

## NEW “PREVENTION AMBASSADORS” PROJECT COMING TO MASON COUNTY

### Leeward Initiative Coalition Receives \$1,500 Grant to Support New Project

Ludington, MI, November 20, 2018 – The Leeward Initiative coalition has received a \$1,500 grant from the Community Foundation for Mason County to support the development of a new youth prevention program, Youth Prevention Ambassadors.

Katie Miller, coordinator for The Leeward Initiative and Health Educator for District Health Department #10 in Mason County, says that the funds will be used to help start this new project from the ground up:

“The Youth Prevention Ambassadors (YPA) project is part of a new effort of our coalition to bring students from schools across Mason County to collaborate and create change for and by youth. Once established, the YPA Team will help to plan prevention-focused events and activities throughout our community, including an annual summit for students from Mason, Lake, and Oceana Counties. The long-term goal is to enact systems-level change in Mason County; to create opportunities for youth that empowers them to live healthy lives and reach their greatest potential.”

The start-up funds will be used to accomplish the first phase of the project.

#### **About the Leeward Initiative**

The Leeward Initiative coalition was started in 2016 as a collaborative effort between multiple community agencies to address substance use issues in Mason County. Today, the coalition is working towards its mission to “achieve a reduction in substance use by increasing understanding, ensuring treatment services, and supporting our families and community.” For more information about The Leeward Initiative, call (231) 316-8567 or visit us on Facebook @TheLeewardInitiative.

#### **About Community Foundation for Mason County**

The Community Foundation for Mason County was created in 1988 to improve the quality of life for Mason County residents. As a publicly-supported community endowment, the Foundation receives and manages contributions from thousands of community citizens and organizations who are committed to the future of Mason County. The Community Foundation for Mason County is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

#### **About DHD #10**

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta,



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#### **COUNTIES SERVED:**

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



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Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit [www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org).



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**Mason County**

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