

The official newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County

# PHILANTHROPY UNPLUGGED



We're thrilled to invite you to Philanthropy Unplugged, our first-ever pop-up giving circle; a bold, community-driven approach to philanthropy where your vote really matters.

## What to Expect:

- \$50,000 in grants will be awarded in one unforgettable evening.
- Five finalists will take the mic and make their case live on stage.
- Final placement is determined by live audience voting during the event.

## Ticket Details:

- Only 50 tickets are available.
- Each ticket (\$1,000) covers admission for two adults and one vote in the Circle.

## Why You Should Come:

Experience a powerful evening of storytelling, connection, and real-time impact. Your ticket doesn't just buy entry, it gives you decision-making power to help shape the future of these vital nonprofits.

## The Candidates:

Arbor Place  
Menomonie Theater Guild  
Shirley Doane Senior Center  
Stepping Stones of Dunn County  
The Community Tables

## Award Grants:

- 1 1st Place – \$30,000
- 2 2nd Place – \$10,000
- 3 3rd Place – \$5,000
- 4 4th & 5th Places – \$2,500 each

Final placement is determined by live audience voting during the event.



Grab your ticket now before they sell out - and get ready to be part of something BIG in Dunn County!

# NEWS & NOTES

## Behind the Scenes: How We Support Area Nonprofits

Behind every meal served, book shared, or youth mentored in Dunn County, there's a nonprofit working hard to make it happen. At the Community Foundation, one of our most important roles is supporting these organizations, not just with grants, but with tools, training, and advocacy.

### Nonprofit Survey — Deadline: August 1

We are surveying nonprofits across Dunn County to understand potential funding shortfalls due to changes in public support. The results will guide our response and inform future grantmaking, advocacy, and partnerships. Nonprofits should check their emails to respond or visit our Facebook page for the pinned survey post.

### Community Grant Cycle - Workshop on July 10, Applications Due August 1

We are offering a free Grant Writing Workshop on July 10. This hands-on session is designed to boost grant writing skills and improve funding success. Nonprofits can then apply to our Community Grant Program, with applications due August 1.

### Nonprofit Directory

If you've ever wondered which organizations serve our community - or how to support them directly - check out our Nonprofit Directory. It's a powerful way to discover who's doing what, and how you can help.



Together, we can ensure that the organizations doing the heavy lifting in our community have the support they need to keep going strong.

### August is 'Make a Will Month'

A simple sentence in your will can create lasting impact for the causes you care about most.

August is the perfect time to make or update, your will. Visit [cfdunncounty.org/legacy](http://cfdunncounty.org/legacy) for sample bequest language, endowment calculators, and tools to help you leave a gift that reflects your values.

We help people every day create gifts that last. Call us! 715.232.8019.

### August 1<sup>st</sup> - Grant Cycle Deadline

Our Community Grant deadline is approaching, and thanks to donors who made unrestricted gifts, we're ready to meet a wide range of local needs.

Our Common Good Fund now totals \$896,355 thanks for donors just like you. We're also grateful for donors who started named unrestricted funds, including the Ausman, Boettcher, Gesche, and Wiehe families.

This year, \$38,000 in grants will be awarded from our unrestricted endowments, including \$19,000 in the upcoming cycle. These flexible funds allow us to respond wherever the need is greatest - whether it's youth programs, housing, food security, or access to health care.

Unrestricted gifts are rare and powerful. They allow us to fulfill our full mission of building a better Dunn County, now and for generations to come.

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

### PLATINUM



WAZNIK HEIKE  
— GROUP, LLC —

### GOLD



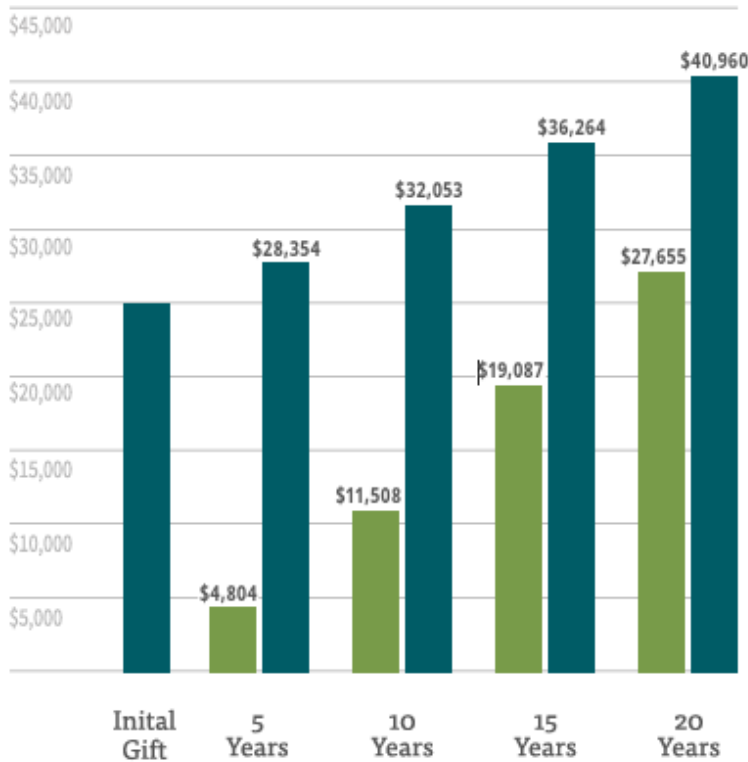
### SILVER



# CREATING FOREVER FUNDS FOR OUR NONPROFITS

We're excited to announce that 13 local nonprofits have been approved for a \$5,000 Endowment Match through the Community Foundation. That means for every dollar these organizations raise for their endowment, we'll match it up to \$5,000.

An endowment uses charitable gifts to build a permanent pool of funding resources intended to grow over time through investing. The earnings from this investment provide income for the nonprofit organization. Endowment funds are also called permanent funds because they are designed to grow and grant annual charitable dollars forever.



Unlike contributions an organization receives from donors earmarked for special projects or to be spent immediately, endowment funds are designed to produce many times their original value as the years go on.

This chart shows the growth of a \$25,000 endowment over 20 years. The fund's balance increased 48 percent, while granting 5% per year. This increase was achieved with no additional contributions to the fund. Imagine the power if regular contributions were made!

**KEY**  
■ Cumulative Grants ■ Endowment Balance  
*Assumptions: 8% annual growth, 5% annual grants,*

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



# CELEBRATING LEGACY GIVING

At this year's Legacy Picnic, we celebrated a special group of people - those who have chosen to leave a gift to the Foundation in their estate plans.

Legacy gifts come in all sizes and forms. Some support scholarships or beloved nonprofits. Others are unrestricted, allowing us to meet whatever needs arise. But all of them have one thing in common: they make a lasting impact.

From left to right: Ellen Carlson, Sandy Haesly, Lora Benrud, Celene Frey, and Kurt Larson.



## Here's something powerful to consider:

If everyone gave just 5% of their estate to our community, the results would be transformational. That small percentage could generate millions of dollars for our community - year after year - without compromising what's left for loved ones. Leaving a legacy is:

- Simple: Name the Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary.
- Flexible: You can update your plans anytime.
- Powerful: Your gift supports what you care about, forever.

There's no required amount and no pressure. Just a chance to reflect your values and keep giving, long after you're gone. Ready to plan your legacy or just to explore the idea? Contact us to start your legacy journey.

## LINDA KRUEGER'S LEGACY LIVES ON

Linda Krueger believed in the power of education to open doors, and in the power of language to build bridges. Known 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 by supporting additional scholarships that reflect her values, her spirit, and her lasting impact as a teacher, mentor and entrepreneur. Through the gifts of those who loved her, Linda's voice carries on - speaking possibility, purpose, and connection into the future.

# BECAUSE OF YOU: GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

*Care is what makes a house a home*

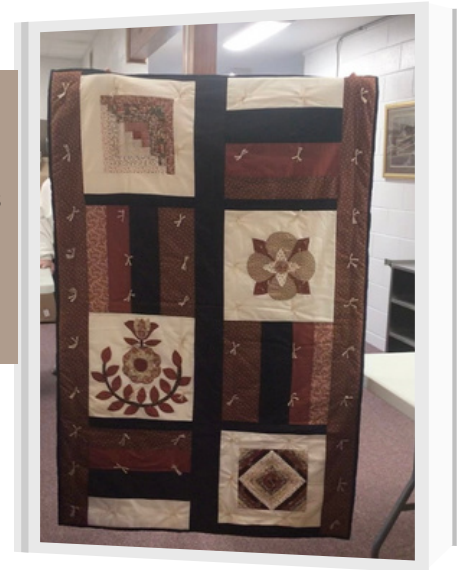


A recent visit to Positive Alternatives in Menomonie offered a powerful glimpse into the impact of recent grants. The group home provides a safe, supportive space for up to five teens, helping them stay in school, access care, and work toward a brighter future. Our support made important upgrades to a new kitchen, washer/dryer, and a newly renovated teen room and family meeting space. One staff member shared a “before” photo and the transformation was remarkable. Positive Alternatives has quietly served thousands over 50 years, and we’re proud to support their meaningful work.



*Threads of love, woven with purpose*

Thanks to a \$1,500 grant, the Quilters of St. Luke’s Catholic Church/St. Jessica’s Circle in Boyceville have provided warmth and comfort to individuals across Dunn County. In 2024 and 2025 to date, the group has created and distributed 27 twin quilts to Stepping Stones and West CAP, 33 lap robes to Neighbors of Dunn County, and 83 quilts, including baby and memory quilts to Options for Women in Menomonie.



*Investing in mental health, empowering our youth*

A grant to the Colfax School District is helping ensure that all students can access school-based mental health therapy through a partnership with Caillier Clinic. With nearly 30 students currently receiving support on-site, the program eliminates the need for travel during the school day, allowing students to receive consistent care without missing class or requiring parents to miss work.

The funding helps cover co-pays and out-of-pocket expenses for families who may otherwise be unable to afford services. As a result, students report improved emotional well-being, stronger attendance, and greater motivation in school. With no mental health clinic in Colfax, this program fills a critical need and empowers students to succeed in the classroom and in life.

# CLASS ACTS: OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Community Foundation of Dunn County congratulates the following 2025 scholarship recipients!

**ILT Jeremy L. Wolfe Memorial Scholarship:** Peter Cimino (MHS), Hannah Peterson (CHS)  
**Annabel Bauer BSN Nursing Scholarship:** Alison Butler (Mondovi HS)  
**BEST Academic Scholarship:** Delaney Olson, Emily Fetzer, Emma Dunn, Jamie Lehmann, Lacy Link, Riley Schutz, Tayler Drinkman, Abigail Bauer (all BHS)  
**Bjarne Heian Memorial Scholarship:** Maci Marlett, Kieran Bignell, Rebekah Bignell (all MHS)  
**Bremer Bank Community Involvement Scholarship:** Emma Bird (MHS)  
**Bremer Bank Diversity Scholarship:** Pajci Xiong (MHS)  
**Bruce Schley/Roger Brunn Memorial Scholarship:** Riley Schutz (BHS), Rosie Sonnentag (CHS), Ray Pember (MHS)  
**Cammie B. Johnson Memorial Scholarship:** Delaney Olson (BHS), Olivia Johnson (CHS), Sawyer Sabelko (Durand HS), Lucas Glaus (EHS), Claire Roff (EMHS), Elly Rabenort (MHS), Brooklyn Sterry (MHS)  
**Class of 1959 Scholarship:** Aubrin Babl (MHS)  
**Dairy State Bank Scholarship:** James Hoff (MHS)  
**David and Jean Sjuggerud Memorial Scholarship:** Brody Thornton (MHS)  
**David Maves Memorial Scholarship:** Cherish Green (MHS)  
**Dr. Darrell Sharp Memorial Scholarship:** Shaelyn Brantner (Mondovi)  
**Dr. James M. Ulesich Memorial Scholarship:** Alyssa Boguslawske (MHS)  
**Eric Goers Memorial Scholarship:** Peter Cimino (MHS)  
**Garrett Buckley Memorial Scholarship:** Megan Lawson (MHS)  
**Jared Schutz Memorial Scholarship:** Emily Fetzer (BHS)  
**Kathleen Piatz Memorial Scholarship:** Cherish Green (MHS)  
**Ken Willard Memorial Scholarship:** Rebekah Bignell (MHS)  
**Lawrence W. Plaszcz Memorial Scholarship:** Emily Fetzer 4-yr (BHS), Emma Dunn 2-yr (BHS), Brooks Burcaw 2-yr (EMHS), Cale Knutson 4-yr (EMHS)  
**Lee Fruit Memorial Scholarship:** Jamie Lehmann (BHS)  
**Linda Krueger Legacy Scholarship for Spanish Studies:** Nolan Bien (MHS)  
**Lois Siefert Memorial Scholarship:** Grant Burns, Amy Liu, Alexa Isenberger (all MHS)  
**Lucy Murray Memorial Scholarship:** Hailey Webb (EHS), Maci Marlett (MHS), Megan McMahon (MHS)  
**MAPS Dollars for Scholars Scholarship:** Katie Bossany (MHS), Caleb Cameron (MHS)  
**Marketplace Foods Scholarship:** Brody Thornton (MHS), Kierston Coss (MHS)  
**Masonic Lodge 164 Scholarship:** Abigail Bauer (BHS), Rebekah Bignell (MHS), Gracie Burgraff (CHS)  
**Mayo Clinic Health Careers Scholarship:** Megan McMahon (MHS)  
**Menomonie Faculty Scholarship:** Caleb Cameron (MHS), Maci Marlett (MHS), Megan McMahon (MHS)  
**MHS Alumni Scholarship:** Grant Burns (MHS), Amy Liu (MHS)  
**Peoples State Bank Scholarship:** Jake Bialzik (BHS)  
**Ricky J. Hanson Memorial Scholarship:** Olivia Sample (MHS)  
**Ron Grutt Memorial Scholarship:** Delaney Olson (BHS)  
**Scot Miller Memorial Scholarship:** Theo Hovde (CHS), Logan Jerome (EMHS), Ashley Slupe (MHS)  
**Stokes Legacy Scholarship:** Maxwell Kinney (MHS)  
**Talen General Education Scholarship:** Aaron Lambrigtsen (MHS)  
**Thomas Andrew Krook Memorial Scholarship:** Allison Dickman (MHS)  
**William & Leona Amundson Memorial Scholarship:** Emily Fetzer (BHS)



**Cale Knutson**  
Elk Mound HS



**Delaney Olson**  
Boyceville HS



**Nolan Bien**  
Menomonie HS



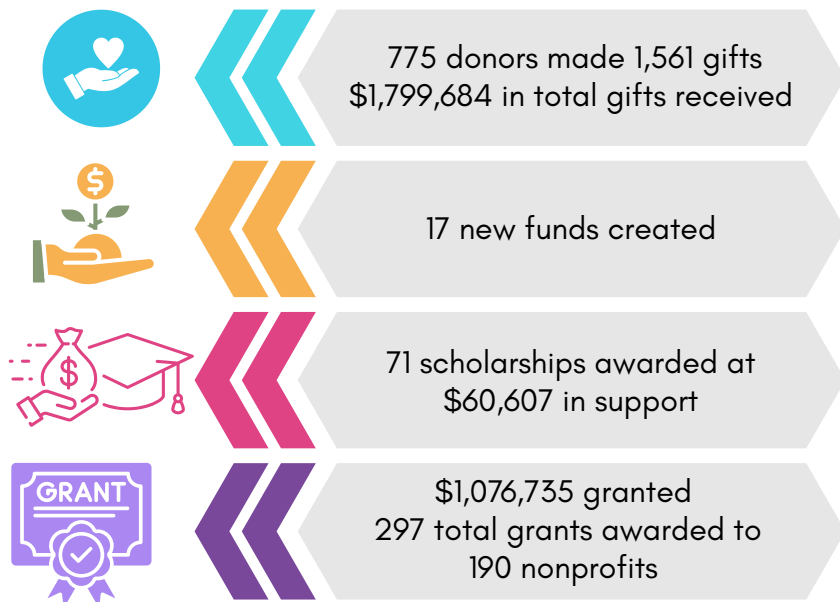
**Amy Liu**  
Menomonie HS



Key: MHS = Menomonie High School; BHS = Boyceville High School; CHS (Colfax High School); EHS = Elmwood High School; EMHS (Elk Mound High School)

# 2025 GRATITUDE REPORT

## 2024 LOOKBACK - A RECORD BREAKING YEAR



The Foundation grew by \$1.8 million in 2024 through donations and investments.



At the end of 2024, we had \$11,534,964 in total assets

## 2025 SO FAR - 30 REASONS TO BELIEVE IN LOCAL GIVING

We're just halfway through 2025, and already the impact is undeniable. From grants that support families in crisis to scholarships that open doors for students, the Community Foundation has touched nearly every corner of Dunn County. To mark our 30th anniversary, we're celebrating 30 ways your generosity is already shaping lives this year. Each of these moments is a reflection of the partnerships, trust, and shared vision we've built together.



# 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.

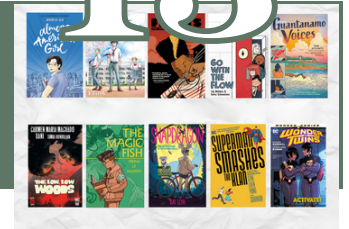
**11 Stitched with care:** With support from the BMW3 WMG Fund, the Menomonie Lions Club matched proceeds from a local quilt fundraiser benefiting Sleep in Heavenly Peace - a nonprofit ensuring that no child sleeps on the floor.

**12 Young Hearts, Big Impact:** Through a grant from the Women's Giving Circle, Menomonie 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Painting a Brighter Community:** Supported by generous donors, the Murals in Menomonie project is more than just paint. It's about celebrating place, sparking conversation, and making Menomonie a more colorful, connected community. To donate to their fund, visit our website.

**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

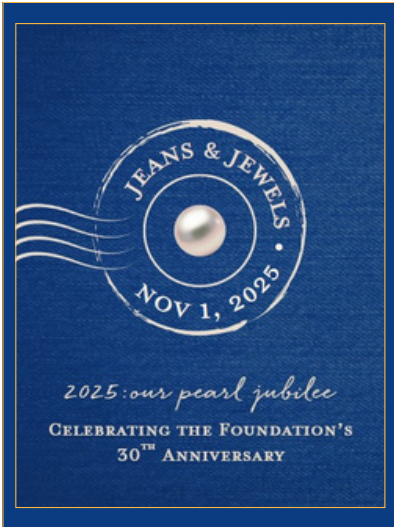
**Serving Up Access:** With the Pickleball Initiative Fund, we're helping expand access to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. This community-driven effort will add new pickleball courts and resurface existing ones—creating more safe, welcoming spaces where people of all ages can stay active,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

Mark your calendars for our annual Jeans & Jewels Gala! Be on the lookout for our Sponsorship Packet (with some new & updated levels) in the coming weeks. We will be sending our Sponsorship Packet digitally this year. If you would like a hard copy, please reach out to us at 715-232-8019.



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

**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY**

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**PHILANTHROPY UNPLUGGED**

*details inside!*

**1 NIGHT \$50,000!**