



IMPACT REPORT 2017

For good. For ever. SM



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IN OUR COMMUNITY



90 years ago, on February 14, 1928, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was established by ten local business leaders to encourage “public spirited citizens” to invest in the future of Oshkosh.

The objective of the Foundation was to promote the mental, moral and physical improvement of the inhabitants of Oshkosh. Although our service area has grown during the past nine decades, we have stayed true to that vision by spearheading community initiatives, supporting critical nonprofit organizations and programs, and awarding scholarships to students to further their education.

Throughout this report, you will read stories that highlight the Foundation’s partnerships to address its four main strategic impact areas: Neighborhoods and Housing, Jobs and Economic Development, Health and Wellness, and Education. We are inspired by the many engaged residents who work with us, as donors, partners and grantees, to address today’s challenges and create lasting improvements for all who live, work, play and learn in our communities.

Will you be a part of our next 90-year journey?

Bill Wyman, President and CEO

Our Mission

Our mission is simple: to strengthen our communities.

We accomplish this through:

- Leadership and funding to address current and emerging needs;
- Collaboration and partnership with donors or others to ensure lasting impact; and
- Outstanding stewardship and inspired philanthropy.

We are a progressive Foundation focused on improving the lives of residents in the communities we serve.

2017 QUICK FACTS

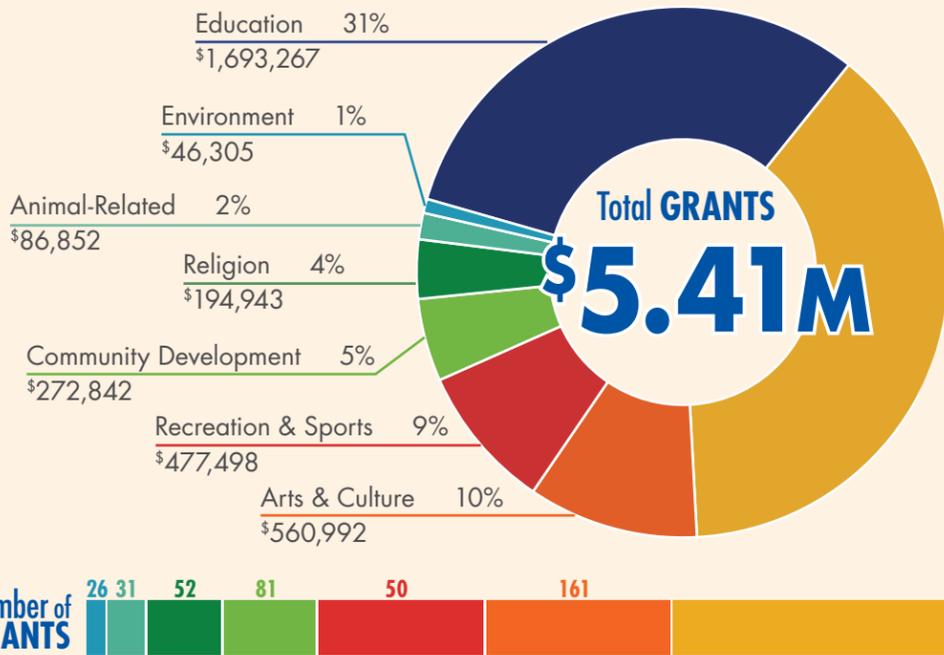
GIFTS to OACF 5,303 totaling **\$8,744,890**

Total GRANTS **\$5,410,708**

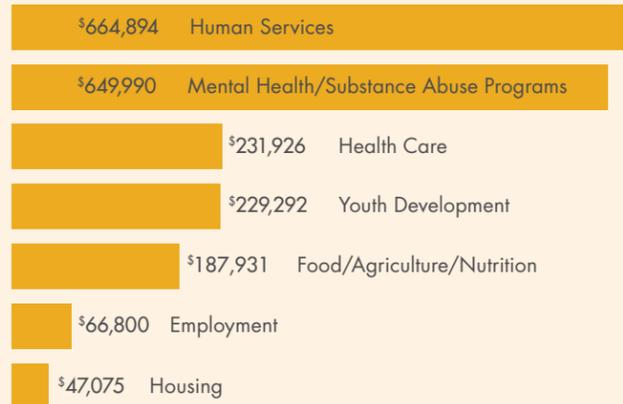
Number of FUNDS comprising OACF **835**

ASSETS as of 12/31/17 **\$116,515,701**

Financial information presented about the Foundation is estimated for calendar year 2017. The Foundation operates on a June 30 fiscal year end. Our most recent audited financials, based on our fiscal year, are available for your review on our website at www.oshkoshareacf.org/who-we-are/financial-performance-disclosure.



Health & Human Services 38% \$2,077,908



This Impact Report is a snapshot of the activity of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. More information and updates are available at www.OshkoshAreaCf.org.



NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

GOAL: Improve the culture of neighborhoods and neighborhood pride.

CHALLENGE: More than half of all Americans report having no close confidants or friends outside their immediate family and 25% have no meaningful social support at all. This type of loneliness or isolation can have serious consequences as it leads to a higher risk of depression, addiction, heart disease, and immune system disorders to name a few.

SUCCESS: NEIGHBOR ED

Marijo Konrad, a 15-year resident of Oshkosh currently living in Court Towers, has been fascinated with old homes for as long as she can remember. “I was given a treasured book from a friend that was filled with old homes of Oshkosh and information on who built and owned the homes,” says Konrad. She was thrilled to be able to share this passion through Neighbor Ed, a program of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin working with the RiverEast neighborhood in Oshkosh to create relationships among neighbors.

“Having an opportunity to talk about something you love is a gift you’re giving to your neighbors. People don’t always get asked to share what they know,” says Julie Filapek, Neighbor Partners Program Leader.

“Neighbor Ed is about creating ways for people to connect and create relationships to strengthen the neighborhood. The first step is getting out and speaking with everyone. This is like going on a treasure hunt because we know everyone has something they could share if they want to.”

Court Towers, home to 110 older adults and veterans, is hosting a series of history talks encouraging long-time residents to share their knowledge and memories. Starting in spring, the RiverEast Neighborhood will be hosting events where neighbors share their skills with others on their front porches and yards. Skills like cooking, art or tying fishing lures could be what you’ll find when walking the neighborhood.

Through this neighbor-to-neighbor education, neighbors will recognize and take pride in the abundance of knowledge, skills and passions found right in their own neighborhood. It is that newly found pride that will encourage neighbors to work together toward a common vision of their neighborhood.



JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Develop pathways for individuals to secure economic stability and opportunity.

CHALLENGE: Businesses are grappling with a worker shortage. A survey of Oshkosh Chamber members showed that 40% of respondents had job openings they were not able to fill, up from 33% three years ago. At the same time, 41% of working households in Winnebago County do not earn enough to pay for basic necessities.

SUCCESS: VOCATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

While many programs focus on building job skills, Apricity (formerly STEP Industries) is taking an innovative approach to help those struggling with addiction and a sober way of life move from instability to self-sufficiency.

A person-centered approach, which pairs individualized coaching with a safe, supportive environment in which to develop confidence and self-esteem, is the foundation of their new Vocational Learning Center (VLC). Apricity staff are provided opportunities to attend Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) professional developmental classes, such as "Motivating People" and "Communication Skills," in the comfort and convenience of their own facility.

"The partnership with FVTC creates a seamless path for Apricity transitional employees to begin moving toward their education and vocational goals. Initial steps, such as attending a Career Development Workshop at Apricity, to applying for a GED program or other furthering education can be done with support from me and the staff," says Lynn McLaughlin, Education & Development Specialist at Apricity. "As confidence grows, I work with employees on a warm hand-off to the staff at FVTC as they begin their studies on the FVTC campus."

"The programming offered through the Vocational Learning Center and Lynn's assistance, helped me achieve my goal and helped me realize that dreams are not just dreams. They are attainable and within reach."

— Stephanie Starke, Apricity Team Lead

The individualized coaching and guidance allow employees to move forward in their lives at a pace that works best for them. The trust that is gained working one-on-one with the Education & Development Specialist gives employees the comfort of knowing they are not doing this alone.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

GOAL: Help create a culture of mental health and wellness through prevention and education in area schools.

CHALLENGE: One in five adolescents ages 13-18 live with or will experience mental illness during their lifetime. 50% of all lifetime cases begin by age 14. Untreated mental illness can lead to quitting school, involvement with the correctional system, using drugs or alcohol to self-medicate, inability to live independently, and suicide.

SUCCESS: RISE UP

Sometimes kids struggle with depression, anxiety, relationship issues, or another emotional challenge. Or they may know someone who does and do not know how to help. The Oshkosh Area School District (OASD), in conjunction with Catalpa Health, Samaritan Counseling, and a number of community partners, want to make sure that students can access the care they need when they need it.

The Rise Up initiative not only brings mental health screening and clinical mental health therapy to the schools but also aims to create a culture of mental wellness by educating, engaging and empowering teachers and students.

"We understand that mental health issues serve as a significant obstacle for many students in the district. We decided that if we are serious about making sure every OASD student is college, career and community ready upon graduation, we (need) to help students overcome these obstacles."

— Matt Kaemmerer, OASD Director of Pupil Services

In an effort to get more students talking about mental health and change unhealthy norms and culture, both Oshkosh North and West High Schools have rolled out Sources of Strength.

"Students from a diverse group of social networks are spreading messages of hope and strength. These groups run campaigns that focus on a variety of strength-based topics such as trusted adults, building resiliency, and thankfulness. The hope is that Sources of Strength will reduce the stigma that is usually associated with these topics, which will in turn lead to more students seeking support from peers or caring adults," says Kaemmerer.

Other early successes of the Rise Up program include a three-fold increase in the number of students receiving mental wellness screening; and school staff members are now trained on de-escalation techniques, brain development, and mental health symptoms that result from trauma. OASD is hoping to see a decrease in disciplinary actions and an increase in school performance for students receiving mental health services.



EDUCATION

GOAL: Empower families and caregivers to support the developmental and emotional needs of infants (ages 0-5).

CHALLENGE: One in four American children walks into kindergarten one to three years behind. All children can and will improve, but for those who enter kindergarten behind, around 75% will never catch up to their classmates.



SUCCESS: FAMILY LITERACY

Twice a week, you can find refugee mothers building their preschool children's vocabulary through playing songs to teach the alphabet, practicing nursery rhymes with counting and parts of the body, and hearing stories being read – as part of the Winnebago County Literacy Council's Family Literacy program.

"The goal (of this program) is to shrink the school readiness gap between the children of English language learners and their English speaking peers", says Julia Franscona, Education Coordinator for the Winnebago County Literacy Council (WCLC).

Between moving to an unfamiliar place and not speaking the language, many mothers can feel isolated. Through the Family Literacy program, these women not only learn skills to help their children, but also benefit from the socialization and companionship formed with the other mothers.

"I love coming to Family Literacy Class. It's a safe place to be and socialize with other moms. Now I can talk about food and cooking in English!"

— Say, from Burma, Participant

One of the best ways parents can prepare their children is by acting as their teacher and role model to help them learn the skills they will need. The Family Literacy Program is constructed around four best practices: providing stimulating, interactive activities for parents and children; training parents in reading and English-language development; demonstrating to parents the strong connections between literacy and school success for their children; and using culturally appropriate reading materials for children and their families.

"Most of our volunteers are retired preschool, special education and elementary teachers, so their expertise and experience is invaluable," says Franscona.

Family Literacy teachers and volunteers create weekly learning tote bags with themes such as cooking, colors and shapes, math, and other language development ideas for parents to take home and practice with their children.

"I left Sudan a long time ago," says a 40-year-old female participant. "We needed to know what American people do, so we could understand the rules. We have families and our kids go to school. I am thankful the WCLC is here to help me and my kids learn to read, write, and speak English."

On the front cover: Moms and their children participating in the WCLC Family Literacy Program.

You know that great feeling you get when your generosity helps make things better?

So do we. Together, we can get results.

If you want to feed the hungry, educate kids, protect our environment, nourish the arts, revitalize neighborhoods, or [you choose the goal], we can help. We work with nonprofits, other funders, and government to craft and jump-start solutions to problems.

There are so many ways for us to work together. Let's make change happen. Our staff are here to serve you. We can help you plan a fund or contribute to one.

Ways to Give

You can give now or leave a legacy for future generations, or both.

1. Create a fund
2. Establish a legacy with a planned gift
3. Contribute to the Community Impact Fund
4. Give to one of our sector-specific field of interest funds

Community Impact Fund

When Edward Foulk's bequest started the Foundation's first Community Impact Fund in 1964 to honor his father Horace, an executive at carriage maker J.L. Clark Manufacturing in Oshkosh, he could not imagine the programs he would support decades later: high school robotics teams,

a mobile dental clinic, memory cafes, wheelchair accessible playgrounds, and more.

If you want your philanthropy to continue after your lifetime, you need to know that it will meet the unimagined needs of generations to come.

A gift to the Community Impact Fund or establishment of your own named Community Impact Fund is your assurance that your generosity will remain relevant. Future Foundation boards and staff will make grants in perpetuity that meet the changing needs and challenges of our communities.

Field of Interest Funds

If you have a particular area of charitable interest, you may want to consider a field of interest fund.

You choose the area, such as youth development, or a more specific focus, such as camping or environmental education. You might give to the Fund for the Arts or create your own fund to further narrow the purpose to support in-school artist residencies.

The advantage of a field of interest fund is that it keeps up with the times. The arts will always depend on private philanthropy, and we'll always have to be concerned about our young people. But today's youth problems weren't around 40 years ago, and neither were the many exciting arts organizations that have sprung up. Rather than locking your charitable contribution into a few specific charities, a field of interest fund will always be able to meet contemporary needs.

You can contribute online to any of the more than 840 funds managed by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Search our funds at <https://www.oshkoshareacf.org/funds> and give online today.

GIVE TO AN EXISTING FUND

- Fund for the Arts
- Career Transition Fund
- Child Care Training Fund
- Community Impact Fund
- Environmental Endowment Fund
- Hiwela Youth Fund
- Ladies Benevolent Society: Advocates for Older Adults Fund
- Love of Animals Fund
- Mental Health Fund
- Oshkosh Youth Fund
- Al and Lucille Oswald Public Safety Fund
- Erna O. Payton Fund for Domestic Abuse Services
- U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs
- Taking Root Fund
- Winnebago County Crime Prevention Fund
- Winneconne Basic Needs Fund
- Women's Fund



Serving Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon, along with our affiliates:



www.women.oshkoshareacf.org



www.winneconneareacf.org



www.greenlakecountyriponcf.org



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