

A scenic view of a lake at dusk. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a faint rainbow visible. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. In the background, a hill with a rocky peak is visible.

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



WINONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Igniting **generosity**.
Building **community**.
For good, **forever**.

Mission & Vision

The Winona Community Foundation is a catalyst for igniting generosity and building the vibrant and enduring place we call home.

Where purposeful giving changes lives forever

Board of Directors



Dave Jensen
Chair
Farmer's Insurance
Dave Jensen Agency



Sara Smith Brandon
Vice Chair
Retired, Merchants
Bank Trust Services



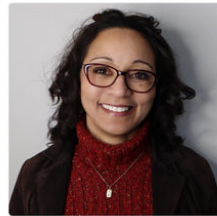
Jackie Czapski
Treasurer
Retired, WinCraft by
Fanatics



Ann Gibson
Secretary
Whetstone Machinery



Jacob Woodworth
Past Chair
WKM Properties



Maurella Cunningham
RHYMES LaCrosse



Annmarie DeMarais
Community Leader



Hayley Hornberg
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Cecilia Manrique
Retired Professor,
UW La Crosse



Kevin O'Reilly
Peerless Chain



Mark Peterson
Retired Director,
Winona County
Historical Society



Bob Quinlan
Advisor Square
Financial



Cindy Telstad
Retired Attorney,
Streater & Murphy



Jolene Vaselaar
Altra Federal Credit
Union

Staff



Mandi Olson
President/CEO



Vicki Elliott
**Finance
Director**



Emily Lofaro
**Admin &
Communications**

Dear friends and supporters,

2025 was a year of growth, generosity, and new beginnings for the Winona Community Foundation. I was honored to serve as Chair of the Board alongside such a dedicated group of individuals who care deeply about the future of our community. Their commitment went beyond just the time and talent: nearly every board member contributed financially to this year's annual campaign, a powerful demonstration of our shared belief in the mission of the Foundation.

Early in 2025, we welcomed Mandi Olson as our new President and CEO. Mandi brings a genuine passion for community engagement. Over the past year, she has been listening, learning, and building relationships with nonprofits and stakeholders to better understand the needs and opportunities ahead. Her leadership has already begun shaping a strong path forward.

That sense of forward motion was evident in our events and initiatives. Our charity golf tournament raised a record-breaking \$42,600, bringing its five-year total to more than \$164,000 in support of our competitive grant program. In October, more than 130 community members gathered to celebrate Judy Davis's remarkable contributions at our annual Founders Event, an evening filled with energy, gratitude, and inspiration.

These moments reflect a larger truth: the Foundation continues to be a vital asset to Winona. Through thoughtful grantmaking and stewardship of charitable funds, we strive to model generosity and inspire others to invest in our nonprofit community, and remain deeply aware of the growing needs in our region. That is why we remain focused on strengthening partnerships and empowering the charitable work happening across the community.

None of this would be possible without you: our donors, partners, and friends. Together, we are making a meaningful difference. Thank you for continuing to believe in and invest in Winona's future.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Jensen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Jensen
2025 Board Chair

Financial Overview

| Assets | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash | 55,186 | 166,470 |
| Investments | 16,880,690 | 18,883,252 |
| ROU Asset | 13,854 | 13,854 |
| Other Prepays | 1,804 | 2,020 |
| Property and equipment, net | 374 | 0 |
| Total Current Assets | 16,951,908 | 19,065,596 |

Liabilities

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Accounts Payable | 32,387 | 19,556 |
| Grants Payable | 0 | 0 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 32,387 | 19,556 |

Net Assets

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General | 2,619,523 | 2,980,749 |
| Restricted or Designated | 14,299,998 | 16,065,290 |
| Total Net Assets | 16,919,521 | 19,046,039 |
| <i>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</i> | <i>16,951,908</i> | <i>19,065,595</i> |

Support & Revenue

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contributions | 2,649,608 | 2,674,925 |
| Investment Earnings | 2,075,134 | 2,519,719 |
| Other Revenue | 362,195 | 356,440 |
| Total Support and Revenue | 5,086,937 | 5,551,084 |

Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Foundation Directed Grants | 270,426 | 287,405 |
| Advised Grants | 3,985,730 | 2,102,374 |
| Operations and Investment Expenses | 380,754 | 370,072 |
| Other Fund Expenditures | 623,375 | 671,548 |
| Total Expenditures | 5,260,285 | 3,431,399 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net Assets at beginning of year | 17,092,870 | 16,919,521 |
| Net Assets at end of year | 16,919,521 | 19,039,207 |
| Change in Net Assets | (173,349) | 2,119,686 |

CFNS

ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

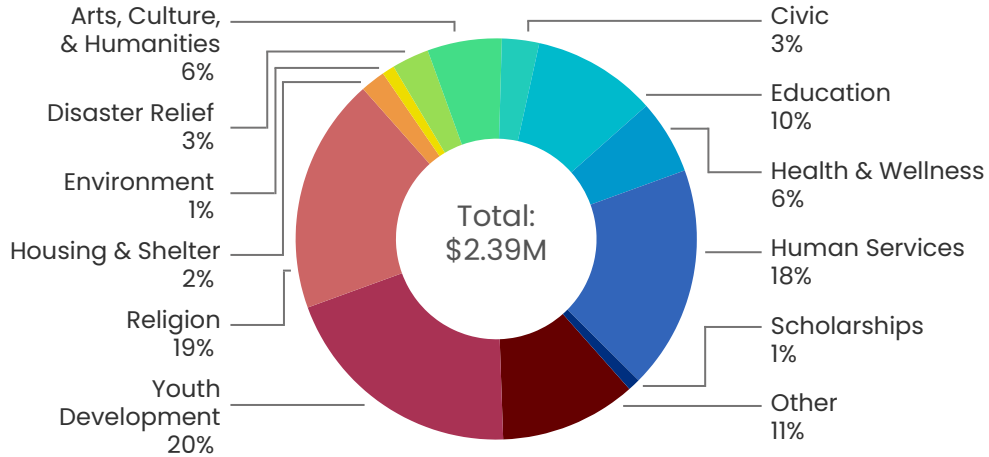
We prioritize meeting the highest standards for local giving. Our positive audit results from year-to-year confirm our strong fiscal oversight, and our accreditation provides assurance that we have sound policies and practices in place.

Donors who partner with us allow us to build a greater Winona community for everyone, together. When our assets grow, so does our ability to impact charitable work.

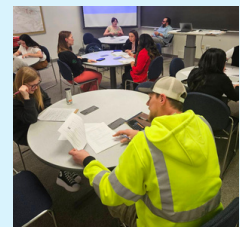
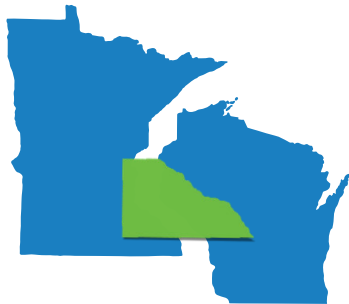
The above limited financial information is un-audited. Contact us for complete audited financial statements.

Grants

The Winona Community Foundation awarded \$2.39M in grants to 261 non-profit organizations in 2025. About one-seventh of these grants were directed by the Foundation, and the rest were directed by fundholders.



- Local (Winona area) 69%
- Regional (MN and WI) 11%
- Out of Region 20%



\$19M
Total Assets

134
Charitable Funds

2,032
Donations Received

\$2.67M
Total Gifts

557
Grants Awarded

\$2.39M
Distributed



Community Grant Program

An important part of the Winona Community Foundation's mission is realized through awarding community grants to local non-profits to help meet the ever-changing needs of our community. By doing so, a variety of interests are supported with the goal of enhancing our local charities' impact.

Funds to support the Community Grant program are made possible in part through estate gifts made by Ramona L. Jezewski English, Carol A. Orłowski and Wilmer & Beverly Larson. Community grants are also supported by individual donors and a percentage of board designated funds, including: the Thomas H. Laken Fund, the Sue & Jack Cornwell Fund, the Community Impact Endowment Fund, the Founders Endowment Fund, Charity Golf Event proceeds, and the General Trust Fund of the Winona Community Foundation.



Spring 2025

Engage Winona: \$3,000 to support Winona Together, which fosters civic participation and community well-being through meaningful dialogue

Friends of Winona Public Library: \$4,900* to continue partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, sending one free book every month to registered children age birth to five

**This grant came from the Donna Helble Literacy Fund.*

Heart of Winona: \$3,000 to support Pridefest in June 2025 where individuals could connect, celebrate and find support

Home & Community Options: \$7,500 to widen their wheelchair-accessible ramp entrance and add railings and grab bars

Let's Erase the Stigma: \$4,000 to purchase essential supplies such as a laptop, printer and course materials for ongoing expungement services

Mid West Music Fest: \$4,000 to offer a new, free arts and engagement event called Create & Connect

Project Get Outdoors: \$4,000 to provide training for 40 mental health professionals who work with Winona youth to incorporate nature-based activities

Recreation Alliance of Winona: \$4,000 to support a free summer program designed to connect underserved youth with nature

ServeMinnesota: \$7,500 to offer Early Learning Corps (ELC) to Winona Area Public School's pre-school programs to improve math and reading skills

Dive & Rescue of Winona County: \$7,500 to replace and improve SCUBA gear used to assist in water related emergencies

Winona Family YMCA: \$4,981 to support critical training and inspection services for their high ropes course at Camp Wenonah

Winona Farmers Market: \$2,500 to expand their Power of Produce (POP) program to offer seniors a \$2 food voucher

Winona Symphony Orchestra: \$6,500 to expand their free Music in Schools 2026 programming

\$63,381



Fall 2025

Bridges Health: \$4,530 to offer free speech-language pathology services to Winona residents

Family & Children's Center: \$7,500 to purchase games and equipment at Hiawatha Hall for use in in-patient stays

Great River Shakespeare Festival: \$7,500 to purchase wayfinding signage for the ARC building

Habitat for Humanity serving Winona County: \$7,500 to purchase a new trailer for use in home repair and construction programs

IMPACT Center: \$5,529 to purchase 17 Chromebooks, a reading curriculum, and crafting supplies for their free, K-12 youth center

Miller Mentoring: \$5,600 to expand and offer 1:1 mentoring during the school day

Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts: \$4,590 to preserve a costume collection and make it available to local schools and arts organizations

NAMI Winona: \$1,000 to offer a mental health support group near the Winona State campus

Riverway Learning Community: \$5,450 to fund necessary supplies for hosting a community-focused Earth Day event in 2026

Sandbar Storytelling Festival: \$2,000 to purchase portable sound equipment for performances

The Prairie Enthusiasts: \$7,200 to restore a two-acre parcel of Lake Winona along Highway 61 to native habitat

Winona Creators Collective: \$6,174 to purchase sewing equipment for the newly established Makerspace

Winona ORC: \$7,470 to purchase iPads to enhance various skill-building for people with disabilities

Winona Volunteer Services: \$7,480 to fund translation services for clients using the food shelf

\$79,523

Events

Charity Golf Outing

On June 27, 2025, the Winona Community Foundation hosted its 5th Annual Charity Golf Outing at the beautiful Bridges Golf Course in Winona. The event brought together 96 golfers, all teeing off in support of the Foundation's Community Grant Program.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of 33 sponsors, the outing raised over \$42,000, all of which were reinvested into the Winona community through grants distributed in Fall 2025.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the event's two major sponsors: *PNG Worldwide* and *In Memory of Helen Leaf Haun*. Additionally, the Foundation was honored to receive a \$9,900 Member Impact Grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, submitted in partnership with Merchants Bank, whose staff played a key role in securing the award.



Pictured from left to right: Kevin O'Reilly and Mandi Olson.

Founders Award Honoring Judy Davis



On October 14th, 2025, the Winona Community Foundation was proud to honor Judy Davis with the 2025 Founders Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to improving life in the Winona area through the use of their time, talent, and treasure.

As part of the award, Judy chose to direct \$5,000 from the Founders Endowment Fund to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum.

"I am truly honored," she says, "to live among a community of givers. Winona offers so much: education, outdoor beauty, excellent medical care, and a spirit of philanthropy that binds us together. I'm just one of many working to make it a compassionate and caring place."



Judy Davis accepts the Founders Award at the October 14 event.



Building a Lasting Legacy Through Endowment

The Connect People to Nature Endowment Fund supports local programs, equipment, and activities that help people of all ages get outdoors and connect with the natural world. Established in 2009 by JC and Arlene Pfeiffer, the fund began modestly with just a few thousand dollars, and was intentionally designed to grow over time through investment earnings and additional contributions. Over the past fifteen years, thanks to the Pfeiffers' generosity, the support of others, and sustained investment growth, the fund has awarded seven grants to Winona non-profits totaling more than \$20,000.

In December 2024, JC and Arlene Pfeiffer made a transformational contribution to the fund, one that was especially meaningful because of its timing. JC had long planned for the Foundation to receive his IRA after his passing and spoke openly with staff about this intention. With characteristic humility, he asked the question: would the Foundation prefer to receive the gift now, or later? We reminded him of the fulfillment he enjoyed in giving during his lifetime, and so he chose to give his gift immediately. The best part for us was that we were able to celebrate that gift *with him*.

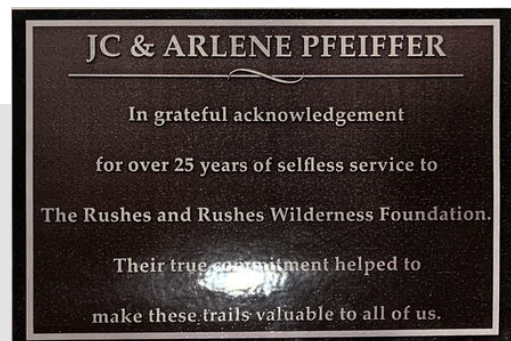
Just five months later, JC passed away.

JC's story reminds us that legacy isn't only something we leave behind, but rather something we can create during our lifetime. His generosity shows that meaningful impact can begin modestly, grow over time, and be experienced firsthand. By choosing to give through an endowment*, he ensured that the values he cared about would continue to shape the community long into the future. And by choosing to give when he did, JC was able to take joy in knowing his generosity was already making a difference. The seeds he planted will continue to grow for generations, helping ensure that people and nature thrive together in Winona.

**Endowments are permanently invested, with a portion of their earnings granted back each year to support charitable work.*



JC and Arlene Pfeiffer in 2020



JC had been a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Rushes Wilderness Foundation.

The Winona Community Foundation offers a range of charitable options, including the creation of endowment funds. Contact us to learn more.

Donors

The following donors contributed to the Foundation's **General Operating** or **Community Impact Endowment** Funds between January 1 and December 31, 2025. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list, and regret any errors or omissions. If you find one, please contact our staff.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anonymous (8) | Maureen & Lou Guillou | Bob & Geri Quinlan |
| Harley & Chris Antoff | Haskell | Ramona L Jezewski Fund |
| Boelter Charitable Remainder Trust | Carol Heyl | Bonnie Retzinger & Greg Hagen |
| Sara Smith Brandon & Jeff Brandon | Keith & Marie Holmquist | Randy & Kathy Rosenberg |
| Rosemary Broughton | Dr. Suzanne Hoodecheck | Dave & Betsy Rowekamp |
| Bruce Kreofsky and Sons, Inc. | Hayley & Scott Hornberg | John Rugeberg |
| Barbara Burchill | Jack and Sue Cornwell Memorial Fund | Brad Turner & Ellyn English |
| Drs. Ruth & Frank Bures | Dave & Cindy Jensen | Chuck & Judy Shepard |
| Carol A. Orlofske Fund | Jerry & Patricia Papenfuss Family Fund | Tamsin C. Taylor |
| David & Kathleen Christenson | Mary Joyce | Le Roy & Cindy Telstad |
| Charlotte Clark | Flor & Shirley Kooyman | Thomas H. Laken, Sr. Admin Endowment Fund |
| Dave & Jackie Czaplowski | Mark & Nancy Kristensen | Scott & Kathleen Turner |
| Dale E. and Linda K. Kukowski Fund | Margaret Lambert | Jolene & Dave Vaselaar |
| Dare L. White & William F. White Foundation | Rich & Bev Lindseth | Venables Foundation |
| Tom & Annmarie DeMarais | Emily Lofaro & Dylan Fox | Joan & Jim Vondrasek |
| Bob & Marj Deter | Greg & Rebecca Lossen | Wilmer L. and Beverly A. Larson Fund |
| Phil Dombroski | Laurie R. Lucas | Jacob & Nora Woodworth |
| Randy & Celia Domeyer | Marilyn Schwab Family Fund | Tom & Chris Wilmot |
| Fran Edstrom | Thomas & Brenda McCauley | <i>The Winona Community Foundation received gifts in honor of:</i> |
| Lyndie L. Fabian | Blaine Krogh | Judy Davis |
| Leslie Foote | Laurie Broghammer | <i>The Winona Community Foundation received gifts in memory of:</i> |
| Founders Fund | Dr. John G. Mulrooney | Karen Cleveland |
| Gabriel & Cecilia Manrique Family Fund | Eric Nelson | OJ Fawcett |
| General Trust Fund | Dennis & Pat Nolan | Jim Kiekbusch |
| Ann Gibson | Nystrom Family Fund | Ed Littlejohn |
| Joanne Gilbertson | Mandi & Todd Olson | Frederick Morgan |
| Dan & Nancy Goltz | Kevin & Sue O'Reilly | |
| David & Caroline Gregerson | Jerry & Pat Papenfuss | |
| | Mark & Kathie Peterson | |
| | Richard & Denise Pflughoeft | |
| | Craig Porter | |

Become a Member of the Legacy Society

Funds may be created to support philanthropic goals now, or to benefit the community in the future. The Legacy Society of the Winona Community Foundation recognizes individuals who have provided for gifts to the community through bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, or life insurance.

We wish to acknowledge and thank our current Legacy Society members:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anonymous (2) | Katie Hemmelman | Catherine & John Nosek |
| Bradley & Kathryn Benke | Ramona L. Jezewski* | Carol A. Orlofske* |
| Rosemary Broughton | Mark & Nancy Kristensen | Jerry and Pat Papenfuss |
| Kathy & Steven Buswell | Angela & Luke Lallemon | JC* & Arlene Pfeiffer |
| Erika & Bob Gilbertson* | Wilmer & Beverly Larson* | Jennie & Lyndon Pierce* |
| Amanda Hedlund | John & Cindy Leaf | Chuck & Judy Shepard |
| Dr. Donna J. Helble* | Thomas & Leone Mauszycki | James & Joan Vondrasek |

*deceased

Foundation Funds

AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Anonymous
Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment
Clara Barton Red Cross
Friends and Deborah Miller Kanaber Library
Home & Community Options Agency Endowment
Joe Lepley Trout Unlimited
Margaret Simpson Home dba Family & Children Center
St Charles Area Hospice Endowment
Tamarack Lutheran Church
Winona Friendship Center
Winona International Friendship Association
Winona Volunteer Service

BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS

Carol A. Orłowski
Charity Golf Event
Donna Helble Youth Literacy
Elmer & Louise Mattila Family
Founders
General Operating
General Trust
Jack and Sue Cornwell Memorial
Ramona L Jezewski
Thomas H. Laken, Sr. Admin Endowment
Wilmer L. and Beverly A. Larson

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Big River Voice
Community Impact Endowment
Dale E. and Linda K. Kukowski Designated
Ready Set School Designated
Rotary International Service
Sandbar Storytelling Festival
Singer-Towns Designated
Sobieski Park Lodge
Winona Area Hospice Endowment
Winona Area Track & Field Project
Winona County Developmental Achievement Center
Winona Volunteer Service

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Anonymous (3)
Ancius Family
Bob & Debbie Leaf Family
Brosnahan Family
Cyrus Family
D. Stenoien Memorial
Dahl Automotive
Dale E. and Linda K. Kukowski
Daniel and Jennifer Arnold Family
Dave and Muriel Arnold Family
Dennis and Barb Boelter
Frederick and Dianne Morgan
Gabriel & Cecilia Manrique Family
Gerry Cichanowski Family
Hannon Family
Helen Leaf Haun Family
Hugh & Vera Miller Family
James and Barbara Allaire
JC and Arlene Pfeiffer
Jeremy and Janel Miller Family
Jerry & Patricia Papenfuss Family
John and Margaret Cross Memorial
John and Susan Eddy Family
Josh Severson and Jennifer Knapp Severson
Joyce Woodworth
Leonard Lopez Memorial
Leone J. & Thomas E. D.D.S. Mauszycki Cultural and Civic
Marilyn Schwab Family
Mark Deter Memorial

Mark Morris Youth
Mia Martin
Mike and Linda Cichanowski
Nystrom Family
Pauline G. and Harland P. Knight Family
Phil Feiten Family
Singer-Towns
Smith/Fletcher
Stephen and Barbara Slaggie Family
Ted and Patti Biesanz Family
Thern, Inc.
Thomas and Barbara Wynn
Tom and Annmarie DeMarais
Tom Gibson Memorial
William and Judith Davis Family
Winona Rotary Charitable

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Connect People to Nature
Dental Access
Dick and Sandy Pope Family Fund for Winona Youth Sports
Early Childhood Initiative
Emergency Assistance
Goodview Community Foundation
Goodview Community Foundation Endowment
High Wagon Bridge Restoration
Lewiston Community Foundation
United Way of Olmsted County's Winona Fund

FISCAL SPONSOR FUNDS

BK5K Youth
Cardinal Foundation
Dive and Rescue of Winona County
Friends of Treatment Court
Friends of Winona Parks
Goodfellows
Nordic Ski Club of Winona
Ready Set School
Residents Organized Against Racism Winona, aka R.O.A.R.
Resilient Winona County
Steamboat Days of Winona
Winona Area Nonprofit Alliance
Winona Area Toys for Kids
Winona Community Chorale
Winona Park Development – West End Recreation Complex
Winona Park Development – Disc Golf Course

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Brianna Grace Vitek
Gary Mills
Gomez Montessori
Jack Rader
Morrie Miller Memorial
Rottinghaus Company
Storm Sporting Events
Storm Sporting Events Endowment

SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS

Fastenal Blue Team Giving
Friends of Trempealeau Parkland
Homer Civic Association
Landon We-no-nah Fountain
Masonic Temple Restoration
Randy Schenkat Human Development
Rotary Ambassadorial Visitor
Rotary Club of Winona Youth Exchange Program
Rushes Wilderness Foundation
Treasure Trove
Winona Park Development
Winona Park Development – Dog Park
Winona Park Development – Valley Oaks
Winona Park Development – Lions Pickleball Project

Winona Community Foundation
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