

The official newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County

## Creating Opportunities for the Next Generation

Every scholarship at the Community Foundation of Dunn County begins with someone who believes in the potential of local students. In 2025, several generous families chose to honor loved ones, careers, and lifelong passions by creating new scholarships that will help students pursue education and career goals. These funds reflect the many ways people choose to give back; whether celebrating a lifetime in agriculture, honoring a beloved family member, or supporting the next generation of teachers, entrepreneurs, and skilled trades professionals.

### The Merlyn & Shirley Jones Scholarship Fund

One of the new scholarships established this year celebrates the life and legacy of Merlyn Jones, a 1958 graduate of Boyceville High School whose roots in agriculture and community ran deep. Merlyn grew up helping on his family's farm and was active in FFA and 4-H—experiences that sparked a lifelong interest in agriculture and eventually led to a career in agricultural research and leadership. After many years away, Merlyn and his wife Shirley returned to Boyceville and remained closely connected to the land and community that shaped his early years. This scholarship will provide a \$1,000 award each year to a Boyceville High School senior pursuing agriculture, political science, or business, with preference given to students involved in FFA, 4-H, or Science Olympiad.



## Additional Scholarships Established in 2025

### McKenna Marie Kay Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Created by Larry Johnson in memory of his granddaughter, this scholarship supports students pursuing hands-on careers in trucking and transportation fields such as diesel mechanics, logistics, and commercial driving.



### Beverly K. Meritt Legacy Scholarship for Educational Studies

Established in memory of educator Beverly Meritt, this scholarship supports Menomonie High School seniors pursuing degrees in elementary or special education, continuing her lifelong commitment to helping students grow and succeed.



### Linda Krueger Legacy Scholarship for Business/Entrepreneurial Studies

This scholarship honors Linda's career that blended teaching with business leadership. It supports Menomonie High School students pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, or related fields.



### Tim DeAtley Memorial Scholarship

Established by Tim and his wife Lynda Stewart, this scholarship supports students pursuing automotive and diesel mechanics, honoring Tim's passion for hands-on work, craftsmanship, and community involvement.

If you've ever thought about honoring a loved one, celebrating a career, or helping students pursue a field that matters to you, establishing a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of Dunn County is a meaningful way to do it.

Learn more at [cfdunncounty.org](http://cfdunncounty.org) or reach out to us to start a conversation.

# A FRESH LOOK

You may have noticed something new lately...we've refreshed our logo!

Our tree is still at the heart of it, because it represents who we are:

- Deep roots in Dunn County
- Steady growth
- Strong branches reaching in every direction to support our community



What's new is the energy around it. The updated colors bring more vibrancy and reflect the momentum we see every day across our county—in the people, nonprofits, businesses, and donors working together to strengthen our community.

The refreshed look also connects to something bigger. We're proud to be part of the national Community Foundations of America Make More Possible campaign, a collaborative effort designed to help more people understand the unique role community foundations play.



**Why the update?** Community foundations have been around for more than 100 years, yet many people still aren't sure what a community foundation actually does. The Make More Possible campaign was created by a network of community foundations across the country to change that. Its goal is simple:

- Increase awareness of what community foundations are
- Explain, in clear and simple terms, what we do
- Build a recognizable brand that inspires more support, stronger partnerships, and healthier communities

The bottom line: Community foundations make more possible. More impact. More opportunity. More connection. More solutions to local challenges.

**What hasn't changed:** Our mission. Our commitment to Dunn County. Our belief that when we work together, we can accomplish extraordinary things. Our new look simply reflects the vibrant, forward-moving community we are proud to serve, and the momentum we're building together.

**Thank you for being part of it.**

# THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE



## Join the Women's Giving Circle in 2026 Plus Save the Date for their Membership Meeting

The Women's Giving Circle (WGC) - a fund of the Community Foundation of Dunn County - brings women together to pool their resources, learn about community needs, and support nonprofits serving women, children, and families in Dunn County. Since its founding in 2013, members have helped direct over \$147,000 in grants to local nonprofits while also growing an endowment that will support this work forever.

### Why Join?

Membership offers an opportunity to make a meaningful impact while connecting with other women who care about our community. Members:

- Learn about community issues affecting women, children, and families
- Connect and network with other philanthropic women
- Pool their donations to create a larger impact through grantmaking
- Help direct grants to nonprofit programs that strengthen our community

### Membership Options

Annual Membership: \$250

Young Philanthropist (18-40): \$125 (up to 5 years)

Sustaining Member: \$750 (Annual Membership + \$500 to the WGC's Endowment Fund)

Debbie Labs Legacy Member: \$1,000 for 4 years

Lifetime Member (available for age 60+): \$5,000

All donations are tax deductible.

**Become a Member Today at**  
**[cfdunncounty.org/wgc](http://cfdunncounty.org/wgc)**

### Welcoming New Advisory Committee Members

*The WGC wishes to congratulate and thank the following members who have volunteered to provide leadership as new members of the Advisory Committee:*

**Gloria Kramer, WGC Secretary** - Gloria is a retired educator who taught third grade in Menomonie for 20 years and supervised student teachers for UW-Stout. A member of the WGC for four years, she has also held numerous leadership roles in educational and community organizations.

**Deb Bell, Education Co-Chair** - Deb taught in the Boyceville School District for 35 years and now remains active in education and community service through WEAC Retired, UW-Stout student teacher supervision, and volunteer work in the community. She has been a member of the WGC since 2018.

**Pam Manor, Membership Co-Chair** - Pam recently retired after a 46-year career in nursing leadership and clinical informatics, including teaching at the University of Massachusetts. She moved to Menomonie in 2022 and joined the WGC in 2024.

We invite you to become part of the Women's Giving Circle and help make a difference for women, children, and families in Dunn County. Whether you're a long-time member or considering joining for the first time, we hope you'll join us at the *Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 23 from 5-8 PM at Kyote's Den* in Menomonie to reconnect with fellow members, meet our new Advisory Committee members, and learn more about the impact we can make together.

**Scan to  
Register**



# HELP MAKE A SPLASH IN COLFAX

## Community Effort Aims to Build Dunn County's First Splash Pad

A group of dedicated Colfax residents is working to bring Dunn County's first splash pad to life. The project would create a free, family-friendly water play area where children can cool off and families can gather during the summer months. The splash pad is being planned as a community project supported by local donors, businesses, and volunteers who want to add a new recreational feature to Colfax's park system. To help manage donations, supporters have established the Colfax Splash Pad Project Fund at the Community Foundation of Dunn County.



Community members and businesses are invited to help make this project possible through donations and sponsorships. Sponsorship opportunities are available for those who want to play a visible role in bringing this new community amenity to Dunn County.

The largest gift to date comes from Dakota's Gift, a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation that supports individuals with disabilities and illnesses. Their \$50,000 donation will help ensure the playground and restroom facilities are fully accessible and inclusive for families of all abilities.

As of March 11, about \$85,000 has been fundraised (including a recent \$10,000 sponsorship from WESTconsin Credit Union) and donated to the Colfax Playground and Splash Pad Project Fund at the Foundation. The project is tentatively slated for completion for September 2027.

Sponsorship options range from personalized paver stones to name placement on the playground are available. The project has a \$300,000 fundraising goal.

Donations to the Colfax Splash Pad Fund can be made at (or use the QR code):  
<https://cfdunncounty.fcsuite.com/erp/donate>



### COLFAX, WI PLAYGROUND AND SPLASHPAD PROJECT SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Donate Online by Scanning Code



Or mail a check to:  
Community Foundation of Dunn County  
800 Wilson Ave East  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
Memo: Colfax Splash Pad

#### PLAYMAKERS OF THE PARK

**\$10,000**  
+

- Sponsor a Specific Play Feature with your name on it
- Name and sponsorship level listed on the permanent sign that will be located at the park
- Recognition on Facebook Page and in the Colfax Messenger
- VIP Invite to the official ribbon cutting ceremony with media present and stand with the group while ribbon is being cut

#### CHAMPIONS OF THE PARK

**\$5000+**

- Personalized picnic table, shade structure, or bench swing
- Name and sponsorship level listed on the permanent sign that will be located at the park
- Recognition on Facebook Page and in the Colfax Messenger
- VIP Invite to the official ribbon cutting ceremony with media present and stand with the group while ribbon is being cut

#### FAMILIES OF THE PARK

**\$2500+**

- Personalized park bench in honor of loved ones
- Recognition on Facebook page

#### SUPPORTERS OF THE PARK

**\$1000+**

- Name and sponsorship level listed on the permanent sign that will be located at the park
- Recognition on Facebook Page and in the Colfax Messenger
- Receive a sponsor certificate to display
- Recognized at the ribbon cutting ceremony

#### PAVERS OF THE PARK

**\$250+**

- Personalized paver stone that will be installed in a walkway
- Recognition on Facebook Page and in the Colfax Messenger
- Receive a sponsor certificate to display
- Recognized at the ribbon cutting ceremony

#### BUILDERS OF THE PARK

Donating labor and/or supplies for plumbing, electrical, cement work, freight, excavating, landscaping, equipment installation, etc

- Place your company yard sign at the park for as long as you want
- Name and sponsorship level listed on the permanent sign that will be located at the park
- Recognitions on Facebook Page and in the Colfax Messenger
- VIP Invite to the official ribbon cutting ceremony with media present

# SPECIAL INTEREST SCHOLARSHIPS

The Community Foundation of Dunn County offers several unique scholarships that support youth, students, and aspiring professionals in our community. Learn more and apply through our website.

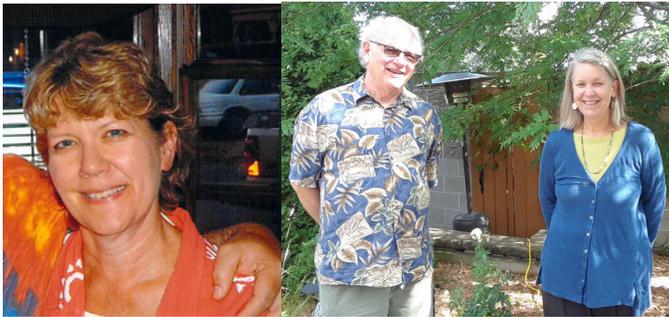
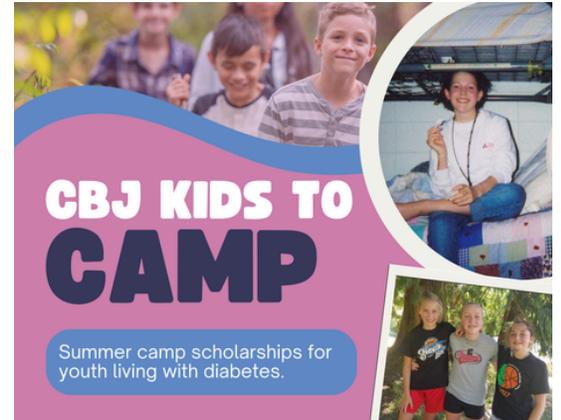
## CBJ Kids to Camp Scholarship Program

Honoring Cammie B. Johnson, this scholarship helps youth living with diabetes attend a diabetes summer camp of their choice.

**Award: \$250-\$850**

Funds are paid directly to the camp.

**Deadline: Apply at least 8 weeks before the camp of choice begins**



## The Barb Schmelzle Promise Award for Women

Supports non-traditional women students pursuing education while facing financial need and significant life challenges.

**Award: Up to \$1,000**

**Application period: May 1 – July 1**

## The Dr. James & Gail Haemmerle Scholarship

This scholarship provides full tuition support for a non-traditional student pursuing an associate degree, technical diploma, or certificate program. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and live in Menomonie or surrounding Dunn County communities.

**Application period: May 15 – July 1**



## The Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship

Supports midwest pilots pursuing advanced aviation ratings or training.

**Award: Up to \$1,500**

**Application Period: March – May**



## Drums Along the Red Cedar Youth Music Camp Scholarship



Provides funding for Dunn County middle or high school students to attend a music camp of their choice (band, choir, jazz, percussion, voice, strings, etc).

**Award: Up to \$500**

**Deadline: May 15**



# BOARD UPDATE

Over the past year, the Community Foundation of Dunn County has experienced both meaningful transitions and exciting additions to our Board of Directors.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Serratore, Judy Foust, Karen Styer, John Heike, and Jon Kroening who have concluded their board service. Their time, insight, and dedication helped strengthen the Foundation and expand the impact of local philanthropy in Dunn County.

We are also pleased to welcome Amy Hellmann, Tim Eiden, Jeff Hastings, Stacy Medin, Jeana Larson, and Kevin Nolan who are serving their first terms on the board. We look forward to the ideas, energy, and leadership they will bring as we continue working together to support our community.



Amy Hellmann  
Peoples State Bank



Tim Eiden  
Eiden & Hatfield, LLC



Jeff Hastings  
Head Golf Coach  
MHS



Stacy Medin  
Dairy State Bank



Jeana Larson  
3M - Menomonie



Kevin Nolan  
Cardinal Glass

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2025 JEANS & JEWELS SPONSORS:



**WAZNIK HEIKE**  
— GROUP, LLC —



**CARDINAL FG**  
MENOMONIE



**JIM & LORI  
LEWIS**

### THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY

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Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-8019  
info@cfdundunncounty.org  
cfdundunncounty.org  
facebook.com/cfdundunncounty

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Butsic, Chair  
Brad Waznik, Vice Chair  
Mike Fekete, Treasurer  
Stacy Medin, Secretary  
Tim Eiden | Dianna Fiergola  
Jeff Hastings | Amy Hellmann  
Paul Horvath | Jeana Larson  
Kevin Nolan | Sandi Scott | Jenn Tack

### STAFF

Georgina Tegart, Executive Director  
Liz Forster, Stewardship & Development  
Laura Giammattei, Media Communications  
Amber Lenz, Administrative Assistant  
Ray Pagenkopf, Program Officer  
Chelsea Danner, Philanthropy Officer

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 30 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Tanglewood Greens | Menomonie  
RSVP by April 20 online at [cfdunncounty.org/luncheon](http://cfdunncounty.org/luncheon)  
or call our office at 715-232-8019. Tickets are \$20.

## Annual Luncheon



Please join us as we celebrate our February grant cycle recipients and hear their stories. Learn more about the Community Foundation of Dunn County's impact during our 30th Anniversary year in 2025 – and what lies ahead in 2026 and beyond. Lunch is included.



### Women's Giving Circle Membership Meeting - Thursday, April 23

Kyote's Den (E2339 WI-29, Menomonie)  
Register at [cfdunncounty.org/wgc](http://cfdunncounty.org/wgc)

### Flag Day - Sunday, June 14th

Dunn County Veterans Memorial 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and Crescent St, Downtown Menomonie  
Free event. Rain or shine.



DONATE NOW online at <https://cfdunncounty.fcsuite.com/erp/donate> or by mail using the tear-off.



I/We want to support the Community Foundation of Dunn County to enhance lives in Dunn County.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous (your name will not be listed in our publications)

Please select the amount of your tax-deductible gift.

\$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my donation to:

Area of greatest need    Friends of the Foundation Fund  
 A specific fund or cause: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS GIFT IS  in memory of:  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Community Foundation of Dunn County.

### THANK YOU!

All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.



800 Wilson Ave, Suite 235  
Menomonie, WI 54751



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of Dunn County  
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**NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LMMAIL**



Thirty-seven students in special education transition programs from six area schools participated in the Job Olympics at UW–Stout, where they practiced workplace skills through hands-on activities like stocking shelves and measuring recipe mixes. The Foundation provided a pasta lunch catered by UW–Stout, and 10 students received Goodwill gift cards in recognition of their efforts.

# THE COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

*The Official Newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County*



## Make more...

**youth programming**

- belonging
- community connections
- empowerment
- opportunity
- leadership

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