

MARCH 2019

# 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.*

## Grant Helps Support WASA's Mission

Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association (WASA) is on a mission to promote community collaboration of adaptive sports and recreation opportunities to those with physical disabilities and/or visual impairments in Wisconsin.

During a WASA event, able-bodied people have the opportunity to try out wheelchair sports along with WASA athletes, who make it appear so effortless and easy. Everyone has a chance to be involved with adaptive sports - no one sits out due to conditions that limit mobility.

According to WASA Program Director, Sam Gracz, "Each and every day we are finding more people who are not aware of adaptive sports opportunities that are available in the community. Adaptive sports allow kids and adults to compete in activities just like their able-bodied family members or friends; it is done just in a different pair of shoes "

The \$1000 GMFF grant helped purchase a wheelchair and replacement tubes, which can cost around \$3,000. WASA provides equipment so community members can experience adaptive sports without having to purchase their own. Once

athletes know they want to continue playing that sport, they can apply for individual grants to offset the cost of equipment.

One Falls High School student and WASA Junior Bucks athlete, Moira Paulus recently received her own grant funding to help pay for her wheelchair and equipment. She is the daughter of Molly Paulus, GMFF board member.



WASA Junior Bucks athlete, Moira Paulus shows off her 3rd place trophy at nationals.

Moira shares, "I am so lucky that I found wheelchair basketball because I am able to be a part of a team and play a sport I love. Wheelchair basketball has allowed me to travel to many places, and I have met and played with athletes from all over the country."



### DID YOU KNOW?

You can make secure donations online at [FallsFoundation.org](http://FallsFoundation.org)

# GMFF Board Members Honored by Falls Chamber

On January 24, **Robin Manke**, GMFF Board Member and **Sue Jeskewitz**, GMFF Board President were honored with awards from the Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce.

## Robin Manke

Robin received the Community Improvement Award that is presented to a Menomonee Falls



*Robin and Mike Manke, owners of Robin's Nest women's clothing store.*

Chamber member for their contribution toward the visual enhancement of our community through development, renovation and design.

During her acceptance speech, Robin shared the following:

"Five years ago, my husband Mike and I embarked upon the renovation of our badly aging property. Our business was good, and we were looking forward to Kleider, Ltd. becoming a tenant. The building was owned for a short time by my great grandfather, Albert Baer in the 1920's, so we were

dedicated to restoring the building to a closer version of its original style."

"The initial stage included much needed attention to the façade, extensive masonry work, replacement of windows and roof, and restoring the exterior to that of its original design. We know that the removal of the covered porch was a big change, but we hope that we have paid homage to the integrity of the design while giving it a new chapter in its life."

"With the building complete, we were left with the final piece of the puzzle—the parking lot. As one of the businesses visible upon entering downtown, our vision was to create a welcoming, parklike presence. We removed one entrance to the lot in order to create planting beds, added limestone outcroppings, and brick walkways. We look forward to the warm weather and hope the community will enjoy the patio furniture on the front porch, park bench and bike rack that will complete our vision."

"This is an exciting time in downtown Menomonee Falls, and we are pleased to be a part of it."

## Sue Jeskewitz

Sue Jeskewitz received the Larry Stewart Humanitarian Award that is presented to a person whose actions promote the welfare of humanity, the betterment of the Menomonee Falls area, and the quality of life of its citizens.

Long a dedicated volunteer, Sue has chaired and served on a multitude of local boards and committees. From Cub Scout Den Leader to the Community Memorial Hospital Spring Splendor Committee, Menomonee Falls Planning Commission, Parade Committee, Menomonee Falls Scholarship Board, and the Tri-County YMCA Board, she has done it. Sue served on the Waukesha County Board and was a member of the State Assembly for twelve years.

Sue also found time to help create Leadership Menomonee Falls, which is now in its 29th year. Leadership Menomonee Falls was initially created to help increase the pool of volunteers. Sue is often heard saying, "Many people in the area are willing to get involved and help. It's just a matter of asking them."



*Robin Manke and the staff of Robin's Nest on Main Street celebrate, recognizing their store's renovation, which was first started in 2014.*

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER



### Eric Nelson

A forward-thinking leader and Falls resident committed to giving back, Eric Nelson brings his legal background, business acumen and board involvement to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation Board since 2017.

A proud Menomonee Falls graduate, Eric attended Shady Lane, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, North Middle and Menomonee Falls High School.

Though he has lived on both the east and west coast, Eric returned to the Falls over twelve years ago to work for Fiserv, Inc. Today he serves as Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel.

“Our community is terrific, and so are the people and organizations within it,” Eric shares.

Eric leads and supports many area organizations. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Community Memorial Hospital and fundraises for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Cure SMA. In addition, he supports Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Boy Scout Troop 109, and the Junior Indians football and basketball teams.

When asked why he became a GMFF board member, Eric explains, “I have chosen to devote myself to the GMFF because it is an organization that has significant potential - through donations from community members - to advance important causes within our community. The GMFF provides a platform for all community members to get involved and enables everyone to make a difference. I enjoy working with my fellow board members to support issues that matter most to those in our community, including the arts, health and wellness, and safety.”

## Pen Pal Program Brings Together Generations

In 2018 Eras Senior Network received a \$1000 GMFF grant to help fund the Pen Pal Program that brings together generations through exchanging letters and provides students additional work on their reading and writing skills. Every 5th grader at Riverside Elementary School is matched with an Eras Pen Pal. They exchange one letter each month and meet their pen pal in person at the end of the year pen pal party.

Volunteer Ellen Newbauer has been a pen pal through Eras for several years. Ellen has had the unique experience of having two pen pals from the same family. Last year, her 5th-grade pen pal, Simar was the sister of her pen pal from the 2010–2011 school year, Harlene. Both girls aspire to have careers in the medical field, following in their parent’s footsteps.

Ellen says it is great to watch these young people have the opportunity to be whatever they would like to be.

“You can learn a lot of new things from these pen pals,” said Ellen, after sharing a story about how Simar taught her that you can actually eat pomegranate seeds.

The mission of Eras Senior Network is to engage and support Waukesha County seniors and adults with disabilities in leading meaningful lives.



Pen pals Ellen Newbauer and Simar with a photo of her sister, Harlene and Ellen, who were pen pals in 2011.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Jeskewitz - Chair  
Sue Carney  
Todd Jex  
Rick Kohl  
Robin Manke  
Jo Ellen Mulder  
Eric Nelson  
Molly Paulus  
Chris Rechlicz  
Ann Wanke  
Kevin Wolf

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gail Bast  
Richard Becker  
Ken Frakes  
Dianne Johnson  
Karen Nelson

### FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Richard & Jayne Becker  
Ralph Bronner  
Dianne Johnson  
& Paul Oliver  
John & Marie Leekley, Jr.  
Tom & Mary Roberts  
Llew & Alice Tietz  
Don & Lolita Schneiders  
Dr. Robert & Sally Schwarz  
Paul & Meg Wickesberg  
Bob & Pat Wille

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



# Foundation Times

N E W S L E T T E R

S A V E T H E D A T E

**Thursday, May 9**  
**5:00pm – 8:00pm**  
**North Hills Country Club**



Join us as we honor award recipients who have volunteered countless hours to the community and present grants to area non-profits. Cost is \$50 per person for a seated dinner. For more information contact Robin Manke at 262-255-6196 or email [info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org). Look for your invitation coming in April.

**STAY IN TOUCH VIA EMAIL**  
**AND HELP US REDUCE PRINTING AND**  
**POSTAGE COSTS**  
**Send your email address to**  
**[info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org)**

**[info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org)**  
**[fallsfoundation.org](http://fallsfoundation.org)**

**P.O. Box 53**  
**Menomonee Falls, WI**  
**53052-0053**

**Greater Menomonee Falls**  
**FOUNDATION**

