

The official newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County



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The Community Foundation of Dunn County is celebrating 30 years of impact in 2025, growing local philanthropy and strengthening our community. In honor of this milestone, we are launching a special endowment match opportunity to ensure our support continues for generations to come. We are offering \$5,000 matches to help 15 nonprofit organizations establish new agency endowments, expanding their long-term sustainability (see inside for more details).



The Free Clinic of the Greater Menomonee Area recently received its annual distribution from their agency fund in February. Learn more about other agency fund distributions inside!

# NEWS & NOTES

## Welcome Ray Pagenkopf to the CFDC team

You may have already had the pleasure of working with Ray Pagenkopf over the past few months, but we want to take a moment to officially introduce and welcome him to the Community Foundation team!

In his role as program officer, Ray serves as the primary point of contact for nonprofit organizations seeking grants from the Foundation, as well as students applying for scholarships.

A native of the Madison area, Ray relocated to Menomonie to pursue a double major in Applied Social Science and Studio Art at UW-Stout. His professional background includes roles at the UW-Stout Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley. Ray's deep passion for nonprofit work motivated his transition to the program officer position at the Foundation.

Ray also serves part-time as the Youth Program Coordinator at the Menomonie Public Library. Outside of his professional responsibilities, he manages the Night School Artist Collective and volunteers with Farmer-to-Farmer, a coffee-based nonprofit organization dedicated to community development.

Please join us in welcoming Ray to the Community Foundation of Dunn County!



### Contact Ray

Email: [rpagenkopf@cfdunncounty.org](mailto:rpagenkopf@cfdunncounty.org)  
Phone: 715-232-8019

## Save the Date for 2025 Events

The Community Foundation provides many opportunities throughout the year for nonprofit partners and community members to come together and celebrate the good work they are doing together right here in Dunn County. We would love for you to save the date for our annual events in 2025!

WGC Membership Meeting

May 1

Annual Luncheon

May 15

WGC Fall Gala

Fall - TBD

Jeans & Jewels

November 1



## Thank you to our top Jeans & Jewels sponsors in 2024!

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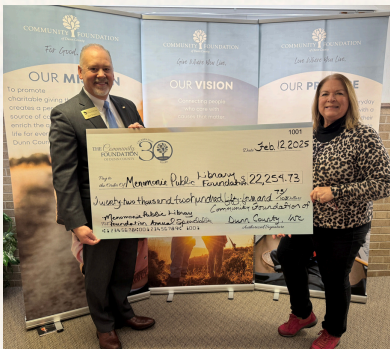
# CFDC Launches \$5,000 Endowment Match for Nonprofits

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2025, the Community Foundation of Dunn County is marking the milestone with a game-changing opportunity for local nonprofits! Thanks to a tremendous year of fundraising and investment growth, the Foundation is thrilled to announce a \$5,000 matching grant to help nonprofits establish an endowment, thus securing their futures for generations to come.

Here's what that means: Eligible nonprofits only need to raise \$5,000 to unlock the match to reach the \$10,000 minimum required to establish an endowment with the Foundation. And with a total of \$75,000 of funding available, this is a huge investment in the long-term success of organizations serving Dunn County!

**Why This Matters:** An endowment isn't just a savings account—it's a forever fund that keeps growing while generating annual income to support an organization's mission year after year. In an unpredictable funding landscape, an endowment offers stability, security, and sustainability—ensuring that nonprofits can continue making an impact, no matter what the future holds.

Visit our website to learn more and apply! [cfdunncounty.org/5kmatch](https://cfdunncounty.org/5kmatch)



## Apply for a Special Interest Scholarship

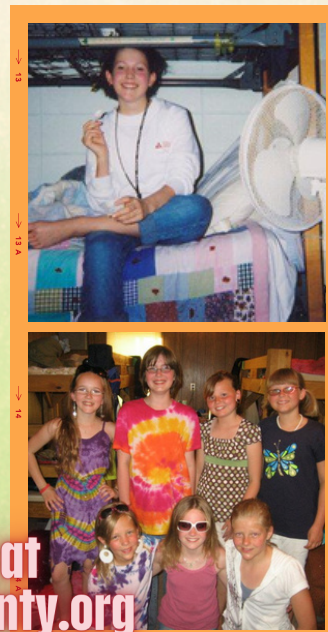
### Learn to fly planes with the Bill Cowden Aviation Scholarship

Bill Cowden's passion for aviation was lifelong, spanning a 25-year career as a private pilot, North Dakota Air National Guard F-16 pilot, commercial airline pilot, and air show performer with over 7,500 flight hours in 85 aircraft models. A dedicated mentor, aircraft builder, and mechanic, Bill inspired many before his passing in 2014 during an air show performance. To honor his legacy, his wife, Heather partnered with the Community Foundation to establish the Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship, providing up to \$1,500 annually to help one aspiring pilot pursue advanced training. Applications are accepted from March through May each year.



Apply at  
[cfdunncounty.org](https://cfdunncounty.org)

### Summer camp scholarships for youth with diabetes



The Cammie B. Johnson (CBJ) Kids to Camp Fund provides up to \$850 in scholarships for youth with diabetes to attend a camp of their choice this summer. Established by Mark and Robin Johnson in memory of their daughter, Cammie, who passed away at 20 from diabetes complications, this scholarship honors her legacy as a camper, counselor, and mentor. Past recipients have attended camps like Camp Needlepoint in Wisconsin and the Chris Dudley Basketball Camp in Oregon.



Chemistry and AP/College Physics students at Menomonie High School experiment with new car tracks and data-tracking devices to evaluate impact readings from car accidents. Students emerging from high school physics who have had a chance to use this technology will be better prepared for college-level science courses.

**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY**

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**INSIDE: THE COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE**  
*The Newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County*

SAVE THE DATE!

# Annual Luncheon

Thursday

15  
May

11:30am

**Tanglewood Greens**  
2200 Crestwood Dr, Menomonie

**REGISTER  
\$20 EACH**



# Helping Others Feel at Home: The Impact of the Susan Thurin Resettlement Assistance Fund

Susan Thurin understands what it's like to be a newcomer. Her time in China—adapting to a new language and culture—inspired her passion for welcoming immigrants and refugees. Recently featured in Volume One for her book on that experience, Susan now channels her empathy into philanthropy. Through the Susan Thurin Resettlement Assistance Fund, she's not just giving grants—she's building bridges and creating opportunities to make Dunn County a more inclusive home for all.

## Granting Opportunities for Belonging

Because of her fund, Susan has been able to support a range of projects that directly help diverse communities in Dunn County, including:

- **\$5,000 to the Hmong Friendship Center**  
Supporting programs that foster connection and preserve Hmong heritage.
- **\$2,500 to Stepping Stones of Dunn County**  
Ensuring access to culturally relevant foods through the Community Foods/Hmong Pop-up initiative.
- **\$738 for a Teacher Mini-Grant**  
Funding a Hispanic Heritage/Latino Cultural Trunk to enrich students' understanding of Latino culture.
- **\$1,000 for Spanish Books**  
Providing Tiffany Creek Elementary with books that reflect and celebrate the Spanish-speaking community.
- **\$1,000 for Hmong History Month**  
Bringing in a guest author/artist to share Hmong culture and history with elementary students.
- **\$500 to the SDMA Nutrition Angel Fund**  
Helping reduce outstanding school lunch debt, ensuring every student can eat without stigma.



V.T. Bidania, a children's book author, has visited elementary students at River Heights in Menomonie for the past 2 years. Susan's grant has made it possible for V.T. Bidania to make a third appearance this year.

## How a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) Makes It Possible

Susan chose to create a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) at the Community Foundation of Dunn County—a flexible and personal way to support the causes she cares about most. A DAF works like a charitable giving account:

- Donors contribute funds at any time and receive an immediate tax benefit.
- The Community Foundation manages the investments and handles all administrative details.
- Donors can recommend grants to nonprofit projects that align with their passions.

By choosing to partner with the Community Foundation, Susan didn't have to navigate grantmaking alone. We worked with her to identify impactful, local projects that align with her values—ensuring that her generosity reaches the people who need it most.

If you've ever thought about using philanthropy to support a cause close to your heart, we're here to help. Learn more about Donor-Advised Funds at [cfdunncounty.org](http://cfdunncounty.org).

# Investing in Community Wellbeing: Grants from the Common Good & Field of Interest Funds

At the Community Foundation of Dunn County, we believe in funding projects that make an immediate and lasting impact on our communities. Through the Common Good Fund and field of interest funds, we are proud to support local organizations working to improve health, education, and quality of life in Dunn County.

## Common Good Fund: Strengthening Community Support

The Common Good Fund helps address urgent and emerging needs in our community, supporting organizations that enhance opportunity, stability, and well-being. This year's grants include:

- \$1,946 to The Bridge to Hope**

**\$2,000 to Mission Restoring Hope**

**\$1,500 to Ridgeland Area Library**
- \$3,000 to Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity**

**\$2,486 to Junior Achievement of Wisconsin**

**\$3,000 to Workforce Resource, Inc.**

## Healthy Futures Fund: Advancing Wellness and Accessibility

The Healthy Futures Fund supports projects that improve healthcare access, wellness programs, and community health initiatives. This year's grants include:

- \$3,000 to the Boys & Girls Club at River Heights**

**\$5,000 to the Center for Independent Living**

**\$3,000 to the Salvation Army of Dunn County**

**\$5,000 to United Way of St. Croix & Red Cedar Valleys**
- \$3,000 to Literacy Chippewa Valley**

**\$4,500 to Grace Lutheran Foundation**

**\$900 to West CAP**

**\$5,000 to the UW-Stout Police Department**

## The Byron & Catherine Olson Memorial Fund: Supporting Healthy Communities

- \$4,190 to the Wisconsin Milkweed Alliance**

**\$3,500 to Hoof Beat Therapeutic Healing Center**



Habitat for Humanity works on finishing touches on Menomonie twin homes.



Patty Strand, Founder of Hoof Beat Therapeutic Healing Center with one of the facility's standardbred horses.