

We are stronger together as we continue to create a community that works well for all.



Incouraging Action

Welcome to our donor update, informing you of various ways you can participate in making an impact throughout our community through your donor advised fund or additional contributions. The community's work is our work and one of Incurage's roles is to help identify our community's needs and opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our community with schools and restaurants closing, and businesses closing their doors to the public to work from home, has disrupted families, income, and the flow of resources.

Please consider the following opportunities:

Incurage's Emergency Assistance Fund



This opportunity provides flexible funding for non-profit and community-based organizations in the south Wood County community, targeting emerging needs that may not be covered through other resources. Contributions and support through your fund will increase the number of community members that may receive emergency assistance through this Fund.

United Way's Covid-19 Response Fund

This opportunity provides funding to fill gaps and help cover added expenses as it relates to serving community members during this time. This is a national United Way effort where donors outside the south Wood County area may be interested in supporting our community and their own.

FOCUS

In March, The Neighborhood Table, South Wood Emerging Food Pantry, and Rapids Family Backpacks merged into one nonprofit organization, Feeding Our Communities within United Services (FOCUS) to better combat food insecurity in the south Wood County area. All services offered by each organization continue. Contributions and support through your fund will positively impact our community residents and families facing food insecurity.

Support School-Aged Children



The Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area is currently in need of support as they are providing grab-n-go dinners and snacks at no charge to children 18 and under at the Club weekday afternoons. Support through your fund provides an opportunity for the Club to serve more children in need.

Planning is already underway for Stuff the Bus this summer and the committee is anticipating a greater need this year. Please stay connected - United Way will share information as the event nears.

Local Nonprofit Arts Organizations



Since inception, Incourage has been involved as an advocate, investor, and supporter to enhance and enrich local arts organizations, projects and programs in south Wood County. Incourage facilitated more than \$25,000 in donor advised grants to support the Cultural Center's capital campaign for their new facility late 2019 – thank you.

Other local nonprofit arts organizations, such as the Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre, Arts Council of South Wood County, and Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra need support as well. Performances are being cancelled, yet overhead remains without the ticket sales to offset these costs. Contact Incourage to support our local arts community through your fund.

McMillan Memorial Library Learning Futures 2020 Capital Campaign

Our community library is seeking capital campaign support to renovate and refine into a more flexible, community-focused space. Renovations include repurposing the Adult Room to meet new community needs, updating the Fine Arts Center (theater), and more. The estimated cost for the 15,000 square foot project is \$2M. In February 2020, the Legacy Foundation of Central Wisconsin awarded McMillan Memorial Library a \$1M matching grant to renovate the library which expires June 15, 2020. Approximately 1/3 of project costs have already been raised. If you are interested in receiving additional information, please let us know. More information may also be found at <https://www.mcmillanlibrary.org/>.

Support Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs



Please continue to support our local small businesses and entrepreneurs during this challenging time. These business owners often help community members in need and need our help now. We encourage you to follow CDC guidelines and socially distance yourselves, but many offer gift cards to buy now, use later. Utilize drive up, carry out and delivery services. Every dollar matters.

Many local nonprofits and small business serving rural areas like ours are finding it difficult to access the Paycheck Protection Program. The struggle is real. Please consider increasing your personal donations and buying local whenever possible. Our community relies on the generosity and support of its residents. Together, we will get through this.

Friends of Incourage Fund



As a community based nonprofit organization, we are requesting your support for our continued work. The “Friends of Incourage Fund” has been established to help support the foundation’s annual operating costs. Gifts to this fund, no matter what amount, will help ensure the sustainability of our work in supporting our community through scholarships, grants and community connections for a community that works well for all people. By continuing to work and learn together, we are making a lasting impact on the future of south Wood County. We sincerely and gratefully thank you for your support.

Call Incourage to donate or discuss these opportunities at 715.423.3863 or email at hello@incouragecf.org.