

JULY 2017

Foundation Times

NEWSLETTER



Greater
Menomonee Falls
FOUNDATION

The Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation transforms donor's dreams and desires into reality by providing an effective means for investing in their community, meeting needs now and in the future.

Much To Applaud at Ovation

At Ovation on May 9th, GMFF applauded longtime community volunteers



Marian and Ray Etzel (front middle) and their family at Ovation

Lifetime Achievement: Ray and Marian Etzel

The Etzel's daughter, Diane Harley shared, "From little on, my parents were always role models in giving back to the community." For years, the Etzels have been actively volunteering for many groups: St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Ben's monthly Meal Program, Menomonee Falls Food Pantry, Menomonee Falls Historical Society, and the American Legion. Through the Knights of Columbus, Ray organized the Memorial Day Parade for many years and still assists in the planning. Marian volunteers at Community Memorial Hospital and reads with fourth graders at

Ben Franklin Elementary School. They both are always helping in many ways - grocery shopping, errands, meals, visits, and whatever needs to be done to help community members.

The Unsung Heros: Bob and Diane Cowan

Bob and Diane Cowan have volunteered countless hours at the Menomonee Falls Historical Society, always willing to work toward the betterment of Old Falls Village. Every week Bob works on whatever project that needs his attention, while Diane helps plan and design the gardens.

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2017 AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Recipients have outstanding leadership qualities and must have contributed to the benefit and betterment of Menomonee Falls and its citizens with a long-term community impact.

The Unsung Hero Award:

Awarded to inspirational role models who have contributed significantly to other's quality of life through caring actions.

The Shining Star Award:

A person or members of a local group who have dedicated their time and talent and made a generous commitment to that organization, which makes a significant impact on our community.

Know someone deserving of an award? Help us find the quiet leaders who deserve recognition. Go to fallsfoundation.org and visit our awards page to download a nomination form.

Grant for CCC Will Help Save Lives

The need for this grant stemmed from a personal story of CCC staff scheduler, Dana Bilello. On April 14th 2016, Dana's twelve year old daughter Kylie suffered a sudden cardiac arrest in the CCC parking lot. Dana was among the first to respond and immediately started CPR. Kylie was rushed to Children's Hospital and had open heart surgery. One year later after treatment and therapy, Kylie is back in school and doing fabulously, all thanks to a quick response that saved her life.

Since then, the center reviewed its plans to increase safety. The CCC wrote its grant application for buying a second automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable device that checks the heart's rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. Quick access to an AED from anywhere in the center is just one criteria of the Project ADAM - Wisconsin Heart Safe School designation, a certification that the CCC will soon attain.



Dana Bilello and Nancy Larson

This is only one story of the amazing things that non-profits are doing with the grant dollars that GMFF awards. We'll continue to share stories of grant recipients to inform you of how your donations help benefit the Menomonee Falls area.

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Sue Jeskewitz, who presented the award shared, "People like Bob and Diane and the rest of the historical society membership work tirelessly to keep Menomonee Falls history alive. Thank you to all of the caring and generous people who recognize that they need to preserve our past and are willing to give of their time and commitment to make it happen."



Diane & Bob Cowan

The Shining Stars: Phyllis Waters, Diane Becker, and Patsy Baer

The founders of the Children's Community Center (CCC) have developed a school that is inclusive of all children regardless of ability. It all started fifty-five years ago when Patsy and Phyllis first met. Diane joined them in 1973, as the laws of the state changed to allow for the public education of all children with special needs from age 3 – 21. At that time, they agreed to start a new agency, which after much dedication, time and effort over two years formed the CCC as a non-profit organization. Today the CCC is a special place in the Falls. Waiting lists are long. Expectant families are on those lists long before their children are born.



Children's Community Center Founders



\$25,000 in Grants Awarded

In 2017 fifteen organizations received \$25,000 in grants. Angela Rester, GMFF board member, shared that there is a defined process and criteria in place to determine the non-profit organization’s need and number affected in the Menomonee Falls area. “Each organization is ranked and reviewed one versus the other,” Rester explained. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- Accompany of Kids \$1250
- Addiction Resource Council \$2000
- Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh) \$1000
- Children’s Community Center..... \$1900
- Community Chamber Foundation – Leadership Menomonee Falls.....\$850
- Community Memorial Foundation \$2000
- Cops and Kids Foundation.....\$500
- HOPE Network..... \$1000
- Menomonee Falls Historical Society \$1500
- Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch \$2000
- MFHS – Capital Improvement Campaign..... \$2500
- NAMI Waukesha..... \$2500
- The Kindling \$2000
- Wildlife in Need Center \$1500

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kevin Wolf – Chairperson
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- Richard Hartman
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- Mr. Ken Frakes
- Ms. Dianne Johnson
- Ms. Karen Nelson
- Mr. Llewellyn Tietz

Meet Board Member Todd Jex

A hardworking, creative, and dedicated leader, Todd Jex has brought his legal background and prior non-profit board experience to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation Board for the past year. He serves on the governance and donor development committees.

Todd works as an attorney at Crivello Carlson, S.C., focusing his practice on civil litigation in the areas of construction, real estate, and business law.

Outside of work, Todd generously donates his time as part of the Germantown Kiwanis and as a board member for the Germantown Community Scholarship Fund. Previously he volunteered for five years with the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry as a board member and president.

When asked why he chose to become a GMFF Board Member, he explains, “I am very interested in helping the community, and I think GMFF is a great way to do that, primarily because of the grants it provides to a broader range of groups instead of a limited scope of just one non-profit.” In the future, he hopes GMFF continues to grow to provide the community with grants that make a significant impact.

He and his wife Erin and their two daughters have called Germantown home for the past 12 years. In his free time, he enjoys playing hockey, fishing and bird hunting.



TODD JEX

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

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Join our Founders Society by making a total contribution of \$10,000 within a 3-year period.