



2020
Annual
Report

Trey Foerster



WAUPACA AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

A Message from Board Chair Stephen Johnson

Your generosity to the Waupaca Area Community Foundation (WACF) has had long-term effects on our community. The mission of the Foundation to preserve and improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Waupaca area remains. Your support has been critical to the existence of many programs that serve our neighbors and our communities. The Foundation truly impacts the lives and futures of many individuals and our community.

Many of us know individuals and families whose physical or emotional health has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous people in our area have had their financial wellbeing upended by the loss of a job or other financial challenges during this unprecedented time. The WACF grant guidelines have traditionally accepted applications for projects and programs in the areas of arts and culture, community development, education, environment, and health and human services. Due to the pandemic, our 2020 annual competitive grant guidelines were amended to include programs benefiting residents of the Waupaca area to respond specifically to the COVID-19 crisis, including sustaining critical mission-based work that has been financially impacted by the pandemic.

In addition, the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, established by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and United Way Fox Cities, has provided assistance to residents of Waupaca County through organizations such as Senior Meals Program, Foundations for Living, Mission of Hope House, Feeding America, Options for Independent Living and CAP Services. And the obligation to our community continues.

This assistance the WACF makes to organizations is possible only through your support and generosity. It is with a grateful heart that we offer a sincere thank you for your participation and the impact you make on our community. Your support allows the Foundation to continue the mission to preserve and improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Waupaca area.

Stephen Johnson

On behalf of the
WACF Board



2020 Year at a Glance

Year ending June 30, 2020

Grants Awarded:

➤ **\$1,223,600**
(Total grants since the WACF's founding in 2003: \$4,968,986)

Contributions Received:

➤ **\$236,348**

Assets:

➤ **\$6,051,663**



The Waupaca Area Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.
cffoxvalley.org/Waupaca

Giving through the Community Foundation **STARTS WITH YOU.**

GIVE

An individual, family, business or organization makes a tax-deductible gift of cash, securities, real estate or other property.



CHOOSE

Your gift creates or adds to a charitable fund to benefit causes important to you now or for the long term.



INVEST

Funds are invested prudently for long-term growth, overseen by a professional investment advisory firm and an investment committee of local professionals.



ENGAGE

Nonprofit organizations receive grants following your recommendations as the fund grows through investment and additional gifts.



STRENGTHEN

The nonprofit projects and organizations your fund supports strengthen community while creating your lasting legacy of giving.



Himebaugh Legacy Circle Members

No matter if a city in Waupaca County is your hometown or the place you now call home, you have a lot invested here. You can help ensure the vitality of the Waupaca area for future generations by counting your community among your heirs. Become a member of the Himebaugh Legacy Circle by naming the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region/Waupaca Affiliate as the beneficiary of any estate planning tool, including your:

- Will or trust
- Insurance policy
- Retirement Account

We thank these legacy circle members with a connection to the Waupaca area:

- Lori Dehlinger Van Alstine and Joseph Van Alstine
- Robert and Christine Faulks
- Thomas and Eloise Godfrey+
- Tim and Joy Neuville*
- Anonymous*
- Jack and Glenda Rhodes*
- Joan and Gene+ Wasserberg*
- Barbara and Graham Werner

+of Blessed Memory
*Himebaugh Charter Member

Learn how to shape tomorrow today by contacting our Community Foundation partner in Appleton at 920-830-1290 or info@cffoxvalley.org.

Why give through **YOUR** Community Foundation?

LOCAL EXPERTISE

- Know nonprofits and community needs
- Board members engaged in the community

PERSONAL SERVICE

- Grantmaking simplified
- Plan effective giving
- Manage investments prudently
- Connect with nonprofit needs

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Invest in community
- Promote giving
- Strengthen nonprofits

The WACF is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, utilizing its professional services and staff.

Showers, laundry facilities installed

Foundations for Living, a local, independent nonprofit, has one overriding goal: helping people in the Waupaca area find a better life. While many Waupaca County residents live quite affluent lives, according to the USA Census Bureau, over 11 percent of Waupaca's population live below the poverty line. Helping people navigate life in this "hidden face of poverty" is what Foundations for Living is all about.

One of Foundations for Living's many services is their overnight emergency warming center. Thanks to a \$7,500 grant from The Waupaca Community Foundation, a handicapped accessible shower and laundry facility were installed last fall. "Often people come to us after living for days in their cars," said Wilma Akright, executive director. "Making it possible for our guests to shower and wash their clothes has been life changing for many. Not only has our warming center become a healthier, more pleasant environment but the ability to stay clean has helped a number of our guests to find jobs and make other critical first steps toward independent living."

Foundations for Living exists to assist anyone who desires to make positive changes toward independence. "We aren't here to give handouts but rather hand-ups," Akright said. "Clients find us through referrals from private and public social services as well as word of mouth. Whether someone is living on the street or just needing encouragement, we try to meet people where they're at. Taking time to discover underlying issues and to meet the most critical needs (such as food, clothes, hygiene items, temporary housing and emotional support) are the first steps. Once immediate needs are met, we offer job counseling, referrals, life coaching, supportive housing and classes in topics such as financial budgeting, and change."

In 2019 alone, over 2,600 clients received assistance through Foundations for Living.



Charitable Funds

These funds, created by individuals, families and organizations, generate grants to nonprofit organizations or provide scholarships that are making a difference in people's lives in the greater Waupaca area and beyond.

- James and Connie Abert Future Fund
- American Red Cross Greater Waupaca Fund
- Donald G. Brunner Education Fund
- Edmund J. and Mary Lee Christensen Scholarship Fund
- Howard and Roberta Cook Scholarship Fund
- Dale T. Ehnert Scholarship Fund
- Eskritt Fund for Parfreyville United Methodist Church
- Nyles & Genevieve Eskritt Family Fund
- Randall and Susan Faulks Family Fund
- Robert and Christine Faulks Charitable Fund
- FVTC Scholarship Fund
- Tom & Eloise Godfrey Family Fund
- Goodwill NCW Waupaca Endowment Fund
- Al and Gloria Gruer Family Charitable Fund
- Holly Family Foundation Fund
- Jane M. Hutchinson Memorial Fund
- Iola Community Foundation Endowment Fund
- Richard G. Johnson Family Fund
- Henry, Naomi and Robert Kemper Fund
- Selma and Gerald Knoepfel Memorial Fund
- Carl G. Koch Fund
- Donovan and Mary Beth Lane Family Fund
- James and Diane Larson Scholarship Fund
- Mathematics Education Fund
- Tim and Joy Neuville Family Fund
- Donald and Anne O'Dell Fund
- Overby Family Fund
- Oz Natural Area Fund
- Lowell and Mary Peterson Fund
- Lowell and Mary Peterson Fund for Riverside
- Chuck and Laura Reynolds Charitable Fund
- River Ridge Trail Maintenance and Development Endowment Fund
- Rotary Club of Waupaca Charitable Fund
- Rotary Club of Waupaca Endowment Fund
- Isabelle Rowe Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Bob and Kim Spoerl Charitable Fund
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund
- TCMC-W Medical Staff Charitable Fund
- ToTo Endowment Fund
- Wachowiak Memorial Special Education Fund
- Waupaca Area Community Foundation Fund
- Waupaca Area Triathlon Scholarship Fund
- Waupaca High School Scholarship Foundation Fund
- Waupaca Historical Society Endowment Fund
- Waupaca Public Library Foundation Fund
- Winchester Academy Endowment Fund
- Winchester Academy Fund

Are you interested in starting a fund to benefit your favorite nonprofit organizations for generations to come? Contact us at 715-602-3833.

Waupaca Area Community Foundation Fund Grant Recipients

Grants totaling \$80,500 were awarded from the Waupaca Area Community Fund to 15 charitable organizations serving the people of Waupaca County. The fund is an endowment that accepts donations in any amount. The grant dollars come from the endowment fund and proceeds from the Foundation's annual gala. Learn how to apply for a grant at www.cffoxvalley.org/waupaca.

In 2018, the Waupaca Area Community Foundation began offering a larger Community Enhancement Grant, intended to make a big impact on a broad segment of the community. The 2019 recipient was Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity for the Waupaca Rock the Block project.

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fox Valley Region** – \$7,500: to support the start of two school-based mentoring programs within Waupaca.
\$5,000: to continue professionally supported community-based mentoring relationships within Waupaca.
- **CAP Services, Inc.** – \$5,000: to provide tuition, books, training-related childcare and mileage to help Waupaca County residents participate in CAP Services' Skills Enhancement Program.
\$5,000: to support Family Crisis Center programs in Waupaca that help primary and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence of all ages and genders.
- **Center for Suicide Awareness** – \$7,500: to continue efforts to involve schools, churches, employers, community organizations and others to offer suicide prevention-related outreach, education and support throughout Waupaca County.
- **Foundations For Living** – \$7,500: to install an ADA-compliant shower and laundry facility at the Warming Center to improve the hygiene, health, and self-esteem of clients experiencing homelessness.
- **Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.** – \$5,000: to bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to at-risk girls in grades K-12 in the Waupaca area who may not otherwise be able to participate in traditional Girl Scout troops
- **Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc.** – \$1,500: to create a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) for Waupaca, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties where landowners, natural resource managers, and other partners cooperate in the fight against invasive species.
- **Living the Waupaca Way** – \$5,000: to fund the position of Farm Market Manager for the Waupaca Farmers Market 2020 season.
\$5,000: to purchase supplies, tools, equipment, and storage space for the new Riverside Drive community garden, as well as partially support a dedicated garden staff position.
- **Mission of Hope House of Wisconsin** – \$2,000: to provide shelter and support services to residents of Waupaca county.
- **Opera for the Young, Inc.** – \$1,500: to support two performances of Opera for the Young's adaptation of "The Pirates of Penzance" in Waupaca-area elementary schools for approximately 800 students.
- **Waupaca Community Arts Board** – \$6,000: to support the week-long Bach Festival that gives multiple generations the opportunity to have fun while experiencing baroque era music and culture.
- **Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition** – \$5,000: to support a multi-phase anti-isolation campaign in Waupaca County to engage people who are struggling with depression and isolation.
- **With Wings and a Halo-R.E.A.C.H. a Child!** – \$4,500: to purchase 30 Reach Bags filled with 600 new children's books and 600 drawstring backpacks, which will be placed in First Responder vehicles in Waupaca police, fire and EMS units, as well as the Waupaca County sheriff's office.
- **Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Inc.** – \$7,500: to support expansion to Waupaca of a collaboration with Fox Valley Technical College that helps women ages 18-24 break the cycle of poverty by empowering them to increase their education, resulting in family-supporting jobs, by addressing internal obstacles such as low self-confidence, mental health issues and lack of a vision for a better future.

New Invasive Species Partnership

Invasive species are a problem that can have economic, recreational, and environmental impacts. Golden Sands RC&D's aquatic invasive species program has served Waupaca County for more than a decade.

In order to expand their efforts, Golden Sands sought to develop a regional group focused on building partnerships to monitor and control invasive plants in the water and on land throughout Waupaca County. A \$1,500 grant from the Waupaca Area Community Foundation supported their initiative to develop a cooperative invasive species group for the Fox Valley area including Waupaca County.

A meeting gathered stakeholder input and was attended by 37 people, including landowners, volunteers, and staff from DNR, counties, and nature centers. Attendees decided on a name for the group: Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition (NEWISC).

Using stakeholder input, two grant applications were submitted to continue group development. A \$40,000 grant was secured from the US Forest Service to begin invasive plant monitoring and control efforts. As NEWISC grows, the group plans to provide educational resources to landowners and volunteers about management of invasive plants. Controlling these species will improve wildlife habitat and enhance natural areas throughout Waupaca County.



Donors

Thank you to those who made generous contributions to WACF funds totaling \$236,348.

- Victor and Christine Anthony Fund**
- B & D Foundation Inc.
- Bank First
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- Jeanne Bootz
- Anonymous
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- Rev. Wilson and Susan Roane
- Nancy Ross
- Rotary Club of Waupaca Charitable Fund*
- Christopher and Diane Sands
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Frank and Marilyn Shearer
- Nancy Siewert
- John and Mary Ann Snider
- Donald and Faye Sorenson
- Kim and Bob Spoerl
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund
- The Victor and Christine Anthony Revocable Trust
- Mary and Leighton Trice
- Trudeau Revocable Trust
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- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
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- Lisbeth Werner Bax Family Fund*
- Gleneta and Jennings Werner
- Wayne Ziebell
- Bill and Mary Zimmermann

*within the Waupaca Area Community Foundation

**Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin

Contributions made July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Grant Recipients

The WACF's charitable funds generate grants that are awarded to nonprofit organizations that are either recommended by the donor(s) who created the fund, or that are selected through an application process. During fiscal year 2020, grants awarded from the Foundation's charitable funds totaled \$1,223,600. The following nonprofit organizations located in Waupaca County and beyond received grants.

- American Red Cross in Northeast WI
- Apricity
- Badger Boys State
- Bethany Home, Inc.
- Blake Memorial Library Association
- Camp Hope, Inc.
- Common Ground Meditation Center
- First Presbyterian Church
- Fox Valley Technical College Foundation, Inc.
- Friends of Long Lake
- Friends of Way Park
- Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity
- Hope United Church of Christ
- Humane Society of Waupaca County
- Iola-Scandinavia School District
- Kentucky Natural Lands Trust
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Inc.
- Northfield Buddhist Meditation Center
- Nova Counseling Services, Inc.
- Raymond James Charitable
- Rotary Club of Waupaca
- Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
- School District of Waupaca
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church
- ThedaCare Family of Foundations, Inc.
- ToTo Foundation
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Valley Insight Meditation Society
- Waupaca Area Chamber Foundation, Inc.
- Waupaca Community Arts Board
- Waupaca High School Scholarship Foundation
- Waupaca Historical Society
- Waupaca Public Library Foundation
- Weymont Food Pantry
- Winchester Academy
- Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts
- School District of Waupaca

Grant helps EmpowHer

The EmpowHER Program is a collaborative program with the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region and Fox Valley Technical College. EmpowHER is intended to move young women from poverty to independence and help them see the opportunities and potential that exist beyond their current circumstances. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty by helping women identify what is holding them back and plan for their future by encouraging post-secondary education as a pathway to economic security. Through a \$7,500 grant from the Waupaca Area Community Foundation, the EmpowHER program expanded to serve for young women in Waupaca.

Prior to this program Beth was unsure about her future goals, but she was an eager participant with a positive attitude. Beth and the other young women in the program learned about support systems in the Waupaca community, healthy relationships, career aptitudes, and financial wellness. After the program, Beth designed a budget, bought a car, enrolled at FVTC and is excited to be in charge of her future. Beth says that EmpowHER gave her the confidence to enroll in the Human Services program at FVTC. "I feel prepared for college. I am more confident I can do it because of the help I can get and the skill and resources I learned about through this program."



Living the Waupaca Way

The Community Garden – ThedaCare location is located on the ThedaCare campus in Waupaca. This is the second season that Living the Waupaca Way is working with the community garden. The garden is managed by Lindsey Pietrzak and staffed by many volunteers. The grant monies allowed us to purchase supplies, tools, equipment and storage space helping us reach our goal to put fresh produce into the hands and mouths of members of the Waupaca community. To do this, the garden partners with and distributes produce to the Waupaca Area Food Pantry, the Bread Basket and the Senior Nutrition Center.

Things at the garden have been busy this season. To date, a new shed has been built and four raised garden beds have been added to the plot (making it easier for volunteers to help out). In addition, Lindsey, the garden manager, held a virtual education event in partnership with Sunny Day Childcare. Tomato plants, pots and soil were purchased and provided to Sunny Day so they can grow their own tomatoes. The virtual education event involved a demonstration on how to plant and care for the tomatoes to get a bountiful harvest.



There are over 30 different varieties of plants in the garden, including greens, various vegetables, herbs and fruit. Over 40 pounds of rhubarb has already been donated to the Waupaca Area Food Pantry this year. In the coming weeks Food Pantry deliveries will include lettuce, spinach and edible flowers. Volunteers are always welcome at the garden, located at 913 Riverside Dr. Waupaca. If you'd like to follow updates throughout the season, please visit their facebook page, Waupaca Community Garden – ThedaCare Location.



**WAUPACA AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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Waupaca, WI, 54981
715-602-3833
www.cffoxvalley.org/waupaca

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Each year the Waupaca Area Community Foundation awards more than \$50,000 in grants to many local nonprofit organizations. If you're part of a nonprofit organization or know of one in need of funding for a project, apply for a grant. Applications are reviewed each year in May. Go to <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/waupaca-area-community-foundation/> for more details about applying for a grant.