

Heart of Gold



Donna Wishowski

The Rusk County Community Foundation defines a Heart of Gold recipient as a person who gives of themselves unselfishly to serve others, with volunteer acts of service and kindness beyond the call of duty.

The RCCF wishes to identify and provide recognition to "everyday" citizens in our community who touch the hearts of others. This year's award is given posthumously to Donna Wishowski, who was known as an inspirational, God-fearing, and generous organizer in Rusk County. Her motto was "Let the day unfold before you," and her days unselfishly unfolded in myriad ways. If she thought you needed help, she would organize volunteers. If you were in trouble, she would be by your side through the entire ordeal. And if you needed some adventure, she would take you to the river to kayak. Nothing seemed impossible for her.

Donna lived every moment to her full capacity. Here are a few more examples of her kind endeavors:

- She was deeply involved in the formation of the Hawkins Library and organized volunteers to give the children of Hawkins year-round access to books.
- As the director of Rusk County Kinship for 30+ years, Donna led the expansion and outreach of this mentor-based youth program that received state recognition. She truly believed "no one was a mistake" and worked hard so every child had opportunities to expand their potential.
- She was instrumental in organizing and overseeing the Heart of the North Gospel Ministries, which brought phenomenal speakers, the Living Nativity at Christmas, talent shows, the National Day of Prayer, and many other events to our community.
- Organized and ran the annual Mardi Gras Bingo fundraiser.
- Co-chaired KAMO, an adult-mentored outdoor program for youth.
- Helped create the ICAA food pantry and food truck, which provided volunteer opportunities for Ladysmith High School students.
- Started the food pantry in Medford, WI.
- Served as a team teacher for the Raising Highly Capable Kids program.
- Was an active board member and treasurer for Powerhouse.
- Helped organize Rusk County Women's Ministries, which conducted annual retreats for women in Rusk County, including the "When God and Cancer Meet" retreat by author Lynn Eib.
- During her own struggle with stage 4 cancer, Donna took it upon herself to make binders for people newly diagnosed with cancer and share supportive and educational books — usually along with a visit.
- Volunteered at schools, churches, scout troops, and Little League
- Active member of the Ladysmith Area Trail Association

Donna knew life was a gift to be enjoyed, appreciated, and shared. We will never know of all the lives she has touched or all of the other examples of her generosity and love toward friend and stranger alike.

Mission

To improve the quality of life in the Rusk County Community through permanent endowments and grant giving.

ALL VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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THE RUSK COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Report to the Community
2020





THE RUSK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Report to the Community

Rusk County is better and brighter thanks to its good-hearted residents; donors who give as they are able, to make this a great place to call home. The Foundation works to find ways to improve our little corner of the world. For the last 13 years, we have worked to inspire philanthropy, enrich our community and serve donors.

The data below is just a snapshot of what the Foundation is about. Our core is built on strong endowment funds that will meet community needs now and for years into the future. We come together to unite the generosity of some for the good of many.

2020



AS OF OUR FISCAL YEAR-END (JUNE 30, 2020)

\$2,621,142.55

IN FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT

29
FUNDS UNDER
MANAGEMENT

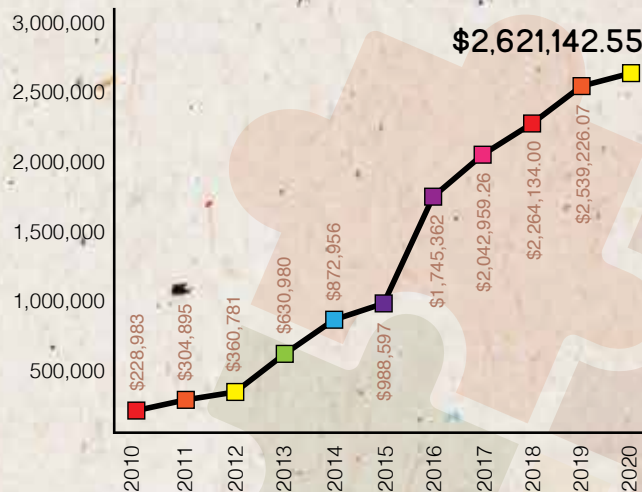
5-6 MILLION
EXPECTANCIES
Future anticipated funds from estates

TO DATE, WE HAVE GRANTED A TOTAL OF

\$428,028.34

ANNUAL GROWTH 2010-TODAY

Assets Under Management • End of Fiscal Year



CURRENT FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT

- Rusk County Community Endowment Fund
Culture/Music; Theater & Arts; Environment; Recreation & Wildlife; Social Service; and Education
- Ladysmith Educational Enrichment Fund (LEEF)
- Norda, Inc. Non-traditional Scholarship Fund
- Women With Courage Endowed Fund
- Rusk County Library Endowment Fund
- Gordon and Beverly Dukerschein Donor Advised Fund
- Dukerschein Scholarship for Flambeau School Fund
- Jack and Jackie Pederson Donor Advised Fund
- Partners of Marshfield Medical Center - Ladysmith
- Shane Jenness Special Needs Fund
- Smith-Allen Family Donor Advised Fund
- Dennis Van Wey Legacy Fund
- Flambeau Forever Foundation Fund
Academics; Athletics; and Activities
- Larry and Shirley Dukerschein RCCF Fund
- Lorkowski Scholarship Fund
- Rusk County Advancing Innovation/Economic Development Fund
- Flambeau Valley Arts Association Fund
- Joseph R. Geisler Scholarship Fund
FBO Bruce Graduates
- Ladysmith First Church of Christ Endowment Fund
- Give365RUSK Endowment Fund
- Founders' RCCF Operating Fund
- Servite Center for Life Advised Fund
- Rusk County Animal Shelter Building Sustainability and Enhancement Fund
- Dan Glaze Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Anita and George Lawrence Covenant Fund
- Dennis B. Kovacevich Fund
- Kyle Kempen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Karen Ek Fund
- Hawkins Forever Fund

SUMMARY

RCCF Equity \$1,619,314.85

RCCF Liabilities \$1,001,827.70
(AGENCY FUNDS)

RCCF Total Assets \$2,621,142.55

RCCF Endowment \$2,528,532.16

RCCF Local Banks \$92,610.39

RCCF Total Assets \$2,621,142.55

MANAGEMENT: The Foundation is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors, which operates the organization under established By-Laws. The Board is responsible for the establishment of committees that undertake fundraising, in-vestments, grants, marketing etc. The Foundations By-Laws, Annual Reports, and Financial Reports are available to the public.