



Hillsdale County
community foundation™
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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Love Your Community Voting Underway March 14-April 1

Hillsdale, MI, March 11, 2016–

In January, applicants submitted project ideas for the “Love Your Community” grant program through the Hillsdale County Community Foundation. Six applications have been chosen as finalists, with the potential of receiving up to \$2,000 to implement their project. The Love Your Community program supports projects and programs aimed at enhancing and engaging communities. The strongest proposals demonstrated creativity and innovation, and could not duplicate services or programs already in place. No individual grant award will exceed \$2,000.

While the Foundation’s “regular” grants are available only to organizations that are tax-exempt according to Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, educational institutions, or governmental units, the Love Your Community program was open to any applicant with an idea, a plan, and a desire to make their community a better place. The finalists’ projects promote community improvement, interaction, or engagement.

The top ideas will be posted on the Hillsdale County Community Foundation facebook page March 14-April 1. The largest factor in the grant award decision-making will be the support that each proposal receives via facebook likes recorded directly from the HCCF page through April 1st (not from the applicant’s personal or organizational pages). HCCF will also evaluate each proposal for feasibility,



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plan for execution, clear communication of goals and expected outcomes, and realistic budget. Project finalists include:

- A countywide electronics waste collection;
- A picnic table shelter for a village park;
- A toddler and baby soft play zone at a local library;
- Restoration efforts for the seawall at Bird Lake;
- An everlasting love celebration; and
- Nutritional education for Hillsdale County families.

The winning grant proposals will be announced at a community reception beginning at 5 pm on April 14th, which will be open to the public. The reception will be held at the HCCF office, and refreshments will be provided. All applicants have been invited to prepare a display, outlining their proposed project. This goal of the event is to generate excitement and support for our friends and neighbors who have a vision to improve the world around us, whether it's the single block of a neighborhood or an entire city, village, or township. For more information please contact the Hillsdale County Community Foundation at 417-439-5101, stop by our office at 2 S. Howell St. in Hillsdale, or visit our website (www.abouthccf.org) or facebook page.

