

JUNE 2019

Foundation Times

NEWSLETTER



Greater
Menomonee Falls
FOUNDATION

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

Annual Grants Make a Big Impact

On going donations to our endowment help the GMFF award grants year after year. In the past five years alone, the GMFF has awarded over \$110,000 in grants. It is truly charitable giving that leaves a lasting legacy in our community.

This year fifteen organizations received \$24,400 in grants from the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.

Grants Supporting Youth

Accompany of Kids: \$2,000 for new hand-held wireless microphones.

Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh): \$1,000 for an adapted shower chair for campers who use wheelchairs.

Children's Community Center: \$3,000 to provide 3 new natural playgrounds for different age groups.

GPS Education Partners: \$2,000 for the Bradley Corporation Education Center for at-risk high school students.

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin: \$2,000 for the Birth to Three early intervention services that help children with disabilities or developmental delays through home visits.

NAMI Waukesha: \$2,000 for Ending the Silence Mental Health Education Program at Menomonee Falls High School.



Sarah Pfeiffle of NAMI Waukesha with Becky Gaynor and Emily Diener of the Children's Community Center.

School District of Menomonee Falls: \$1,500 for the Impact 4 Life program at MFHS that simulates an auto accident.

Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic: \$1,000 for affordable dental care to low-income individuals in the area.

Grants Supporting Adults

ERAs Senior Network: \$2,000 for the Readers Cafe volunteer program held at five area schools.

HOPE Network: \$1,000 for supporting single mothers throughout their parenting journey with a variety of resources.

Leadership Menomonee Falls: \$900 for one scholarship to the leadership development program run by the Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Tri County YMCA: \$1,500 for LIVESTRONG, 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.



Kristy Richards, LIVESTRONG instructor with Aaron Miller, Tri County YMCA Executive Director.

Grants Supporting the Community

Crimestoppers: \$1,000 in tip reward money for the successful arrest of suspects of a crime.

Falls Patio Players: \$2,500 for wireless headsets to improve sound quality and overall viewing experience.

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch: \$1,000 for new signage and sponsorship of the MFPD's Retail Theft Investigators Group.

**Charitable Giving.
Lasting Legacy.**

Applauding Community Volunteers

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

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 an organization, which makes a significant impact on our community.

The Patriotism Award

Given to a member of our community who has dedicated service that exemplifies patriotism to our country. This person exhibits the respect and loyalty of this country's greatest treasure: freedom and upholds the belief in the ideals that shaped America. He/She professes the epitome of Americanism and continually promotes the standards of what it means to be an American.

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.



Four outstanding volunteers were recently honored by GMFF at its Ovation event. Awards were presented to Monica Schultz, Unsung Hero; Rick Rechlicz, Lifetime Achievement; Rosemary Otzelberger Held, accepting for Bob Otzelberger who was honored posthumously with the Patriotism Award; and Vikki Schmidt, Shining Star.

Lifetime Achievement: Rick Rechlicz

The GMFF board president, Sue Jeskewitz described Rick Rechlicz as a "silent icon" who has "dedicated much of his spare time to volunteerism."

His achievements include co-founding the Menomonee Falls Scholarship Foundation, serving on the board of directors and leading the telethon and scholarship house fundraisers.

Rechlicz also served in village government on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, and as Village President from 2005–2009. He currently serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals and is a member of the Optimists.

He describes his time in village government as "just a tremendous opportunity."

During his acceptance speech, Rechlicz recognized the many people who were involved with establishing and fundraising for the scholarship foundation. Humbly, he stated, "It really wasn't about me. These people did the work. I just had an idea."

Shining Star: Vikki Schmidt

Bob Cowan, a 2017 Shining Star recipient, nominated Vikki Schmidt and shared, "As I look out there, it's like the Who's Who of Menomonee Falls. How many thousands of hours have you all put in over the years? It's really something to be proud of."

Donate Today!

Ensure grant funding for Menomonee Falls non-profits for years to come— donate today to help build our endowment. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.fallsfoundation.org.

He went on to list many of Vikki's past and present volunteer activities, including the Children's Community Center, Community League, Menomonee Falls Historical Society, and even vision screenings at Menomonee Falls schools. She donates many of her handmade quilts, knit and crocheted items to the Ronald McDonald House and other charities for fundraisers.

In her acceptance speech, Vikki joked, "I love history, so it was a given that I would stay on the board (of the Menomonee Falls Historical Society)—forever." She thinks Menomonee Falls is a "fantastic community," and is "glad to be part of it."

Unsung Hero: Monica Schultz

Robin Manke, who nominated Monica for the recognition, started her introduction with, "Any community would be lucky to have a volunteer like Monica Schultz. She is a selfless philanthropist who is not afraid to help anyone in need."

Schultz is a board member and church volunteer coordinator for the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry, where she has volunteered for over twenty years. Schultz serves on the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Human Concerns Commission and prepares food for the Cathedral Center, St. Ben's meal program, and Repairers of the Breach. She also volunteers with Faith Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (FCAST) and LARCUM.

A hairdresser by trade, Monica created Barbers without Borders, a group of hairstylists who cut hair for the homeless at St. Ben's in Milwaukee.

Monica thanked her husband Jeff and daughter Ashley for their love and support. She said, "I feel humbled and appreciated for being recognized for my passion for volunteering."

Patriotism: Bob Otzelberger

John Meyer, Janet Hickle, and Jean Kanack, all family friends of Bob Otzelberger, shared his life story that spanned nearly a century in Menomonee Falls. GMFF board member, Robin Manke and



Bob Schmitt and Jean Kanack honored Bob's many achievements with the Otzelbergers.



Cindy and Harvey Neu of Neu's Hardware with Terri and Tim Newman. Tim was honored in 2018 with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Janet Hickle both told Bob that the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation would be honoring him with the Patriotism Award. He felt honored and humbled.

Sadly, he passed away four days shy of his ninety-eighth birthday, so he was honored posthumously.

In 1941 Otzelberger signed up to serve in the Navy, working as a torpedo-man on the U.S.S. Dentuda that patrolled the Pacific. After completing his service, he returned to Menomonee Falls, joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and becoming a founding member of AMVETS for WWII veterans in 1947. This group created the WWII Memorial that stands today in Village Park.

Bob and his wife Cora Mae were also part of the Kiwanis Club, Menomonee Falls Historical Society, and the Eirenicon Club. Cora Mae led the drive to build a senior center, and Bob was her right-hand man.

Otzelberger led a very long life of service to his country in the military and to his community during his working life and retirement.

Hickle stated, "Patriotism and service was always a priority with Bob Otzelberger."

Upon accepting the award, his niece, Rosemary Otzelberger Held said, "as a true patriot, he understood that those who had benefited most from a legacy of sacrifice and hard work should be most willing and proud to contribute to the common good."

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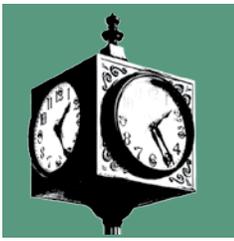
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Join our Founders Society by making a total contribution of \$10,000 within a 3-year period.



Greater Menomonee Falls
F O U N D A T I O N

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Foundation Times

N E W S L E T T E R

Look Inside to See How We Celebrated at Ovation!



Mary Wedor, First Bank Financial Centre; Mary Seidl, ARCh Board of Directors; and Tara Hansen, Absolute Necessities at dinner.

Ovation



Don Huenefeld, GMFF marketing committee member and past board member at Ovation.



Learn more about Rick Rechlicz, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient.