



marshfield area
community
foundation inc.

2024 impact report





A community foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit, autonomous, publicly supported, philanthropic institution composed primarily of permanent funds established by many separate donors for the long-term diverse, charitable benefit of the residents of a defined geographic area. Community foundations provide an array of services to donors who wish to establish endowed funds without incurring the administrative and legal costs of starting independent foundations. *Learn more at <https://cof.org/>*

CFNS

ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Since 1993, the Marshfield Area Community Foundation has served residents through impactful local giving. In our early days, the board established tenets to guide our philanthropy, especially focused on granting toward conservation, community development, education, recreation, and the arts. We are proudly committed to supporting causes like these while simultaneously responding to emerging community needs.

In the past year alone, community grants supported rural children's services through groups such as Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum, Marshfield Child Advocacy Center, and Weekend Owen-Withee Kids Meals. Experiences of loss were transformed into beacons of hope through investments in new scholarship opportunities for higher education. Stalwart pickleballers changed the landscape of an entire park and inspired communitywide cross-generational friendships. These stories and more are woven throughout the 2024 impact report. We are dedicated to a legacy of people and causes that will continue to inspire others to join us—whether as volunteers, partners, or donors—through endeavors aimed at enriching the quality of life in the Marshfield area.

President Ryan Christianson

Executive Director Kaelie Gomez

our mission

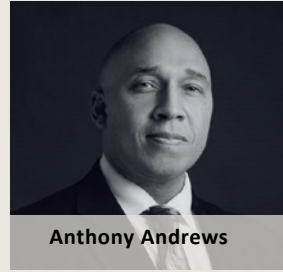
Connect people who care with causes that matter.

our vision

Enrich the quality of life in the Marshfield Area.



2024 board of directors



Anthony Andrews



Ben Bauer



Lori Belongia
Secretary



Justin Casperson
Past-President



Ryan Christianson
President



Chris Damerell



Terry Frankland



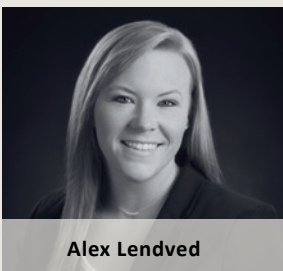
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Treasurer



Tony Iniguez



Nicholas Kumm



Alex Lendved



Brian Parker

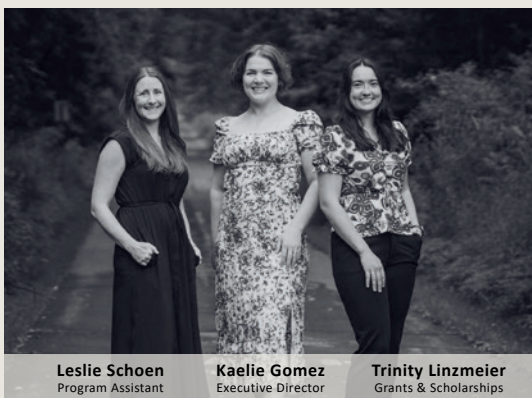


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Rachel Stankowski

staff

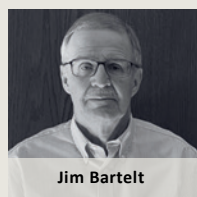


Leslie Schoen
Program Assistant

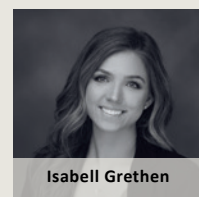
Kaelie Gomez
Executive Director

Trinity Linzmeier
Grants & Scholarships

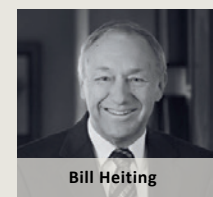
advisory & committee members



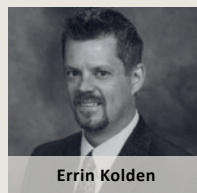
Jim Bartelt



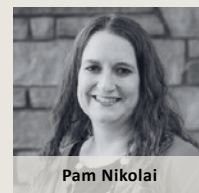
Isabell Grethen



Bill Heiting



Errin Kolden



Pam Nikolai



Ashley Winch

legacy & lifetime giving

Legacy Society donors are individuals who have arranged for a gift to the Foundation in their estate planning. **Lifetime Giving** donors have graciously given to unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds provide essential flexibility and resilience, empowering responsiveness to changing community needs.

legacy society

Bill and Sue Heiting
Boernke Family Trust
Brenda Weiss
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Dehn Family
Pat Hamus
Gary & Patti Davis
Harlan & Laurel Clements
Paul & Joann Schreiner
Richard Rix
Robert Poehnelt
Ronald & Ellen Maurer
Susan Harrington
Toyama Family
Kelly & Jill Kirn

lifetime giving

\$50,000 and Above

Anne & Bette Adler
Dennis & Roberta DeVetter
Bill & Pat Reigel
Security Health Plan of Wisconsin

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Joyce & Ken Billings
Dental Clinic of Marshfield
Pat & Floyd Hamus
Bill & Sue Heiting
Partners Bank of Wisconsin
Tom & Bonnie Umhoefer
The Weber Charitable Foundation
Wipfli LLP

\$10,000 - \$19,999

William & Darlene Berry
Alan & Pat Billings
John & Ann Browell
Harold Dolan III & Kathleen Meyer
Allean & Terry Frankland
John & Stephanie Hayes
Thomas Leifheit &
Amber Kiggens-Leifheit
Ron & Robin Safford
St. Joseph's Hospital
Umhoefer Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Patricia Anderson
Associated Trust Company
James & Sheryl Bartelt
City of Marshfield
James Conterato & Lynn Deuser
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John Harrington
Mike & Gerri LeGrand
Joseph & Ginny Mazza
Fergus & Ann McKiernan
William Mork & Mary James Mork
Ted & Kathy Praxel
Robert Radtke
Irwin Rusch
Paul & JoAnn Schreiner
Aaron & Donna Staab
Jean Steck
Orrin & Linda Toltzman
Dan Umhoefer
Lois Umhoefer
Mark & Rosemarie Weber

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Dennis & Kathleen Anderson
Vernon & Clara Baltus
Thomas & Rebecca Bartow
Efsthios Beltaos
Margo & Matthew Berrier
BMO Harris Bank
Bob Heck & Barbara McDermid
Keith & Michelle Boernke
Krystal Bowman
Brian Ewert & Kathleen Rulka
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Janet Bujalski
James & Janet Cain
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Tim & Robyn Coen
Cheryl & Tim Deets
Robert & Jean DeVita
Dennis & Brenda Dillenburg
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EDP Renewables North America
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Leroy & Sandra Egstad
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Robert & Mindy Gribble
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Mark Nelson & Bridget O'Brien
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Ron & Ellen Maurer
Paul & Rita Meier
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John & Linda Melski
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Karen Reyes
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Geraldine Smith
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Keith & Kris Strey
Ken & Jean Swenson
Clarence & Patricia Topp
John & Susan Twiggs
Stephen & Patricia Wagner
John & Jane Wagner
David & Joan Weber
Doug & Sue Wendlandt
John & Kutzie Wing
Wood County Medical Society
Steven & Adele Yorde
Don & Lyn Zais
Ken & Norma Zittleman

donors in action

We celebrate donors investing both monetarily and through volunteerism. Volunteers ensure community initiatives remain successful while building a culture of generosity in our area.

Left: Marshfield Area Pickleballers are committed to providing accessibility to novices and a welcoming atmosphere for visitors. This spring, the group volunteered to install landscaping around Braem Pickleball Courts, softening the park and stretching their project budget.

Right: Animal-lover Jean Fait shares a special connection with the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS). As MAPS director Karen Rau states, “Jeanie’s the most unique volunteer, you know, because she donated towards the capital campaign, supports the shelter through an ongoing donation, and comes to volunteer. It’s heartwarming to see how the volunteers hang around here and catch up. I just love the friendships that develop.”



a good heart & fresh start

The Good Heart Award, a youth philanthropy initiative, was established by past Executive Director Stacey Schultz. The award honors a high school senior who spreads unconditional, unwavering, and selfless kindness in the Marshfield community. The awardee is celebrated and given \$1,000 to invest in a local non-profit. In 2024, the award was presented to Lilly VerBerkmoes, a student exemplifying generosity, teamwork, compassion, and ethics. Lilly, a local “Big”, chose to give to Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization she’d seen meaningfully impact fellow youth in our community.

Stacey moved to Homer, Alaska in July 2024 to continue her career in a wild, recreative-rich oceanside city. Her passion for community philanthropy led her to the Homer Community Foundation, where she now leads as their executive director. We are grateful for her time at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation and wish her the best.



Lilly surprised with the award.



Lilly presents check with previous “Good Heart” Carter Grove and Stacey to B&G Club staff.



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Stacey in Alaska.



Program Assistant Leslie Schoen and Past Executive Director Stacey Schultz

**community grant
highlight**

lucy's community garden and outdoor classroom

A once vacant, fenced-away lot is about to bloom into a beautiful garden and outdoor classroom in honor of Lucy Vanatta. Pittsville School District Staff, the Vanatta family, and community members are all enthusiastically involved. Lucy's father (pictured) noted, "It has been my observation that this high school is a hub for the community. It would not come together without volunteers willing to give their time. They share a sense of pride and ownership because they are a part of it." Lucy's appreciation for aesthetic practicality makes this project a perfect fit to honor her memory.

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation is proud to support this project with a Community Grant.





funds:
investment
for good
for ever.

Marshfield Outdoor Learning Sanctuary Fund



Chestnut Center for the Arts Fund



Marshfield Area Pet Shelter Fund



Wildwood Zoo Capital Improvement Fund



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Binning Children and Fire Safety Fund



Community Gardens Project Fund

new funds

chestnut center for the arts endowment fund

Chestnut Center for the Arts has established an endowment fund to provide steady, long-term support for its mission: creating a lively center for the community to enjoy the arts in all forms.

dennis e. bangart agricultural scholarship fund

This fund was established in memory of Dennis Bangart. Dennis had an undeniable passion for agriculture and dairy cattle. He enjoyed selling starter project calves to area youth, providing them the opportunity to thrive, grow, and have the same opportunities he had growing up. Dennis wore his heart on his sleeve. He poured his heart into helping the next generation create similar passions. He felt, "you just need to plant the seed and youth will grow."

griese park playground renovation fund

This fund was established by a 2025 MACCI Leadership Marshfield project team (Abby Meyer - Staab Construction, Bill Thomas - PreventionGenetics, Connie Michalski - First State Bank, and Lindsey Safford - Forward Bank) to raise funds for a new, long-lasting, inclusive playground at Griese Park.

ken & norma zittleman scholarship fund

This fund was established by Ken & Norma Zittleman in support of Marshfield teachers' continued education. Ken & Norma taught in the Marshfield Public Schools for 29 years. Ken shared, "Work hard. Be ready for what comes your way. Prepare yourself to be the best person you can be, so when the opportunities arise, you are ready".

lucy vanatta scholarship fund

This fund was established in memory of Lucy Vanatta. Lucy was born on January 29, 2007, and passed away in April 2024. She was an active member of the National Honor Society, Forensics Club, the yearbook committee, and the Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America. She served as the local chapter president of the Future Business Leaders of America. She was an athlete in softball and volleyball. Lucy loved deeply, whether it was her friends, family, or her boyfriend, Nate. She was the one who would start dancing anywhere and who was always up for anything. Lucy was the one you wanted around to make any situation better.

marshfield utilities scholarship fund

This fund was established by Marshfield Utilities to support educational paths relevant to the utility industry and as a meaningful way to give back to the community. In a statement, Marshfield Utilities said, "This initiative not only provides financial support to deserving students but also encourages them to pursue careers in fields such as engineering, environmental science, and renewable energy. By investing in the education of our young customers, we aim to foster a skilled workforce that can contribute to the innovation and sustainability of the utility sector. Ultimately, this scholarship fund reflects our commitment to the community's future and underscores the importance of education in driving industry advancements."

pittsville crancity fund

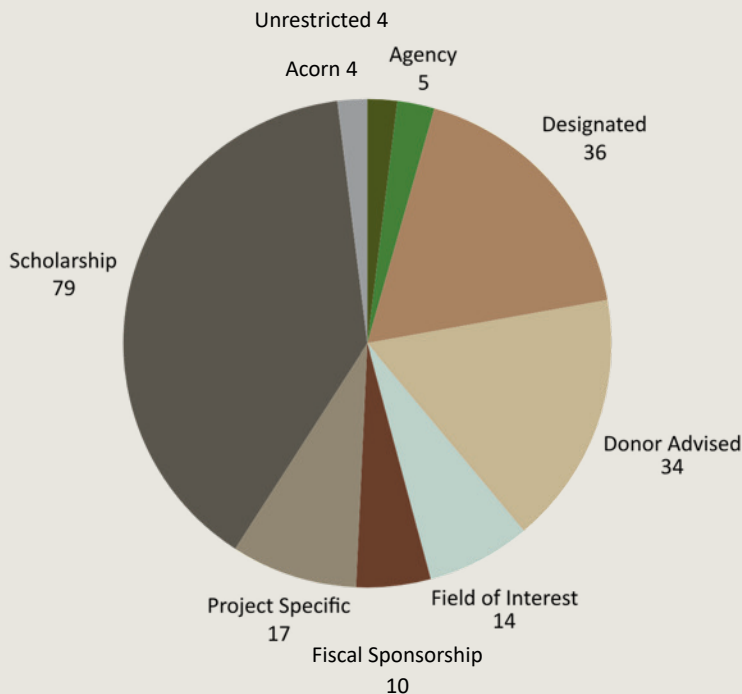
This fund was established to raise funds for a new, self-sustaining nonprofit social enterprise hub. Plans for the hub include small businesses, medical or mental health services, food security resources, shops, and housing. The center will rejuvenate a downtown brownfield site, soon to be a boon for Pittsville residents.

saint josephs hospital auxiliary scholarship fund

This fund was established upon the dissolution of Partners with Saint Joseph's, a group committed to the hospital and its community through educational programming, financial assistance, and volunteerism. The group's remaining funds were allocated to this scholarship, benefiting Marshfield Clinic Health System staff continuing their education.

fund summary

Fig. 1



Community foundations play a pivotal role in aggregating capital from individuals, families, and businesses to address evolving community priorities and enhance regional quality of life.

- As stewards of charitable assets, the foundation prudently invests funds with long-term sustainability in mind.
- Flexible giving structures and robust governance provide a unique opportunity for donors seeking a measurable and enduring impact in their communities.
- Distribution supports both immediate needs and long-term initiatives.

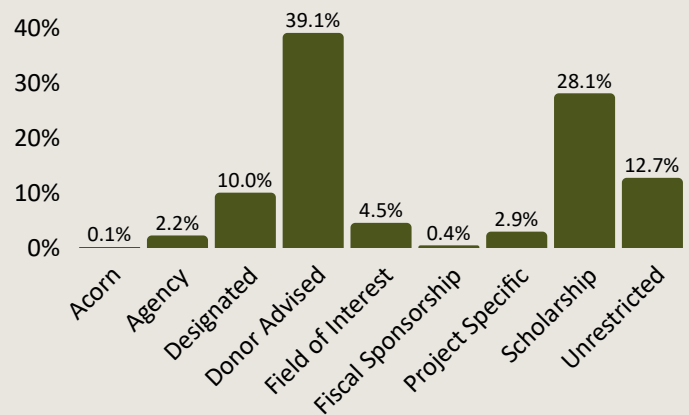
The Marshfield Area Community Foundation holds over 200 funds with \$19M in net assets. Many generous donors, community partners, and board members have driven our impact over our 31-year history (1993-2024).

Figure 1. Number of Funds by Fund Type

The asset size, duration, and purpose of funds at a community foundation vary widely to reflect the diverse intentions and capacities of donors. Fund sizes range from modest contributions that may grow over time to substantial gifts from individuals, families, or businesses, depending on donor resources and goals. Our largest fund category by dollar is donor-advised, followed by scholarships. In a capital improvement fundraising year, the project-specific fund pool is likely to swell.

Figure 2. Total Assets by Fund

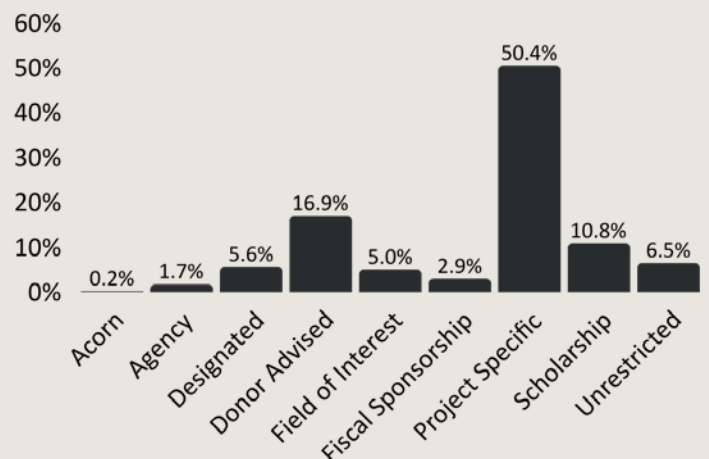
Fig. 2



Funds may be established as permanent endowments, where only the earnings are disbursed and the principal remains intact to support causes in perpetuity. Funds may also be established as expendable (non-endowed) funds, where both principal and earnings can be spent, often to address immediate or time-limited needs. The construction of Braem Pickleball Courts played a large role in project-specific disbursements in 2024.

Figure 3. Total Disbursements by Fund

Fig. 3



acorn

"Acorning" allows any category of a fund to open with an initial, smaller amount than required to begin disbursement (a minimum required fund balance for disbursement is \$25,000). These funds receive enough donations over four years to grow into a productive fund. *Examples include the Chestnut Center for the Arts Endowment Fund and the Daniel Kummer Memorial Scholarship Fund.*

agency

An agency fund is established by a nonprofit organization to support its own programs and operations. The nonprofit transfers assets to the community foundation, which then manages and invests those assets on the nonprofit's behalf. These funds are typically used to build endowments or operating reserves, supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the nonprofit. *Examples include the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter Endowment Fund and the United Way Endowment Fund.*

designated

A donor establishes a designated fund to provide ongoing investment in one or more nonprofits. Designated funds can either provide general support or contribute to a particular initiative within an organization. Grants from these funds are typically distributed on an annual basis. *Examples include the Hamus Park Fund and John Harrington Fund Designated Fund for Marshfield Area Friends of the Trails.*

donor-advised

A donor-advised fund is established by an individual, family, or organization. The donor makes contributions to the fund, receives an immediate tax deduction, and then recommends grants from the fund to support their chosen nonprofits or charitable causes over time. The Foundation has the legal responsibility of managing the fund and ensuring grants go to eligible nonprofits.

field of interest

A donor establishes a field of interest fund to support a specific area of interest or cause, rather than a single organization. The donor defines the field—such as education, health, the arts, the environment, or a particular geographic area—and the Foundation then manages the fund and distributes grants to organizations or projects that align with that chosen field. *Examples include the Senior Citizens Endowment Fund and the Women's Giving Circle Fund.*

fiscal sponsorship

A fiscal sponsorship fund is a special arrangement in which a charitable project or group that does not have its nonprofit status partners with the Foundation (the fiscal sponsor) to receive, manage, and disburse donations or grants on its behalf. Fiscal sponsorship is a tool for new initiatives, time-limited projects, or groups aiming to acquire nonprofit status. *Examples include the current Marshfield Monarchs Fund and the past Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth (MACY) fund.*

project specific

A project specific fund is established to support a particular project, program, or initiative, rather than providing general or unrestricted support. The fund is created to collect and distribute donations that are restricted for use only on the appointed project or activity. *Examples include the Marshfield Outdoor Aquatic Center Fund and the Marshfield Area Pickleball Fund.*

scholarship

A scholarship fund is established by an individual, family, business, or organization to provide financial assistance to students pursuing education, based on criteria defined by the donor. These funds are typically endowed to allow for distributions annually in perpetuity. *Examples include the Anne V. Adler Nursing Scholarship Fund and the Central Wisconsin Cheesemakers and Buttermakers Association Scholarship Fund.*

braem park pickleball fund

Grassroots fundraising, local generosity, and a project specific fund transformed an underutilized space into vibrant courts.

Braem Park was once known as a quiet, semi-wooded block used for disc golf and neighborhood walks. The west end was a stretch of questionable old equipment and patchy grass. Now? The west end is bustling with matches between pickleballers across twelve dedicated courts. Players show up faithfully, daily, to socialize and sweat. Drive by and you'll notice new lighting, allowing tournament play into the evening. Braem Park is now known for pickleball.

Local pickleballers note that an obvious benefit of the sport might be exercise, but more significantly, the benefits continue to be rooted in community. Courts provide a gathering place to meet new people and deepen old friendships. Players often meet for coffee before a match or lunch afterward. They potluck. They celebrate. They've even supported one another by identifying and assisting major health crises on the court. Pickleball, with Braem as home base, continues to inspire connection, encouragement, and togetherness in the Marshfield area.



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Pickleballers enjoy autumn play on the new courts.



keep kids warm fund

Each year, the Keep Kids Warm Fund allows the purchase of new winter coats, hats, and mittens for kids in need. These items are collected and stored until a fall event day when volunteers lay the winter gear across the Oak Avenue Community Center gym floor by size. Parents or guardians (identified through partnerships in schools and with United Way) are invited to the center to select what they need at no cost.

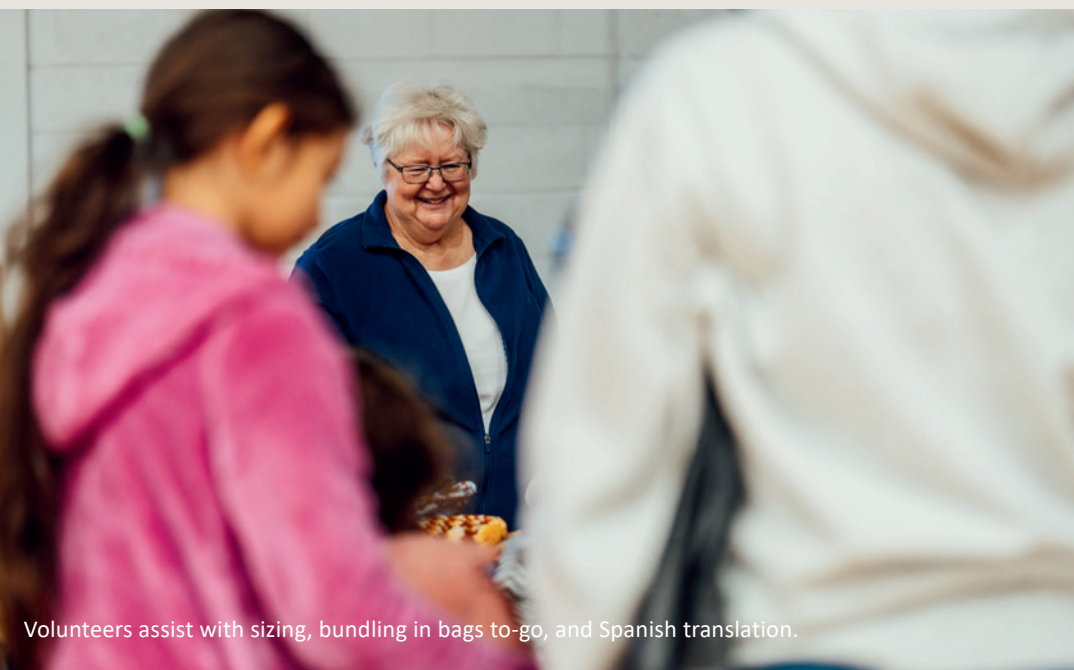
I noticed a dad moving through the hats and mittens table, very attentive to his kids despite all the people surrounding them. The hand-knit hats caught his attention, and he asked, "Where do these come from?" He was very expressive in his gratitude and wanted to make sure people knew how much he appreciated the work that went into them. - Janet, 2024 Event Volunteer

Community volunteers, Foundation board members, area school staff (with special thanks to Pittsville School District's Elyse Hahn), and Marshfield Area United Way partnered to serve over 300 children at the event in 2024.



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Children select coats from a variety of sizes and styles.



Volunteers assist with sizing, bundling in bags to-go, and Spanish translation.

grants:
incremental
investments
change our
community.

Companion Day Services: Facilities Update



Neilsville Improvement Corporation: Rails to Trails



Salvation Army: Holiday Baskets



Little Free Pantries



Three Bridges Recovery, Falling into Recovery



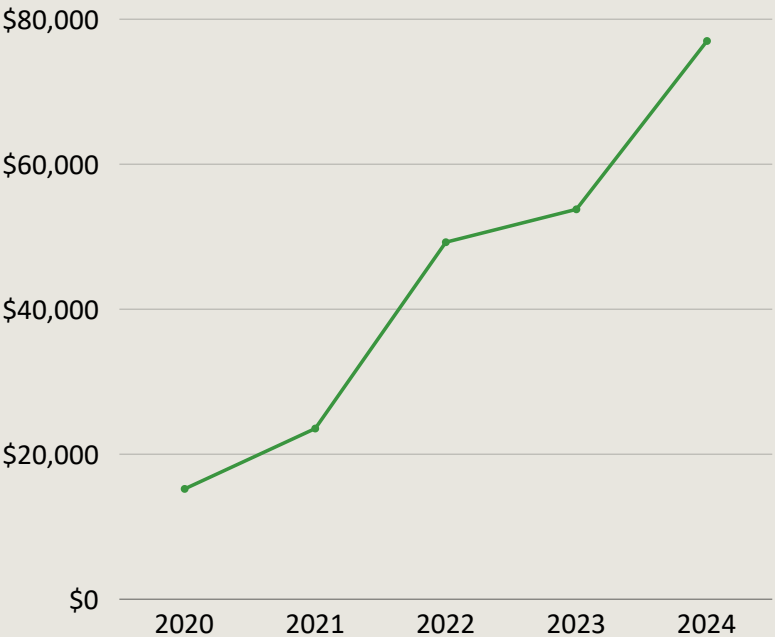
ChildCaring: Child Shared Services Network

community grants

2024 summary

9	33	26	\$77,518
funds	applicants	awards	awarded

Fig. 8



In 2024, the Foundation awarded over \$77,000 in grants, fully or partially funding 26 community projects through the Community Grants Program. This annual funding is made possible through a combination of permanently endowed funds—including the Senior Fund, Community Grants Fund, Children’s Future Fund, Palm Sunday Choral Fund, Mike Tauschek Fund, and Women’s Giving Circle Fund—as well as a discretionary allocation from the board-managed Forever Fund. Additionally, donor-advised contributions may supplement awards, allowing donors to respond to emerging local needs identified through the grant application process. This blended funding model ensures both sustainability and responsiveness in meeting diverse community priorities.

Figure 8. Community Grant Distributions 2020-2024

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation has partnered with donors to address a broad spectrum of community needs through strategic grantmaking. These funds are made possible by contributions directed toward specific focus areas, as well as flexible, unrestricted gifts that empower the Foundation’s board to respond to evolving priorities. All grant applications undergo a structured, committee-led review process to ensure transparency, alignment with donor intent, and effective use of resources. Qualified nonprofit organizations may apply for funding to support programs that directly enhance quality of life across the region. The categories outlined below reflect the Foundation’s areas of impact over the past five years, offering a snapshot of how donor investments translate into measurable community benefits.

distributions by category 2020 - 2024	13.4%	24.2%	8.7%	1%
	arts	children	education	environment
26.6%	7.1%	2.3%	5.4%	11.3%
recreation	health	animals	housing	food security

community grant highlight

huey's hideaway

Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum is dedicated to serving families and residents of north central Wisconsin through engaging, interactive exhibits that inspire imagination and creativity. As Executive Director Monica Halopka explains, the museum is "a wonderland of opportunity and togetherness," offering a variety of experiences including memberships, daily admissions, birthday parties, field trips, day camps, and Friday night drop-offs. Guests of the museum will find exhibits inspired by Central Wisconsin's heritage, like a barn, a tractor, and a trapper's cabin. Recently, the museum expanded its offerings with a new STEM room and outdoor features, including an amphitheater, a dinosaur dig, a garden, and a mud kitchen. Continual improvements and evolving exhibits fill the museum with spaces that spark play and meaningful family connections.

In 2024, Huey's Hideaway received a Community Grant to sponsor memberships for families facing financial challenges. This initiative ensures that all families have year-round access to the museum's enriching environment. Through the 2024 grant, 42 individuals from 11 families have benefited from this valuable membership sponsorship, reinforcing Huey's Hideaway's commitment to developing and delighting children.



Huey's Hideaway Executive Director Monica Halopka shares tactile elements--real animal pelts--of the trapper's cabin with Foundation Executive Director Kaelie Gomez during a site visit.



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The Downtown Medford half-purple building nods to Huey's playful interior installations.

scholarships

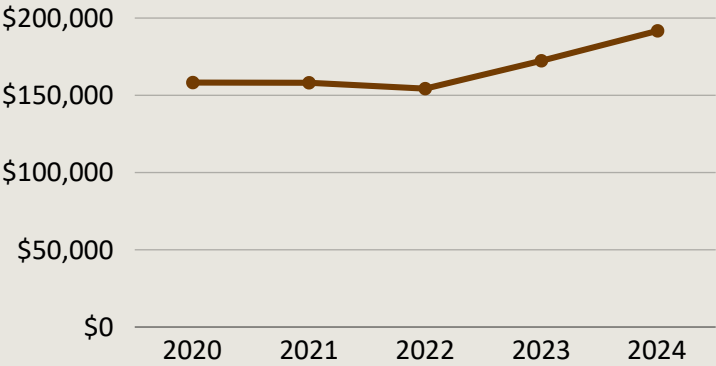
2024 summary

79	260	140	\$191,728
funds	applicants	awards	awarded

“Receiving this scholarship isn't just a financial investment, it is so much more. This scholarship is an investment in my dream.”

Olivia, Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Fig. 5



Scholarships improve retention and graduation rates, contributing to a well-educated, financially stable, and resilient community. In recent years, the Foundation has taken deliberate steps to strengthen the long-term sustainability and impact of our scholarship program. In 2022, the Foundation consolidated several smaller scholarship funds for enduring support and more effective allocations. In 2023, an increase to the minimum fund balance for new scholarships began providing awards of at least \$1,000. These efforts reflect a commitment to meeting students’ immediate financial needs while simultaneously fostering long-term educational attainment and economic opportunity.

Figure 5. Scholarship Dollars Disbursed
Figure 6. Number of Applicants
Figure 7. Number of Awards

The Foundation aims to provide all interested students with an equitable, user-friendly application experience. An online portal employs a single application that filters applicants through all donor-determined scholarship criteria. This process ultimately allows one application for 79 scholarships. Staff work closely with high school counselors to generate awareness, coordinate award allocation by committee, and arrange ceremonial presentation.

Fig. 6

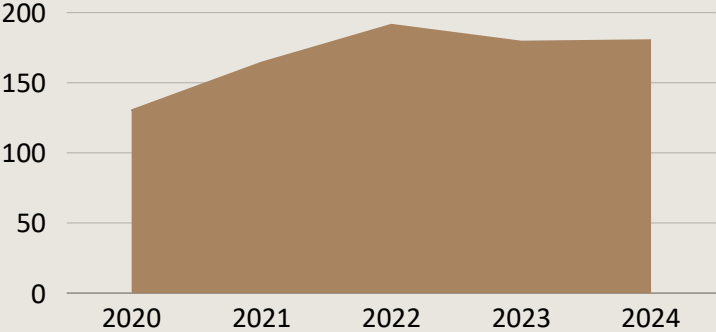
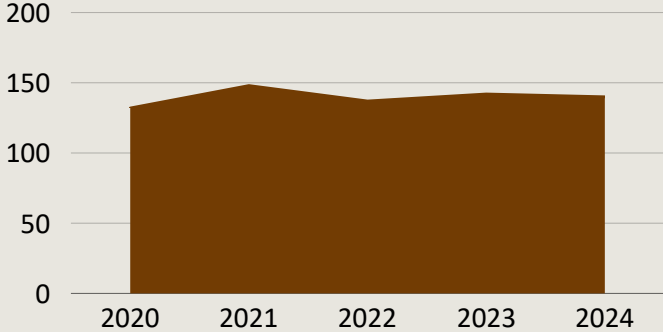


Fig. 7



sophia smrz memorial scholarship

The Sophia Smrz Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the life and legacy of Sophia Smrz, a vibrant and driven young woman whose life was tragically cut short in a car accident in 2023. At the time, Sophia was 17 years old and had just begun her senior year at Marshfield High School.

Sophia was known for her quick wit, strong academic drive, and involvement in various extracurricular activities. She worked as a lifeguard during the summer and was actively engaged in 4-H, swimming, music—particularly playing electric guitar—and her faith. Academically, she excelled as one of the top students in her class, ranking in the top 7%, with a long-term goal of becoming a physician.

Dr. Brian Parker, Foundation board member and scholarship selection committee member, reflected on the 2024 allocation process: “It has been a heartfelt experience helping with the Sophia Smrz Memorial Scholarship. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Sophia, the essays submitted by applicants have painted a picture of a kind-hearted, joyful, well-rounded, and outgoing student pursuing a pre-med path who was clearly admired by many of her peers.”



The Smrz family embraces the very first recipients of the Sophia Smrz Memorial Scholarship.



The original Gries Park Playground featured a “Dragon Marsh”, complete with wooden castle-like fixtures and a climbable tire dragon.

griese park playground renovation

More than two decades after a Leadership Marshfield volunteer group fundraised and developed the first playground, a new MACCI Leadership Marshfield group is leading a community-driven renovation to reimagine Griese Park with modern, sustainable features that reflect accessibility, wellness, and connection.

The revitalized playground will include adaptive equipment, sensory and musical elements, poured-in-place rubber surfacing, and designated play areas for various age groups. Nature-inspired features, shaded seating, and interactive spaces are also part of the vision, making it a welcoming destination for families of all abilities. In partnership with the City of Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department, this project honors the playground's rich legacy while creating a vibrant space for future generations. Fundraising is active until the \$750,000 goal is reached. For status reports and to give, visit the Griese Park Playground Renovation page on Facebook. The group anticipates project completion in 2026.



Leadership Marshfield 2025 Team, left to right:
Lindsey Safford, Bill Thomas, Abby Meyer, Connie Michalski



Nearing their goal, the playground team breaks ground.



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donate
today

"We help others have the ability to do what they wouldn't be able to do without our help. At the end of the day, there is no greater gift than the satisfaction one gets by giving to others."

Bill Heiting



legacy society: bill & sue heiting

Bill and Sue have established an inspirational legacy of giving in the Marshfield area. Their family has made a profound impact on the community, with Bill in particular working closely with the Foundation.

For Heitings, the spirit of giving begins at home. "You give to your family and your community," Bill explained. "Somebody once said to me, 'some people are never able to *appreciate* the idea of giving.' One gets a better feeling back from giving than one would gain from receiving."

Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS) Executive Director Karen Rau, has witnessed this dedication firsthand: "Bill is passionate about our community." Karen credits Bill for playing an instrumental role in helping the shelter secure the funds needed for its new facility, connecting her with the Marshfield Area Community Foundation.

The Heitings remain closely connected to the community, observing and appreciating the compassionate work of area non-profits, volunteers, and caregivers. They have chosen to leave their mark by investing in the community, both now and for generations to come: "We strongly believe that Marshfield is a great community to live, work, and raise a family. What stands out most is the generosity of our community. We really feel that the Marshfield Area Community Foundation is a critical organization for both short-term and long-term flourishing of our city. There are over eighty non-profit organizations that exist in our community. Each one of them has people volunteering their time, resources, and finances to help others. The great thing about the Marshfield Area Community Foundation Legacy Society is that you can continue your financial support of your favorite charities after you pass away. A gift placed in an endowment supports your giving *forever*."



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Foundation holds promise

DONATED DOLLARS can accomplish a lot of good for any community.

That's the theory behind the creation of the Marshfield Area Community Foundation that set up shop here recently. Its goal is to funnel money into worthwhile projects that are designed to enhance the quality of life here for everyone.

It took a \$25,000 challenge grant — a pledge of cold hard cash if the money is matched — to get community leaders to spring into action. A steering committee was organized and the group applied for and received 501(c)(3) Foundation status that provides tax advantages to the donors and tax protection of the donations.

THE FOUNDATION will invest its gifts in an endowment and use the accrued interest for projects. In that way, the donations will continue to grow year after year and provide a sizable nest egg that can do a lot of special things for Marshfield and the area.

Robert Heck, an insurance executive and longtime community leader, has agreed to serve as executive director of the Foundation. He will, in turn, help coordinate the work of the 18-member Board of Directors, who will review projects and dole out the money.

Foundations are nothing new to Marshfield. Medical research here is funded in part by tax-protected donations and Columbus High School operations are supported by a foundation endowment created several years ago. There also are some private family foundations in the community that provide money, in their own quiet way, for various causes.

THERE ARE A lot of things that need attention in the community, projects that are held back by the lack of money. The new Foundation may address some of these needs in its open-ended approach that will focus on educational, recreational, artistic and cultural, conservation, community de-

velopment, charitable and benevolent purposes.

Planners say that some funds may be available for projects as early as 1994. Donations will be accepted for general use or specific purposes. And those giving \$10,000 or more will be able to establish a permanent fund in their own or a loved one's name. That would seem to be an appealing prospect to some individuals, corporations or others.

THE TIMING of the creation of this new Foundation couldn't be better. This period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is, after all, a time of giving. And as we approach the end of the calendar year, a lot of individuals are searching for tax advantages that sizable donations can generate. Because the Foundation has been established and the paperwork is ready, tax advantages can be obtained quickly and easily.

The job ahead, however, will be to sell the concept to the community and potential donors. This effort will begin with a mass mailing and presentations to service clubs and community organizations. It will gain steam, we suspect, as the community starts to see what types of projects the directors or the donors have in mind.

THERE IS A lot of money in the Marshfield area as some recent large donations for building projects would attest. The job is to match contributions with worthwhile projects and individual interests.

The Marshfield community and its residents really will decide the size of the Foundation. If other communities are a guide, a lot of the gifts will come from individuals.

The Foundation's role will be to wisely invest the donations and to reach out to the community's special needs with the interest money that continues to accumulate.

With these small steps a lot can be accomplished. It should be fun a decade or two from now to look back and see what was accomplished.

"It should be fun a decade or two from now to look back and see what was accomplished."

In 1993, Elizabeth and Anne Adler established the Adler Family Fund, from which the Marshfield Area Community Foundation ultimately emerged.
Foundation holds promise, Marshfield News-Herald, November 30, 1993.



people who care, causes that matter

for more information, mail the form below to:

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211 East 2nd Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

info@marshfield.foundation
715.384.9029
Tax ID# 47-3441083



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Marshfield Area Community Foundation
211 East 2nd Street Suite 2
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Braem Park Pickleball Courts under construction, summer 2024



Photography by Leslie Schoen Photography