

# Greater Realtors® Foundation

*When Realtors® Get involved in their Communities, Greater things happen!*

## **About Us:**

The Greater Realtors Foundation relies entirely on donations to exist and help members and members within our communities. Since the Greater Realtors® Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all contributions are tax-deductible.

The Greater Realtor Foundation, established in 2018, provides financial assistance through various grant programs for property disaster relief and disability-adaption projects to individuals, families, and non-profit agencies. Benevolent funding assistance is also available to help with various costs associated with extreme financial hardships, due to prolonged illness, a catastrophic event or accident, or similar occurrence beyond the control of the party receiving the assistance.

## **Mission Statement:**

The Greater Realtors® Foundation mission is to help improve lives by offering financial support to those in need.

## **Vision Statement:**

We are Greater Realtors® who are dedicated to putting our hearts into homes; enriching lives for continued growth and sustainability in the communities we love and serve.

## PHASE I:

### WEBSITE LAUNCH

Content to include:

- Level of Commitment
- Board of Directors (background & why they are involved)
- Types of assistance available (include applications/guidelines)
- How/who we have helped
- Fundraising section

### GRF LEVEL OF COMMITMENT OPTIONS:

- **COMMUNITY PARTNER: \$10,000.00**  
Biggest name and logo with link through on GRF website to the company website Inclusion on Rack Cards both large and small, donation envelopes, and in any online marketing for the foundation. Press release highlighting their involvement with the Foundation. Speaking opportunities at Foundation events. 6 complimentary tickets to GMAR Gives Back event. Plaque and office presentation as well as a video for marketing purposes. Table donor signage at Foundation events.
- **PATRON: \$5,000.00**  
Medium name and logo with link through on GRF website to the company website Press release highlighting their involvement with the Foundation. Plaque and office presentation. 4 complimentary tickets to GMAR Gives Back Event. Table donor signage at Foundation events.
- **CHAMPION: \$2,500.00**  
Medium name and logo with link through on GRF Website to the company website Press release highlighting their involvement with the foundation. Plaque. 2 complimentary tickets to GMAR Gives Back event. Table donor signage at Foundation events.
- **GREATER NEIGHBOR: \$1,000.00**  
Small name with link through on GRF website to the company website Press release highlighting their involvement with the Foundation. Plaque and photo option.
- **FRIENDS OF THE GREATER REALTORS FOUNDATION: \$500.00 - \$999.00**  
Name on website

## **FUNDRAISING – INITIAL ROLLOUT**

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

100% of your tax-deductible donations stay right here in south east Michigan, helping those in need. The Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors® donates all administrative overhead. Not one penny of your donations is spent on administrative expenses.

- Donate now buttons (amazon smile, Kroger and PayPal)
- Tidbit about adding the foundation to your Kroger Charity
- Donation Cards
- Rack Cards for awareness of Foundation

## **PHASE II: (Approved 06-11-19)**

### **GRANTS:**

The grants provide financial assistance when property owners and occupants have limited resources to cover the cost of repairs, temporary housing, or adaptations for handicap accessibility or where there is a gap between what insurance and/or the owner's personal financial resources cover and the cost of completing the project. No repayment of the grants is required.

### **Grant Eligibility:**

Grant must serve a GMAR territory. Grant must be initiated by a GMAR member.

Grants awarded in the amounts of \$500.00 to \$2,500.00 annually.

### **Funding Eligibility:**

- Grants/Funds may be made available to individuals, families, non-profit agencies, and/or other entities who in turn provide:
- Disaster response and relief assistance related to housing; and/or
- Disability-adaption projects that create new or refurbished housing in response to an identified need in the community.

### **Evaluation Process:**

The Greater Realtors® Foundation will review applications no later than 60 days from receipt. Requests will first be individually assessed by staff to ensure they meet all the program principles so they may be further considered.

The Greater Realtors® Foundation will not entertain funding applications for:

- Investment homes, vacation properties, second homes, income producing properties.
- Directed political, religious or other advocacy;
- Retirement of debt;
- Ongoing and regular operating expenses of established programs;
- Ongoing or deferred maintenance of residential properties;
- Damage that occurred more than 12 months prior to the date of application;
- Any other request that does not, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, meet the criteria or principles intended;
- The Fund will not consider funding applications submitted by members of its Board of Directors or their immediate family members.

The Greater REALTORS® Foundation is under no obligation to meet requests for grants. The funds belong to the Greater Realtors® Foundation, which has the sole right to determine whether a grant will be approved and no dialogue or correspondence will be entered into regarding decisions made on applications. All grant requests must be forwarded to the Greater Realtors® Foundation for consideration and are subject to the availability of funds. Projects must be completed within 12 months

of approval of the grant. The grant recipient shall be responsible for selecting a licensed contractor (preferably through a process of multiple bids) to provide services for the project, and/or for identifying other applicable organizations/entities that provide related services (temporary shelter or other needs). Unless otherwise determined by the Greater Realtors Foundation, funds shall submit payment directly to the licensed contractor or service provider upon receipt of an invoice. The Greater Realtors® Foundation does not provide grants to individuals or organizations that discriminate for any reason, including race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, height, weight, physical or mental disability, or familial status.

Where appropriate, and without violating any HIPAA or privacy concerns as well as ensuring adherence to the Realtor® Code of Ethics, the Greater Realtors® Foundation grant recipients (1) shall authorize the Greater Realtors® Foundation to take photographs or recordings, and (2) use reproduction, exhibiting or distributing of those recordings for promotion, fundraising, or any other purpose related to the Foundations tax-exempt purposes. They shall waive, release, and forever discharge the Foundation and its representatives from any and all claims or liabilities arising from or related to the taking of any of the actions authorized in the immediately preceding sentence.

## **PHASE III: (Approved 06-11-19 – will launch after grant program)**

### **REALTORS® HELPING REALTORS®:**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Realtors® Foundation also provides financial assistance to GMAR members and their families during temporary periods of financial difficulty due to prolonged illness, catastrophic occurrence, accident or death.

The Realtors® Helping Realtors® program is designed to give assistance to any eligible individual, couple or family who is in need and fits our criteria. Economic strain can strike anyone for reasons outside of their control. Members who find themselves in such situations are encouraged to seek assistance. Please see below for eligibility requirements and application information.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

Any present member who has maintained membership in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months preceding the application.

#### **MAXIMUM ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT PER INDIVIDUAL:**

The grant or funds of any recipient shall not exceed an aggregate of \$1,500.00 during any 12-month period.

#### **BASIS FOR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE:**

- Applications for assistance must be for a specific basic need and be accompanied by proper documentation that the person receiving the assistance from the Fund is suffering severe financial hardship.
- The extreme financial hardship must be due to prolonged illness, a catastrophic event or accident, or similar occurrence beyond the control of the party receiving the assistance.

#### **Types of REALTORS® Helping REALTORS® Assistance:**

The following are needs or circumstances under which financial assistance may be issued from the program:

- Temporary monthly living expenses
- Temporary monthly medical expenses that exceed insurance coverage
- Help with burial expenses due to lack of funds or insurance
- Mortgage payment assistance for individuals incapable of working due to serious and/or debilitating illness, catastrophic life events
- Assistance with replacing items lost in an act of nature, of which insurance does not cover
- Payment assistance towards the purchase of disability and mobility aids

Although not all inclusive, below is a list of needs that may NOT be met by the Benevolent Fund:

- Pay off credit card debt (exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use a credit card in cases of emergency)
- Court costs, legal fees and restitution
- Penalties related to late payments or irresponsible actions
- Business ventures or investments (anything that brings financial profit to the individual applying)
- Private school fees or tuition

### **Application Process**

- Complete and submit the Realtors® Helping Realtors® application.
- Applicant must provide letter of explanation detailing need for assistance.
- Applicant must provide one (1) letter of good moral character from a non-family member reference.
- The Greater Realtors® Foundation Board of Directors meets to review, approve or deny the application. In some instances, additional information may be requested from the applicant

*All information, including the identity of applicants, is confidential.*

### **Disbursement of Funds**

The applicant will be notified by staff of decision. If approved, checks will be sent to the vendors to whom the applicant owes money. No money is ever given directly to the applicant.