



News Release

Contact: Amy Wilczynski
586.945.1250
amywpr@gmail.com

Advancing Macomb Awarded \$600,000 Grant From The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation To Launch Nonprofit Incubator Program

Mount Clemens, Mich. (June 4, 2024) – [Advancing Macomb](#), a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, has been granted \$600,000 by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The grant, distributed over three years, will enable Advancing Macomb to establish a nonprofit incubator and significantly enhance its internal capacity.

The nonprofit incubator is designed to provide small, new and emerging Macomb County nonprofits with the practical skills and knowledge necessary for effective operations. The six-month program will cover fiscal management, marketing, public relations, fundraising and grant writing. A pilot cohort for the program is expected to launch in late 2024 or early 2025, creating a support system to help ensure the long-term success of local nonprofits.

“Listening to nonprofit leaders throughout Macomb County has provided us with direction and information on the challenges they face,” said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. “With this additional funding, we are now well positioned to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Macomb County, which has been underfunded and under-resourced. This is a tremendous opportunity, and we can’t wait to get started.”

Advancing Macomb will partner with several outside organizations to provide the training for the program, including Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, Nonprofit Network, Michigan Nonprofit Association and Co.act Detroit.

The grant will allow Advancing Macomb to invest in its internal infrastructure by hiring additional staff, including a program manager for the nonprofit incubator, to manage day-to-day operations. The funding will also allow Advancing Macomb to add additional revenue streams through fundraising strategy development and organizational planning and expand programming in other areas, ensuring the organization’s long-term sustainability and impact growth across Macomb County.

“Through this strategic investment in Advancing Macomb, we anticipate this growing organization will launch a new era of support for nonprofit growth and philanthropic interest in Macomb County leading to better outcomes and an improved quality of life for residents,” said Jim Boyle, vice president of programs & communications, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. “The implementation of the nonprofit incubator will also connect Advancing Macomb to other intermediaries and regional capacity builders strengthening the network of support across the county.”



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About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.

About The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a grantmaking organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The two areas reflect the devotion of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of his beloved Buffalo Bills NFL team. Prior to his passing in 2014, Mr. Wilson provided that a significant share of his estate be used to continue a life-long generosity of spirit by funding the Foundation that bears his name. Based in Detroit, the Foundation began with a grantmaking capacity of \$1.2 billion over a 20-year period, which expires January 8, 2035. This structure is consistent with Mr. Wilson's desire for the Foundation's impact to be immediate, substantial, measurable, and overseen by those who knew him best. For more information visit www.rcwjrf.org.