



COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

The Newsletter of the Community Foundation of Dunn County



Jeans & Jewels: Record-breaking Year!

Over 280 guests gathered in the Great Hall at UW-Stout's Memorial Student Center to celebrate our 2023 Jeans & Jewels Gala where the community smashed previous records for total money raised, as well as a monumental record for Dessert Dash. In total, the community helped us raise over \$116,000 with \$25,000 coming from the Dessert Dash and over \$46,000 raised through sponsorships. A new element at Jeans & Jewels this year was a Door Prize sponsored by Synergy Retirement Planning. Every person attending the Gala received a ticket to enter into a drawing for a 1-night stay at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells as well as a \$500 Visa gift card. Other festivities included a silent auction, live auction, bucket raffles and specialty raffles (Bubbles & Bling, a D12 Optima shotgun, and 32 bottles of spirits, wine and mixers).

The staff and Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Dunn County are humbled by the immense generosity displayed by the community and ask you to save the date and join in the fun next year on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024!

Presented By:

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



GRANT SPOTLIGHT: THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



The Grant: Career Launch for Teens

The Boy & Girls Club - Menomonie Center sought funds to support its Career Launch program that focuses on encouraging teens to assess their skills and interests, explore careers, make sound educational decisions and prepare to join the workforce. A \$2,500 grant from the Women's Giving Circle purchased virtual reality equipment that exposes teens to over 300 simulations for different careers and help fund hands-on and educational field trips focusing on geology and environmental careers.

Virtual Career Exploration

When the Boys & Girls Club - Menomonie opened a second location at the middle school to help increase services in Dunn County, there were a few students struggling in school. It had been a tough transition from being at home during Covid to being full time in person at school. Several students were struggling to get homework or classwork done from the very beginning of the school year. One student had repeatedly said to staff that they didn't need to do their homework because they were not planning on graduating from high school anyway and would head straight into the workforce. Through the Career Launch program, this member was able to explore various different careers through virtual simulations, guest speakers, and field trips, exploring several opportunities he never thought possible.



Why Give to Agency Funds for End-of-Year Giving

As the end of the year approaches, many individuals and organizations are looking for opportunities to give back to their community. One popular way to do this is through community foundations like ours. These organizations serve as a hub for philanthropy, connecting donors with causes they care about. One way that donors can give to a specific cause through a community foundation is by donating to an established agency fund. An Agency Fund is a type of endowment that is created to support a specific nonprofit organization. The nonprofit can then use the income generated by the fund to support its programs and operations. [Below is a full list of the Agency Funds we hold here at the Foundation]. We encourage you to donate to any that speak to your passions and interests! Visit <https://cfdunncounty.fcsuite.com/erp/donate>, or use the QR code (bottom right of this page) to make a donation to the endowment(s) of your choice.



Cedarbrook Church



DUNN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dunn County Humane Society
Promoting the Humane Treatment of Animals



FreeClinic
of the greater menomonie area



Stepping Stones
of Dunn County



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & SCHOOL





NEWS & NOTES



Promise Award for Women Delivers Again

Congratulations to Abbie Aasen for receiving the 2023 Barb Schmelzle Promise Award for Women! Abbie is a psychology major with a criminal justice minor and aspires to work with incarcerated juveniles. She is driven to continue on to graduate school for criminology or forensic psychology. Along the way, Abbie hopes to give back to the foster community through advocacy or by working with that population who are incarcerated. Abbie said the award will help her pay tuition.

"The award given to me will help me graduate with much less debt than the average student and it's one obstacle I won't have to face while in school," Abbie said.

Abbie is the fourth student to receive the Promise Award, established in 2020 by Barb's husband, Tom, and her family following Barb's passing in 2019. They created this fund to honor her love of learning and ability to connect with people on a deep, personal level.

This award is given to help non-traditional female students experiencing financial need and who have experienced extreme and adverse life experiences make progress towards furthering their education in any field.

To read more about Barb and the Promise Award, visit:
<https://cfdunncounty.org/schmelzle-promise-award/> or use the QR code.



Tom Schmelzle with Abbie Aasen

Honor a Veteran in Your Life with a Memorial Brick



The Community Foundation is now accepting requests for new bricks for the Dunn County Veterans Memorial located at 6th Ave. and Crescent Street in downtown Menomonie. The Veterans Memorial Brick program began on Flag Day, June 14, 2000 when over 300 bricks were dedicated and the monument unveiled. The monument honors military veterans from any branch of service during any era. There is no residency requirement, and currently over 500 veterans are honored.

The Dunn County Veterans Memorial Committee of Downtown Menomonie, Inc. is responsible for the memorial and programs. The Community Foundation of Dunn County coordinates the brick program and manages the Dunn County Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund, which was established to maintain the memorial area.

\$250 per brick

Maximum of 57 letters/numbers/spaces

Deadline: February 1, 2024

Call: 715-232-8019

Email: info@cfdunncounty.org

Stop in: 800 Wilson Ave, Suite 235

Menomonie, WI

New bricks will be dedicated during the Flag Day ceremony on Friday, June 14, 2024 at the Veterans Memorial in Downtown Menomonie.





This year, a \$2,000 Women's Giving Circle grant to the Mabel Tainter helped bring Menomonie area 4th graders to a performance of Japanese Taiko Drumming by TaikoArts Midwest. After the performance, the students were able to ask the performers questions. The students were so excited to see a performance at "the Castle" and were very engaged during the Q & A session!

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY

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



Membership Renewal Reminder

It is time to renew your Women's Giving Circle membership for 2024!

Continue your membership and help carry out our mission of making the lives of women, children and families better in Dunn County.

In 2023, we gave away over \$10,000 to 12 nonprofit organizations and we would love your help in giving away even more in 2024!

Renew today at cfdunncounty.org or scan the QR code below.

