



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Adams, Columbia, Iowa, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon counties

Letter to the community

Dear Friends,

Mary Oliver's beautiful poem, "The Summer Day," ends with the hauntingly lovely question, "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?" The answer for our donors, Board members, beneficiaries, and volunteers is resoundingly clear: you give. You give of your time, your expertise, your compassion, and your treasure. You give to your friends and neighbors, your school and church, your local nonprofits, and your community. You give to your community foundation. And we are so grateful for your generosity.

How much should one give? Our favorite answer: Give until it feels good! Because giving done right brings joy to the donor and the recipient.

Most of us give what we can during our lifetime. Some of us also choose to give after we leave this world by including charity in our estate plans. In this report we'd like to share some of our favorite stories of bequests and how they continue to make a difference – in perpetuity. We hope you will be inspired to consider how you can continue to make an impact on your community ... forever.

We have a Board member who likes to share the idea that we can all "adopt" a child named "Charity." In addition to remembering your heirs, designate a portion of your estate to benefit your favorite charity. Gifts of any amount make a truly important difference.

Best and warmest regards,



Robert Ginther
President, Board of Directors



Robin Whyte
Executive Director





Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Our Mission

The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin strengthens and honors the communities we serve by inspiring philanthropy, supporting area nonprofits, and providing leadership to meet local needs.

Our Vision

The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin will be a leading area resource, meeting local needs through philanthropy and collaboration.

Our Values

We value integrity, transparency, generosity, stewardship, leadership, and collaboration. We believe in responding quickly to immediate needs while also providing for the future with permanent endowments.

Your Community Foundation as of 12/31/2024

- \$16 million in assets under management
- \$21 million in gifts received to date
- \$12.1 million in grants distributed to date
- 2024 gifts received: \$2.8 million
- 2024 grants distributed: \$1.7 million
- 99% of assets directly support our mission
(2024 administrative costs = 1% of net assets)
- 115 funds managed

Please visit our website at cfscw.org to view our latest audited financial statements.

Professional Advisor Recognition Society

We introduced a new award last year to recognize the critical role professional advisors play in the success of the community foundation. Accountants, attorneys, and financial advisors are uniquely positioned to educate their clients about the benefits of philanthropic giving. Many are themselves philanthropic, giving of their time, talent, and treasure to local charities. This new award is one way we can express our thanks for their support.

Foundation Board President Robert Ginther presented the first awards to Tim Moy (left) and Forrest Hartmann (right) at our October 2024 Board meeting.

Tim, founder of MBE CPAs, has always helped clients to understand the potential advantages of charitable gifts. He is also generous with his time and advice, and he served on our Board for 18 years. A member of the Founders Society and a Community Foundation Partner in building our Community Grants Fund, Tim also established an endowment fund for Pathway Home, the homeless shelter based in Baraboo. Tim personifies the best in partnerships between professional advisors and local charities.

Forrest is a retired attorney who has been instrumental in the success of numerous local nonprofits. He is personally responsible for introducing many of his clients to the idea of reaching their philanthropic goals with a gift to the community foundation, and much of our growth has been thanks to his efforts. He also served 19 years on our Board, is a member of the Founders Society, established the Forrest D. Hartmann Fund for the Arts, and continues to challenge other donors to build endowment funds. Forrest is an invaluable advisor and we owe him so much.



Helen M. Ziegler



Helen Ziegler died April 7, 2025, at the age of 100. She was warm, kind, and generous, known for her lovely smile. Helen taught kindergarten to generations of Baraboo schoolchildren. She was involved with her church and numerous civic organizations. She coached sports. And Helen started the Baraboo branch of Special Olympics, which she organized for 40 years.

Helen's passion was children, so it is no surprise that our endowment fund for the Boys & Girls Clubs of West-Central Wisconsin is the main beneficiary of her will. Her bequest of upwards of \$500,000 will help guarantee the Clubs' future. Kyle Crosby, executive director of BGCWCW, is grateful for the gift that will help to "sustain our operations forever, especially when other sources of funding are increasingly uncertain."

We are pleased to rename the endowment fund in Helen's honor.

Estella Leopold



Estella Bergere Leopold was the last surviving child of world-renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. She and her siblings established the Aldo Leopold Foundation in 1982, and Estella went on to serve the organization in many roles, including president and board chair. Her final act of generosity was to name the Leopold Foundation as the primary beneficiary of her estate. Following Estella's death last year, the Aldo Leopold Foundation is honoring her with the Estella B. Leopold Endowment Fund, to be managed here at the community foundation. The fund will endow the Aldo Leopold Foundation's president's chair and ensure the future of the organization's strong executive leadership.



Estella's estate gift of \$500,000 is being matched by a long-time ALF supporter and board colleague of Estella's. Together they are challenging ALF supporters to match the gifts with another \$1 million in donations, to create a \$2 million permanent endowment. We love the way her gift is serving to multiply support and enhance the organization's financial stability at this critical time.

Al Behrman



Al Behrman spent countless hours volunteering his time to the children at Baraboo's South School. Upon his death in 2002, he left his entire estate of \$90,000 to the community foundation, designated to provide extra support to the schoolchildren he so loved. The school was subsequently renamed in his honor. The Al Behrman Fund now stands at \$164,000. The school's annual grants now total over \$105,000 – more than the amount of his original gift. This is the beauty of endowment funds and how they keep growing! The 2025 grant will be \$8,476 and is designated to provide the children with special programming, field trips, and other extras that are not in the school budget. Mr. Behrman's legacy of kindness and generosity continues to impact the students of Baraboo through the school that bears his name and the fund established to support their education.

Curt “Corey” Compton



Curt Compton grew up in Sauk County during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although he later moved away to join the service and build his life elsewhere, he kept his Baraboo ties and made regular visits to support science education at the local elementary schools. Following his death in 2016, his entire estate of over \$900,000 came to the community foundation, with the purpose of enhancing science education at the Baraboo School District's elementary schools. The fund bearing his name has now grown to over \$1.3 million. Total fund distributions to date are over \$379,000, not including this year's grant of \$69,087. Mr. Compton's memory lives on as a blessing to local elementary students.

Our Next Chapter: Community Funds

Your gift to the future ...

We invite you to join your friends and neighbors in building a permanent endowment fund for your community. Known as unrestricted giving, donations to these funds will be pooled together to make impactful grants for future needs we may not even be able to imagine today. Your unconditional giving will allow future leaders to allocate grants most effectively, empowering us to make strategic grants where the need is greatest. Beneficiaries may include education, conservation, the arts, local history, or social services.

Your gift of any amount is fully tax-deductible, as provided by law, and will be invested to grow tax-free. As the fund grows, we can make larger annual grants to the community, while the principal is preserved and continues to grow. Distributions will be made when the fund balance reaches \$200,000, or five years from the funding start date, whichever comes first.

If you wish, you can create an unrestricted community fund that is named for you or your family, or to memorialize a loved one. Contact us for more information.

Fund for Adams County
Fund for Columbia County
Fund for Iowa County
Fund for Juneau County
Fund for Richland County
Fund for Sauk County
Fund for Vernon County

Baraboo Community Fund
Plain Community Fund
Reedsburg Community Fund
Sauk-Prairie Community Fund
Spring Green Community Fund

*Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water,
the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects.*

— Dalai Lama

Community Foundation Partners

In July 2021 we set out to build our Community Grants Fund from its then-balance of \$200,000 to our goal of \$1 million. Today it stands at \$1.25 million.

This endowment provides support to area nonprofits in response to their grant applications once a year, and thanks to your generosity, we have far greater resources to share with these organizations.

We are deeply grateful for all of the gifts that helped us to build this fund, and we wish to recognize the following partners who each gave \$25,000 or more:

Bank of Wisconsin Dells

The Craig C. Culver Family Foundation, Inc.

Tom & Vicki Fleming

Gilliland Family Fund

Mark & Barb Graupman

Joanne Holland & Margie Rosenberg

Jennifer N. Kraemer

Harland & Lorraine Hartmann Fund

MBE CPAs

Kathleen Meronek Estate

Richard & Mavis Schulze Fund

Arnold & Judith Utzinger Fund

Mae Vogel Estate

What is a community foundation?

We are a public charity that manages 115 different charitable funds, which combined paid out \$1.7 million in grants to nonprofits in 2024. See below for a description of the types of funds we offer. Please call us to learn more!

DONOR-ADVISED A donor-advised fund offers a donor the most flexibility. The donor recommends which organizations receive grants from their fund, when grants are made, and in what amount. Grants may be made to any U.S. nonprofit regardless of geographic location.

DESIGNATED Designated funds support a specific organization. They can be established by donors during their lifetime or as a legacy through their will. It's up to the donor to recommend how the funds are distributed.

FIELD OF INTEREST These funds are also established for a specific charitable purpose, but they support a range of organizations, such as the arts, local history, veterans' projects, children's initiatives, or animal welfare.

AGENCY Nonprofits can create an agency fund using their own assets. They might need help managing a significant gift or want the benefit of our investment expertise or planned giving services. We can offer the protection of an endowed fund as well as the comfort of knowing the gift will be managed professionally.

UNRESTRICTED Your unrestricted gift will be used to ensure our ability to continue our work. Gifts to the Community Grants Fund expand our ability to accept applications for special projects from local nonprofits. Gifts to the Founders Society support our operations so we can continue giving back to the community. Or support *your* community with our new Community Funds!

The Founders Society

This fund supports our operations and guarantees our future.

DIAMOND

Darlene Ballweg
Craig & Leola Culver Foundation
Dina & Paul Fishkin
Tom & Vicki Fleming
Robert & Patricia Hanes
Forrest Hartmann
Harland & Lorraine Hartmann
Judith Kuse
Arnold & Judith Utzinger

PLATINUM

Baraboo News Republic
Jon & Char Bernander
In honor of Jim Fishkin & Ken Fishkin
Dave & Leah Gerfen
David & Karen Sacia
Helen M. Ziegler

GOLD

Victor & Rita Ahlstrom
American Family Insurance
Bank of Prairie du Sac
BMO Harris Bank
Community First Bank
Gary Gilliland, in memory of Linda Gilliland
Eldon & Doris Johnson

Brad Schnee & Mo Reilly
Carol D. Sorg
Sysco Baraboo LLC
Mae Vogel

SILVER

Steve & Darlene Bach
Bank of Wisconsin Dells
Baraboo Kiwanis Club
Baraboo State Bank
Baraboo Wal-Mart
Steve & LuAnn Blakeslee
Culver's Franchising System, Inc.
Helen C. & Robert C. Dewel
Douglas Legacy Farm
Jane & Roy Franzen
In Memory of Amy Hanes Friberg
Friede & Associates, LLC
Bryant Hazard
Beverly L. Hoege
Carol E. Hulterstrum
Janet G. Klipp
Jennifer N. Kraemer
Krunnfusz Family Fund
Harry & Nancy Machtan
George F. McArthur Family

MBE CPAs
NRG Media
Pierce's Supermarkets
Matt & Joan Pinion
Plenke's Pond & Outdoor Learning Center
Bernard Rynkowski
Harry & Helen SaLoutos
Richard & Mavis Schulze
Kathryn A. Schwarz & Bruce L. White
Schwarz Insurance Agency, Inc.
Smith CPA, LLC
Alan & Laura Stanek
Terry & Una Teelin
Peter & Ann Tollaksen
WCCU Credit Union
Wells Fargo Bank
Donald H. & J. Patricia Yanke

BRONZE

Carol Fleishauer
Mark & Barb Graupman
Mary Henry
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Pakyz
Laurence & Janet Phelps
Robin Whyte

Founders Society Donor Levels

Diamond \$25,000 & more
Platinum \$15,000–\$24,999
Gold \$7,500–\$14,999
Silver \$3,000–\$7,499
Bronze \$1,000–\$2,999

2025 Board of Directors

President

ROBERT GINTHER, Rock Springs
Cross, Jenks, Mercer & Maffei, LLP,
attorney

Vice President

JON BERNANDER, Wisconsin Dells
Bank of Wisconsin Dells,
president and CEO, retired

Treasurer

MARK GRAUPMAN, Egg Harbor
chief financial officer, retired

Secretary

LAURA STANEK, Baraboo
Third Oak Investment Services,
financial advisor

TIM BECKER, Reedsburg
Friede & Associates, vice president of sales

STEVEN BLAKESLEE, Reedsburg
Blakeslee Septic Systems, president, retired;
Reedsburg Bank, board chairman and vice
president, retired

TIM BOROTA, Baraboo
Edward Jones, financial advisor, retired

MARY HENRY, Viroqua
Educator and school administrator, retired

JOANNE HOLLAND, Madison
Access Community Health Centers, CFO

JENNIFER KRAEMER, Middleton
Kraemer Brothers, LLC, organizational
development manager, retired

JUDITH KUSE, Baraboo
School counselor, retired

KEVIN RAVENSCROFT, Spring Green
The Peoples Community Bank, president &
CEO

MARIETTA REUTER, Sauk City
Tools of Marketing, Inc., president

MERRY LYNN RIEK, Plain
WCCU, Baraboo Branch Manager

PAUL SCHMIDT, Verona
Boardman & Clark, attorney, retired

SHEILA TROXEL, Richland Center
Wallace, Cooper & Elliott Insurance,
insurance agent

BRANDON WEGNER, Baraboo
Bank of Wisconsin Dells, senior vice
president and chief lending officer



We're here for good!

Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin, Inc.

600 W. Chestnut St., PO Box 544

Baraboo, WI 53913

www.cfscw.org

608-355-0884 • director@cfscw.org

The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

All gifts are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Cover Photo Courtesy of Morgan McArthur.