Impact (verb / im-pakt) – To have a strong effect on someone or something. The Foundation team comes to work every day with a passion and drive to impact and advance the quality of life in our communities. It’s only through the generosity of donors past and present, that we are able to award grants, take a leadership role on community issues, and partner with grantees and other funders in order to achieve this goal.

We recognize that many of the issues that we are working on will not change overnight, but our community is making great strides. I hope you sense this progress when reading this report’s snapshots of our communities’ successes through the lens of the Foundation’s four impact areas: Jobs and Economic Development, Education, Health and Wellness, and Neighborhoods and Housing.

For Good. For Ever. Just another way of saying that the Foundation is in it for the long haul. With your support, we can continue to make an impact in our communities today, and in the future.

Bill Wyman, President and CEO
EDUCATION

GOAL
Expand educational opportunities, foster creativity and enhance academic experiences for youth in our communities.

CHALLENGE
Finding new ways to incorporate the arts into education has become increasingly difficult due to decreased funding for the arts in school as well as new teachers leaving the profession.

SUCCESS
ArtsCore Partnership

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDS
A gift to the Community Impact Fund or establishment of your own named Community Impact Fund is a simple and efficient way to address opportunities to enhance the quality of life in the community as they change through time. The ArtsCore Program was one of almost 60 programs supported by grants from Community Impact Funds in 2018.
**CHALLENGE**
With unemployment at less than 3% in Waushara County, businesses are struggling to find qualified workers for job openings. At the same time, 41% of working households in the county do not earn enough to pay for basic necessities.

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

**CHALLENGE**
More than one out of four people who served time in prison and were released are looking for work but cannot find a job.

**SUCCESS**
Journey Together Service Dog

Finding employment after incarceration can be very difficult for those seeking to turn their lives around. People often leave prison without the education and basic skills they need to obtain and maintain employment. At the Oshkosh Correctional Institution, inmates have a unique opportunity to gain work experience and help those in need.

“The FVTC Regional Center is a very comfortable atmosphere to learn and I especially value the hands on learning. It has been really nice getting to know other people from the area who have similar interests to me. This opportunity has given me exposure to the skills that I will need in my future.” Evan J - Class B Straight Truck CDL Program

**DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**
Establishing a donor advised fund with us allows you to make a gift to the Community Foundation and remain active in suggesting uses for your family’s gift. Then you can pass that role on to your children or another successor advisor of your choosing. A minimum gift of $10,000 is required or you can start an Acorn Fund with a minimum gift of $500. You receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made. Several donor advised funds have supported the Journey Together Service Dog Program over the years.

The Journey Together Service Dog (JTSD) program, run by a group of dedicated volunteers, teaches inmates how to care for and train dogs to become service dogs for people diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Inmates are entrusted with all aspects of care and training of the dogs starting at 8 weeks old through their graduation around the age of 2. The dogs live in the cell with the inmate and spend multiple hours a day being trained, groomed, fed and exercised. The inmates are also given the opportunity to help train clients who are receiving the dogs. The men are able to see how their hard work in training these dogs has changed someone’s life.

Although the focus of the program is dog training, JTSD makes sure that inmates gain skills that will benefit them once released. Men can earn a certificate in Dog Training from Fox Valley Technical College. A large percentage of the course work in the certificate program could apply to any small business type role.

“I’ve gained confidence, learning how to become a leader, listener, effective communicator and team player. I’ve also learned how to be humble, patient, and solve problems when needed with the dogs. Having all these qualities will help me be successful.” –JTSD dog trainer
**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**GOAL**
Help caregivers remain healthy and become more confident and knowledgeable care providers.

**CHALLENGE**
While caregiving provides rewards, it also exacts a toll. Family caregivers are typically in poorer health than non-caregivers, twice as likely to suffer from serious stress, and well over half of them lack confidence to do all the necessary tasks of their role.

**SUCCESS**
Memory Cafes and Respite Camps

At some point in our lives, all of us are caregivers — for a child, an aging parent, or perhaps a family member or friend that is recovering from a medical issue or facing a chronic health condition or developmental disability. Chances are that you, personally, may have experienced the pressures of long-term caregiving—burnout, compromised health, depression and depletion of financial resources. And maybe a wise person told you that taking care of yourself is just as important as taking care of your loved one and it can seem just as difficult to do!

Many caregivers turn to respite care for their loved ones in order to have a short-term break to relieve their stress, renew their energy and restore a sense of balance to their lives. Respite can come in many different forms.

One form of caregiver respite is Memory Cafes, which have been popping up throughout our area. It can be overwhelming and isolating to take care of a loved one with Alzheimer’s or other dementia. The cafes give caregivers an opportunity to learn from others and share concerns while eliminating the social isolation barrier.

“Every day has a different challenge as the dementia progresses. It can be very difficult to find time for myself. Sometimes routine outings like grocery shopping or running errands can be tough because she (my wife) cannot be home alone for very long. I have to be my wife’s eyes and ears in addition to her memory. She depends on me for her daily routine and little things like taking medications at the right time. It is really sad to watch her memory fade because she is the same, but she is very different. I guess that’s the biggest challenge—rolling with the changes,” says caregiver Ron.

Memory Café meetings offer stimulating and fun activities, chosen by the participants, in a relaxed environment. In Oshkosh, monthly Memory Cafes are held at the Oshkosh Public Library and the 20th Avenue YMCA. In Berlin, a relatively new Memory Café has started at the Boys and Girls Club of the Tri-County Area.

“It is a safe and happy place for those with memory loss. No one cares if you forget their name or can’t finish a story. We laugh a lot! I also don’t feel alone because others are on this same path as caregivers.”
— Ron, caregiver

For the Andersen family, respite comes in a different form — camp. Mady, a senior at Oshkosh West high school, has been attending Easter Seals Wisconsin Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells for five years. Mady has a genetic disorder that has led to a moderate to severe intellectual disability, as well as significant speech impairment. But she doesn’t let that stop her from playing on the playground, doing crafts, participating in games and enjoying the dance party on the last night of camp.

Camp Wawbeek offers children and adults with physical or mild cognitive disabilities the opportunity to have a true camp experience including boating, fishing, hiking and flying through the air on a zip line. But most importantly, Camp Wawbeek provides a safe place that families feel comfortable leaving their loved one.

Bethany Andersen, Mady’s mom and primary caregiver, loves the wide range of activities offered and the homey feel of the living quarters. "I love the camp staff...and the assurance that she is in good hands for the week”, says Bethany. “While Mady enjoys Camp Wawbeek, I take time to refresh my body and spirit by doing the things I enjoy! Sometimes it’s a short trip, but often it’s just reading a book, relaxing by the pool, boating, or laying on the couch watching Netflix! Every caregiver needs a break.”

**THE DEMENTIA AWARENESS FUND**
This field of interest fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was started by an anonymous donor to provide a vehicle for community members to support organizations that promote community awareness of various dementias and those that provide programs for caregivers and their loved one, including local memory cafes.

**HIWELA YOUTH FUND**
This field of interest fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation supports the development of Winnebago County youth, especially through camping, environmental education and outdoor learning experiences. Since it was established in 1995, it has granted out more than $1.2 million to support camperships and other outdoor experiences. The Hiwela Fund has donated nearly $10,000 over 5 years to provide camperships for youth with disabilities from low-income families to attend Camp Wawbeek.
NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

GOAL
Strengthen the Oshkosh area housing continuum.

CHALLENGE
The City of Oshkosh has only 15 units of transitional housing to help stabilize families' living situations so that they can more easily access resources and opportunities to help them improve their quality of life.

SUCCESS
RISE 2.0

THE WOMEN’S FUND
The Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was started in 1997 to create measurable social change in the lives of women and their families in Winnebago County. RISE 2.0 was created in response to research showing that 59% of female-headed households live in poverty.

WHY GIVE THROUGH A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?
Your Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is your “one-stop-shop” for all your charitable giving needs. We offer an easy and effective way to support the groups and issues you care about through a gift to a single organization. We think of our donors as extended family. Our expert staff provides personalized, attentive service to individuals, families and professional advisors to design gift plans that fit every situation and donor preference. Simply put – the Foundation makes it easy for people to become philanthropists.

GIVE NOW
You can give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate, or other assets – we accept a wide variety of assets and are able to facilitate even the most complex forms of giving. Use the enclosed envelope to give now to an existing fund or give online at www.OshkoshAreaCF.org. Please contact us at 920-426-3993 if you are interested in starting a new fund.

GIVE LATER
Make your community your heir by planning a gift to be made after your lifetime to a fund with the Community Foundation. We can work with you and your advisor to determine whether it is most appropriate to leave a gift in your will, designate the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy, or transfer assets to a trust that you establish to meet your specific goals.

WHEN MELISSA, A RISE 2.0 PARTICIPANT, STARTED this program a year ago she was in between jobs, couldn’t pay her bills and had no car to transport her children to school. In October of 2018, she secured a job as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a healthcare facility in Neenah working 32-36 hours a week. Not having a vehicle, she learned to navigate the public transit system to get to and from work. To ensure she arrives on time, she leaves Oshkosh at 2:30 pm to make the necessary transfers to get to Neenah by 6:00 pm. After her shift, she waits in the employee lounge until the morning buses start and makes the three hour trek back to Oshkosh.

Through her determination, she has received her GED, taken on additional responsibilities at work, is currently studying for her ACT exam and is learning more about a career in phlebotomy.

The ultimate goal of the RISE 2.0 program is to get these mothers and their families to a place of self-sufficiency within three years. Through this pilot program, the Women’s Fund is hoping to gather specific data that will show just how much money and resources are needed to get a family out of poverty and back on their feet.

Her mother lived in poverty. Her grandmother did too. For a single mother caught in the cycle of generational poverty, hope can feel like it is in short supply. Priorities focus on daily survival. It may be scraping together money for food, finding a place to live, dealing with a family member crisis, or battling an unresolved health issue. Long-term goals seem out of reach.

A collaborative program made possible by the Women’s Fund is trying to break this cycle of poverty one family at a time. For two single mothers and their children, the RISE 2.0 pilot program starts by providing stable housing through a partnership with Evergreen Retirement Community. With the fear of losing shelter for themselves and their family removed, the mothers can focus their energy on education, jobs and their children.

Enter the other RISE 2.0 partner – Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc. (CADASI) – to help the mothers address common barriers to achieving self-sufficiency. In collaboration with CADASI, the mothers attend weekly classes focusing on financial sustainability, parenting, healthy relationships and more. The mothers are responsible for a monthly rental payment but for the most part, all other expenses are paid for through the program.

When Melissa, a RISE 2.0 participant, started this program a year ago she was in between jobs, couldn’t pay her bills and had no car to transport her children to school. In October of 2018, she secured a job as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a healthcare facility in Neenah working 32-36 hours a week. Not having a vehicle, she learned to navigate the public transit system to get to and from work. To ensure she arrives on time, she leaves Oshkosh at 2:30 pm to make the necessary transfers to get to Neenah by 6:00 pm. After her shift, she waits in the employee lounge until the morning buses start and makes the three hour trek back to Oshkosh.

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