



A newsletter of the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

FoundationTimes

APRIL 2021

It's About Gratitude, Generosity, and Stewardship:

WHY THE POLLARDS JOINED THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Gratitude, generosity, and stewardship are the three main pillars that inspired Dennis and Kathy Pollard to join the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation Founders Society.

They feel a sense of gratitude to Menomonee Falls. Both Kathy and Dennis grew up here and have enjoyed an excellent quality of life in such a safe, caring community with many amenities. The Falls has been and continues to be their home. Dennis and his family reflected on celebrating fifty Christmases in his childhood home in which he and Kathy now reside.

Dennis explains, "We feel that Menomonee Falls has embraced us with great care and support throughout our lives. It's a great place to call home."

Generosity relates to their desire to give back to a community that has supported them and their family personally and professionally. They grew up and raised their four children in Menomonee Falls and recognize that previous generations paved the way for building such a welcoming community. Today, five of their eight grandchildren live here, which only increases their desire to give something back to benefit future Falls generations.

Professionally, in 1990, Dennis started working at Community Memorial Hospital, now Froedtert Menomonee Falls, and Kathy taught pre-school locally. In their careers, they felt well-supported,



something that Dennis has reflected on upon his recent retirement. They recognize the many blessings they have and have responded to the call to give back through the GMFF.

Finally, stewardship means that we are responsible for taking care of our community, making investments out of love for one's neighbor. The Pollards recognized the GMFF as an easy and comprehensive way to give back to support numerous community needs. They consider GMFF Founders and board members role models who have exhibited generosity and great love for the community through their active involvement. Dennis and Kathy trust the board to manage the endowment to award grant funds in areas of need while maintaining efficient, cost-effective foundation operations.

In the spirit of gratitude, generosity, and stewardship, the Pollards hope to inspire others to consider local philanthropy as well.

Charitable
Giving.
Lasting
Legacy.

*Ensure grant
funding for
Menomonee Falls
non-profits for
years to come.*

2021 Grants Will Impact the Entire Village

Ongoing donations to our endowment help the GMFF award grants year after year. In the past seven years, the GMFF has awarded over \$150,000 in grants. It is truly charitable giving that leaves a lasting legacy in our community.

In 2021, ten organizations received \$16,515 in grants from the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.



Participants in LIVESTRONG®, a physical activity and well-being program, pose with YMCA instructors and staff.

GRANTS SUPPORTING ADULTS

Several organizations received grants that support programs for adults. [The Women's Center](#) supports Menomonee Falls area survivors of domestic and sexual violence through its emergency shelter program.

The [Tri-County YMCA](#) Livestrong is a 12-week program for adult cancer survivors to improve functional capacity and increase their quality of life through personalized physical, strength, and social activities.

Another grant supports a [Community League](#) project that provides local families in need with clothing, blankets, and grocery store gift cards.

GRANTS SUPPORTING YOUTH

Children of Menomonee Falls will enjoy arts and crafts at the [Menomonee Falls Public Library](#) through the purchase of a new die-cut machine and accessories with grant funding.

[Association for the Rights of Citizens with Handicaps](#) (ARCh) will engage Campers at Camp Pow Wow with enhanced virtual programming this summer, a safer way to engage campers due to the pandemic.

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Support Many Causes with 5 Different Ways to Give

The Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation knows that every donor has very personal and unique charitable goals. Our mission statement: a platform to invest in meeting community needs now and in the future, references the many giving options we provide - no matter the size of the donation.

Here are five of the giving options that support building our endowment that is used for annual grant funding.

COMMUNITY FUND



Gifts of any amount are pooled together. The Foundation's Board of Directors may use this fund to respond to grant requests from local organizations for specific community needs.

BUILD-A-FUND



A donor may start a fund with an initial contribution of \$1,000 or more, and then continue to make contributions annually. When the fund reaches a predetermined value, it converts into a grant-making fund within the Foundation.

Meet Board Member Jo Ellen Mulder

When the Foundation was established in 1991, Jo Ellen was tapped to be a member of its first Board of Directors. After a hiatus of twenty years, she returned to service in 2014 and currently chairs the marketing committee. Her long career with the Village, beginning at the public library, and ending as Assistant Village Manager encompassed responsibilities for community relations, economic development and general administrative activities.

She attributes her volunteer involvement in civic affairs to joining Jr. Woman's Club when she first arrived in the Village with her husband and two toddlers in 1963.

"It was a time of surging growth, a time when many young families like ours were making Menomonee Falls their home. Most women were fulltime wives and mothers. They stepped forward to volunteer their skills and talents to develop and enhance the resources and amenities that are essential to the general welfare of a thriving community. Working through organizations, schools, churches and politically, they planted the seeds for much of what makes our community so livable today." Honored as Citizen of the Year in 1988 for her leadership and service to the community, she is described by others as congenial, empathetic,

forward thinking, and a consensus builder. She brings those qualities to the work of the Foundation, along with an historical perspective on its origins and purpose – to build a permanent endowment fund for the benefit of the Menomonee Falls area.



As per Jo Ellen, "Through the generosity of individuals, families and businesses, the endowment has grown. Today interest income from the invested funds enables the Foundation to make annual grants to local non-profits who are meeting current community needs. My hope is that as we educate more people about the value of our community foundation and the many giving options available to donors, that the endowment will continue to increase. Every dollar makes a difference, and every donor, large or small, is contributing to the overall welfare of the place we call home."

FOUNDERS SOCIETY



A Founder is a donor who makes a contribution of \$10,000 or more towards building the Foundation. Donors to this fund may make their contributions

over a three-year period. Founders will be recognized in promotional materials.

UNRESTRICTED NAMED FUND



Starts with a gift of \$25,000 or more, free of restrictions. The Foundation's Board of Directors is permitted to award grants in response to any community

needs it deems worthy of support. The donor is recognized when a grant is awarded.

LEGACY SOCIETY



Upon receipt of your promise to include the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation in your future lifetime gifts or estate plan (will, trust, IRA beneficiary designation,

charitable trust, etc.) a gift of \$25,000 or more, you will be inducted into the GMFF Legacy Society.

Learn more about fund options at

www.fallsfoundation.org/funds or call

Randy Newman, Board Chair at 262-255-0183 for a private conference.

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



Greater Menomonee Falls FOUNDATION

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Grant dollars also support area athletes who are part of [Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association \(WASA\)](#). Funding helps offset the cost of a wheelchair and replacement tubes that are needed for competition.

Lastly, grant funding helps students in the youth apprenticeship program run by [GPS Education Partners](#) at Bradley Corporation Education Center.

GRANTS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

[The Waukesha County Conservancy Project](#) will fund a Menomonee Falls Adopt a Preserve project, increasing the natural beauty of our parks.

Grant funding will also support [Falls Patio Players](#) as they upgrade their sound quality through wireless microphone replacements.



America Farms, dba The Promised Land Ranch & Preserve, is renovating the 80-acre property formerly owned by The Ranch on Maple Road in Menomonee Falls.

The entire Village will benefit from the work of [America Farms, Inc.](#) as they will engage people of all abilities in local, organic farming. Look for their produce at the farmers market this summer!



Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

A platform to invest in meeting community needs now and in the future. fallsfoundation.org