The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works with hundreds of donors who wish to invest in the future of our community. Since 1928, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation has helped donors turn their charitable investments into projects that add energy and vitality to our community. For some donors, we facilitate charitable giving and help them build permanent legacies of support. Others provide gifts to be directed to emerging needs in our communities as identified by our Board of Directors. Serving Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation strives to advance our communities’ quality of life and capacity for excellence.

We bring together leadership and funding to engage the community by coordinating local change efforts, engaging citizens, and bringing diverse voices and views together to address current and emerging needs. We strengthen our communities through collaboration and partnership with donors and others to ensure lasting impact and to improve the quality of life for perpetuity. We steward the funds of our donors and connect them to important projects in our community in order to see their philanthropic dreams come to life.

2020 has proven to be a year we will never forget with the COVID-19 pandemic altering nearly every aspect of our lives. Our communities have been challenged to provide a safe environment for people to continue to live, work, play and learn.

Along with people losing jobs and businesses closing, families quickly scrambled to adjust to school moving to a virtual platform at the end of the last school year. Parents found themselves in tough situations trying to figure out how to juggle their job and now assisting in teaching their children at home. Despite the pandemic, our communities rallied together to ensure our children continued to receive an education and meals during this difficult time.

I am proud of our area school district and the tough decision they had to make. I have no doubt this school year will look very different, but the passion and dedication of all the teachers and administrators will only be stronger. They will need all our support now more than ever.

Thank you and I appreciate your support of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

Bill Wyman,
President and CEO of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

Welcome Letter

Our Mission

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE: TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.

What is the OACF?

OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED PAST FIVE YEARS

2016             2017             2018             2019             2020

$0               $50,000           $100,000          $150,000          $200,000

$250,000         $300,000          $350,000          $400,000

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

$400,000

$350,000

$300,000

$250,000

$200,000

$150,000

$100,000

$50,000

$0
Complete, easy-to-use online source for scholarships available in the greater Oshkosh area.

- Search for scholarships
- Explore how schools, majors and grades could make more scholarships available to you
- Apply online or obtain application materials

The Fox River Scholarship Center is the most complete online source for scholarships available to students in the Wisconsin counties of Winnebago, Green Lake and Waushara, and the city of Ripon in Fond du Lac County. This site also serves students from other regions of the United States if their parents work for certain employers based in the Oshkosh, WI, area.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fox River Scholarship Center is hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. The website includes scholarships managed by the Community Foundation, as well as those offered by community groups, businesses and other organizations. We partner with several area school districts to administer their scholarship funds, including public and private schools in Oshkosh, Omro, Neenah, Winneconne, Wautoma, Green Lake, and Ripon. If your group would like to include its scholarship on this website, please contact our Director of Education at 920.426.3993.

HOW TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarships have a tremendous impact on the students who receive them. Without scholarships, many students would be unable to attend post-secondary education.

You can set up a scholarship fund now or through your will/estate plan to memorialize a loved one, honor a family member’s accomplishments, support a field or trade that you’re passionate about or celebrate the educational institutions you attended.

CHOOSE YOUR FOCUS

- Who should apply?
- Where should students be from?
- Should applicants be limited to certain schools?
- Should this benefit someone with a financial need?
- Should it be to attend a particular college?
- Should it apply to a particular major?
- Must the student meet a GPA minimum?
- Is it a multi-year award?

NAME THE FUND

The fund can bear your name, your company name, the name of a loved one, or be anonymous.

CONTRIBUTE

- A $10,000 gift will allow a scholarship to be awarded in the next scholarship cycle.

Total Assets

$116,974,630 AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

Scholarship Funds

$16,153,621 (13.8%)  

Education Funds

$9,844,714 (8.4%)
This past March, our world was turned upside down with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Businesses shut down, jobs were lost, and schools had to scramble to figure out a way to safely continue teaching. Students were sent home without knowing when and if they would return and many never had the chance to say goodbye to their classmates and teachers. Schools had to quickly alter in-person learning to strictly a digital platform.

“This pandemic has caused our teachers and other staff members to have to quickly adjust to a new normal when it comes to educating students. While the district is doing everything it can to make our schools as safe as possible for in-person learning, virtual instruction has moved to the forefront. This has created many additional challenges for our teachers and families, and unfortunately, has exacerbated some of the pre-existing inequities that are present in the district.”

Matthew Kaemmerer
Director of Pupil Services for the Oshkosh Area School District.

Area schools implemented plans to distribute the necessary equipment and supplies students needed for the new at-home learning curriculum, including laptops, wireless routers, and assignment packets. Local internet providers even stepped up with free internet service to ensure students without home internet were able to participate in online learning. Along with supplies, all school districts within the Foundation’s service area provided free meals to students. For many, the school provided the only nutritious and filling meals they received during the day. The Oshkosh Area School District went a step further and provided meals not only for the students but for families as well.

The end of the school year looked very different in many ways. Graduation and scholarship presentations were held through virtual ceremonies. School sports, dances, and countless other school activities were canceled and the anticipation and excitement of the last weeks of being a high school senior were diminished due to the pandemic. Students had to overcome many obstacles, and our communities rallied together to show their support. Communities all around made signs and posters to honor the class of 2020. The Class of 1970 and Friends Fund, held at the Foundation, purchased signs to congratulate graduating seniors at the Oshkosh schools. Area businesses supported seniors with incentives and giveaways.

It is unclear what education will look like in the future to ensure the safety of our teachers and students. School districts are working tirelessly to develop plans that can adapt to the changing environment as it relates to the pandemic. One thing that is clear is our schools and teachers will need more support than ever before.
The Oshkosh Area School District has started construction on a new technology and innovation center at Oshkosh North High School, thanks to the determination of the Oshkosh FIRST Wave Robotics program. WAVE Robotics students and mentors work together to reach beyond the norm by providing opportunities not found in the classroom through community outreach and engaging educational STEM projects. The desire to connect the program with the schools and the community has become a reality.

The center, or Fab Lab, will serve as Wave’s next-generation home base and provide an inclusive and hyper-collaborative area where students and the community can be challenged and transformed. Along with WAVE utilizing the space as its anchor tenant, the goal is to inspire more Oshkosh Area School District students to consider, explore and begin to develop their imagination, talents and futures as they forge life-changing relationships with teachers, professional mentors and teammates.

Along with help from the School District, Oshkosh FIRST Wave Robotics partnered with many area businesses and organizations to support the Lab. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was a key partner, providing not only financial support, but helping to bring the right people to the table.

“We are so grateful for the support of the Foundation, not only from the Community Impact grant, but for their on-going support of Wave Robotics and establishing a fund for contributors to support the project. Their team also visited neighboring schools to see the concepts and pulled together an open house at the space, working with the Chamber and Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. to bring in interested parties to see the concept,” Komal Mehta, board member and founding member of Oshkosh FIRST Wave Robotics said.

The Fab Lab will be ready for the new school year, but sponsorship opportunities are still available. The Lab will feature the same equipment students will use when they enter the workforce, providing them a great advantage. Local businesses looking to upgrade old equipment are encouraged to donate to the Fab Lab and help provide the next generation of workers the best possible start.

Jason Dorn from First Technologies, sets up the new CNC mill for the Fab Lab. The new machine will give students a greater understanding of how the manufacturing industry operates as they finish high school and enter the manufacturing industry as a new hire.

The Oshkosh FIRST Wave Robotics team is looking to build upon their success since launching in 2008. The list of accomplishments and outcomes is nothing short of sensational, having earned state, regional and national honors in FIRST Robotics events. With that success, the goal is to grow and promote a program that is embraced community wide.

“Over time, thousands of additional lives and livelihoods will be enriched by the experiences and the resultant talent. The technology and innovation center at Oshkosh North High School will serve as a safe, modern and innovative launch pad to help us reach and propel more diverse students who have yet to be inspired by everything our programs offer. Their success is Oshkosh’s success,” Komal Mehta said.
Attending post-secondary education can be overwhelming for many reasons. The high cost of education as well as struggles faced throughout high school and their personal lives can deter students. Students who lack support and motivation to attend post-secondary education may need that extra push to become successful college or tech school graduates.

The Better Opportunities Begin Scholarship, established at the Foundation, supports graduating Neenah High School students who have been part of the REACH Academy, which not only provides a different learning environment, it works to educate the whole child and provides opportunities that students may not have realized were there. This scholarship pays for the student’s entire education if they meet the necessary criteria regarding GPA and other stipulations. The donors who started the fund personally mentor the scholarship recipients to help guide and educate them to be successful during and after their education.

Tristan Thomas, a sophomore at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), was approached about the scholarship opportunity while attending Neenah High School and knew it was the natural choice to apply.

"We knew Tristan would be a perfect fit as a recipient of the BOB scholarship. He had grown so much during his 4 years of high school and was ready to take the next step. We are so proud of him and are so grateful for the opportunities this scholarship has afforded our students."

The REACH Academy teachers.

Tristan started out at FVTC with an intent to study business management but switched to electrical engineering after thinking about his favorite high school classes: robotics and electronics. Tristan plans to use his education to become a PCB designer. By alleviating the financial burden of technical college, this scholarship allows Tristan to focus entirely on his schooling.

"(This scholarship) was an opportunity to go to college and not be burdened financially. I saw the scholarship as a way to challenge myself and explore different interests to become the person my mentors knew I could become."

Tristan Thomas
FVTC Student

The mentorship aspect of this unique scholarship provides the students with one-on-one guidance. For Tristan, his mentors encouraged him to get involved, meet new people and enjoy this incredible experience he has been given.

"I am truly blessed to have so many people out there supporting me. It makes me want to try my hardest and become the successful person they see in me every day. Words cannot express how thankful I am everyday for everything they have done for me. They have profoundly changed my life for the best. Thank you."

Tristan Thomas
FVTC Student
Rose Wendt, a native of Wautoma, Wisconsin, received an incredible gift from her late brother Anthony: $1 million. Anthony was a brilliant individual, having attended Marquette University for chemical engineering and working his way to President of the Gould Battery company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Receiving the $1 million inheritance from her brother was a shock to Rose. At 93 years old, she had no need for the money. Her husband had passed, and she had no children to leave the money to. She decided she wanted to give that money to help others.

“I worked with Steve Bergman from Edward Jones on ways I could use this money. I wanted to help others and find a way to keep my brother’s memory alive. Steve suggested I work with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and open a scholarship fund to help students go to school.”

Rose Wendt

The Rose S. Wendt Endowed Scholarship Fund supports graduating high school seniors from Wautoma High School who have financial need, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and are involved in extracurricular activities. This past year, five students received the scholarship, each being awarded $2,500 and renewable for an additional two years.

Rose chose to be a hands-on donor and organized her own committee to pick students for her scholarship. Rose established a well-rounded committee comprised of friends and community members. As a newly established fund, she wanted to ensure the committee picked the best students for the first round of scholarships.

“There’s something special about putting the money into a fund and seeing what happens. I was always thinking in the back of my mind what would my brother want. I wanted to pick students he would be proud to receive his money. I think he would be happy with our selections.”

Rose Wendt

Establishing a fund to honor a loved one is just one of the many ways the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation can help create legacies. The Foundation can guide donors through the best options when it comes to fulfilling their philanthropic goals.

“The Foundation made it simple to establish my fund and they set up everything to make picking the scholarship recipients easy. I am happy I chose the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation to help share this amazing gift from my brother.”

Rose Wendt

There are numerous scholarships available to Wautoma High School students to support their future career goals in the fields of healthcare, business, agriculture, and many more.
Leaving A Legacy

DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donors who have entrusted us with their legacy by creating funds that are invested to provide education and scholarships in perpetuity, or with current gifts which provide immediate support.

The foundation has more than 850 funds supporting not only scholarships and education, but a broad range of needs in our communities. You can find the complete list on our website at www.OshkoshAreaCF.org.

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation partners with school districts and advocates to support education through:

- Green Lake County/Ripon Community Foundation
- Lourdes Academy
- Neenah Joint School District
- Oshkosh Area School District Education Foundation
- Ripon Education Foundation
- Winneconne Area Community Foundation

Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation


donors
•  Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
•  Ripon Education Foundation
•  Neenah Joint School District
•  Lourdes Academy

list on our website at www.OshkoshAreaCF.org.

of needs in our communities. You can find the complete

immediate support.

have entrusted us with their legacy by creating funds

Albert A. and Sylvia T. Kuklinski Scholarship Fund
Krizan Family Memorial Scholarship Fund
Hillsdale College Scholarship Fund
Debra Hildebrandt Scholarship Fund
Oscar and Gertrude Hardy Scholarship Fund
Dr. Stanley J. Graiewski Memorial Fund

The Anona M. Frankenstein Scholarship Fund
Hans and Otty Edel Memorial Fund
Jim Dorschner Memorial Music Scholarship Fund
Colleen Gibbons Daugherty Nursing Scholarship Fund
Coops Wrestling Scholarship Fund
Mike Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund
Kim Chapin Scholarship Fund

Endowment Fund
Fr. Martin Carr Scholarship Fund
Kathy Bermingham Leadership Scholarship Fund
Mildred M. and Edward W. Baar Youth and Community Development Fund
Zmolek Family Education Fund
Phyllis J. Zeinert Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund
Winnebago Conservation Club Scholarship Fund
Wesenberg Scholarship Fund
Rose S. Wendt Endowed Scholarship Fund
Norbert and Hope Vette Scholarship Fund
Jim Tichonchik Memorial Scholarship Fund
Thompson-Thiex Memorial Fund
Technical College Scholarship Fund
Award Fund
Carl and Ruth Steiger Christian Youth Leadership Foundation
Harold Schumerth Athletic Award Fund
Nyal & Beverly Scheuermann Family Scholarship Fund
Howard F. Schafer and Enid L. Schafer Fund
Emily Salzsieder Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Rowland Scholarship Fund
Ripple Effect Fund
Wayne Remer Scholarship Fund
Dave and Connie Paulick Scholarship Fund
Oshkosh North High School Class of 1978 Oshkosh Noon Optimists Scholarship Endowment Fund
Oshkosh Community Education Fund
Jeremy T. Monnett Memorial Scholarship Fund
Joseph S. Mertle Scholarship Fund
Lynch Family Scholarship Fund
The Marie R. Lehnigk Scholarship Fund
Fr. Daniel Schuster Vocational Scholarship Fund
Harold Schumerth Scholarship Fund
John W. Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fund
John F. Schatz Family Scholarship Fund
Scholarship Fund
Raymond and Virginia Ruzicka Lourdes Academy Construction Fund
Douglas L. Posorske Memorial Fund
Thomas A. Plein Annual Scholarship Fund
Oshkosh Tool Tuition Assistance Fund
Lourdes Academy Construction Fund
Judy and Tom Kuble Scholarship Fund
Rich Knobloch “Pibb Sure” Fund
Kemp Family Scholarship Fund
Patricia Lee Foust Memorial Fund
John Dewane Scholarship Fund
Scholarship Fund
Wisconsin Bowling Association Fund
Green Lake United States Bowling Congress Scholarship Fund
Green Lake High School Alumni Fund
Ripon Community Foundation

The Staszkiewicz Family Scholarship Fund
Annette Beem Memorial Scholarship Fund
Marie Bullis Barnard Memorial Scholarship Fund
Carol Tipler Student Enrichment Fund
Theda Clark Smith Foundation Scholarship Fund
Jordan Rowe Memorial Scholarship Fund
Larry and Michael Prell Memorial Scholarship Fund
Pledge With Pride Fund
Okundaya Family Scholarship for Civics, Literature, and History
Neenah Tomorrow Fund
Neenah Joint School District Transitional Education Scholarship Fund
Neenah Joint School District Scholarship Fund
Ann M. Martin Scholarship Fund
Laura Jane and Harley Loker Scholarship Fund
Frank X. Hocholzer Library Fund
William L. Heidke Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ron and Delores Einerson Scholarship Fund
Ann L. Dobbins Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund
Judge and Mrs. Wilbur Hurlbut Scholarship Fund
Virginia Formiller Family Scholarship Fund
Ferne Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund
Carole Gruenert Davis Scholarship Fund
Oshkosh Area School District Education Foundation
Oshkosh Area School District Athletic Development Fund
Oshkosh Area School District Athletic Field Improvement Fund
Oshkosh Area School District Education Endowment Fund
Ken Morin Memorial Scholarship Fund
David Mendoza Tovar Scholarship Fund
Emil and Doris Lenz Scholarship Fund
Marilyn Henze Scholarship Fund
Delbert E. Greenman Scholarship Fund
Gene Giddings Scholarship Fund
Marie and Callin Gartman Scholarship Fund
James C. Frank Scholarship Fund
Suzanne Schmoker Sutherland Scholarship Fund
Joseph Stage Educational Opportunity Fund
George and Vera Tipler Family Scholarship Fund
Suzanne Schmoker Sutherland Scholarship Fund
Suzanne Schmoker Sutherland Scholarship Fund
Bill and Ruby Hill Student Enrichment Fund
Mike Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund
Kim Chapin Scholarship Fund

Endowment Fund
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Dennis and Bank Roger Family Scholarship Fund
Big Boys Rock, Call For Action for Juvenile Diabetes

James Lentz Scholarship Fund
James Lentz Scholarship Fund
Winnebago Conservation Club Scholarship Fund
Carol C. Coddings Scholarship Fund
Dan Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dan Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Classic Dream Builders Scholarship Fund
Christian W. Berg Scholarship Fund
Christian W. Berg Scholarship Fund
Christian W. Berg Scholarship Fund

Oshkosh Area Scholarship and Education Foundation, Inc.

Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Winnebago Conservation Club Scholarship Fund
Marylhurst University Student Enrichment Fund

Funds established July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2020 are listed in bold.
Serving Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon, along with our affiliates.

ww.winneconneareacf.org
ww.greenlakecountryriponcf.org

Accredited in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations—the highest standards for philanthropic excellence.