Welcome Letter

Thank you to everyone that has worked with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation to support education. Your support makes a huge impact on the communities we serve.

This year, records were set with your donated dollars. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation gave out $784,700 to 399 students to attend higher education. A new scholarship record. Scholarships often change young adults’ lives and together we gave out more dollars to more students than ever before.

Together we also supported teacher awards, provided private K-12 school tuition assistance, invested in Lourdes Academy’s building expansion, and supported numerous book and technology needs. Together we also supported mentoring and apprenticeship programs, teacher advancement training and counseling support in many schools.

Education has the power to keep our communities vibrant now and in the future. Together your philanthropic dollars and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation’s administration is making a difference: For Good For Ever.

Quick Facts

Total Scholarships 2022: $784,700
Students Awarded: 399
New Scholarships: $457,600
Multi-Year Scholarships: $327,100

What is the OACF?

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

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.

Our Mission

Our Mission is Simple: To Strengthen our Communities

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.

Scholarships Support Front Line Workers

As long ago as the 1960’s the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation has been providing financial support to students entering nursing, education, and even the criminal justice system, with scholarships to support their education. Many of these same people became what we referred to as “front line workers” who were crucial during our time of need during the recent pandemic. Who could have foreseen, just how important these professionals would become to all of us?

In this sometimes unseen, but critical role, the Community Foundation played a major part in supporting not only these professionals, but ultimately our communities. We are proud of the ongoing impact scholarships play in shaping our students entering our colleges and universities, and the value each and every one of them bring to our lives, collectively.

Scholarship Dollars Awarded Past Five Years

Total Assets as of June 30, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$142,735,694</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Funds</td>
<td>$11,502,406</td>
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<tr>
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Total Scholarships Details

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After years of careful consideration and planning Lourdes Academy launched the One by One capital campaign in 2020 in partnership with the Oshkosh parishes and Green Bay Diocese. “The vision,” according to John Dinegan, president, “is to expand Catholic education and strengthen the Catholic faith in the Oshkosh community for generations to come.” The expansion will bring all grade levels of Catholic education together on one campus with a campaign goal of 10 million dollars to achieve it.

The role of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was that of ambassador, opening doors and making introductions and connections between Lourdes Academy and potential donors. In addition, the OACF committed $250,000 to the campaign.

The 30,000 square foot expansion project includes two new wings on the north side of the current building. A new high school wing featuring 11 classrooms, a faculty lounge and administrative space is being constructed on the east end. On the west end, a new elementary addition will include updated technology not currently available at the current locations. The west wing will also include a cafeteria, worship space, administrative offices and a playground. There is an additional goal of increasing school enrollment with some grade levels already at capacity in their current facilities. Lourdes Academy saw a five percent increase in enrollment in the last year. The new spaces will also provide students more room to broaden their knowledge.

By the fall of 2021, the campaign goal was met, and ground broken for the project. According to Karen Boehm Lourdes Academy Director of Advancement, there were many moments during the campaign when she felt there was divine intervention. “We would be in front of someone and have our ‘ask’ and they would come back and say no, it needs to be more.” She goes on to say “It’s been amazing. You talk about and work on this for so long, and then one day you drive by and you see a wall going up and it’s cinder block, and it’s so exciting!”

When the doors open in the fall of 2022 at Lourdes Academy, an expanded campus will greet students: one built on a solid foundation of faith, community support and partnerships, like that of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.
The students in Winneconne SkillsUSA are well-spoken, confident and take the program and curriculum seriously. They are clearly preparing for their next step, whether it’s a four-year college, a technical college, or stepping out into the job market. Without a doubt, there will be a solid return on the investment of the Winneconne Area Community Foundation in the program and the students.

The shelves are packed, sorted and organized, ready for the next wave of shoppers, also known as teachers. Markers, pencils, ruled paper, notebooks, paint brushes, pocket folders, boxes of tissues, bacterial wipes, books and more await them. The Teacher’s Closet located within Peace Lutheran Church on 9th Avenue in Oshkosh opened its doors in 2011 to help teachers in Winnebago County teaching pre-K through 12th grade, obtain supplies for their classrooms and for their students. The Closet is open two times per week, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm on Wednesday and Thursday, during the school year. It is not unusual to see as many as 15 to 20 teachers or paraprofessionals coming to scour the shelves for needed supplies. The organization, in its 11th year of serving the area’s teaching community, is run entirely by volunteers and through donations from individuals, businesses and service groups.

This past year, the organization established the Teacher’s Closet Fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in order to ensure it continues to receive funding, and carries on in perpetuity. As budgets have continued to tighten in schools, this is one way to alleviate some of the burden for teachers, who otherwise pay for classroom supplies themselves.

According to the director, Kay Kuenzl-Stenerson, the Closet holds designated donation days, about four - five times per year and she spends about $1000.00 month on supplies in order to stock the shelves. She anticipates the need will continue to increase; another reason to establish the fund at the Community Foundation. For her, unlike teachers, summer is the busiest time for The Closet, as they prepare for the school year. But come September, the shelves will be stocked, and organized, awaiting the next wave of teachers who come to shop. With the help of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Kuenzl-Stenerson feels confident that teachers will get the supplies they need now, and in the future.

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Legendary Teacher is Recognized with Scholarship Named in Her Honor

1978 Graduate Leads the Charge and Established Scholarship Fund in 2014

To say Gladys Veidemanis’s 26 years as a teacher in the Oshkosh school system made an impact is a considerable understatement. Mrs. V, as she was fondly known to her students, is legendary among those who were lucky enough to experience her classes. She pushed students to excel, to think and to write well, utilizing proper grammar while illustrating an understanding and comprehension of the subject. She wouldn’t accept anything less than a student’s best effort and had an uncanny knack for connecting with each student in a personal way, uncovering their unique gifts. She wrote dozens of letters of recommendation for college admissions every year on her students’ behalf. Her students would all agree, she left an indelible mark on them.

In one instance, that mark was profound for a former student. Peter Muehrer graduated in 1978 from Oshkosh North High School, and went on to receive his Bachelor of Art Degree in Psychology from Yale University. It was with Mrs. V’s encouragement that he applied to Yale. He continued his studies receiving his master’s degree and a Doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Muehrer retired in 2016 after serving nearly 30 years as Chief, Health and Behavior Research Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health.

To illustrate the power of education, and the incredible impact one teacher can have, Dr. Muehrer established the Oshkosh North High School Class of 1978 Gladys Veidemanis Scholarship Fund in 2014. Along with the help of other 1978 Oshkosh North classmates, the fund has grown to $127,000 and has gifted $12,500 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The fund came as a complete surprise to Mrs. V, having learned of it after it had already been established. Mrs. V noted that as much as she left a mark on her students’ lives, so too did they on hers. She states, “I feel privileged and blessed.” So do we Mrs. V. So do we.

The Fox River Scholarship Center

www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org

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

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.

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