

Peter C. & Emajeon Cook Foundation Q1 2019

Newsletter

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Mega Grant

Grand Rapids Whitewater

The Foundation committed a million dollars, payable over five years to Grand Rapids Whitewater to support the Grand River revitalization. A two and a half mile stretch of the Grand River, the city's namesake and our most important natural asset will be the focus of this investment. The \$45 million project, expected to be funded collaboratively by both public and private sectors offers a multitude of benefits.

The project will include removal of five dated low-head dams, as well as installation of boulders and substrate to restore the lower rapids. It includes construction of a new operable barrier upstream that allows fish passage but also provides improved public safety and flood control while



preventing non-native sea-lamprey from spawning upstream. These changes will provide enhanced recreational benefits to include fishing, rowing, whitewater rafting and kayaking. In summary, the project will improve the river ecosystem, create more social and cultural opportunities, and provide economic stimulus.

CHALLENGE GRANTS Increase Impact

The Foundation continued to offer grants designed to help secure other funding partners to strengthen a grantee's funding streams. Two such grants are highlighted below:

SAN JUAN DIEGO

This private school educates approximately 200 underserved Latino students from six different Catholic parishes and is located adjacent to the Roosevelt Park neighborhood. Of a \$3M campaign designed to improve facilities and strengthen their financial position, the Peter C. & Emajeon Cook Foundation provided a capital grant of \$50,000 along with a capital challenge grant matching another \$50,000 if raised by 6/1/19. The school met this match by quarter end.

GILDA'S CLUB

Gilda's Club provides free emotional healthcare to those on or walking alongside those on a cancer journey as well general grief support. Their programming is showcased and funded (in part) by the community through a ten-day comedy festival called LaughFest. A Signature Event featuring top-notch talent and a dinner anchors the event. The Foundation challenged the attendees of this event to provide an additional \$35,000 of funding, to be matched by the Foundation. They met and surpassed the match.

By the Numbers



With the Mega Grant, the Foundation Board approved grants of \$1,561,000 funding 23 organizations during Q1 2019. The last mega grant was approved in January 2017.

All grant approvals had a West Michigan impact. 76% of the grants were for capital projects.

Approximately 25% of grants approved were for Christian organizations.