



## Planting Trees, Growing Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ReLeaf Michigan Receives Consumers Energy Foundation Grant for Tree Education Programming

**February 14, 2022 – Ann Arbor, MI** -- ReLeaf Michigan, the only statewide tree planting and education non-profit organization in Michigan, has received a \$7500 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation supporting Forestry Network Meetings, the Michigan Big Tree Hunt, and homeowner presentations within their service area.

“The Consumers Energy Foundation is committed to strengthening environmental stewardship, reducing environmental impact and preserving the natural beauty of Michigan,” said Carolyn Bloodworth, the Consumers Energy Foundation’s secretary/treasurer. “Our commitment to protecting the planet includes working with great partners like ReLeaf Michigan to be a force of change here in our home state.”

The Consumers Energy Foundation grant helps support three aspects of ReLeaf Michigan’s educational programming: Forestry Network Meetings, the Michigan Big Tree Hunt, and homeowner presentations within their service area.

**Forestry Network Meetings** are regional opportunities that facilitate the provision of technical training, educational outreach and networking opportunities for municipalities and those involved in the Green Industry throughout Michigan. Since the majority of tree related educational opportunities are held in Lansing or southeast Michigan, ReLeaf Michigan helped to establish the Saginaw Bay Forestry Network, Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Forestry Network and Lower Grand River Forestry Network to give all individuals responsible for trees no matter their background closer access to professionals.

The **Michigan Big Tree Hunt** encourages Michiganders of any age to help identify the biggest trees in the state, offering prizes for the biggest tree in each county. Learn how to enter your tree and see photos of past winners at [www.bigtreehunt.com](http://www.bigtreehunt.com).

**Homeowner Workshops** are in-person or virtual opportunities for residents to hear expert advice, ask questions, and gain an understanding of how residents can each do their part to help our trees stay healthy for many years into the future. Each presentation is tailored to the needs of the community.

“ReLeaf Michigan is grateful for the support from the Consumers Energy Foundation,” said Melinda Jones, executive director, ReLeaf Michigan. “Our educational work is critical for helping community members understand the value of trees and how they have significant impacts on our health, economy, environment and more.”

In addition to their educational programming, ReLeaf Michigan also partners with communities to plant large trees on public property throughout the state. In 2021 alone, ReLeaf Michigan planted 735 trees in 32 communities with the help of 908 volunteers. Over the organization’s 33-year history, ReLeaf Michigan has planted nearly 30,000 trees in Michigan.

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### **About ReLeaf Michigan**

ReLeaf Michigan is Michigan's only statewide tree planting non-profit organization, working with communities and organizations throughout Michigan to protect and restore our urban tree canopies. The organization's mission is to educate the public on the value of trees and how to properly select, plant, and maintain them.

Founded by some of the most respected arborists in the state and building on lifetimes of green expertise, ReLeaf Michigan plants *the Right Tree in the Right Place for the Right Reason* to ensure each tree thrives for generations to come. Since 1988, ReLeaf Michigan has worked with over 400 communities across the state and planted nearly 30,000 trees on public property in Michigan's cities, townships, and villages.

### **About the Consumers Energy Foundation**

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The Foundation enables communities to thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan — its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity. In 2021, the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, its employees and retirees contributed over \$17.5 million to Michigan nonprofits. For more information, visit [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation).

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