



COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE



Thank you for a gem of an evening!
jeans and jewels 2024

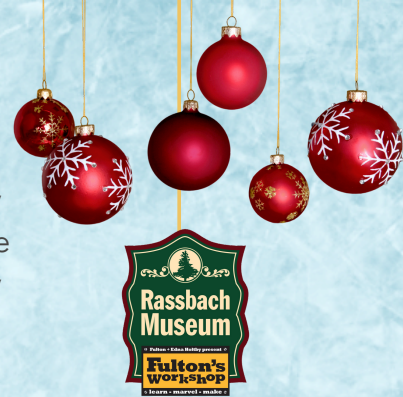


WAZNIK HEIKE
— GROUP, LLC —



FEELING FESTIVE?

Celebrate the season at the Dunn County Historical Society's Wakanda Wonderland! This festive event at the Rassbach Museum has something for everyone, including beautifully decorated holiday trees—one of which honors the Foundation's upcoming 30th anniversary in 2025! Join us on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 1-7 PM for a day filled with holiday cheer. Explore the enchanting trees, create festive crafts, savor delicious food and drinks, pose for holiday photos, and shop the famous Sinterklass Market featuring cookies and candy bars. Don't miss this wonderful celebration of community and the holiday spirit!



Mabel Tainter Receives Funding to Complete Projects Continues Endowment Building

The Mabel Tainter has recently received funding to complete two significant projects at the theater. Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Royal Credit Union, a \$45,000 matching grant from Dean and Ana Weidner, as well as grants from WESTconsin Credit Union, Focus on Energy and several individual donors, The Mabel Tainter has raised enough funding to complete upgrades to its stage and facility lighting systems that will add more lighting capability and increase energy efficiency.

Additionally, a Community Foundation grant provided 50% of the funding for The Mabel Tainter to upgrade its hearing assistance equipment for patrons with hearing aids. Thanks to generous contributions from community members and the Foundation, the theater has secured enough funding to complete the project. By spring of 2025, guests in need of hearing assistance will be able to connect their hearing aids directly to the theater's sound system without any additional equipment or devices.

Both of these projects will help the theater meet immediate needs and will enhance visitor experiences. For the long term, The Mabel Tainter has been building an endowment fund at The Community Foundation in order to provide a stable base of funding for the theater in perpetuity. Donations to the Endowment Fund are invested and managed by the Community Foundation and as the investments grow, each year, a percentage of that growth is used to fund the Theater's operations. The Mabel Tainter Endowment Fund is the best way to ensure that The Mabel Tainter will be here for generations to come.



Connect with **Development Officer, Dustin Olson**, to discuss how you can support capital projects and the Mabel Tainter Endowment Fund at development@mabeltainter.org or 715-231-3463.



Begin Your Fund Today, Make Tomorrow Brighter

You care deeply about your community and already make a difference in so many ways—volunteering, serving on boards, attending fundraisers, and donating to causes close to your heart. Imagine if your generosity could do even more.



By opening a fund at the Community Foundation of Dunn County, you can streamline your charitable giving, maximize your impact, and support the causes you care about most. Together, we can help you make a lasting difference in the community you love.

START YOUR FUND TODAY.

Visit cfdunncounty.org to learn more and begin building your a brighter tomorrow.

NEWS & NOTES

Helping Families in Need:

The Menomonie School Nutrition Angel Fund

The Community Foundation of Dunn County is proud to introduce a new fund aimed at easing the burden of meal debt for families in the School District of the Menomonie Area (SDMA). In the SDMA, no child is ever turned away from receiving a meal at school, ensuring every student has access to the nutrition they need to succeed. However, despite other meal assistance programs, families are still facing thousands of dollars in meal debt. That's where the Angel Fund steps in. This fund provides vital support to families struggling with unpaid meal accounts. Every donation, no matter the size, directly helps families in need, ensuring children can focus on learning, not worrying about lunch. This season of gratitude, join us in supporting the Menomonie Nutrition Angel Fund. Together, we can make a difference—one meal at a time.

Donate online or send a check to:

Menomonie School Nutrition Angel Fund
215 Pine Ave East
Menomonie, WI 54751



The Local News Group Launches Menomonie News Net

After two years of discussions, Zoom calls, coffee meet-ups, community forums, and presentations, a group of journalists and community members came together to address the growing need for reliable, accessible news in Menomonie. Their mission? To provide area residents with trustworthy, accurate, and up-to-date local news. And in November, they proudly launched Menomonie News Net - an online newsletter built by and for our community!

Their very first issue tackles the merger of United Way in St. Croix and Dunn Counties, the New Director of Economic Development, an upcoming Citizen Journalism Workshop, local sports news, and more!

Keep up to date at
menomonienewsnet.beehiiv.com



Charitable tax tips for the road ahead

With plenty of buzz about tax planning strategies in today's uncertain post-election environment, now is the perfect time to revisit your estate and tax plan. Lean on the Community Foundation team as you work with your attorney, CPA, and financial advisor. Here are three charitable planning topics we'd love to discuss with you:

Time for a charitable lead trust?



A potential continuation of low interest rates might mean that a charitable lead trust would be a good fit for you. Through a charitable lead trust, you can arrange for an income stream to flow into your fund at the Community Foundation while future asset appreciation passes to your heirs, minimizing tax consequences. It's also a great way to leverage the current high estate tax exemption, which may change after 2025.

Bunching your charitable gifts



Right now, the standard deduction is still high. Consider creating a donor advised fund at the Foundation to make "bunching gifts" this calendar year that allows you to itemize your deductions. If you give appreciated stock to your donor-advised fund, for example, you can not only avoid capital gains tax, but also use a large gift this year to support your favorite charities now and for years to come.

Use your IRAs for charitable giving



Even with all the question marks, it is reasonably safe to suspect that IRAs will remain excellent tools for charitable giving. If you are over the age of 70 1/2, absolutely get in touch with the Foundation team to arrange for a tax-savvy Qualified Charitable Distribution of up to \$105,000 (increasing to \$108,000 in 2025) to a designated, field-of-interest, or unrestricted fund at the Community Foundation. And, regardless of your age, it is worth considering naming your fund at the community foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA or other qualified plan because not only is estate tax avoided, but your fund won't trigger the income tax that would apply if IRA proceeds flowed to your heirs.



Our friends at Rotary Feeds, along with an anonymous donor, provided a generous donation of 500 total turkeys to Stepping Stones for families in need this Thanksgiving. In addition, Cardinal Glass stepped up to donate side dishes for each family who received a turkey from the pantry. What a wonderful way to kickstart a season of giving!



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



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUNN COUNTY

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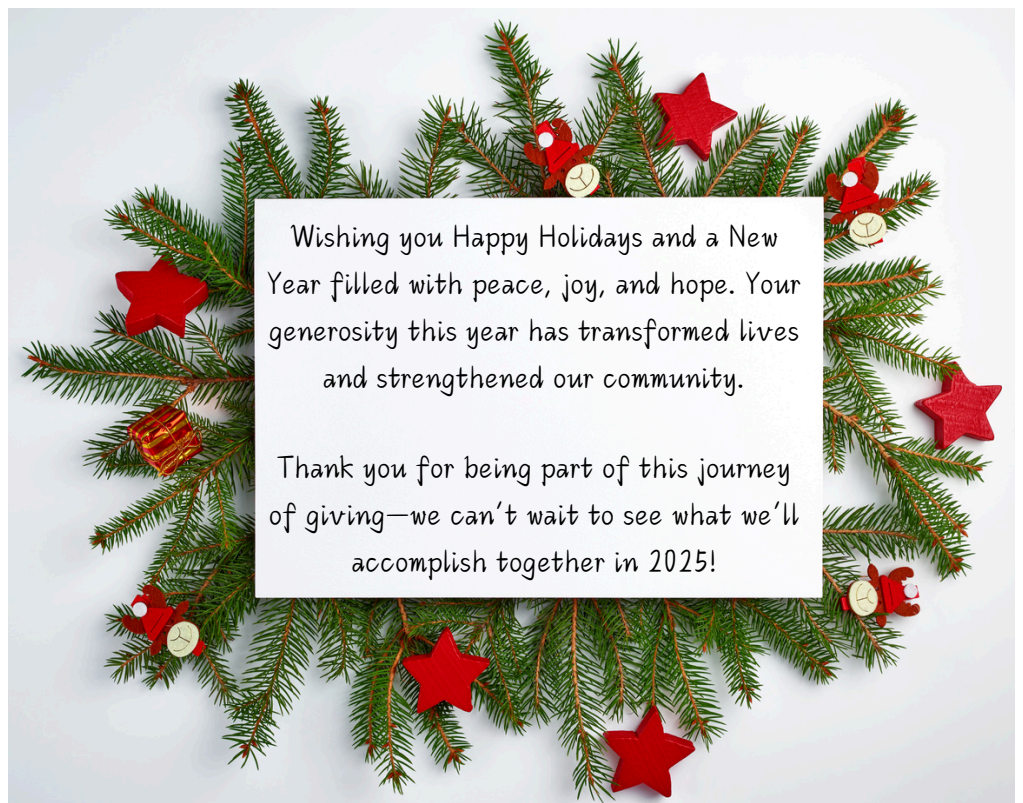
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Wishing you Happy Holidays and a New Year filled with peace, joy, and hope. Your generosity this year has transformed lives and strengthened our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey of giving—we can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together in 2025!

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