



LA CROSSE AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Annual Impact Report



CONNECTING PHILANTHROPY TO IDEAS AND ACTIONS



LA CROSSE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PUBLISHES THIS ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR MISSION.

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FOUNDATION STAFF



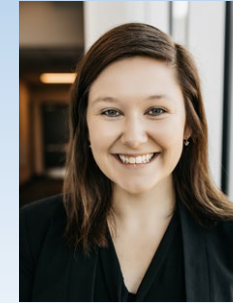
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*Completed term in 2025. Thank you for your community service!

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MISSION
CONNECTING PEOPLE,
PASSION, AND GIVING IN THE
LA CROSSE AREA FOREVER.

VISION
THE CATALYST FOR A
VIBRANT, GENEROUS, AND
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Dear Friends of La Crosse Area Community Foundation,

What a year 2025 was! Our annual theme was "Building Bridges" and we spent the year doing just that. I began at LACF on Jan. 7 and was immediately grateful to meet many of the folks making a difference in our community. January included open houses to meet our donors, partners, and caring community members from all walks of life. This transitioned into individual meetings with friends of the foundation and wonderful events showcasing the work of our amazing nonprofit community. On a personal level, I appreciate the opportunity to build bridges across the community this last year. It confirmed what I already knew; the greater La Crosse area is a unique, generous, and special place.

At LACF, we wake up every day thinking about the power of human connection, what we refer to as "social capital." We know that thriving and connected communities do better on every measure of well-being. We know that building bridges across area of difference, called "bridging social capital," not only lifts up the community, it also leads to longer, healthier lifespans. Building bridges isn't just a nice tagline for a theme, it is essential work to maintain and grow this place we choose to call home.

The lifeblood of a community foundation is the people who choose to give their time, talent, and treasure to create the community we all want. When I think of donors and partners at LACF, I think of commitment to others. I think of a sense of responsibility to give back. Mostly I think of the power of building connections, or as we would say, bridges. Building bridges metaphorically throughout our region strengthens the community for all of us. Strong bridges and strong connections create a community that cares for one another, looks out for each other, and uses those bridges to have the relationships and resources to do so. Bridge builders choose to give of themselves to achieve the best possible outcome for everyone. This always makes me think of our donors and partners as we work together for a beautiful today and an even better tomorrow. Bridge builders are willing to do what it takes to build a thriving and connected La Crosse area, knowing that we all do better when we all do better.

So, please enjoy reading about the bridges built in 2025, and know how grateful we are for your willingness to build them. We appreciate you every day.

All the best,

Chad Dull

CEO

La Crosse Area Community Foundation



LACROSSEAREAFUNDATION.ORG

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH GRANT MAKING:

2025 GRANTEES BY PROGRAM AREA

2025 GRANT YEAR IN REVIEW

CONNECTING COMMUNITY THROUGH PHILANTHROPY!

The total amount awarded in grants and scholarships each year includes grant distributions advised by our board through a quarterly competitive grant program, by our fundholders through donor-advised and designated funds (noncompetitive), and through scholarship programs.

TOTAL AWARDED IN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2025
\$5,435,487

BREAKDOWN BY GRANT TYPE

SCHOLARSHIP
\$373,000
 Awarded

NONCOMPETITIVE
\$4,153,144
 Awarded

COMPETITIVE
\$909,343
 Awarded



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
\$1,474,764



RECREATION & WELLNESS
\$1,101,783



EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS
\$922,618



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
\$567,938



FAITH
\$504,636



CULTURE & DIVERSITY
\$375,325



ARTS & HUMANITIES
\$ 294,589



ENVIRONMENT
\$193,834



CULTURE & DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: THE CENTER: 7 RIVERS LGBTQ CONNECTION – CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT

Equality Initiative

The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection is dedicated to creating spaces for connection, community, education, and advocacy for LGBTQ+ people, their allies, and neighbors. Through its welcoming and affirming environment, individuals are empowered to build confidence, share their stories, and form meaningful relationships.

In August of 2025, The Center was awarded a Capacity Building Grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation — an investment in the long-term strength and sustainability of organizations serving La Crosse County. Along with financial support, the grant provides ongoing technical assistance to help nonprofits build strong leadership, effective systems, and clear plans for the future.

Through its Equality Initiative, The Center is focusing on strengthening board and leadership development, enhancing strategic and financial planning, and improving internal operations. Training and expert guidance will help establish consistent, high-quality practices that can be carried forward by future staff, board members, and volunteers.

For those who walk through its doors, The Center offers more than programs — it offers belonging.

One participant shared that through The Center they found supportive friendships, grew in confidence, and discovered a deeper sense of self, later carrying that same spirit of inclusion into the broader community. Top priorities for this funding include expanding professional development opportunities and conducting a comprehensive review of internal systems to identify clear next steps for growth. These efforts will create a stronger operational foundation and position the organization for long-term success.

The Center is a place of connection, affirmation, and hope. By investing in its capacity today, this grant ensures that it will continue to be a vibrant resource for the community for years to come.



2025 GRANTEES

Akiing Community Development Corporation
 America Friends Foundation
 American Indian Education Fund
 Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge (BLACK), Inc.
 The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection
 Cia Siab, Inc.
 Friends of Snowflake Ski Jumping, Inc.
 Giving Back Fund

Hmoob Cultural and Community Agency, Inc.
 Hope Restores Corporation
 Irishfest - La Crosse, Inc.
 Kicking Bear Foundation
 La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association, Inc.
 La Crosse Epinal Cultural Exchange
 Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center
 Riverside International Friendship Gardens
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SPOTLIGHT:

SCENIC BLUFFS

– BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, TRAINING SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center provides accessible, patient-centered care while working to remove barriers to health across the region. Several locations throughout our area provide various health care services, including primary medical, pharmacy, mental health, substance use disorder, and dentistry. The La Crosse 11th street location is also a partner of the REACH Center, a unique collaborative hub that connects individuals and families with a wide range of essential services.

With a \$9,000 mini grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation, Scenic Bluffs is launching Building Resilient Communities, a training initiative that equips local social service providers with practical tools to address mental health and substance use challenges. Drawing on the expertise of its behavioral health team — whose experience spans addiction medicine, chronic pain management, counseling, teaching, and consulting — the organization will offer a series of free professional development workshops for agencies throughout La Crosse County.

Social service providers are often the first point of contact for individuals in

crisis. These interactive, skill-based sessions will strengthen their ability to respond with confidence and compassion through techniques such as motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, crisis response, harm reduction, burnout prevention, and goal planning. To ensure broad participation, workshops will be offered at varied times and include meals to create welcoming spaces for connection and shared learning. Grant support will allow Scenic Bluffs to host multiple training courses across the county, tailoring content to meet the needs of case managers, school staff, outreach workers, and other frontline professionals. As these skills are put into practice, agencies will be better equipped to support individuals and families, reduce stigma, and build trust with those seeking help. By investing in the people who provide care, this initiative strengthens the entire network of services in La Crosse County. The result is more coordinated support, more effective and compassionate interactions, and a more resilient community where individuals feel confident reaching out for the care they need.



2025 GRANTEES

1000 Generations, Inc. Safe Families for Children
7 Rivers Cardiac Arrest Association
Adopt a Native Elder
Adult & Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin, Inc.
Agape Pregnancy Resource Center, Inc.
Aging and Disability Resource Center of La Crosse County
Alliance Family Services
The ALS Association - Wisconsin Chapter
Alzheimer's Association of Greater Wisconsin
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.
American Red Cross of Wisconsin
Aptiv Foundation, Inc.
Aptiv, Inc.
ARC La Crosse, Inc. and Citizen Advocacy of ARC La Crosse
Bethany Lutheran Homes, Inc. d/b/a Eagle Crest Communities
Bethany-St Joseph Corporation
Blood Cancer United
Breakthrough T1D / JDRF International
CASA for Kids
Casita Copan
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse
Chileda Institute LLC
Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services

City of Onalaska
City of Tomah
Compassion and Choices
Consumer Credit Counseling of Sheboygan / La Crosse
Coulee Council on Addictions DBA Coulee Recovery Center
Couleecap, Inc.
County of Monroe
Doctors Without Borders USA
Emergency Food Basket, Inc.
Endalz Fest Foundation, Inc.
Family & Children's Center
Family Promise of Monroe County, Inc.
Great Rivers United Way
Gundersen Administrative Services
Gundersen Medical Foundation
Harry J Olson Senior Center
Haven for Special People
Heifer Project International
Hillview Health Care Center / La Crosse County
Holmen Area Food Pantry at SEAS
The Hunger Task Force of La Crosse, Inc.
Joe Was Just Joe Foundation, Inc.
Karuna, Inc.
La Crescent Food Shelf
La Crosse Area Veterans Mentor Program

La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Inc.
La Crosse Community Theatre
La Crosse County Health Department
La Crosse County Human Services
La Crosse Lighthouse, Inc.
Lakeview Health Center / La Crosse County
LifeCampUSA
Lutheran Social Services/Wisconsin & Upper MI, Inc.
Mayo Clinic Health System
Mayo Department of Development
Mental Health Coalition of Greater La Crosse
Mobile Meals of La Crosse
NAMI La Crosse County, Inc.
NAMI Wisconsin
Nature Nurture Farmacy
New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
The Parenting Place
Partners in Health
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

Rayo de Sol
REACH-A-Child
RHYMES (Runaway and Homeless Youth Mediation and Emergency Services)
Rogers Behavioral Health Foundation, Inc.
Ronald McDonald House Charities Midwest MN, WI, IA
Saint Clare Health Mission, Inc.
The Salvation Army
Scenic Bluffs Health Center, Inc.
Second Harvest Heartland
Shriners Hospital for Children
St Clare Health Mission of Monroe County
St. Gianna Molla Clinic
Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus
Vernon Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Vida, Inc.
Village of Holmen
Vivent Health
WAFER, Inc.
Weigh of Life
WINN (What I Need Now)
Workforce Connections, Inc.
Workforce Resource, Inc.
YWCA La Crosse





BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH GRANT MAKING:

2025 GRANTEES BY PROGRAM AREA



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT SPOTLIGHT:

CITY OF LA CROSSE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

– RENTER EQUITY PROGRAM



As housing development in La Crosse continues to shift toward rental units — now making up more than 54% of the city’s housing stock — the need for innovative strategies that support financial stability and wealth-building for renters is growing. The City of La Crosse Redevelopment Authority was awarded a \$15,000 mini grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation along with additional matching funding to create an implementation plan for a renter equity program designed to advance economic stability and opportunity for renters.

Working in partnership with national experts from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and financial consultants at Ehlers, the Redevelopment Authority will develop a comprehensive, replicable program model. This plan will outline the benefits for renters, developers, financial institutions, and the city; establish a coordinated set of strategies that promote renter equity and financial security; and create a clear accounting and tax structure to support long-term implementation.

The program is slated to launch in the River Point District, a large mixed-housing development just north of the downtown Oktoberfest grounds. With multiple developers and a diverse range of housing types, the site offers an ideal environment to pilot the initiative, measure outcomes, and build a model that can inform future projects locally and nationally. The renter equity program is replicable and can influence other development and redevelopment projects in the region.

By strengthening the financial well-being of renters, the initiative

also supports broader community benefits. Greater housing stability is closely linked to increased civic engagement, including volunteerism, voting, and participation in neighborhood and community organizations. The program will also foster stronger partnerships among renters, property owners, and financial institutions.

Through this planning process and collaboration with the ULI Chicago District Office, the Redevelopment Authority is working to create a nationally recognized case study that demonstrates how renter equity programs can contribute to sustainable urban growth and improved quality of life. This mini grant represents an important step toward a future in which more La Crosse residents have the opportunity not only to rent, but to build financial security and long-term prosperity.



2025 GRANTEES

Allegro Organizational Solutions, Inc.
Animal Foundation & Pet Pantry of Wisconsin
The Animal Sanctuary of St Croix Valley
ASPCA
Atchafalaya River Rescue
Avoyelles Animal Welfare Society
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the 7 Rivers Region
Bissell Pet Foundation
Black River Falls Area Foundation
C & W Rustic Hollow Shelter
Carl W Nelson Animal Shelter
Cedar Bend Humane Society
The Center for Community Stewardship

Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter
City of La Crescent
City of La Crosse
City of La Crosse Redevelopment Authority
Consumer Reports
Coulee Region Humane Society
Coulee Region Meow Mission
Cure Local / 100 Men of Dane County
Drift Share, Inc.
The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee
Extension La Crosse County
Feline Rescue, Inc.
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Freedom Honor Flight, Inc.
Friends of the La Crosse Public Library, Inc.

Furkids Animal Rescue and Shelter
Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region
Happy Cat, Inc.
Heart2Heart Pet Lifeline, Inc.
Holmen Area Foundation
Humane Society of Louisiana
La Crescent Animal Rescue, Inc.
La Crosse Discovery Campus, Inc.
La Crosse Farmers Market Association Ltd.
La Crosse Promise, Inc.
La Crosse Public Library
League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

Monroe County Animal Shelter
Monroe County Shelter Care, Inc.
Neigh N Bray Equine Rescue, Inc.
Onalaska Enhancement Foundation
Pastors United Community Advocacy, Inc.
Paws of War
Pointe Coupee Parish Animal Services
Puppy Rescue Mission
Reliable Enterprises
Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Rotary Lights, Inc.
RR-Ranch
Southern Poverty Law Center, Inc.

Sparta TNR, Inc.
Sperryville Community Alliance
Tabby Town USA, Inc.
theExchange/Shelter Development, Inc.
Tina’s K-9 Rescue
Trempealeau County Humane Society, Inc.
West Salem Historical Society
West Salem Lions of Wisconsin Charities
Wings of Rescue
Women’s Fund of Greater La Crosse, Inc.



EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT:
THE BADGER PROJECT
 – LA CROSSE COUNTY JOURNALISM

Fiscal sponsor: Center for Community Stewardship

The Badger Project is an independent news nonprofit addressing Wisconsin's critical need for long-form, investigative reporting. Through the La Crosse County Investigative Journalism Project, the organization works to strengthen transparency, accountability, and democratic engagement by informing residents about issues directly affecting their community. Founded in 2018, The Badger Project has provided essential public-service journalism that would otherwise be unavailable in the region. Its investigative reporting has focused on complex and often underreported local issues, including redistricting and gerrymandering, campaign finance, and policing practices and misconduct — topics with significant implications for civic participation and public trust in local institutions.

2025 GRANTEES

American Friends Service Committee
 Aquinas Catholic Schools, Inc.
 Arizona State University
 Augustana University
 Bethany Lutheran College
 Bethel University
 Carleton College
 Carthage College
 Chapman University
 Chippewa Valley Technical College
 Communities in Schools of the Charleston Area, Inc.
 Dakota County Technical College
 Fierce Foundation, Incorporated
 Fort Hays State University Foundation
 Fort Lewis College
 GearUp, Inc.
 Holmen Area School District
 Independent Living Resources
 Iowa State University
 Junior Achievement of Wisconsin, Inc. Coulee Region
 Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation
 Kirkwood Community College
 La Crescent Montessori and STEM School
 La Crosse Central Alumni Association, Inc.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation, Inc.
 Lawrence University
 Luther College
 Madison Area Technical College
 Marian University
 Marquette University
 Milwaukee Area Technical College
 Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Minnesota State University - Mankato
 Minot State University
 Monmouth University
 Nerds On A Mission Corporation
 New York University
 North Dakota State University Foundation
 Northeast Iowa Community College
 Northern Michigan University
 Northern Michigan University Foundation
 Northwestern University
 Onalaska School District
 Pump House Regional Arts Center
 School District of Bangor
 School District of La Crosse
 Seven Rivers Robotics Coalition, Inc.

In May, The Badger Project received a \$5,000 mini-grant to support its continued reporting efforts in La Crosse County. Grant funding helped sustain in-depth journalism produced under a free distribution model, ensuring equitable access to high-quality information for all residents, regardless of income or background. By partnering with a network of local media outlets, including the La Crosse Tribune, the project amplified the reach and impact of its reporting, bridging information gaps and fostering a more informed and engaged community across La Crosse County.



South Dakota State University
 St. Mary's University of Minnesota
 St. Olaf College
 Theta Xi Foundation
 Truman State University
 The University of Alabama
 University of Arizona
 University of Hawaii at Manoa
 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 University of Iowa
 University of Iowa Foundation
 The University of Maine
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota - Crookston
 University of Minnesota Foundation
 University of Minnesota - Duluth
 University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
 University of Missouri - Columbia
 University of Montana
 University of North Carolina
 University of Northern Iowa
 University of St. Thomas
 University of Tulsa
 University of Wisconsin Foundation

UW-Eau Claire
 UW-Eau Claire Foundation
 UWL Alumni & Friends Foundation
 UW-La Crosse
 UW-Madison
 UW-Milwaukee
 UW-Oshkosh
 UW-Platteville
 UW-River Falls
 UW-Stevens Point
 UW-Stout
 UW-Whitewater
 Viterbo University
 Wake Forest University
 West Salem School District
 Western Technical College
 Western Technical College Foundation, Inc.
 Winona State University
 Xavier University



ARTS & HUMANITIES SPOTLIGHT:
HUMILITAS
 – “ON THE COUCH WITH DR. JILL” PILOT SERIES

Fiscal Sponsor: Pump House Regional Arts Center

Humilitas, founded by Leigh Eck, brings together innovation, community building, and creative storytelling to support connection and collective well-being. Through experiences rooted in science, compassion, and wellness, the organization is creating new ways for people in the La Crosse area to engage with their health and with one another. With a \$3,000 micro grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation, Humilitas produced the pilot series “On the Couch with Dr. Jill.” This funding supported the creation of a series of professionally produced, free online episodes hosted by pelvic health physical therapist Dr. Jill O'Brien. This micro grant removed financial barriers that often limit access to accurate, science-based information about women's sexual and pelvic health. The series will be intentionally promoted to women in the Coulee Region who are in the childbearing, perimenopausal, menopausal, and post-menopausal stages of life — times when individuals frequently experience significant physical and psychological challenges but have limited access to trusted, stigma-free education.



Grant support makes it possible to:

- Produce high-quality, accessible digital health content that's available at no cost
- Expand local access to specialized wellness expertise
- Normalize conversations around women's health and reduce stigma
- Empower individuals with practical tools for self-care and informed decision-making

Through this micro grant, Humilitas is equipping women with knowledge, confidence, and a greater sense of self-compassion and connection — advancing both individual wellness and the overall health of the community.

2025 GRANTEES

Abilities in Harmony
 Barbershop Harmony Society / La Crosse Coulee Chordsmen
 Bethany-St Joseph Corporation
 Coulee Region Alliance for the Visual Arts, Inc.
 Da Capo Musical Reunion, Inc. known as Da Capo Concert Band
 Desert Foothills Library
 Friends of PBS Wisconsin, Inc.
 Friends of the La Crescent Public Library
 Friends of the Smithsonian Institute
 Great River Festival of Arts, Inc.
 Great River Shakespeare Festival
 Grey Area Productions LLC
 La Crosse Boychoir, Inc.

La Crosse Chamber Choral, Inc.
 La Crosse Community Theatre
 La Crosse Concert Band
 La Crosse County Historical Society
 The La Crosse Film Academy and Rivoli Arts District
 La Crosse Show Choir Parent Organization
 La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, Inc.
 La Crosse Youth Symphony Orchestra
 Mormon Coulee 4-H
 Musical Instrument Museum
 Onalaska Art Keepers
 Public Broadcasting Service
 Pump House Regional Arts Center
 Sutcliffe Legacy Fund c/o Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts
 United Fund for the Arts and Humanities



BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH GRANT MAKING:

2025 GRANTEES BY PROGRAM AREA



FAITH SPOTLIGHT:

CHARIOTS4HOPE

– VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM



Chariots4Hope-WI was founded in 2022 to remove transportation barriers for low-income families, grounded in the belief that everyone deserves the dignity and opportunity that come with safe, reliable transportation. What began as a Vehicle Ownership Program — placing donated vehicles with families in need — grew to include teaching basic car care to owners through a program called The Pit Crew. Today, a \$9,000 mini grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation is helping expand this impact through the organization’s Vehicle Repair Program. The funding supports affordable, high-quality repairs that keep families on the road and connected to work, school, health care, and daily necessities.

With this investment, Chariots4Hope-WI will:

- Repair vehicles for more than 150 families each year
- Provide over 300 critical services such as brakes, oil changes, and batteries
- Reduce the financial burden of unexpected auto repairs

Repairs are completed by a certified mechanic at the organization’s facility and are supported by more than 500 volunteer hours annually. Grant funding helps retain a part-time lead mechanic who performs repairs, manages workflow, and mentors volunteers, while also covering essential operating expenses such as rent, utilities, insurance, and material disposal.

Local data underscores the importance of this work. The

2024 La Crosse County Community Health Assessment identified transportation as a key social determinant of health — confirming what Chariots4Hope-WI sees every day: many families being just one car repair away from losing access to employment, medical care, education, and safety.

Beyond fixing vehicles, the program strengthens community. It mobilizes volunteers, builds partnerships among nonprofits, and equips families with the knowledge to avoid future repair costs. Each repaired vehicle represents greater stability, increased financial well-being, and stronger connections to opportunity. Through this mini grant, reliable transportation becomes more than a service. It becomes a pathway to long-term resilience for families across the La Crosse area.



2025 GRANTEES

A Place of Grace Ltd.
 Alliance Family Services
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
 Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman
 Catholic Daughters of America
 Catholic Medical Association
 Chariots4Hope Wisconsin Corporation
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Congregation Sons of Abraham
 The Culture Project
 Diocese of La Crosse
 English Lutheran Church

Faith United Methodist Church
 Father Carr’s Place 2B
 Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild, Casa Hogar
 First Congregational Church
 First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 First Lutheran Church
 First Lutheran School
 First Presbyterian Church
 Franciscan Congregation of Divine Mercy
 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
 Franciscan Spirituality Center of FSPA
 Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Immaculate Heart Media, Inc. aka Relevant Radio
 Jesuit Retreat House
 La Crosse Area Synod ELCA
 La Crosse Jail Ministry, Inc.
 Luther High School
 Lutheran Campus Ministry of La Crosse Area Synod
 North Presbyterian Church
 Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services
 Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
 Paradisus Dei
 Roncalli Newman Parish
 Sacred Grounds Coffee Sanctuary, Ltd.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Madsion
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocese - Phoenix
 St. Augustine University Parish
 St. Elias Eastern Orthodox Church
 St. Mary Parish / St. Mary’s Catholic Church
 St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
 St. Patrick’s Catholic School
 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
 St. Raphael the Archangel
 Catholic Church
 Trinity Lutheran Church



ENVIRONMENT SPOTLIGHT:

SCOUTING AMERICA GATEWAY AREA COUNCIL

— PAUL E. STRY NATURE CENTER RENEWAL AT CAMP DECORAH

Since 1921, Scouting America, Gateway Area Council, has helped young people develop leadership, resilience, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. Through partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and community groups, its programs connect youth and families with opportunities for hands-on learning and outdoor exploration. A \$5,000 mini grant from La Crosse Area Community Foundation supports the renewal of the Paul E. Stry Nature Center at Camp Decorah, expanding access to inclusive, year-round environmental education. Funding will upgrade learning spaces, refresh educational materials, and strengthen staff training — improving both the quality and accessibility of nature-based programming for more than 3,000 youth and community members who participate annually.



Guided by the “Six Cs” of Positive Youth Development — competence, confidence, connection, character, caring, and contribution — Scouting programs help prepare youth to make ethical decisions and become engaged community members. At a time when many young people are spending more hours online and fewer outdoors, the revitalized Stry Nature Center will provide a welcoming space where they can reconnect with nature, build practical skills, and strengthen their physical and emotional well-being. The upgraded facility will serve as a regional hub for outdoor learning and leadership development, supporting activities such as environmental stewardship, STEM education, Wilderness First Aid, and hands-on conservation experiences. Planned improvements include ADA-accessible features, flexible indoor and outdoor learning areas, and dedicated space for nature exhibits, first aid training, and group instruction.

By creating modern, accessible learning environments, the project ensures that more young people — regardless of background — can experience the confidence, connection, and sense of responsibility that come from time spent in nature.

Through the renewal of the Paul E. Stry Nature Center, Gateway Scouting is not only enhancing a facility — it is expanding opportunities for youth to grow into capable leaders, engaged citizens, and lifelong stewards of the natural world.

2025 GRANTEES

Clean Wisconsin
Climate Alliance for the Common Good
Desert Foothills Land Trust, Inc.
Driftless Folk School
Extension La Crosse County
Friends of the Blufflands
Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh, Inc.
Friends of the Shenandoah Trail
Friends of the Upper Mississippi
Fishery Services
Gathering Waters, Inc.

Grand Canyon Conservancy
Grow La Crosse, Inc.
Honor The Earth
International Owl Center
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
National Audubon Society
National Park Foundation
Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin
The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Place / WisCorps, Inc.
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Scouting America, Gateway Area Council
Sierra Club Foundation
Sustainability Institute
US Friends of David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Inc.
Wisconsin Maritime Museum
Wisconsin Public Radio



RECREATION & WELLNESS SPOTLIGHT:

LA CROSSE MISSISSIPPI SISTERS

— COMMUNITY OUTREACH MICRO GRANT

Fiscal Sponsor: La Crosse Paddling Club

The La Crosse Mississippi Sisters are a vibrant sisterhood of breast cancer survivors who demonstrate the healing power of connection, physical activity, and shared purpose. United by their experiences, these women support one another through the fear and uncertainty that often accompany diagnosis and treatment, emerging stronger together.

On the water, that strength is visible as they propel a 2,500-pound dragon boat from a standstill to full speed in synchronized competition. Off the water, their mission is just as powerful: to ensure that more breast cancer survivors have access to a welcoming community that promotes healing, physical fitness, emotional resilience, camaraderie, and empowerment.

With one in eight women in the United States diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, the need for supportive survivorship programs continues to grow. LCMS was awarded a \$3,000 micro grant to expand its outreach and increase awareness of this unique opportunity for healing and connection.

Grant funds supported:

- Website enhancements to improve visibility and access to information
- Informational brochures and welcome packets for prospective and new members
- An outreach tent for community events and recruitment

These tools are helping LCMS recruit more survivors, extend their reach across the community, and ensure that no woman has to navigate recovery alone.

The La Crosse Mississippi Sisters embody the strength of an inclusive and hopeful community. Their bright pink shirts and dragon boat are more than symbols — they are a visible reminder that survivorship is not just about overcoming illness, but about thriving together. Look for them at upcoming community events or cheer them on at their next race.



2025 GRANTEES

Aquinas Trap Club, Inc.
AVCAP Corporation
Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
Educational Foundation, Inc.
Bobs Free Bikes
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse
Causeway Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.
Children's Museum of La Crosse, Inc.
City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry
City of Onalaska
Coullee Region Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Freedom Honor Flight, Inc.
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin-Badgerland Council
The Good Fight Community Center
Holmen Youth Fastpitch
Hope Restores Corporation
HorseSense, Inc.
La Crosse Area Family YMCA
La Crosse County 4-H
La Crosse Curling Club
La Crosse Lightning Lacrosse Club
La Crosse Paddling Club LTD

North American Squirrel Association
Outdoor Recreation Alliance
River City Youth Hockey
She Rock She Rock
Southwest Tennis Foundation
Special Olympics Wisconsin
Sugar Creek Bible Camp
Town of Shelby
Village of West Salem

BUILDING FELLOWSHIP

Through the support of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Community Engaged Fellowships, La Crosse Area Community Foundation has been able to support the personal and professional development of a student for the past four years. This year, UWL senior Norah Miller joined our team to expand philanthropy and build community connections.

Supervisor: Megan Pierce

COMMUNITY ENGAGED FELLOW

NORAH MILLER

(SENIOR, MAJOR: MARKETING, MINORS: INTERNATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS)

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Direct and produce a miniseries podcast over a 6-month period.
- Evaluate grant applications and assist in determining where funding should be allocated.
- Create email marketing campaigns in MailChimp in order to properly steward particular constituents.
- Develop a social media toolkit for developing nonprofit organizations and conduct trainings using its information.
- Plan and execute important events that aim to enhance community engagement and steward donors.
- Create and manage a social media content calendar that contributes to customer engagement and brand cohesion.



TAKEAWAYS

- Understand what I look for in a marketing career, especially in the nonprofit space.
- Developed better time management, attention to detail, and collaboration skills.
- Learned various functions and structures of foundations and nonprofits.
- Enhanced my confidence through valuable and applicable experience.
- Proficiency in many applications (Microsoft Suite, Canva Pro, MailChimp, Meta Business Suite, WordPress, and Semrush).



FAVORITES

- Personalized projects that aligned with my interests and career.
- Engaging in community-based events where I connected with like-minded individuals.
- Realizing the amazing work that is accomplished in the La Crosse area by nonprofits.
- Understanding what it is like to work in an office. The experiential learning I gained in this role is invaluable.
- Developing valuable relationships with the incredible LACF team — they are truly the best mentors I have come to know!



CHALLENGES

- Incorporating the use of artificial intelligence into my work.
- Managing projects in school and in work.
- Learning new software quickly, such as WordPress, MailChimp, and Audacity.
- Navigating ambiguous tasks from various colleagues.
- Accepting criticism and using it as feedback to improve my work.



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



Serving as the community engaged fellow at La Crosse Area Community Foundation has been one of the most valuable and transformative parts of my academic and professional journey. Entering the role as a marketing major with minors in international and sustainable business, I was eager to learn how my interests aligned with nonprofit work, and this fellowship provided the perfect environment to explore that.

Throughout my time at LACF, I gained valuable insight into the structure and function of foundations and nonprofits. I was entrusted with meaningful responsibilities, including evaluating grant applications, creating email marketing campaigns, and managing social media content across various platforms. These experiences not only strengthened my technical skills but also helped me develop stronger attention to detail, time management, and collaboration abilities.

One highlight of my fellowship was directing and producing a five-episode miniseries podcast. This project pushed me to learn new software, enhance my creative thinking, and become more comfortable with professional communication. I also developed a comprehensive social media toolkit for emerging nonprofits and hosted a webinar. This is one of my proudest accomplishments from my time at LACF because I was able to directly support organizations in our community with my social media expertise.

Beyond project work, this fellowship gave me the opportunity to engage in community-based events, connect with like-minded individuals, and gain confidence in professional settings. I learned how to navigate ambiguous tasks, accept feedback constructively, and balance responsibilities at work and school. These skills will stay with me far beyond this fellowship.

Above all, the relationships I built with the LACF team are what made this experience truly exceptional. Their mentorship, encouragement, and trust helped me grow not just as a student, but as a young professional ready to pursue a meaningful career.

Thank you, Jane and Ron Rada, for giving me the opportunity to explore my potential through this fellowship. My time at LACF has solidified my passion for mission-driven work, expanded my skill set, and given me experiences I will carry into every future role.

-Norah Miller

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

La Crosse Area Community Foundation partners with three unique affiliate organizations to strengthen our region while allowing each to remain an independent entity with its own distinct mission and brand. Each affiliate is guided by their own board of local community leaders who understand and respond to the needs of the people they serve. Through this partnership, LACF provides essential behind-the-scenes support, including investment

management, fund accounting, legal guidance, and administrative support. This structure allows affiliate organizations to focus more fully on their charitable work and community impact while benefiting from professional financial stewardship and operational expertise. Currently, LACF administers more than 40 funds on behalf of its affiliate organizations, helping ensure their long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

LA CROSSE COMMUNITY NONPROFITS INITIATIVE

is an umbrella organization for La Crosse area grassroots groups and fundraising efforts. It provides comprehensive charitable fiscal sponsorship and administrative support for projects that bring people together to positively impact the livability of the greater La Crosse area.

For a list of all the projects LCNI supports, please visit their website at www.lcni.org.

FEATURED PROJECT: RIVER CLEAN UP



River Clean Up works to keep local waterways clean and healthy, strengthening both the environment and the community. Organized by a five-member all-volunteer committee, the initiative coordinates volunteers, clubs, businesses, and government partners to safely collect, dispose of, and recycle trash from hundreds of miles of shoreline across La Crosse, Trempealeau, Vernon, Houston, and Winona counties.

The rivers and waterways of the Driftless Area are central to the region's identity, supporting wildlife, recreation, tourism, and overall quality of life. By removing trash and debris from public areas, River Clean Up helps protect these natural resources for current and future generations.

Over the past 32 years, volunteers have collected and properly disposed of more than 844,000 pounds of trash from local waterways and surrounding public spaces. Beyond the environmental impact, River Clean Up also brings people together, providing residents with a meaningful opportunity to connect with the Mississippi River and its tributaries while taking pride in caring for the natural resources that define the Coulee Region.



ROTARY WORKS FOUNDATION

encourages Rotary Clubs in the greater La Crosse area to raise and distribute funds for worthy local and international projects. Rotary is a service organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, conducting humanitarian projects, encouraging high ethical standards, and working toward world understanding and peace.

For more information about Rotary Works Foundation, please visit their website at www.rotaryworksfoundation.org.

FEATURED PROJECT: TOMMY RIFFE'S EAGLE SCOUT BIKE SKILLS PARK PROJECT



The goal of the Tommy Riffe's Eagle Scout Bike Skills Park project is to create a safe, accessible space where youth and families can build biking skills and confidence, while sharing a love for outdoor activity. Support from the Rotary Works Foundation aligns with its mission to invest in youth-focused, community enhancing projects that promote healthy lifestyles and long-term local impact. The project is led by La Crescent Eagle Scout candidate Tommy Riffe, with guidance from scouting mentors, support from family and volunteers, and financial backing from many community groups, including the Rotary Works Foundation and local Rotarians who believe in youth leadership and service. The Bike Skills Park provides a free, public recreational asset that encourages physical activity, outdoor engagement, and skill development for riders of all ages, strengthening community wellness and shared public spaces.



ONALASKA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

is a local, non-profit organization that was established in 1998 to strengthen community support for students and educators in Onalaska, Wisconsin's eight public and private schools. The OEF's mission is to encourage outstanding academic achievement among Onalaska students by providing Claude Deck grant funding for innovative and creative educational programming and supporting students in need through their Acts of Kindness program.

For more information about the OEF, please visit their website at www.onalaskafoundation.org.

FEATURED PROJECT: THE ONALASKA EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S CLAUDE DECK GRANTS PROGRAM



The Onalaska Education Foundation's (OEF) Claude Deck Grants program provides competitive grant funding to Onalaska educators for innovative and creative classroom programs and projects. More than \$28,000 in Claude Deck grant funding was awarded to thirty-six educators during the 2025-2026 school year for amazing programs related to robotics and STEM, job skills training for students in special education, arts and physical education, supporting students with learning challenges, visual and audio communications, tech ed, and much more. These programs would not have been possible without financial support from the OEF.

The OEF relies upon community donations and funds raised through their annual "Bash at the Dash" event and "Passport" restaurant coupon book sales to support their important programs. Because the OEF is a fully volunteer-run organization, 100% of funds raised directly support Onalaska students and educators. The OEF provided more than \$56,000 in Claude Deck grant funding and support for Onalaska students in need through their Acts of Kindness and Seasons of Kindness (SOK) programs during the 2025-2026 school year.

The OEF's programs promote outstanding academic achievement in Onalaska schools and support students in need, benefiting the greater La Crosse community on many levels.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH CHARITABLE FUNDS

Building a community foundation designed to serve our region forever is no small feat. By bringing people together and building bridges between generosity and need, we have created and stewarded funds that support a wide range of community priorities — ensuring they remain strong and impactful for generations to come. This work, connecting vision with opportunity and today's gifts with tomorrow's possibilities, has been our privilege.

We are deeply grateful to the generous donors, past and present, who have entrusted La Crosse Area Community Foundation to carry this important work forward. Because of you, bridges are built every day — linking neighbors to resources, strengthening organizations, and investing in a more resilient future for all.

Thank you for investing in our community.

For Good. Forever.

In the following pages, you will find a complete list of funds, organized by type.



DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

SPOTLIGHT: THE ENDRIZZI FAMILY FUND

Designed for Connection

Joe and Tracy Endrizzi have always believed that community is something you build, not just something you live in.

For years, their giving took many forms. Financial support, certainly. But also time. Space. Energy. A willingness to show up.

In 2017, Tracy created artPOP on Market Street, a mixed-media art studio and retail space in La Crosse. artPOP offers classes in glass blowing, mosaics, and other creative forms, along with a shop featuring goods by local artists. She imagined it as a “third space,” somewhere between home and work where people could gather, create, and connect. Meanwhile, Joe, a physician who practiced for decades at Emplify Health, devoted his career to caring for patients and families across the region.

They didn't separate philanthropy from daily life. It was simply how they lived.

When intention met urgency

That instinct sharpened in early 2024, when Tracy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The news was sobering. It changed calendars and conversations. Joe moved up his retirement to be fully present. Treatment began. There were appointments, decisions, and long days that required resilience and patience.

There was also resolve.

The diagnosis brought into focus conversations they had been having for years but hadn't yet formalized — about strengthening community, structuring their giving, and creating something that would outlast them. They had always supported local organizations. Now their support became more deliberate.

Months later, they established the Endrizzi



Photo Credit Sandy Helfrich Photography. From left to right - Charlie, Joey, Joseph, Tracy, Tia, Audrey, Meghan ... and Mabel

Family Fund, a donor-advised fund at La Crosse Area Community Foundation. Through recurring grants, they support WAFER Food Pantry, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse, Family & Children's Center, The Parenting Place, and Grow La Crosse.

The causes may appear varied — food security, youth development, family support — but the thread connecting them is simple: community.

For Joe and Tracy, that commitment didn't begin with a single turning point. It grew over time. They can't point to a moment when giving became central to their lives. It simply became part of who they were.

Investing in places that hold us together

Tracy knows firsthand how transformative that support can be. She served seven years on the board of The Parenting Place, including two as board chair. While raising young children of

her own, she saw how practical guidance and encouragement could steady a family during its most vulnerable seasons. The impact was immediate and personal.

Joe and Tracy are drawn to organizations where their investments can make the greatest difference, where a contribution strengthens not just one person, but the connections that allow many people to thrive.

That same instinct shapes the life they've built beyond philanthropy. Where they live, they make a point of participating in block parties. They know their neighbors. They believe there is safety, meaning, and mutual care in that kind of closeness.

artPOP reflects that philosophy. During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, they purchased the lot next door and expanded the building to preserve and grow the space. Over time, Tracy has been deeply gratified to see

friendships form between people who first met at a class table: strangers who became regulars, neighbors who became friends.

Recently, the Endrizzis purchased a building across the street that will soon become home to a new Opus Bakehouse location. Their vision is quietly ambitious: to help revive neighborhood spaces where people gather, linger, and know one another by name.

It is not about commerce. It is about connection.

What they hope endures

Tracy speaks candidly about the future. She feels well today and remains grateful for the medical advances that continue to emerge. But more than anything, she hopes that what lasts is not defined by illness at all.

When she reflects on what she hopes to leave behind, her answer is disarmingly simple: that she made someone smile.

Not in sweeping ways but in small, ordinary ones — a child who felt a sense of belonging at the Boys & Girls Club, a parent who felt less alone because of The Parenting Place, a neighbor who discovered friendship at artPOP, a family who had enough food on the table because of WAFER.

Joe and Tracy have five children, and they hope their children carry forward the ideals that guide them — generosity, hospitality, and responsibility to place. Through their donor-advised fund, they have created a structure that allows their giving to remain consistent and responsive over time, adapting as community needs evolve.

The legacy they're shaping is not measured only in dollars granted or buildings renovated. It is measured in relationships strengthened, in neighbors who know one another, and in organizations that can count on steady support.

In times of uncertainty, that kind of investment — in people, in place, and in the ties between them — does more than endure. It carries forward.



DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

allow donors the freedom to recommend grants to any public charitable organization anywhere in the world. Donor-advised funds are the most flexible fund types and are often a less expensive and less complicated alternative to starting a private foundation.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Anonymous (2)

American Association of University Women-La Crosse Branch

Amie L. Mathy Family Fund

The Anthony Fund

Ardus and John Cleveland Family Fund

Audrey and Donald Medinger Family Fund

Austin & Chelsea Reinhart Family Fund

Baltz Family Fund

Barbara and Dave Erickson Fund

Barbara and Donald Frank Family Fund

Barry Blomquist & Eva Dahl Family Fund

Blahnik-Naugler Help Fund for Women

Bob and Jean Marck Family Fund

Bob and Millie Hanson Fund

The Bonney Family Fund

Bradley and Lynn Sturm Family Fund

Brekke Family Fund

Brian and Karen Rude Family Fund

Bubba's Fund* NEW

Carol and Duane Taebel Family Fund

Chad Erickson Memorial Park Fund

Charles F. and Leah M. Mathy Fund

Charles F. Mathy Family Fund

Cheryl and Cindy Vieth Fund

Christ Episcopal Church Historic Preservation Endowment

The Covenant Fund

Daniel's Song

The DASH Fund

David R. Morrison Family Fund

Davy Family Fund

DBS Group Building Community Fund* NEW

DG&B Fund

Dr. David Ludington and Patricia Ludington Fund* NEW

Durtsche Family Fund

Ellen and Henry Funk Family Fund

The Elliott Family Fund

Embracing Women Fund

Endrizzi Family Fund

Eric and Sandy Brekke Family Fund

Eric and Vicki Wheeler Fund

Erickson Sisters' Fund

Fowler Family Fund

Francie Ball and Mary O'Sullivan Fund

Fred and Deb Wakeen Fund

Fred and Mary Ann Funk Family Fund

Friends of Sarah Bowman Fund* NEW

Garrity-Gokey Fund

Relatt Siblings Fund

George and Virginia Schneider Family Fund

Graw Family Fund

Guentner-Froegel Family Fund

Harrington Fund

Hutson Family Fund

Jack and Marti Schwem Fund

James and Ellyn Ash Family Fund

James D. and Janice M. Hanesworth Fund

Janet Stansfield Community Impact Fund* NEW

JARD Fund

Jeffrey and Sara Kessler Family Fund

Jim and Julia Jespersen Fund

John and Barbara Leinfelder Family Fund

John Edwards and Frances Lee-Edwards Fund

Joseph W. Kotnour Family Fund

Kathy and Jack Lucey Family Fund for Alzheimer's

Kerbaugh Family Fund

Kim and Kyle Donskey Charitable Fund

Kurt and Julie Schroeder Family Fund

La Crosse Knights of Columbus Charity Fund

The Lagnippe Fund

Lown Family Fund

Lynn and Kirk Donskey Family Fund

Magerus-McKinney Fund

Marta Martinez and William Katra Fund

Marv and Annette Friedewald Fund

Maureen and Robert Freedland Community Fund for Studies of the Shoah (Holocaust)

Maureen Freedland Social and Environmental Justice Fund

MLB MKB Bottcher Family Fund

Morris A. and Roberta Anne Severson Fund

Otto David Ferguson Memorial Fund

R and S Wieser Family Fund

Richard H. Masrud Memorial Fund

Richard T. Record Fund

Richard W. Brown Family Fund

Roland and Janeane Solberg Family Fund

The Riley Family Fund

Roy E. and Lillian Hope Kumm Fund

Russell G. and Gail K. Cleary Fund

S and J Skemp Family Fund* NEW

Sandra and Richard McCormick Citizen Diplomacy Fund

Schilling Family Fund

Schloegel Family Fund for Kids

Shelterbelt Fund

Sondra and Roger LeGrand Family Fund

Stansfield Family Fund

Stephen and Katherine Webster Fund

Steven P. and Suzanne R. Tanke Family Fund

Strong Girls Strong Women Fund

Sullivan Fund

Sundet Family Fund

Todd and Deb Mahr Family Fund

Tom and Ann Monson Family Fund

Tom and Laurie Berkedal Family Fund

Warren and Denise Loveland Family Fund

WE Charities Donor Advised Fund

Will and Charlie Nordeen May the Force Be With You Fund

William and Cynthia Berg Family Fund

Zeke and Morgan Koonce Family Fund* NEW



DESIGNATED FUNDS

SPOTLIGHT:

BEN AND CEIL MADER MEMORIAL FUND

Lessons That Endure: Education, Humility, and Giving Back

The story of the Ben and Ceil Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund did not begin with abundance. It began with eight children in a three-bedroom home on Farnam Street, parents who worked hard and gave anyway, and a belief that education could open doors that once seemed closed.

For the Mader siblings, that belief shaped their lives. Their parents, Ben and Ceil, raised their children with humility, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to doing right by and for others, even when resources were scarce.

There was a time in the 1950s when their father lost his job, when the family relied on credit at a local grocery store, and when neighbors quietly made sure food was reliably on their table. The children contributed what they could, turning over money earned from babysitting, shoveling snow, and paper routes. And yet, no matter how tight things became, their parents continued to give through tithing and emphasizing kindness over profit.

Those lessons stuck.

Education changed everything

Education became a turning point across the family. All eight siblings built meaningful and successful paths, from entrepreneurship to medicine to education, shaped by the opportunities their parents encouraged them to pursue. One sister built a career teaching French and other languages in rural Wisconsin. One brother became an emergency physician on the East Coast. Several others launched or led businesses in cities across the country. Different paths, different places, but a shared foundation rooted in hard work, persistence, and education.

For Rose Levendoski, Greg Mader, and Dr. Mike Mader, the three who remained in the La Crosse area, higher education played a particularly direct role in shaping their professional journeys. Each followed a different route. One attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and continued beyond, while two attended Western Technical College. All credit

education with making their careers possible.

When Mike discussed leaving UWL for a big job opportunity, his father offered a three-word response: "Stay in school." Mike did. He eventually finished medical school and became an OB-GYN physician at Gundersen Clinic (now Emplify Health), where he attended more than 5,000 births. Rose and Greg attended Western Technical College. Rose used her degree in accounting to build an accomplished career in human resources, payroll, and benefits management, rising to leadership roles at major employers in the area, including Emplify, Logistics Health Incorporated and Kwik Trip. Greg combined his technical training with entrepreneurship and founded Mader Web, a website development company.

As all eight siblings found success, the values their parents instilled never faded. Giving back wasn't an obligation; it was simply how life worked.

Turning values into action

In late 2024, all eight siblings agreed to create the Ben and Ceil Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor their parents and help students facing financial barriers to education. Because Rose, Greg, and Mike lived locally, the family asked them to lead its creation at La Crosse Area Community Foundation.

Named for their parents, not themselves, the endowed fund reflects the family's preference for impact over recognition. Over the next two years, the siblings worked together to grow the fund, ensuring it would begin making grants in 2026 and continue for generations to come.

The fund provides one scholarship each year to a student at UWL and one at Western Technical College. It supports students from La Crosse County who demonstrate financial need, whether they are full-time or part-time, recent high school graduates or adults already balancing school, work, and family responsibilities.

That flexibility is intentional. The Maders wanted the scholarship to reach students who need help wherever they are in their academic journey — especially those at risk of having to stop. To them, the scholarships help students keep moving forward and avoid having to choose between tuition and groceries.

This year, the fund will award two scholarships. For the Mader family, that moment represents more than a financial transaction. It's the continuation of a way of life, shaped by



gratitude, generosity, and the belief that opportunity should be shared.

The family has also built the future into the fund's structure. Each sibling has appointed a next-generation family member to help steward the fund over time, ensuring that Ben and Ceil's values — humility, education, and care for others — remain active long after the founders are gone. Already, one grandchild contributes to the fund as a Christmas gift to their parent.

It's a quiet legacy, much like the family itself.

If Ben and Ceil Mader could see the fund today, their children believe they would be proud, not because their name is attached to it, but because it reflects the life they lived: a life that trusted education, understood hardship, and gave generously anyway.



DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated funds allow donors to select one or more charitable organizations or programs to receive annual support. These funds are commonly established through estate planning to continue providing annual support to donors' favorite charitable entities forever!

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Al's Musky Challenge Endowment Fund
Acts of Kindness and Seasons of Kindness Endowment
Andy and Connie Ziemelis Charitable Fund
Ben and Ceil Mader Memorial Fund
Bernadette Teff Family Fund
Bernard Kriesel Aviation Scholarship
Betty and Dale Kendrick Art Scholarship
Betty Levinstein Fund-WF
Carl Koch and Joyce Heil Fund
Carol Taebel "Thank a Teacher" Fund
Carrol J Riley DeGier Fund
Centering Onalaska Flower Basket Endowment Fund
Charles and Cheryl Hanson Riverside International Friendship Gardens Fund
Cheryl Vieth Community Giving Fund
Chester and Veronica Ware Fund
City of La Crosse Arts Board Fund
Claude Deck Grants Endowment
CMG Women's Fund
Connie Repnik Memorial Fund
Coulee Region Immigration Task Force Scholarship Fund* NEW
Don Olson Hospitality Scholarship
Donald P. Weber Veteran Scholarship Fund
Dr. Archie and Rosemary Britt Family Fund
Dr. David L. and Sacia B. Morris Fund
Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Memorial Fund
Duane and Carol Taebel Fund
Ella F. Ambrosius Fund
Emeriti Memorial Fund for the UWL English Department
Ernest and Olive Gershon Scholarship
Father Christopher Pratt Memorial Fund
Forest Hills Park Pavilion Fund in Memory of Jim Webb

Francine Marie Victoire Klein International Student Scholarship Fund
Gertrude and Donald "Sandy" Gordon Jazz Scholarship
Gertrude Salzer Gordon Concert in the Park Fund
Glendenning Family Fund
Gordon W. and Barbara Gade Fund
Gordon W. and Barbara Gade Scholarship Fund
Graw Fund for River Studies
Gretchen Guernsey Leigh Fund
Harold "Pete" Isenman Fund
Harry L. and Charlotte L. Woods Family
HDF(Henke-Davis-Frye) Fund for assisting with Aging & Disability Resources in La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties Fund* NEW
Heather and Stephen Ross and Maureen and Robert Freedland LPEF Fund for Diversity Education
Hilda Stuttgart Memorial Fund for St. Clare Health Mission
Homeless Jesus Fund
Howard Dahl Fund
Inez and Nick Konas Memorial Scholarship
Jacob Christian Lillejord Memorial Fund aka "Jacob's Ladder"
Jacquie M Favreau Kennedy Fund for Communities in Schools of the Charleston Area, Inc.
Jacquie M Favreau Kennedy Fund for NAMI Wisconsin
Jacquie M Favreau Kennedy Fund for Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc.
Jacquie M Favreau Kennedy Fund for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul Madison
James and Dianne Seyler Fund
James Gokey Endowment Fund aka Jim's Grocery Bag Fund
James Rothwell Caregiver Fund
Jason David Koppelman Scholarship
Jean Gitz Bassett First Presbyterian Church of La Crosse Fund
Jean L. Foss-Norene A. Smith Fund-WF

Jim and Jo Ann Wickizer Fund* NEW

Jim's Grocery Bag-Schroeder Fund
Joan and Paul Schoenfeld Fund-WF
Joy and Dennis Priebe Family Fund
Judy and David Bouffleur Fund
Judy Corbett Hutchens Western Technical College Veterans Scholarship
Julianna and Steven Blanchar Kindergarten Trip Fund
Karen M. Wieser Nursing Scholarship Fund
Kathryn, Olaus, and Dena Cappelen Fund
Kay Rutherford Fund* NEW
Kevin's Legacy Foundation Scholarship Fund
Kids for Kids Fund-LPEF
La Crosse Public Elementary School Field Trip Fund
Leah Reimann Fund
Logan High School Math and Computer Science Scholarship
Lois M. Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund
Lommen Boys & Girls Club Scholarship
M. Elizabeth Cason Fund
Margaret Forseth Burgess Music Fund
Marie Louise Lokken Fund
Maureen and Robert Freedland-LPEF Fund for Studies of the Shoah
Maureen L. Kinney Fund
Michael and Carol Mader Family Fund
Milo and Beverly Mayer Mach Family Fund
Mitchell-Kruck Scholarship
Nancy Fulkerson Hill and Edwin L. Hill Designated Fund
Norma J. Panka and William J. Panka Fund
Norma J. Valley Panka and William J. Panka Scholarship Fund
Onalaska Education Foundation General Endowment
Onalaska Police Department K9 Program Endowment Fund* NEW

Pamela and Richard Strauss Fund-WF
Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust Fund
Ralph F. Cowgill and Winnie Rhea Wroten Cowgill Family Fund
Rev. Ronald and Merle Gustafson Fund
Roberta Zurn Fund
Roch Kendrick Memorial Fund
Ronald and Valerie Burman Fund for the Visual Arts
Ronald S. Burman Fund for the American Friends Service Committee
Rothwell Knopf Fund
Ruth M. Dalton, M.D. Fund
Ruth M. Dalton, M.D. Juliette Low Scholarship
Scott and Heidi Blanke Family Fund
Scott Henke Memorial Fund for the Care and Shelter of Animals
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Onalaska Fund
St. Paul's Lutheran Church of La Crosse Legacy Fund
Stars of Tomorrow Endowment
Tina Schwier Memorial Scholarship Fund
Tom and Trudy Kennedy Endowment Fund aka Tom's Grocery Bag Fund
Tom and Judy Sleik Family Fund
Valerie Burman Master of Fine Arts Fellowship
Wayne J. Hood Fund
Wieser Memorial Park Flowers Fund
William C. Jr. and Scott Pickett Memorial Fund
William S. Case Scholarship
Wishland Pony Express Fund



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

SPOTLIGHT:

COULEE REGION WHOLE CHILD SCHOLARSHIP

Investing in the Leaders Our Community Needs

Long before the Coulee Region Whole Child Scholarship Fund existed, community leaders were asking an important question.

How do you help young people become not just successful, but grounded and compassionate leaders who strengthen their communities?

For Dave Skogen, Misty Lown, and Marvin Wanders, that question became a shared mission. Through the nonprofit Coulee Region Whole Child, they developed Character Lives, an initiative that brought character development and servant leadership programming into schools across the region, grounded in the belief that who a student becomes matters just as much as what they achieve.

"We were asking, how do we influence the future leaders of our communities — the people working in hospitals, social services, education, and business?" Wanders said. "How do we instill servant leadership in those future leaders?"

Community members and local businesses quickly rallied behind the effort, raising significant funding to launch the program. When costs came in lower than expected, leaders faced an important decision about how to steward the remaining resources.

"We had accomplished what we set out to do," Wanders said. "Then the conversation became, how do we be good stewards of this money based on the intent? That's where the scholarship idea came about."

The result was the Coulee Region Whole Child Scholarship Fund, now housed at La Crosse Area Community Foundation. Since its inception, the initiative and scholarship have awarded more than \$30,000 to dozens of local students, both before and after the transition to the community foundation and now provides six scholarships annually.

Character as a foundation

For Wanders, the idea of developing the "whole child" is deeply personal.

"My degree is actually in health education," he said. "The whole person — physical, social, emotional, and spiritual — is interconnected. When you develop character internally, it affects those other components through the choices you make."

He believes character is not separate from achievement. It supports it.

"Character development is a foundational skill," he said. "You need that strong foundation for academic success to reach its maximum."

That philosophy shaped the scholarship itself, which recognizes students not for grades or financial need, but for character — leadership, service, empathy, and a demonstrated commitment to helping others succeed. These are young people who bring out the best in others.

A seed for the future

The founders often talk about the scholarship as an investment, not just an award.

"The community chose to invest in these young people," Wanders said. "I hope they understand that giving back is part of leadership, whether that's in their workplace, their community, or even their family."

Letters from recipients reinforce that hope.

"These are young people who are extremely humble and empathetic," he said. "There's a common thread of service and a concern about the positive impact they're going to have on others."



John Norlin, founder of Character Strong, speaks at a Coulee Region Whole Child community event centered on character development, a focus that continues today through CRWC's scholarship fund.

The goal is not simply to support students during college, but to help shape the future of the region.

"Hopefully they go out, explore the world and someday land back here," Wanders said. "And when they do, they're pillars in our nonprofits, businesses, government, hospitals, and our schools. That's planting seeds for the future."

A community that believes

One of the moments Wanders remembers most clearly is how quickly the community rallied around the original effort.



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Scholarship funds allow donors to lessen the financial barrier to higher education while investing in future leaders. When donors provide scholarships, they provide more than financial support; they validate students' experiences and let students know there is a community of supporters helping them pursue their educational dreams.

"The most rewarding part was that the community just said yes," he said. "Everyone showed up and said, 'We love this. Make this happen in our schools! That tells you who we are as a region. We care about investing in the next generation.'"

That commitment continues today through the partnership with La Crosse Area Community Foundation, which provides long-term stewardship of the fund.

"We wanted to make sure we were diligent with the community's resources," Wanders said. "The foundation has the track record and the skill set. It was an easy choice to trust them with that responsibility."

The joy of helping others grow

For Wanders, the work ultimately comes down to something simple.

"There is probably no better joy in life than helping others grow and succeed," he said. "If we can lift somebody up and help them along, that's rewarding."

He traces that outlook back to his childhood in a rural farm community, where helping others was simply part of daily life.

"If somebody was down on their luck or got hurt on the farm, the other families just showed up," he said. "You didn't really ask why. You just did the work."

Today, he hopes the scholarship carries that same spirit forward.

"You hope you've done your best to leave things better than when you found them," Wanders said. "Even if it's just a little bit better for the next generation."

Through the scholarship, that spirit of service continues to ripple outward, shaping students who will one day lead, serve, and give back to the region they call home.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Anonymous

AAUW Joan C. Koonmen Memorial Scholarship Fund

American Association of University Women-La Crosse Branch-Scholarship Fund

Ann Henke Scholarship Fund

BIPOC Mental Health Scholarship Fund

Borton Construction Scholarship Fund

Brock Family Scholarship, Tom and Jan Brock

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Chloe Kay Eckelberg Memorial Scholarship

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Coulee Region Engineering Scholarship

Coulee Region Whole Child Scholarship Fund

D. E. Field Scholarship

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Valerie Burman Art Plus Scholarship Fund

William E. Storandt Scholarship

William P. and Lorna C. Vafeas Art Scholarship

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

SPOTLIGHT:

THE JOHNS FLAHERTY & COLLINS – MICHAEL STOKER MEMORIAL FUND

A Legacy That Leads to Home

Sometimes a moment of justice can become something more — an opportunity to create lasting good.

Nearly two decades ago, attorneys at Johns, Flaherty & Collins were involved in a complex class-action case involving housing-related issues. When the case concluded, a portion of the settlement was designated to benefit people in the La Crosse area who were experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Rather than distributing those dollars once, the firm chose a different approach.

They created a fund at La Crosse Area Community Foundation, one that could continue helping people long after the case itself was over.

"It made sense to us that money connected to a housing case should go back into improving housing opportunities in our community," said Brent Smith, managing partner at the firm. "The community foundation gave us a way to do that thoughtfully and over time."

Established in 2007, the fund has since supported organizations including Couleecap, Habitat for Humanity, Family & Children's Center, theExchange and other local nonprofits working to ensure families have safe, stable places to live.

But the fund's story is inseparable from one of the people who helped make it possible.

Honoring a colleague — and a friend

Attorney Michael Stoker played a central role in the case that led to the fund's creation. Known for his sharp intellect, relentless work ethic and deep commitment to clients, he was also widely respected for his generosity and sense of humor. Colleagues describe him as someone who cared deeply about people, fairness, and doing the right thing.

"Michael was an exceptional lawyer and a very passionate person," said Smith. "When he believed in something, he put everything into it."

In 2011, Stoker died unexpectedly after being struck by a vehicle. It was a loss that stunned his family, colleagues, and the broader community. As the firm searched for a meaningful way to honor him, the answer felt obvious.

Because of Michael's efforts, the fund existed. Renaming it to include his name simply recognized that truth.

"It was a natural decision," Smith said. "This fund was started because of Michael's work. We wanted his imprint to be part of it forever."

Meeting real needs in real time

Over the years, the Johns Flaherty & Collins – Michael Stoker Memorial Fund has quietly helped address a wide range of housing challenges, from emergency support to long-term stability.

Housing insecurity, Smith noted, is often more widespread than people realize.

"But there are people right here in our community who are struggling to find safe, stable housing," he said. "Funds like this help organizations respond when needs arise."

Because the fund is a field-of-interest fund rather than restricted to a single nonprofit, community foundation staff can direct resources where they will have the greatest impact at any given time. That flexibility has been essential.

"What the community foundation does so well is connect resources to real needs," Smith said. "It understands what's happening across the community and can make sure funds are used where they matter most."

The partnership has also allowed the original gift of \$268,000 to grow. The fund was structured to distribute about \$10,000 each year to housing-related efforts in the greater La Crosse area. Over nearly two decades, that has translated into nearly \$170,000 in grants to 13 local nonprofits, while the fund itself has remained close to its original amount. For Smith, that longevity reflects both careful stewardship and the power of a thoughtful charitable partnership.

"It shows the confidence people can have in the foundation," Smith said. "It takes good care of the resources entrusted to them."



Enduring impact

Today, the fund continues to reflect both the firm's values and Michael Stoker's dedication — using the practice of law not only to resolve disputes, but also to improve lives. Smith believes Michael would be proud to see how the fund has evolved.

"He would be very happy knowing it's still helping people," he said. "That's what mattered to him."

For the attorneys and staff at Johns, Flaherty & Collins, the fund represents something enduring — a reminder that professional work can create meaningful change, and that one person's dedication can ripple outward for years. And in a community where stable housing can determine whether a family moves forward or falls behind, that ripple matters.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Field of Interest funds allow donors to identify a broad charitable interest or purpose. The foundation's board then allocates grant dollars annually to address community needs that match the charitable interest or purpose of the donors. This option provides donors the confidence in knowing their funds support current needs in the community that align with their passions and interests.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Alice O. Gordon & Viola M. Forshler Fund
 Animal Welfare Fund aka Kitty Cat and Puppy Dog Fund
 Black Empowerment Fund
 Corinne Zielke Fund
 Coulee Region White Cane Club Fund
 Dr. Frank Furlano Family Fund
 Fund for the Arts
 Gerald W. and Elizabeth M. Ostreng Endowment Fund
 Global Awareness Fund
 Harold E. Lemke Fund
 Jean Gitz Bassett Fund
 Jenny and Tom Walter Fund
 John and Janet Beckwith Fund
 Johns Flaherty Collins-Michael Stoker Memorial Fund
 June Kjome Justice and Peace Fund
 La Crosse Bridge Builders Fund
 Louis I. Rehffuss Fund
 Mary Grace Sieber Fund
 Myrick Hixon EcoPark Fund
 National Youth Sports Program Fund
 Norman L. Gillette, Sr. Family Fund
 Payton Zietlow Memorial Fund
 R.J. Reinhart Fund for Mental Health
 Robert & Eleanor Franke Charitable Fund
 Roland Beranek Fund
 Rudy and Jean Schnurrer Fund
 Sandy Castek Fund for Empowering Women
 Susan M. Quillin Fund
 The Elizabeth Fund for Literacy and Well-Being



AGENCY FUNDS

Agency funds are established by nonprofit organizations for their own benefit. The community foundation has fiduciary responsibility over the fund, and each year, the organization can decide if it would prefer a distribution or to allow the fund to continue growing from annual earnings. These funds are a simple and efficient way for nonprofits to build an endowment to help create sustainability for the organization.

AGENCY FUNDS

Amie L. Mathy Center for Recreation and Education Endowment
 Anita and Robert Funke Historical Society Fund
 Bethany Lutheran Homes, Inc. Endowment
 Boys & Girls Clubs of La Crosse Fund
 Children's Museum of La Crosse Endowment
 Coulee Council on Addictions Endowment
 Da Capo Concert Band Endowment Fund
 Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin Fund
 Hixon House Fund
 La Crosse Chamber Chorale Fund
 La Crosse Community Theatre Endowment
 La Crosse Concert Band Endowment
 La Crosse County 4-H Fund
 La Crosse County Historical Society Endowment
 La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association David Bell Memorial Fund
 La Crosse Epinal Cultural Exchange Endowment Fund
 La Crosse Family and Children's Center Endowment
 La Crosse Public Education Foundation - Swantz Fund
 La Crosse Public Education Foundation Endowment
 Mental Health Coalition Endowment
 Pettibone Park Commission Endowment
 Riverside International Friendship Gardens Fund
 Rotary Works Legacy Club Endowment Fund
 Sally A. Grimslid Memorial Fund for Northside Elementary
 Salvation Army, La Crosse WI Endowment
 United Fund for the Arts and Humanities Endowment
 Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse
 YMCA Memorial Fund



OTHER FUNDS

All Abilities Trane Park Fund
 ALM Family of Companies Scholarship Program Fund
 Carney Haskell Temporary Designated Fund
 La Crosse Area Emergency Response Fund
 La Crosse Curling Club Fund
 La Crosse Overflow Winter Shelter Campaign Fund
 La Crosse Police Drone Fund
 La Crosse Police K-9 Program Fund
Safe-Cam Project Fund* NEW
 Veterans Freedom Park Improvement Fund

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Bonnie and Mike Jones Fund
 Bramschreiber Family Fund in Memory of Karl Bramschreiber
 Community Giving Fund
 Greatest Needs Fund
 James And Ellen Heinecke Fund
 Lenna Campbell Fund
 Margery J. Stansfield Fund
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 PMJ Fund
 Ron and Jane Rada Fund



SPECIAL PROJECT FUND SPOTLIGHT:

SAFE-CAM PROJECT FUND

Safe-Cam Phase II: Expanding a Community Partnership for Public Safety

La Crosse City Vision Foundation, the La Crosse Police Department, and La Crosse Area Community Foundation are partnering to expand the city's Safe-Cam system through a new community fundraising effort. The Safe-Cam Project Fund at the community foundation will support the installation of additional safety cameras in key areas between downtown and the riverfront, helping law enforcement better understand and respond when incidents occur.

Safe-Cam Phase II aims to raise \$100,000 to install approximately five to six additional cameras. The footage is not monitored around the clock. Instead, cameras serve as an investigative tool, allowing police to review specific locations and timeframes when a crime or incident has been reported. By providing clearer information about what happened, the system can help officers respond more quickly and effectively.

Each partner in the effort plays a distinct role. City Vision leads the community fundraising campaign, the La Crosse Police Department determines the equipment needed and installs the cameras, and the community foundation administers the fund and provides a trusted avenue for charitable giving. Together, the partnership makes it easier for individuals, businesses, and organizations to contribute to a shared public safety initiative.

Early support is already building momentum. The campaign has secured \$25,000 to match community gifts, along with a \$10,000 gift from Oktoberfest USA's Gemütlichkeit Foundation. As the campaign continues, community leaders hope the expanded system will strengthen safety, provide valuable investigative tools for law enforcement, and help ensure that La Crosse remains a welcoming place to live, work, and gather.



DONORS

We are honored to recognize the generous donors who supported La Crosse Area Community Foundation in 2025. Because of your generosity, communities across our region continue to grow, connect, and thrive.

Your support makes it possible to strengthen local nonprofits, invest in community priorities, and build a brighter future for everyone who calls this place home.

We invite you to continue this impact by making a gift in 2026 and sharing the opportunity with your friends and family. The foundation gratefully accepts gifts of all sizes and in many forms, including cash, stocks, real estate, bequests, charitable gift annuities, and more.



- | | | | | | |
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An incredibly powerful way to honor a loved one is to give back to the greater La Crosse community with a tribute gift that will have an impact for generations.

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Brekke Family Fund

In memory of nurse Cindy Vieth and Dr. Eric Brekke
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In honor of the Weber/Lonning Family
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In honor of Coach Connor Lonning
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In honor of Charlie Lonning
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Burton C. Smith Scholarship

In memory of Jackie Rae Norvell
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In memory of Duane Taebel - Happy Father's Day
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Bill and Karen Hoel
Attorney Patrick J. Houlihan
Roger Imes
Mary Jaeger
LDFa friend Maureen
Joe and Linda Kastantin
Julie Keitel
Gerald and Nanette Kember
William and Jane Kirkpatrick
Sherry Kloety
Catherine Kolkmeier
Donald Smith and Nancy Korn-Smith
Carl and Ann Korschgen
William and Susanne Kratt
La Crosse/Luoyang Friendship Association, Inc.
Sondra LeGrand
Kari Lemke
Chartchai Lertsachanant
Busya Lugovier
James and Jean Lund
Dr. Michael Mader and Carol Mader
Sharon Markee
Wendy Mattison
Richard and Julaine McGarry
Gladys McLenahan
Rebecca McSorley
Kathryn Moen
Rebecca and Attorney Jim Naugler
Miriam Olson
Terry and Andrea Parr
Missy and Tim Pepin
Michael Polito
Roger and Carol Popelka
Laurie Ringstrom
Riverside International Friendship Gardens
Gordon and Barbara Roberts
Bonita and Bill Sacia
Sherry Sawle
Ronald and Angela Schlicht
Rosalie Schnick
Marti Schwem
Dr. Glenn Seager M.D.
John and Regina Siegel
Jim and Ronnie Sinniger
Mark and Carol Solyst
Richard and Pat Spencer
Mary Steenberg
Joanne Stephens
Dr. Gary Stiers and Bette Stiers
Kathy and John Storlie
Rhonda and Chris Storlie
Myron and Chris Swenson
Rob and Kathie Tyser
Craig and Pamela Ubbelohde

Lynne Valiquette
Jenny Vongroven
Linda M. Voss
Rick and Joan Waniger
David and Lori Warren
Mike and Joan Weissenberger
Mary Jo Werner
Joyce Wichelt
Kathryn Wine
Daryl and Margaret Wood
Douglas and Sharon Worman

Charles F. and Leah M. Mathy Fund

In memory of Leah Mathy

Anonymous
Michael and Lori Berg
Patricia Boge
Michelle and Thane Boge
Jason and Emily Borreca
John and Fran Borreca
Judy Bouffleur
William and Kay Boyd
Stuart Boyd
Mary and Loretta Bronson Family
Winona Community Foundation
Tom and Sara Burch
The Binsfeld Family
Cleary-Kumm Foundation, Inc.
JoAnne Courtade
Kristine DeKlotz, Michael and Carole Beaton
Mike and Karen Desmond
Dickinson Funeral Homes
Dr. Michael Dolan and Laurie Dolan
The Eder Family
John and Caroline
Mark P. Erickson
Terry and Susan Erickson
Ruth Frise
Arthur and June Gale
Patrick and Deborah Gantert
Joshua Garrison
Sheila Garrity and Family
Tom and Heidi Grau
JoAnne Greene
Jennifer Gregg
Greg, Carol and Alan Guanella
Kent Handel
Andrew Hanz
Doug and Nancy Hastad
Doug and Peggy Herlitzka
Barbara Jordan
Noel and Carol Jordan
Donald and Nelda Keltner
James and Patricia Kirchner
Rodney and Debra Knutson
Alan and Jane Kochevar
Walter and Patrice Koss
Fred and Vicki Kruckow



Robin and Martha Kudick
 Melissa Kujak
 George and Jeanette Kupferschmid and Family
 Trevor and Angie Limbeeg
 Jeffrey and Brenda Mackeben
 Jann Martens
 Charles and Sue Mathy
 Robert and Mary Mathy
 Mayo Department of Development
 Donna Medland
 Kathy and Craig Michael
 Fowler and Hammer Construction
 Susan Netwal
 Mary Noelke
 Patrick and Beth Pederson
 Brad M. Peterson and Monica Wiebke Peterson
 Robert Ploetz and Lori Wisch
 Barbara Quillin
 Brad and Kelly Reinhart
 Katie Rezin
 Duane and Patti Ring
 River Valley Realty LLC
 Brian and Karen Rude
 Tim and Gail Schams
 Brent and Melissa Schulze
 Allen Schulze
 Michael and Roberta Swinghamer
 Justin and Melanie Silcox
 Grant Smith
 Terry and Lynn Stalsberg
 Trust Point, Inc.
 Michael and Jane Voelker
 Rick and Joan Waniger
 Chris and Beth Weiss
 Mary Jo Werner
 Paul and Tara Wetzell
 Brian and Jeff Wieser
 Nickolas and Kaye York

Cheryl and Cindy Vieth Fund

In memory of Cindy Vieth

Greg and Beth Bonney
 Kevin and Gretchen Cray
 Nancy Davis
 Daniel Deetz
 Cynthia Dietrich
 Laurie Engen
 Annette Everson
 Tom and Heidi Grau
 Daniel Lintin and Mikel Hampel
 David and Patti Hanson
 Michael and Donna Keogh
 Christine Krueger
 Max, Elizabeth and Trinity Lasee
 Jerome and Chris Leland
 Dr. Michael Mader and Carol Mader
 Clarence and Linda Martin
 Dale and Ruth Noth

Barbara Quillin
 Roberta Lang Revocable Trust
 Kari Roubik
 Ruby A Biering Survivors Trust
 Dean and Susann Skinner
 From the Shop
 Victor and Lisa Vieth
 Friends of Cindy Vieth

Children's Museum of La Crosse Endowment

In memory of David Bouffleur

Megan and Sam Pierce

CMG Women's Fund

In honor of Betsy Morgan

Deborah Hoskins

Coulee Region Immigration Scholarship

In memory of Bruce Staples

Fidelity Charitable Ulland Family Fund

Da Capo Concert Band Endowment Fund

In memory of Kelly Marie Bryant

Sharon Bryant

In memory of Marita Smith

Barbara Schultz

The Elizabeth Fund for Literacy and Well-Being

In memory of Elizabeth Jane Veldey

Mark and Brenda Stuhr
 The Trust Point Team

Greatest Needs Fund

In memory of Edward Fox Keuper

Anita and Phil Tegen

James Gokey Endowment Fund aka Jim's Grocery Bag Fund

In memory of Jim Gokey

Anonymous
 Greg and Beth Bonney
 Patrick Brunet
 Russell and Diane Ford
 Sheila Garrity
 Karen K. Garrity
 John and Joyce Gokey
 Sonja Sue Olson

Jason David Koppelman Scholarship

In memory of Kent Koppelman, Ph.D

Jan Koppelman

In memory of Jason Koppelman

Jan Koppelman

Judy and David Bouffleur Fund

In memory of David Bouffleur

Michael Sigman and Kelly Krieg-Sigman

Julianna and Steven Blanchar Kindergarten Trip Fund

In memory of Mike Herried

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Charles "Pete" Hoffman

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Tony's sister

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Mary Ann "M.A." (Rohan) Garrity

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Joe Bertelsen

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Gary Skogen

John and Susan Blanchar

In memory of Paul Robinson

John and Susan Blanchar

Kathy and Jack Lucey Family Fund for Alzheimer's

In memory of Janet Allen

Kathy Lucey

La Crosse Bridge Builders Fund

In honor of John Magerus

Deborah Hoskins

Lori Lynn (Rinartz) Horman and Deanna Lynn (Horman) Mason Nursing Scholarship Fund

In memory of Judith Eddy

Howard L. Horman Jr.

Maureen Freedland Social and Environmental Justice Fund

In honor of Maureen Freedland on her Birthday

Dr. Robert Freedland

Morris A. and Roberta Anne Severson Fund

In honor of Marnie Tronsor

Patti Jo Severson and David Langer

Robin D. Finco Memorial Hockey Scholarship

In memory of Robin D. Finco

Matt Carey

Rockin Robyn Scholarship

In honor of Lynita Docken Delaney

Toni Monteiro

Sally A. Grimslid Memorial Fund for Northside Elementary

In memory of Gale Grimslid

Jeffrey and Christina Axness
 Michelle Burnett Juehring
 Nancy Dull
 Fred and Susan Heuer
 Attorney Jim and Debbie Kroner
 Evelyn Miller
 David R. Morrison, CPA
 Dennis and Cynthia Schaper
 Kay Taylor
 Larry and Sandy Tran

Sandra and Richard McCormick Citizen Diplomacy Fund

In memory of Richard "Dick" McCormick

Gerald and Ruth Berns
 Renee and Paul Bogie
 Michael Bonello and Deborah Lutjen
 David and Carlynn Clements
 James and Cheryl Jawort
 Barbara Johnson
 Sandy McCormick
 Richard and Julaine McGarry
 Richard Mikat, Ph.D. and Annette Mikat
 Daniel Reckase and Mary Mundt Reckase
 Brad and Lynn Sturm
 Jeffery and Deborah Tesch
 David Vehrenkamp
 William and Mary Beth Wheeler
 Joyce Wichelt
 Luke and Megan Zurbriggen

Scott Henke Memorial Fund for the Care and Shelter of Animals

In memory of Lila Seager

Paul Henke

Veterans Freedom Park Improvement Fund

In memory of Barbara Graw

Mary Ann Campney
 John Gomez
 Terrance and Bette Noble
 Dolly Ozburn
 Dr. Robert Spencer

In honor of Otto Werner and Cyril Murphy

Shawn and Mary Jo Werner





CAROL TABEL

FOREVER FRIENDS AWARD RECIPIENT 2025

La Crosse Area Community Foundation honors educator and community champion

La Crosse Area Community Foundation honored Carol Taebel, a beloved educator, volunteer, and lifelong advocate for community and compassion, as its 2025 Forever Friends Award recipient.

A retired elementary teacher and active volunteer, Taebel has quietly and consistently shaped the community through a lifetime of giving — of her time, resources, and empathy. From serving on boards of directors for the Riverfront Foundation and Center (now Aptiv) and the Coulee Region Humane Society to initiating Thank a Teacher Day through LACF, Carol Taebel has become synonymous with care and commitment.

“For me, giving means way more than the getting,” said Taebel. “Making the money was never as meaningful as giving it away. Once we had enough that we could give it away, it just felt right.”

Championing causes that build a stronger community

Throughout her life, Taebel has embraced causes that align with her values: education, equity, animal welfare, and inclusion. In addition to supporting CRHS and Aptiv, she has been a decades-long member of AAUW, an active member of English Lutheran Church, and a dedicated member of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), which champions women’s educational advancement.

After losing her husband, Dr. Duane Taebel, who founded what is now Gundersen Health System’s gastroenterology program, Taebel turned her grief into purpose. She began working with then-LACF Executive Director Sheila Garrity to establish charitable funds to honor his memory and advance causes they both held dear.

“Everything I’ve been part of has tied back to medicine, teaching, or simply following my heart,” she said.

One of those was “Thank a Teacher Day,” a simple gesture that delivers fruit, a donut, and coffee to local educators. “It’s a simple way to let them know they’re special. And now my goal is to get

that message down to the kids — to help them celebrate and appreciate their teachers, too.”

Establishing charitable funds to support local needs

In total, Taebel has established three charitable funds at the foundation. One supports five organizations close to her heart: English Lutheran Church, Gundersen (now Emplify) Health System, the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, Aptiv, and Coulee Region Humane Society. Another is a discretionary fund that the foundation can use where it’s most needed. “They know what the needs are,” she smiled. “I let them decide.”

While best known now as a civic leader and donor, Taebel’s community involvement has also included serving as Oktoberfest royalty. She served as Mrs. Oktoberfest in 1986 and, in 1990, joined the royal family again as Frau when her husband was named Festmaster. “Oktoberfest is a family,” she said. “And that’s something you are part of for life.”

A humble spirit with a lasting impact

Yet for all she’s done, Taebel remains unassuming. “I’m never in it for the awards,” she said. “But when you step back and see the cumulative effort of everyone together, it’s amazing. It takes a village.”

Taebel is quick to point out that giving isn’t about wealth. “Anything I did, anybody could do,” she said. “We had no money when we started out. But when it comes, it feels good to share. I want to give it away; I don’t need it.”

Reflecting on her life in La Crosse, more than 55 years now, Taebel sums it up with characteristic warmth. “There’s something for everyone here. It’s a place people are proud to live in and raise their children. And the connections we make, even with people or groups that have nothing to do with our own experience — that’s what makes a community strong.”

It’s those connections that define the spirit of the Forever Friends Award. And this year, they all lead to Carol Taebel, a woman whose life is a quiet, continuing testament to the village she helped build.

The Forever Society honors individuals and families who demonstrate a lasting commitment to the community and the causes they care about by establishing endowed, forever funds at La Crosse Area Community Foundation through their will or estate plans. These legacy gifts create permanent support for the charitable priorities closest to your heart, while helping you and your loved ones make the most of your assets today and in the future.

We invite anyone who wishes to leave a lasting legacy to consider this meaningful opportunity to carry out their philanthropic vision — forever. The Forever Society is open to donors who include a gift of any size in their estate plans. Members are welcomed into special engagement opportunities and recognized throughout the year in celebration of their enduring generosity and foresight.

CONTACT LA CROSSE AREA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT CREATING YOUR
LEGACY. FOR GOOD. FOREVER.



Photo credit: The Studio

FOREVER SOCIETY MEMBERS

MEMBERS:

Anonymous (1)
Mario* and Fe Abellera
Francie Ball and Mary O'Sullivan
David W. Bange
Tom and Carol* Bramschreiber
Tom* and Jan Brock
Bill and Becky Byron
Sandra K. Castek
Bob and Sue Christopherson
John and Ardu Cleveland
Brian Connell
Michael and Carmen DeYoe
Wanda DuCharme, M.D.,
and Edgar Storey
John Edwards and Fran Lee-Edwards
Tom Walter and Jenny Ehke-Walter
Michelle and Andrew Elliott, MD.
Dr. Van Elston and Mary Elston
Dr. Joseph Endrizzi and Tracy Endrizzi
Dave and Barb Erickson
Donald* and Barb Frank
Bruce and Barbara Friell
Anita J. Froegel
Edwin Hill and Nancy Fulkerson Hill
Gordon Gade
Clara Gelatt and Neal Meier
Richard and Barbara* Graw
Holly J. Grimslid D.D.S.
Rev. Ronald and Merle Gustafson
Robert Hanson
Mary L Heider
Joyce A. Heil
Andy and Geri Hengst
Paul and Ann* Henke
Dan Herman and Mary Monsoor
Julie Keitel
Tom and Trudy Kennedy
Attorney Maureen Kinney
Sue Knopf and James Rothwell*
George and Betty Kruck
Jay Lokken and Ken Riley
Duane Lom and Rhonda Akeson
Warren and Denise Loveland
John Magerus, Ph.D. and
Everett McKinney
Dr. Todd Mahr and Deb Mahr
Curtis and Stacey McIlquham
Nancy Medinger and Pete Eversold
Susan Miller
David R. Morrison, CPA
Rebecca and Attorney Jim Naugler
Clarence* and Karen Netwal
Don and Deon Nontelle
Bob and Janet Ollech
Thomas Pribek
Dennis W. and Joy* Priebe
Ron and Jane Rada
Leah A. Reimann
Brian and Karen Rude
Allen* and Julia Saterbak
Jamie and Joe Schloegel
Susan Schmidt
Jack* and Marti Schwem
Jeri Sebo
Dianne Seyler
Attorney Tom and Judy Sleik
Shirley M. Smith
Samuel* and Charlet S. Sperbeck
Bruce and Judy Stumlin
Jon Stuttgen
Robin and Stephanie Swartz
Duane* and Carol Taebel
Steve and Suzanne Tanke
Andrea Van Sickle
Gary* and Mary Veldy
Fred* and Deb Wakeen
Dr. Stephen Webster and Katie Webster
David and Sandra* Whiteley
Michael and Peggy Wickenkamp
Dick and Sheila Wieser
Wayne and Joan* Wojciechowski
Richard* and Rita Wolfe

REALIZED:

Ella F. Ambrosius (1975)
Jean Bassett (2020)
Mary Jane Bice (1984)
John R Bolstad (2025)
Dr. Archie Britt and
Rosemary Britt (2016)
Elisabeth Swannel Bruder (1997)
Elmer J. Buchholz (1967)
Ronald and Valerie Burman (2023)
Lenna S Campbell (2021)
Nellie L. Case (1968)
Lois M. Craig (2023)
Lorraine Dahl (2001)
Ruth M. Dalton M.D. (2011)
Philip S. Davy (1993)
Dr. Paul L. Felion MD. (2024)
Robert and Elanor Franke (2018)
Henry and Ellen Funk (2022)
Amanda Ginsky (1994)
Leona J Goetzinger (1999)
Donald "Sandy" Gordon (1998)
Alice O. Gordon (1942)
Gertrude Salzer Gordon (1997)
Robert "Larry" Gorman (1992)
Angeline H. Haag (2022)
Dorinda Hawk (2018)
Josephine Hintgen (1982)
Bertha Hoch (2025)
Harold Isenman (1981)
Pauline M. Jackson M.D. (2017)
Sophie Johnston (1999)
Bernard Kriesel (2023)
Harold E. Lemke (1991)
Beverly J. Mach (2019)
Bob and Jean Marck (2013)
Dora D. Marshall (1965)
Rita McGaughey (2011)
Lillian McGaughren (1995)
Dr. David L. Morris and
Sacia B. Morris (2022)
Edgar L. Mundstock (1982)
Adelbert T. Muth (1950)
David E. Nudd (2003)
Gerald and Barbara Ostreng (2022)
Norma and William Panka (2021)
Nicoletta Pappas (2010)
Cora Pierce (1952)
Bernard and Mary Prale (2018)
Susan M. Quillin (2023)
Louis I. Rehfuss (1971)
Lenna S Campbell (2021)
Connie Repnik (2006)
Louis Robinson, Sr. (1979)
Walter T. Roth (1989)
Donald Schwert (1994)
John and Ruth Sherman (2011)
Mary Grace Sieber (2006)
Louise Smith (1970)
Jacquie M Favreau Kennedy (2019)
Bruce Staples (2004)
Vera Strauss (1989)
William P. Vafeas, Ph.D. (2011)
Vivian Veum (1995)
Cindy Vieth (2025)
Chester and Betty Ware (1995)
Carolyn Weidman (1972)
Harold Weisse (1991)
Harry L. and Charlotte L. Wood (1997)
Corrine Zielke (2000)
Payton Zietlow (2021)

*Deceased



HONORING THE FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY

La Crosse Area Community Foundation's board of directors is fiduciarily responsible for the oversight and management of the assets entrusted to us by fundholders. The board's finance and investment committee include members with finance, business, and investment expertise who use their extensive and diverse experiences to provide ongoing guidance, monitoring, and oversight. The committee actively monitors the investment performance of all investment pools against their stated investment objections, asset allocation targets, and diversification and risk tolerance strategies. Trust Point manages our investment portfolio and works with the finance and investment committee to continually review and update our investment policy and ensure responsiveness to current capital market conditions and the foundation's needs. Information regarding the portfolio's performance is available upon request.

Auditors: Hawkins Ash CPAs

Trustee and Investment Manager: Trust Point

HAWKINS | ASH
CPAs

TRUSTPOINT

Statement of Financial Position

(Audited)

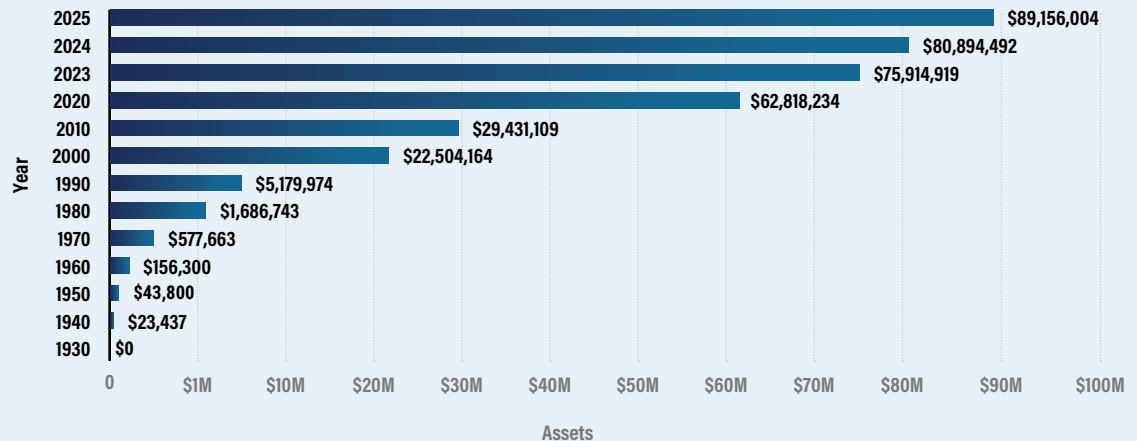
Assets	2025	2024
Checking and Money Market	\$2,301,140	\$1,857,231
Investments	\$81,022,965	\$74,082,106
Pledges Receivable - Funds	\$37,581	\$28,000
Social Impact Investment Assets	\$518,546	\$0
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	\$4,773,985	\$4,405,275
Other Assets	\$501,787	\$521,880
Total Assets	\$89,156,004	\$80,894,492
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$28,242	\$3,925
Funds Held for Agencies and Affiliates	\$6,420,230	\$5,804,136
Outstanding Grant Commitments	\$613,000	\$629,000
Other Liabilities	\$498,022	\$517,954
Total Liabilities	\$7,559,494	\$6,955,015
Beginning Balance of Net Assets	\$73,939,477	\$70,543,297
Change in Net Assets	7,657,033	\$3,396,180
Total Net Assets	\$81,596,510	\$73,939,477
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$89,156,004	\$80,894,492

Statement of Financial Activity

(Audited)

Support and Other Revenue	2025	2024
Contributions and Bequests	\$3,347,654	\$2,836,177
Less Contributions from Agencies	(\$48,553)	(\$95,193)
Net Investment Return	\$10,050,010	\$6,592,935
Change in Perpetual Trusts	\$368,711	\$158,850
Other Income	\$213,813	\$120,133
Total Support and Revenue	\$13,931,635	\$9,612,902
Expenses		
Grants and Scholarships	\$5,435,487	\$5,346,496
Less Grants for Agencies	(\$278,600)	(\$177,300)
Program-Related Expenses	\$763,497	\$671,492
Management and General	\$259,764	\$241,455
Development/Fundraising	\$94,454	\$134,579
Total Expenses	\$6,274,602	\$6,216,722
Change in Net Assets	\$7,657,033	\$3,396,180

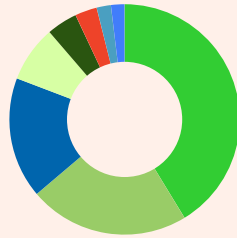
Total Assets by Year



INVESTMENT RETURNS

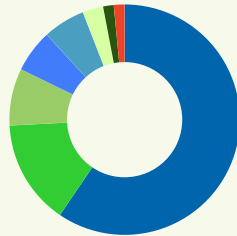
Long-Term Growth Pool

Objective	Achieve growth and capital appreciation over a long-term investment horizon primarily through a diversified portfolio of publicly traded securities.
2025 Annual Return	15.2%
3-year return (annualized)	12.8%
5-year return (annualized)	6.8%
Risk Profile	High
Portfolio Allocation Target	75% Equity, 25% Fixed Income
Grantmaking Timeline	Annual grants in perpetuity



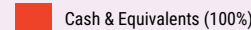
Intermediate Impact Pool

Objective	Achieve moderate growth balanced with capital preservation over a short to medium term primarily through a diversified portfolio of fixed income with some equity exposure.
2025 Annual Return	10.8%
3-year return (annualized)	7.6%
5-year return (annualized)	N/A (Pool est. 2022)
Risk Profile	Moderate
Portfolio Allocation Target	25% Equity, 75% Fixed Income
Grantmaking Timeline	Typically 2 years to 25 years



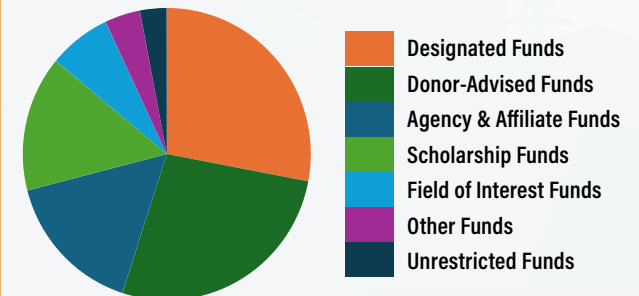
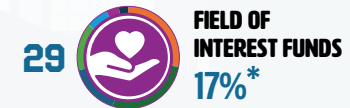
Short-Term Money Market Pool

Objective	Preserve principal over a short term through money market and cash instruments.
2025 Annual Return	4.2%
3-year return (annualized)	4.8%
5-year return (annualized)	3.2%
Risk Profile	Low
Portfolio Allocation Target	100% Cash equivalent
Grantmaking Timeline	Typically 0 to 2 years



BUILDING PHILANTHROPY

TYPES OF FUNDS – 402 FUNDS TOTAL IN 2025



*percent of assets by fund type



601 7th St N, Suite 203
La Crosse, WI 54601

BUILDING BRIDGES THAT LAST

Great communities aren't built overnight — they are built connection by connection.

This year, we celebrate the power of building bridges: between generations and neighborhoods, between donors and causes, between ideas and action. At La Crosse Area Community Foundation, we know these connections form the foundation of a thriving, resilient community.

Bridges create access. They foster trust. They make room for new voices and shared solutions. When we build them with care, we create something stronger — a future shaped by the collective efforts of everyone who calls this place home.

For 95 years, La Crosse Area Community Foundation has invested in our community to make a lasting and meaningful impact. What began with the vision of our founders has grown into a dynamic and enduring force for good. Today, we continue their legacy by building a better future — one rooted in inclusion, acceptance, and the shared belief that we are stronger together.

LACF fosters a culture of generosity and is a trusted philanthropic partner across the region. We convene, strategize, and collaborate with community leaders, creating connections that strengthen our work and deepen our impact. Together, we address our community's most pressing needs, pursue sustainable solutions, and work to tackle the root causes of long-standing challenges. In all we do, we seek to build relationships that help people connect meaningfully and grow social capital.

We applaud and appreciate you — our dedicated donors, fundholders, collaborative partners, and engaged community members. Because of you, the bridges continue to rise, and together we are building a flourishing community.

2025 AT A GLANCE

- Proudly serving La Crosse County for 95 years
- 1,272 Grants & Scholarships Awarded
- 14 New Funds Opened
- 402 Funds Total
- \$5,435,487 Awarded in Grants & Scholarships
- \$3,347,654 Donated to LACF
- \$89,156,004 Total Assets



**LA CROSSE AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

lacrosseareafoundation.org