



P.O. Box 495 • Alpena, MI 49707-0495 • Toll Free Phone: 877-354-6881
Fax: 989-356-3319 • www.sacf.net

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Contact: Christine Bruske-Hitch
Program Associate
Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan

Straits Area Community Foundation Awards Over \$5,000 to Area Programs

The Straits Area Community Foundation (SACF) has awarded \$5,098.24 through five grants for its 2009 Common Grant and Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Grant cycles.

Common Grants recently awarded by SACF are:

\$1,200 was awarded to Cheboygan Compassionate Ministries to support the Back to School Giveaway Event, where students will be provided with backpacks and supplies for the school year.

\$852.49 was awarded to the Mackinaw Area Historical Society to help with the cost of printing a booklet, *The Diary of Mary Anderson*, which will be provided to students visiting the Historic Village. The fictional story is that of a young girl whose father has been quarantined in the Pestilence House.

\$395.75 was awarded to American Red Cross of Northern Lower Michigan to provide smoke detectors at food pantries throughout Cheboygan County and Mackinaw City. Funding will also help support the Smoke Detector Battery Replacement Program for senior citizens.

Straits Area YAC awarded two grants through the Straits Area Kellogg Youth Fund.

\$2,500 was awarded to Mackinaw City Schools to support the school's Close Up project, which will send more than 20 students to Washington D.C. to learn about government and American history.

\$150 was awarded to Cheboygan Area Schools to help purchase a Nintendo Wii Entertainment System. The system will include the Wii Fit program, which will provide an opportunity for students to remain active during indoor recess.

Common Grants are awarded from the Straits Area Community Needs Endowment Fund and the Straits Area Spendable Tobacco Settlement Fund, while YAC grants are awarded through the Straits Area Kellogg Youth Fund. These funds are able to provide grants each year to nonprofit organizations in Cheboygan County and Mackinaw City working to improve the lives of current and future residents of the Straits Area. As the funds grow, through income and future gifts, the amount available to grant also grows.

The Straits Area Community Foundation (SACF), established in 1998, has awarded more than \$300,000 in grants. SACF is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan.

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