



Join the Founding Board

West Traverse Centennial Campus (WTCC)

A 501(c)(3) non-profit stewarding West Traverse Township's Centennial Campus for the next 100 years

One hundred and twenty-two years ago, West Traverse Township built a hall that became the heart of the community: Township business, Grange meetings, dances on what many still call the best dance floor in Emmet County, weddings, birthdays, musical events, a Farmers' Market. Three hundred yards east, the Cook family ran a homestead and farm, and around 1910 built the barn that fed and milked their herd by hand. Today the Township is building a new Town Hall, restoring the 122-year-old Hall, and preserving the Cook Family Barn, connected by a mile long trail through the woods to a grassy glade, so that all three keep serving this community for a second century. That takes a Founding Board.

The Campus

New Township Hall

Already funded and under construction.
Future home of Township government offices and public meeting space.

The Historic Hall, 122 years

Home of Township business, the local Grange, dances, weddings, and a Farmers Market. Restored as a rentable meeting, dance, music, and event venue, with offices leased to the Trust for \$10 a year.

Cook Family Barn, circa 1910

A hand-built hay, feed, and milking barn on the Cook family's original 6-acre homestead. A self-guided, during daylight hours, heritage stop, linked by a mile long forest trail opening into a grassy glade.

Why a Founding Board, Why Now

The Rotary Club of Petoskey's Centennial Grant Program can provide up to \$277,000 toward this restoration, but it requires an established nonprofit partner to receive the funds and operate the historical properties going forward. The application is due November 1, 2026. We are working with the Township's legal counsel this fall to establish WTCC as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and the Township Board has approved moving forward on the condition that it is self-supporting, with volunteer leadership carrying the work.

What We're Asking

- **Founding board members** willing to help set up and govern a new nonprofit, roughly 5 to 9 people to start.
- **A mix of skills:** nonprofit governance or law, fundraising and grant writing, finance or treasury experience, historic preservation, event and rental operations, trades and facilities, and marketing or communications.
- **A shared commitment** to seeing the Hall and the Barn cared for and useful for the next hundred years, not just restored and left standing.

Get Involved

Reach out to Karin Offield at karinoffield@icloud.com to join the founding conversations. We're building the board and the nonprofit's founding documents now, ahead of the November 1st, 2026 Rotary Centennial Grant deadline.