

Incourage's community-building work is made possible by the generosity of many, like you, who care about this place. A few examples from the \$721,082 of grants and scholarships in the first half of 2023 follow. Thank you for partnering with us to help make so many good things happen for the people and organizations in our community and beyond.

UNRESTRICTED contributions make community-building work possible...

When donors make contributions that can be used at the discretion of Incourage, often referred to as unrestricted, we are then able to support community-building suggestions brought to our attention by people like you, all in support of a vision of a community that works well for all. Working with you, we strive to help meet the ever-changing needs of the south Wood County area one day at a time, and always with an eye toward the generations to come. Gifts to our Friends of Incourage Fund support this ongoing work that includes funding creative resident-led community-building ideas and encouraging connections and collaboration among residents and organizations along the way. Please support the work that we are doing. Your donation of any size helps us to do more for our community.



UTILIZING change to make a change...

Learning how to save for the future is very important, but not always an exciting topic. Miss Wisconsin Rapids, Maria Hartley, rose to the challenge and figured out how to make it fun and impactful. Your unrestricted gifts to Incourage made a \$1,000 grant possible to support costs for Making a Change, where during May almost 3,000 students from area schools each received a piggy bank and group learning sessions led by Maria on personal financial literacy, including ways to assist others. Students learned that every penny can help make their own future more stable and can then lead to helping others as well. Students had the option of passing along some of their saved up change to help others in the community. Together they gathered \$3,380.61 to support FOCUS's community food security efforts. Amounts remaining in their piggy banks and the valuable knowledge gained will help put them on a positive path toward healthy financial habits.



ENCOURAGING dreams through continued learning...

Lifelong learning enriches lives. Through the generosity of many donors who have chosen to pay it forward in support of generations to come, Incourage manages 110 scholarship funds, with each reflecting the unique criteria established by its donors for scholarship opportunities. In 2023, 102 students were awarded 172 scholarships amounting to \$194,000 in furtherance of their continued education. Scholarships ranged from \$500 single-year awards, to \$5,000 awards covering multiple years, with an average award being \$1,128. Since inception in 1994, donor generosity has resulted in Incourage awarding 4,220 scholarships totaling \$3.2 million, all starting with a single \$500 scholarship awarded that initial year. Many of the scholarships honor a loved one or someone important in the donors' life, and often encourage pursuing a specific passion and/or career. Reach out to us to learn more about how you too can encourage lifelong learning in our community.



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SUPPORTING local nonprofit's fundraising efforts...

Most fundraising events end up needing similar physical items to make them happen. Established by the Heart of Wisconsin Leadership Program Class of 2014, with start up funding from Incourage, the Community Fundraising Resource Center was created to gather and house common items used for local fundraising events. When over 50 agencies gathered in 2014, they concluded it would be more cost effective for them to donate and share items they generally need for fundraisers (i.e. grills, freezers, tents, games, etc.), rather than each having to rent or buy them every time. The Center is still supporting local nonprofit events, but realized a gap was having reusable typical signage for directing folks to things like restrooms, vendors, volunteers, tickets and raffles. A \$1,000 grant from Incourage unrestricted funds made it possible for the purchase of long lasting signage to share.



PARTNERING with donors and organizations for a stronger community...

Beyond 110 scholarship funds, Incourage also manages 278 additional funds for a variety of charitable purposes. Each is a reflection of the generosity and passions of donors like you, who have chosen to support a wide variety of philanthropic community efforts, programs and organizations. Each fund benefits from the economies of scale achieved when charitable assets are pooled together for administrative and investment purposes. This is one of the many benefits of giving through a community foundation, to strengthen the philanthropic community.

In the first half of 2023, 134 grants amounting to \$527,082 were awarded to 60 non-profit organizations. Examples of local organizations include: ADRC, American Red Cross, Arts Council of SWC, Badger Boys State, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Building Blocks, Career Closet, Central WI Cultural Center, Central WI Symphony Orchestra, area churches, CREATE Portage County, Family Center, FOCUS, Forest Hill Cemetery Assn, Friends of Rapids Music, Girl Scouts, Hmong American Center, HOW, area libraries, Junior Achievement, Kids From WI, Mary's Place, Miss WR Area Scholarship Org, Opportunity Development Center (ODC), Park Place, area schools, Rudolph Fire Dept, Serra Club of WR, SWC Humane Society, United Way, The American Legion Post 9, WR Area Senior Center, WR City Band, Wood County 4-H, the YMCA, and the list goes on; positively impacting many people from differing walks of life along the way.

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ENGAGING youth in pursuit of their passion...

The Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra (CWSO) has been enriching, engaging and educating our community through the power and performance of live music for the past 75 years. In May of this year, CWSO agreed to take over the Youth Symphony Program and its staff, which had previously been a program at the University of WI - Stevens Point since 2014. CWSO reached out to Incourage and others for start up funding to ensure continued access to this valued community program. Through a combination of Incourage unrestricted funds and suggestions from three donor advised funds, grants totaling \$3,250 were made possible. The Central Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra Program (CWYSOP) will continue to provide local access to quality music education and performance opportunities. CWYSOP enriches the lives of youth who have the desire to explore expressing themselves musically as a fulfilling hobby and/or a possible career path.



Contact Incourage to learn more... about how we can help you achieve your charitable giving aspirations and community dreams. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, Incourage can accept a wide variety of assets to fund your passions, which can be during your lifetime, as well as through your will or estate plan. Some examples include cash, stocks, mutual fund shares, IRA charitable rollovers, retirement plan beneficiary designations, and bequests in a will, to name a few. We invite you to have a conversation with us. We'll help you find the joy in helping others by connecting you with resources and tapping into our decades of philanthropic experience. **Together, let's move your good ideas into action.**

We value your partnership and support. Thank you!

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