

The official newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County

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\$50K Awarded at Philanthropy Unplugged

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first ever "Pop Up" Giving Circle event.

Philanthropy Unplugged is just one of the ways we are making more good possible in Dunn County.



1ST PLACE

**Stepping Stones of Dunn County
\$30,000**

Supporting essential programs that combat hunger, housing insecurity, and crisis in our community.

2ND PLACE



Arbor Place, Inc. \$10,000:

Advancing Brighter Tomorrows, a family-centered residential treatment unit for women and children.

3RD PLACE



The Menomonie Theater Guild \$5,000: Revitalizing youth theater with a powerful performance from Annie, highlighting the need for continued arts funding.

4TH & 5TH PLACES

**The Community Tables
\$2,500**



**The Shirley Doane Senior Center
\$2,500**

AUGUST 2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Arbor Place, Inc. - \$5,000

Home for Healing: Furnishing the Women and Children's Treatment Unit

Colfax Public Library - \$4,000

Colfax Veteran's Memorial Project at Evergreen Cemetery

Explore Menomonie - \$4,625

Murals in Menomonie Community Engagement Activities

Free Clinic of the Greater Menomonie Area - \$3,500

Access to Essential Dental Care for Low-Income Individuals

Hmong Friendship Center - \$2,000

Culturally Appropriate Services and Resources for the Elderly and Disabled Hmong Population

Landmark Conservancy, Inc. - \$2,000

Devil's Punchbowl Preserve Safety Improvement: Installation of a Lower Stairway Handrail

Mabel Tainter Theater - \$5,000

Free Holiday Performances for Those Living in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Senior Centers

Dunn County Health Department \$2,000

**Breaking it Down:
System silos and
mental health stigma**

This one-time event will bring together providers, partners, and residents to share resources, strengthen collaboration, and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health across Dunn County. The green ribbon, a symbol of mental health awareness, will be used to highlight the importance of the cause.



\$5,000

Building Economic and Leadership Capacity for Underserved Communities in Dunn County

This grant will help Hmong entrepreneurs build economic stability and leadership through financial literacy, workforce training, and empowerment.



Menomonie Farmers Market, Inc. - \$5,000

Market Match Program to Enhance Food Access for Low-Income Residents on FoodShare

Menomonie Pickleball Club - \$5,000

Resurfacing of the Pickleball and Tennis Courts at Wakanda Park

Red Cedar Film Festival Foundation, Inc. - \$1,445

Annual Independent Film Event Focused on Showcasing Diverse Films and Fostering Filmmaker Connections

Regional Enterprises for Adults and Children - \$1,000

Support for Individuals with Disabilities by Providing Specialized Craft, Art and Sensory Tools

Stepping Stones of Dunn County - \$5,000

The Pop-Up Food Pantry Food Project in Rural Dunn County Addresses Food Insecurity by Distributing Hundreds of Food Boxes Each Month

United Way St. Croix & Red Cedar Valleys, Inc. - \$5,000

Diaper Bank to Ensure That All Children Have Access to Diapers and Do Not Experience the Impacts of Diaper Rationing

YMCA of the Chippewa Valley - \$6,100

Renovation of a Large Storage Room at the Menomonie East YMCA into a Child Watch Facility for Kids 6 Weeks to 10 Years Old.

BACK TO SCHOOL

SDMA Angel Fund: Because No Child Should Go Hungry

The SDMA does not turn children away from being fed at school. Despite other meal assistance programs, families in Menomonie are currently facing thousands of dollars of meal debt. Every donation to the Angel Fund, no matter the size, goes directly to pay down this debt for struggling families. Donate online via our website.



Driven to Teach, Inspired by Family

In 2024, the **Barb Schmelzle Promise Award for Women**, supported Casey Nolde of Glenwood City to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

Nolde was hired for the 2025-26 school year at Glenwood City High School as the Business and Marketing teacher. Inspired by her family and strengthened by life's challenges, she is proving that with resilience and dedication, goals can be achieved at any stage of life.

Casey Nolde pictured with Tom Schmelzle.

A Future in Flight

The **2025 Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship** recipient **Cole Marsolek** is pursuing his dream of becoming a commercial pilot, inspired by his grandfather's passion for flying and his family's connection to Bill Cowden. Currently training toward his commercial rating and future multi-engine and seaplane certifications, he hopes to become a Certified Flight Instructor and eventually fly for the airlines. His story reflects the discipline, resilience, and dedication that the scholarship was created to honor.



Tools for Tomorrow

The **Bruce Schley and Roger Brunn Memorial Scholarship** honors two lifelong friends and construction colleagues by supporting students passionate about building and trade careers. Funded through the annual Building Trades Golf Outing, multiple \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year to help Dunn County students pursue their dreams in Bruce and Roger's name.

Congratulations to all of the 2025 Awardees: Logan Cockeram, Menomonie; Raymond Pember, Menomonie; Riley Schutz, Boyceville; Rosie Sonnentag, Colfax

Rosie Sonnentag of Colfax High School (pictured with the Fund Advisor, Steve Schutte) is going to CVTC for Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration (HVACR)



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS IN ACTION

Supporting the Mental Health of First Responders



Through their Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Dunn County, Peter and Emilie Wiese have made two impactful gifts to support the mental health and well-being of local first responders.

The first grant brings Breach Point Consulting to the **Dunn County Sheriff's Office**, offering mental health and resilience training to deputies and jail staff. Led by retired Police Chief Kent Williams, the program helps first responders manage job-related stress, prevent burnout, and build a stronger support culture.

The second grant funds a wellness app for **Menomonie's Fire and Police Departments**. The Cordico app provides 24/7 confidential access to mental health resources - including stress and sleep self-assessments, guided breathing exercises, and connections to local peer support and providers - tailored specifically for public safety professionals. **These investments ensure that those who protect us have the tools and support they need to care for themselves.**

"First responders face incredible stress, but asking for help isn't always easy." - Georgina Tegart

"If these tools make it easier to reach out or feel supported, that's a step in the right direction." - Emilie Wiese

Restoring Nature, Renewing History

The **Dunn County Historical Society** is embarking on an exciting project to restore a degraded wetland on its property. By removing topsoil, creating a natural buffer zone, and improving soil health, the project will support local biodiversity *and* generate income through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The restored wetland will serve as a living classroom connecting our community to both the natural environment and Dunn County's industrial history. This meaningful work is made possible thanks to the generous support of **Paul Horvath and Megan Bayrd** through their DAF.



Game On! at the Library

Thanks to a grant from the **David & Kay Barnard** family's Donor Advised Fund, the **Menomonie Public Library** has launched a brand-new board game library! From classics to modern favorites, community members can now check out a wide variety of games. It's a fun way to spark connection, creativity, and play for all ages.



A Barnyard Boost!

A \$1,000 grant to **Elsie's Barnyard** in December of 2024 from an anonymous fund holder helped support their spring programming which included the Spring Fling Family Day event, field trips with special education students, as well as a meaningful work program for teens with disabilities.



Stepping Up to the Plate

The **Scot Miller Family Memorial Fund** recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to support the **Colfax Youth Baseball and Softball Programs**. These funds will be used to upgrade fields and facilities for local youth teams, creating a better experience for players and families alike.

To date, the Scot Miller Family Foundation has invested more than \$63,000 in organizations and causes that reflect Scot's values and passions.



From left to right: Kim Knutson, Taylor Stewart, Tiffany Prince, Bobbie Jo Miller, and Lewis Mau

Photo credit: Shawn Dewitt

Other 2025 grants include:

Boyceville Baseball Association - \$5,000

Improvements for Boyceville Baseball facilities to support public use and youth programming.

Menomonie Baseball Association - \$5,000

Batting cage improvement project for the Menomonie Baseball Association.

What is a DAF?

A donor advised fund is like a **charitable investment account** – you put money in, get an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants over time to support the causes you care about.



Think of it like fueling up a rocket with your charitable dollars. You launch it once, but you stay in control of the flight. Anytime you choose, you can direct the rocket's trail of support to the nonprofits you care about.

Bring Your Giving Home

If you already have a DAF with a national sponsor like Fidelity, Schwab, or Renaissance, we invite you to think local. You'll still enjoy the same tax advantages and flexibility, but with the added benefit of personalized guidance and local impact.

By moving your DAF to the Community Foundation, you can see your generosity at work in the place you call home.

Unlike a financial institution, CFDC offers more than just an account – **we offer a connection.** We take the time to learn what inspires you and help match your giving with local projects and nonprofits you may not have even heard of.

Call us if you want to make more good possible.

SPECIAL PROJECTS POWERED BY YOU

Serving Up a Better Game for Everyone!

The **Menomonie Pickleball Club** has launched a grassroots effort to raise funds to **resurface** the existing courts at the same time the City of Menomonie builds two new courts this fall. The City of Menomonie is overseeing the construction and resurfacing project (currently underway), and the Community Foundation of Dunn County is proud to partner by providing a secure way to make donations. The Menomonie Pickleball Club hosts various tournaments and events throughout the season, including men's and women's ladder leagues in the summer, organized social play, and indoor options during the off season.



Murals in Menomonie: Coming June 2026!

In June 2026, Menomonie will come alive with creativity as the Walldogs join forces with our community to paint **large-scale murals** in Downtown and throughout the county. These works of art will celebrate our history, our people, and the stories that make Menomonie unique. What makes this project truly special is the local spirit behind it - volunteers, property owners, and sponsors working together to bring color and pride to our streets. There are countless ways to get involved - **follow them on Facebook today.**



Honor a Veteran with a Memorial Brick



We are accepting orders for engraved bricks at the **Dunn County Veterans Memorial** in downtown Menomonie.

Each \$250 brick honors a veteran from any branch of service, any era and no residency required. More than 500 veterans are already recognized at this meaningful site.

Orders received by **February 1, 2026** will be inscribed and dedicated at the 26th Anniversary Flag Day Ceremony on June 14, 2026. Each brick allows up to **57 characters** for the inscription.

To request an order form, contact us at 715-232-8019 or email alenz@cfdunduncounty.org



LEAVE MORE THAN MEMORIES

What do you want your story to be? A legacy gift through your will, trust, or retirement account is one of the most meaningful ways to ensure your values live on. It's not just about giving today – it's about making more good possible for generations.

At the Community Foundation, we help donors turn their passion into lasting impact. Your gift can create a permanent fund that supports scholarships, youth programs, healthcare, or community projects you care about most. **You decide what matters, and we ensure your wishes are carried out faithfully, forever.**

Legacy giving is simple to arrange and within reach for everyone. Some choose to name CFDC as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. Others include a bequest in their will, or even create a fund during their lifetime that grows with their estate. No matter the path, your legacy becomes part of Dunn County's future. Together, we can leave more than memories – we can leave a community where more opportunities, more support, and **more good** are always possible.

Ready to leave more than memories? Let's talk about how your legacy can make more good possible in Dunn County. Call us at 715-232-8019 for an appointment.

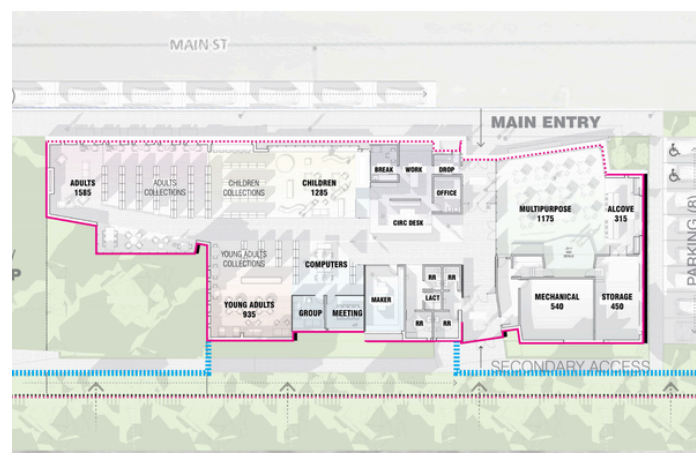
A New Chapter for Boyceville & a Legacy for Rebecca Rogers

For more than 50 years, the Boyceville community has dreamed of a **new library**, and that dream is finally becoming reality. In response to decades of conversation and strong community support, the Boyceville Public Library Board and Building Committee are moving forward with plans for a new, state-of-the-art facility.

Working with River Architects of La Crosse, the team has designed Wisconsin's first "Net Zero" library, meeting all of its energy needs with onsite renewable sources. In May 2024, the Village Board approved the old feed mill lot as the new library's future home, a site that will soon become a hub for learning, growth, and sustainability.

The new Boyceville Library Campaign was recently blessed with a \$25,000 legacy gift from the late Rebecca Rogers.

Becky dedicated her career to teaching in the Boyceville Area School District, where she inspired countless elementary students before her retirement. A lifelong learner who loved books, puzzles, and community, Becky's gift reflects her passion for education and her deep connection to Boyceville. Through her generosity, the library project will continue her legacy of learning, friendship, and faith, ensuring that future generations have a place to gather, grow, and discover.



OUR GRANTS MAKE MORE POSSIBLE

Play, Learn, Grow

The **Dunn County Playgroup** received a grant to continue and expand their services. Their families report powerful changes: parents who first met at Playgroup now support one another outside of sessions, children are reaching milestones like speaking their first words, and even at home, lessons carry over.

One mother summed up the difference best: "My child can't attend Playgroup because he is out of control, not nice to other kids, and will throw tantrums if he doesn't get his way." With coaching and support, she gave it a try, only to be amazed at her child's transformation.

Today, both mother and child are regular attendees, finding new ways to **thrive together**.



Constructing Career Pathways

Junior Achievement's Dunn County Construction Camp took place this summer, giving high school students a 5-day, hands-on look at construction careers. With support from the CFDC, the camp successfully introduced students to the construction industry through hands-on technical training, job search skills, home ownership education, and valuable networking with industry professionals.

The program met its goals of increasing student understanding of construction careers, strengthening workforce development, and providing meaningful career exploration opportunities.



A New Home for Hope



Mission Restoring Hope received a \$2,000 grant to relocate their collection center to a new, larger space in Wheeler, WI. The move not only provided room for their thrift store and donation center under one roof, but also strengthened community access and support.

In their first months, they served more than **300 people**, offering affordable clothing and essential items while also providing relief supplies to partner organizations locally and beyond. This new home has given Mission Restoring Hope stability, visibility, and the ability to grow their impact.

Monitoring for a Healthier Future

The **Free Clinic** received a grant to provide blood pressure monitors, logbooks, and heart-healthy resources for patients with **hypertension**.

We had a patient visit the Free Clinic after struggling to afford medications and office visits without insurance. We provided blood pressure medication, follow-up laboratory testing, and offered a home blood pressure machine, logbook, and DASH diet book. She was overjoyed with these offerings and began monitoring her blood pressure at home.

At her initial visit, her blood pressure was 160/100. After two months of education, medication, and support, her blood pressure consistently ranges between 120-130/70-80. Her kidney function has also improved. She expressed gratitude for the care she received and is scheduled to return in six weeks for a recheck.

Reaching for the Stars

The **Dunn County Historical Society** received a grant to bring the story of Wisconsin's only **NASA Moon Tree** to life. With new educational signage and tools, the project has already reached more than 230 visitors through school tours and community programs, inspiring pride and sparking curiosity in both kids and adults. The Moon Tree now serves as a hands-on learning opportunity that blends history with STEAM education, encouraging the next generation to "reach" for the stars.



Freezing out Hunger

Thanks to a generous donors and the Healthy Futures Fund, **WestCAP's Boyceville Food Pantry has just added a brand-new freezer**. This has expanded their ability to accept and store frozen food donations like meat, produce, and more.

This upgrade means less good food will go to waste and more nutritious options will be available for families in our community.



Bridging the Gap

Thanks to support from CFDC, the **Bridge to Hope** is addressing urgent needs for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking as they work to rebuild their lives. Many survivors leave dangerous situations with little more than the clothes on their backs, and financial insecurity can quickly become a barrier to achieving safety and independence.

This grant makes it possible to cover **critical expenses** that open doors to stability. **Survivors have received gas cards, bus tokens, and car repairs so they can get to work, school, court, or counseling.** Others have found safe housing with help for rental deposits and first month's rent. The program has also pays for birth certificates and Social Security cards - small but essential documents for securing jobs and benefits - as well as childcare, diapers, and phone minutes so parents can provide for their families and stay connected during crisis moments.

By removing these everyday obstacles, they empower survivors to take the next steps toward safety, healing, and long-term self-sufficiency. **It's more than financial help—it's the bridge that makes a fresh start possible.**



THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

The Women's Giving Circle of Dunn County was established to strengthen the spirit of women and children through collaborative philanthropy, giving, and granting. The WGC strives to empower women to become stronger and self-sufficient in order to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of the people for whom they are responsible. The idea isn't new. There are many Giving Circles around the country. Women raise funds that are used to help alleviate some of the struggles and obstacles that women and children face during difficult times in their lives.

Become a Member



Attend the Fall Gala

**OCTOBER 14, 5PM AT JAKE'S SUPPER CLUB
\$25/PERSON, PLEASE RSVP BY OCT. 6**

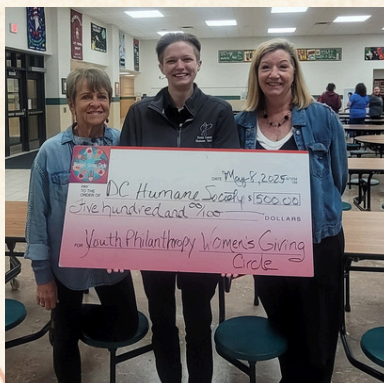


The Fall Gala is an annual event where WGC members gather together to celebrate their work and honor the year's grant recipients.

2025 Grant Recipients:

Arbor Place, Inc. | The Bridge to Hope | Colfax Public Library
Dunn County Human Services-Birth to 3 Playgroup | Hoof Beat Therapeutic Healing Center
Mabel Tainter Theater | Menomonie Police Department | Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc.
Stepping Stones of Dunn County | Wisconsin Foster Closet

Make a Difference



To learn more, visit
CFDUNNCOUNTY.ORG/WGC

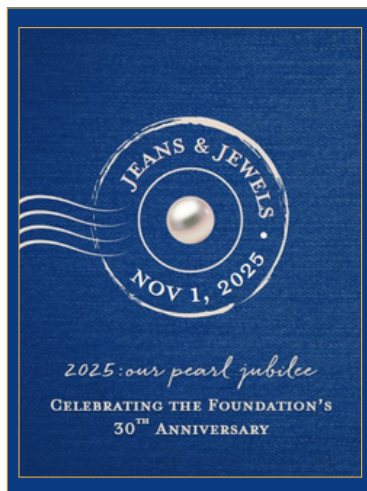
STAY CONNECTED WITH US



Want to be the first to know about upcoming events, grant & scholarship opportunities, and community impact stories? Sign up for our newsletter and e-blasts to stay connected with all the latest happenings at the Community Foundation of Dunn County. It's the easiest way to keep in touch and see how philanthropy is making a difference right here at home.

Visit the home page of our website to subscribe to both our Newsletter and E-Blasts!

Ready to explore becoming a fund holder? Let's start the conversation! Whether you want to support local students, fill our food pantries, or respond to community needs as they arise, opening a fund puts you in the driver's seat of your giving. Schedule a chat with us – by phone at 715-232-8019 or anytime online via Calendly, a scheduling app on cfdunncounty.org – and start making more good possible for Dunn County, today and for years to come.



2025 Jeans & Jewels: 'Pearl Jubilee'

The 2025 Jeans & Jewels Gala is themed the 'Pearl Jubilee' in celebration of the Community Foundation of Dunn County's 30th Anniversary. Jeans & Jewels is more than just a night out; it's our community coming together to support the mission of the Community Foundation of Dunn County. Each year, this signature event raises the funds that allow us to keep doing what we do best: strengthening philanthropy, encouraging collaboration, and providing leadership to meet the ever-present needs of our neighbors.

By becoming a sponsor, donating to our auctions or raffles, or buying tickets, you are directly investing in the future of Dunn County. Sponsorships range from \$500-\$10,000, which include tickets and special benefits, while our \$50-\$499 level is a straight donation; every level makes a difference!

Full details can be found on our website at cfdunncounty.org/jeansandjewels.



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY

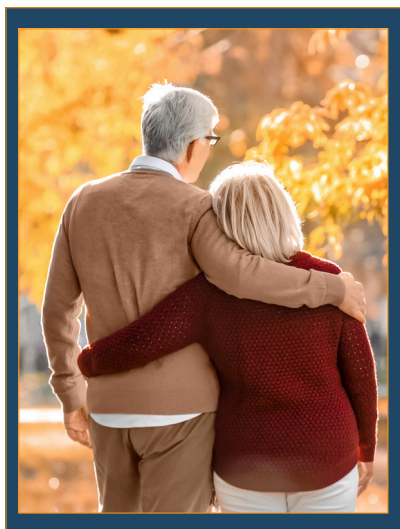
800 Wilson Ave. Suite 235
P.O. Box 498
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-232-8019
info@cfdunncounty.org
cfdunncounty.org

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If you turned 73 this year, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is mandatory.

But did you know you can turn that RMD into a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to support your community, tax-free?

Instead of sending that check to the IRS, consider creating a scholarship or designated fund through the Community Foundation. Let your retirement dollars fuel the causes you care about most. The Community Foundation makes giving simple and impactful; whether you're honoring a loved one, supporting your hometown, or building a legacy.

THE COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE
The Newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County



Make more...

adventure

food security

after school programs

scholarships

healthy futures

support for women, children and families

...possible
through the power of your
collective giving.