

The Greater Cedarburg ... now and forever FOUNDATION

A Newsletter for the Friends of the Cedarburg Foundation

Thirty-sixth Edition — December 2020

First-Ever Virtual Fall GCF Gala Spotlights Grant Recipients in Video Progression



Our Greater Cedarburg Foundation (GCF) Gala Celebration this fall took the shape of a three-day virtual fundraiser on September 14-16, 2020. While the COVID-19 climate informed this change, it remains critical to keep GCF in mind as you consider meaningful ways to give back to our community this holiday season.

“While we didn’t meet in person this fall, the tangible needs of our community continue and so does our excitement to fulfill GCF’s mission,” said GCF President Mark Langholz. “Through the generosity of GCF donors, we raised more than \$30,000 in three days, allowing the Foundation to continue awarding future funds 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.”

Launched on September 14, the fall gala featured videos highlighting grants we’ve made over the years, which were then emailed to GCF supporters on three successive days. As host, GCF President Mark Langholz showcased three key categories of our

grants: Brick and Mortar Projects (Day 1), Community Funding (Day 2), and Social Service Partners (Day 3). These Q&A interviews showed how GCF has partnered with community organizations in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

On Day 1, Langholz visited the Cedar Creek Park Bandshell to interview Ryan Olsen of Olsen’s Piggly Wiggly and member of the Cedarburg-Grafton Rotary Club, GCF’s lead partner in building this popular community gathering place. Other Brick and Mortar projects receiving funding in the past include the VFW, the Cedarburg Cultural Center, and the Cedarburg Sports Complex.



The Cedar Creek Park Bandshell hosts Summer Sounds, a beloved local tradition, along with theater productions and the Cedarburg Park and Recreation’s supervised playground.



Located in the old Hilgen & Schroeder Mill Store at the corner of Portland and Columbia roads, the Cedarburg History Museum features unique spaces for permanent historical installations, rotating exhibits and interactive technology.

In Day 2’s video, Langholz showcased the Willowbrooke CommUNITY Playground in

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James W. Coutts, beloved member of our community who introduced the idea of starting the Greater Cedarburg

Foundation more than two decades ago, passed away on November 30, 2020 surrounded by loved ones. Honored as the recipient of the 2012 Civic Award by the Greater Cedarburg Foundation, Jim was a devoted civic activist for more than 50 years, including serving as president of the GCF from 2006 to 2008. Jim and his dedication to our community were a true gift, and he will be truly missed.

Annual Fund Drive Underway

By Tim Wilkinson,
GCF Annual Fund Drive Chair

The 2020 Annual Fund Drive for the Greater Cedarburg Foundation is underway and is like no other in the history of the Foundation. We are asking for your support amid a global pandemic, which has disrupted lives and caused hardship for so many in our community and around the world. This year, we continued to support projects by local non-profit organizations, but we also awarded “emergency” grants to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County, the Saukville Community Food Pantry, and Family Promise, all of which provide direct relief to individuals

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Ozaukee Nonprofit Center offers collaborative space



For more than 28 years, Ozaukee Nonprofit Center*

has strengthened connections among local nonprofit organizations by offering a bright space to connect and collaborate, along with much-needed services and support, all while focusing on the human service needs of our greater community.

“Our goal is to create an environment that fosters synergy and joint action with like-minded groups to help community members grow, succeed, and improve well-being,” says ONC Executive Director Carissa Barnes.

“According to ALICE research and data, the average rate of poverty in Ozaukee County is 25 percent,” Barnes continued. “Despite appearing affluent, poverty and the need for social and human services is pressing in Ozaukee County.”

The need for services provided by ONC’s agency partners is steadily increasing. Without the reduced overhead costs afforded to the partner agencies by ONC, some organizations may not be able to exist, while others may be limited in the quality

and quantity of service due to operating cost constraints.

Originally, ONC came to GCF with a grant request to replace the aging carpet in its facility, located at Badger Circle in Grafton. The goal: to bring new life and create a professional workspace for local agencies and the public to enjoy. Just months after receiving the funds, ONC was offered the opportunity to purchase a new 42,000-square-foot building at Dakota Drive, just one mile away from its original facility.

“With ONC’s current partner agencies outgrowing their existing spaces and bursting at the seams, the new additional space will help meet and address our nonprofits’ demands for the future,” Barnes explained.

The new building offers modernized conference rooms, storage space, and a contemporary event hall to support local agencies’ day-to-day activities and mission-critical initiatives. With the move and transition to the new building, the grant funds were reallocated to support the carpet replacement project at the new facility.



(L-R) Carissa Barnes, ONC Executive Director, Julie Pahnke, ONC Board Member, and Robin Hammetter, ONC Admin & Event Support Specialist.

“The new carpet and building, still yet to be revealed to the public, will offer a welcoming and professional environment for organizations that meet critical needs in our community,” concluded Barnes. “We are very grateful to the Greater Cedarburg Foundation.”

* formerly the Family Enrichment Center of Ozaukee County ■

First-Ever Virtual Fall GCF Gala (from pg. 1)

his interview with volunteer Melissa Bitter to bring attention to Community Projects. Past recipients include the Cedarburg Robotics team, Cedarburg Historical Society, and the Cedarburg Music Festival’s Summer Sounds.

On Day 3, Social Service Agencies took the stage as Langholz interviewed Julie Hoover, Executive Director of Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. Social Service Agencies receiving GCF funds through the years include Advocates of Ozaukee County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Mel’s Charities.

The GCF Board offers sincere thanks to our Virtual Gala sponsors: Answerport, Port Washington State Bank, Levy & Levy, Master Printwear, and Olsen’s Piggly Wiggly.

If you would like to make a contribution, visit our website at www.CedarburgFoundation.org. During these unusual times, GCF has the opportunity to support our community more than ever. Your support is essential. We are enormously grateful for the continued support of the greater Cedarburg community.

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. ■

To donate, visit www.CedarburgFoundation.org



Located in the heart of our historic downtown, the Cedarburg Cultural Center has been the cultural hub of our community for more than 30 years, providing access to and participation in the visual and performing arts, the humanities and local heritage.

Saukville Food Pantry offers more fruits, vegetables and hope

“Fresh Food, Fresh Hope for Families” is the motto of the Saukville Food Pantry, which provides wholesome quality food to Ozaukee County patrons and, in turn, makes it easier for them to spend the dollars they have.

“The vast majority of our patrons live below the poverty line,” said Executive Director Mark Gierach, “so the ability to purchase good wholesome food is not always within reach and budgets are tighter now more than ever.”

With funds received from GCF, the pantry expanded its capacity to receive and provide more fresh fruits and vegetables – the foods that are often most expensive, yet make a huge impact on good health. In addition, the pantry purchased and will expand its hydroponic garden to grow fresh produce inside all year long.



One of the Mobile Pantries, run once a month from April through October at Grady Park in Saukville, serves more than 100 families in a two-hour period.

“We are very grateful for this grant – especially in this current COVID-19 environment,” continued Gierach. “Before, we were serving from 200 to 225 families a month, but since May, our numbers have steadily risen to 501 families served in October. I do not envision this number decreasing for at least a year. Many of our families talk about the loss of a full-time job, or a part-time job needed to pay for groceries. Others have had their work hours cut and now find themselves making hard decisions about which bills get paid.”

Grants are critical to all food pantries right now, Gierach explained, since many fundraising events have been postponed and food costs have increased.

“Seven years ago, we began offering a back-to-school fair to furnish school supplies, backpacks and shoes to hundreds of children in Ozaukee County,” said Gierach, “so they could begin the school year with all the tools needed to succeed in that school year. We also continued offering special holiday meal boxes at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.”

“Moving forward,” Gierach concludes, “we will continue to build on strong connections within our community to ensure that no one goes hungry – or needs to choose between eating and meeting monthly expenses.” ■



Shelves of food offer good wholesome food for those whose budgets are currently stretched thin.

On Tuesdays, patrons can check out “Produce and Bakery Day” at the Pantry. With an appointment, Ozaukee residents may pick up produce, bakery, and assorted frozen foods for their families. This is an EXTRA pickup and does not count as a family’s monthly visit. According to the website, “We have generous grocers in this county – please come put their generosity to good use.”

Annual Fund Drive Underway (from pg. 1)

and families suffering from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

We sincerely hope that 2021 will be a more “normal” year for GCF and for the residents of Greater Cedarburg. Regardless of what next year may bring, GCF remains committed to continuing to support projects carried out by non-profit organizations which help preserve the cultural heritage and quality of life in the Greater Cedarburg area.

Please consider donating to the Greater Cedarburg Foundation to help us carry out this mission. We appreciate donations of any size.

For further information on the Foundation’s mission or Annual Fund Drive, call 262-377-7338 or visit CedarburgFoundation.org.

Want to keep the legacy alive? Consider joining a committed group of people who are

part of the GCF’s Legacy Society. If you are already a member of the Legacy Society, please consider donating toward your commitment. Thanks to the generosity of GCF Board member and accomplished artist Robb Helf, any Legacy Society members who contribute at least \$1,000 toward their pledge will receive a print of their choice of Robb’s paintings depicting beloved Cedarburg scenes. For more information, go to <http://cedarburgfoundation.org/gcf-legacy-society>. ■

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. ■

Greater Cedarburg Foundation Legacy Society

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Don* and Carol Alexander | Paul and Philia Hayes | Katie Rintelman Pipkorn |
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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