



OSHKOSH AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT | 2023

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

ONE GRANT AT A TIME



MISSION

To Strengthen
Our Communities

We want our communities
to be the model of what
happy and thriving
communities look like.



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: ONE GRANT AT A TIME

I am often asked, “What does the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation do?” The short answer is that we work with people who want to donate resources to make our community an even better place to call home – today and for future generations. We understand our communities’ needs. We guide charitable dollars to be most effective. We strengthen our community.

This year, your Community Foundation is celebrating its 95th anniversary. Our first 30 years were spent building endowments. A foundation to build on. The following 30 years were spent awarding scholarships and helping the disadvantaged. During these last 30 years, we’ve continued doing these things in addition to addressing emerging community needs and advancing the communities we serve.

This past year has been extra special. Over \$11.6 million has been distributed through grants and other program-related investments. A new record. We are proud of our history and look forward to continuing our growth.

This report gives readers a taste of what we have been doing. It gives an overview of a few things we are involved in. There is so much more. We are here to help you transform your community one grant at a time. Please contact us if you want to be part of strengthening our communities.

With gratitude,

Bill Wyman
President & CEO

ABOUT THE OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by and for the people of Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County, and Ripon. We offer a range of flexible giving tools to help our donors make a positive impact on the community and causes that align with their interests and passions.

Through our grantmaking, we invest in the long term and bring people and organizations together to address local issues and opportunities. Our mission is simple: to strengthen our communities. Our business is in building community and helping the places we call home continue to flourish and grow.



ON THE COVER | The Oshkosh Public Museum hosted its first annual *Day of the Dead Celebration*. This popular Mexican holiday celebrates life and death. Traditions include people coming together dressed up with calavera painted faces (skeletons) to have parades in the streets.

OVER
\$145
MILLION

\$145,306,325 Unaudited assets
as of December 31, 2022

943

Total charitable funds

35

New charitable funds

NEARLY
\$10
MILLION

\$9,881,868 Contributions
to OACF funds

CALENDAR YEAR

2022
QUICK
FACTS



See our audited financial statements
for the period ending June 30, 2022,
at oshkoshareacf.org/financials

See our investment results at
oshkoshareacf.org/investments

CLOSE
TO \$9
MILLION

\$8,972,950 Granted

1,758

Grants awarded

88%

Dollars granted stayed local

\$5,101

Average grant amount

FEATURED GRANTS

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HOW DOES IT WORK?

IT STARTS WITH PEOPLE

- Individuals
- Families
- Businesses and organizations

WHO WANT TO GIVE BACK

- Support a cause
- Honor a loved one
- Leave a legacy
- Make an impact
- Better their community

YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS PEOPLE

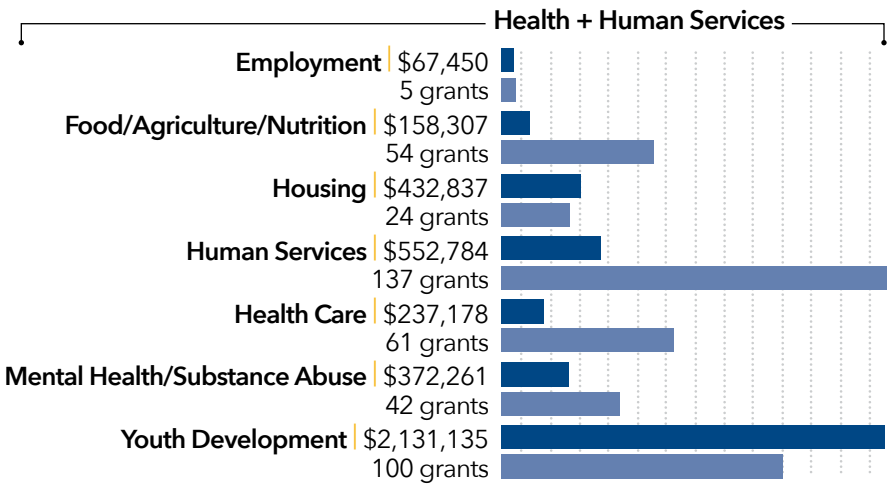
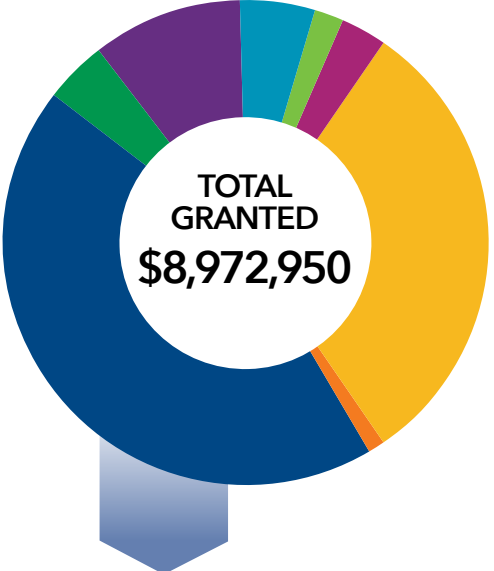
- Create and grow funds to achieve their charitable goals
- Pool their donations with others to address local community needs

AND LOCAL NONPROFITS

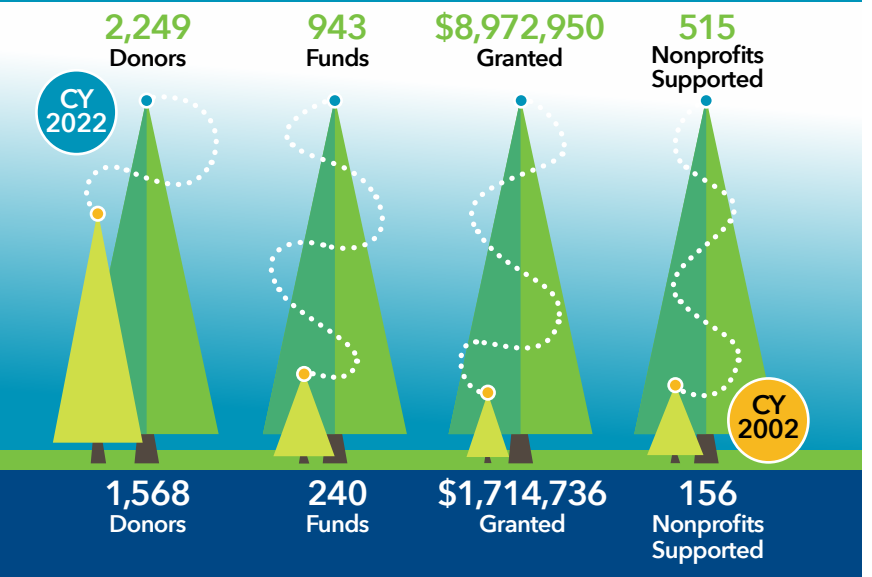
- Receive grants from the funds, fulfilling each donor's goals
- Lead programs funded by grants that strengthen our communities

2022 GRANTS

- **Arts + Culture**
\$461,048 | 140 grants
- **Animal-Related**
\$154,237 | 31 grants
- **Community Development**
\$238,798 | 88 grants
- **Education**
\$2,837,727 | 894 grants
- **Environment**
\$45,173 | 31 grants
- **Health + Human Services**
\$3,951,952 | 423 grants
- **Religion**
\$378,613 | 96 grants
- **Recreation + Sports**
\$905,402 | 55 grants



GROWTH SINCE 2002



Earlier this year, many of our neighbors in need got a notice signaling the end of temporary increases in federal food stamps benefits that started during the pandemic: Your food budget is about to be cut, potentially by hundreds of dollars a month. Here are some tips on how you can manage. You can't appeal.

The cuts come at a time when groceries are costing up to 10 percent more than they did last year. "Money is tight," said Samantha, a mother of five and regular guest at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "Food, gas, rent...well just about everything is more expensive right now. The pantry is helping us make ends meet."

Samantha is not alone. "Our usage peaked in November 2022 at 2,035 families served," shared Ryan Rasmussen, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "And while numbers have come down a bit since then, our number of first-time visitors is higher than ever. In 2022, we were seeing 50-80 new families a month. In 2023, we've already registered 209 new families just in January and February."

To help rescue more food and get it into the homes of families facing hunger, nine area pantries including the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry are partnering with local retailers through Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin's Direct Connect Program. Direct Connect allows pantries to get food directly from partnering stores like Walmart, Pick 'n Save, Aldi, Kwik Trip, and Target.

"Historically, the movement of food was retail to food bank to pantry and now we are focusing on retail to pantry. This has increased the amount of perishable items available through the food pantry system," said Patti Habeck, CEO and president of Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin, which operates food banks in Appleton and Milwaukee.

A \$54,000 grant from your Community Foundation helped Feeding America hire a retail sourcing assistant to support and grow the number of Direct Connect partnerships between retailers and member pantries. "Direct Connect allows us to go to nearby retailers to collect whatever they have available. Right now, that's a variety of produce, bakery, meat, and shelf-stable foods," said Rasmussen.



EDUCATION: MACI'S SCHOLARSHIP JOURNEY

Maci Wallace was a senior at Oshkosh North High School when she learned about scholarship opportunities through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Hundreds of scholarships. Thousands of dollars up for grabs. With a goal to not only attend a four-year college but also to earn a master's degree in counseling, there was no doubt she was going to apply for all that she could.

As a high school senior, it's not always easy to fully understand the financial burdens of college and the costs associated with furthering your education. "We can hear the numbers and total costs but can't really put it into perspective with so little life experience," shared Maci.

"I remember when I was applying for scholarships in high school and many students didn't want to apply for any that were \$500 or less. They only wanted ones that were in the thousands. But even those 'smaller' scholarships add up and any dollar amount helps in the long run. My family did not have the finances to pay for my college out of pocket, and I knew that doing my best to earn scholarships would be one way to help ease that financial burden."

Maci attended UW Oshkosh and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in 2012. She then received support from the *Laurie Holtmeier Raupp Scholarship Fund* for UW Oshkosh students entering the master's in counseling program. Maci completed her master's in professional counseling, with an emphasis in school counseling, in 2015.

The *Laurie Holtmeier Raupp Scholarship Fund* is one of many at your Community Foundation that was started to memorialize a loved one. This fund was created in 2010 by Laurie's mother, Carole, in honor of her late daughter. At the age of 53, Laurie passed from ovarian cancer. She was a Registered Nurse with her master's in counseling and helped many professionals as an Employees Assistance Program counselor at Affinity in Oshkosh, now Ascension.

Today, Maci is a counselor at Oshkosh West High School. "My life has really come full circle. Now I'm the one using my experience to share information with students. The Community Foundation makes it easy for students to apply for scholarships, helping alleviate the confusion and frustration that can come along with applying."



FOX RIVER SCHOLARSHIP CENTER

www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org

The Fox River Scholarship Center website, hosted by your Community Foundation, is the most complete online source for scholarships available to students in Winnebago, Green Lake, and Waushara Counties, as well as the city of Ripon in Fond du Lac County. The website includes more than 200 scholarships managed by the Community Foundation, as well as those offered by community groups, businesses, and other organizations.

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

\$1 MILLION OVER **\$1** TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED \$1,123,914

505 STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS

283 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS

Partnering school districts have chosen to have their charitable scholarship dollars managed by your Community Foundation, including financial and investment management as well as administration of scholarship awards.

January 1 - December 31, 2022	Scholarship Funds	Total Awarded	Total Awards
Green Lake School District	8	\$19,250	17
Lourdes Academy of Oshkosh	4	\$11,000	5
Neenah Joint School District	31	\$76,150	77
Omro Area Scholarship & Education Foundation	29	\$68,650	52
Oshkosh Area School District Education Foundation	4	\$600	2
Ripon Education Foundation	5	\$39,000	52
Wautoma Area School District	2	\$18,500	8
Winneconne Area Education Foundation	37	\$52,750	67



HEALTH: AGING IN PLACE

Sister Mary and Sister Mary Jo have been living on Patriot Lane in Oshkosh for 20 years. After more than six decades spent helping others, they realized that they could use a little help themselves. They needed to make a few updates to their home like the installation of a grab bar in the bathroom to help prevent falls.

Thanks to coordinated efforts between Rebuilding Together Fox Valley, the Oshkosh Fire Department, the Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and other community partners, the Sisters received the home modifications they needed at no charge. “Everyone prefers to stay at home rather than go to assisted living,” said Sister Mary. “This truly is a step in that direction.”

On average, the Oshkosh Fire Department responds to someone who has suffered a fall more than five times a day. Many of these falls are preventable. “When responding to a fall-related call, we help to connect the individual who fell with home safety modifications and personal health and well-being services to prevent future falls,” said Oshkosh Fire Department Chief Mike Stanley.

Grants totaling almost \$160,000 from the *Ladies Benevolent Society: Advocates for Older Adults Fund* and *U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs* within your Community Foundation supported the development of this collaborative approach to addressing the growing number of fall-related injuries.

Rebuilding Together Fox Valley installs grab bars, toilet seat risers, bathtub transfer benches, night lights, and bathtub anti-slip strips at no cost to qualifying homeowners.

The Winnebago County ADRC ensures that individuals have access to nutritious food, exercise classes, and transportation to appointments. In addition, they see that individuals are using the benefits that might be available to them through their health insurance provider.

And for those that want to be proactive, the Winnebago County Health Department provides free home fall risk assessments.

In 2008, Lauree Renaud dreamed of developing a network of safe walking and biking trails in Green Lake County that would connect area communities and the people in them. She founded a nonprofit organization called Green Lake Greenways to help make this happen.

Lauree passed away unexpectedly in 2018. She had invested countless hours completing loads of paperwork for a trail to connect the cities of Green Lake, Ripon, Rush Lake, and Berlin with the help of the Mascoutin Trail. Years of organization, preparation, fundraising, and grant writing lay in limbo. The trail, so close to being built, was stalled.

“We wanted to honor Lauree by making her dream a reality and finishing the project,” shared Howard Hansen, president of Green Lake Greenways. “It took a while, but good things come to those who wait.” The board of Green Lake Greenways regrouped and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources extended the end date for their Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant, which funds recreational development and conservation land purchases statewide.

“The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation helped us establish the *Green Lake Greenways Ripon to Green Lake Trail Special Project Fund* that was both visible and easy to contribute to. The Foundation helped connect potential donors with our project and gave them the assurance that their gifts were secure and would be used appropriately,” said Barry Rodgers, treasurer of Green Lake Greenways.

Construction of “Lauree’s Trail” began in April 2020; named after the woman with the vision and determination to make it a reality. Phases 1 and 2 of the project were completed in July 2022. After the final phase is completed, the 18-mile off-road recreational trail will run along the north side of Highway 23 from the Green Lake Conference Center to Ripon. The total cost of the trail is estimated at \$1.8 million.

“My son and I ride on Lauree’s Trail about once a week. To not have to bike along the highway, like I did as a kid, has been great. This trail makes it so much safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. It’s such a wonderful asset to our communities,” shared Hansen.



RECREATION: BUILDING LAUREE’S TRAIL



MENTAL HEALTH: SUPPORTING STUDENT AND STAFF WELL-BEING

Today's teachers wear many hats: parent figure, referee, nurse, detective, and sometimes even counselor. Of course, teachers can't be therapists or psychiatrists to students. Still, teachers are often the first line of defense when it comes to mental health. They know their students well and can usually pick up on when something isn't quite right.

Schools play a critical role in getting kids the help they need. Many have hired mental health professionals to provide counseling during the school day, launched programs to reduce the stigma attached to mental health conditions, and introduced mental wellness screening. The School District of Omro has done all of this and gone one step further by providing education and self-care supports for teachers.

Nurturing Omro's Wellness (Omro NOW) - a multi-pronged approach to mental well-being in the School District of Omro - was launched in 2020 with the help of a three-year \$247,000 grant from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which is supported by the *U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs* within your Community Foundation, the J.J. Keller Foundation, and other community partners.

Through a unique collaboration involving Collaborative Wellness, the N.E.W. Mental Health Connection, Samaritan, and the school district, Omro NOW is helping all students and staff feel mentally, emotionally, and socially prepared for life's ups and downs.

Collaborative Wellness offers one-on-one counseling at Omro schools, which increases student access and removes transportation barriers.

Programs like Sources of Strength (SOS), supported by the N.E.W. Mental Health Connection, train student leaders from all social groups to use social influence to change the school community by increasing help-seeking behaviors and promoting connections between youth and caring adults. "SOS is bringing awareness to mental health and most importantly to how to help yourself and others. It is giving us, the students, resources to improve ourselves and get help when we need it," shared one high school student.

Students in grades 7 and 9-12 can participate in the Wellness Screen offered by Samaritan. Simply put by one student, "It is a survey that is here to make sure we are okay."

Students voluntarily answer questions about their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Answers are confidential and only seen by Wellness Screen staff. If concerns are identified, results are discussed with the student and their parent/legal guardian and, if appropriate, support for follow-up resources and services is offered.

"Just as free lunch programs are based on the idea that a hungry child can't learn, we recognize that a distracted or troubled mind cannot focus on schoolwork," said Dr. Jay Jones, School District of Omro superintendent.

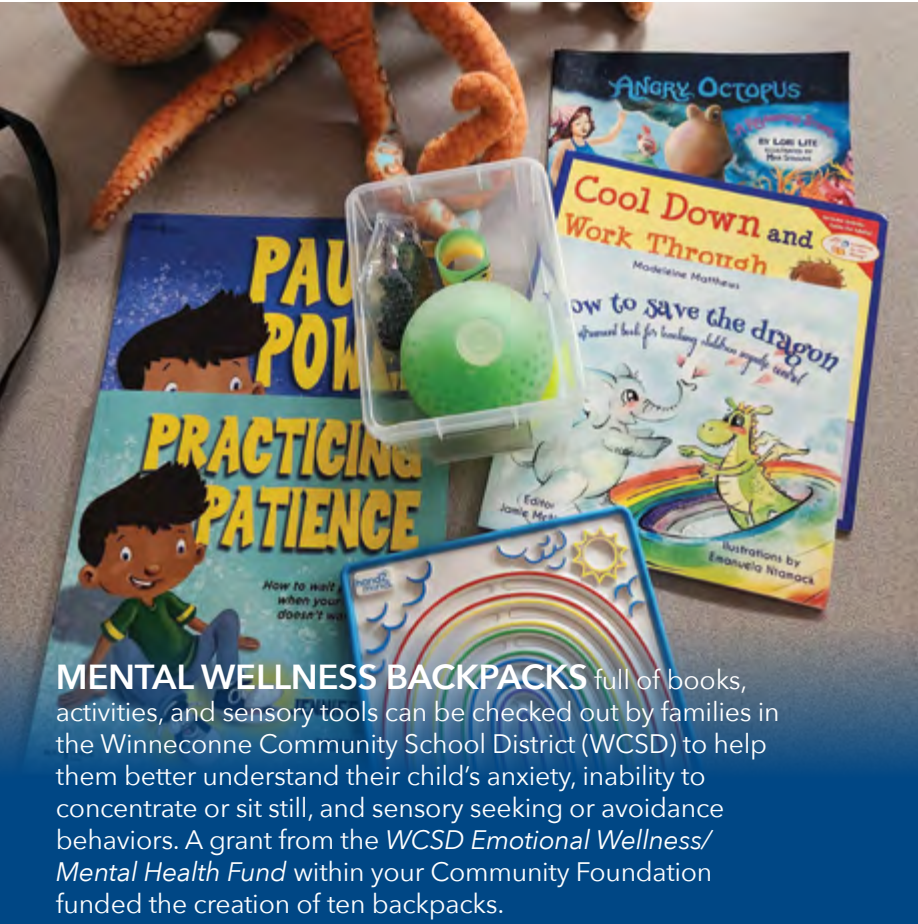
The district is also partnering with Collaborative Wellness to hold small group sessions for teachers, called Luminary Circles. The sessions provide teachers an avenue for self-care to avoid burnout, confidence to support others, as well as insights on how to recognize trauma in students and improve overall classroom effectiveness, safety, and engagement.

"As therapists, we don't just want to bring in interventions that only we as experts can deliver," said Collaborative Wellness Therapist Lindsay Loewe. "We need to provide those on the front lines with tools to not only manage classroom behavior and equip kids with the basic coping skills they need to thrive, but also foster mental health and wellness in school staff."

"The Luminary Circles have given me new ways to look at circumstances that I am faced with daily as a teacher. I play many of our conversations over and over in my head until I see a situation from a better point of view. The tools and advice shared during the meetings have supported my mental health in a positive way and given me confidence to support others too," shared one educator.



HOLD YOUR HORSES EQUINE THERAPY at BEAMING in Neenah provides riding and equine activities to help troubled and hurting teens improve their stress management, self-esteem, relationships, and more - with the goal of improving their overall mental health. This program received grant support from the *Hiwela Youth Fund* within your Community Foundation.



MENTAL WELLNESS BACKPACKS full of books, activities, and sensory tools can be checked out by families in the Winneconne Community School District (WCSD) to help them better understand their child's anxiety, inability to concentrate or sit still, and sensory seeking or avoidance behaviors. A grant from the *WCSD Emotional Wellness/ Mental Health Fund* within your Community Foundation funded the creation of ten backpacks.

Wallpaper is part of the story of a house and the people who lived in it. The historic Anaglypta and Lincrusta wallcoverings in the Morgan House on Church Avenue in Oshkosh are part of the story of the late 19th century Morgan family. Built in 1884 by John R. Morgan, co-founder of the Morgan Brothers Company, the Morgan House is one of three former homes belonging to the families from Oshkosh's earliest lumber manufacturing days that still exists today.

The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society (WCHAS) acquired the home in 1987 and began extensive efforts to restore its original wooden doors, floors, and carvings, in addition to 1880s furnishings and fine art. It now serves as a house museum.

Most recently, WCHAS has undertaken a significant project to preserve the historic Anaglypta and Lincrusta wallcoverings in the Morgan House. Over the years, extreme temperature changes and humidity caused the unique wallcoverings to crack and pull away from the walls.

These deeply embossed wallcoverings brought the ornate plaster work so loved by wealthy Victorians to those of more modest means. Lincrusta is a thin version of embossed linoleum mounted on canvas or waterproof paper that can be painted or glazed. Anaglypta is its more cloth-like and less expensive cousin. (Notable installations of Lincrusta included six staterooms on the Titanic.) "These beautiful wallcoverings are truly a treasure and keystone in our efforts to preserve the historic Morgan House," shared WCHAS President Randy Domer.

To stop further damage and to meet future warranty standards of the conservation, the Morgan House will also become climate controlled. A heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system will help preserve the house's historic documents and textiles for years to come.

The project, supported by \$50,000 in grants from the *Community Impact Fund* within your Community Foundation and an anonymous donor, is expected to be completed in time for the Morgan House's re-opening in early June 2023. Complimentary tours are available every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm and last about 20-30 minutes. No reservations are required.

HISTORY: IF THE WALLS COULD TALK



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: GIVING PARENTS THE ANSWERS THEY NEED

It started in 2018 as a pilot project in Winnebago County. A dream to improve kindergarten readiness by screening more infants and toddlers to determine if they are reaching important developmental milestones and identify any concerns early on. Your Community Foundation has invested more than \$275,000 over five years in this dream, which continues to evolve with the 2022 launch of Help Me Grow-Fox Valley, a new support system for families.

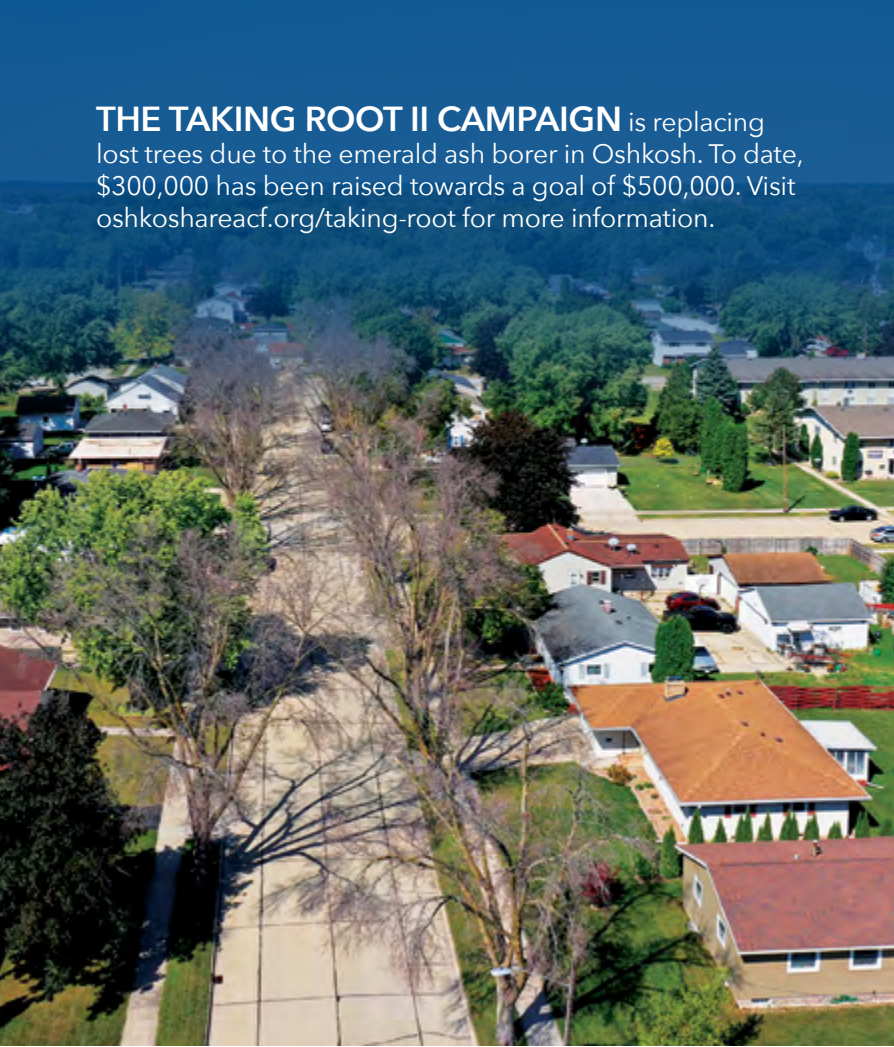
Every family wants to give their children a strong start in life – physically, mentally, socially, and educationally. Yet, the obstacles families face in raising children can be considerable. "As we started to screen more children, we quickly learned that the community's support system was not well-organized. There needed to be a better way for families to access resources for their children and service providers to connect families to needed supports," recalled First 5 Fox Valley Executive Director Barb Tengesdal.

Help Me Grow-Fox Valley is a centralized access point for families and providers to connect. Families are connected to family resource navigators via phone, text, chat, or email who will link them with appropriate resources. Navigators are also present at community-based offerings like Play and Learn Groups and Parent Cafés.

"The very first time I walked into the Markesan Library for the Play and Learn Group, Madyson [a family resource navigator] was the first to greet me and my two kids. She showed compassion and was so knowledgeable about resources available for my children, including for my youngest who has Down syndrome," shared Sara Windle. "Madyson even helped with my personal struggle to find employment after a few years of being a stay-at-home mom and working on completing my degree."

There are currently nine part-time family resource navigators, two of which are fluent in multiple languages. These navigators are employed by Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, the Early Intervention Birth to 3 Program in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties, Children's Wisconsin, CAP Services, and other community partners.

THE TAKING ROOT II CAMPAIGN is replacing lost trees due to the emerald ash borer in Oshkosh. To date, \$300,000 has been raised towards a goal of \$500,000. Visit oshkoshareacf.org/taking-root for more information.



MUSIC FOR ALL is helping participants at Lakeside Packaging find their groove by using instruments, dance, and more to express themselves thanks to a grant from the *Boeing Family Fund*.

WHY GIVE THROUGH YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?



LOCAL EXPERTISE

- We know nonprofits and community needs.
- Our board members and staff are engaged in the community.



PERSONAL SERVICE

- We help people invest in the causes they care about most.
- We create personal legacies.
- We facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.
- We manage investments prudently.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- We promote giving.
- We build funds that benefit the community forever.
- We strengthen nonprofits.



For **Good.**
For **Ever.**



We are in compliance with national standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

OUR PEOPLE
Make the Difference

Our staff are the driving force behind everything we do. We work together to make decisions and get things done.



Bill Wyman
President and Chief Executive Officer



Dawn Clark
Executive Assistant



Cheryl Fowler
Director of Education



Kate Bahr Fuller
Development and Donor Services Manager



Karlene Grabner
Director of Donor Services



Siri Pollnow
Marketing and Communications Manager



Amy Putzer
Director of Programs



Jennifer Sheahan
Director of Finance and Administration



Dawn Watson
Office and Technology Manager



230 Ohio Street, Suite 100
Oshkosh, WI 54902-5894

920-426-3993 | OshkoshAreaCF.org



**TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**
ONE GRANT AT A TIME



women.OshkoshAreaCF.org

Founded: 1998
Funds: 58
Assets: \$3,438,407
2022 donations: \$192,259
2022 grants: \$157,475



Green Lake County / Ripon
Community Foundation

OshkoshAreaCF.org/
GreenLakeCountyRiponCF

Founded: 2000
Funds: 45
Assets: \$3,792,988
2022 donations: \$690,107
2022 grants: \$381,058



WinneconneAreaCF.org

Founded: 2013
Funds: 75
Assets: \$2,711,415
2022 donations: \$170,162
2022 grants: \$54,544

AFFILIATES

Our affiliates developed out of a desire to help rural communities and interest groups inspire philanthropy to address their own unique needs. Together, we are working to achieve lasting impact in the places we call home and for the causes that matter most to us. Each of our affiliates operate as a family of funds within the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, giving them the benefit of our cost-effective, centralized professional services. Our team provides financial and investment management, administration, and technical expertise so local leadership can focus on asset building and community needs.