serving adams, columbia, iowa, juneau, richland, sauk, and vernon counties
Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The challenges of Covid threatened every facet of our lives in 2020. So it is tempting to consider this a year best forgotten and left behind.

But despite the pandemic, our donors and communities continued to help others in need. Through collaboration, matching-grant challenges, and generous donations, the Foundation was able to provide support for many worthy causes.

Some of the highlights: We helped to meet the nutritional needs of hungry children and families; we supported a library expansion years in the planning, now ready to break ground; we donated to projects for veterans, the elderly, and historic preservation; and we contributed to a new homeless shelter opening its doors.

So rather than a year to be forgotten, perhaps 2020 should be remembered for the people who came together to preserve, protect, and improve our communities for the future. Enjoy our annual report that you helped write by being a part of the solutions and successes of our communities.

Thank you,

Laura Stanek
President
Your Community Foundation as of 12/31/2020

- $10.7 million in assets under management
- $12.6 million in gifts received to date
- $4.9 million in grants distributed to date
- 2020 gifts received: $918,000
- 2020 grants distributed: $847,000 — a new record!
- 99% of assets directly support our mission (2020 administrative costs = 1% of net assets)
- 93 funds managed

Please visit our website at cfscw.org to view our latest audited financial statements.
Dear Friends,

The last year has been wretched for so many. We’ve all had our fill of bad news. So we are bringing you a report filled with success stories! We want to amaze and inspire you with our accounts of remarkable donor generosity on behalf of myriad nonprofits, each working in its own way to make the world a better place for all.

Our theme this year is time. When Charles Dickens wrote “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times ...,” he was referring to the French Revolution, of course. But those words could easily describe our pandemic year, in which enormous suffering and loss was countered by heroism, dedication, and sacrifice.
While much of our work is focused on long-term giving, we are pleased to tell you the story of how quickly the community responded to a call to help local food pantries last summer.

We are also proud of the role we played in a short-term project — managing a gift to benefit the Baraboo Public Library until such time as the funds were needed.

We showcase several of our endowment funds — gifts that are established to help a specific nonprofit carry on its good work ... forever.

And we celebrate our new name! Our Board decided it was time to change our name to better reflect our entire service area.

We hope this year’s report will bring a smile to your face and make you proud of our community. Thank you again and again for allowing us to serve you.

Warmest regards,

Robin Whyte
Executive Director

June 2021
A community challenge . . .

At the urging of Sauk County Emergency Management last spring, the Foundation’s Board of Directors offered the community the following challenge: make a donation to help local food pantries respond to the enormous demands created by the Covid crisis, and we would match the first $10,000 in gifts from our Community Grants Fund. Our goal was to raise $20,000.

We were astonished by your response when the contributions started pouring in. More than 160 gifts. Donations that ranged from $2 to $25,000.

Because of you, we were able to provide $71,000 in grants to 21 different food pantries across our seven-county service area. These grants paid for thousands of meals for our hungry neighbors. During a time of great fear and uncertainty, you showed that you cared for your community. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry
The Baraboo Public Library first started planning to expand and renovate its historic Carnegie building in 2000. Thanks to a transformational gift from Juanita Schadde in late 2019, that plan is about to become a reality at last. Since the library wasn’t ready to use the money at the time the donor offered her $2.5 million gift, the Foundation stepped up to manage the funds for the short term, as a “pass-through” gift. Last year the library added another $100,000 gift to the fund. When the library asked us to pay them the balance of the fund in April so construction could get under way, we delivered a check for $3,283,056 — an increase of $683,056 in 16 months over the original $2.6 million. We are proud that with prudent investment, we were able to steward and increase the value of this wonderful gift to the community!
What is an endowment?

Endowed funds are established to preserve the gift that was used to create the fund and provide annual income to a favorite charity, forever. The money is invested and continues to grow and pay an annual grant in perpetuity, often providing much-needed support for operations or programs that are otherwise not part of the budget. Some donors establish endowments during their lifetime, while others do so by bequest as part of their estate plan. Here is an example of how endowments work:

Al Behrman was a volunteer at South Elementary School who was devoted to the schoolchildren, donating countless hours of his time reading to classes and providing other services. When he died in 2002, he left his $90,000 estate to the Foundation to establish an endowment fund to benefit the school (since renamed Al Behrman Elementary!). Mr. Behrman included a list of special programs and field trips that his annual gift would sponsor. The school has received an average $4,200 per year for the last 18 years for these programs.
The original $90,000 gift has paid out more than $75,000 in grants over time. Meanwhile, the fund balance has now grown to over $143,000, so the annual grant continues to grow and keep up with inflation.

We love this story because it illustrates that you don’t have to be a multi-millionaire to leave a lasting impact on a favorite charity. Our Board is here to not only invest and manage your gift — but to make sure it remains relevant. For example, last year Covid prevented the school from offering the special extras the grant pays for. However, a parents’ group was struggling to complete a fundraising campaign for new school playground equipment. Our Board authorized the school district to use part of last year’s grant to cap off the campaign, and the new playground was installed last year. We felt confident Mr. Behrman would approve.
Aldo Leopold Foundation: a flock of fellows!
Aldo Leopold was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast. He was the author of *A Sand County Almanac*, which was published a year after his death in 1948. Translated into 15 different languages and having sold more than two million copies worldwide, *A Sand County Almanac* is a global conservation classic that has inspired generations to re-think their relationship to the land. The Aldo Leopold Foundation (ALF) was founded in 1982 and is based in Baraboo, where the Leopold family had a weekend retreat known as “The Shack.” ALF’s mission: to foster a “Land Ethic,” which was Aldo Leopold’s call for people everywhere to care for each other and the land.

A local supporter established an endowment fund with CFSCW in 2017 with a $500,000 gift to benefit ALF. This year, ALF received a bequest that allowed them to add $250,000 to their endowment, which was in turn generously matched by the fund’s founder — raising the endowment’s balance to over $1 million.

"We are really excited to partner with the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin and to be the beneficiaries of such generosity from local donors. Because the fund now exceeds $1,000,000, it will provide a grant of $50,000 or more each year to go to our most pressing need or highest priority. This year it will allow us to grow our Future Leaders Program and support five fellows, who will contribute in a multitude of ways to our programming, and then ultimately take the Leopold Legacy and Sauk County with them out into the world as they continue their conservation career."

— Buddy Huffaker, ALF Executive Director
In 1971 two students who shared a passion for cranes envisioned an organization that would combine research, captive breeding, conservation, and education to safeguard the world’s 15 crane species. Two years later the International Crane Foundation (ICF) was born in Baraboo. ICF is perhaps best known for its work to bring the whooping crane back from the brink of extinction. Today, their headquarters includes the only complete collection of all 15 species in the world. They also have a network of specialists in more than 50 countries on five continents. Together they have one goal: save the cranes and the eco-systems that support them. Eleven of the 15 species face extinction.

We are proud and honored that ICF has now established a $500,000 endowment fund with us, combining a bequest with a matching gift. Their commitment will help support local charities while providing an annual grant for ICF operations ... forever.

“We are grateful for the creation of the new ICF Fund with the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin. The annual support we draw from this fund will help secure our core operations for today and tomorrow, as we pursue our mission in South Central Wisconsin and worldwide on behalf of endangered cranes, the wetlands and grasslands and farmlands they need to survive, and the communities that share those lands. We hope you will visit our beautiful, newly remodeled site in Baraboo and learn firsthand how the ICF Fund is supporting communities and conservation efforts here at home and around the world.”

— Rich Beifuss, ICF President and CEO
RAI unveils new art on the Great Sauk State Trail
River Arts Inc. (RAI) got its start in 1997 as the fundraiser to establish the Sauk Prairie community’s River Arts Center, a performance space and art gallery adjacent to the Sauk Prairie High School. After successfully completing that capital campaign, RAI became an arts presenter, producing a performance series in the theatre and curating art exhibits in the gallery. In 2011, RAI opened River Arts on Water, a retail gallery, concert venue, and gathering place for the community. They expanded once again in 2017, opening a studio that offers art workshops for all ages.

RAI established an endowment fund with the Foundation with a gift of $150,000 in 2008. With additional gifts and bequests, along with growth from the Foundation’s investments over the years, the RAI endowment fund now exceeds $1.2 million. RAI’s annual grant has grown each year along with the fund balance, to a record $61,000 this year. We are proud to help support the arts in Sauk County — now and forever.

“The annual grant we receive through our fund at the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin helps cover a large portion of our operational costs so we can focus on what matters most, our mission to inspire, enrich, and educate the community through the arts! During the past year, it was a huge sigh of relief to know River Arts Inc. was going to make it through the pandemic because of this significant, sustainable support.”

— Lindsey Giese, RAI Executive Director
Sauk County Historical Society

The Sauk County Historical Society (SCHS) preserves, protects, maintains, and shares the history of Sauk County. Established in 1905, SCHS acquired the Van Orden mansion in 1938, now a house museum; the old Island Woolen Mill in 2006, now the Sauk County History Center; and the historic Baraboo train depot in 2020, to begin a major restoration project. In addition, SCHS is the guardian of three sacred indigenous sites: Man Mound National Historic Landmark, Yellow Thunder Memorial, and 1,000-year-old agricultural fields in an archeological district on Highway H.

In 2012 a local donor established an endowment fund with us to benefit SCHS with a gift of $10,000. Over the ensuing years that fund had grown to $20,000. Then last winter SCHS received a major gift in memory of Carol and Dayl Sorg. SCHS invested $100,000 of that gift in their endowment fund, which was in turn matched by another donor — bringing their fund balance to $220,000. The SCHS Board of Directors has established a goal of $1 million for their endowment, to provide a steady source of operating income, for now and into the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to help SCHS realize that goal.

“As a charitable nonprofit, SCHS depends on different types of income that can fluctuate. The endowment fund set up at the Community Foundation for the benefit of SCHS will provide a stable source of support in perpetuity.”

— Paul Wolter, SCHS Executive Director
In memoriam . . .

We said good-bye too soon to several dear friends over the past year. In their different ways, each was a shining example of civic engagement and philanthropy. They also taught us much about the joy of giving. We remember them here and will miss them always.

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

— Mary Oliver, American poet

Pat Hanes  Delightful, devoted, devout — Pat was known for her beautiful smile, infectious laugh, and commitment to her family, church, and community. She and her husband Bob were childhood sweethearts who raised a family together, traveled the world together, and served the community as volunteers. Together they started a fund with us to provide defibrillators in all Sauk County Sheriff’s Department patrol cars. They were the first donors to the Founders Society, our operating endowment. And their donor-advised fund provides support to myriad local nonprofits, especially those that serve children. Pat died March 21 following a long illness. She is greatly missed.
**Matt Pinion**
A Milwaukee native, Matt married his Marshfield High School sweetheart in 1957 and then got an engineering degree at UW-Madison. He and his beloved Joan moved their five children to Baraboo in 1968 when Matt became a partner in (and then president of) Mid-State Associates, now known as MSA. Matt was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and community volunteer, giving generously of his time and treasure to numerous local organizations. He and Joan established a donor-advised fund with the Foundation, and his visits were always a treat. Matt died July 16, 2020. We miss his wry sense of humor, his wonderful stories, and his warmth and kindness to all.

**Pete Tollaksen**
Pete was a “people person plain and simple.” Born in Chicago, Pete’s family settled in Wisconsin Dells, where he owned and operated the Wisconsin Deer Park. He and his wife Ann raised three children while he gave back to the community on many levels, from service on the school board to the Dells Visitors Bureau to city council and county board of supervisors. Pete served the maximum nine years on the Foundation’s Board of Directors and then continued as chair of our Grants Committee. The Tollaksens also donated to the Founders Society, our operating endowment. Gregarious, engaging, and welcoming, Pete’s big smile reflected his big heart. Pete died March 24, 2020.
What is a community foundation . . . and where does the money come from?

We are a public charity that manages more than 90 different charitable funds, which combined paid out $847,000 in grants to nonprofits last year. These funds were established by different donors for different purposes over the past 23 years, and the grants were paid out of a broad assortment of those funds. See below for a description of the types of funds we offer. Please call us to learn more!

**DONOR-ADvised**  A donor-advised fund offers a donor the most flexibility. The donor recommends which organizations receive grants from their fund, when grants are made, and in what amount. Grants may be made to any U.S. nonprofit regardless of geographic location. You make a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation when it is financially advantageous to you to do so, and then charitable grants can be paid out of your fund over time.

**Designated**  Designated funds support a specific organization. They can be established by donors during their lifetime or as a legacy through their will. It’s up to the donor to determine how the funds are distributed. Donors can create a fund that supports their favorite nonprofit, or give to a fund that’s already established for a beloved charity.
FIELD OF INTEREST These funds are also established for a specific charitable purpose, but they support a range of organizations rather than a particular nonprofit. For example, a field of interest fund could be established to make grants to the arts, local history, veterans' projects, children's initiatives, or animal welfare.

ENDOWMENT Some funds are endowed, which means the fund’s principal is protected forever. The gift continues to grow and pay out in perpetuity, even after the donor’s death, providing annual income to a favorite charity.

AGENCY Nonprofits can create an agency fund using their own assets. They might want help managing a significant gift or want the benefit of our investment expertise or planned giving services. We can offer the protection of an endowed fund as well as the comfort of knowing the gift will be managed professionally.

UNRESTRICTED Your unrestricted gift will be used to ensure our ability to continue our work. Gifts to the Grants Fund expand our ability to accept applications for special projects from local nonprofits. Gifts to the Founders Society support the Foundation’s operations so we can continue giving back to the community.
The Founders Society

This fund supports our operations and guarantees our future.

**DIAMOND**
Darlene Ballweg  
Craig & Leola Culver Foundation  
Dina & Paul Fishkin  
Tom & Vicki Fleming  
Robert & Patricia Hanes  
Forrest Hartmann  
Harland & Lorraine Hartmann

Eldon & Doris Johnson  
Brad Schnee & Mo Reilly  
Carol D. Sorg  
Sysco Baraboo LLC  
Mae Vogel

**PLATINUM**
Baraboo News Republic  
In honor of Jim Fishkin & Ken Fishkin  
Dave & Leah Gerfen  
David & Karen Sacia  
Arnold & Judy Utzinger  
Helen M. Ziegler

MBE CPAs  
NRG Media  
Pierce’s Supermarkets  
Matt & Joan Pinion  
Plenke’s Pond & Outdoor Learning Center  
Harry & Helen SaLoutos  
Richard & Mavis Schulze  
Kathryn A. Schwarz & Bruce L. White  
Schwarz Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Smith CPA, LLC  
Alan & Laura Stanek  
Terry & Una Teelin  
Peter & Ann Tollaksen  
WCCU Credit Union  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Donald H. & J. Patricia Yanke

**GOLD**
Victor & Rita Ahlstrom  
American Family Insurance  
Bank of Prairie du Sac  
BMO Harris Bank  
Community First Bank  
Gary Gilliland, in memory of Linda Gilliland  

Steve & Darlene Bach  
Bank of Wisconsin Dells  
Baraboo Kiwanis Club  
Baraboo State Bank  
Baraboo Wal-Mart  
Steve & LuAnn Blakeslee  
Culver’s Franchising System, Inc.  
Helen C. & Robert C. Dewel  
Douglas Legacy Farm  
Jane & Roy Franzen  
In Memory of Amy Hanes Friberg  
Friede & Associates, LLC  
Bryant Hazard  
Beverly L. Hoege  
Carol E. Hulterstrum  
Janet G. Klipp  
Krunnfusz Family Fund  
Harry & Nancy Machtan  
George F. McArthur Family

**SILVER**
Steve & Darlene Bach  
Bank of Wisconsin Dells  
Baraboo Kiwanis Club  
Baraboo State Bank  
Baraboo Wal-Mart  
Steve & LuAnn Blakeslee  
Culver’s Franchising System, Inc.  
Helen C. & Robert C. Dewel  
Douglas Legacy Farm  
Jane & Roy Franzen  
In Memory of Amy Hanes Friberg  
Friede & Associates, LLC  
Bryant Hazard  
Beverly L. Hoege  
Carol E. Hulterstrum  
Janet G. Klipp  
Krunnfusz Family Fund  
Harry & Nancy Machtan  
George F. McArthur Family

**BRONZE**
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Pakyz  
Robin Whyte

---

**Founders Society Donor Levels**  
Diamond $25,000 & more  
Platinum $15,000–$24,999  
Gold $7,500–$14,999  
Silver $3,000–$7,499  
Bronze $1,000–$2,999
2021 Board of Directors

President
LAURA STANEK, Baraboo
Third Oak Investment Services, financial advisor

Vice President
JANE FRANZEN, Baraboo
Avid Risk Solutions, client executive

Treasurer
MARK GRAUPMAN, Reedsburg
Agri-Mark, Inc., chief financial officer

Secretary
ROBERT GINTHER,
Rock Springs
Cross, Jenks, Mercer & Maffei, LLP, attorney

JEAN ALT, Spring Green
Arena Community Elementary School, teacher, retired

STEVEN BLAKESLEE, Reedsburg
Blakeslee Septic Systems, president, retired; Reedsburg Bank, board chairman and vice president, retired

CRAIG CULVER, Prairie du Sac
Culver Franchising System, Inc., co-founder & chairman

GARY L. GILLILAND, Baraboo
Bank of Wisconsin Dells, chairman, president & CEO, retired

FORREST HARTMANN, Baraboo
Boardman & Clark, attorney, retired

CAROL JEFFERSON, Spring Green
American Players Theatre, development director, retired

JENNIFER KRAEMER, Plain
Kraemer Brothers, LLC, organizational development manager, retired

TIM MOY, Baraboo
MBE CPAs, managing partner

MARIETTA REUTER, Sauk City
Tools of Marketing, Inc., president

DAVE SCHULTZ, Middleton
First Weber Realtors Wisconsin Dells/Lake Delton, former owner & vice president, retired

BRANDON WEGNER, Baraboo
Bank of Wisconsin Dells, senior vice president and chief lending officer

ARNOLD UTZINGER, Baraboo
Dental Associates, dentist, retired