

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County Meets Rigorous Standards for Quality and Accountability**

The Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County has been notified that it has met the nation's highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The notice comes from the Council on Foundations, a national professional association based in Washington, D.C.



“This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations,” said Steve Gunderson, Council on Foundations president and chief executive officer. “It says that the Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County has demonstrated a commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability.”

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. Compliance with the National Standards is intended to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations program is the first of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

“This is critically important to our donors,” said Chris McGuigan, the Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County president. “When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards certification says our house is in order.”

The Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to advance a cause of their choosing, such as the environment or land use, support an individual organization such as a church or non-profit organization, grant a scholarship, or provide flexible support for community needs.

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County has as its mission to build community endowment, effect positive change through grant making and provide leadership on key community issues, all to serve donors' desires to enhance the quality of life for the people of our region, now and for generations to come.

With close to 800 funds, and over \$100,000,000 in assets, the Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County has made grants totaling over \$55,000,000 during its 45 year history.

Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, the Community Foundation *for* Muskegon County helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. The Foundation and its donors believe in the power and potential of Muskegon County.