



VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF  
**MICHIGAN**

Michigan | **Campus Compact**

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## News Release

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### **Comcast Supports Campus and Community Engagement** *Efforts Underway To Address Mentoring, Foster Care, Literacy and More*

**LANSING** – The Comcast Foundation awarded the Volunteer Centers of Michigan (VCM) and Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) \$50,000 to focus local communities, Volunteer Centers and MCC member institutions of higher education to work together to impact mentoring, literacy and support and grow the innovative work of the LEAGUE in Michigan. \$25,000 will be sub-granted to five community collaboratives across the state of Michigan in grants of \$5,000 each. The sub-grant awards are detailed below. The additional \$25,000 will support two LEAGUE training events in the summer of 2008. More information on the LEAGUE can be found at [www.leagueworldwide.org](http://www.leagueworldwide.org).

#### Macomb Community College (\$5,000)

Macomb Community College is collaborating with Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and local school districts to provide one-on-one and small group mentoring and life skills training to youth at risk. This partnership will strive to develop the next generation of engaged citizens through educational programs, field trips, individual tutoring, and mentor reflection meetings.

#### Grand Rapids Community College (\$5,000)

The Making the Mentoring Connection Project is a partnership of the Grand Rapids Community College Academic Service-Learning Center, the Kent County Mentoring Collaborative, and the Aquinas College Community Leadership Program with support from The Heart of West Michigan United Way Volunteer Center and the Schools of Hope Program. This project will work to increase college student civic engagement to address community needs around youth mentoring.

#### Michigan State University (\$5,000)

In response to the educational barriers facing youth in foster care and transition out of care, Michigan State University (MSU) and partners are proposing a planning initiative that would prepare and support youth in obtaining their post-secondary educational goals. This program will provide a tailored mentoring experience that will address the unique and individual needs of the foster-care alumni mentees, through the combined use of faculty, graduate students and community professionals as mentors. Partners include The Capital Area United Way Volunteer Center and St. Vincent Catholic Charities.

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Northern Michigan University (\$5,000)

Northern Michigan University (NMU) and Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan are supporting a new initiative that will provide youth in residential foster care at Teaching Family Homes with mentors from NMU. Major components of this program include combing a mentoring relationship along with increased opportunities and encouragement for physical activities that will allow the youth in residence to learn the positive social and interaction-based skills that are derived from team and individual athletic accomplishments. The ultimate goal of this program is to teach the youth involved about healthy lifestyles and hopefully resulting in the youth having a more positive outlook on their future.

Volunteer Center of S.W. Michigan (\$5,000)

The Volunteer Center of South West Michigan in partnership with the South West Michigan Mentoring Collaborative, and Andrew University will conduct a survey that will identify other community mentoring programs, barriers to working collaboratively, and areas of promising collaborative work. Results from the survey will be incorporated into a larger community mapping project, which will establish mentoring as an important sector of services. This collaborative project aims to see that children have mentors who are supported by strong, effective mentoring organizations.

For more information on the grant or individual project, please contact Allison Treppa at 517.492.2426 or [atreppa@mnaonline.org](mailto:atreppa@mnaonline.org).

Michigan Campus Compact is a state-level non-profit organization that promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement. More information about Michigan Campus Compact can be found at: <http://www.micampuscompact.org>.

The Volunteer Centers of Michigan strengthens, develops and connects Volunteer Centers throughout the state. Our goal is to ensure that all volunteer centers have the capacity to positively impact every Michigan community and their citizens through volunteerism. We believe that volunteer centers play a leadership role in mobilizing people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems. More information about the Volunteer Centers of Michigan can be found at [www.mivolunteers.org](http://www.mivolunteers.org).

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