



Helping Donors Share
**Community
Foundation**

FOR THE FOX VALLEY REGION, INC.

2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Harvesting great ideas

It's been an incredible year of growth and change in your Community Foundation, and another strong year for giving. Grants awarded from charitable funds totaled a record \$30 million! The spirit of philanthropy continues to grow in the Fox Valley as neighbors help neighbors, supporting projects and organizations that make a difference to people's lives. Giving back out of gratitude is a long-held value in our community.

Our Foundation team is growing and changing as well, improving our services for donors and community. Plans are underway to expand our office into an adjacent space in 2020. The larger and reconfigured space will accommodate our growing staff and provide a welcoming atmosphere to bring together people to foster the next wave of philanthropy. In tandem with planning our



Catherine Tierney
2018-19 Board Chair

Curt Detjen
President/CEO

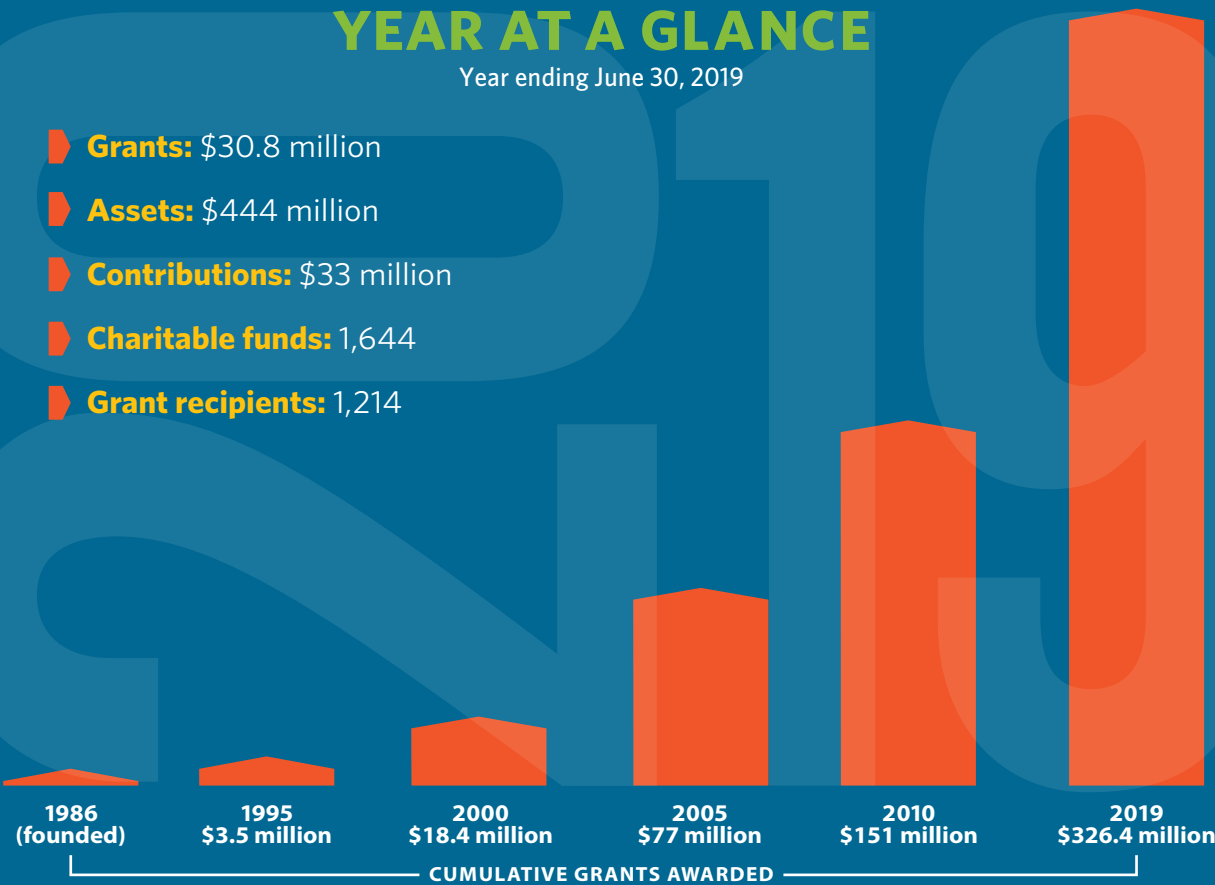
office expansion, we're also refreshing our brand to reflect who we are and our unique mission. We are eager to share all of this with you in 2020!

The growth of the Foundation is a direct reflection of this remarkable community. Thank you for engaging with us on this exciting journey bringing the talents, gifts and energy of the community together to build a brighter future for our Fox Valley Region.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Year ending June 30, 2019

- Grants:** \$30.8 million
- Assets:** \$444 million
- Contributions:** \$33 million
- Charitable funds:** 1,644
- Grant recipients:** 1,214



Generations of giving

When it came time for Gary and Judy Gunderson to distribute grants from the *Doug and Mary Gunderson Family Fund*, they helped their grandchildren, age 10 and older, learn hands-on philanthropy by joining in granting decisions. “My dad believed that if you can teach people the concept of philanthropy when they’re young, they’ll invest in the future,” Gary said of his father Doug, who founded Gunderson Cleaners in Menasha. The grandchildren selected local organizations and projects they were interested in, and Fox Valley Humane Association, Thompson Center on Lourdes, Saving Paws Animal Rescue and Pillars all received their grant checks right before Christmas in 2018.



Future philanthropists: (Back Row) Ella, 13; Sam, 15; Jack, 12; (Front Row) Graden, 6; Calvin, 1; Norah, 4; Lily, 4

Join the Circle



Himebaugh Legacy Circle
SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY

Earl Kinjerski and Patricia Schoenborn-Kinjerski of De Pere became members of our Himebaugh Legacy Circle by planning to create a scholarship fund with a future gift from their estate.

“With two lifetimes of hard work, it feels nice to know our estate gift will keep our memory alive and allow our money to grow in a good way after we’re gone,” said Patti.

Earl and Patti join 250 other Legacy Circle members.

A planned future gift can be any size, made through a will or trust, an insurance policy, retirement account or other estate planning tool. **To join the Legacy Circle, call our office at 920-830-1290 or go to cffoxvalley.org/himebaugh.**

It doesn’t take a lot

Recent college graduate Ben Hertel sought guidance from Community Foundation staff because he thought he had limited options to establish a scholarship in memory of his friend, Grant Richman, who died by suicide. An initial pool of money from friends and family established the *Grant Richman Memorial Scholarship Fund*, a future endowment fund within the Chilton Area Community Foundation, our geographic affiliate. A future fund can be created with a minimum of \$1,000. The fund will begin granting scholarships when it reaches \$15,000.

“Many in the Chilton community are eager to help contribute. Without the Community Foundation’s help, I’m not sure we would have been able to start the scholarship process so soon,” Ben said.



(L to R): Ben Hertel, Grant Richman, Preston Pethan and Jerad Wagner at the Richman’s cottage.

Donate stock

The Community Foundation’s quick and easy electronic procedure allows donors like Greg and Julie Pawlak to transfer gifts of appreciated stock without delay.

“We can give stocks at their highest valuation within



about 10 minutes,” says Greg. The Appleton couple used their gift to establish the *Greg and Julie Pawlak Family Fund* within the Community Foundation, which awards grants for education, one of their favorite charitable causes.

Stocks and other securities that have appreciated can be given directly to the Foundation without triggering capital gains taxes. The fair market value of the gift may be deductible in full. Please contact us before donating stock to ensure a prompt and accurate transfer of gifts. Read more here: cffoxvalley.org/stock.

2019



Strengthening our Community

Record grants of \$30.8 million

Grants to nonprofit organizations from charitable funds created by people, businesses and organizations, together, are making a difference throughout the Fox Valley region. By serving as a knowledge resource, catalyst, partner, convener, mentor and investor, your Community Foundation helps donors, professional advisors and nonprofit organizations improve the quality of life for all, forever. Want to join in the generosity? Contact us — we're happy to help! Enjoy reading a few examples of giving from the past year.

- » See our 1,214 grant recipients: cffoxvalley.org/CommunityReport
- » Learn about grant opportunities: cffoxvalley.org/Grants
- » The Community Foundation awarded 436 students scholarships from 203 funds totaling \$1.36 million!
- » See available scholarships at cffoxvalley.org/scholarships



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Nonprofit Leadership Initiative enters fourth year

The Nonprofit Leadership Initiative's programs provide opportunities for leadership development and learning to help nonprofits achieve their missions.

NPLI is a program within the Community Foundation, supported by more than a dozen Fox Valley-area nonprofits, funders, educational institutions and businesses dedicated to providing resources for effective nonprofit boards and executive leaders. To date, 39 nonprofit

leaders have graduated from NPLI's Leadership Institute program.

Community Foundation staff involvement on NPLI's leadership team and grants from the *Bright Idea Fund* and seven other funds within the Community Foundation have provided support since NPLI's inception three years ago, and our support will grow for the next three years. This is a long-term investment in nonprofit effectiveness. For more info, go to www.npleadershipfv.org.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CURT KNOKE

EDUCATION

Home visits set the stage for success

Shawano County's most vulnerable families are now receiving in-home visits, mentoring support and access to services. Collaborators include ThedaCare, Family and Childcare Resources of Northeast Wisconsin and Shawano County Department of Human Services. Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin's Shawano Area Early Childhood Partnership project received \$238,523 in grants for young families in Shawano County from the following grant contributors: our affiliate Shawano Area Community Foundation, Mielke Family Foundation, the *Bright Idea Fund* and Basic Needs Giving Partnership, supported by the *U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs*, the J. J. Keller Foundation, Inc., and our other generous community partners.

Voting for Change - 100 years later

Grants of \$7,000 from the *Bright Idea Fund* and *William and Helen Burger Memorial Fund* within the Community Foundation are helping to bring the history of the 19th Amendment to life at the Neenah Historical Society.

"Voting for a Change - The Impact of the 19th Amendment on our Community" is a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in the United States. The interactive, locally focused exhibit runs November 2019 through April 2020 and provides multiple opportunities for Neenah students and the Fox Valley community to learn more about this pivotal moment in our nation's history.



Trail extension increases safety

The City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Department has extended the Paper Trail, closing an unsafe gap and bringing two sides of the community together while encouraging outdoor recreation.

Known as the "emerald necklace," the Paper Trail is a 50-mile planned route through 11 Fox Cities communities and 20 area parks.

A grant, totaling almost \$10,000 from *Bright Idea Fund* within the Community Foundation, supported the new crossing to provide a crucial link between the west and east halves of Menasha at the intersection of U.S. Highways 10 and 114 that, until now, were extremely difficult to navigate safely by foot or bike due to the heavy traffic.



Caring for the Homeless

Grants from charitable funds within the Community Foundation continue to support organizations eradicating poverty and homelessness, such as Pillars' single-room occupancy program that allows clients to share a home with affordable rent. Counseling and other services are provided by Pillars, which is the result of a merger of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Homeless Connections and Housing Partnership of the Fox Cities. The Community Foundation supported the merger with a \$9,600 grant from the *Bright Idea Fund*.



HUMAN
SERVICES



Understanding suicide attempts

One in eight of our high school students in the Fox Valley is attempting suicide, according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. To understand and address this alarming concern, the N.E.W. Mental Health Connection, in partnership with United Way Fox Cities, is conducting a study of youth suicide-related behaviors, thanks to grants totaling \$10,000 from the *Bright Idea Fund* and

the *Joyce Hoerig Memorial Fund* within the Community Foundation. Additional funders include the Wallace Family Foundation and ThedaCare Community Health.

The study will bring local youth and expert researchers from the Medical College of Wisconsin together to better understand why 12-18-year-olds in our region attempt suicide at nearly twice the rate of state and national averages.

HEALTH



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CONNECT WITH US:    

Are you in?

Sign up at cffoxvalley.org/loop to stay informed about what's happening in the Fox Valley area through the Community Foundation. Receive alerts by text or email - immediate message or weekly or monthly summaries.

Board of Directors 2018-19

Ben Adams
Omar Atassi, M.D.
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Beth Flaherty
David Gross
James Johnson
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Dr. Susan May
Laura Meronk
Melanie Miller
Paul Mueller
Greg Pawlak: *Vice Chair*
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Kathryn Sieman:

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Markalan T. Smith: *Vice Chair*
Pierce Smith
Jon Stellmacher:
Secretary & Vice Chair
Raquel Strayer
Catherine Tierney: *Chair*
Stephanie Vrabec

New Directors and Officers

Pa Lee Moua
Jim Prosser
Michelle Schuler
Chuck Self



We are committed to the quality of life in Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and northern Winnebago counties, and partner with:

- Billion Area Family of Funds
- Chilton Area Community Foundation
- Clintonville Area Foundation
- Shawano Area Community Foundation
- Waupaca Area Community Foundation

Why give through YOUR Community Foundation?

LOCAL EXPERTISE

- Knowledge of nonprofits and community needs
- Board members engaged in the community
- Helpful professional staff

PERSONAL SERVICE

- Effective giving
- Prudent investment management
- Grant-making made simple
- Awareness of needs of nonprofits

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Community investment
- Collaborative giving
- Nonprofits made stronger



Imagine Fox Cities vision looks generations into the future

Imagine Fox Cities hosted a summit October 21, 2019, to share key themes, a community vision and a commitment statement that resulted from community members' input through surveys and community conversations.

Imagine Fox Cities was developed in 2018 to shape a living vision that guides actions and decisions to advance the well-being of all who call the Fox Cities home today and for generations to come. Well-being reflects how people think, feel, and function—at a personal and a social level—

as well as how they evaluate their lives overall. The Imagine Fox Cities coordinating committee, which includes three Community Foundation staff, is comprised of a diverse group of 32 members who will help keep the momentum going.

Funding included contributions from the *Bright Idea Fund* and *David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund*, both within the Community Foundation, several companies and United Way Fox Cities.

Visit imaginefoxcities.com to learn more, access updates and get involved.