

Encouraging Action

Welcome to our donor update, informing you of a variety of ways you can make an impact in our community through your donor advised fund or with additional contributions.

Please consider supporting the following opportunities:



Photo by Tim Habeck



Three Bridges Recovery

Serving an integral role in our community's health system, Three Bridges Recovery connects individuals in crisis and recovery to resources, meets people where they are at during times of need, regardless of circumstance, and fills in the gaps in treatment and care to keep people engaged in their individual recovery and wellness. Funding is needed to support the organization's operating expenses in order to promote recovery, mentor

people, and connect individuals to resources, growing the health and wellness of our community as a whole. When one person is brought to recovery, it not only improves their life, but the lives of their family, friends, and everyone they encounter. Contributions are currently being matched up to \$2,500; more than 75% is still needed to reach the match. Learn more at www.threebridgesrecoverywi.com.



Stuff the Bus

The Stuff the Bus committee offered curbside delivery to ensure social distancing during the summer 2020. While the families appreciated the ease of this new distribution model, additional costs were incurred. Community school supply donations were down significantly for the 2020-2021 school

year. Due to the pandemic, reduced donations may have resulted from: less shoppers being physically in the stores, past community supply drop sites were not open to the public and workplaces which usually held supply drives simply did not have employees on site.

While the committee is already working to increase community donations for the 2021-2022 school year, they are anticipating the need to purchase many of the school supplies, including "plain" backpacks so they may ensure a safe curbside delivery model again this summer.



FOCUS

Mobile Food Pantry – Through a partnership with Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin and Valley Bakers, FOCUS (The Neighborhood Table, South Wood Emerging Food Pantry, and Rapids Family Backpacks) has distributed free boxes of food to local residents from July 2020 – February 2021. Approximately 32,000 pounds of food are distributed at each pantry. FOCUS recently announced that the mobile pantry will continue through March. They will continue to seek funding through Feeding America as resources become available.

Pantry – SWEPS continues to be a no-contact pantry where individuals stay in their vehicles and items are delivered to them in the parking lot. They have been serving over 600 households each month. Learn more at www.swepsantry.org.

Community Meals – The Neighborhood Table continues to offer to-go meals for our residents in need. Reservations are made in advance; distribution utilizes a mobile no-contact process. Learn more at www.theneighborhoodtable.org.



Amateur Radio Group

The Heart of Wisconsin Amateur Radio Group is seeking funding for an enclosed trailer to use as a transportable communications center. In the event of a disaster, the organization, comprised of trained and licensed volunteer amateur radio operators, provides emergency communication and support for agencies such as local law enforcement, the National Weather Service, United Way, American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Currently, communications for most community service events have been based out of a volunteer's personal vehicle or home, or depending on the location, a tent or other make-shift shelter. An enclosed and insulated trailer would house amateur radio communications equipment and antennas, and be used when the group is called upon to participate in emergency (actual or practice) or public service events in Wood, Adams or surrounding counties. It will also serve as an educational and outreach site as a means to promote amateur radio and provide STEM education.

Total cost of the trailer is \$8,395. At the time of printing, \$3,200 has been raised. Learn more at www.howarg.org.

incourage Friends of Incourage

As a nonprofit organization, we are requesting contributions to continue to support our community's changing needs. All gifts to the "Friends of Incourage Fund" support operating costs to make our work possible. With the economies of scale made possible by our donors who collectively invest in the future of our community, Incourage professionally manages and invests these assets to make a lasting impact on the future of south Wood County, a place we all call home. Gifts of all size are appreciated, and all friends will be recognized on the Incourage website, posted publicly at the Incourage office, and may also be recognized through other media. Friends of Incourage include any dollar amount, Founding Friends are partners who make contributions of \$5,000 or more; be a Friend and become a Founding Friend over time. Learn more at www.incouragecf.org.



South Wood County Humane Society

The Humane Society provides a warm and safe shelter to stray and unwanted dogs, cats and small animals. Donations are being sought to provide medical treatment, including spaying/neutering, and behavioral rehabilitation while the animals are waiting for their forever home. Learn more at www.swchs.com.



Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre

The show must go on! During the pandemic, WRCT pivoted to offer several virtual performances. If you missed “WRCT Salutes Laugh In”, you can watch it online at www.wrctheatre.org.

WRCT is anticipating to reopen the theatre for live performances soon; currently planned for May. With a responsible strategy for safe distancing between groups of patrons, WRCT is seeking “Ghost Seat Sponsors”. Whether the seat is in the front or back row, all sponsors are recognized and appreciated.

While performance opportunities for the Silver Foxes at senior living and nursing home facilities haven’t been possible, the senior theatre troupe is looking forward to the mainstage production planned for May. WRCT’s Youth Theatre/HOPO Productions is busy planning for three programs this summer: Disorder in the Court, Tuckered, And Then There Was One.



Central Wisconsin Cultural Center

The Cultural Center will be hosting an exhibition showcasing Mexican Artist Hilda Marquez during Hispanic Heritage Month in September. Please refer to the beautiful example of Hilda’s work that she provided for us to share.

Hilda’s exhibit highlights Mexico's richness of textures, culture, and history, providing a wonderful opportunity to educate our residents about Hispanic culture. Workshops with the art and Spanish students at the four area high schools are also being planned. Participating students will learn about Mexican

culture and work on a creative art project that incorporates Hispanic art influences.

Costs associated with the exhibition and workshops are \$10,000. This includes Hilda's transportation, as well as transportation and insurance for her large format artwork back and forth from Mexico. Learn more about CWCC at www.culturalcenterarts.com.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
of South Wood County

Love Inc.

Coordinating services for those in need, Love Inc. partners with local churches, volunteers, community organizations and affiliates to offer guidance and assistance with the goal of empowering residents to transform their lives. Love Inc. is seeking volunteers and financial support to fulfill their mission to serve. Learn more at www.loveincswc.org.



Dove’s Nest

“Dove’s Nest” is a respite retreat for those suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Time spent at the lake provides emotional health and wellness for the individual, their families and caregivers. Incourage served as fiscal agent and provided start up assistance for the Alex C Dove Foundation, and continues to administer a Fund at Incourage. A fundraising event is planned for May; details on Facebook.



LHS LIFT Program

Lincoln LIFT is held during the final class period of the day for at risk students in grades 11 and 12 who are ready to make a change. With a guided study hall approach, students complete goal setting activities and work on academic requirements. Incentives are provided as students learn, grow and meet their goals. LIFT students face many challenges, including economic. They are provided a free breakfast and lunch at school, but often cannot afford the extras like school logo wear to participate in a school spirit day or pay for transportation for a field trip.

With a very limited department budget, teachers are paying for incentives on their own. \$2,500 is currently being requested to support program supplies through the end of the current school year and to provide a “good start” to the next. Contributions of \$5,000 or more will support both the LIFT and the 9-10 grade LAUNCH programs, essentially tripling the number of students impacted.



Boys & Girls Club

Summer program planning for “Hometown Heroes”, celebrating those who make a difference in our community, is already underway at the Boys & Girls Club. The summer membership fee is \$100; this is in addition to the school year fee of \$20. While the state provides a partial reimbursement for meals served during program hours, non-reimbursable expenses are estimated at \$3,500 for the summer.

Club members will have the opportunity to participate in a one-day camp through Mid-State Technical College. College Camp 2021, “Dive Into Your Future”, provides hands on “deep sea” exploration workshops and activities to explore MSTC’s degree programs. The \$40 course fee covers pre-packaged supplies and links; program cost for 125 - 175 kids is \$5,000 - \$7,000. Additionally, summer field trip bussing is estimated at \$2,000 - \$3,000.

Supplies are consistently needed for the cooking program, the Fork Farm (hydroponic growing machine), fish tanks, and music program. To enhance the STEM programming, educational kits are needed at \$150 - \$500+ each. Additionally, spare clothing, tennis shoes, and hygiene products help to support the children. Learn more at www.bgcwra.org.



Unrestricted Funds

Incourage’s vision is a community that works well for all. As we work toward this vision, we strive to meet the ever-changing needs one day at a time, and always with a desire to create a better community for generations to come. We do this in part by funding creative resident-led community-building ideas, encouraging connections and collaboration among residents and organizations along the way. When donors make contributions that can be used at the discretion of Incourage, often called unrestricted, we are then able to support community-building suggestions brought to our attention. Gifts to our unrestricted “Community Impact Fund” are used to nimbly and flexibly support these community needs as they arise or are identified. If you are interested in supporting grant-making and other activities in our community, your contribution, no matter the amount, helps Incourage to do more. Learn more at www.incouragecf.org.

We value and appreciate your partnership and support.

**Contact Incourage to discuss these opportunities or make additional contributions:
715.423.3863 or hello@incouragecf.org.**