

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
DUNN COUNTY WELCOMES YOU TO THE

Legacy Picnic

4:30pm - Registration & Mingling

5:00pm - Welcome by Amy Hellmann, Event Chair
Dinner Buffet

5:45pm - Program

Georgina Tegart, The Community Foundation of Dunn County
The Power of One Generous Decision

Bruce Siebold
Reflections from a Past Chair

Loree Coulthard , Arbor Place
From Legacy to Healing: A Story of Hope

Joleen Sterk, Menomonie Public Library
Building More Than Bookshelves

Recognition of Legacy Society Members

Closing

FUELING COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH AN UNRESTRICTED GIFT

Laverne and Beverly Ausman lived lives of service and deep faith, grounded in values of kindness, stewardship, and community. Beverly was a lifelong church leader and 4-H volunteer who believed in nurturing the next generation. Laverne's career in agriculture and public service reflected a steadfast dedication to making life better for rural families. Their roots in Elk Mound ran deep, and their devotion to others was evident in everything they did.

In keeping with their spirit of quiet generosity, Laverne and Beverly made an unrestricted bequest in their will to the Community Foundation of Dunn County. This means their gift isn't tied to any one cause, instead it supports the most urgent and important needs in our community.

Each February and August, we receive dozens of thoughtful, worthy grant applications from local nonprofits working to improve lives. It is unrestricted gifts like the Ausmans that give us the flexibility to say "yes" when it matters most - whether that's funding life-saving programs, launching new initiatives, or responding to unexpected challenges.

A gift without restrictions is a gift with infinite potential. We are deeply grateful to Laverne and Beverly for believing in the power of community and for ensuring the Foundation can always meet the moment.

A LEGACY OF LANGUAGE AND LOVE

Linda Krueger believed in the power of education to open doors, *and* in the power of language to build bridges. As "Señora" to her students at Menomonie High School, she sparked a lifelong love of Spanish for many, encouraging curiosity, connection, and cultural understanding.

Before her passing in 2021, Linda established the Linda Krueger Legacy Scholarship for Spanish Studies at the Community Foundation, hoping to help students who shared her passion for language pursue their dreams. Her husband, Jim DuBrava, ensured that Linda's wish would be honored for generations by contributing additional funds to create a permanently endowed scholarship.



In 2024, Linda's sister Beverly Meritt passed away and made a powerful gesture of love: leaving \$150,000 from her IRA to her sister's scholarship fund. The impact of Linda's vision has now grown dramatically, reaching even more students and helping to sustain her passion for generations to come.

Jim continues to explore new ways to grow Linda's legacy, supporting additional scholarships that reflect her values, her spirit, and her lasting impact as a teacher and mentor. Through the gifts of those who loved her, Linda's voice carries on - speaking possibility, purpose, and connection into the future.



JOAN POLASKY'S LEGACY OF JOY

THREE GIFTS. ONE PURPOSE. A LASTING IMPACT.

Joan lived with purpose, passion, and a fierce commitment to joy. She left behind more than memories. As a life coach, mental health advocate, animal lover, and lifelong learner, Joan poured her energy into others and into causes that will continue to ripple outward for years to come.

Through thoughtful estate planning, Joan made the Foundation the beneficiary of her life insurance policy and divided the proceeds in three meaningful ways:

- One-third established a Donor Advised Fund, which continues to support the causes she cared about most such as youth mental health. Just recently, her fund helped bring Zenimal mindfulness devices to classrooms at Oaklawn Elementary, helping children manage stress and emotions in healthy, age-appropriate ways.
- One-third created a Designated Fund for the Dunn County Humane Society, providing lasting support for the animals she adored.
- One-third was invested in the Women's Giving Circle endowment, where it continues to uplift women and girls across Dunn County.

Joan's legacy is a beautiful reflection of her values: curiosity, compassion, creativity, and above all, joy. Her gift demonstrates the incredible impact one person can have when they plan with intention and give from the heart. **Three gifts. One incredible legacy. And a ripple effect of joy that will never stop.**

30 WAYS DUNN COUNTY IS BETTER BECAUSE OF YOU

HEALTH & WELLNESS

1

A Closet of Care: Thanks to grant funding from the Foundation, students at River Heights Elementary now have discreet access to essentials like deodorant, shampoo, socks, undergarments, and winter gear through a new Care Closet maintained by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Chippewa Valley – Menomonie Center. The Club hopes to foster a supportive school environment where all children can flourish.



Safe Rides to Vital Care: Thanks to Staying Put and COMPASS (formerly the Center for Independent Living), seniors and low-income residents in Dunn County can get to medical appointments without the worry of how they'll get there. In a rural area with a growing aging population, these rides ensure timely access to care, reduce missed appointments, and support healthier, more independent lives.

2

3

Lifesaving Access: Milkweed Alliance is dedicated to creating supportive, peer and community-rooted responses to mental health challenges, centering care, connection, and dignity for all. With help from the Foundation, they are expanding access to lifesaving supplies like Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and sterile syringes through accessible vending machines - bringing harm reduction directly to those in need.

4



Restoring Rest: A safe place to sleep is more than a comfort—it's essential to healing. With help from our grant, The Bridge to Hope replaced aging beds and mattresses in its emergency shelter, giving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking a clean, comfortable place to rest. These new beds support dignity, ease stress, and create space for recovery to begin.

5

Just Breathe: Thanks to support from the Joan Polasky Donor Advised Fund, Oaklawn Elementary students now have access to Zenimals - turtle-shaped audio devices with guided meditations that teach mindfulness, breathing, and emotional regulation. These tools help young learners calm down, stay in class, and focus on learning without missing a beat.

6

Changing More Than Diapers: Diapers aren't covered by food stamps or WIC, yet they're one of the biggest expenses for families with infant, costing nearly \$70 a month. That's why 1 in 3 moms report cutting back on food, heat, or other basics just to keep their babies dry. With our support the United Way St. Croix and Red Cedar Valleys launched the Dunn County Diaper Bank providing free diapers through partners like Stepping Stones. The result? Healthier babies, less stress, and stronger families.

Clearing the Plate: The Ohly Fund for Boyceville helped pay off Boyceville student lunch debt, ensuring every child can access nutritious meals without stigma or worry. We also launched the School District of the Menomonie Area Nutrition Angel Fund - because no one can learn on an empty stomach.

7



EDUCATION & YOUTH

8 Capitol Connections: With help from a teacher mini-grant, Tiffany Creek Elementary's fourth graders headed to Madison to explore Wisconsin's Capitol and State Historical Museum - bringing their classroom civics lessons to life with an unforgettable hands-on experience.

9 Building Futures: With help from our grant, Junior Achievement is launching a new summer Construction Career Camp for middle and high school students in Dunn County - giving youth hands-on experience with the tools, trades, and teamwork behind some amazing careers.



10

Fueling Future Scientists: With our support, Menomonie Middle School is equipping its Science Olympiad team with the tools they need to compete, create, and explore. From engineering challenges to lab events, this grant helps spark curiosity and confidence in the next generation of problem-solvers.

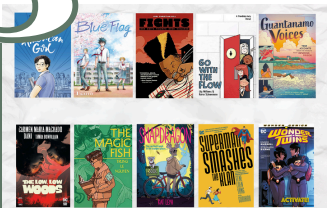
11 A Space to Belong: With support from the Foundation, Positive Alternatives has created a welcoming, teen-centered meeting space where young people can gather, connect, and access critical resources—fostering confidence, stability, and a sense of belonging during life's most challenging transitions.



12 Young Hearts, Big Impact: Through a grant from the Women's Giving Circle, Menomonie 7th graders are learning to give back. This youth philanthropy program helps teens explore community needs, evaluate grant proposals, and experience what it means to make a difference - building the next generation of thoughtful, compassionate leaders.

13

Chairs, Chapters & Choice: With help from the Scot Miller Family Memorial Fund and online donors, Colfax High School students now have a cozy corner to call their own - complete with comfy chairs and a diverse library. From graphic novels to sports to sci-fi, these titles spark curiosity and nurture a lifelong love of reading.



A Space to Reset: With support from the Foundation, Summit Academy is working towards creating a Sensory Gym designed to support all students, especially those with sensory processing needs. This inclusive space will offer tools for movement, regulation, and calming. By helping kids refocus and reduce anxiety, they can rejoin the classroom ready to learn.

14



15

A pathway to college: Scholarships totaling over \$75,000 are helping students, from graduating seniors to nontraditional learners, achieve their educational goals.

FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

16

Honoring Service, Celebrating Freedom: In partnership with Downtown Menomonie, we helped host this year's Flag Day ceremony and continue to support the care of the Dunn County Veterans Memorial- preserving a place of honor, remembrance, and community pride.



Every Child Belongs: With support from the Susan Thurin DAF, the Dunn County Health Department is helping families feel seen and welcomed through a new library of multilingual children's books - opening doors to literacy, inclusion, and connection for our youngest readers.

17

Pathways to Healing: With support from the Community Foundation as fiscal sponsor, Project Hope is helping individuals impacted by substance use find compassionate, community-based support. Through peer-led outreach, safe self-referral options, and local partnerships, this initiative is opening pathways to healing, recovery, and dignity across Dunn County.

18

19 Opening Doors to a Second Chance: With our funding, Literacy Chippewa Valley is helping incarcerated individuals at the Dunn County Jail earn GEDs, gain job skills, and prepare for reentry - breaking cycles and building brighter futures through education.

A Place to Begin Again: With a \$10,000 grant from the Micah Fund, Stepping Stones of Dunn County is providing 207 nights of emergency shelter for individuals and families facing homelessness. They offer more than just a roof overhead. Guests receive warm beds, hot meals, clean showers, and laundry facilities, all within a safe and supportive environment.

Their impact goes even deeper. Each person also works with a case manager to set goals and access community services - from job programs and veterans' services to transportation support like donated bicycles. This grant is helping people stabilize, rebuild, and move forward with dignity and hope.

This grant helps create more than shelter - it provides dignity, direction, and a real chance to begin again.



20

21 Home-Based Care with Heart: With funding from the ARC of Dunn County Fund, House Calls of Menomonie is delivering personalized medical care to individuals with disabilities in the comfort of their homes. This support helps patients avoid unnecessary hospital visits, improves health outcomes, and ensures that every person receives the dignity-centered care they deserve.

22 Stitched with care: With support from the BMW3 WMG Fund, the Menomonie Lions Club matched proceeds from a local quilt fundraiser benefiting Sleep in Heavenly Peace—a nonprofit ensuring that no child sleeps on the floor.

23 Behind the gift: Our Donor Impact Tour brought supporters face-to-face with the difference their giving makes. With stops at local nonprofits, ranging from food security to the arts, donors saw how their contributions are transforming lives. It was a powerful reminder that local giving drives real change.

ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION



Sound Support for the Stage: With help from the Tom and Linda Rundle Fund and The Richard and Lisa Rhiel Donor Advised Fund, the Mabel Tainter Theater is upgrading its aging wireless microphones, ensuring that local performers, including youth in summer camps and Menomonie Theater Guild productions, can be heard loud and clear. It's a backstage boost that strengthens community theater and brings local stories to life.

SmART Tools for Young Artists: With our support, St. Paul's Lutheran School is bringing tech into the art room. Tablets and imagination team up to turn creative sparks into colorful masterpieces.

Because even future Picassos need a little tech support!

25

26 Championing Inclusion: Thanks to the Ashley Evenson Memorial Fund, our local Special Olympics is helping athletes with intellectual disabilities thrive through sports, confidence, and community.



The Scot Miller Memorial Fund supported local youth sports:

Swinging for the Future: The Menomonie Baseball Association is building a new four-lane batting cage at Wakanda Park, giving over 150 young athletes better practice space. It's an investment in skill-building, teamwork, and the growing spirit of youth baseball in our community.

Investing in the Home Team: The Boyceville Baseball Association is upgrading fields at Pafko Park with new batting cages and a larger infield to meet league standards. These improvements will give more kids a chance to build their skills close to home, keeping baseball strong, accessible, and community-focused in Boyceville.

27 & 28

Serving Up Access: With the Pickleball Initiative Fund, we're helping expand access to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. This community-driven effort will add new pickleball courts and resurface existing ones—creating more safe, welcoming spaces where people of all ages can stay active, build friendships, and connect through play.



30 Giving, Unfiltered: At our upcoming *Philanthropy Unplugged* event in July, donors will come together for one night to raise \$50,000 and decide - on the spot - which local nonprofits should receive it. Raw, real, and community-powered, this pop-up giving circle will prove that generosity doesn't need a script to spark big change. If you want to get involved, add yourself to the mailing list at registration.

30

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON

The Legacy Picnic is a celebration of the generous individuals who have chosen to make a lasting difference by including the Community Foundation of Dunn County in their estate plans. These thoughtful gifts - often made through wills, trusts, or beneficiary designations - help ensure the causes they care about will be supported for generations to come.

Legacy gifts come in many forms. Some are unrestricted, allowing the Foundation to meet our community's greatest needs. Others support specific nonprofits, schools, scholarships, or areas of personal passion. But they all share one powerful trait: they make a lasting impact.

Why Leave a Bequest through the Foundation?

- **Simple:** Name the Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.
- **Flexible:** You can update your plans anytime.
- **Impactful:** Your gift supports what you care about- forever.

Your Legacy. Your Way.

You can support an existing endowment, or create a named fund that reflects your values. There's no minimum gift required, and no pressure—just a conversation about what matters most to you. Learn more at cfdunncounty.org/legacy or stop by for a chat.



“CHARITY IS WHEN YOU WRITE CHECKS FOR SOMEONE WHO COMES TO THE DOOR. **PHILANTHROPY** IS WHEN YOU SET PRIORITIES AND MAKE A PLAN OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.” -**GEORGINA TEGART**

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous
LaVerne* and Beverly* Ausman
Brian and Lora Benrud
Susan Brown
William and Jane Butsic
Ellen Carlson
Charles and Pat Kell
Clarence Heckel*
Vicky Ebersperger
Jean Keck*
William Ellison*
Dr. Timothy and Mrs. Karen Evenson
Mitch and Lynn Evenson
Steve and Joan Faulhaber
Larry and Sandy* Feiler
Elizabeth Fenton*
Bridget Finke
Betty Gesche*
Michael Glapa
Gary and Kathy Gram
Greg and Colleen Lentz

Dr. James and Gail Haemmerle
Sandy Haesly
Marshall Hagen*
John Houle*
Renee Howarton
Kim and Karen Fruit
Larry and Vicki Jess
Kurt D. Larson
Allen and Linda McIntyre
Merlyn and Shirley Jones
Diane Morehouse
Joan Polasky*
Jerry and Kim Porter
Roy Ostenso and Celene Frey
Steve Kraemer and Peggy Rogers Kraemer
Scotty Sutliff
Gerald and Emma* Talen
Tom and Barbara Johnson
Jerry Wagner
Brad and Marni Waznik
Dr. Brian* and Judy Wier

** Indicates deceased*

WE INVITE YOU...

...to join a group of Dunn County's most generous and visionary residents - the Legacy Society of the Community Foundation of Dunn County.

Legacy Society members share a common purpose: each has made a lasting commitment to their community by including the Foundation in their estate plans.

Many have spent a lifetime working hard, saving wisely, and giving thoughtfully. They understand the enduring impact of endowment—and they know that the gifts they leave behind will continue to grow, supporting meaningful work for generations to come.



BUILDING A LEGACY WITH HEART AND PURPOSE

Here's how to move from **inspiration to impact**:

What ripple do you want to create? Beyond your immediate gifts, what lasting change do you want to spark in areas like education, health, or the outdoors?

Which assets carry your legacy? Think beyond cash - consider appreciated stock, retirement accounts, life insurance, or real estate. These often offer tax-smart, high-impact giving.

How can your family and community share in your legacy? Legacy gifts offer more than tax benefits - they align your generosity with the values you share with loved ones.

Are your estate plans ready to reflect your vision? Clear language in your will, trust, or beneficiary forms ensures your legacy is honored exactly as you intend.



There are many ways to **stay connected** with the Foundation, no gift required.

- Join us at future events to see impact in action and meet others who care about our community.
- Sign up for our newsletters to receive inspiring stories and updates on local giving.
- Schedule a one-on-one conversation - whether you're thinking about starting a fund, planning a future gift, or just exploring your options, we're here to help.

Ready to plan your legacy or just to explore the idea? Contact us to start your legacy journey.

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT LASTS

You can create lasting impact by contributing to any of these existing endowment funds. Whether it's a cause close to your heart, a school that shaped your life, or a church that guided your path - your legacy gift will support what you care about, forever.



Cedarbrook Church



COLFAX PUBLIC LIBRARY



CHIPPEWA OFF ROAD BIKE ASSOCIATION



EXPLORE MENOMONIE



SUMMIT ACADEMY



UNITED WAY OF DUNN COUNTY



WISCONSIN MILKWEED ALLIANCE

OUR MISSION

To promote charitable giving that creates a permanent source of capital to benefit and enrich the quality of life for everyone in the Dunn County Area.

OUR VISION

Bringing charitable people together to enhance the lives in Dunn County.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, July 30 - Philanthropy Unplugged

Thursday, September 18 - Evening of Gratitude

Saturday, November 1 - Jeans & Jewels Gala



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