

The Greater Cedarburg ... now and forever FOUNDATION

A Newsletter for the Friends of the Cedarburg Foundation

Thirty-seventh Edition — August 2021

Greater Cedarburg Foundation Gala to Celebrate Cedarburg's Heroes

Don't miss this fall's Greater Cedarburg Foundation Gala, scheduled for October 2, 2021 and promising trolley rides, festivities, and silent and live auctions for friends of the GCF. We will gather to "Celebrate Cedarburg's Heroes," this year's theme, while supporting many valued community organizations and projects that make our community great.

Festivities will begin at the Cedarburg Cultural Center (CCC) at 6:00 p.m. and feature complimentary trolley rides transporting guests between the CCC, Cedarburg Fire Department, and the American Legion Peter Wollner Post 288. The venues will offer complimentary beer, wine and appetizers, and dinner will begin back at the CCC at 7:30 p.m.

Silent and live auctions will include an original painting by local artist Robb Helf, highly regarded for capturing beloved Cedarburg scenes that community members treasure.

This event is a major fundraising for the GCF. Tickets are priced at \$125 each or \$1,000 for a reserved table of eight. To purchase, visit cedarburgfoundation.com or call 262-377-7338. The deadline for tickets is September 25, 2021. ■

"Over the years, The Greater Cedarburg Foundation has provided significant grants for various projects and initiatives at our area museums, and we are thrilled to showcase them again in an event that will also celebrate Cedarburg's heroes – recent and past,"

– GCF President Mark Langholz.

To donate, visit www.cedarburgfoundation.org.

Eight Organizations Receive Grants from Greater Cedarburg Foundation

This March 2021, the Greater Cedarburg Foundation (GCF) awarded nearly \$30,000 to eight area non-profit organizations as part of our annual grant cycle process.

Since 2001, the Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than **\$1.6 million** to many valued community organizations and projects that preserve the local cultural heritage, enhance artistic endeavors and support educational, social and community-based services in the greater Cedarburg area.

Organizations receiving grants for the 2021 annual GCF grant cycle review include:

- **Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee County** to support its virtual learning platform
- **Balance, Inc.** to complete home structural repairs including a furnace in its mission to help people with developmental disabilities enhance their quality of life
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ozaukee County** to continue offering virtual mentorship options, create a virtual mentoring manual, develop weekly match/mentoring curriculum, and fund the planning and facilitating of virtual group events

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• OCTOBER 2, 2021 •

JOIN US!

Celebrating Cedarburg's Heroes

- **Complimentary trolley rides** between the Cedarburg Cultural Center, Cedarburg Fire Department and American Legion Peter Wollner Post 288
- **Complimentary beer, wine & appetizers** at both locations
- **Festivities begin** at Cedarburg Cultural Center at 6:00
- **Silent & Live auctions**



The Greater Cedarburg FOUNDATION Community Gala Event

Learn more at www.cedarburgfoundation.com

GRANT SPOTLIGHTS ...

Balance, Inc. – A new furnace keeps one ‘forever home’ safe, secure

“There’s no place like home” is a comforting thought, but it’s much more foundational for Balance, Inc., whose mission is to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities enhance their quality of life.

Last winter, an aging furnace became a critical issue for one of Balance’s eight homes in Grafton, Port Washington, and Saukville. A replacement was made thanks to a GCF grant, ensuring the health, safety, comfort, and welfare of its residents.

It simply was not an option to shut down this house for the people living there during COVID-19. A full 100 hundred percent of Balance’s home residents are Family Care members, meaning they have income below poverty level.



Balance clients enjoy arts and crafts provided to enhance their quality of life.

Through 24/7 support of these homes, their residents, and a breadth of programming, Balance juxtaposes support and independence for more than 200 individuals in

Ozaukee County with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

“Our adult family homes are accessible, safe, secure, inviting, and clean – ‘forever homes’ that are beautiful inside and out,” says Kären Cohen, Director, Development and Marketing. “Our volunteers and staff

maintain them in a way that is consistent with the quality standards of the neighborhoods in which they are located.”

Further, more than 250 Balance volunteers are engaged in offering strong programming for their clients’ health and welfare, such as a special needs summer recreational camp for 5-15 year olds provided at no cost to families. Balance also runs an after-school “social skills program” for middle-schooler students, who have the opportunity to socialize and engage in arts and crafts.

“It was such a blessing to receive this grant from the Greater Cedarburg Foundation at this time,” Cohen says. “COVID hit us hard. We had to close regular programming for a time and it was especially challenging to raise funds. At the same time, we needed to keep these homes running, making sure the residents were safe and secure.

“This year is our 30th Anniversary – and we’re celebrating our homes as a place these residents can live as a family, play as a family, and enjoy dinners around the family table,” she concludes. “The Greater Cedarburg Foundation helped make it happen and we are extremely grateful.” ■



A resident enjoys one of Balance Inc.’s eight family homes in Ozaukee County as his safe, well-maintained ‘forever home.’

Greater Cedarburg Foundation Grants (from pg. 1)

- **Bob’s Under the Bridge** to purchase and install an overhead door for its office in the new Ozaukee Nonprofit Center building in Grafton
 - **Cedarburg Cultural Center** to produce up to eight videos that chronicle some of Cedarburg’s earliest settlers
 - **Family Promise of Ozaukee County** to help with in-depth renovation of the space that was previously used as its day center
 - **Ozaukee County Historical Society** to support the final phase of its Train Station renovation, namely the restoration of its original hardwood maple floor for public use
 - **Saukville Community Food Pantry** to purchase a second indoor hydroponic garden to produce substantially more fresh food each growing season
- “We are proud to help facilitate the strengthening of these community organizations and are grateful to continue to be in a position to help,” said Langholz.

The Greater Cedarburg 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 our inception, the Greater Cedarburg Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 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. ■

GRANT SPOTLIGHTS ...

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers virtual opportunities during COVID-19

Right from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Ozaukee County began to see a growing gap in the mental, behavioral, physical, and educational well-being of the students served. As a result, they knew they had to shift their programming to virtual platforms to meet those growing needs.

In applying for the GCF grant, BBBS Executive Director Nicole Bulow's goal was to build virtual connections and create new educational resources between mentees and mentors to help keep these crucial connections going.

"We believe the youth we serve are likely to bear the heaviest burdens of trauma and the economic fallout of the pandemic," says Bulow. "Social restrictions were affecting their well-being and compounding the adversity that many of them already face daily."

Receiving the GCF grant this spring opened up a wealth of possibilities as part of BBBS' Keep Kids Connected Project, starting with the development of a specialized Virtual Mentoring Program to ensure that current and incoming youth safely maintain

consistent and meaningful relationships with their mentors while continuing to address their social and academic needs.

This curriculum, aimed at strengthening youth development and social skills, was created with a positive mindset that included a spectrum of activities such as watching videos and doing exercises together, while at the same time setting goals academically and socially. Once developed, this new curriculum was distributed to elementary and middle school students, many of whom had mentors in professions that prohibited face-to-face contact in the COVID environment.

"We wanted to ensure that the matches that were intact...stayed intact," says Bulow. "Even when schools were not allowing contact, we were able to keep the virtual program going. The issues these youth face were intensified during COVID – social isolation anxiety, depression, along with the challenges of virtual learning. We needed to do something very specialized to enliven these vital connections."

Thankfully, schools allowed BBBS to use their virtual platforms – Chromebooks and iPads – to log in during school or after school, so matches could meet virtually for 45 minutes, doing things together such as math worksheets on dry erase boards or art projects.

Further, BBBS was able to develop new policies and safety procedures for virtual visits, along with the creation of a new specialized App to allow for safe and staff-monitored texting and emailing between volunteers, parents, BBS staff and youth.

Finally, as part of this project, BBBS planned and executed four virtual group events – fun, educational, engaging activities – in the first six months of 2021 to offer youth opportunities for positive socialization with their mentor and peers. These included:

- A Valentine's Party, in which matches created Valentines together via Zoom which were delivered to a local senior center



The 2021 GCF grant made possible four virtual group events this year, including a game day that encouraged positive socialization among mentors and peers.

- A game day including Bingo, Pictionary, and trivia in Zoom breakout rooms, allowing children to socially interact with kids the same age while also connecting mentors
- A spring-project day that included collaboration with the Ozaukee County 4-H Club, whose members delivered painting canvases, cake decorating supplies, and gardening packs so matches could do these project together virtually
- A Riveredge Nature Center event that included a nature walk and socially distanced picnic, once matches could come together again

"The mentoring relationships BBBS provides our youth are critical to their mental health, social growth, and academic success," Bulow says. "The consistent, safe and reliable friendship a 'Big' provides our youth includes additional reassurance, guidance, and a person outside of their family with whom to process their situation and feelings."

The GCF grant allowed programming to keep going, staff to retain their salaries, and matches to receive critical resources to help these kids during a hard, stressful, confusing time. ■



Via Zoom, mentors and their matches created Valentines that were delivered to a local senior center.



Legacy Society Members

Listed below are members of the Legacy Society – a group of individuals sharing a commitment to support and sustain the many programs and projects that enhance the greater Cedarburg area. If you want to join this club, please print out and complete the Legacy Society membership form found at www.cedarburgfoundation.com and mail to: Greater Cedarburg Foundation, P.O. Box 711, Cedarburg WI 53012. For more info on becoming a Legacy Society member, leave a message with the Greater Cedarburg Foundation at 262-377-7338.

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Don* and Carol Alexander | Lewis and Lorraine Hanson | Katie Rintelman Pipkorn |
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| Dr. Michael and Patty Hansen | David and Anne Pagel | Mary Kay Bourbulas |
| Kristofor and Allison Hanson | Jim and Sandy Pape | *deceased |

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We wish to thank Board Members Heather Cain, John Cordio, and Tim Wilkinson for their past service and dedication to the Greater Cedarburg Foundation.

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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.



www.cedarburgfoundation.org