



The Cook Family Foundation

Spring 2024

PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

OUR VALUES

Have Integrity
Be Inclusive
Make True Impact

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Cook, Board President
Bailey Leppert, Secretary/Treasurer
Anna Owens, Trustee
Susie Phillips, Trustee
Matt Van Epps, Trustee

STAFF

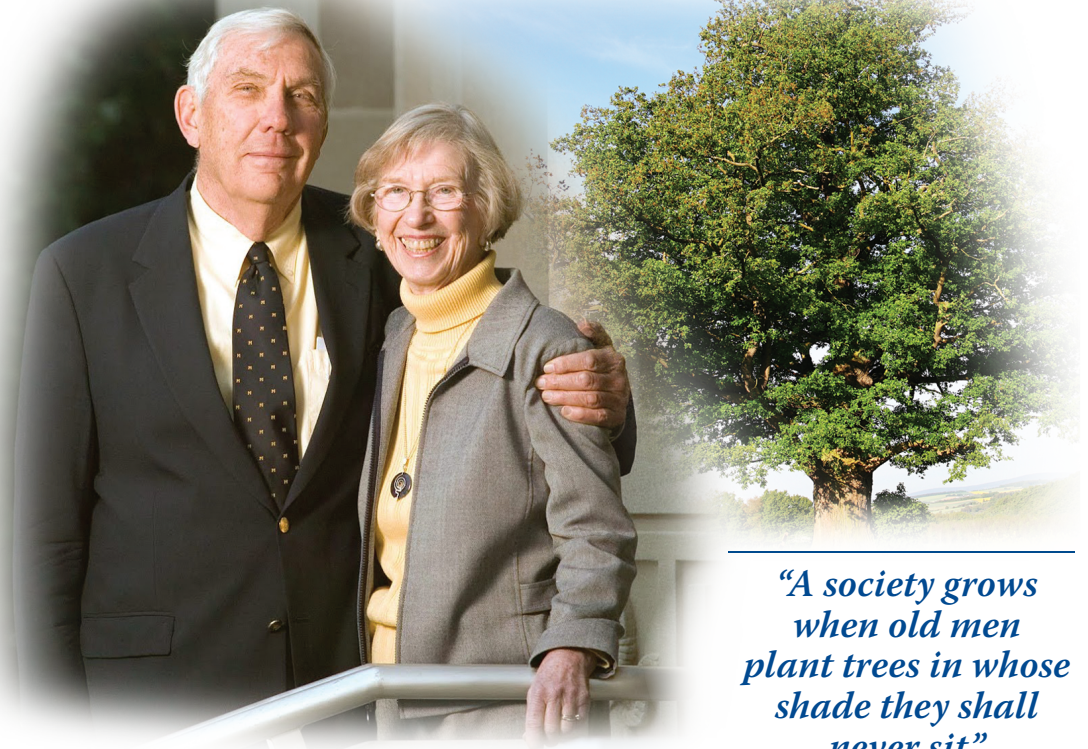
Tom Cook, Executive Director
Yvette Collard, Director of Scholarships
Kerry Dutcher, Associate Director



CONTACT US

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*“A society grows
when old men
plant trees in whose
shade they shall
never sit.”*

Bruce Cook passed away in October of 2022, and Jackie Cook passed away in May of 2023. Married almost 70 years, they were both active philanthropists with a particular commitment to community service, education, and the environment. They left both a financial and an inspirational legacy to the Cook Family Foundation.

Continuing the Legacy of Growth in Our Community

“Bloom where you are planted,” was one of Bruce Cook’s favorite sayings. The family, board, and staff of the Foundation now find ourselves tending to the growth made possible by our donors and leaders: Bruce and Jackie Cook, our most recent benefactors, and Donald and Florence-etta Cook, who initially endowed the Cook Family Foundation.

After a period of reflection and planning, the Foundation has now increased its grant making to better serve the Shiawassee region. We believe our communities are at their best when we come together to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all our residents. We have adopted new grant guidelines that offer support for collaborative work, nonprofit leadership, and partnerships between the private and public sectors.

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OUR VISION:

We envision a diverse, healthy, and thriving community where all children have access to the best education, the natural environment is protected and enjoyed, and all people have the opportunity and support to build joyful, meaningful lives.

OUR MISSION:

The Cook Family Foundation, a multigenerational family foundation based in Owosso, Michigan, collaborates with organizations to support education, the environment, the arts, and community stewardship. We work to be a catalyst for positive community change to promote a more equitable society.



Legacy of Growth *(Continued from page 1)*

Other investments are also underway by the Cook Family Foundation to continue the legacy of our benefactors. In addition to support for local nonprofits serving Shiawassee County, and increased support for protection of the lands in the Shiawassee watershed, we continue our commitment to education and the University of Michigan. We remain committed to education in the Shiawassee region, providing funding for preschool programs, student support, and college scholarships.

Our board also continues to look for opportunities to expand community education, address the needs of our youth, and create more opportunities for women in education, the economy, civic leadership, and community development. We always urge community members to reach out to us with their best ideas to help us realize our vision to create diverse, sustainable, and thriving communities welcoming to all.



Spotlight On the Environment

We are fortunate to live in communities often defined by the Shiawassee River and we extend our environmental grant-making to its watershed and surrounding areas.

In particular, we seek to make investments to protect the land we all depend on, which includes both natural areas and working agricultural lands. Preserving and promoting nature can help improve water quality, reduce the impacts of a changing climate, provide recreational opportunities, and ensure a sustainable economy. See our webpage for specific information on our environmental goals and grant guidelines for land preservation.

How to Apply for a Grant

If you share our vision for our community please reach out to us. The Cook Family Foundation does not seek to promote any particular cause or address only certain concerns. Rather, we believe that our local community can best identify the most pressing needs, and put together the most effective responses. We are happy to talk or meet about your ideas and discuss possibilities for an investment by the Cook Family Foundation. If your request meets our guidelines, we may set up a meeting, ask more questions, or invite a more formal application. All major grant decisions are made by our board, and they meet several times a year. **Please visit our website or contact us for more information or assistance.**



The
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2023 Grants

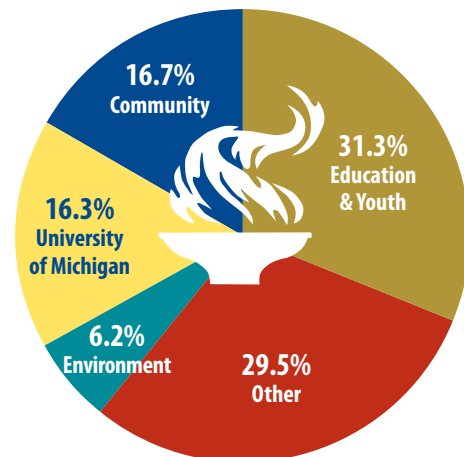
Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, the Cook Family Foundation strives to strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth. Our goal is to help initiate change and promote sustainability within an organization, and as such the Foundation is willing to provide financial support for programs, facilities, equipment, staffing, professional development, contracted services, or other tools for positive change. Each year the Cook Family Foundation reviews grant proposals from community organizations with emphasis on key areas as highlighted in this listing of projects funded in 2023.

Community Organizations	\$127,391	Education and Youth	\$193,425
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program	\$59,340	Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$104,541
Shiawassee Arts Center	\$13,500	Shiawassee Regional Education Services District	
Girls on the Run - Mid Michigan	\$11,000	Shiawassee Scholars Program	\$80,000
Friends of the Shiawassee River	\$10,800	Early Childhood Preschool Scholarships	\$6,000
SafeCenter	\$7,000	Eagle Scout Project - Owosso Public Schools	\$1,000
Nonprofit Technology Program	\$6,690	Margaret Gulick Scholarship Fund	\$1,000
Shiawassee Family YMCA	\$6,000	One Book, One Community	\$884
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership	\$4,000		
Raise UP Shiawassee Collaboration (GivingTuesday)	\$3,721	Environment	\$17,581
Menstrual Product Access	\$3,090	Mid Michigan Land Conservancy	\$10,581
Memorial Healthcare Mental Health Lunch & Learn	\$1,000	Land Conservancies	\$7,000
Goodfellows	\$1,000		
Capital Area Community Services	\$250	Additional Financials	
University of Michigan	\$252,903	Administration & Associated Costs	\$350,452
Scholarships - Ann Arbor	\$119,683	Office Expenses and Memberships	\$58,606
Scholarships - Flint	\$72,000	Professional Services & Fees	\$35,144
Scholarship Support	\$21,220	Other Grants	\$22,500
Shiawassee Area Interns	\$40,000	Communications	\$7,346
		Total Disbursements	\$1,065,348

Learn more...

Go to www.cookfamilyfoundation.org to find out more about:

- Scholarship Information
- Grant Criteria
- Grant Application
- Non-Profit Capacity Building Program
- Collaboration
- Fellows Internship Program
- Events



In the last five years, the Foundation has made grants totaling in excess of \$4 million dollars in four primary areas.

Grant to Honor Bruce and Jackie Cook

The most recent benefactors to the Cook Family Foundation invested their time and treasure in the youth of our community.

Bruce Cook, like his father Don before him, was an advocate for the Shiawassee Family Y. Jackie Cook, in addition to serving as an elected board member of the Owosso Public Schools, helped launch the Foundation's work in early childhood education.

To honor their long-term commitment to youth, the Foundation is joining the Shiawassee Family YMCA's \$2.5 million capital campaign to revamp their facilities and add childcare services to their programs that serve the community. The Foundation has made a legacy donation and offered a \$500,000 challenge grant to match pledges of \$20,000 or more to the campaign. Foundation Trustee, Anna Owens, is co-chair of the campaign, and several Cook family members and friends have also stepped up to be part of the effort.

To learn more about the campaign, and make a pledge, contact Laura Archer at (989) 725-8136 or larcher@shiawasseeymca.org.



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