

Community Chest supports local organizations

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BENZIE COUNTY — Eleven Benzie County agencies were presented with grants by the Benzie County Community Chest for a total of \$62,000.

Receiving funds to aid their goals were: Blessings in a Backpack, Remain in Touch, Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Benzie Senior Resources, Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan, Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County, Northern Pathways Equine Center, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, The Salvation Army and Love INC.

“We are delighted with how supportive the Benzie County community is to the Remain in Touch program,” said Connie Eisenhart, founder of the program. “The \$1,000 grant received from Benzie County Community Chest is a wonderful gift and we are thankful. This grant will buy over 100 books to stock our book cart and help incarcerated parents stay connected to their children. The success of this program in Benzie County is amplified by the generosity of the community and the dedicated volunteers who deliver the program in the Benzie County jail.”

Remain in Touch is an organization that helps incarcerated parents connect with their children. Parents can select, read and record, on playable compact discs age appropriate books for their children to enjoy.

The completed CDs and books are then sent to the children, who are able to read along with the voice of their parent. This helps to bridge the gap the parent’s absence causes. The program began in 2017.

The Benzie County Com-



Harold (Skip) Comer, executive director of Blessings in a Backpack (center) receives a check from members of Benzie County Community Chest, (from left to right) Doug Henry, Brooke Trentham Popp, Bill Dundon (BCCC), Nancy Coalter and Thor Goff. (Courtesy photo)



Connie Eisenhart, president of Remain in Touch, (center) receives a check from members of Benzie County Community Chest (from left to right) Doug Henry, Brooke Trentham Popp, Bill Dundon (BCCC), Nancy Coalter and Thor Goff. (Courtesy photo)

munity Chest is a nonprofit organization that supports and strengthens programs that assist disadvantaged families Benzie County with donations.

The organization provides fundraising resources to other nonprofit groups, and acts as a referral agency for

families in need.

Benzie County Community Chest began in 1966, and seeks to improve quality of life through active support and service that helps establish, ensure and strengthen programs that promote the health and wellness of Benzie County and its residents.

Conservat seeks milla

BY COLIN MERRY
Staff Writer

BENZONIA — The Benzie Conservation District sought the approval of a millage proposal at the March 13 Benzie County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The millage would be a renewal and increase, going from .1 mill to .125 mills.

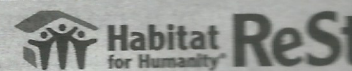
The renewal and increase, if approved, would be for four years. The millage would raise approximately \$151,000 in the first year, and cost the average household around \$12.50.

Tad Peacock, executive director of the conservation district, said the millage would allow the conservation district to stay open.

“If there was no millage, we would not be here.”



Volunteers with the Benzie County Stream Monitoring Program are testing the health of area rivers to test the health of programs the conservation district.



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- Eligible donations
- Shop... check ReStore
- Volunteer... help to change