THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Celebrating 40 Years of Service

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
The mission of the Racine Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and by managing and distributing the funds in a responsible manner.
Home. It means so much to so many of us. Your hometown, the friends you never outgrew, the neighborhood, the very house you grew up in, your family. Whatever you called home, whoever made your home real, wherever your home is, it is as much a part of you as your flesh and blood. Your memories, your future, your own present. Home is how you have become you, and defines what you build for yourself. There’s no place like it.

Racine County is that place for us. What it meant for us in the past – great parks, great industry, great people and what it means in the future – great people, great business, and great lakes. These are the iconic things that make our hometown our best place to be. Church steeples that reach high in our skyline. Masts of sailboats that poke at that same sky in a harbor along our shores. Farmland that is at once restful and busy. Music that runs the gamut from drum lines to symphony, and people who believe families come first, and our sports teams a close second.

At the Racine Community Foundation, our mission is to make sure that which makes Racine County a good place to call home continues to grow and serve the next generations of our community. So we help our donors establish legacy funds that support Racine County in perpetuity. We also award grants to support non-profit community programs, projects and scholarships. And we join with other Racine non-profits to discuss specific needs in our community, often leveraging our combined strengths to accomplish more than any one group could do alone.

It’s our 40th anniversary as an organization, the ruby anniversary. Someone long ago traveled far from home believing in magic beyond the borders of her house and yard. She experienced new and exciting things, but in the end realized she loved the place where her roots were. She learned there was no place like home. As you read through this year’s report, we hope you share in her wonder at what’s possible and are moved to realize that, there really is no place like home. There is no place like Racine County.

Sheila Bugalecki, President
Liz Powell, Executive Director
the generosity of the businesses, estates, and organizations who made donations in 2015. It is with your support that we achieve our mission of enhancing the quality of life in Racine County.

**OUR FAMILY OF DONORS**

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- Allan A. and Joanna Youtlen
The increasing success of the Racine Community Foundation is the result of its responsiveness to the needs of the community – not only as a grant-making organization, or networking for other, non-profits, but also as a home base for those who begin to seek to grow their charitable giving.

The following categories are meant to offer flexibility so that you can reach and participate to respond to changing and emerging community needs.

These funds allow the Foundation unrestricted flexibility to respond to changing and emerging community needs.

Attractive to many donors, Acorn Funds are built over time with tax-deductible contributions as little as $50 per month. These funds provide critical administrative support for the Foundation. A minimum of $10,000 establishes the fund.

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Named Funds – flexibility to meet changing needs. These funds allow the Foundation unrestricted flexibility to respond to changing and emerging community needs. A minimum of $5,000 establishes the fund.

Wendler Family Fund
Mary V. Wackerhagen Fund
The Taylor Home Youth Fund
Sustainable Racine Fund
Walter S. Smolenski, Jr. and Sr. Polish History and Culture Fund
Helen C. Smolenski Chamber Music Fund
Jennette T. Schroeder Fund
Isis and Frank Sass Youth Fund
Racine Community Foundation Environmental Fund
William and Yolanda Naleid Fund
Emile H. Mathis II Fund
Carrie M. and Edwin H. Lyle Memorial Fund
James E. Lockwood, Jr. Fund
Kids First Fund
Dave and Linda O'Dell, O'Dell Founders Scholarship Fund

Acorn Funds – investing in the community

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Organizational Endowments

Donors or their designees play an active role in charitable giving. The Foundation retains final discretion regarding their favorite charities. A minimum of $10,000 establishes the fund.

Donor Advised Funds – personalized giving

Established in 2015.

Names in bold indicate endowments established in 2015.

Charitable Funds

Organizational Funds

Racine non-profit organizations are turning to the foundation to manage their financial resources. With a strong investment policy, the Foundation works to maximize investments while also working to provide stable income for use by its community partners. Endowed funds require a minimum $10,000 investment.
The Racine Community Foundation awarded a grant in 2007 to help a new organization get started, and in 2015 we were presented with such a prospect. The staff met with local law enforcement, social service providers and local law enforcement. RCRAHT is the first non-profit organization in Racine County that focuses solely on battling this problem, and quickly became a non-profit organization in Racine County that focuses on the topic of human trafficking as well as training. The coalition is a unique combination of social service providers and local law enforcement. RCRAHT is formed in 2015 and is a network of local resources that fosters collaboration to increase communication among providers, identify gaps in services, and provide advocacy and support for victims while preventing conditions that foster human trafficking. This has resulted in local interested parties forming the Racine Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RCRAHT). Founded in 1957, the Racine County Opportunity Center (RCOC) is dedicated to providing programs that help individuals who are disabled and/or developmentally delayed maximize their potential to lead a full life and participate with family and the community. RCOC offers three different programs that focus on individuals with disabilities. They offer a daycare program that serves children with special needs as well as a Birth to 3 Program that assists children with delays and disabilities.

In 2015, RCOC applied to the Foundation, and specifically the St. Luke’s Trustees Advised Fund to replace an aging playground and unsafe outdoor play area with new equipment. They determined that they were in need of equipment that was better suited to their enrollment of children with special needs, and the area did not accommodate all of the motoric limitations of the special needs children. The objective was to carefully develop the play area so that all toddlers in both programs have equal access to play experiences on equipment specially chosen for use by both children with special needs and typically developing children. The RCOC involved the occupational, speech and physical therapists who work with the children to ensure that the new equipment and overall design of the play area would work for all of the children served. The St. Luke’s Trustees very generously funded the entire project. The finished project has produced wonderful results including the ability for children with motor difficulties to play alongside their friends. Prior to the installation of the new equipment and related flooring, there were children that simply could not use the outside play area. Sheryl Hamilton, Executive Director of the RCOC commented, “I believe that most impact this project demonstrated was social… the fact that ALL the children, both “typical developing” and those with delays/motor limitations can play side by side and experience all aspects of motor skills.”

Racine Vocational Ministry, Inc. Racine Vocational Ministry, Inc. (RVM) was established in 2002 to work with many of Racine County’s most disenfranchised residents. RVM focuses its services on individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of high infant mortality, domestic violence victims and veterans. RVM serves the entire county out of three offices – city of Racine, city of Burlington, and the Union Grove Veterans Center.

In 2015, the Racine Community Foundation awarded a grant to RVM to help fund operations. RVM offers six interrelated programs: Reentry for Adult Ex-Offenders, Gang Deterrence, Work Experience/Employment and Training, Lifecourse Initiatives for Healthy Families, Solutions for Success and Homeless Assistance. One statistic that we are pleased to share is that from August 2002 to March 1, 2015, RVM offered a total of 3,139 participants in employment and employment-related training. Further as a result of the work done in the Adult Ex-Offenders Program, their ex-offender participants have a recidivism rate of 8%, while the average rate of recidivism in the state of Wisconsin is 26.8%. U.S. Attorney, James Santelle says, “RVM’s stellar work with the United States Department of Justice, The Racine Police Department, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and other governmental and non-governmental entities – including especially its positive redirection of the lives of felons and gang members – has advanced the revitalization and positive redirection of the lives of felons and gang members – has advanced the revitalization and renewal of the municipality and its diverse neighborhoods.”
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin

The notion of people in our community not having enough food is so striking at one that is distressing at best. Currently, in Racine County there are over 35,000 food insecure households with children and seniors. Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to enough food to meet basic nutritional requirements. However, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is tackling the topic of hunger by providing mobile food pantries in Racine County.

Mobile pantries distribute food directly to those in need and provide a crucial, supplemental source of food for families and individuals facing hunger. To promote a well-balanced diet, mobile pantries provide fresh produce, dairy, meat, and whole grains as well as non-perishable pantry staples.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin works with local hunger relief agencies to distribute between 10,000 and 20,000 pounds to designated areas such as churches, community centers, local coalitions and public housing complexes to be given out free of charge to hungry individuals and families. Mobile pantries address the ‘last mile’ issue as many operate without sufficient refrigerators and freezers needed to store perishable foods. Individual who utilize the mobile pantries typically receive between 20-30 pounds of food per visit.

The Racine Community Foundation is proud to provide funding for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin in working to lessen food insecurity in Racine County.

Mobile pantries address the shortcomings of traditional food banks by reaching families and individuals with food without sufficient refrigerators and freezers needed to store perishable foods.

In 2015, the CATHE Center reached a point in its development that warranted the hiring of its first full-time Executive Director to oversee its myriad of offerings and two buildings. The Racine Community Foundation was happy to provide a grant for operational support of the Center.

Zoo Beach Community Mosaic

One of Racine’s first mosaics was installed and dedicated in the fall of 2007 along the concrete retaining wall that supports the stairs to the beach near the Racine Zoo. The first mosaic was created by Main Gallery as part of a summer art project. The response from our community was overwhelmingly positive as it has often been used as a background for photographs and is well visited. Two community members decided it was time to expand on the already popular mosaic and approached the City with their plans for a community led art project to further enhance the bare concrete walls near the Zoo Beach. The City approved, and many members of our community expressed an interest to learn the mosaic process and to collaborate on a group project which will enable them to create public mosaics in the future, and the second stage of the project was born!

A participant in the program commented, “What impressed me most was how vibrant this community mosaic involved so many different hands – young, old, middle-aged hands, hands of artists and novices, hands of Racine natives, of residents who are African natives and hands of children, hands of an international exchange student from Chile. …”
<table>
<thead>
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<td>Total Grants</td>
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In 2015, we are proud to have awarded over $3.0 million against similar foundations and market indices. The Investment Committee works with a third-party providing expert counsel, they provide benchmarking outcomes in policies approved and overseen by our Board of Directors.

In 2015 we are proud to have awarded over $3.0 million grants with the majority staying in Racine County. The assets in the care of Racine Community Foundation are prudently managed and invested for optimum return in accordance with a written investment policy formally approved by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee works with professional investment managers to monitor the performance of these investments against similar foundations and market indices. The assets within the Racine Community Foundation are prudently managed and invested for optimum return in accordance with a written investment policy formally approved by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee works with professional investment managers to monitor the performance of these investments against similar foundations and market indices. The assets within the Racine Community Foundation are prudently managed and invested for optimum return in accordance with a written investment policy formally approved by the Board of Directors. The Investment Committee works with professional investment managers to monitor the performance of these investments against similar foundations and market indices.
Sheila R. Bugalecki
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Vice President, Grants

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Jenny Trick*

*Elected 12-8-2015

Board of Directors 2016
Front row: Eric Olesen, April Johnson-Howell, Sheila Bugalecki, Steen Sanderhoff, Brian Lauer.
Not pictured: GeorgAnn Stinson, Eugene Szymczak, Jenny Trick

Staff 2016
Chris Greco – Controller,
Tracy Middlebrook – Program Officer,
Liz Powell – Executive Director
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
The Racine Community Foundation, serving all of Racine County, operates in compliance with the National Standards for Community Foundations as set forth by the Council on Foundations.