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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **#CHESANINGSTRONG CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES NEW CHESANING CHAMBER FOUNDATION**

*Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Announces Mini-Grants Offering Business and Community Support*

(Chesaning, Michigan, February 2021) The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the official launch of the new Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Ed Rehmann & Sons Clothing and Shoes, a long-time Chamber partner, has made a generous \$4000 donation to the Foundation, jumpstarting the new non-profit with funds from their Chesaning Strong t-shirt campaign. The #ChesaningStrong campaign has been both a community morale booster during the long days of the pandemic and a financial catalyst to help the Chamber. “When faced with our family-owned store’s second pandemic, we knew we would have to work together to get through this one,” said Nancy Rehmann, co-owner of Ed Rehmann & Sons, along with her husband Rob and brother-in-law Ric. “We are so grateful that our local chamber is there for our small business community, which remains the heart and soul of the town our business has called home 102 Michigan years and counting.”

This donation has allowed the 96-year-old Chamber to pursue their long-time goal of developing a 501(c)(3) foundation that would carry out the educational, civic, and charitable activities of the Chamber, focusing on three major areas of community assistance:

1. Support and Grow Local Businesses: Emergency grants for local businesses, support for new business ventures, and façade improvements
2. Arts, Entertainment and Local Amenities: Support for local arts, recreation and entertainment, contribute to projects enhancing and preserving the quality of life in the Chesaning area
3. Education: Professional development, training, and scholarships for area employees and students

"The Chesaning Chamber Foundation Board has worked hard over the last several months to get this endeavor up and running", said Foundation President, Ron Poyer. "We are very excited to begin the process of assisting our local businesses who have been struggling so much during this pandemic as well as working to fund other projects. This Foundation wouldn't exist without the generosity of Ed Rehmann and Sons and the community of Chesaning through the Chesaning Strong t-shirt fundraiser. We thank everyone very much for the support that has already been given and for the continuation of support for the foundation's mission moving forward."

The Foundation was incorporated on September 1, 2020, and received non-profit status on October 7, 2020, with a new Board of Directors selected by the Chamber Board of Directors. The new Board met for the first time on November 2, 2020, and includes Ron Poyer of H & R Block (Chairman), Louie Escamilla of Chesaning Kiwanis Club (Vice Chair/Treasurer), Jami Hoover of J. Hoover Construction and Sovis Insurance (Secretary), Greg Bruff of Waddell & Reed Inc., Samantha Coykendall of Lippert, Bobbi McIntyre of Studio 124, and Tina Powell of McDonald's Restaurant and the Chesaning Village Council.

Mini-grants from the foundation will be made available to applicants on a case-by-case basis as funds are available. Those interested in applying for assistance or supporting the Chesaning Chamber Foundation with a donation are encouraged to visit the foundation's page on the Chamber's website at <http://www.chesaningchamber.org/chamber-foundation.html> or contact the Chamber office at 989-845-3055. The Foundation Board of Directors is planning a community-wide kick-off event for later this year as soon as it is safe to do so.

**About Chesaning Chamber:** The Chesaning Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1924 by local civic and business leaders. Today, the Chamber board of directors, staff and membership work diligently to promote their mission to actively foster business growth, member services, and a united community.

**About Ed Rehmann and Sons:** Was founded in 1919 by Ed and Eva Rehmann. It is now one of Michigan's oldest family-owned clothing stores and one of the largest independent retailers in the nation of Carhartt, Stormy Kromer and Red Wing boots.

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