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For Immediate Release

**Donation Checks Presented by Historical Society of Michigan to
Midland County Museums Affected by Flood**

MIDLAND, Mich.— Donation checks will be presented by the Historical Society of Michigan on Thursday, August 6, 2020, to two Midland County historical organizations that suffered significant damage from floodwaters caused by dam failures along the Tittabawassee River in May.

The Midland County Historical Society and the Sanford Area Historical Society, which operates the Sanford Centennial Museum, will each receive just over \$5,000. The funds were raised by contributions from a large number of donors from all over the state through an online GoFundMe effort sponsored and promoted by the statewide Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) and direct donations to HSM. Both recipients are organizational members of HSM, which is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization and Michigan’s oldest cultural organization (founded in 1828).



Anyone wanting to contribute to this relief effort can do so with an online donation at tinyurl.com/ya5y5tew. HSM will send each organization any additional money raised after the check presentations.

The first check presentation will take place at 11 a.m. at the Bradley Home, 3200 Cook Road, in Midland. The Midland County Historical Society’s facility suffered great damage due to high floodwaters. HSM Executive Director and CEO Larry J. Wagenaar will present a donation check to representatives of the local society to assist with their restoration efforts.

The second check presentation will take place at 1:30 p.m. under a tent outside the Sanford Centennial Museum, which is located at 2222 Smith Street in Sanford. Floodwaters caused major damage

to the facility. Wagenaar will present a donation check to representatives of the local museum to assist with their restoration efforts.

Officials have estimated that the Tittabawassee River flooding caused \$175 million in damage to more than 2,500 homes, businesses and nonprofit organizations.

In 2018, HSM raised more than \$10,000 through GoFundMe after heavy rains caused severe flooding in Houghton County in the Upper Peninsula, damaging the facilities of the Houghton County Historical Society's museum complex in Lake Linden, Michigan, and the Copper Range Historical Museum in South Range, Michigan.



The Historical Society of Michigan is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan's rich history.

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