

# Encouraging Action

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

Our community remains resilient and is working hard every day to make it a better place for all our residents. We are truly stronger together and appreciate your ongoing support.

**Please consider supporting the following opportunities:**



*Biron, WI - Wisconsin River on a beautiful fall day; photo by Kim Shields*



## Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin

ADRC-CW's Home Delivered Meal program is seeking support for snow day meals. Clients would be provided with shelf staple meals for two days that meet nutritional and dietary requirements to have on hand in case of inclement weather. There are currently 150 patrons in the south Wood County area provided with two meals a day. Each meal costs \$5.25; total cost to provide snow day meals for current SWC patrons is \$3,150. Even with governmental program support, Meals on Wheels relies on contributions to support about 1/3 of program costs. The clients' suggested contribution is \$4.50 a meal; however, they do not refuse services based upon someone's inability to contribute.

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to people in outlying areas of south Wood County. Clients in areas like Port Edwards and Nekoosa are being provided with frozen meals because there aren't enough volunteers to deliver hot meals. These volunteers do more than deliver a meal. They may be the only person a client sees that day. They form a connection and may be the person that notices an issue, contacts family or an emergency contact, refers them for well check, etc.

Volunteers are also needed as Wood County Advisory Committee members. Discussions and decisions made will benefit seniors, older adults, and disabled residents. Learn more at [www.adrc-cw.org](http://www.adrc-cw.org) or contact Jennifer Cummings at 715-424-8460.



## FOCUS

Thanks to the generosity of our community, including many donors like you, FOCUS' campaign goal for a new location was met. They even raised enough to cover the increased cost of materials being charged during this unprecedented time.

Unfortunately, as with any project, there are unanticipated costs. The building is in need of a sewer system; estimated cost is \$40,000. Additionally, fire doors will be needed for the meal program with the cost to be determined. Learn more at [www.focusofswc.org](http://www.focusofswc.org).



### Community Thanksgiving Meal

In 2020, a committee within St. Paul's Lutheran Church assumed the community Thanksgiving meal program from the St. Luke's Lutheran Church committee who served our community for about 20 years. Due to Covid, instead of providing an in-person meal, meals were pre-packaged 'to go' for pick up or delivery. 539 meals were served in 2020 for ~\$2,800-\$3,000. The committee anticipates similar numbers this year.

To date, \$1,700 has been raised through Incurage donor-advised funds, with additional funding requests to area businesses outstanding. Food donations include Del Monte green beans, McCain Foods potatoes and a gift card donated by Kwik Trip. It is the Committee's hope to maintain ~\$3,000-\$5,000 in a special account at the church to help offset any shortages in funding and sustain the program so they can continue to serve a community Thanksgiving meal into the future to carry on St. Luke's legacy.



### South Wood County Historical Museum

Testing has been completed and asbestos confirmed in the tile flooring at the South Wood County Historical Museum. The flooring throughout the museum needs to be removed and replaced. Unfortunately, since the SWC Historical Museum is not on the state historical registry, the State Historical Society is not able to provide funding support for any renovations. Project plan and cost are as follows:

- Phase 1: ground floor and staircase ~\$30,000; planned for Sept 2022
- Phase 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ~\$20,000; timeline to be determined

Staff will continue to research potential funding options; financial support is appreciated. Learn more about the museum at [www.swch-museum.com](http://www.swch-museum.com).



### Friends of Scentrail Bark Community Park

Friends of Scentrail Bark Community Park Inc. is a resident-led group of volunteers that organized and received their own 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in September 2019, after the City of Wisconsin Rapids closed its Tails n Trails dog park following a lease dispute with the property owners, which left many dog owners in the community without a dog park closer than a 20-minute drive each way. Friends of Scentrail Bark Community Park partnered with the Village of Port Edwards to create a 2-acre dog park in the village's Ripple Creek Park. The Village board approved creation of the park on December 1, 2020. The dog park will feature fenced-in small and large dog areas, benches, and pet waste stations, with plans for a future shelter and agility area. Target opening for the new dog park is spring 2022.

The initial cost of the project is \$30,000; ~40% has been raised thus far. Four of the What If Progress Fund committees through Incurage approved grants totaling \$4,750 to support the park. Friends of the Park has been working diligently on fundraising efforts, receiving mostly smaller donations. Your funding consideration is appreciated. Learn more at [www.scentrailbarkcommunitypark.org](http://www.scentrailbarkcommunitypark.org).



### McMillan Memorial Library

The library has received wonderful community support for McMillan Reimagined: Learning Futures Capital Campaign. With the Legacy Foundation's \$1M match secured, the library is seeking the remaining ~\$150,000 needed to renovate the 15,000 square foot project. Learn more at [www.mcmillanreimagined.org](http://www.mcmillanreimagined.org).



### Wisconsin Rapids City Band

Thanks to incredibly dedicated volunteer band members, the City Band has been entertaining our community for almost 150 years. In 2006, due to fiscal restraints, the Band lost its funding from the City of Wisconsin Rapids. With the assistance of Incourage, the band organized to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing musical entertainment for the central Wisconsin area and a performance outlet for area musicians. From 2006-2014, Incourage served as fiscal sponsor, administering a pass-through fund to help raise funds and support the City Band. With an eye towards the future, the Band's Board of Directors created an endowed fund through Incourage in 2007 to provide perpetual support of the Band and provide music for generations to come.

The City Band relies on the generosity of local citizens and area businesses for performance costs. The community has responded, and band concert nights continue; the show goes on in Wisconsin Rapids throughout the summer months. With costs of ~\$1,000 a season for WRPS facilities use for concerts and practices, ~\$900 for insurance, ~\$500 for music arrangements, and ~\$280 for web hosting and domain services, the need for financial support continues. The Band is currently seeking funds to replace a dozen music stands (\$390), a half-dozen racks to hold the music stands (~\$1,350), a Bari Sax (\$3,199), a Euphonium (\$1,189) and a Base Drum stand (~\$150). Learn more at [www.wrcityband.org](http://www.wrcityband.org).

## incourage Friends of Incourage

As a nonprofit organization, we are requesting contributions to continue to support our community's changing needs. Gifts to the "Friends of Incourage Fund" make our community-building work possible, which helps us to support many other nonprofits, and community ideas and needs in our area. 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/give/friends-of-incourage-fund](http://www.incouragecf.org/give/friends-of-incourage-fund).



### Wisconsin State Firefighters & EMS Memorial

Established in 1998, the Wisconsin State Firefighters Memorial is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the memory of firefighters who have died. The WSFM Board of Directors added emergency medical service personnel to the memorial within the last year.

From 1999-2019, a pass-through fund was administered by Incourage to raise funds to build and maintain this beautiful memorial, located in Ben Hanson Park in the City of Wisconsin Rapids. The memorial pays tribute to all Wisconsin firefighters and EMS personnel, recognizing not only those who have given their lives as the ultimate sacrifice, but also honors those who have and continue to serve their respective communities.

Operated and managed by the Wisconsin State Firefighters Inc. Board of Directors, the memorial occupies land leased from the City of Wisconsin Rapids and is open to the public. It is maintained entirely by donations; no state, federal or local funding is received, nor membership fees collected. It is a true honor to host the Wisconsin State Firefighters & EMS Memorial in our community. Learn more at [www.wsfm.org](http://www.wsfm.org).



### LHS LAUNCH Program

Similar to Lincoln LIFT, Lincoln LAUNCH is held during the final class period of the day for at risk students in grades 9 and 10 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. LAUNCH students face many challenges, including economic.

They often cannot afford the extras like school logo wear to participate in a school spirit day, transportation for a field trip, or elective class course fees.

With a very limited department budget, teachers are paying for incentives on their own. The number of LAUNCH students has nearly tripled from last school year. Funding is requested to support this growing program.



### Historic Point Basse

Head back in time at Historic Point Basse. Located along a trail that runs east and west across the state that was used by Native Americans for thousands of years, Point Basse was a prime spot for the Robert Wakely family to settle along the

Wisconsin River in 1817. With events held throughout the year, visitors learn about the history of this bustling little village and experience what it was like to live, go to school and work there. Donations to preserve Historic Point Basse and support school and community-wide events are appreciated. Learn more at

[www.historicpointbasse.com](http://www.historicpointbasse.com).



### Creative Community Living Services, Inc.

CCLS provides day services programs and home care services to disabled adults in south Wood County, as well as throughout the state. They receive referrals from Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), such as Includa & ADRC-CW, to provide contracted services. Home care services include housekeeping, cooking, personal care, transportation, and more – daily skills and needs to support community

and/or independent living. CCLS is planning to expand its Community Integration Program in the communities it serves. Central Wisconsin locations include Plover, Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids. CCLS appreciates donations to support programming and services in our community. Learn more at [www.cclswi.org](http://www.cclswi.org).



... that Incurage administers funds to support many of our local nonprofits? Donate through Incurage to help support other nonprofits in our community by donating to an existing endowed fund for their long term support. Want to give anonymously or support multiple nonprofits through Incurage? Contact us to learn more.



### Pittsville Fire Department

Nestled between north and south Wood County, the Pittsville Fire Company provides Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services to over 6,000 residents, covering 300 square miles, and often responds to calls from neighboring departments.

The Pittsville Fire Department is seeking funding to purchase some needed lifesaving equipment for their department and the surrounding community members. For example, purchase of Scott escape hoods and monitors would enable the department to evacuate residents around a manufacturing facility that uses ammonia if there was a catastrophic release. More than one area manufacturing facility uses ammonia; having the equipment available would be priceless.

## Funds through Incourage to support Teachers, Programs & Activities



Advocates for **WRPS** Education

**Advocates for WRPS Education Fund** – Established in 1998, this Fund is advised by a volunteer committee comprised of local community members. An annual distribution is used throughout the year to award grants that enhance students' educational opportunities within the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) district.



**Port Edwards Education Foundation Endowment Fund** – Annual distributions from this Fund support the charitable purposes of the Port Edwards Education Foundation (PEEF) to enhance excellence in education and learning. A committee, comprised of PEEF board members, awards grants annually to staff for student enrichment projects and programs. This fund was established in 2004 when the Barker-Mead Fund at Incourage issued a matching grant to raise endowed funds.



**Nekoosa Public Schools Endowment Fund** – Since 2017, annual distributions from this Fund have been allocated to support programs and activities of Nekoosa Public Schools. An internal grant process has been established to vet staff requests which supplement existing educational programs or help support new programs and initiatives.



### United Way

The United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties is seeking support to help fund 28 programs, 10 initiatives and 6 coalitions. United Way partner organizations include: Aspirus Riverview Dental Clinic, Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Career Closet, Childcaring, The Family Center, FOCUS, Girl Scouts, John E Alexander South Wood County YMCA, Nekoosa Backpacks for Kids, North Central Community Action Program and Park Place Adult Day Services. Priority areas are: Education (Early Years & Youth Success), Financial Stability, Health and Safety Net Services of Emergency Shelter & Food. Collectively these efforts impact nearly 20,000 people in the local communities served. Learn more at [www.uwswac.org](http://www.uwswac.org).



### Families Helping Families

This program helps support the needs of students with parents or guardians that do not have the financial resources to do so. Families Helping Families is intended to provide low income parents with one-time monetary support for unanticipated expenses such as eyeglasses, dental care or prescription medication for their children, as well as provide financial assistance for temporary shelter and other basic necessities for students in need when all other sources of funding had been exhausted. The needs of students continue to rise and the schools continue to adapt; support has expanded to include birth certificates, course fees, athletic fees, shoes, jackets, transportation, etc. Often, requests occur when a student's family is in between eligibility for other programs. Based upon conversations with local school districts, thanks to donations and/or fundraisers, FHF budget balances are 'okay'; however, donations are always appreciated as larger unanticipated expenses can occur at any time.



## Wood County Adult Drug Treatment Court

In 2004, 10 members of what is now known as the Drug Court Team attended nine days of training in various locations throughout the country. This included key concepts in the operation of a drug court, such as incentives and sanctions, eligibility criteria, drug testing procedures, confidentiality issues and visits to operating drug courts. Hundreds of man-hours were spent developing our local program. The pilot began in October, 2004 and was fully operational in July

2005; there are approximately 30 participants at any one time at varying stages in the program.

A pass-through fund was established at Incourage in October 2004 to provide fiscal administrative support for the Wood County Adult Drug Treatment Court. As such, Incourage is able to accept donations to support the drug court. Typical expenses incurred support incentives and associated graduation fees.

The program is a minimum of one year with graduated phases, each phase has requirements of decreasing intensity until graduation. A drug court coordinator reports weekly to the court on the status of an individual and monitors the requirements of the program. A system of incentives and sanctions is used to encourage continued participation and compliance with the requirements of the program. The program is tough, rigorous, and involves frequent drug testing and appearances before the judge. It is intended to be harder than probation. The judge is actively involved in all phases of the participant's progress. If a person can be successfully treated on probation or on their own, they will probably not be a candidate for drug court. Graduation requires completing all requirements of each phase, including 6 months of absolute sobriety and preparation of an after care plan. Statistics indicate that the recidivism rate among drug court eligible offenders exceeds 50% within a year; however, a study released by the the National Institute of Justice in 2003, reported that of the 17,000 drug court graduates nationwide, only 16.4% had been rearrested and charged with a felony.

Please consider supporting this valuable, cost-effective and efficient judicial program to bridge the gap between treatment and the criminal justice system. Your support helps drug offenders break the cycle of drug use, reduces related costs and reduces the recidivism rate. Your support optimizes the opportunity for sobriety for the offenders while enhancing the overall well being of the individual, their family, and our community through a holistic approach. (Inset graduation picture courtesy of Three Bridges Recovery's Facebook page.)



## 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](http://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](mailto:hello@incouragecf.org).**