



Fond du Lac Area
FOUNDATION

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2023

www.fdlareafoundation.com

A MESSAGE FROM *Your Community Foundation*

We are thrilled to welcome Executive Director Greg Giles! In spring 2024, as former Executive Director Aaron Sadoff transitioned to Marian University, Greg and Aaron leaned into their experiences in the world of philanthropy and community service to create a seamless leadership transition plan. Greg's passion for the Fond du Lac community paired with the Foundation's flourishing state will ensure the continued growth and success of your community foundation for years to come.

As we move forward, we embrace a legacy of purpose and commitment. Greg's arrival heralds a new chapter for our motto of **helping people help people**. We remain dedicated to our stakeholders and community, with a steadfast focus on collaboration and positive impact.

Collaboration is one of the most important catalysts for positive change in our community. In 2023, the Foundation was fortunate to be selected by Compeer Financial to administer the inaugural Rural Vitality Grant Program. In partnership with Compeer, the Foundation awarded \$50,000 in grants to help rural communities in Fond du Lac County and Dodge County. When the UWO-Fond du Lac campus closure was announced, we worked with the Board of Directors of the former UWO-Fond du Lac Foundation to transition their resources to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation's Family of Funds. This new partnership will allow the newly named UW Fond du Lac Legacy Foundation to continue their mission while the Fond du Lac Area Foundation administers the funds.

This Report to the Community is provided as a testimonial of the care, dedication, and love the Fond du Lac Area Foundation has for the region we serve and call home. Enjoy the stories, photos, and data that each of you have had a part in making happen. We are proud to be able to serve each of you. Your generous hearts and dedication to making today better than yesterday fuels us to continue helping people help people.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MOVING THE FOUNDATION FORWARD



Good things come to those who click! Our **new website** is full of features and content that are focused on YOU - our fund holders, donors, community partners, and friends of the Foundation. The website was designed to promote two concepts: our motto of helping people help people and our belief that together we can make a difference.

Online grant applications and **online grant evaluations** now make it easier than ever to submit required documents. As a part of the Foundation's commitment to providing excellent service to our grantees, we transitioned from paper-based grantmaking to an online grant portal.

The Fond du Lac Area Foundation logo is representative of who we are, what we do, and our belief that **it takes many hands to do good work**.

The **tree** is a symbol of life, prosperity, and strength; with strong roots, growth will follow. The leaves are a collection of **hands** in varying colors. This represents the diversity of the Foundation's supporters, funds, and grantees who are all intertwined.

Today and forever, the Fond du Lac Area Foundation will be **deeply rooted in the best interests of our community**.



Color has the power to influence the soul! Our **updated logo** now features more vibrant and welcoming colors. The logo has profound meaning and represents who we are, the populations we serve, and the incredible individuals we get to work with.



Standing Left-Right: Dr. Tammy Boudry, Ally Schrieber
Sitting Left-Right: Cassidy Schrieber, Bailey



Left-Right: Boeig, Bailey's Gift Fund Service Dog;
Mabel, Boudry Dental's current therapy dog;
Gus, Bailey's Gift Fund Service Dog

BAILEY'S GIFT FUND

Bailey wasn't just a dog; he was a beacon of love and comfort, especially for patients of Boudry Dental. His gentle presence inspired a movement, urging dentists across Wisconsin to embrace therapy dogs in their practices.

When Bailey passed, the void he left wasn't just felt at Boudry Dental but resonated throughout the community. Bailey's legacy didn't fade; instead, it evolved with the establishment of **Bailey's Gift Fund**. Bailey's spirit has been kept alive, spreading joy and healing through service, therapy, and emotional support dogs. Through the generosity of those who have helped bolster Bailey's Gift Fund, there are now seven certified therapy dogs serving the area.

Bailey's Gift Fund has touched countless lives. From schools in Fond du Lac to surrounding areas, trained service dogs bring calm to classrooms and comfort to those in need. They are not just companions; these canines are lifelines, helping people cope with emotions and manage medical conditions.

The success of Bailey's Gift Fund isn't just in numbers; it's in the impact made. What started as a dream to fund one dog a year has blossomed into a sustenance for many. It's a testament to the power of community and the ripple effect of one dog's legacy.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Through Bailey's Gift Fund, **Dr. Tammy Boudry** is living those words, proving that small acts of kindness can create waves of change.

With continued support, Bailey's legacy will endure, providing comfort and companionship to those who need it most. Together, we can make our community a better place, one paw at a time.

SEE HOW THESE STORIES ARE CONNECTED!

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

With great excitement, the **Carl Tonjes Inspired Giving Award** was unveiled at the Foundation's 2023 Celebration of Giving. The award recognizes trailblazers who go above and beyond, without hesitation, and have brought about real possibility, change, and hope for Fond du Lac County.

We were thrilled to honor **Dr. Tammy Boudry** of Boudry Dental LLC and founder of Bailey's Gift Fund with the inaugural award. Bailey's Gift Fund enhances our community by providing training and acquisition of service, therapy, and facility dogs. **(A)**

The 47th **Legacy Award** was presented to the **Fond du Lac Loop Fund** and accepted by Loop Founder **John McDowell**. The fund was established in 2013 as a long-term funding repository for future Loop initiatives. The Fond du Lac Loop is a 16-mile bicycle and pedestrian pathway designed to facilitate a safe, healthy, and enjoyable way for citizens to explore the beauty of the city and to provide a cost-effective alternative system of transportation. The Fond du Lac Area Foundation established the Legacy Award to honor those individuals, families, companies, and organizations that have significantly impacted the quality of life in the Fond du Lac area through outstanding community philanthropy and partnership. **(B)**



Want to support the missions of these two great funds? Make checks payable to Fond du Lac Area Foundation with FDL Loop and/or Bailey's Gift Fund on the memo line, or donate at <https://fdlareafoundation.com/donate/>.

To close the event, Foundation staff randomly selected an attendee who was then able to choose the nonprofit of their choice to receive a \$500 grant in their name. **Amber Kilawee's** name was drawn and she chose to award a grant to the Holy Family Warming Shelter. **(C)**

Joe Venhuizen was randomly selected to take home a Specialized step-through bicycle that was generously donated by Attitude Sports in honor of the Loop. **(D)**



GRANT MAKERS AND CHANGE MAKERS

When we hear the word foundation, our mind often drifts to the idea of money. And it's true, the Fond du Lac Area Foundation, like other community foundations, plays a vital role in distributing grant dollars to enact positive change.

But grants alone cannot solve all of a region's challenges. In a world where needs are constantly evolving due to local and global shifts, we must evolve, too. We must not only be **grant makers** but also **change makers**.

The Foundation continues to be keenly honed on providing generous resources from our fundholders, but to truly address the complex issues we face, we must employ additional tools. Advocacy and

strategic partnerships are just a few examples of the levers we must pull to drive meaningful change.

In our **grant making** efforts, we've continued to support youth philanthropy through an annual grant to the United Youth program, and we developed a relationship with the former UWO-Fond du Lac Foundation following the campus closure to ensure the Foundation's assets are well managed and their scholarships continually awarded. We also partnered with local municipalities and law enforcement to address needs ranging from parks and recreation to safety and beautification.

Beyond grants, we've taken a proactive stance to be **change makers** by joining various tables where important conversations are happening. The Foundation recently formed a committee of local nonprofit, business, and community leaders to purposefully address the need for accurate communication and promotion of Fond du Lac. As a result, the event Telling our Community's Story: Creating Purposeful Promoters was created. Additionally, Foundation staff are visible in the community. Whether serving on boards, volunteering at service events, or supporting local initiatives, we take a boots on the ground approach.

Through the 551* charitable funds we manage, millions of dollars flow into our community thanks to the generosity of our fundholders. These funds are not just dollars; they represent hope and commitment to building a better Fond du Lac.

*as of June 2024

We envision the Foundation as more than just a financial institution. It's a place where we can come together to learn about and tackle pressing community issues.

Change isn't a choice; it's a necessity. And the pace of change is accelerating. Now more than ever, we are harnessing the power of our collective efforts to create a secure and flourishing Fond du Lac.

Together, let's embrace change and continue building a brighter future for all. Our office at 1020 S. Main is always open to community partners to meet and collaborate.



GRANT AWARDS

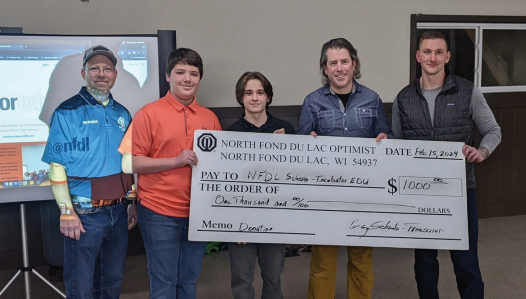
Arts and Culture:	47 (4.9%)
Animal Welfare:	32 (3.3%)
Youth Development:	92 (9.6%)
Scholarship:	213 (22.2%)
Religious Services:	55 (5.7%)
Human Services:	302 (31.5%)
Health Services:	55 (5.7%)
Community Development:	52 (5.4%)
Education:	83 (8.6%)
Environmental:	19 (2.0%)
Economic Development:	4 (0.4%)
Other:	6 (0.6%)



960
TOTAL GRANTS
in 2023

Left: Team members attending and supporting the annual Tour of Fashion event hosted by Service League of Fond du Lac, a fund holder of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation

Opposite Page: Joe Sanfillipo speaking at Telling our Community's Story - Creating Purposeful Promoters



Loft-Right: Brandon Switz, Jayce Ackerman, Baron Dowland, Kurt Wismer, Steven Knuth

INCUBATOREDU

Within the walls of Horace Mann High School, a transformative program thrives: **INCubatorEdu**. This initiative offers North Fond du Lac students a hands-on journey into the world of business, where their innovative ideas grow into tangible products and services. Guided by the Lean Startup Method and supported by mentors from the local business community, students navigate the complexities of entrepreneurship, from conception to launch.

Thanks to an annual grant from the Fond du Lac Area Foundation, student teams receive seed money to actualize their visions. This investment fuels the prototyping, testing, and eventual launch of their businesses, while also serving as pitch awards to propel their ventures further. The goal is clear: to provide students with immersive learning experiences and equip them with invaluable soft skills essential for success in the modern workforce.

The results of INCubatorEdu speak volumes. Student teams have achieved measurable

successes, securing local retail agreements, generating hundreds to thousands of dollars in sales, and even attracting outside investments. But beyond the financial gains, the program cultivates a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit within the community, nurturing the next generation of impactful leaders.

Countless prototypes and business concepts have been explored and developed since INCubatorEdu's inception, but one that has made positive noise in Fond du Lac is Hope on the Block. What started as a student-designed concept flourished into a fully operational nonprofit with three pantry locations in Fond du Lac County.

INCubatorEdu is undoubtedly one of our area's top outlets for students to gain early, genuine experience in the business field and have the opportunity to enhance our community. The Fond du Lac Area Foundation is proud to support this home-grown and innovative program.

HOPE ON THE BLOCK

In early 2022, a group of dedicated citizens and Fond du Lac-based organizations came together with a shared vision: to bridge the gap in essential resources for those community members most in need. Concurrently, three students at North Fond du Lac High School, as part of the INCubatorEDU program, laid the foundation for Hope on the Block. Their original idea? To sell merchandise and donate half the proceeds to initiatives combating homelessness and poverty.

With the backing of the supporting organizations, the students pitched their idea - **Hope on the Block** - and secured a \$1,500 grant. The branding they developed was adopted, infusing both the students' and community leaders' spirits of compassion and entrepreneurship.

Hope on the Block took flight in August 2022 with the opening of the first essential needs pantry at the Fond du Lac Public Library. Guided by Leadership Fond du Lac and Team Hope, pantries were added in North Fond du Lac and Ripon by May 2023.

Grants like the \$1,000 award from our 2023 bi-annual grant cycle are a lifeline, sustaining operations and fueling growth. The grant allowed Hope on the Block to replace broken doors



A grant check is presented to the Fond du Lac Library location to repair broken pantry doors.

on the Fond du Lac pantry, ensuring the safety of its contents, a tangible example of community generosity in action.

The pantries - open 24/7/365 - are beacons of hope for vulnerable populations. Through personal interactions and feedback, Team Hope has witnessed firsthand the impact of pantry resources on those struggling to find their footing.

Looking to the future, partnerships with nonprofit organizations underscore Team Hope's commitment to holistic community support. From weekly warm meals to community gardens, and plans for a downtown community fridge, their vision for a better, more inclusive Fond du Lac continues to evolve.

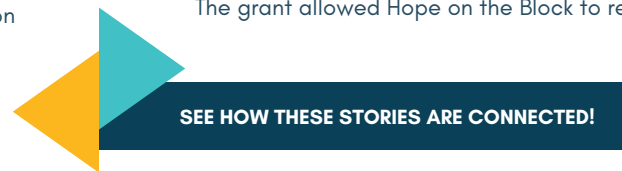
Hope on the Block remains steadfast, guided by the belief that sustainable change is born from collective action and unwavering determination. Together, we can create a community where no one is left behind.

“

INCubatorEdu not only ensures a robust future workforce but also fosters a culture of innovation and resilience, laying the foundation for a thriving community. The student entrepreneurs emerging from this program are not just prepared for the future — they're poised to shape it.

- Kurt Wismer

INCubatorEdu Lead Teacher



SEE HOW THESE STORIES ARE CONNECTED!

NEW FUNDS - FOND DU LAC AREA FOUNDATION

AGENCY

- Fox Lake Preservation Organization Fund
- Friendship Fishing Club Fund
- Gratitude Club Fund
- Pillar & Vine Fund
- Marshmen Foundation Fund
- City of Fond du Lac Parks Fund
- City of Fond du Lac Police Department K9 Fund

DESIGNATED

- Bill & Penny Werner Family Fund
- Broken Bread Food Pantry Fund

DONOR ADVISED

- Abraham J. Flood Legacy Fund
- Benjamin and Sandra Colwin Family Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

- Braelon Allen Fund
- C.D. Smith Foundation Fund
- Cayen Family Fund
- Joe and Dawn Colwin Family Foundation Fund
- Michael & Margaret Tebo Fund
- Nathan and Jessica Held Family Fund
- Olsen-Winkler Family Fund
- Steve & Marianne Kramer Fund
- The Little Oak Family Fund
- Earl Ritter Legacy Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST

- Dave Cook Building Trades Education Fund
- Officer Craig Birkholz Memorial Support Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

- Betty Trent's Happy Faces Scholarship
- Dr. Carolyn Keeler & Malo the Collie Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Dr. James and Shirley Ruppel Scholarship Fund
- Evelyn Averbeck Scholarship
- Friendship Fishing Club Scholarship Fund
- Karl Zimmerman Science Technology Scholarship
- Madame Joanne Thorkelson Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Nici Colwin Education Scholarship Fund
- Parks Family Society Insurance Scholarship Fund

NEW FUNDS - BEAVER DAM AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AGENCY

- Beaver Dam Community Library Fund
- Dodge County Concert Association Fund
- Friends of the Juneau Public Library
- Playground Movement Beaver Dam Inc Fund
- City of Beaver Dam Pickleball Fund
- Waupun Festivals Fund

DESIGNATED

- Ed & Shirley Buxton Memorial Fund

DONOR ADVISED

- Adam & Nicole White Family Fund
- Carlson Family Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

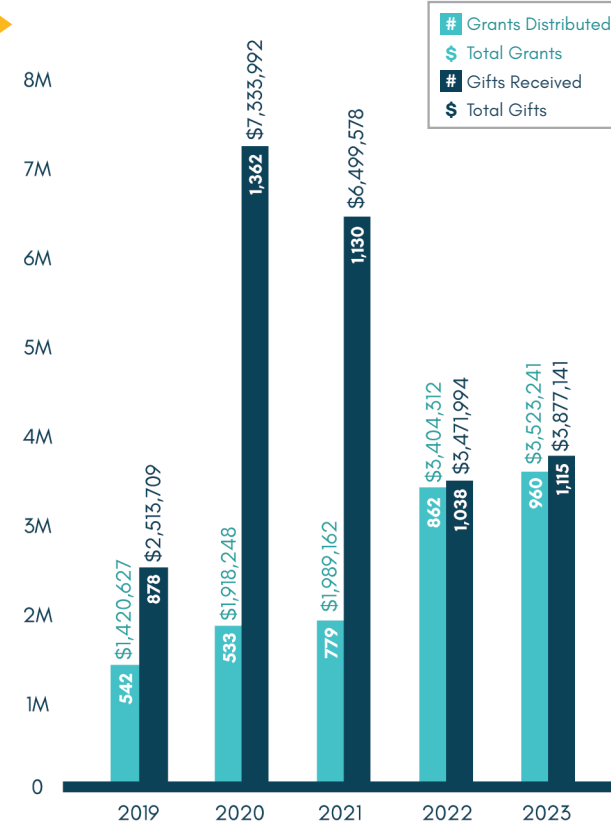
- Gibbs Family Fund
- Jay & Torrey Wilkins Family Fund

FINANCIALS

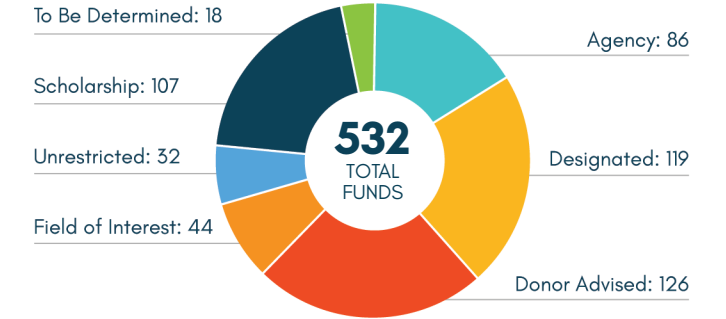
We provide a diverse range of funds tailored to meet the unique philanthropic goals of our donors. From unrestricted community impact funds supporting broad public initiatives to donor advised funds empowering individuals to direct their giving, we offer opportunities for impactful and sustainable giving.

It's what we do at the Fond du Lac Area Foundation. We receive gifts from those who care deeply about causes and community, and we invest those gifts so they grow. That growth allows the Foundation to maximize the resources we have to support the nonprofits that help Fond du Lac County thrive.

GRANTS AND GIFTS

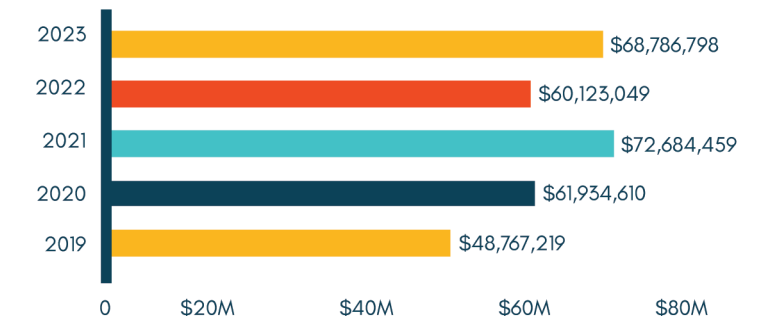


FUNDS



FOUNDATION ASSETS

BY FISCAL YEAR





Fond du Lac Area Foundation
1020 S. Main Street, Suite E
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www.fdlareafoundation.com



GREG GILES
Executive Director



ERIN MUELLER
Business Manager



KAYLA SCHUMACHER
Donor Relations Manager



MOLLY JASTER
Marketing Manager



JENNY ZACHERL
Donor Relations & Grants Associate



JACKIE DRAKE
Scholarships & Program Associate

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