

Celebrate National Philanthropy Month Locally!

Most of us are philanthropic in one way or another every day: perhaps you donate annually to local organizations in support of environmental protection, performing arts, or those in need; maybe you give your knowledge of finance by serving on a non-profit board, your skill as a nurse at a local health clinic, or your abilities as a coach to assist at your child's school; or possibly you give your time serving food at a local soup kitchen, stuffing envelopes for a fundraiser, or visiting with an elderly friend.

Many of our neighbors, colleagues, and friends are making a difference in these ways and more. In fact, the rate of giving dollars in northern Michigan is nearly 85% and volunteering rates show over 50% of residents give their time and talents as well. As evidence of that level of community giving, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation was established in 1992. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for area residents by connecting generous donors with community needs, building a permanent source of charitable funds to serve our area, addressing a broad range of community issues through innovative grantmaking, and championing philanthropy and active citizenship. Since then, thanks to the support of people who value our community, we have been able to grant over \$6 million back into Emmet County.

Celebrating National Philanthropy Month gives the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation the chance to recognize a local person who embodies philanthropy by giving her time, talent, and treasure. Louise Graham has been serving our community for over a decade, devoting herself to Hospice of Little Traverse Bay, Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, and other local groups. When asked how she got involved in philanthropy, Louise credits her family: "Giving back is just something I've always seen. My grandparents were charitable and involved. My parents, especially my father, had causes that they prioritized and made time for because they were committed. I always knew that it was important for that reason." Louise's father, Budd Tallberg, devoted much of his time to Manna Food Pantry, and Louise remembers many visits to the storage facilities with him. Budd also played a key role in the start up of the Community Foundation and encouraged others to get involved. Louise learned valuable lessons about giving back and hopes that through her involvement with local non-profits that she is modeling these values for her children and grandchildren.

Just as Louise learned from her parents and grandparents and as she models those values for her children and grandchildren, we can show those around us that giving back is important. Each of us has the opportunity to make Emmet County an even better place to live. For more information on giving locally and encouraging your family to embrace philanthropy, visit Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation at www.phsacf.org or call 231-348-5820.

Sincerely,

Maureen Nicholson, Executive Director
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation