

MARCH 2018

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.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can make secure donations online at FallsFoundation.org

Keeping History Alive at Old Falls Village GMFF grant helps fund maintenance of the Sparrow Cabin

Every building in Old Falls Village tells a story. The Sparrow Cabin is no exception.

Initially built in 1842 by William Pendergast, the Sparrow Cabin was considered a luxury home. Half of the home may have been a chicken coop, which was a way to help heat the home. After falling on hard times, the family could not pay off the cabin and had to abandon it.

Through time subsequent owners added on to the original cabin, which was found on Dan Walker's farm around the time when developers started working on Silver Spring Technology Park.

Peter Sparrow stepped in and bought the log cabin, which was loaded on a flatbed trailer in one piece, lovingly restored, and transported to Old Falls Village. It has been referred to as the Sparrow Cabin ever since.

The GMFF grant supported on-going maintenance to update the interior chinking, or cement coating in between the cabin's log beams. The Historical Society consulted with experts to learn how tradespeople in the 1800's would have built log cabins. Based on these instructions, volunteers used materials and coats of chinking to be as historically accurate as possible. Currently, the chinking on the inside of the building is about half-way done; more work will be finished this spring.

Once restoration is complete, the Historical Society will transform the Sparrow Cabin into a living museum, showcasing the sugar beet, a crop that was native to the Falls area. The Sparrow Cabin will be dedicated at 19th Annual Civil War Encampment and Battle on July 21-22, 2018.



Chinking in progress on the interior of the Sparrow Cabin at Old Falls Village. Volunteers apply multiple coats, following the same process used in the mid-1800's.



Greater Menomonee Falls FOUNDATION

Another Way to Give

Contribute to the Foundation by volunteering to help with correspondence, data entry, photography or special event planning. Help from home or join one of our committees. Interested?

For more information, email us or complete the Volunteer Form on our website.

In Memoriam



We are deeply saddened by the passing of Llew Tietz. As a Founder's Society member, Llew also served as board member and later became a member of our Advisory Council.

Llew had a lifelong dedication to improving the quality of life in Menomonee Falls. He will be deeply missed by our community. Our thoughts are with Llew's family and friends.

GMFF Grant Helps Support Mental Health Education with NAMI

Did you know one in five teens can have a mental health condition? Many of these conditions go untreated due to the stigma surrounding mental health issues. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-Waukesha is working to help educate teens and provide support.

With the support of GMFF grant funding, NAMI presented its Ending the Silence program to over 200 Menomonee Falls High School Students.

Presented during health class, Ending the Silence brings awareness to the early warning signs of mental health conditions and suicide in an effort to encourage people to seek early intervention. It also provides students with resources for finding help for themselves or friends.

NAMI also educated over 60 staff members in suicide awareness and prevention and provided de-escalation strategies to help someone who might be having a mental health crisis.

How to Help Wildlife in Need

You find an injured animal in your backyard. Where can you go for help? The answer is Wildlife in Need Center (WINC), a non-profit that treats injured, orphaned or sick wildlife and provides wildlife education programs.

Through the help of GMFF grants and other fundraising sources, Wildlife in Need treated 3,300 wild patients and conducted educational programs for over 18,000 people in 2017 alone. Education programs help people understand what to do when they find animals that need help, which can reduce the number of animals in need of treatment at WINC.

WINC has treated and released wildlife from the Menomonee Falls area of many species including muskrats, red tailed hawks, songbirds, waterfowl, squirrels, opossums, turtles and mice. Many animals are injured or orphaned.

WINC remains thankful for continued efforts of Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts, uniting the Greater Menomonee Falls area with the Wildlife In Need Center. They continue to field and assist with wildlife emergencies referrals to WINC.



Orphaned American Robins and Virginia Joey Opossums are just some of the animals that the Wildlife in Need Center have rescued in Menomonee Falls.



Sue Jeskewitz

Meet Board Member: Sue Jeskewitz

Originally from Galesville, Wisconsin, Sue married Menomonee Falls native, Jim Jeskewitz (Jess). At that time she was an elementary school teacher and Jess was the football coach. The couple is well-respected for their many years of community involvement.

Sue's career took many twists and turns, ranging from teacher, banking, YMCA community education, to associate director of the Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce, and real estate broker. She also served as executive director of the Greater Menomonee Falls Committee, helped establish the scholarship foundation and co-founded Leadership Menomonee Falls.

Sue served in politics on the local, county and state levels, starting on the Waukesha County Board and Menomonee Falls planning

commission and then as a state legislator from 1996– 2009. Her greatest accomplishments include serving as chair of the audit committee and passing legislation for foster care. Sue loved working with others and problem-solving for her constituents.

To this day, you can find Sue actively giving back to her community. After four years on the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation Board, Sue was elected board chair in November 2017.

When asked about her future hopes for GMFF, Sue shares, "It's wonderful to honor volunteers who have been so giving of their time through our leadership awards. The next generations of volunteers along with the Foundation's endowment will keep Menomonee Falls a strong and vibrant community for years to come."

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GMFF Grant for Accompany of Kids Funds a New Dance Floor

The \$1250 grant helped fund new flooring in Accompany of Kids' main rehearsal space. This provides a better and safer surface for performers to practice.

Installation took place just before the 2017–2018 season started when parents came to help install the new flooring. In a matter of hours, the room was transformed. Members, directors, and parents immediately noticed how much more professional the space looks.

About Accompany of Kids

Accompany of Kids is a program that serves both its young members and the community in which it performs. Its mission is to provide young people the opportunity to gain self-confidence, leadership skills, and grow into productive and successful adults through the use of the arts.



Members of Accompany of Kids show off the new dance floor.

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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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S A V E T H E D A T E

Thursday, May 10
5:00pm – 8:00pm

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

Cost: \$30 per person for a seated dinner. For more information contact Mary Jo McGraw at 262-844-1272 or email info@fallsfoundation.org.

Look for your invitation coming in April.



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