



Incourageing Action: 2017 Highlights

In 2017, Incourage and our donors provided over \$5 million in grants and programmatic investments to build a stronger community. However, it takes more than money. Below are just a few examples of people making a difference...

People

Incourage, in partnership with over 2,000 donors and many volunteers, has supported students with scholarships while creating a very robust — although increasingly labor intensive — program over the past 20 years. After thorough research, in 2017, we began using a professional scholarship service to assist with administration and review. This improved technology has streamlined the process, making it more efficient and easier for students. It's also helped us make the selection process more equitable by reducing unintentional bias; this ensures that a greater number of deserving students receive scholarships.



At the annual scholarship luncheon, bonds are formed between recipients and donors creating lasting relationships as well as a strong sense of pride and connection to our community.

2017 Scholarship Statistics

Since 1994, we've awarded nearly **3,194** scholarships totaling approximately **\$2.1 million**.

This year, we awarded more than **\$146,000** (190 scholarships) to students pursuing or continuing higher education.

84% of the students who applied for Incourage scholarships in 2017 received one, **up** from 58% in 2016.

Businesses & organizations

Harold Altenburg approached Incourage in 2015 with his vision of **creating a non-profit farm school to help young people develop life skills through on-farm learning**, while continuing to provide the products and activities the community has enjoyed at Altenburgs. Incourage worked with Harold, his family, local experts, the community at large, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture to successfully realize this vision.

Today, the School at Altenburg's Farm is a registered 501(c)3, with a six-person board of directors. They hired a farm manager, and have begun a youth apprentice program. With contributions and a matching grant through the Barker Fund for Youth at Incourage, \$52,349 was donated to support start-up expenses for the School. Through Harold's vision, Incourage's support and the community's engagement, Altenburgs will continue benefiting the community and our youth for years to come.



Harold Altenburg with a group of students at Altenburg's Farm.

Community-wide efforts

Over the past year, residents, businesses and community organizations came together and advocated on behalf of the Tribune Building Project, and our region more broadly, through a request in the state budget. Although the request itself was not successful, by engaging with our elected officials and state agencies, we showed our ability to work together as a community for positive change. We also increased awareness about the needs of our region throughout the state, while cultivating relationships that will be important in the future.

Through the renovation of the Tribune Building, we will preserve and honor history, while also creating something new and beautiful in our downtown. Stay connected! facebook.com/tribunebuildingproject



Representative Scott Krug speaks about Tribune as a community asset for workforce attraction and retention during a recent building tour.

Looking ahead to 2018

Incourage is committed to doing our part to realize a community that works well for all. We will continue to invest resources to grow a strong, local economy, foster new ideas and opportunities, and preserve local assets.

Importantly, our work will be informed by residents through the 2017 Community Survey (incouragecf.org/survey), currently underway. Results will be used to assess changes in priorities and opinions since the 2012 survey – and to support residents, organizations and the community in understanding these changes and taking collective action to address new priorities.



Take the survey today!
Visit incouragecf.org or call 715.423.3863.

It takes people to make a difference, however it also takes money. Consider giving to Incourage.