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Impact100 Oakland County Awards \$270,000 to Common Ground, Huron-Clinton Metroparks and The Rainbow Connection

Oakland County, MI – October 24, 2018 – Impact100 Oakland County, a woman’s philanthropic group, announced that it has awarded a \$90,000 grant each to Common Ground, Huron-Clinton Metroparks and The Rainbow Connection. The member-based organization selected the three nonprofits from more than 70 applications at its annual meeting held on October 23. The grants will support each nonprofit organization’s work serving Oakland County.

Common Ground will use its Impact100 Oakland County grant to support its *Resource and Crisis Helpline Text and Chat Feature 24/7 Coverage*. This grant will support crisis interventionists who directly respond to Oakland County residents in crisis as well as the availability of 24/7 Crisis Text and Chat services. According to Common Ground President and CEO Heather Rae, “With this grant, we can continue Chat and Text for tens of thousands of people in crisis.”

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Foundation will use its Impact100 Oakland County grant to support its *Seeding a Green Future—Engaging Low-Income Students in STEM through Sustainable Agriculture*. Jennifer Jaworski, Chief of Interpretive Services, said, “The Seeding a Green Future project will provide a mentoring program that will engage students and their teachers in sustainable agriculture, STEM education, critical thinking and logical reasoning skills to inspire lifelong learning success.”

The Rainbow Connection will use its Impact100 Oakland County grant to support *The Rainbow Connection Impact Kits* for families experiencing a child facing a life threatening medical condition and difficulty meeting basic living expenses. The Impact Kits are tailored to each family’s documented financial needs and includes assistance with gas, food, parking, public transportation and other emergent needs. George Miller, Executive Director, adds “This group has made it possible to address the quiet suffering these families are dealing with.”

“We are thrilled to be able to award \$270,000 this year to non-profits serving Oakland County. As an organization we continue to grow in members and impact. We are a true community within a community. Our members have joined together to give back in a meaningful way and in the process are also meeting and networking with like-minded women,” said Mary Pat Rosen, Impact100 Oakland County President. “We have grown exponentially over the last three years. We hope that trend will continue as our members see that their philanthropic dollars are not only making a difference and an impact on so many lives, but also because they are learning, growing and supporting one another within a giving environment. Congratulations to our 2018 finalists!”

About Impact100 Oakland County

Impact100 Oakland County is a women’s philanthropic organization dedicated to improving the community by providing large-scale grants to nonprofits serving Oakland County. Since its inception in 2016, the organization has awarded \$571,000 to projects

that demonstrate a measurable impact on the community. Grants are awarded to projects in the areas of: arts and culture, education, environment/recreation, family, and health and wellness. For more information, visit www.impact100oaklandcounty.org.

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