



MEDIA RELEASE

Portage Health Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Hancock, MI] The Portage Health Foundation (PHF) has adjusted its granting to include Targeted Request for Proposal (RFP) which are guided by community conversations and the community health risks assessment conducted by the Health Department. It is through this type of granting that PHF can be proactive in supporting community health needs. PHF has also developed foundation partners who can increase the impact and available support funds for the non-profit community. The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (the Health Fund) has become a strong community partner with an organizational intention to invest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. By working with local foundations, the Health Fund is better informed on the needs in the community and can combine financial resources for increased impact and a push toward systemic change.

The Health Fund is a philanthropic foundation that works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents while reducing healthcare costs, with an emphasis on children and seniors. The foundation works closely with grant partners to support great ideas, address unforeseen challenges, and evaluate the impact of their work. To learn more about the Health Fund visit mihealthfund.org.

In 2018, the PHF partnered with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to co-fund a Mental and Behavior Health (MBH) Targeted RFP. This initiative was created to meet both organizations' mission as well as meeting the health needs of the community. Together, PHF and the Health Fund identified some key areas of focus: early intervention/prevention, MBH service access/coordination/navigation, supporting youth leadership skills and resiliency development, mindfulness focused programming, and more. These were just a few of the identified areas the funding would focus on.

"The Michigan Health Endowment Fund is thrilled to partner with the Portage Health Foundation to improve mental health outcomes for children and teens in Copper Country," said Health Fund Program Officer Megan Murphy. "We hope this funding to Dial Help will provide area youth with a variety of tools and

1

You make the difference. Together we make it possible.

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resources to help them cope with the myriad challenges they face every day and become advocates and leaders in the community.”

Together, PHF and the Health Fund supported Dial Help and their Youth Leadership and Resiliency program. This program was designed to engage the high school population in the four-county community in conversations and hands on activities to create awareness around mental health and incorporate preventative to help the students. This program had many different components which included the TOP program, Signs of Suicide (SOS), The Blues Program, and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools. This core group of programs provide wrap around services for students in the school systems to engage in resiliency programs, learn coping and preventative skills, as well as, understanding mental health signs in themselves and peers to be able to develop a peer-to-peer community.

“Dial Help is extremely grateful for the funding needed to provide youth in our communities with guidance during some of the most impactful and influential years of their lives,” said Dial Help Executive Director Rebecca Crane. “Through these programs, we will help students increase their resiliency and leadership skills, become aware of signs of suicide in self and others, be provided therapy options for those struggling with depressive symptoms, be encouraged to engage in help-seeking behaviors when needed, and to develop a clearer vision of themselves and their future.”

“This program is an amazing example of how resources can be provided for the youth in the community to not only receive support with their personal mental health struggles, but curate a community amongst their peers to support one another,” said PHF Marketing and Communications Coordinator Chelsea Goodreau. “It has been wonderful to work with an organization like the Health Fund because our mission and vision closely align with each other and working together means more financial resources available to our community partners.”



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This program with Dial Help and the partnership with the Health Fund are important to support the health needs in the community. Thank you to the Health Fund for their investment and support of health initiatives in the community.

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