

## A Newsletter for the Friends of the Cedarburg Foundation

## 2019 GCF Civic Award Recipients Jerry and Alice Voigt: Giving much, spreading joy

Jerry and Alice Voigt embody what we cherish about living in this community, and they are the 2019 recipients of the Greater Cedarburg Foundation Civic Award. They dig in deep, work hard, and have fun managing all aspects of our historic, single-screen theatre, the Rivoli.

The Voigts' collective ability to inspire people seems to begin with their career choices. Jerry and Alice graduated from UW-Milwaukee and launched into a lifelong love of teaching. Jerry spent 31 years teaching at Steffen Middle School in Mequon, where he met Alice, who was teaching special education there. They were married in 1964 and later moved to Cedarburg in 1969 to the house where they raised their three children – Carrie, Richard and Christopher.

"One year, I had a very special seventh grade class," says Jerry. "One student in particular was very compassionate and it impacted me. We realized we needed to give more."

That's when their volunteering and faith began to flourish. Flash forward to 1992 when



Jerry and Alice Voigt are presented the 2019 Civic Award by GCF President John Cordio. (Photo courtesy of Robb Helf, GCF Marketing Committee and Gala artist.) they learned a local church was taking 20 teenagers on an Appalachian Service project where they worked side-by-side with the teenagers improving housing in poverty stricken communities -- drywalling, flooring, roofing, painting, finish carpentry, and installing windows and doors. That first year was a success, and the Voigts began planning similar mission trips for the next 12 years. For the following 10 years, they took teenagers to Brazil to a small city six hours north of Rio, planning work projects, vacation Bible schools, planting fruit trees and vegetables, and doing crafts with the children.

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## Grant Spotlight: Willowbrooke CommUNITY Playground

When the playground equipment in Cedarburg's Willowbrooke Park was deemed unsafe last spring, it was quickly removed, leaving the park with an empty playground and city with an unplanned expense.

That's when a group of volunteers – along with The Cedarburg Friends of Parks and Recreation with support from the city – jumped into action. Now, one year later, Willowbrooke CommUNITY Playground is a reality, thanks to the hard work, creativity, and muscle of a dedicated group of volunteers working through The Cedarburg Friends of Parks and Recreation using its 501c3 status, who requested funds from the Greater Cedarburg Foundation to assist with purchasing and installing new playground equipment.

"We took it one step further, deciding to create and build a playground serving people of all abilities," says Melissa Bitter, the group's finance manager who helped lead the charge.

Design plans began last September, as the group sought out and worked with Leathers and Associates, and followed a similar design as Port Washington's all-inclusive Possibilities Playground. Then fundraising efforts began that spanned the gamut – rummage sales, movie nights, a karaoke/silent auction event, goat yoga, Continued on page 2

## Thrity-third Edition — July 2019

## Save the Date: GCF Gala set for 9/28/2019

Please save the date for this year's Greater Cedarburg Foundation's Annual Community Gala, "A Night at the Cedarburg Museums," scheduled for Saturday, September 28th, 2019.

Following last year's success, "A Night at the Cedarburg Museums" is back! Throughout the evening, trolleys will transport guests on a circuit between the Cedarburg Art Museum, the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, and the Cedarburg History Museum before landing at the Cedarburg Cultural Center (CCC) for dinner, cocktails, an auction including an original work by local artist Robb Helf — and entertainment.

"Our Cedarburg museums continuously feature new exhibits, so this year will be a fresh experience," says John Cordio, GCF president.

Please consider joining these businesses already on-board to provide financial support for the evening:

• Signature Sponsors: Port Washington State Bank, Answerport - Management & Technology Consultants, Bank First (formerly Partnership Bank)

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Festivities start at 5:30 pm at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, where the trolley rides will begin.

# 12 Organizations Receive Grants

The Greater Cedarburg Foundation (GCF) awarded \$102,754 to 12 area nonprofit organizations as part of its annual grant cycle review in 2019. Recipients were recognized at the GCF Civic Event held on Thursday, April 25th, 2019 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center.

"We are proud to support these organizations with funding to advance outstanding programs throughout the Greater Cedarburg Area," says Mark Langholz, GCF grant committee chairman. "These projects will help make a difference in our community."

Organizations receiving grants include:

Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee County to fund a new curriculum

Advocates of Ozaukee County to purchase security equipment for their facility

### Grant Spotlight (from pg. 1)

and many local businesses donating a portion of their proceeds in December.

As a result, along with funds raised from the 2019 GCF grant and a contribution from the city, the park now exists as a place where people of all abilities can spend quality time. An accessible, soft surface gives children and adults with mobility limitations an opportunity to enjoy the playground alongside their families. An inclusive orbit swing accommodates people who use a wheelchair or walker. Chimes and bongo drums add to the fun, and the new fence offers one way in and one way out - a key safety feature.

**Cedarburg Art Museum and Society** for capital project regarding chimney repairs

**Cedarburg Cultural Center** for purchasing and installation of moveable display walls

**Cedarburg Friends of Parks and Recreation** to help fund the creation of the Willowbrook community playground

**Family Enrichment Center** for a capital project for windows at their facility

**Interfaith Caregivers** to purchase items for health equipment program

**Mel's Charities** for purchase of lighting and a generator

**Ozaukee Family Services** to fund a program within the Cedarburg School District helping girls address bullying

Riveredge Nature Center

to help fund its scientist and residents program in the Cedarburg Schools **Town of Cedarburg** to fund bleachers for fields at the new sports complex

Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts to fund a project improving the safety of its parking lot

The Greater Cedarburg Foundation has assets of \$5.5 million comprised of an endowment and donor advised funds. The foundation's mission is to preserve the local cultural heritage, enhance artistic endeavors, and support educational, social and community-based services in the Greater Cedarburg area.

Since its inception, the Greater Cedarburg Foundation has awarded more than \$1.7 million in grants to deserving projects and nonprofit organizations in the community. The grant cycle begins each year in October, when applications are available online at cedarburgfoundation.com.



At the 2019 Greater Cedarburg Foundation's Civic Award event held on April 25th, representatives from of each organization that received a 2019 grant from the Greater Cedarburg Foundation accepted their grant.

**2019 Grant Application Period** This year's grant application period is October 14 - December 6, 2019:

Oct. 14: Applications are available

**TBD:** Presentation on application process at Cedarburg Public Library

Dec. 6: Deadline for proposals

Feb. 2020: Grant committee meeting to make grant recommendations

May 2019: Grant recipients are recognized at Civic Event



"We're so happy to offer families, friends, and parents with children having special needs the chance to play with others of different ability levels," say Willowbrooke CommUNITY Playground organizers.

"Cross-generational play is so important to building strong family bonds and relationships," says Bitter.

Once the park was designed and materials ordered, community members constructed it, cutting boards, installing posts, hanging swings...building the entire playground from the ground up in only six days.

"During construction, we fed our volunteers with donations from neighbors as well as local businesses," says Bitter. "We actively reached out to community organizations and area businesses to ask for their support, and they came out in flying colors."

The playground is located northeast of the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds in the Willowbrooke Park. It serves the families nearby but also Ozaukee County children looking for a fun and safe place to play. Further, the park is open to families who visit the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds for events such as the Ozaukee County Fair, Maxwell Street Days, and numerous other events held there each year that attract people from all over the state of Wisconsin.

Concludes Bitter, "Having the GCF support our project gave us credibility and trust, so that others would feel comfortable donating, and we are very grateful. This donation gave us the momentum we needed toward reaching our goal."

## LEGACY SOCIETY

Listed below are members of the Legacy Society - a group of individuals who share a commitment to support and sustain the many programs and projects that enhance the Greater Cedarburg Area. For more information on becoming a Legacy Society member, leave a message with The Greater Cedarburg Foundation at 262-377-7338 or go to cedarburgfoundation.com.

Don\* and Carol Alexander Daniel and Amy Argall Scott and Sheri Austin James and Susan Baillon Mark and Mary Jane Baumgartner Mark and Victoria Benskin Bud and Kay Beverung Charles Birts Dr. Justin Braun and Tracy Schowalter-Braun Ted and Patty Brueggemann Richard C. Buser Steve and Heather Cain Vince and Katherine Cameranesi James and Vicki Capadona Tim and Kathy Carr James\* and Sally Castle Bob and Judy\* Chmielewski Rob and Patty Clapper John and Amy Cordio James W. Coutts Chad and Regina Curran Daniel and Nancy Den Boer James and Joyce Dhein Alice Dickmann Dick & Dayle Dieffenbach Ed and Sandra Downey Jerry and Peg Edquist Joe and Lisa Fazio David & Patty Flowers David and Beth Fritz Loren\* and Anita Fritz Steven and Vicki Gall Brandon Goldbeck Randall L. Groth, Sr. Judy and Robert R. Guse Jack and Susan Hale John and Ronnie Hammes Dr. Michael and Patty Hansen Kristofor and Allison Hanson

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\*deceased

The Levy Family M & I Foundation Newman Chevrolet Barbara and Layton Olsen Ozaukee Bank Foundation Merlin and Gladys Rostad Duey and Laura Stroebel The Tillmann Family In Honor of Paul Trappe Tri-Par Qwik Stop U.S. Bank Foundation The Wernecke Family Whyte, Hirschboeck, Dudek S.C. The Wirth Family

### Greater Cedarburg Foundation Board of Directors



The Board Members of the Greater Cedarburg Foundation (GCF) met on June 11, 2019, at the Cedarburg Art Museum for GCF's Annual Meeting: Front Row (L-R): Vice President Mark Langholz, President John Cordio, Treasurer Sue Loken, Secretary Mark Burgoyne; Middle Row (L-R): Heather Cain, Tim Wilkinson, Steve Schowalter, Jennifer Ziegler; Top Row (L-R): Joe Rintelman, Mary Jane Baumgartner, Robb Helf, Patricia Thome, and Mitch Quick. Not pictured: Carol Alexander Coutts and Joe Fazio.



#### When the Cedarburg

Landmarks Preservation Society bought the Rivoli, the idea was to revive the property and renovate it back to its original look. This group was raising funds for the project at the same time Jerry was completing his 14th year as chairman of the Town Board, following 16 years as a Cedarburg Town Supervisor. Add to that Jerry's involvement as a former board member of the Greater Cedarburg Foundation, the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Board, and his co-chairmanship of the Cedarburg pool fundraiser.

That's when Don Levy asked Jerry to help with the Rivoli. The Rivoli closed on December 21, 2006 and re-opened on December 29...eight days later.

Now, Jerry and Alice, along with their part-time staff of seven, do whatever is required to keep the theatre running. Some of these things involve researching and booking movies, banking and payroll, shopping and cleaning, facilitating on-screen advertising, and encouraging volunteers.

Jerry emphasizes, "Without the hundreds of volunteers and the total support of the community, the Rivoli could not exist today."

### Save the Date (from pg. 1)

- Patron Sponsors: Levy & Levy, S. C., Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, Husch Blackwell LLP, Wipfli, Pioneer Pet Products Inc./ Smart Cat, PyraMax Bank
- Trolley Sponsors: Commerce State Bank, Olsen's Piggly Wiggly, BMO
- Museum Sponsors: Spectrum Investments, Fiduciary Real Estate Development – Arrabelle

Check out the GCF's wish list at https:// cedarburgfoundation.com/ gcf-gala-wish-list/. As the event approaches, check the website and Facebook for the most-current auction items.

Tickets are available at \$125 each or \$1,000 for a reserved table of eight. To register and purchase, visit cedarburgfoundation.com. This year, tickets and bidding will take place electronically (no phone registration), allowing those unable to attend to bid. The deadline for tickets is September 18, 2019.

"A Night at the Cedarburg Museums" is a fundraiser for the GCF, which awards grants for projects that preserve the local cultural heritage, enhance artistic endeavors and support educational, social and community-based services in the Greater Cedarburg area.

### ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

#### Board of Directors:

Mary Jane Baumgartner Heather Cain Carol Alexander Coutts Joe Fazio - Past President Robb Helf Sue Loken Mitch Quick Joe Rintelman Steve Schowalter Patricia Thome Tim Wilkinson Jennifer Ziegler

#### Foundation Officers:

John Cordio President

Mark Langholz President Elect

> Sue Loken Treasurer

Mark Burgoyne Secretary

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The Greater Cedarburg Foundation is a community trust that establishes endowments and administers the income thereon for the betterment of the greater Cedarburg area. The Greater Cedarburg Foundation works closely with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, where it maintains an affiliation. Gifts to the Greater Cedarburg Foundation are tax deductible to the extent applicable under relevant tax law.

Photos in this issue courtesy of Ozaukee County News Graphic: Mark Justesen, photographer

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www.cedarburgfoundation.com



The Greater Cedarburg Foundation

thanks Dan Den Boer, outgoing Treasurer

and GCF board member, for six years of

outstanding service to our community.

The Voigts say it's been a

blessing to work together every

day, and they wouldn't trade it

for the world. For this couple,

know them, they have truly

Award event include Olsen's

State Bank, Commerce State

Baumgartner, John and Amy

Cordio, Jim and Carol Coutts,

Mal and Jill Hepburn, Nancy

and Tim Wilkinson, and Smart

Mary Jane and Mark

Interactive Media.

Cedarburg is grateful!

created a wonderful life...and

Sponsors for the 2019 GCF Civic

Piggly Wiggly, Port Washington

Bank, Cedarburg Light & Water,

their family, friends, and all who