

# The Falls Foundation Times

December 2012

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## A Message from Our Board Chair

Tragedies and togetherness....

As I look back to the events of the past year, I realize there have been many tragedies — some local, some national, some international. But the one thing that really sticks out in my mind from all of those events is how the affected **communities pulled together** to try to make things better for the victims. I was touched as I read the heartwarming stories about neighbors helping neighbors after Hurricane Sandy, the Sikh community holding a vigil for the victims of the spa shooting, and, on a very local note, our own Menomonee Falls community coming together to help save **Roscoe, a Menomonee Falls family's beloved pet**, who went missing shortly after being welcomed into the family to help bring hope and optimism after the loss of their daughter. Local businesses and residents came together not only to help find Roscoe, but to raise money to help pay for medical bills, as Roscoe had sustained serious injuries before he was returned home to his family. Menomonee Falls came together and showed how much they care.

Togetherness.....communities pulling together to help others, perhaps even people they don't know. **Giving to others**, without being able to experience firsthand how their gift is helping someone else. This reminds me of what we do at the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation. **Pulling together the resources** of those who want to help their community, and providing grant funding to those who need it most. Some of our donors can see the immediate benefit of their gifts in our community, but some gifts will last well beyond their lifetime.

Meeting needs, now and in the future. This is what your Community Foundation, your Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation, is for. We are here to help our village be a great place to live and work and to help you be a part of this.

**Please consider coming together with others in your community by making a gift this year to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.**

To ensure that we properly thank you for your generosity, please fill out the form inside this newsletter and return it with your donation.

**Thank you for coming together.**

**Thank you for supporting your Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.**

Darci Middaugh  
Board Chair

## Planned Giving Made Easy

Planned Giving—it sounds so formal and complicated, doesn't it? But Planned Giving is just the name for giving that takes planning as opposed to giving you do right now. The check you give your children at Christmas is an "immediate gift." The money you leave them in your will, or the trust you set-up for your grandkids is a "planned gift."

One nice thing about planned gifts is that they do not require you to give away money right now. And they do not have to be only cash gifts. You can make a Planned Gift to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation just by:

- Giving the Foundation a gift of stocks or bonds
- Making the Foundation a partial (or full) beneficiary on a life insurance policy
- Naming the Foundation as a partial beneficiary of your pension or IRA.

You don't have to change your will to support the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation, but if you would like to leave us a specific amount or a percentage of your assets after your other bequests are made, you can do that too. Consult with your attorney or tax preparer for information on making this type of gift.

*Just remember to name us as the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation. It's that easy.*



## Spotlight on: Falls Patio Players



For over 45 years, Falls Patio Players has been a community theater company who prides themselves on providing professional quality theater experiences and entertainment for all of southeastern Wisconsin. They are a family oriented, not for profit organization, who has over those years involved thousands of community members of all ages in their productions as well as entertaining countless audience members.

This year, the GMFF awarded a \$1,000 grant to Falls Patio Players for upgrades to their sound equipment. As the Players said in their application: "The performing arts have contributed greatly to Menomonee Falls and our shows are enjoyed by young and old alike. Many don't realize the expense in putting on a quality production. Our focus with this request is to revitalize our worn out sound equipment and make our shows easy for everyone to hear and enjoy, without having to turn up their hearing aids. Your support in our mission would be greatly appreciated. Come see a show and check out the quality performances going on in your own backyard."

The GMFF agrees that Falls Patio Players has contributed greatly to Menomonee Falls, helping to make this a great place to work & live! For more info on the Falls Patio Players go to [www.fallspatioplayers.com](http://www.fallspatioplayers.com)

## Get to know GMFF Trustee Darci Middaugh

Although she now lives in Sussex, Darci still cares a lot about Menomonee Falls. Darci purchased her first home in Menomonee Falls in 1994 and lived in the Village for 10 years. She is a CPA and received her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville which is close to Hazel Green, WI where she grew up.



When she moved to The Falls, Darci wanted to become more involved in her community. She was introduced to the Greater Menomonee Falls Committee (now closed), became a board member and then Treasurer. A few years later, John Leekley, Jr. asked her to join the Greater Board of the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation. She became Board Chair for the Foundation in 2009.

### Darci's thoughts

- I continue working with the GMFF because I am very passionate about the need for a strong community foundation to help our community continue to be a great place to live and work. During my years with the GMFC, I have had the honor of meeting so many people who give tirelessly to the community and who love Menomonee Falls. I believe that MF is the perfect place for a community foundation because it is a special community, and because of the dedication of the people who live and work there.
- I feel the best thing about the Foundation right now are the people who support our mission – our board, our donors, our advisory council, and our business partners – all of these individuals believe in our mission, and how having a strong community foundation makes Menomonee Falls a better place to live and work.
- My hope for the foundation is that it continues to grow, so we can meet the ever growing needs in our community. I believe there is so much more we can do, and the more the community learns about our mission, the more opportunities we will have to fulfill that mission.

Darci is married with two boys Morgan and Mason, 11 and 9. The family enjoys traveling to Northern WI – boating, skiing, fishing, tubing. Darci also enjoys going to her kids baseball, basketball and football games, working in her hosta gardens, and is just starting to dabble in photography.

**“I feel the best thing about the Foundation right now are the people who support our mission”**

Do you have a cause, park or school you want to make sure has funds in the future?  
Ask how you can start a fund for your project with us.  
Call the Falls Foundation at 262-617-7641 or  
e-mail us at [info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org)



**Greater  
Menomonee Falls  
Foundation**

P.O. Box 53  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Phone: 262-617-7641

E-mail: [info@fallsfoundation.org](mailto:info@fallsfoundation.org)

We are on the web:

[www.FallsFoundation.org](http://www.FallsFoundation.org)

## **You Can Do So Much!**

**Please help the GMFF make Menomonee Falls  
a better place to work and live. Details Inside.**

***GMFF will be accepting grant applications again starting in January 2013.  
Help us get the word out about our grants.***

***Tell a non-profit organization that you know of about our grant cycle.***

## Yes, I want to make a gift to the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation!

(please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to **Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of the GMFF Founders Society. Please contact me.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about making a gift of stocks or bonds to the Foundation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am making a Planned Gift to the Foundation, please contact me for details.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information on establishing a fund within  
the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in helping the Board of the Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation.

**Please send your gift and this form to:**

**Greater Menomonee Falls Foundation  
P.O. Box 53  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

You can see our website at [www.fallsfoundation.org](http://www.fallsfoundation.org)