

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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



Letter to the Community

Dear Friends,

We had a remarkable year in 2025. Your generosity continues to astonish us. Your gifts have never been more meaningful. We continue to reach new milestones as you keep giving. You supported education, conservation, the arts, health care, and so much more. Robin has now celebrated 10 years of service with the Foundation, which recognized the time has come for more staff to serve our donors. We are delighted to announce that we have hired Kyle Crosby as our new Associate Director (see details inside).

Please see enclosed for details on our recent growth. We are amazed to share with you that at this writing (July 2026), we have exceeded \$25 million in charitable assets under our management.

For your giving spirit and kind hearts, we thank you again and again.

Best and warmest regards,



Jon Bernander
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.

Welcome, Kyle Crosby!



We are excited to welcome Kyle Crosby as our new Associate Director. Kyle joined the Foundation in July and will work closely with donors, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to advance the Foundation's mission throughout South Central Wisconsin. He is passionate about building meaningful relationships and connecting people with opportunities to create lasting impact in the communities we serve.

Kyle is a Sauk County native. Before joining the Foundation, he served for 12 years at the Boys & Girls Clubs of West-Central Wisconsin, most recently as their Executive Director. He has a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, community involvement, organizational growth, and grant management, and is excited to help grow philanthropy across the region.

Outside of work, Kyle spends time with his wife, Samantha, their sons, Lincoln and Wesley, and their dog Memphis. Kyle also enjoys coaching youth hockey.

Your Community Foundation as of 12/31/2025

- \$22.7 million in assets under management
- \$26.5 million in gifts received to date
- \$13.7 million in grants distributed to date
- 2025 gifts received: \$5.5 million
- 2025 grants distributed: \$1.6 million
- 99% of assets directly support our mission
(2025 administrative costs = 1% of net assets)
- 122 funds managed

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



**One generation plants a tree,
the next enjoys its shade.**

— Chinese proverb

Assets Under Management 2015 – 2025

2015	\$3.7 million
2016	\$4.7 million
2017	\$5.7 million
2018	\$5.8 million
2019	\$9.5 million
2020	\$10.7 million
2021	\$11.9 million
2022	\$10.1 million
2023	\$13 million
2024	\$16.6 million
2025	\$23.1 million

As of this writing (July 2026), our assets under management have reached \$25.3 million! We thank our generous donors for making this growth possible.

What is a community foundation?

We are a public charity that manages 122 different charitable funds, which combined paid out \$1.6 million in grants to nonprofits in 2025. 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!



“What will you do with your one wild and precious life?”

— From “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver

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. Following are 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.

To leave a gift to the Community Foundation, designate an amount or a percentage of your assets in your will or trust. Call our office if we can provide additional assistance.

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 in 2024, the Aldo Leopold Foundation honored 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 was matched by a long-time ALF supporter and board colleague of Estella's. Together they challenged ALF supporters to match the gifts with another \$1 million in donations, to create a \$2 million permanent endowment. The match was met and the endowment is now actively making grants. We love the way her gift served to multiply support and enhance the organization's financial stability at this critical time.

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 \$600,000 will help guarantee the Clubs' future forever, especially when other sources of funding are increasingly uncertain.

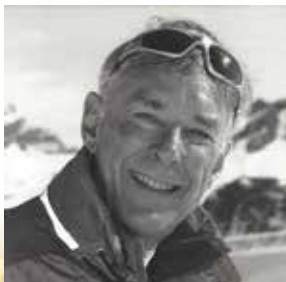
We are pleased to rename the endowment fund in Helen's honor.

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 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 \$195,000 and provides 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.

Curt "Corey" Compton



Curt Compton grew up in Sauk County during the Great Depression. Although he later moved away to build his life elsewhere, he kept his Baraboo ties and made regular visits to support science education at the local schools. Following his death in 2016, his entire estate of over \$900,000 came to the Community Foundation to enhance science education at the Baraboo School District's elementary schools. The fund bearing his name has now grown to over \$1.6 million. Mr. Compton's memory lives on as a blessing to local elementary students.

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 \$1.5 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

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

Professional Advisor Recognition Society

We recently introduced a new award 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 (below) and Forrest Hartmann (next page, above) at our October 2024 Board meeting, and to Mick Cosgrove (next page, below) in October 2025.

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.

Mick is a financial advisor and part owner of Capitol Wealth Advisory Group of Richland Center. In addition to advising his clients on philanthropic giving, he has an amazing history of generosity to local groups with his own time, talent, and treasure.

Mick has served on the Richland Center Performing Arts Board, the Richland Center Chamber of Commerce, New House Richland Church, Southwest Partners, and Richland Rejuvenates. He also raised \$2 million to help build the Richland Center Aquatic Center. Sheila Troxel, a Community Foundation board member from Richland Center, nominated Cosgrove for the award. She noted that “Mick is an inspiration to our community, and he shows us all how working together makes dreams come true.”



The Founders Society

This fund supports our operations and guarantees our future.

DIAMOND

Darlene Ballweg
Jon & Char Bernander
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
In honor of Jim Fishkin & Ken Fishkin
Dave & Leah Gerfen
Gary Gilliland, in memory of Linda Gilliland
David & Karen Sacia
Helen M. Ziegler

GOLD

Victor & Rita Ahlstrom
American Family Insurance
Bank of Prairie du Sac
BMO Harris Bank
Community First Bank
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. Hultstrum
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
Kevin Ravenscroft
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

2026 Board of Directors

President

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

Vice President

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

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

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

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

FRANK VINOPAL, Mauston
MBE CPAs, partner and CPA

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.

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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.