

Interview with GT Regional Community Foundation

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To: Paul Busekist, Roger Hardy

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
Steve Wade, Director

This organization's primary role is to support the efforts of the various communities within a 5 county area...providing services to residents as well as programs. They manage and have access to grants for nonprofits that are out there doing the work. They support work in many areas...arts, environment, education, culture, scholarships for college, etc. They can serve as conveners for conversations around issues of varying topics. This agency does not have a stake in the task or event, and because of that they can serve as the facilitator asking tough questions and empowering honest dialogue.

Strengths seen within the Traverse City area include:

- * relationship based
- * being a smaller community, folks talk directly to one another, ideas are shared, people/leaders make themselves available
- * pretty diverse community with a mindset of collaboration in providing a continuum of services
- * the community works to steer away from duplicating services

Gaps or holes within the GT area:

- * Early childhood LEARNING...not just day care but LEARNING environments
- * ". ". ". Staff are paid poorly, staff is not always treated well
- * ". ". ". Does not have a bank of substitutes for staff to attend continuing education events, to go to a funeral, or to be sick
- * United Way is working on this but it is a BIG task
- * Habitat for Humanity could use help
- * Housing programs need help assisting residents to be successful in their new housing situation, perhaps a mentor program type of design (more practical and skill building type of assistance once the actual structures are built and residents are moving in)
- * East Bay Flats is being finalized for 35 people who were without housing (located further down to the east from BLC on Front Street, closer to the infusion clinic) Needs of this new facility will become more apparent as it gets underway.

How might BLC be of help:

- * Steve emphasized that there is **NO SHORTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**
- * Helping folks to be successful residents
- * He shared his knowledge of Jubilee House, Grace Episcopal Church where he is a member
- * He referenced Love They Neighbor programs
- * The GT Regional Community Foundation serves as a "hub" to the service community...this could be a tremendous resource for us in our visioning process.

Sent from my iPad