



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Adams, Columbia, Iowa, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon counties

Report to the community

Last year was truly a momentous one for the community foundation: We celebrated our 25th anniversary, and we began to dream about our goals for the next 25 years. We earned the National Standards Seal, achieving community foundation accreditation with the national Council on Foundations. That means we are meeting the highest, most rigorous standards for philanthropic excellence. We established a \$2 million endowment fund to secure the future of Baraboo's historic Al. Ringling Theatre as it becomes part of Circus World under the Wisconsin Historical Society. This is the largest endowment in our history to date. And as the calendar turned over to 2024, we achieved two more milestones: Our assets under management surpassed \$15 million for the first time. And we reached our goal of building our Community Grants Endowment Fund to \$1 million, making more funding available every year to area nonprofits – forever.

We hope you will enjoy learning about these achievements and more in the pages that follow. It is our honor to serve you and our privilege to look ahead to the next steps in our journey together.

Best and warmest regards,



Robert Ginther
President, Board of Directors



Robin Whyte
Executive Director





Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Our Mission

The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin strengthens and honors the communities we serve by inspiring philanthropy, supporting area nonprofits, and providing leadership to meet local needs.

Our Vision

The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin will be a leading area resource, meeting local needs through philanthropy and collaboration.

Our Values

We value integrity, transparency, generosity, stewardship, leadership, and collaboration. We believe in responding quickly to immediate needs while also providing for the future with permanent endowments.

The Al. Ringling Theatre Endowment Fund

The Al. Ringling Theatre, known as “America’s Prettiest Playhouse,” is an architectural masterpiece located on the square in historic downtown Baraboo. Built as a gift to the community by Al. Ringling of Ringling Brothers Circus Fame, the theatre first opened its doors in 1915. The theatre underwent a multimillion-dollar restoration in 2015-16, returning it to its original splendor. But the theatre’s prospects were uncertain in 2022 when discussions about the theatre’s ownership began among the Al. Ringling Theatre (ART) Friends, Circus World, the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), and the Community Foundation. The result: The ART Friends are transferring the theatre’s title to the WHS, which will manage it as part of its Circus World historic site. Gifts totaling more than \$2.8 million from Baraboo donors will be managed by the Community Foundation for the theatre’s benefit. That fund will include a \$2 million permanent endowment to support theatre operations in perpetuity and \$800,000 to pay for repairs needed immediately. Together we have successfully secured the theatre’s future! We are so grateful for this new partnership, and we thank the donors who made it possible.

Photo of Al. Ringling Theatre courtesy of Bill Johnsen





Community Foundation Partners

You did it! In July 2021 we set out to build our Community Grants Fund from its then-balance of \$200,000 to our goal of \$1 million. This fund provides support to area nonprofits in response to their grant applications once a year. With our 5% endowment fund spending policy, that meant we only had \$10,000 to distribute each fall. The \$1 million goal would increase that spendable amount to \$50,000 per year or more – forever.

So we launched a Community Foundation Partners campaign, seeking gifts of \$25,000 or more as part of our 25th anniversary celebration last year. Thanks to your generosity, we have reached our goal! We are grateful for all of the gifts that helped us build this fund, and wish to recognize the following partners who gave \$25,000 or more:

Bank of Wisconsin Dells

The Craig C. Culver Family Foundation, Inc.

Tom & Vicki Fleming

Gilliland Family Fund

Mark & Barb Graupman

Joanne Holland & Margie Rosenberg

Jennifer N. Kraemer

Harland & Lorraine Hartmann Fund

MBE CPAs

Kathleen Meronek Estate

Richard & Mavis Schulze Fund

Arnold & Judith Utzinger Fund

Mae Vogel Estate



Our Next Chapter: Community Funds

Your gift to the future ...

We invite you to join your friends and neighbors in building a permanent endowment fund for your community. Known as unrestricted giving, donations to these funds will be pooled together to make impactful grants for future needs we may not even be able to imagine today. Your unconditional giving will allow future leaders to allocate grants most effectively, empowering us to make strategic grants where the need is greatest. Beneficiaries may include education, conservation, the arts, local history, or social services.

Your gift of any amount is fully tax-deductible, as provided by law, and will be invested to grow tax-free. As the fund grows, we can make larger annual grants to the community, while the principal is preserved and continues to grow. Distributions will be made when the fund balance reaches \$200,000, or five years from the funding start date, whichever comes first.

If you wish, you can create an unrestricted community fund that is named for you or your family, or to memorialize a loved one. Contact us for more information.

Fund for Adams County

Fund for Columbia County

Fund For Iowa County

Fund for Juneau County

Fund for Richland County

Fund for Sauk County

Fund for Vernon County

Baraboo Community Fund

Plain Community Fund

Reedsburg Community Fund

Sauk-Prairie Community fund

Spring Green Community Fund

*Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water,
the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects.*

— Dalai Lama



Foundation president Jane Franzen recognizes our founders and thanks the guests for their extraordinary generosity.



Darren Hornby showing some “donor love” to Jane Franzen on receiving the \$1,000 grant check for the Boys & Girls Club, with BGC CEO Karen DeSanto looking on.



Jen Stewart and Jessica Renley of Riverland Conservancy sharing information with Roy Franzen.

Celebrating 25 years!

In September we hosted 140 guests at the Baraboo Arts Center to celebrate the Foundation's 25th anniversary. Attendees included donors, Board members past and present, volunteers, and nonprofit representatives. Started in 1998 by a group of community leaders, we have distributed hundreds of grants over the years totaling \$10 million in charitable giving to the community. Highlights of the evening included a video showing the Foundation's impact in the community and a local nonprofit showcase. Twenty-five area charities were invited to exhibit their work and talk with the community about their mission. Our anniversary surprise: we gave each of the 25 nonprofits a \$1,000 grant check that evening to support their staff and professional development. The gifts received a standing ovation!

Our 25th anniversary marked an important milestone of our support for the community and a major steppingstone toward the next 25 years. We hope you will continue to be a part of that journey!

What is a community foundation?

We are a public charity that manages 110 different charitable funds, which combined paid out \$854,000 in grants to nonprofits in 2023. See below for a description of the types of funds we offer. Please call us to learn more!

DONOR-ADVISED A donor-advised fund offers a donor the most flexibility. The donor recommends which organizations receive grants from their fund, when grants are made, and in what amount. Grants may be made to any U.S. nonprofit regardless of geographic location.

DESIGNATED Designated funds support a specific organization. They can be established by donors during their lifetime or as a legacy through their will. It's up to the donor to recommend how the funds are distributed.

FIELD OF INTEREST These funds are also established for a specific charitable purpose, but they support a range of organizations, such as the arts, local history, veterans' projects, children's initiatives, or animal welfare.

AGENCY Nonprofits can create an agency fund using their own assets. They might need help managing a significant gift or want the benefit of our investment expertise or planned giving services. We can offer the protection of an endowed fund as well as the comfort of knowing the gift will be managed professionally.

UNRESTRICTED Your unrestricted gift will be used to ensure our ability to continue our work. Gifts to the Community Grants Fund expand our ability to accept applications for special projects from local nonprofits. Gifts to the Founders Society support our operations so we can continue giving back to the community. Or support *your* community with our new Community Funds!

Your Community Foundation as of 12/31/2023

- \$13 million in assets under management
- \$18.3 million in gifts received to date
- \$10.4 million in grants distributed to date
- 2023 gifts received: \$1,881,649
- 2023 grants distributed: \$854,535
- 99% of assets directly support our mission
(2023 administrative costs = 1% of net assets)
- 110 funds managed

Please visit our website at cfscw.org to view our latest audited financial statements.

The Founders Society

This fund supports our operations and guarantees our future.

DIAMOND

Darlene Ballweg
Craig & Leola Culver Foundation
Dina & Paul Fishkin
Tom & Vicki Fleming
Robert & Patricia Hanes
Forrest Hartmann
Harland & Lorraine Hartmann
Judith Kuse
Arnold & Judith Utzinger

PLATINUM

Baraboo News Republic
In honor of Jim Fishkin & Ken Fishkin
Dave & Leah Gerfen
David & Karen Sacia
Helen M. Ziegler

GOLD

Victor & Rita Ahlstrom
American Family Insurance
Bank of Prairie du Sac
BMO Harris Bank
Community First Bank
Gary Gilliland, in memory of Linda Gilliland
Eldon & Doris Johnson
Brad Schnee & Mo Reilly

Carol D. Sorg
Sysco Baraboo LLC
Mae Vogel

SILVER

Steve & Darlene Bach
Bank of Wisconsin Dells
Baraboo Kiwanis Club
Baraboo State Bank
Baraboo Wal-Mart
Steve & LuAnn Blakeslee
Culver's Franchising System, Inc.
Helen C. & Robert C. Dewel
Douglas Legacy Farm
Jane & Roy Franzen
In Memory of Amy Hanes Friberg
Friede & Associates, LLC
Bryant Hazard
Beverly L. Hoege
Carol E. Hulterstrum
Janet G. Klipp
Jennifer N. Kraemer
Krunnfusz Family Fund
Harry & Nancy Machtan
George F. McArthur Family
MBE CPAs

NRG Media
Pierce's Supermarkets
Matt & Joan Pinion
Plenke's Pond & Outdoor Learning Center
Harry & Helen SaLoutos
Richard & Mavis Schulze
Kathryn A. Schwarz & Bruce L. White
Schwarz Insurance Agency, Inc.
Smith CPA, LLC
Alan & Laura Stanek
Terry & Una Teelin
Peter & Ann Tollaksen
WCCU Credit Union
Wells Fargo Bank
Donald H. & J. Patricia Yanke

BRONZE

Carol Fleishauer
Mark & Barb Graupman
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Pakyz
Laurence & Janet Phelps
Robin Whyte

Founders Society Donor Levels

Diamond \$25,000 & more
Platinum \$15,000–\$24,999
Gold \$7,500–\$14,999
Silver \$3,000–\$7,499
Bronze \$1,000–\$2,999

2024 Board of Directors

President

ROBERT GINTHER, Rock Springs
Cross, Jenks, Mercer & Maffei, LLP,
attorney

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JON BERNANDER, Wisconsin Dells
Bank of Wisconsin Dells,
president and CEO, retired

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MARK GRAUPMAN, Egg Harbor
chief financial officer, retired

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LAURA STANEK, Baraboo
Third Oak Investment Services,
financial advisor

TIM BECKER, Reedsburg
Friede & Associates, vice president of sales

STEVEN BLAKESLEE, Reedsburg
Blakeslee Septic Systems, president, retired;
Reedsburg Bank, board chairman and vice
president, retired

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Edward Jones, financial advisor, retired

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School counselor, retired

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CEO

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Tools of Marketing, Inc., president

MERRY LYNN RIEK, Plain
WCCU, Baraboo Branch Manager

BRANDON WEGNER, Baraboo
Bank of Wisconsin Dells, senior vice
president and chief lending officer



We're here for good!

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The Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

All gifts are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Cover Photo Courtesy of Derrick Mayolet, Skillert Creek Media