

Peter C. & Emajeane Cook Foundation Q2 2021

Newsletter

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Mel Trotter Ministries – Immeasurably More Campaign



The Foundation made its largest grant ever to a Christian aid organization with a \$700,000 grant payable over four years to the current Mel Trotter campaign. The \$15M campaign allocates \$10.5M for building maintenance, repair and renovation to the 225 Commerce site. Another \$3M is committed to expanding their workforce development center and transitional housing portfolio.

With significant modification, the 225 Commerce shelter space, which had not been renovated in over 54 years, will transition to dormitory style rooms. Typically, there are four guests to a room. Each room will have its own half bath. As a result, they are adding about 70 sinks and toilets to the space. The current shower count of 41 will become 50 – all single stall private showers.

With 121 years of service, Mel Trotter Ministries is one of the oldest non-profits residing in Grand Rapids. Their focus and operations have shifted a bit over the years, but they have consistently been an aid for those most vulnerable. Recently merging with Next Step of West Michigan and Heartside Ministry, they partner with Arbor Circle, AYA Youth Collective, Booth Family Services, Covenant House Academy, Degage Ministries, Equality Michigan, Guiding Light, ICCF, North Kent Connect, Pine Rest, MI Works, Salvation Army, Urban League, Family Promise and the Veteran’s Administration. The largest shelter in West Michigan, they offer emergency shelter and meals before connecting an individual with a case manager to assist with permanent housing solutions.

The Board approved three \$50,000 grants as described below. Conductive Learning Center received a grant to provide appliances and furniture for their new space and “Life-skills learning lab”. San Juan Diego Academy, located just outside the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood received a grant for operations and tuition support. The YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids received a deferred COVID-19 relief grant to assist as they re-open and continue to respond to community needs.



By the Numbers



The Foundation Board approved grants totaling \$1,034,000 funding 15 organizations during Q2 2021. Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$700,000 with the median grant \$15,000.

All grant approvals had a West Michigan impact. 82% of the grant dollars were for capital projects. \$52,000 or 5% provided for the Grandville Avenue neighborhood. Just under 85% of grant dollars were for Christian organizations. Since the pandemic began, we have been exceeding our planned essential needs funding. That trend continued in Q2 with 72% of our grants made to essential needs providers.

For more information, see <https://www.cookfoundationgr.org/>