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## **MANISTEE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INVESTS \$250,000 TO HELP COUNTY'S SMALL BUSINESSES**

**MANISTEE, MICHIGAN** – Manistee County small businesses seeking to grow will benefit from a \$250,000 “impact investment” from the [Manistee County Community Foundation](https://www.manisteecountycommunityfoundation.org/) in [Venture North Funding and Development](https://venturenorthfunding.org/), a nonprofit that provides affordable loans, small grants and no-cost consulting to help small business grow.

As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Venture North gives priority to providing help to small businesses in areas with economic challenges in its 10-county northwest Michigan region. In its 15-years of operation, within this region, Venture North has made 160 affordable loans amounting to \$9.5 million while leveraging an additional \$32 million that has created 495 new jobs while retaining 542 jobs – all with small businesses, often with nine or fewer employees. They have also awarded 350 small grants totaling \$1.2 million and provided no-cost consulting to 1,500 businesses.

“We are grateful for the Community Foundation’s support,” said Laura Galbraith, Venture North President. “We will deploy this funding in the form of affordable loans to small Manistee County businesses. Our loans have terms that match the cashflow of the business client and can be used for purposes and in amounts that are often not supported with lending from other sources. Our experience is that we are often able to leverage our lending by 2x or more to spread the benefits even wider to our clients.

The MCCF recently launched an impact investing program aimed at expanding its positive impact on the Manistee County community by investing a portion of its assets locally rather than in its traditional portfolio. Impact investments are investments made with the intention of generating both a financial and social return.

“The mission of Venture North – lifting up small businesses and communities that need help the most – is also a great match with our philanthropic goals involving the well-being of Manistee County community,” said Laura Heintzelman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Manistee County Community Foundation. “We hope businesses throughout the County will connect with Venture North to see how their growth plans will benefit from our Investment.”

“We have a simple message for Manistee County businesses,” said Galbraith. “Let’s talk. We want to learn about you and your business, see how we can help and work together on a plan to do just that.” Call us at 231-995-7115 or by email at [info@venturenorthfunding.org](mailto:info@venturenorthfunding.org) where you can complete a simple intake form. We promise a quick response. Let’s get to work!”

**Links:** Website: [www.venturenorthfunding.org](https://www.venturenorthfunding.org)  
Recent Films: [Venture North – Converting Dreams into Reality](#)  
October Northern Lights Article: [Impact Investing Information/Registration](#) for upcoming ‘Lender Ready’ Workshop hosted by Venture North and being held November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Manistee County Community Foundation.



## MANISTEE COUNTY SMALL BUSINESSES

### WE CAN HELP GROW YOUR BUSINESS

#### WE OFFER:

Affordable loans that fit your plans.

Small grants and no-cost consulting to remove barriers.

#### WE'RE DIFFERENT:

We fund startups and early stage small businesses.

We develop solutions one at a time with our clients.

If you don't have a business plan we'll help you develop it.

#### LET'S FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP:

1. Contact us: 231-995-7115; email [info@venturenorthfunding.org](mailto:info@venturenorthfunding.org) or visit: [www.venturenorthfunding.org](http://www.venturenorthfunding.org), complete and submit the intake form.

2. We'll get back to you and set a time to talk.

3. We'll learn about you, your business and your plans.

4. We'll develop a plan together and proceed!

The steps are simple. We can move quickly. If you become a client, we'll be there to help as you grow and your priorities evolve. Our payback is successful small businesses.

#### Our Mission:

Lifting communities and small businesses by providing resources for growth.

#### Our Area:

Northwest Michigan only – Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford Counties.

#### What Makes Us Different:

We fund startups and early stage businesses. Most clients are small – nine employees or less. We give priority to supporting businesses located in areas underserved by lending institutions. We work quickly. We develop solutions together with our clients. If you don't have a plan and financial forecast, we'll help you develop them. We promise follow up in a day, same day if possible.

During the COVID Pandemic, we provided urgent needs grants – made possible in part by the Manistee County Community Foundation – to the following Manistee County businesses to keep them afloat:

Andy's Tacklebox  
The Baca Agency  
Bear Claw Café  
Betty's Beauty Salon  
Dempsey Manor Bed & Breakfast  
Diner 31  
Don's Sporting Goods  
Glenwood Market  
Happy Owl Bookshop  
J. Catlett & Company  
Jennifer's Hair Studio  
Kathleen's House Of Style

Kellie's Hallmark Shop  
Krista LeAnn's Hair Salon  
Lakeside Café  
Lavender Floral  
Lucky Lizard  
Movements North  
Northern Natural Organics  
Pamela's Interior  
Pleasant Valley Resort  
Stu's Pub  
Conservatory of Dance  
Ticconi Martial Arts



Venture North recently celebrated our **15th year**.

We've made **160 affordable loans** to small businesses amounting to \$9.5 million while leveraging \$32 million from other sources. Those loans have **created 495 jobs** and **retained 543 jobs**. We have also awarded over **350 small grants** amounting to \$1.2 million and provided 1,500 businesses with no-cost business consulting.

**We like what we do.**