



PRESS RELEASE

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MORE SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE COVID-19 “LIFE LINE” GRANTS WITH FUNDING FROM MANISTEE IDC AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION THROUGH REGIONAL RESILIENCY PROGRAM

MANISTEE, MICHIGAN – Eight Manistee County small businesses harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic have received grants through the Regional Resiliency Initiative, thanks to \$20,000 in funding from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and \$10,000 from the Manistee County Community Foundation’s Community Response Fund.

“We are proud and grateful to partner with the IDC and Community Foundation. In total, their philanthropy has enabled 22 small businesses with nine or fewer employees in Manistee County to received grants to help them deal with devastating harm of the pandemic,” said Laura Galbraith, President and CEO of Venture North that administers the Regional Resiliency Program. “The Regional Resiliency Program grants, combined with the determination and creativity of small businesses and the loyalty of their customers have helped about 200 businesses that have received grants in our ten-county region since June of 2020.

“This is a great way for the IDC to give charitably to support our business community and retain jobs and employment opportunities,” said Steve Brower, Treasurer of the IDC. “Our goal is to help small businesses address urgent needs and adapt their operations to the challenges of pandemic. We encourage others in the County to consider what a great return it can be to save a small business by contributing to the Regional Resiliency Program.”

“It’s a partnership and crucial collaboration that is working,” said Laura Heintzelman, President and CEO of the Manistee County Community Foundation. “It has been truly remarkable to see the unity and philanthropy that the Resiliency Program has inspired throughout the 10-county northwest Michigan region, including Manistee County. While the pandemic continues to cast a long shadow that is a cause for great caution, there are also more rays of hope that we will and can recover if all pull together.”

All grants through the Regional Resiliency Program are based on grant applications submitted by small businesses that are reviewed and recommended for funding by local teams, in this case a team organized by the Manistee IDC. This is the third grant round made possible by the IDC and Community Foundation through the RRP.

“It’s outstanding to have local teams making the call about grants to their communities,” said Laura Galbraith. “It adds focus, accountability and partnership in decisions involving philanthropic giving. Everyone shares the credit for making the program work. We’re hoping that others in Michigan will consider similar partnerships for developing local solutions.”

The eight businesses receiving grants are:

Striketown
Ticconi Martial Arts
Lavender Floral
Northern Natural Organics

Painted Lady
Lucky Lizard
Stu’s Pub
Pamela’s Interior