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Mural, outdoors education projects receive funds
$5,000 granted to City of Ashland and Ashwabay outdoors group

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund, an affiliate of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, announced today that it has awarded a combined $5,000 to finance two projects in its region, which includes Ashland, Bad River and Washburn.

The City of Ashland Department of Planning received $2,500 for its Pedestrian Tunnel Ecological Stories Mural project. The mural will celebrate the area’s natural history and enhance Ashland’s title as the Mural Capital of Wisconsin. The community art project will feature a painted mosaic accompanied by explanatory plaques in the pedestrian tunnel beneath U.S. Highway 2 in Ashland.

The Ashwabay Outdoor Education Foundation Inc. also received $2,500 to help hire an outdoor educational activities coordinator for the organization. The part-time coordinator will develop and implement a curriculum that teaches area youth about alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. The coordinator also will develop a monthly outdoor symposium for area families.

“It is incredible how much nonprofit organizations in this region contribute to our communities,” said Karen Crowell, Chair of the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund’s Advisory Board. “We’re pleased to support organizations working to improve the quality of life by enhancing education, arts, culture, economic development, the environment, health and human services.”

In 2012, area residents created the fund, a permanent endowment for the Chequamegon Bay region. Community members’ gifts financed this year’s grants.

“Theyir shared generosity allowed the fund to make grants for the second year to meet needs of the region,” said Meghan Dennison, Affiliate Officer for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, who helps direct the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund efforts from the foundation’s Bayfield office.

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund supports initiatives that meet changing community needs by: addressing underlying causes of community problems, undertaking studies that impact civic issues or policies, responding to community needs and funding new initiatives.

Prospective applicants for 2017 grants are invited to attend a grant workshop Jan. 11 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland. Grant applications are due March 1 for both the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund and the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, which
serves the communities of Bayfield, Madeline Island and Red Cliff. For more information, please visit dsacommunityfoundation.com or contact Dennison at 715-779-7021 or mdennison@dsacommunityfoundation.com.

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund is one of six affiliate funds of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, which has assets totaling more than $62 million and has distributed more than $40 million in grants and scholarships since its inception in 1983. The Community Foundation administers more than 370 funds, each with its own charitable purpose. To learn more, go to dsacommunityfoundation.com.