

NONPROFIT NOMINATION FORM

As an eligible* member of Elk Rapids Area 100 Women Who Care, I nominate the following nonprofit organization to be considered for the group's next collective donation. I understand that the following information is true to the best of my knowledge and that the donation will be used in Antrim County.

*I have made my \$100 donation for the *previous* meeting's recipient.

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

I also agree to make a 5 minute presentation using the information provided below at the group's next meeting.

Email *

ldake@northwested.org

MY NAME *

Lauren Dake

ORGANIZATION NAME *

Northwest Education Services, ISD (Fiduciary) Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND/OR FACEBOOK PAGE *

www.northwested.org, Facebook: NorthEdNews, www.GreatStartKids.com, https://www.facebook.com/GSCTraverseBay

MISSION/PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION *

Northwest Education Services Mission is: Working together to develop learners with purpose, strong schools and engaged communities.

The Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay's (the early childhood systems building body in our region) mission is: Ensure that every child has a great start in life and equitable opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

WHEN WAS THE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED? *

NorthEd was established in 1962, The Great Start Collaborative around 2008

SERVICE AREA THE ORGANIZATION SERVES (MUST INCLUDE ANTRIM COUNTY) *

Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET AND PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES *

Northwest Education Services' general budget is \$22,322,560

Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay's cost projection (budget) is \$227,310

While the entire NorthEd budget is larger, those funds are restricted and cannot be used to fund the Collaborative. The Collaborative has been funded entirely out of the Michigan School Aid Budget, which got directed to NorthEd.

WHAT COMMUNITY NEED WOULD OUR DONATION HELP MEET? *

The first five years of a child's life—especially the first three—are the most critical for brain development. During this time, a child's brain is forming more than one million neural connections every second, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior, and health. When families are supported during these early years, children are more likely to thrive in school, form healthy relationships, and become resilient, capable adults.

In Antrim County, families with young children face unique challenges:

A rural landscape that limits access to services.

Higher rates of poverty than surrounding areas.

And declining third-grade reading scores, a key indicator of long-term academic success.

For nearly 20 years, the Great Start Collaboratives have worked to address these challenges by building local early childhood systems that support children and families where they are—through playgroups, family outreach, community partnerships, and resource connection.

However, in 2025, the Great Start Collaborative program was mistakenly eliminated from the Michigan School Aid Budget, despite being a cornerstone of early childhood systems-building across the state.

While we remain hopeful and are actively working with local legislators and statewide early childhood partners to reinstate this critical infrastructure in future budgets, we find ourselves in a time of uncertainty.

Northwest Education Services (NorthEd), the regional Intermediate School District that houses our Collaborative, has stepped in to provide partial support for this work. However, due to additional state budget cuts, they are unable to fund the work in its entirety.

We are seeking bridge funding to ensure families, partners, and community playgroup locations in Antrim County continue to receive the early support they rely on—especially during this vulnerable time. This funding will help us maintain playgroup access, provide family engagement, support community partners, and offer emergency resources such as childcare scholarships and literacy tools.

With your support, we can ensure that Antrim County's youngest children—and the families raising them—don't fall through the cracks during this critical year of transition.

PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW OUR GIFT WOULD BE UTILIZED. INCLUDE A SPECIFIC DOLLAR ESTIMATE AND TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

★

If selected, this generous gift of approximately \$27,000 would be placed in a designated budget line within the Early Childhood Department at Northwest Education Services, specifically allocated to benefit Antrim County families and playgroup partners. Funds would be implemented beginning Winter 2026 and used throughout the year to improve access to early childhood supports, reduce barriers for families, and strengthen local connections.

Funding would be allocated across four focus areas:

1. Playgroup Delivery & Family Connection – \$5,000

Supports the planning, coordination, and delivery of six neighborhood playgroup sites across Antrim County. This includes outreach to families, supporting facilitators, maintaining consistent programming, and helping families access local services and early childhood resources.

2. Support for Neighborhood Playgroup Partners – \$12,000

Strengthens partnerships with schools, libraries, and community sites hosting playgroups. Funds may support shared events, outreach, and small stipends to expand reach and deepen impact in rural areas.

3. Emergency Childcare Scholarships – \$7,000

Provides short-term childcare support for families navigating crisis situations—such as illness, divorce, or job loss—who do not qualify for state subsidies. Scholarships will be distributed through trusted local channels to fill critical gaps in care.

4. Books & Literacy Materials – \$3,000

Purchases high-quality children’s books to distribute at playgroups, helping families build home libraries and promote language and literacy from birth.

MY RELATIONSHIP/EXPERIENCE WITH THIS ORGANIZATION ★

I am the Family Liaison for the Great Start Collaborative. I have been in this role for 2 years.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may provide one additional document that helps support your request. Just email the document to 100womenelkrapids@gmail.com, being sure to identify it as supporting a specific nomination, and it will be attached to this Nonprofit Nomination Form for viewing by our members on our website.

In the interest of brevity, please limit document length to two pages. Longer documents may not be posted.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Please complete information below that will be used for communication and funding purposes. It does NOT have to be included in your presentation.

ORGANIZATION'S TAX ID/501(c)3 NUMBER *

38-1723020

ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT PERSON *

Shawn Biddle, CFO

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL ADDRESS *

sbiddle@northwested.org

ORGANIZATION'S STREET ADDRESS *

1101 Red Drive

ORGANIZATION'S CITY *

Traverse City

ORGANIZATION'S ZIP CODE *

49684

ORGANIZATION'S PHONE NUMBER *

231-922-6200

INITIAL SUBMISSION DATE *

MM DD YYYY

11 / 26 / 2025

REVISION DATE (Please provide this date for every revision you make. Use the "Initial Submission Date" above if this is your Initial Submission.) *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 02 / 2025

FORM SUBMISSION

Submit form by pressing the "Submit" button below.

Any questions, email 100womenelkrapids@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOMINATION!

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms