

Communities in Schools receives \$25,800 donation from 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area



Nicole Fales, Peg Whisler, Amy Burk, Cindy Zarow, Wendy Arsnoe, Haley Nelson, Peg Asmus, Deb Broderick Photo by Joanie Moore

Communities In Schools of Northwest Michigan (CIS) has been selected as the most recent recipient of a generous donation from 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids. Over 280 members joined together in making a collective gift totaling \$25,800 to be used to help ensure that CIS programming continues at participating schools.

In partnership with local public schools, CIS places caring professionals directly in schools, connecting students and families with the relationships, resources, and opportunities they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential. Services range from academic and attendance interventions to provision of basic needs like food, hygiene products, and clothing. CIS currently serves students and families in eight districts including four in Antrim County, including Elk Rapids Public Schools.

“This generous gift from 100 Women Who Care Elk Rapids is an investment in the success of local students,” said Amy Burk, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Northwest Michigan. “Their support helps sustain our partnerships and reminds students that their community believes in them and is standing beside them when they need it most.”

To learn more about CIS and their work with students and families, visit <https://cisinwmi.org/>. For more about 100 Women Who Care – Elk Rapids Area and their giving model, visit <https://www.100womenelkrapids.org/>. – Submitted by Peg Asmus

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Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians announces local 2% funds

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians announced the distribution of \$744,633.78 of gaming revenue allocation to local units of government. The dollars have been allocated to 41 local applicants as part of the Tribe’s “2 percent allocation,” which takes place twice per year. Local organizations receiving awards are as follows:

Antrim County \$16,000.00

Funding for Antrim Commission on Aging to purchase a 15-person van with lift

Elk Rapids District Library \$28,750.00

Funding to support Phase II renovations by purchasing kitchen equipment and the partnership with Northern Michigan Indigenous Youth Bridges Initiative

Elk Rapids Public Schools \$58,000.00

Funding to support the Schools Native Student program in providing educational assistance services to Native American students through tutors and cultural liaisons, and financial assistance for school-related educational costs.

Whitewater Township \$2,000.00

Funding to support the installation of playground safety mulch at Whitewater Township park playground

Whitewater Township Fire Department \$6,605.94

Funding to purchase/replace water and ice rescue equipment.

New Owner, New Chapter

I’m honored to be the new Broker/Owner of Up North Properties, continuing the legacy that Tom Wiltse began when he founded the brokerage in 2015.

Tom has always believed in investing in Northern Michigan and the people who call it home. Through his vision, he transformed the former Super Tool building into the Up North Center, creating a place where local businesses and professionals could thrive. Along with founding Up North Properties, Tom has been an entrepreneur, an educator, and a longtime community leader. I’m grateful that he continues to be an active REALTOR® and an important part of our team.

Today, our office is home to nine dedicated REALTORS®, proudly serving communities across Northern Michigan, from Grand Rapids to the Upper Peninsula, from Empire to Gaylord. Together, we remain committed to the values Tom established—integrity, professionalism, local expertise, and exceptional service—while continuing to build on that strong foundation. It is a privilege to lead the next chapter of Up North Properties while serving my clients as an active REALTOR®, a career I’ve proudly enjoyed since 2001.

Thank you to our clients, friends, and neighbors for your continued trust and support. We look forward to helping you with all of your real estate needs for many years to come.

SARAH BURLINGAME
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