

PHFoundation

Board of Directors Executive Committee

Bernadette Yeoman-
Ouellette
Chair

Brent Peterson
Vice Chair

Bruce Rukkila
Treasurer

Ann Clancy-Klemme
Secretary

Board of Directors

Michele Blau
James Bobula
Jeanne Kurtz
Jamey Markham
Paul Ollila
Guy St. Germain

Executive Director

Kevin Store

June 9, 2023

Re: UPSET West Community Update and Request for Continued Support

Hello Friends!

We find ourselves at that time once again to formally make an appeal to you for your ongoing support of the UPSET West Drug Enforcement team.

Please know that your ongoing support of this vitally important law enforcement team is incredibly important as we work to keep our communities safe; help those afflicted by substance use disorder and other addiction; and in ensuring our local law enforcement officers are adequately resourced to combat the presence of illegal drugs and addressing those persons intending to peddle them in our communities.

As you may recall, our community was challenged in 2015-2016 to raise enough funds to support two officers per year which would be dedicated to substance abuse enforcement. To complement the one officer supplied by the Houghton County Sheriff's office, Portage Health Foundation (PHF) funded the second position for the first year. These two officers were then matched by two additional officers from the Michigan State Police. Since that time, the Michigan State Police and the Houghton County has committed additional personnel to this team of focused law enforcement officers. The work that has been achieved over the past 7 years has been remarkable, but unfortunately, that work never ceases. The contributions made toward this effort help to ensure continued support from State and Federal law enforcement agencies.

The work of the UPSET West team been impressive. They have had more arrests and more federal indictments than any other comparable drug-focused law enforcement team in the UP. They have made hundreds of arrests and removed staggering quantities of illegal narcotics from our communities.

Unfortunately, our communities are not immune to the presence and damaging outcomes of illegal drugs – whether through local addicts or more organized efforts and the presence of gangs and drug-dealers coming from the cities, these substances are being brought home to the Keweenaw. One example from this past year included the arrest of a Baraga County resident. The individual possessed 20 grams of fentanyl with the intent to deliver. Another case involved the arrest of a Hancock criminal who had over a ½ pound of methamphetamine

Mission

*To positively influence
a healthier community
through enhanced
philanthropy and
collaboration*

Serving Baraga,
Houghton, Keweenaw,
and Ontonagon
Counties

Portage Health Foundation – 400 Quincy Street – PO Box 299 – Hancock, MI 49930
T: 906.523.5920 - F: 906.523.5925 - www.phfgive.org

You make the difference. Together, we make it possible.

hidden behind his car's radio console. These are just a few of countless examples that the UPSET West team could share.

Please consider continuing your support of this much needed work. This is one of the finest examples of how our community has come together to support an effort that benefits all of us and makes our community a more healthful one.

PHF continues to maintain a restricted account for UPSET West and your contribution or pledge will be included in the annual support of the UPSET West team.

You can either make a contribution at phfgive.org/upsetwest or the pledge form included with this letter can be returned to (checks made payable to Portage Health Foundation):

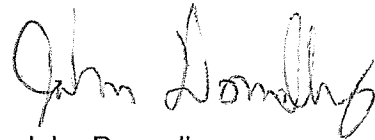
Portage Health Foundation
c/o UPSEST West Fund
400 Quincy Street, PO Box 299
Hancock, MI 49930

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,



Kevin N. Store
Executive Director



John Donnelly
Chief of Police, City of Houghton



DONATION PLEDGE FORM

UPSET West
Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw-Ontonagon

Donor Information (Please print or type)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone / Fax _____
Email _____

Pledge Information

I [we] pledge a total of \$ _____

Please choose one of the following options

- I [we] will make my gift in one payment
- I [we] will make a multi-year pledge with installments as follows:

2023 \$ _____ 2024 \$ _____ 2025 \$ _____
2026 \$ _____ 2027 \$ _____

Payment Options

- Check (made payable to: Portage Health Foundation – in memo line, please write UPSET West)
- Online at phfgive.org/upsetwest
- Send me an invoice
- I [we] wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Authorized signature for pledge

Date

Please send your pledge form and/or payment to: Portage Health Foundation
c/o UPSET West Fund
PO Box 299
Hancock, MI 49930

