

The Greater Cedarburg ... now and forever FOUNDATION

A Newsletter for the Friends of the Cedarburg Foundation

Forty-fifth Edition — Summer 2025

GCF's 22nd Annual Civic Award Marks 25 Years of Community Impact



Past and present GCF board members

Front Row: L-R: Joe Rintelman, Mary Jane Baumgartner, Duey Stroebe, Terri Haas, Mal Hepburn, Pat Thome, Layton Olsen, Paul Hayes, Marilyn Vollrath Middle Row L-R: Ann Manning, Lauren McMillen, Al Lorge, Kip Kinzel, Tim Wilkinson, Bob Loomis, Jack Steinbrecker, Carol Alexander Coutts, Blaine Gibson, Susan Lange, Shirley Krenzke, Patty Gallun Hansen, Barbara Janssen, Jack Hale, Sandy Pape, Richard Janssen, Joel Dykstra, Jim Meyers, Robb Helf Back Row L-R: John Cordio, Dan DenBoer, Katie Pipkorn, David Pagel, James Schowalter, Jerry Voigt, Steve Schowalter, Jeff Janza, Vince Cameranesi
Photo credit: Mark Justesen

On May 21, more than 125 friends and supporters of the Greater Cedarburg Foundation (GCF) gathered at the Cedarburg Cultural Center for GCF's 22nd Annual Civic Ceremony. Celebrating GCF's silver anniversary, this year's event recognized GCF's founders, Legacy Society members, past presidents and board members, and Civic Awardees.

GCF Past President Joe Rintelman opened the evening with a message of gratitude. "Success is never certain," he said. "A quarter century ago, the idea of a community foundation might easily have stalled. But the clear vision, steadfast commitment, and selfless generosity of our leaders and supporters brought us to where we are today. So let's celebrate!"

Greg Wesley, President and CEO of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF), reflected on the long-standing partnership between the two organizations. GCF's affiliation with GMF provides many benefits, including access to professional infrastructure—legal, accounting, and investment services—while keeping decision-making local. "No one knows Cedarburg better than you," Wesley said, underscoring GCF's commitment to community-based philanthropy.

Former board member and 2013 Civic Award recipient Paul Hayes recounted GCF's founding. The idea for the Greater Cedarburg Foundation was first proposed in 1999 by then-Mayor Jim Coutts. A year later, GCF's first board met at the

Cedarburg Cultural Center. GCF laid important groundwork in its first years, including its decision to affiliate with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, setting fundraising goals, and a commitment to fund local projects envisioned by the community itself.

Under the leadership of the second president, Mal Hepburn (2002–2004), a major fundraising campaign was launched to raise \$500,000, bolstered by a \$100,000 match from GMF. Forty donors quickly joined the effort, forming what is now known as GCF's "Founders." Additionally, GCF laid the groundwork that helped shape its future by launching the Civic Award event, producing a regular newsletter, establishing the Legacy Society, and hosting an annual gala.

Former GCF President Ben Levy (2010–2012) reflected on the Foundation's growth and accomplishments. One of GCF's earliest endeavors was to retire the Cultural Center's mortgage, and during Peg Edquist's presidency (2012–2014), GCF awarded its largest-ever grant—\$100,000 to the Cedarburg Public Library.

Ben recognized the many dedicated GCF Board members. "Everyone who has served on the board has brought their talent, expertise, and love of Cedarburg and spread it throughout our community. This is a community foundation in the truest and best sense of the word. Because it took a community to build it, and it takes a community to sustain it."

John Cordio, President from 2018 to 2020, described recent innovations, including the return of GCF's gala to Cedarburg and the introduction of a "traveling" format starting with a "Night at the Museums." During his tenure, GCF expanded its endowment,

Continued on page 2



Ben Levy, Past GCF President
Photo credit: Mark Justesen

standardized grant and award nomination processes, and broadened its focus to include programs.

Cordio emphasized the importance of bringing new voices while honoring the organization's roots. "I would like to share two thoughts on why I believe the Foundation continues to flourish. First, I believe that through events, outreach, and board membership, the organization continues to do a good job of bringing in the next

generation of members to get involved...and second, the organization has been able to maintain what I like to call 'organizational muscle memory,' going back to our founders' mission and decisions of prior boards, while evolving and adapting to current times...I believe the blend and balance of the two concepts, new generation involvement and organizational muscle memory, will keep the Foundation vibrant and impactful in our community for years to come."

Current President Katie Pipkorn concluded the evening with a powerful reminder that behind every number is a story. She noted, "Over 25 years, we've granted nearly \$1.9 million to 55 area

organizations. Our Legacy Society has grown from fewer than 20 members when my dad was preparing to become the GCF's fourth president to 130 members strong today...These numbers represent families helped, services expanded, and dreams made real—right here in Cedarburg. This is YOUR legacy. It is not hypothetical. It is already happening because of the people in this room. Your vision. Your time. Your talents. Your generosity."

Looking ahead, Pipkorn invited guests to consider joining the Legacy Society. "If you've ever thought about how your impact can live on—how your values can continue to serve this community beyond your lifetime—then I invite you to consider joining our Legacy Society. By including the GCF in your estate planning, you're not just leaving a gift. You're preserving and enriching our cultural heritage, enhancing our artistic and aesthetic experiences, and providing educational and community service opportunities for people of all ages—right here, in the place you love—Now and Forever."

As GCF looks to its next 25 years, our goal is clear: to be the go-to partner for local nonprofits, a leading force in preserving and enriching our cultural heritage, a catalyst for community enrichment, and a trusted steward of Cedarburg's future.

The evening was a fitting tribute to a Foundation built by the community—and an inspiring call to continue that legacy together. ■

To see more pictures from the event, please visit
<https://cedarburgfoundation.com/2025civicevent/>

Celebrating 25 Years of Impact: GCF's Lasting Legacy in Cedarburg



DeWayna Cherrington, President of Cedarburg Friends of the Library
Photo credit: Mark Justesen

At the annual Civic Award event, several local leaders reflected on the lasting impact of GCF's support to more than 50 organizations over the past 25 years.

Sue Schrader, Executive Director of the Cedarburg Cultural Center and Co-Director of Cedarburg Summer Sounds, shared how GCF's funding has elevated the arts in Cedarburg:

"GCF's support has allowed these arts organizations to dream a little bigger, serve a little better, and reach a little further. Their generosity ripples through this town—in every note of music in the park, every child who sees their art on a gallery wall, and every person who finds joy or connection through these institutions."

GCF has been instrumental in a variety of arts-related projects, including paying off the Cultural Center's mortgage, creating movable art walls, installing parking lot lighting, and renovating the Kuhefuss House restroom. For Summer Sounds, GCF contributed to the Cedar Creek bandshell, a custom Airstream beverage trailer used for fundraising, and a backstage green room Airstream affectionately known as the "Silver Bullet."

"These projects don't just fix problems—they unlock potential," Schrader said. "You haven't just funded projects, you've fueled purpose."

DeWayna Cherrington, President of Cedarburg Friends of the Library, expressed gratitude for GCF's role in the construction of the new Cedarburg Library in 2014, including its popular Community Room.

"The Community Room is used nearly every day—for everything from toddler story time to international policy discussions, and for community storytelling events that help all residents feel heard and included."

Continued on page 3

CHS Students Capture GCF History through Podcast Project

In the late 1990s, Cedarburg High School (CHS) English teacher Dr. Richard Cass led his students in creating a book to celebrate CHS's 100th anniversary. At that time, GCF Past President Joe Rintelman and current CHS Principal Casey Bowe were students. Last year, Joe approached Casey about another collaboration—this time to commemorate GCF's 25th anniversary.

After discussion, Principal Bowe suggested a modern twist: a podcast series featuring interviews with GCF members. CHS digital media teacher Rick Wagner introduced the idea to his students. What followed was an innovative, intergenerational project that allowed students to interview GCF community leaders and transform their stories into a growing archive of digital podcasts. The initiative aims to document personal accounts of local GCF history while also giving students hands-on experience in journalism, production, and community engagement.

Through this innovative partnership, students like Callie Daute, Jake Nelson, Brady Lane, and others are bridging generations and preserving the local history of an organization that has served the community for 25 years.

Both the student interviewers and GCF interviewees enjoyed the project.

"At first, I was very nervous to interview Carol Alexander Coutts since she is a very influential part of Cedarburg and the GCF. As soon as she introduced herself, all my nerves went away as she was so welcoming and had a calming presence. I enjoyed hearing the details in the stories that she told me about GCF and her husband, Jim, who founded the foundation," student Callie Daute stated.

Interviewer Jake Nelson commented, "Working with the GCF has been a truly rewarding experience. Their commitment to supporting local initiatives and making a lasting impact in our community is inspiring."

Student Brady Lane said, "Peg Edquist was a great guest, really knowledgeable in her craft, so that made it nice. It was also great to be a part of a community activity with a community group."



Nora Zimbelman interviews Pat Thome for the CHS/GCF podcast series

Photo credit: Rick Wagner

The five podcast interviewees included current and former GCF board members Carol Alexander Coutts, Patty Gallun Hansen, Peg Edquist, Pat Thome, and Joe Rintelman.

GCF Past President Joe Rintelman reminisced, "It was a bit surreal to be interviewed at CHS. Twenty-five years ago, just as the foundation was launched, I was sitting on the other side of the table as a CHS senior. Twenty-five years from now, perhaps some of these young people will be leading our Foundation."

The recordings are available on GCF's YouTube channel and can be accessed via the GCF website at <https://cedarburgfoundation.com/CHSPodcast/>, ensuring that the voices and stories behind GCF's legacy will remain accessible for years to come.

Through this project, CHS students have not only deepened their understanding of the community's history—they've also strengthened ties between generations and helped tell the story of GCF's decades of giving, service, and impact. ■

Celebrating 25 Years of Impact (from pg. 2)

Cherrington also highlighted GCF's funding for technology upgrades, including drone and virtual reality classes that reached both local residents and clients from Portal Industries and Balance. Most recently, GCF provided funds for new computers for youth, giving children and caregivers a shared space for early learning.

Lisa Holtebeck, Executive Director of Ozaukee Family Services (OFS), spoke about the essential role GCF has played in supporting their mission of "building mental wellness and strengthening families."

GCF has helped fund counseling programs for Cedarburg youth, early childhood home visits through Parents as Teachers, and other

critical family services. One of the most impactful contributions was a capital grant that helped OFS renovate and expand its facility on Columbia Road, significantly increasing capacity for counseling, playgroups, workshops, and presentations.

"We all know Cedarburg is a wonderful place to live and raise a family," Holtebeck said. "But people here face real challenges. GCF's investment helps ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Thanks to GCF's steadfast support, organizations across Cedarburg are better equipped to serve, uplift, and strengthen the community—for the next 25 years and beyond. ■

The Greater Cedarburg FOUNDATION



GCF Legacy Society members

Front Row L-R: Bruce Krenzke, Shirley Krenzke, Jack Steinbrecker, Lindy Steinbrecker, Don Levy, Duey Stroebel, Mal Hepburn, Philia Hayes, Paul Hayes, Jerry Voigt, Kay Walters, John Hammes Second Row L-R: Katie Pipkorn, Pam Helf, Robb Helf, Steve Gall, Vicki Gall, Ann Rintelman-Tice, Layton Olsen, Barbara Olsen, Carol Alexander Coutts, Pat Thome, Barbara Janssen, Richard Janssen, Patty Gallun Hansen, Jack Hale, Peg Edquist, Lisa Vogt, Amy Argall, Mary Lou McPhillips, John Cordio, Nancy Wilkinson, Ronnie Hammes, Tim Wilkinson, Jerry Edquist Back Row L-R: Vince Cameranesi, Betsy Wirth, Blaine Gibson, Bob Loomis, Maria Loomis, Dan DenBoer, Nancy DenBoer, Richard Dieffenbach, John Katzka, Candy Flagstad, David Pagel, Anne Pagel, Ben Levy, Kit Keller, Jim Pape, Paul Rushing, Patty Clapper, Mark Baumgartner, Mary Jane Baumgartner, Rob Clapper, Jim Meyers, Sandy Pape, Greg Butler, Sandy Butler, Susan Hale, Al Lorge, Steve Schowalter, James Schowalter Photo credit: Mark Justesen.

For a full listing of GCF Legacy Society Members, please visit <https://cedarburgfoundation.com/gcf-legacy-society/>



SAVE THE DATE! COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FOR GCF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

WHAT: Free community-wide celebration in honor of GCF's 25th anniversary

WHEN: September 27, 2025, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Lawn outside City Hall and inside Community Gym

WHO: Everyone in the Cedarburg community is invited to join the festivities

DETAILS:

- Bring a lawn chair
- Brief parade starting at Fire Department at noon
- Local entertainers from 12-2 pm
- Yacht rock band at 2 pm
- Kids' zone
- Non-profit fair
- Food and beverages for purchase

FREE: Commemorative t-shirts. Use QR code or visit www.cedarburgfoundation.com to pre-order



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Foundation Officers:

President – Katie Pipkorn

Vice President – Joe Rintelman

Treasurer – Joel Dykstra

Secretary – Jeff Janza

Board of Directors:

Krisie Augustine-Mansell

Vince Cameranesi

Patty Clapper

Ryan Fitting

Candis Rand Flagstad

Patty Gallun Hansen

Robb Helf

Brad Hurd

John Katzka

Kevin Kennedy

Ann Manning

Lauren McMillen

Jack Steinbrecker

Cedarburg ... Now and Forever
is published by the
Greater Cedarburg Foundation, Inc.
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Cedarburg, WI 53012

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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.com