New Ulm Area Foundation, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and community foundation supporting the quality of life within the geographic reach of ISD 88.

Here's What's New with Us!

The New Ulm Area Foundation, Inc. welcomed two new directors to its board at the start of 2020. Shari Fischer and Shannon Hillesheim replaced Bob Wise and Mike Boyle, who retired from the board at the end of 2019 after each having served the maximum of nine years.

Fischer is an attorney who owns Fischer Law, PA, where she focuses on estate planning, real estate, and business. Fischer currently serves on the boards of the New Ulm Medical Center Foundation, Network New Ulm Youth Leadership Program, Oak Hills Living Center Foundation and Leave a Legacy - New Ulm. She previously served on and was the chair of the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce and is a graduate of the Network New Ulm program.

Hillesheim is the Market President of Bank Midwest, having been in the financial industry for 15 years. She is a graduate of Network New Ulm, serving on the Network New Ulm Youth Leadership Program board, and also serves on the Oak Hills Foundation board, New Ulm Farm City Hub Club, New Ulm Girls Fastpitch Association, Public Utilities Commission, New Ulm Sertoma Club, New Ulm Economic Development board, and MBA Ag Committee and Higher Education Committee.

Other NUAF board members: Eric Bode, Jeff Braegelmann, Gene Clark, Mary Ellen Domeier, Tom Hayes, Patrick Herzog, Rick Jensen, Jenna Peterson, Laurie Stark and Kathy Van Roekel.

Executive Director: John Illikman

Spring 2020 Grants

New Ulm Area Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce the awarding of eight grants this spring. Through their applications, each awardee demonstrated how they will make a significant impact in our community in at least one of our four areas of focus: Arts, Education, Economic Development, and Historic Preservation.

As part of its due diligence as stewards of the donors' funds, the directors asked for confirmation that each project/program was going to move forward as planned considering potential cancellations due to COVID-19 concerns. The projects and programs listed below have confirmed, and the directors have unanimously approved proceeding with these eight grants:

Summit Avenue Music Series
$1,500 for 2020-2021 season programming

Healthy Community Healthy Youth
$1,000 for 2020-2021 SPOTS program

Big Ideas, Inc.
$1,500 for two classroom-grade sewing machines

Leave A Legacy – New Ulm
$1,400 for year 2 programming

Riverfront Development Advocacy Group / City of New Ulm Park & Recreation Dept
$4,000 for interpretive signage at the Nature Center

New Ulm Partnership / New Ulm Chamber of Commerce
$7,500 for Economic Development Strategic Plan

Pro Kinship for Kids
$1,000 for 2020-2021 Academic Mentoring program

Grand Center for Arts & Culture
$1,000 for Language & Culture Camp

The Foundation congratulates each of these awardees and looks forward to the positive impact their projects and programming will bring to our community.

New Ulm Area Foundation --- Supporting Local Projects

German Park Amphitheater Grant

In December 2019, NUAF made a special grant of $25,000 to rebuild and upgrade the German Park amphitheater. This will make it accessible to people with disabilities.

Pictured left to right: Denis Warta and Dr. Ann Vogel representing Friends of German Park, Tom Schmitz of New Ulm Park & Rec Department, and members of NUAF board and administration Kathy Van Roekel, Pat Herzog, John Illikman, Lauri Stark, Mike Boyle, and Tom Hayes.

Riverfront Development Grant

Members of the Riverfront Development Advocacy Group (RDAG) accept a $4,000 grant from NUAF. Funds will go towards interpretive signage at the Nature Center.

Pictured left to right: Mary Marti-Borstad, Ron Bolduan, George Glotzbach, Lee Weber, Tony Miller, Tom Schmitz, John Illikman, David Christian, Rick Jensen, Deb Christian, Shari Fischer, Tom Hayes, Shannon Hillesheim, Pat Herzog, Mary Ellen Domeier, and Kathy Van Roekel. Photo credit: Clay Schuldt, The Journal.

Economic Development Grant

NUAF presented $7,500 to New Ulm Partnership, made up of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corp., ISD 88, and City of New Ulm. The funds will be used to establish one updated economic development plan to help clarify goals and role directions.

Pictured left to right: Pat Herzog, Shari Fischer, Kathy Van Roekel, Tom Hayes, Shannon Hillesheim, John Illikman, Julie Baumgartner, Mary Ellen Domeier, Audra Shaneman, Rick Jensen, and Michael Looft.

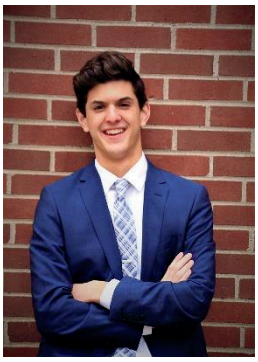
Assisting Local Non-Profits, Especially Now

NUAF has been proactive in attempting to assist local non-profits meet their needs above and beyond our foundation's regular granting cycles. We visited with several non-profits, particularly those who lost revenue sources due to COVD-19, but who continue to have utilities, rent, staff, or other operating costs. We also visited with some who had to cancel galas or other fund-raising benefits. Obviously, this has hindered their ability to provide support intended to meet their ongoing needs or increase the outreach of their programming. We only scratched the surface in identifying all the need, but it was sufficient impetus for NUAF to take some action.

On behalf of local non-profits, we applied for a grant of $130,000 from the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund (MDRF). Additionally, the board agreed to allocate some of the funds earmarked for fall granting toward use as matching or leverage dollars. Unfortunately, given the limited dollars available from MDRF and the many, many applicants, NUAF was not selected as a recipient at this time.

Recognizing that such needs still exists, we are asking our supporters to consider a gift in any amount which will be specifically designated for COVID-19 Relief Granting to non-profit businesses. See the donation card enclosed with this newsletter if you want to help. Thank you for your generosity.

New Ulm Area Foundation --- Spotlight on Youth



NUAF Begins Administration of New "Named" Scholarship

The Charlotte Raymond Anderson Teaching Scholarship (CRATS) was established in 2019. Charlotte wanted to support people interested in pursuing excellence in the field of teaching, which was her life-long passion. She chose the New Ulm Area Foundation, Inc. to manage the fund and selection process. NUAF worked with her representatives to develop administrative agreements, selection process, and funding. The selection committee was comprised of representatives from NUAF, Charlotte's representatives and local high school counselors.

NUAF is pleased to announce Kincaid Diersen has been selected as the 2020 recipient of the CRATS scholarship. Kincaid graduated from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, where he attained a 3.976 grade point average through seven semesters, while also participating in multiple extra-curricular activities, volunteering with his church and elementary school, and working part-time. He plans to attend Martin Luther College, where he will study to earn a bachelor's degree in Science Education, majoring in Life Science and Chemistry.

Due to Stay Home / Stay Safe MN restrictions, Kincaid could not thank Charlotte in person but NUAF was able to facilitate a videoconference. We expect they will continue to keep in contact via distance communications.

2019 NUAF Scholarship Recipients

NUAF is proud to announce that a total of $5,000 was awarded in NUAF scholarships to these local high school seniors. We congratulate all seniors and wish them well!

Brenna Barstad
NUHS (Dean and Allison Barstad)

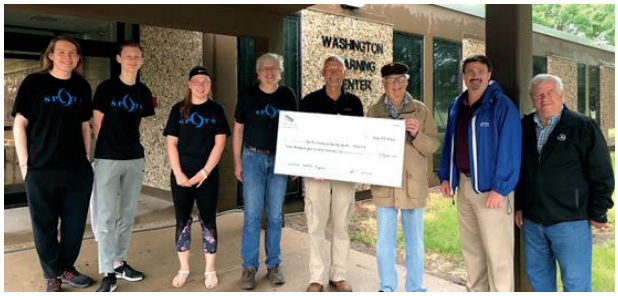
Amber Rose Blackburn
River Bend
(Fawn Gendron)

Lexi Fosburgh
MVL (Bob and Donna Fosburgh)

Kyle Goblirsch
CHS (Dean and Stacy Goblirsch)

Rachel Hohensee
NUHS (Jeff and Mary Hohensee)

HCHY-SPOTS Grants



NUAF recently presented two checks totaling $3,500 to the Healthy Community Healthy Youth (HCHY) organization. The monies will be used specifically for the SPOTS program (Students Performing on Tough Situations), which utilizes the talents of a group of local high schoolers to teach their fellow students to make better choices and be more thoughtful in life. This is done by creating and performing scenes on subjects youth need and want to talk about, ranging from "bus safety" for kindergartners to "dating abuse" for high schoolers. Students learn from other students about what is thoughtful behavior, that they are not alone in dealing with these tough situations, and that there is help available.

The donations were part of NUAF's spring 2020 grants, and were enhanced through the generous contribution of George Glotzbach, a long-time supporter of NUAF, who has a special interest in development of local youth.

2019 DONORS TO THE NEW ULM AREA FOUNDATION

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize those individuals who provided financial support to the New Ulm Area Foundation during 2019. They did this either through direct contributions or as memorials in honor of others in the community. When you see these donors, please thank them for their investment in our community now and in the future.

Carol Ackerson
Allen Affolter
Steve Akre
Donald Alsop
Dan & Trudy Beranek
Thomas & Kathleen Berg
Bob & Cheryl Beussman
Andy & Anne Biebl
Kacie & Eric Bode
Dale & Sandra Bohlke
Duane & Cleo Bohne
Gerald & Joanne Boyle
Mike & Becky Boyle
Jeff & Becky Braegelmann
John & Sheila Brownfield
Carol Brennan
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Shari Fischer
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Bill & Cindy Gafford
Gail Gilman
Daniel Gislason
George & Sharon Glotzbach
Grand Center for the Arts
Marie & Tony Guggisberg
Sharon Gulden
Karla Hansel
Tom & Patricia Hayes
Tom & Shirley Henderson
Patrick & Bernadette Herzog
Randy Herzog
Charlotte Hesse
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Anne Makepeace &
Christopher Kildahl
Carolyn Marti Smith
Mary McClellan
Ruth McCrea Simpson
Perry Meyer
P. Kay Nelson
Huon & June Newburg
Nuvera
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Lorraine Olson
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Nancy Quam
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Roger & Marge Schultz
Maggie & Doug Schwab
St. Paul & MN Foundation
Lauri & Alan Stark
Bill & Jane Steinke
Dayne & Naomi Stewart
Mark & Susan Ullery
Rick & Kathy Van Roekel
Dr. Ann Vogel
James & Jane Walsh
Paul Warshauer
Denis Warta
Edward & Donna Weber
Donald Wilfahrt
Bob & Jill Wise
Gerald Woodley
Marlys Zetah

New Ulm Area Foundation also happily acknowledges two major contributions received during 2019:

- Funds to help support operations and grow the Foundation from the Fenske Family Living Trust, facilitated by Lynn Ries
- Establishment of the Charlotte Raymond Anderson Teaching Scholarship, facilitated by Gerald and Carol Larson

Many thanks to our donors for your investment in the long-term success of our community!

This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge. In case of any errors, please accept our apology and notify us so that we can correct our records.