



A newsletter of the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation

# FoundationTimes

FALL 2023

## Applauding Community Volunteers

**Charitable Giving.  
Lasting Legacy.**

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



*Dawn Mariscal, Robin Manke, Karl Hornung, Monica and Jim Goetter were honored this year.*

Five outstanding community volunteers were recently honored by the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation (GMFF) at its Ovation event held on September 21, 2023, at Davian's. Honorees were Robin Manke, Lifetime Achievement Award, Monica and Jim Goetter, Shining Star Award, Karl Hornung, Unsung Hero Award, and Dawn Mariscal, Patriotism Award. Honorees are selected by the GMFF from nominations submitted by citizens or groups in the greater Menomonee Falls area.

### **PATRIOTISM AWARD: DAWN MARISCAL**

Janet Hickle and Wally Kangas nominated Dawn because her constant involvement touches

veterans within our Village of Menomonee Falls as well as within our entire state of Wisconsin.

Thomas Branta, commander of the Henrizi Schneider American Legion Post #382 presented



*GMFF Board Member, Eric Nelson and Thomas Branta pose with Dawn*

Dawn with the award, sharing the following:

Dawn's father, Elmer Behr, was a veteran of the Korean War, and though he passed away when she was 19 years old, it became her mission to support our veterans in any manner. We believe she has lived up to this mission and beyond.

For the past ten years, Dawn has been a member of the Henrizi Schneider American Legion Post #382. She is an assistant bar manager and events coordinator for the auxiliary. Her enthusiasm, creativity, and compassion are evident in all of the activities at the post, which provides a sense of community and helps raise funds.

In her spare time, Dawn serves as a social media coordinator and bar team member for Wauwatosa American Legion Post #449, volunteers with the Menomonee Falls Optimist Club as Drop and Shop and Oratorical Contest chairperson, and is part of Menomonee Falls Downtown Business Committee.

In addition, Dawn founded and continues to organize the Angel's of the Road Ride for Veterans, which has raised \$115,000 to benefit various veteran support organizations, such as the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative.

*(continued on inside)*

*AWARDS, from cover*

“On behalf of nine officers, two hundred and three veterans, sixty auxiliary members, twenty-one sons of American Legion members, and seven bartenders, I can tell you that Dawn is the heart and soul of Post #382,” shared Branta.

During her speech, Dawn remarked, “The legionnaires at post #382 helped fill a void of missing my father who passed away when I was 19 years old. Honoring and serving veterans became my passion. I felt that it was now my time to serve them as they had done their job serving our country.”

“Your continuous support means the world to me,” she added to guests who attended in her honor, “and I share this award with you all.”

### SHINING STAR: MONICA & JIM GOETTER

Diane Harley shared her nomination of Monica and Jim Goetter, describing them as an amazing couple who have dedicated their lives to helping others. Their family includes sixteen children, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, and thirty grandchildren.

Jim volunteered as a basketball coach for his children’s teams, which included starting a Special Olympics team for his son with special needs. From one team during the first year, the program grew to forty-five players on five teams. Goetter family members would help referee, keep score, and coach games. Special Olympics awarded the Goetters the “Family of the Year” honor.

After teaching religious education classes to high schoolers for twelve years, Jim decided to become a deacon. Monica supported Jim in his diaconate formation that occurred over four years. Jim became ordained eleven years ago and currently works at St. Mary’s and St. Anthony’s parishes in Menomonee Falls.

Fifteen years ago, Monica joined annual mission trips to St. Mary’s sister parish in Honduras to help improve the lives of residents through donations of clothing, household items, and building supplies. As a nurse who previously worked at Community Memorial Hospital, Monica supported medical work and recruited other medical professionals to join trips. Several hundred people were treated each day of their mission trip. Almost all of the Goetter children joined Monica on the annual mission trip.

“Everything we’ve done, we’ve done from our heart,

and we never expected to get an award for it,” commented Monica.

“The spirit of helping others came from our parents,” Jim added. “When Diane called us at first we were a little hesitant. Our reaction was - we didn’t do this for an award. We did this because it was important to us at that time.”

“Monica and I would like to thank you for this acknowledgement. We sincerely hope that our efforts inspire others.”

### UNSUNG HERO: KARL HORNING

Pam Biersack, who nominated Karl, said, “The Unsung Hero describes Karl Hornung to a tee.”

In her nomination, Pam stated, “Whether he was hiring Vietnamese or Cambodian refugees, supplying flowers for countless GMFC and various other civic organizations, Karl always had a generous and giving heart, not seeking recognition or publicity for his kind deeds. I sincerely doubt that there are many groups who weren’t touched by his kindness over the years.”

His oldest daughter, Heidi read his acceptance speech, which was the “shorter version of a long story” that started in the Black Forest in Southern Germany, where Karl was born and raised. In 1960, he set sail for the United States, ending up in Oak Park Illinois, where he met Marianne, whom he married three years later. In 1966, Karl became a U.S. citizen and dreamed of owning his own business.

That opportunity presented itself, and in 1973, Karl became the owner of Shady Lane Nursery. He, Marianne, and their four children moved to Menomonee Falls. Later, they welcomed their fifth child, Paul to the family.



*The Hornung Family and Pam Biersack at Ovation.*

In closing, Karl wrote, “We have found many ways to be involved in the community and the area around us, and I hope that my participation no matter how big or small has made a difference. I am so thankful for all the opportunities that have been given to me over the past 50 years in Menomonee Falls and most of all for the blessings this country has given me.”

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: ROBIN MANKE

Robyn Turtenwald nominated Robin Manke for the Lifetime Achievement award, saying, “She was born to be a volunteer and to give her energies and leadership to Menomonee Falls.”

At a very young age, Robin followed in her mother’s footsteps and began teaching Sunday School at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and her passion continued for 50 years.

Her service expanded to the Falls Area Food Pantry, where she served as their first president of the board. She championed the food pantry’s relocation to its current space along Pilgrim Road and rallied support for the farmers market’s reorganization because leftover produce is donated to the food pantry.

Robin is a past chairperson for the Cheery Cherry Fair and past volunteer for numerous St. Mary’s school programs when her son attended school there. The Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation has been fortunate to have Robin as a board member, secretary, and event chairperson for Ovation.



*Abby, David, Robin and Mike Manke with Patsy Baer at Ovation.*

Robyn shared, “Robin has given her heart and soul to the Falls. No matter what is presented to her, she is willing to work to make it happen. When I think of Robin, I think of grace, energy, enthusiasm, selflessness, dedication, organization, and pure devotion, but most of all, I think of a heart that is filled with a love of Menomonee Falls.”

In her speech, Robin shared, “I was very surprised to learn that I had been chosen. As Sue said, I first said no, but when I was told that Robyn Turtenwald nominated me, I realized that I wasn’t able to turn her down.”

She concluded with a quote from President George Bush, “There could be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others.”

## Grants Support Fourteen Organizations

Fourteen area non-profit organizations received nearly \$30,000 in grant funds from the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation. With 2023 funds, the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation has awarded over \$250,000 in grants in the last ten years.

Congratulations to the following organizations:

- Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh)
- Children’s Community Center
- Cream City Charity
- GPS Education Partners
- Variety – The Children’s Charity of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association
- Community League Civic Families Committee
- The Women’s Center
- HEAR Wisconsin
- Falls Area Community Services Food Pantry
- Falls Patio Players
- Raise and Relish
- Village Park Development (\$10,000 as part of \$50,000 for park renovations)
- Wildlife in Need

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



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in honor of Karl Hornung



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