

# Encouraging Action: Ways to Give in our Community

A Semi-Annual Report of Community Programs & Services You Can Support



*A walk along the Wisconsin River on a beautiful winter day, February 2024.  
Photo by Penny Pelot*

## WAYS TO GIVE:

### FOR DONOR ADVISED FUND HOLDERS:

- 1) Suggest grants through your donor advised fund.
- 2) Provide additional contributions to support the specific needs.
- 3) Provide additional contributions to support community needs as they are identified by Incourage.

For privacy, you may choose to give anonymously to one of the following programs by giving through Incourage. This could also reduce the number of organizations soliciting you directly, because your funds will be filtered through Incourage rather than given directly.

### FOR NON-FUND HOLDERS:

- 1) Give to Incourage, so we can continue to support programs like these.
- 2) Give directly to one of the following organizations.

### Don't know what a donor advised fund is?

A lot of people don't! Learn more by visiting our website: [incouragecf.org](http://incouragecf.org) or give us a call at 715-423-3863

**Please consider supporting one of the community opportunities on the following pages:**

## Community Opportunities You Can Support:

### **incourage™ Friends of Incourage - Matching Opportunity**

**Request:** Match contributions up to \$30,000

**Purpose:** Help build your community foundation for future generations

We are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! In honor and remembrance of our founder, Virginia Brazeau, and also one of our original charter board of directors, Nancy Lucas, we wanted to share in Nancy's own words how your community foundation began:

"Once upon a time a baby girl was born, and she grew to be a lady of exceptional love for her community. The lady moved to Wisconsin Rapids as a young bride. This special lady adopted South Wood County as her community and her home. She raised two daughters here; she grew roots here. This special lady and her husband devoted a great deal of effort to community projects throughout their adult lives in South Wood County. At a young age she became a widow. As she advanced in age her special wish was to leave something lasting and meaningful to the community she loved. Hence, the Community Foundation of South Wood County was born in 1994, just three years before Virginia Brazeau died. Virginia's gift gave birth to an organization that would be guided totally by members of her community. Her trust in her neighbors was great.

The most basic purpose of this community foundation is to contribute to ALL-PURPOSE community betterment. A community foundation does not serve itself, rather it makes grants to other agencies, it collaborates with private and governmental agencies, it has the capacity to respond to changing needs and to emergencies as well as to seek to reach those who are unserved within the community."

It is truly an honor and a privilege for all of us here at Incourage and within this community to carry on Virginia's vision. Thank you to our matching donor and to all of you who believe in this vision and support our work. We need each other. Thank you for gifts of any size to carry on this good work.

To donate, send a check to Incourage or give online: <https://incouragecf.org/give/give-now/>; I would like to support: select "Continue the good work-Incourage Friends!" Learn more at [www.incouragecf.org](http://www.incouragecf.org).



### **Three Bridges Recovery**

**Request:** \$10,000

**Purpose:** Help support staff's ability to serve individuals in crisis and recovery

In the March 2021 Incouraging Action, we shared information around Three Bridges Recovery and the important work they are doing to connect individuals in crisis and recovery to resources. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies and our community's health system, staff and recovery coaches meet people wherever they are at during times of need, regardless of circumstance,

helping to fill in the gaps in treatment and care to keep people engaged in their individual recovery and wellness. They provide support to increase both availability and accessibility to various pathways of recovery through coaching, mentoring, accountability, and peer behavior modeling at no cost to those they serve.

Funding is requested to help support the organization's operating expenses during a time of grant funding delays. Financial support will help the staff and recovery coaches, so they do not have to take a "pay break" while they continue to serve our community. After funding is received, Three Bridges will be able to address the recovery waiting list of 19 individuals, including 10 from Wood County alone.

Three Bridges Recovery provides additional services such as CCAR Recovery Coach Training, naloxone training, distribution of fentanyl test strips and naloxone, and SMART Recovery jail programming throughout Central Wisconsin. Learn more at [www.threebridgesrecoverywi.com](http://www.threebridgesrecoverywi.com). (Note: Photo of recovery coaches in training with law enforcement above is courtesy of Three Bridges Recovery Facebook page.)



**Did you know** that Incurage Community Foundation manages over 100 funds that are specifically designated to support other nonprofit organizations within our community on an annual basis into perpetuity? By donating to Incurage to increase these designated funds you can keep your anonymity, support multiple nonprofits through one Incurage donation, and know you are supporting Incurage, other non-profits, and your community all through this way of giving. Isn't it great to know you can have that kind of impact? It is simple to do; please give today or contact us to learn more.



### FOCUS Endowment Fund at Incurage

**Request:** Contributions of any amount

**Purpose:** Build the FOCUS fund for long-term annual support of the organization

The FOCUS Endowment Fund at Incurage was established in 2006 as a Build-A-Fund to support annual support of the organization as they continue to work to close the gap in food insecurities and basic needs. You can have a long-term impact by helping to build this FOCUS fund which will provide ongoing support annually into the future. To donate, send a check to Incurage or give online at <https://incouragecf.org/give/give-now/>; please note FOCUS Endowment.

Serving South Wood County area residents in need, FOCUS works to address food insecurity in our community, specifically with three programs: 1) Food Pantry provides food, hygiene products and educational services; 2) Neighborhood Meals provides a free community meal every Thursday; 3) Family Backpacks provides a backpack filled with food items to area students in need. Learn more at [www.focusofswc.org](http://www.focusofswc.org).



### Dove's Nest

**Request:** Contributions of any amount

**Purpose:** Support respite for those suffering from life-threatening illness

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. Dove's Nest reports nearly a 100% capacity during the summer months. In an effort to increase awareness and provide respite for qualified individuals throughout the rest of the year, Dove's Nest staff have been reaching out to hospice and cancer centers throughout WI, other respite-based providers, such as Be Still Retreats in Plainfield, and rental sites, such as Airbnb and Vrbo. They recently launched a partnership with Lodge Lovers for clergy members facing a life-threatening illness, and were able to host a veteran and his family who learned about Dove's Nest from a collaboration of St. Croix hospice and the Dream Foundation in CA.

Incurage Community Foundation served as fiscal agent and provided start up assistance for the Alex C Dove Foundation from 2018 – 2022. Now that the Dove Foundation has established its own 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are being directed to the Dove Foundation.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser is planned for May 18, 2024, 10am-11pm at Camelot on the Lake; details may be found on their Facebook page and at [www.alexcdovefoundation.org](http://www.alexcdovefoundation.org).



### Humke Elementary Bike Safety Day

**Request:** Contributions of any amount to raise \$800

**Purpose:** Provide bike helmets for 1<sup>st</sup> grade Nekoosa students

For several years, during the month of May, the Nekoosa Police department (NPD) hosts a bike safety day for Humke Elementary School 1st-3rd grade students. The goal is to teach students how to ride their bike safely to and from school, around their neighborhood and in the community. Riding safely includes wearing a helmet that fits properly. Nekoosa PD would like to provide a bike helmet to each 1st grade student, a bike water bottle to each 2nd grade student and a bike reflector light for each 3rd grade student. They also plan to give away eight bicycles to the students. The total project cost is \$2,500, of which they have specifically requested \$800 to purchase appropriately sized bike helmets.



### Class Reunion Zero

**Request:** Contributions of any amount

**Purpose:** Support substance-free celebration for 2024 LHS graduating seniors

In 1991, Lincoln High School parents of graduating seniors created Class Reunion Zero (CRZ), a graduation party held in a well-chaperoned, substance-free environment as a way for seniors to celebrate and make some final memories together as a graduating class. The event, now in its 33rd year, will be held the evening of May 31, 2024 at LHS. CRZ organizers are currently requesting donations to support entertainment, food and prizes for graduating LHS seniors in attendance.



### Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings Hockey Team

**Request:** Contributions of any amount to raise \$50,000

**Purpose:** Riverkings Locker Room Renovations

The Riverkings’ locker room is in vital need of renovations to address safe sport fundamental requirements. For the past nine years, since the team’s locker room doesn’t have a bathroom or showers, hockey players have needed to don robes and walk across a public space to access showers.

Ultimately, a full remodel of the facility would include a new locker room, team video room, team equipment and apparel storage area, laundry room, new game day operations office and new coaches office for a total renovation cost of \$250,000. However, given the urgency and need for a renovated locker room, an alternate “work around” plan has been found as another locker room that was not previously available has recently become available. This locker room can be renovated to retrofit locker stalls, paint and apply some minor updates to the room for an estimated cost of \$50,000. A donation of \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a nameplate on the locker stall. Donations towards this effort must be received by the end of June in order to have updates completed for the next hockey season which begins in August 2024.



### Junior Achievement

**Request:** Contributions of any amount to raise \$10,000

**Purpose:** Provide educational programs for south Wood County area students

Junior Achievement (JA) of Wisconsin partners with educational institutions and businesses to provide evidence-based career and work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy education to K-12 students. Supported by local corporate and community volunteers, JA utilizes a pathways

approach to teach these important topics to K-12 students to prepare them for post-secondary education or employment. Programs complement and reinforce existing school curriculum through application and real-world simulation. JA collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to ensure JA curriculum aligns with state standards and helps schools meet state-mandated financial literacy and academic and career planning requirements. All K-12 programs are updated every five years with new programming and delivery methods developed and implemented over time.

JA volunteers serve as role models and help students learn to think critically, be collaborative and communicate effectively. JA describes volunteers as the “lifblood of Junior Achievement”. Representing a diverse group of professionals, JA corporate and community volunteers provide personal connections and life skills instruction.

As part of Junior Achievement’s statewide network, JA of the Portage & Wood Counties Area is one of ten Wisconsin offices. They operate within their own budget, operations, staff, and Board of Directors. In our area, on average, JA programs cost \$45/student or \$945/classroom. Our local Junior Achievement Area office is seeking \$10,000 to help maintain and grow their presence and K-12 educational programming in Wood County. Any contributions or grants received through this request will be applied towards the 2024-2025 academic year.



### Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre

**Request:** Contributions of any amount to raise \$11,000

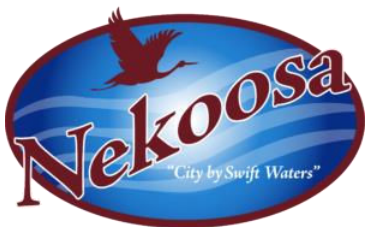
**Purpose:** Inspire community thespians and audiences alike

WRCT is doing its first children’s musical: Disney’s Newsies, Jr., a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical. The cost for a musical is about \$2,500 more than the average children’s play. WRCT has received partial funding from Noon Rotary (for a children’s play) and is seeking the \$2,500 difference needed for the musical. In addition, WRCT will be doing their first mainstage musical in 10 years. Yes, White Christmas is coming to the community theatre in December, and with it comes additional royalty expenses and show material fees for an estimated additional cost of \$2,500.

WRCT is in need of an updated sound system to improve the quality of sound during performances, and a better microphone system. The estimated cost for the sound system alone is \$2,000. Having updated systems will allow WRCT the opportunity to produce more complex and larger shows, expanding their ability to provide more artistic opportunities to the community.

Our community theatre is also seeking to replace their ramp backstage with a handicap accessible ramp to increase accessibility for performers of varying physical abilities. WRCT recently offered a program for ODC clients. They quickly realized that although it’s possible to get on the stage in a wheelchair, it is not very practical with the current set up. Estimated cost for the ramp is up to \$4,000; volunteers will provide labor.

Learn more at [www.wrctheatre.org](http://www.wrctheatre.org).



### Nekoosa Summer Civic-Community Picnic

**Request:** Contributions of any amount to raise \$4,000

**Purpose:** Celebrate Nekoosa community, residents & businesses

A group of residents, known as For Nekoosa, have come together to organize a community picnic. Planned for June 29, 2024, in Riverside Park, the picnic will offer free children’s activities, live music and more. While admission is free,

food and beverages will be available for purchase onsite from food truck vendors. Donations are requested to support a bouncy house, children’s games, and a band.

This is the first time in 30 years that Nekoosa will have a community picnic. It is the committee’s hope to bring the community together and introduce new residents, and those residing outside of Nekoosa, to what the Nekoosa community offers. For Nekoosa would like to bring events back to the community and provide more opportunities to host events throughout the year.



### Unrestricted

**Request:** Contributions of any amount

**Purpose:** Support efforts to address the community’s changing needs

Contributions that are not designated for a specific purpose, often called unrestricted, can be used at the discretion of Incurage, to allow us to support community-building suggestions brought to our attention by people like you.

Incurage’s vision has been and continues to be a community that works well for all. We work with you to meet the ever-changing needs of the south Wood County area one day at a time, and strive to create a better community for generations to come. By funding creative resident-led community-building ideas, and encouraging connections and collaboration among residents and organizations, we help you fulfill the community’s philanthropic wishes. Contact us to learn more at [www.incouragecf.org](http://www.incouragecf.org).



We value you and appreciate your partnership and support. Thank you for your donations of any size.

**Contact Incurage to discuss these opportunities or make additional contributions:**  
**715.423.3863 or [hello@incouragecf.org](mailto:hello@incouragecf.org).**