You believe in a bright future for the Chequamegon Bay region. So do we.

Together, we can make it happen.

Private Giving for the Public Good
Better Together

Dear Friends,

The big challenge that our community fund faced in 2016 was how best to meet the needs of our region’s July flood victims. With the assistance of Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and the Otto Bremer Trust $25,000 challenge grant, we created and immediately funded the Natural Disaster Immediate Response Fund. It was an important lesson for us to learn just what a community fund can do in time of need. We are most grateful to you, our donors, for making this action possible. Learn more about our relief efforts inside.

It was also a year of significant growth in community philanthropy and service to non-profit organization initiatives. This annual report highlights the activities of the fund’s advisory board, grant awardees, newly created funds for scholarships and education, our event sponsors, and all our committed donors. Each year we receive more grant applications than we can fund. Hence, our goal is to build our unrestricted fund for our greater community which will increase the number and size of grants we can award.

It has been an honor and privilege to chair our new community fund these last six years. I am proud of what the staff, the advisory board, and the community has been able to accomplish. I am very pleased to welcome Brad Gingras as my successor as chair. Thank you to the community foundation for their willingness to support administratively and to the Otto Bremer Trust for their willingness to sponsor financially our community fund. Thank you to Madelaine Rekemeyer and Meghan Dennison for piloting our course these first years. Many thanks to our hard-working advisory board for their dedication to the fund’s mission: To promote private giving for the public good. And most importantly, we thank you, our donors, for giving of your time and money to invest in a flourishing future for the Chequamegon Bay region.

Most sincerely,
Karen Crowell
Advisory Board Chair (2011–2017)

“I know I have some ‘big shoes to fill.’
I am excited to work with Meghan and the rest of the local advisory board team.”

Brad Gingras
Advisory Board Chair Elect (2017)
We know our community is Better Together.

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund

**OUR PURPOSE** is to garner the financial resources to support our community’s nonprofit organizations, create scholarship opportunities, and encourage philanthropy in the arts, education, environment, social services, and cultural endeavors.

Our community fund is a local branch (called an “affiliate”) of the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation. The foundation provides the administrative, financial, investment, and legal support in accordance with national standards for community foundations. The local community fund is directed by a volunteer advisory board from the Ashland, Washburn, and Bad River region.

**WE BELIEVE** in a vibrant and flourishing future for the Chequamegon Bay region.

We are a team of caring and committed “make it happen” people.

**MISSION**

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund encourages private giving for the public good in Ashland, Washburn, and Bad River.

**VISION**

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund will be a catalyst to improve our region by fostering generosity, civic engagement, and inclusiveness.

**VALUES**

In 2016, the Ashwabay Outdoor Educational Foundation went on a mission to “Get Kids and Families Outside” during the long winter months. They created a new coordinator position to teach area youth how to use winter outdoor equipment, including snowshoes, nordic, and alpine skis. Additionally, they hosted an animal tracking snowshoe and an ice safety course for area families. Together, the Chequamegon Bay Area and Apostle Islands Area Community Funds and the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation provided the financial resources for this new position as part of...

Our commitment to the education of the young people in our community.
In 2016, the City of Ashland Department of Planning initiated a project to “make over” a popular pedestrian tunnel, connecting walkers and bikers to the shores of Lake Superior and bolstering Ashland’s title, “Mural Capital of Wisconsin.” The community-made mural celebrates the area’s natural resources by featuring scenes in a brightly painted mosaic, accompanied by written, storied plaques. Advisory board member Shari Nelson said, “The community fund was thrilled to contribute the financial resources, furthering two of our goals:

Supporting local artists and connecting citizens with the abundant natural resources of our area.”

Ashland’s Lake Superior Pedestrian Art Tunnel

When Natural Disaster Strikes

July 11 and 21—Storms hit the region causing flash flooding and blown down trees. There was serious damage to homes and area businesses. The governor called a state of emergency. More than 10 million dollars were needed to repair to washed out roads and bridges. We swiftly responded and raised $76,000 in six weeks for flood relief aid.

With the help of our partner, the Otto Bremer Trust, $25,000 was matched dollar for dollar.

We quickly made grants to local charities that provided food for victims, housing assistance, emergency shelter assistance, and emergency water testing kits.

Every dollar went back to local aid efforts.

Grants are made to nonprofit organizations that serve the Chequamegon Bay region. Application deadline: March 1. Letters of Intent are encouraged early and due no later than two weeks before the deadline.

www.chequamegonbayareacommunityfund.org
2016 Donors (JANUARY 1, 2016–DECEMBER 31, 2016)

Mark and Lisa Abeles-Allison
Dave and Kathy Allen
Brad and Susan Anderson
Anonymous
Dennis and Loreen Aukstik
Janet Bewley and David Saetre
Irene H. Blakely
Beta Bodin
Bodin’s Inc.
Boulder Junction Community Foundation
Peter and Carla Bremner
Kenneth M. Bro and Becky J. Brown
Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund Grant Workshop
Michael Crowell and Karen Ruedi Crowell*
Warren and Beth Gall
Jack Gunderson and Linda Jorgenson
Mr. and Mrs. James Hagstrom
Grant Herman
Patra Holter*
Ron and Grace Hutchinson
Warren A. Kehn
Keith Koening and Patricia Murphy
Jeff and Deb Lewis
Jeffrey Long and Barbara Boston
Carl and Shari Nelson
Kim and Derek Ogle
Dave Olson and Kathy Grafsgaard
Otto Bremer Trust
Gary D. Plouff

David and Katherine Siegler
Mary Trettin and Mike Miller
Gregory and Mary Van Grinsven
Jeff and Kris Von Holzen
Washburn Chamber of Commerce
Ken and Jane Weiler
White Birch Village, LLC
Tom and Kathy Wojciechowski
*Legacy Circle

CHEQUAMEGON BAY AREA DONORS TO THE NATURAL DISASTER IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FUND

Mark and Lisa Abeles-Allison
Brad and Susan Anderson
Elizabeth Andre
Robert Arquette and Pastor Nancy Hanson
Ashland Rotary Club
Steve and Peg Baumgardner
Irene H. Blakely
C & S Design & Engineering, Inc.
Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Michael and Karen Ruedi Crowell
Neil and Meghan Dennison
Jim and Chris Dennison
Richard J. Gierzak
Dennis Gisvold
Paschal and Sharon Hammond
Tim and Cheryl Hicks
Stewart Holman
Pauline L. John
Frederick J. Kovech, Jr.
Thomas and Kim Kusilek
L & M Fleet Supply
Ted May
Memorial Medical Center
Messiah Lutheran Church
Otto Bremer Trust
Phillips-Smith Investment Co.—Margot H. Phillips/Mary H. Smith
Ponzio Family
Reed/Liphart Family
Shawn and Kristi Matteson, L & M Supply
St. Luke’s Hospital & Regional Trauma Center
Mary Trettin and Mike Miller
Julia Waggoner
Waste Management
Wisconsin Realtors Foundation

2016 HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

CHEQUAMEGON BAY AREA COMMUNITY FUND

In honor of...
Meghan Dennison

In memory of...
Floyd and Adam Holman

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 TURKEY TROT FINANCIAL SPONSORS!

Grand Sponsor—Memorial Medical Center
Bremer Bank
Brettings
Mark Sneed
Northern Lights Solstice
Thomas Lovlien
Washburn Family Dentistry
Washburn IGA
Washburn Iron Works

THE CHEQUAMEGON BAY AREA FAMILY OF COMMUNITY FUNDS BENEFIT ASHLAND, BAD RIVER, AND WASHBURN COMMUNITIES

ACORN FAMILY
Michael Crowell and Karen Ruedi Crowell Fund
Jim and Beth Hagstrom Fund
Kevin O. Hunt Fund
Mike Miller and Mary Trettin Fund
Carl and Shari Nelson Fund
Jeff and Kris Von Holzen Fund

DONOR ADVISED
Dave Olson and Kathryn Grafsgaard Family Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS
Albert H. Roffer’s Athletic Scholarship Fund
Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship Fund

DESIGNATED
Ashland Education Fund
Chequamegon Bay Bremer Operating Fund
Chequamegon Bay Area Operating Fund
Chequamegon Bay Area Program Services Fund
Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua Blue Canvas Fund
Natural Disaster Immediate Response Fund 2016
Washburn Community Education Foundation Fund

ORGANIZATIONAL
The Lincoln Community Forest Forever Fund

Did you know you can make a gift to any of our funds online?

www.chequamegonbayareacommunityfund.org
Since arriving in the Chequamegon Bay Area in 2010 we have been continually impressed with the environment, the people, and specifically the Big Lake.”—Mary Trettin and Mike Miller

We wanted to be able to help preserve this wonderful area for generations to come. Setting up an endowment seemed like the best way to make sure there will be financial resources to support such efforts.

We established an Acorn Fund, giving us an opportunity to give over time. We are grateful that the community fund exists for individuals and organizations to invest in the Chequamegon Bay area.
Ready to Explore Giving?

Start your adventure today.

Explore our menu of options. Start a named family fund. Support a fund that benefits the community or your favorite charity. Contact us to find the perfect place to make your forever gift.

CONTACT:
Meghan Dennison,
Affiliate Officer
(715) 779-7021
mdennison@dsacommunityfoundation.com

Join Our Legacy Circle
...and leave a lasting legacy for tomorrow

www.chequamegonbayareacommunityfund.org