Forever Giving

Greetings,

What a year it’s been for the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund! In 2017 the Fund had to say goodbye to numerous valuable and dedicated advisory board members, while simultaneously welcoming many new ones. It is with sincere appreciation that I, on behalf of the CBACF Board, Affiliate Officer Meghan Denninson, and the Duluth Superior Community Fund, thank the following founding members whose term limits have ended: Irene Blakely (vice-chair), Mary Trettin, Shari Nelson, Rick Geisen, and especially Karen Crowell (chair). All of you have provided leadership to shape CBACF into what it is today. THANK YOU! I am also excited to welcome our incoming board members Ashley Moore, Kate Siegler, Steve Bitzer, and Robert Houle, and look forward to working with each of you.

Giving back to the community is an honor that can come in many ways. For years we have hosted a grant-writing workshop for local nonprofits to learn and hone their skills. This year we expanded the content to increase impact by developing the Nonprofit Survival Skills Workshop, in partnership with WITC. The event included many great speakers that provided valuable content to the participants. I was very proud of its success.

In 2018 we will continue to increase our visibility, while gathering and spreading support for our community fund. Many individuals want to assist their communities but don’t necessarily know how. By donating to CBACF your funds will be forever endowed, and on an annual basis support people and projects—from local nonprofits to academic partners who collectively can accomplish great things for this community we all care about.

Sincerely,

Brad Gingras,
Advisory Board Chair, Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund

Writer: Hope McLeod
Designer: Catherine Lange

2017 ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Brad Gingras, Chair
Karen Crowell, Previous Chair
Irene Blakely, Vice Chair
Rick Geisen, Treasurer
Cheryl Hicks, Secretary
Mark Abelos-Allison
Susan Anderson
Steve Bitzer
Berta Bodin
Jeff Muse
Shari Nelson
Mary Trettin

STAFF
Meghan Denninson, Affiliate Officer

Message from the Chair

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
Integrity.
Stewardship.
Generosity.
Community.

Cover: CBACF provided $2,000 for scholarships to children attending the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua’s Blue Grass Camp in 2017. Thirty-four youngsters enjoyed three days of pickin’ and grinnin’ as they explored the rich traditions of Bluegrass and Southern Appalachian culture. Camp culminated in a performance on the tent stage. Photo courtesy of Big Top Chautauqua.
Ashland Education Fund’s 2017 grant recipients included Ashland High School, which was able to purchase materials used by students, like Teagan Andrews (above left) and Haydn Lamerand, to design and cut out vinyl decals on Cricut Cutters. Photos by Catherine Lange.

Ashland Education Fund Supports Innovation and Creativity

“Sometimes all it takes is a few hundred dollars for something new to get everybody excited again,” said Ann Bochler, president of Ashland Education Fund (AEF), recipients of the newest CBACF Designated education fund.

Started in 2017, this endowment fund provides forever support to the Ashland community through annual grant distributions aimed at innovative, creative, and inspiring educational initiatives. In 2017, AEF awarded 17 grant requests in 2017, totaling $16,140. However, because they could only award nine grants for a total of $4,468, the nonprofit decided to launch a first-ever, letter-writing/fundraising campaign, which raised $20,000. This effort helped fund other grant projects, such as one presented by the Ashland School District. Bochler explained, in April the school was awarded a $24,690 grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to create a Fabrication Lab. Teachers soon discovered, however, they didn’t have enough money to purchase supplies needed to run this new high-tech equipment, which included laser cutters and a 3D printer. Low and behold, AEF came through.

“It’s such a great opportunity to help education in our community,” Bochler said. “And it’s really making a huge difference.”

Anyone can contribute to this Designated fund that helps support inspirational and educational opportunities for students in the Ashland area, forever.

Ashland Education Fund used grant funds to purchase materials used by Tech Ed Project Students, like Ned Collins (seating), Brock Jolma and Reese Bokelman, to design, prototype, wire, and create an LED sign using the laser cutter and engraver.

Ashland High School used grant funds to purchase materials used by Tech Ed Project Students, like Teagan Collins (seating), Brock Jolma and Haydn Lamerand, to design and cut out vinyl decals on Cricut Cutters. Photos by Catherine Lange.
Lincoln Community Forest Forever Fund Protects Habitat

Not everyone has access to a 396-acre wild and scenic forest with two miles of stream frontage, a wetland surrounded lake, and three-and-a-half miles of non-motorized trails for cross-country skiing, bird watching, and hiking. But the citizens of, and visitors to, the Town of Lincoln do. That’s because in 2012 this forest haven, formerly owned by the Plum Creek Timber Company, became public land. The group primarily responsible for this transformation is called Friends of the Lincoln Community Forest (FLCF), current stewards of this unique property.

As stewards, in 2017 FLCF initiated the Lincoln Community Forest Forever Fund, a DSACF Organization endowment. Mark Dryer, who was instrumental in the formation of this community forest, explained the fund’s purpose.

“Annual revenues will help pay for habitat conservation, restoration projects, and user amenities,” he said. “This includes environmental education programs for youth and adults; habitat protection and management for animals at risk, like wood turtles, native brook trout, and bats; invasive species control; non-motorized recreation trail and trailhead development and maintenance; grooming for cross-country skiing; and user information products.”

The Lincoln Community Forest (LCF), he added, was acquired for the purpose of “protecting fish and wildlife habitat and providing public opportunities for nature-based recreation...FOREVER.” To achieve this goal FLCF started fundraising for their endowment in December 2016. To date they’ve raised more than $18,000 toward a goal of $100,000. Kim Strurm, FLCF Endowment Legacy Committee chair, has been leading the charge.

Strum knows the LCF success story inside and out, and around the block. That’s because she lives next door to the forest. Also, in 2013 she served as secretary when FLCF became a 501(c) 3, and a board member for several years.

“It was the first time that something like this has ever been done for a community forest in the nation!” she exclaimed, referring to when LCF became one of the nation’s first six community forests in 2012, the year the U.S. Forest Service started the Community Forest Program.

To help grow the endowment fund, Strum facilitated a first ever member-appreciation picnic last summer with a silent auction, raffle, and home-cooked food, raising over $2,000.

“We had it at the Dryer’s property. His wife makes homemade pan-loaf pizza. We sold a lot of pizzas, even frozen ones to take home,” Strum recounted.

Grassroots run deep in this community forest. Until FLCF has enough in the endowment fund, they are managing to barely cover operating expenses through membership fees and fundraisers. Caretaking a forest is no small task, especially when impacted by unexpected weather events such as the 2016 flood.

“It really opened things up,” Strum explained. “The water’s going to get warmer (in the Marengo River) and the brook trout aren’t going to be happy.

But the wood turtle, a species FLCF is monitoring with habitat protection, couldn’t be happier with the expansion of sandy soil along the riverbanks. The whole point of forest protection is to allow nature to take its course, while simultaneously ensuring its sustainability. The Lincoln Community Forest Forever Fund will indeed fulfill that mission.
The Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship Fund

"Our life work has been education," the donors wrote in a letter. "As educators we feel grateful to have the opportunity to encourage others to take up the craft." Moved by their own teaching experiences, they know firsthand the powerful effects of education. "Education is like the ripple a pebble makes as it passes through the calm surface of water," they wrote. "Depending upon the body of water, the ripple may become a wave that crashes on a distant shore. Educators is that ripple that becomes a wave that can transcend human generations. We feel education is the gift that can preserve and improve civilisation through our understanding of our direct connection to the natural world around us."

These same generous donors established the new 2017 Northern Wisconsin Experiential Outdoors Education Scholarship Fund for the Apostle Island Area Community Fund, which at this point is busy accruing interest, thus not awarding scholarships yet. On the other hand, the Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship Fund will announce its first scholarship recipient ($800) sometime in late spring of 2018.

"Our hearts soar when we see and feel the transfer of ideas and beliefs through the art of interpretation during an educational experience in a natural setting," the donors wrote in their well-crafted, anonymous letter. "Many students at Northland College become capable of this level of teaching through interpretative experiential education. We hope to make it possible for more people to follow this path."

Application requirements for the Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship include: at minimum, must be a four-year resident of the communities served by the Apostle Island Area Community Fund or the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund; must be accepted to Northland College and planning to pursue a degree in education (e.g., teacher education, outdoor education, environmental education); must demonstrate financial need; must be a full time student. Anyone can add to this fund, and like these mystery donors, help a few teachers-to-be realize their forever dreams.

"Enthusiasm at Northland College who are recipients of this fund, should they pursue the craft of education as a life's work, will change the world." — Anonymous donors who started the Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship Fund

Two anonymous donors, and lifetime educators, initiated the Northern Wisconsin Teacher Education Scholarship Fund in 2016. This fund provides annual scholarship assistance to a person in the process of pursuing a degree in education, (or outdoor education), at Northland College. Deeply connected to Northern Wisconsin, especially to the natural world, these donors are committed to lending a forever-hand to prospective teachers from the communities bordering Chequamegon Bay who are pursuing careers that "integrate a deep understanding of humanity's connection with the natural world," and who will pass this knowledge along to future generations.

"Our life work has been education," the donors wrote in a letter. "As educators we feel grateful to have the opportunity to encourage others to take up the craft." Moved by their own teaching experiences, they know firsthand the powerful effects of education. "Education is like the ripple a pebble makes as it passes through the calm surface of water," they wrote. "Depending upon the body of water, the ripple may become a wave that crashes on a distant shore. Educators is that ripple that becomes a wave that can transcend human generations. We feel education is the gift that can preserve and improve civilisation through our understanding of our direct connection to the natural world around us."

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New tax law makes the IRA charitable rollover more attractive than ever.

By Mark Danielson, Development Officer

The new federal tax law increases the standard deduction to $12,000 for single taxpayers and $24,000 for married couples. This means that many of you who previously itemized deductions will find it advantageous to take them in 2017.

While you may no longer benefit from a tax standpoint from your charitable contributions, if you do not itemize, you can still, in effect, get a deduction by completing a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.

Those of you who are retired and take distributions from your IRA that in general you pay income tax on every penny you take from the IRA. However, provided you are 70½, any amount you transfer directly from your IRA to the charity is tax free. In other words, you won’t recognize any income tax or capital gain on the transfer.

The new tax law makes the IRA charitable rollover more attractive than ever. It’s easy to do—just contact your IRA provider and complete the instructions to have an amount go to a charity of your choice.

Did you know you can make a gift to any of our funds online? www.chequamegonbayareacommunityfund.org

We do not give tax advice, so please consult your tax professional about your own personal situation.

Of course, the real benefit to your contributions, regardless of tax benefits, is in helping make our communities stronger.

We do not get tax advice, so please consult your tax professional about your own personal situation. We are happy, however, to provide advice as to how we can help you achieve your charitable goals, and can customize the instructions to have an amount go to a charity of your choice.

If you, or a group you joined, are thinking about these opportunities for us to grow and make life better, if you, or a group you joined, are thinking about providing resources in a funder for the community, call or email me. Let’s talk about your options.

On the flip side, if you know of a nonprofit or local government agency in need of funding for important projects, please direct them to me. I am your community fund resource. We have all kinds of different funds with lots of different priorities. A short conversation with our staff can help open huge opportunities for us to grow and make life better.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Otto Bremer Trust.

Financials

2017 2016

TOTAL ASSETS $793,569 $760,782

Public Support and Revenue

Donated services

Interest and dividends

Net investment unrealized gain (loss)

Less investment management fees

Less refunds of grants

From Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

Total public support and revenue

Grants, Fees, and Operating Expenses

Grants and scholarships

Program

Functional expenses

Public education

Management and Total functional expenses

Total grants, fees, and operating expenses

Change in net assets

Net Assets, beginning of year

Net Assets, end of year

109,157 55,967

23,358 56,472

759,317 702,845

$971,674 575,317

141,514 112,439

55,775 15,584

905,788 718,083

38,354 28,695

511 548

52,652 40,383

2017 Donors

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2017

2017 Honor and Memorial Gifts

The Chequamegon Bay area community fund is dedicated to achieving your charitable goals, and can customize the instructions to have an amount go to a charity of your choice.

Please call me at 715.779.7021 or email me at mdennison@dsacommunityfoundation.com.
Join Our Legacy Circle...and leave a lasting legacy for tomorrow

www.chequamegonbayareacommunityfund.org

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018, 5–7 P.M.
AT WILD RICE RETREAT
84860 Old San Road, Bayfield

Join us in celebrating generosity, inclusiveness, and civic engagement.

Noshing begins at 5 p.m.
Formal Awards Celebration from 5:45-7 p.m.

Kindly RSVP by July 19
www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/aicbcelebration
(715) 779-7021