism.

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