



A newsletter of the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

# FoundationTimes

SPRING | 2025

## Founders Society Spotlight

The Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation was excited to add several members of the Founders Society in the last year. In this edition of the Foundation Times, we will introduce those new members.

### DON AND MELODY HUENEFELD

#### TIME TO GIVE BACK

Having been a board member of the Greater Menomonee Falls Committee, the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation Board, and more recently, a member of the GMFF marketing committee, Donald Huenefeld just thought it was time to put some of his money where his mouth is.

When Donald began teaching music in Menomonee Falls in the late 60's he was immediately impressed by all of the volunteer work that was going on to continue improving life in the village. While the longtime village volunteers are still very active, the next generation of volunteers are needed across the village.

It has been his experience that once you are appointed to a non-profit board position you continue to be appointed to others. Don's involvement includes: secretary of a lake district, Milwaukee Art Museum West Board, MATC Music Occupations Advisory Board, Waukesha Area Symphonic Band Board, Chairman of the Woody Herman High School Jazz Scholarship, and member of the Menomonee Falls High School Wall of Recognition Committee.

To capture their feelings around giving back, they shared their favorite quote from Harry S. Truman: "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

#### ABOUT THE HUENEFELDS

Donald's wife Melody began working shortly after turning 16 in food services at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee. While it was not glamorous, it paid for her tuition and allowed her to graduate from UWM with a nursing degree. As a nurse, she moved up



*Donald and Melody Huenefeld pose with their beloved Irish Wolfhound, Fergus.*

through nurse director positions. Melody retired as Vice President of Information Technologies for the Wheaton Franciscan Health System. Melody was an avid equestrian, jumping horses for over forty years. She enjoys the outdoors, sailing, gardens, and the Northwoods.

Donald was the Menomonee Falls High School Band Director for 34 years and later the K-12 Music Coordinator for the Menomonee Falls Public Schools. He too enjoys the Northwoods, sailing, music, and working on their 100-plus-year-old log cabin.

Fergus, their fifth Irish Wolfhound, like all the others, has assumed an important role in their household routine. Usually weighing close to two hundred pounds, these friendly gentle dogs are hard to ignore. Since Irish Wolfhounds only live about seven years, Donald and Melody do not hesitate to spoil them.

Charitable  
Giving.  
Lasting  
Legacy.

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

FOUNDERS, from cover

## CATHY AND JIM HAZZARD

### SUPPORT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

"When you're at a point in your life when you can start gifting, you support what's important to you and your family. The Menomonee Falls community fits that criteria," shared Cathy Hazzard.

She and Jim recently shared their reasons for joining the Greater Menomonee Falls Founders Society.

They are attracted to supporting causes that address health, welfare, and caring for others around us. By contributing to the GMFF, the Hazzards could reach multiple organizations with funding needs they may have never been aware of. They know and trust the GMFF board to be good stewards of the endowment fund and support many groups with grant funding. The Hazzards were grateful for the GMFF's investments in the redevelopment of Village Park and revitalization of the Farmers Market. As an Optimist Club member, Cathy was part of the Discover Village Park Campaign

"The Village Park is in the heart of our community," added Cathy. "You have to invest in it."

Jim and Cathy recommend discussing gifting plans as a family and taking a long-term view. They utilized their required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA to make a qualified charitable contribution (QCD) to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.



Cathy and Jim Hazzard pictured with their grandson, Connor at Village Park.

### DEDICATED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Longtime residents, Jim and Cathy have been actively involved in many facets of the Village. Jim was a banker in Menomonee Falls for most of his career, while Cathy owned Classic Travel for twenty-one years. He has served on boards for the YMCA, Froedtert Menomonee Falls Foundation, and Falls Food Pantry. Jim was president of the hospital foundation. In 2023, they were chairpersons of Spring Splendor for its thirtieth anniversary. In addition, Jim and Cathy served terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce. Cathy led the Community Development Authority (CDA) for twenty-five years. She was part of starting the Menomonee Falls Scholarship Foundation in 1989 and has memorial scholarships for her parents. Without a doubt, the Hazzards make a lasting impact on Menomonee Falls through service and philanthropy.



## ERIC AND ANGIE NELSON

### THE GMFF MAKES A POSITIVE IMPACT

*Eric and Angie Nelson shared the following about their reasons for becoming founders.*

"As residents of Menomonee Falls for nearly four decades, we know we live in a great community full of people working to improve the lives of others. Through our engagement with the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation, we were able to see firsthand the positive impact that the GMFF has.

In addition to annually making dozens of grants to local non-profits, the GMFF was a driving force in sustaining the Farmers Market and a significant contributor to the new Village Park.

It also hosts an annual celebration, called Ovation, that recognizes individuals who dedicate their lives to making our community special.

The GMFF provides a unique ability for community members to contribute to the great work that they do, and becoming a member of the Founders Society enabled us to be a part of that."

*Eric, Angie, and Ben Nelson celebrate Ben's high school graduation.*



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Nicole Davis

The GMFF welcomed Nicole Davis (née Neu) as a new board member in 2024.

Nicole grew up in the Germantown/Menomonee Falls area and was involved in many activities: ballet, gymnastics, MYSO, and helping with little things around the family business (Neu's Hardware). After several years working for a non-profit in Oakbrook, IL, she returned to Menomonee Falls to work for Neu's. She began serving her community through the Leadership Menomonee Falls Program.

In the fall of 2008, she joined her husband in the Napa Valley, where she spent nearly eight years working in the Wine & Hospitality Industry. After that, Nicole and her husband moved back to the area to reintegrate into the Neu's family business. While they reside in the Town of Erin with their dog, both spend many working hours in Menomonee Falls. Currently, Nicole works as a Vice President for Neu's, as part of the third-generation leadership team. She is also the Property Manager for River Court, Inc. (the real estate side of the business), assuming the role from her father, Harvey Neu, who recently retired. Recently, she opened a home and



*Nicole and her husband Dan during their visit to Scotland.*

garden boutique called *etc. by Neu's*, located inside of Neu's Hardware Gallery.

When asked why she joined the board, Nicole shared, "My Dad and Grandpa have been quintessential examples of servant leadership, both in the workplace and the community. Every person on the GMFF board shares those values. The reason I joined is twofold: to give back to the community that has supported our business for 80 years, and to be mentored by other servant leaders."

Welcome to the GMFF Board of Directors, Nicole! Thank you for being willing to serve!

## About the Qualified Charitable Distribution

### INFORMATION FROM IRS. GOV

Did you know that individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year?

These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity. For those who are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization, including the GMFF. Consult your financial advisor for more information.

QCDs must be made directly by the trustee of the IRA to the charity. An IRA distribution, such as an electronic payment made directly to the IRA owner, does not count as a QCD. Likewise, a check made payable to the IRA owner is not a QCD.

Each year, an IRA owner age 70½ or over when the distribution is made can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 of these QCDs. For a married couple, if both spouses are age 70½ or over when the distributions are made and both have IRAs, each spouse can exclude up to \$100,000 for a total of up to \$200,000 per year.

## Board of Directors

Dennis Pollard, Chair  
Nicole Davis, Vice Chair  
Jodi Bowe  
Sue Carney  
Terry Fitzsimmons  
Heidi Hornung  
Sue Jeskewitz  
Rick Kohl  
Robin Manke  
Sharon Manone  
Mary Jo McGraw  
Jo Ellen Mulder  
Randy Newman  
Molly Paulus  
Daniel Schwind  
John Yusko

## Founders Society

Richard and Jayne Becker  
Ralph Bronner  
Ken Frakes  
Jim and Cathy Hazzard  
Donald and Melody Huenefeld  
Dianne Johnson  
John and Marie Leekley, Jr.  
Joseph and Sharon Manone  
Steve and Mary Marshall  
Eric and Angie Nelson  
Randy and Danielle Newman  
Dennis and Kathy Pollard  
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts  
Don and Lolita Schneiders  
Jeff and Monica Schultz  
Dr. Robert and Sally Schwarz  
Llew and Alice Tietz  
Paul and Meg Wickesberg  
Bob and Pat Wille

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

DONATE  
TODAY!



Greater Menomonee Falls  
**FOUNDATION**

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**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

Join us as we honor award recipients who have volunteered  
countless hours to the community and highlight grants  
to area non-profits.

For more information contact Molly Paulus at  
414-719-0058 or email [info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org).  
Look for your invitation coming at the end of summer.

# Ovation

APPLAUDING CIVIC LEADERS AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS  
THAT KEEP THE MENOMONEE FALLS AREA  
STRONG AND VIBRANT.

**Thursday,  
September 25  
2025**

