There are many routes to every destination.
The Black River Falls Area Foundation reached a new milestone when, at the end of 2016, assets exceeded FIVE MILLION dollars! A major source of increased funds came from donors to the Skyline Legacy Fund who recognized that the golf course and the clubhouse (which is utilized annually for hundreds of business and social events) are important community assets.

The major 2016 goal of the Foundation, which will also be the major 2017 goal, was to increase the size and number of scholarships available to current and past high school graduates. The cost of a college education today is becoming unaffordable for many, while at the same time, some college education is a requirement for more and more jobs. Just a few facts summarize the situation.

- **Annual tuition and fees at a four-year college are about $10,000 per year and adding room and board brings the total to around $20,000 per year.** (See chart on page 8)

- **Annual tuition and fees at a two-year technical college are about $5,000 per year.**

- **8 million Americans owing 137 billion student loans!**

- **A recent study found that of the 10 million new jobs created since 2009, 99% required some college education!**

- **In 2017, we will be contacting our current four-year college scholarship fund representatives to discuss increasing their annual scholarship award amounts. A common award amount has been $1,000 but annual tuition fees having risen to $10,000 creating a critical need to increase scholarship amounts. Of course higher four-year college costs mean additional new scholarships are also needed to assist more students with their struggles to pay for a job paying good wages. We hope all who are able will help meet this need.**

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The necessity and increased cost of a college education is a major national crisis. That is why the Foundation, in 2016, partnered with Western Technical College (WTC) of LaCrosse to raise money for technical college scholarships which pay $2,000 per year for two-year programs. This plan pays $4,000 of the total $10,000 two year cost and has proven to be very motivational in getting high school graduates now in the workplace to apply to a technical school to gain a needed skill. 90% of the students awarded this scholarship, who complete the first semester, will graduate and of those 90% will find a job in their chosen field within 6 months, and those can be well paying jobs!

The Black River Falls Area Foundation embarked on a drive to solicit funds for the scholarships, and the generous people and organizations of Jackson County funded 34 scholarships (of $2,000 per year for 2 years = $4,000) totaling $136,000! While our Trustees were extremely pleased with this result, the response of applicants to two small ads announcing the availability of these scholarships was amazing, and also daunting. We received 25 applicants. 7 were awarded from other WTC scholarships and 18 were awarded by the Foundation. (See side bar on this page) The remaining 16 Foundation scholarships were filled by this year’s graduating seniors. While it is gratifying to know that the Foundation is meeting a real need for educational financial assistance, the scope of need is so great that we have already distributed all of the scholarships raised. (See article on page 9) This means we must call on you, the individuals and organizations in our community, to assist our youths by helping fund the education they need to meet job requirements needed for a job paying good wages. We hope all who are able will help meet this need.

In 2017, we will be contacting our current four-year college scholarship fund representatives to discuss increasing their annual scholarship award amounts. A common award amount has been $1,000 but annual tuition fees having risen to $10,000 creating a critical need to increase scholarship amounts. Of course higher four-year college costs mean additional new scholarships are also needed to assist more students with their struggles to pay for a job paying good wages. We hope all who are able will help meet this need.

On another subject, that of finances, investment earnings and assets enabled the Foundation to distribute **$354,558** in 2016. The categories of distribution are shown in the side bar on this page.
The Foundation only exists because of a community of good people – the staff and volunteers of the organizations who productively use the grant funds provided; the generous donors who furnish financial support; the Trustees and staff of the Foundation. Together we are a team, and some of the team who have made a difference in 2016 and prior years are recognized below. The Foundation thanks you all!

• **BILL MILLS** recognized by the Foundation as a “SPECIAL PERSON” for his generosity to the community over many years. Please see our article honoring him on page 6.

• **JOAN BRENGEN** who, in 2016, established the Foundation’s Allan Brenengen Memorial Scholarship Fund, additional information on page 9.

• **ASHLEY AHL** co-manages Northern Family Farms, elected as a Foundation Trustee in 2016 and serves on the Foundation’s Scholarship and Finance committees.

• **JIM BIBLE** manages Brockway Cranberry, Inc., elected as a Foundation Trustee in 2016, and member of the Foundation’s Scholarship and Audit committees.

• **JULIE MURRAY** promoted to Executive Director of the Black River Falls Area Foundation, in recognition of her competence and expanded areas of responsibilities.

• **TIM & KAY FINCH** recognized the increasing need for technical college scholarships and led the way in the funding of the 34 new scholarships created in 2016 by donors.

• **THE GLADYS WEBB FAMILY** in appreciation of their contributions to the Grace Webb Memorial School Library Fund, in recognition of its 30th anniversary as a Foundation Fund.

• **TOM LISTER** a co-founder of the Foundation and retiring Trustee, more on page 4.

• **SUSAN LEADHOLM** BRF High School counselor, who processes all scholarship applications and works closely with the Foundation on its scholarships.

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**Financial Statement**

*(For the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2016)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Investment Return</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
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<td>History Book Project</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT YEAR END</strong></td>
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<td>$ 4,851,620</td>
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</table>
Thank you, Tom, for the donations of your time, your talents, and the ideas and inputs you provided during your nine years as Trustee. Thank you also for your guidance as one of the co-founders of the Foundation who met regularly for two years in 1985 and 1986 to establish the Foundation’s mission statement, goals, trust agreement, status as an IRS charitable foundation, and its capital through a community fundraiser. You helped establish an entity which will enhance the community for generations to come!
Grant Applications

The Black River Falls Area Foundation welcomes grant applications from non-profit organizations serving the Black River Falls Area. The grant application period is from March 1 through April 15. The announcement of award recipients and the distribution of funds are done in June.

For information about grants go to www.brfareafoundation.org or contact us at:

Black River Falls Area Foundation
PO Box 99
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Telephone: 715-284-3113
E-mail: brfareafoundation@centurylink.net

Or contact any member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.
Bill Millis – Special Person Award Recipient

Bill Millis’s roots are deeply embedded in Jackson County. Bill’s grandfather, Jake Millis, was born in 1877 to pioneer parents, near Morrison Creek. Jake passed on his entrepreneurial drive to his children and grandchildren. Jake’s foresight in developing a transport industry paved the way for his sons and for his grandchildren.

Bill’s father, Bud Millis, grew up in the Shamrock area. He assisted in the operation of his family’s Shamrock General Store. From 1939 to 1944, Bud operated Millis Recreation in Black River Falls, which was a bowling alley owned by his father, Jake. Over the years, Bud was involved in many different business ventures, including dealings with both Studebaker and Ford, and of course the transport industry.

Millis Transfer as we know it today originally started after prohibition when Jake and his son, Ray, acquired the Old Style distributorship in Black River Falls. Millis Bros. Transfer hauled beer from La Crosse for the wholesale business, as well as freight of all kinds to and from La Crosse. In 1944, Bill’s father and his uncle, Mayo, purchased the business from Jake and Ray. In 1962, Bud and Mayo split their businesses, with Mayo retaining the garage and Ford dealership and Bud continuing with the beer business, trucks and warehousing.

As a young man growing up, Bill had the importance of hard work instilled in him by his father and grandfather. Bill worked in the family businesses including his first job which involved riding in the truck with his father as he delivered beer and later on he was employed by Millis Recreation where he reset the bowling pins at the bowling alley – and yes, this was all done by hand! Bill considered joining the Airforce after graduation, however he met the love of his life, Beverly Frost, and they decided they wanted to raise their family here in Black River Falls. Bill and Beverly have been married for 60 years and have raised eight children in their hometown, Black River Falls. Bill was able to satisfy his desire to serve his country by being a member of the Army National Guard for 16 years and was on active duty from 1961 until 1963, during the Berlin Crisis.

In 1965, Bill purchased shares of Millis Bros. Transfer, his father’s business, and drove semi for the company. In 1972, Bill became president of Millis Transfer. Under Bill’s leadership, Millis Transfer grew by leaps and bounds. They acquired numerous trucking companies and purchased more equipment to maintain their growth. After Bill’s father passed away in 1980, Bill carried the title of not only President, but also chief executive officer and the sole owner of Millis Transfer until his retirement in 1999. Bill has passed the torch on, with one of his sons, David, currently serving as president, and several of his children, their spouses, and his grandchildren working in various positions within the company. Today Millis Transfer’s 800 semis travel highways across the U.S. and employ drivers nationwide. Their home office is located in Black River Falls and they have 130 individuals who work in this office, including mechanics, driver managers, payroll, billing and rating, and managers.

Our local newspaper published an article about Bill and his company in 2016. When interviewed, Dave Brown, a long-time employee shared that he had been driving milk truck when he applied for a job with Millis Transfer. Bill interviewed Dave. Dave said “I was a farm kid; Bill gave me a chance. Bill and Bud both drove truck when I first started.” Dave went on to say “Bill was very big on family. He was that way with his employees’ family, too; he knew my sons names, my wife’s name. He is just a really good guy.”

Bill has used this same work ethic, determination and compassion to help our community. He has served as President of the Jaycees and the Lions Club. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Black River Country Bank and as Chairman of the Board of the bank. Bill was involved in the local snowmobile club for many years. Outside of our area, Bill was a member of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association and the National Truckload Carriers Association. Bill frequently helps those less fortunate with donations to our local Friends Sharing Food organization. He has used his trucks and his time to haul hay up north for farmers in need and supplies to tornado victims in many states across the country. Bill always honors his fellow Veterans. One of the ways he was able to do so, was by moving the Veteran’s Park helicopter across the country to its current Black River Falls location.

Bill has also been very active and supportive of the Skyline Golf Course. He served as President of the Skyline Association and was instrumental in the decision to add the back nine holes. Occasionally, Bill was able to combine his love of operating heavy equipment with helping the community. Such was the case when, in addition to monetary donations, he donated equipment and staff, including himself, to the Skyline expansion project. Bill took particular pleasure in actually helping to shape the ground that would become the new back
nine, and was always smiling while driving his cat or bulldozer. The Millis family contributed monetarily to the new clubhouse and continues to be one of the Skyline’s biggest supporters.

Having raised their eight children here in Black River Falls, Bill and his wife Bev have always been active in supporting children’s organizations within the community. Bill and his family have given generously to the Jackson County Little League, most recently for the lighting of the fields. The Millis family also donated funds for the construction of the commons area within the Milt Lunda Ice Arena. Focusing on local education, Bill and his family are frequent donors to the Black River Falls Educational Enrichment Fund. In 2013, Bill, Bev and their children created the Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Bill and Bev’s oldest child, Richard Everett Millis, who lost his life in a car accident at the age of 31. Each year this fund provides scholarship award(s) to local area students who are furthering their educations.

However, Bill’s greatest gift to our community is one that cannot be quantified. Bill and Bev have seven adult children, each of whom not only inherited their father’s work ethic, but also his love of this community and his generous spirit. They and their spouses have chosen to call Black River Falls home, and the place where they too raised their children. These fourteen individuals continue to contribute in multiple ways to our community. That is a living legacy of which Bill, in his quiet and unassuming way, is certain to be the most proud.

Thank You, Bill Millis – Special Person!

Previous “Special Person” Award Recipients:

2015  Bee Herzberg
2016  Peter & Jone Hoffman

In 2013, Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship was created by Bill and Bev Millis to honor the memory of their son, Richard Everett Millis June 2, 1957 - October 18, 1988.

Costs of constructing the Commons Area of the Milt Lunda Ice Arena were donated by Bill and Bev Millis.
When we consider the rate at which tuition, room and board, and fees, have increased compared with the cost of living increases over that same period of time, it is not surprising that students are graduating with more debt than ever before.

**Notes & Sources**
Each bar below shows the average annual rate of growth of published prices in inflation-adjusted dollars over a 10-year period. For example, from 2006-07 to 2016-17, average published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges rose by an average of 2.4% per year beyond increases in the Consumer Price Index. Average tuition and fee prices reflect in-district charges for public two-year institutions and in-state charges for public four-year institutions. Sources: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

**Key Points**
- The 3.5% per year average rate of increase in published tuition and fees in the public four-year sector between 2006-07 and 2016-17 corresponds to an average annual increase of $280 in 2016 dollars, compared to $150 per year between 1986-87 and 1996-97 and $230 per year between 1996-97 and 2006-07. (online Table 2; calculations by the authors)
- The average annual rate of increase in published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year institutions declined from 3.1% between 1986-87 and 1996-97 to 2.9% over the next decade and to 2.4% between 2006-07 and 2016-17. The average dollar increase rose from $530 per year to $650 and to $710 over these decades. (online Table 2; calculations by the authors)
- Room and board charges consistently rise more slowly than tuition and fees, although the gap in growth rates has narrowed over time.

**Also Important**
- Median family income in the United States rose at an average rate of 0.5% per year between 1986 and 1996 and 0.8% per year between 1996 and 2006. Median family income grew at an average rate of 0.4% per year from 2005 to 2015 (after adjusting for inflation) despite declines each year from 2008 to 2012. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Income Data, Table F-6; calculations by the authors)
Many business leaders, professional associations, and economic development organizations are talking about the current and future skilled worker shortage in Wisconsin. The demographic picture in the state is complicating efforts to address this challenge, as many of the skilled workers in the current workforce are nearing retirement age. Combined with low projected population growth in the state, it seems that in the coming years it will continue to be very difficult to meet the needs of employers for skilled workers in Wisconsin.

In 2016, the Black River Falls Area Foundation and the Western Technical College Foundation established a partnership to provide Impact Scholarships to working age adults and high school students from Jackson County who are seeking to complete a program at a technical college in Wisconsin. By working together to make a technical college education more accessible, the partnership is accomplishing two primary goals. First, meeting the demand of businesses for skilled workers helps to ensure that quality jobs and careers can remain available in our region. Second, the Impact Scholarships are providing opportunities for people to acquire the skills that they need to secure a good job, build a career, and improve their lives.

The Impact Scholarships are significant awards providing up to $4,000 total, per student, for two years. Depending on the college and specific program, this scholarship pays approximately half of the total tuition and fees for each recipient.

Through the spring term of 2017, 18 students have been awarded Impact Scholarships to assist with their education at Chippewa Valley Technical College and Western Technical College. 16 of these students are working age adults who graduated from high school in the past and are now taking the step to secure post-secondary technical training. Impact Scholarship recipients are studying in a variety of program areas including Nursing, Machine Tool, Accounting, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technician, and more.

We are grateful to the many generous donors who have made Impact Scholarships possible! So far, gifts have been pledged to provide Impact Scholarships for 34 students! The following businesses, organizations, and individuals are improving the lives of many students:

- Black River Falls Area Foundation
- Black River Memorial Hospital
- Black River Falls Rotary Club
- D & S Manufacturing
- Tim and Kay Finch
- David and Marilyn Hoffman
- Gil Homstad
- Jon and Maureen Homstad
- Jackson County Bank
- Tom and Sally Lister
- Brian and Heather McDonald
- Northern Family Farms, The Ahl Family
- Gene and Judy Ransom

If you know a high school student or a working age adult who would benefit from an Impact Scholarship, please invite him or her to contact: Black River Falls Area Foundation at 715-284-3113 or Western Technical College Foundation at 608-785-9487.

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**New Scholarships Funds Created — First Award to be Made in 2018**

**Jackson County Bank Foundation Scholarship**

Since 1877, Jackson County Bank and its Board of Directors have been committed to Jackson County and our local communities. Part of that commitment is assisting deserving students with scholarships to help further their education. For over 50 years we have supported local students as they pursue their degrees in higher education.

The Bank has a long standing history of investing in the local communities through donations of time, talent and financial resources. These scholarships recognize students who demonstrate that same commitment and will be available to students attending any post-secondary education starting in their 2nd year.

**Al Brenengen Memorial Scholarship**

In 2015, Joan Brenengen decided she would like to create a scholarship fund available to Lincoln High School students in memory of her husband, Al who taught at Alma Center Lincoln for many years. Allan Alfred Brenengen, know to his students as “Mr. B” passed away on November 20, 1991. Details of this scholarship will be announced early in 2018.
A Scholarship Fund created by gifts from individuals, organizations and businesses, awards education grants to selected area students. The following 37 scholarships were awarded in 2017:

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Maria Lee (2013 BRF Graduate)
- Black River Falls Graduate of UW LaCrosse with a Degree in Exercise & Sports Science Pre-Professional and a minor in Spanish

Black River Falls Attending: Graduate School, UW LaCrosse
Course of Study: Physical Therapy
Career Path: Dr. of Physical Therapy

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship ($2,000)
- Matthew Bronsdon (2016 BRF Graduate)
- Hixton, WI

Black River Falls Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Double Major-Spanish and Biology
Career Path: Medical Doctor

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship ($2,000)
- Jacob Markhardt

Black River Falls Attending: Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
Course of Study: History Education

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Duane & Lavina Hoffman Scholarship ($1,500)
- Jacob Markhardt

Black River Falls Attending: Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
Course of Study: History Education

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship-Year 2 of 2 ($2,500)
- Olivia Lee (2011 BRF Graduate)

Black River Falls Attending: Concordia University School of Pharmacy
Course of Study: Undergrad-Biomolecular Science/Spanish Minor
Career Path: Pharmacist

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Robert (Knuckles) Johnson Memorial Scholarship ($500)
- Nikolas Pardoe (2016 BRF Graduate)

Black River Falls Attending: UM Twin Cities - College of Science & Engineering
Course of Study: Major-Aerospace Engineering; Minor-Computer Science

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Don Halverson Memorial Scholarship ($1,500)
- Jamie Johnson

Black River Falls Attending: UW LaCrosse
Course of Study: Physical Therapy/Kinesiology

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Elizabeth Janssen Scholarship ($1,000)
- Britany Hill

Black River Falls Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Registered Nursing

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- James Jr. and Anna Klir Memorial Scholarship ($1,000)
- Leland & Jeanette Larson Memorial Scholarship - Taylor ($2,000)

Black River Falls Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Communication Sciences and Disorders
Career Path: Speech Pathology

**Black River Falls Alumni Scholarship ($1,500)**
- Krohn Clinic Physicians Memorial Scholarship ($1,000)
- Ryan Guenther (2016 BRF Graduate)

Black River Falls Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Major-Kinesiology; Minor-Business Administration
Career Path: Physical Therapist
Leland & Jeanette Larson Memorial Scholarship - Rotating ($2,000)
Sheena Voge (2014 BRF Graduate)
Merrillan
Attending: Carroll University
Course of Study: Major-Exercise Science; Minor-Pre-Physical Therapy
Career Path: Physical Therapist

Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship ($3,500)
Michael Savage
Black River Falls
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: General courses at WTC then transfer to 4-YR college for Computer Science

Pearl (Teddy) Porath Memorial Alumni Scholarship ($1,000)
Tyler Leadholm (2016 Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Major-Elementary Education; Minor-Special Education
Career Path: Special Education Teacher with ID, EBD, and LD certificates

Lions/Rotary Scholarship ($1,000)
Alisha Quall
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Major-Spanish; Minor-Biology

Dean Nortman Memorial Scholarship ($500)
Kandi Shramek (2015 Lincoln Graduate)
Alma Center
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Nursing and EMT
Career Path: Flight Nurse

Meghan Powell Memorial Scholarship ($1,000)
Brandon Simmons
Alma Center
Attending: UW LaCrosse
Course of Study: Major-Biology; Minor-Biomedical Sciences

Kelly Mauck Memorial Scholarship ($1,500)
Duane & Lavina Hoffman Scholarship ($1,500)
Madisen Markee
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Green Bay
Course of Study: Human Biology & Psychology

Mary Perry Fine Arts Scholarship ($1,000)
Black River Falls High School Store Scholarship ($500)
Hunter Hurst
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Green Bay
Course of Study: Elementary Education

Lt. Terry Preston Memorial Scholarship ($1,000)
Allison Sipahioglu
Black River Falls
Attending: UM Duluth
Course of Study: Major-Social Work; Minor-Musical Theatre

Philip & Aldena Meyer Memorial Scholarship ($1,000)
Jamie Pennekamp
Black River Falls
Attending: UM Duluth
Course of Study: Biology

Pearl (Teddy) Porath Memorial Senior Scholarship ($1,000)
Emily Byrns
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Platteville
Course of Study: Journalism or Forensic Investigation

Gene & Judy Ransom Scholarship ($1,000)
Jamie Langan
Alma Center
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Psychology

Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship ($3,500)
Ralph & Alice Lund Memorial Scholarship ($750)
Callie Durman
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Actuarial Science

Pearl (Teddy) Porath Memorial Alumni Scholarship ($1,000)
Hailey Collins (2016 Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Winona State University
Course of Study: Public Relations/Business Administration
Career Path: Work in an Advertising Agency and continue to grow her photography business

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients
Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District: presentation to students by Author, S.A. Bodeen (Stephanie Bodeen). (See article below) Fully funded by the Erwin & Thelma Homstad Memorial Donor Advised Fund.

Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District: toward the purchase of metal cutting tools for the High School’s welding classes. Fully funded by the Incubator Development Fund.

Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District: for the purchase of five 3-tier risers for the choral performances by all of the ACHM schools and any community organization using the Lincoln auditorium. Partially funded by the Mary Van Gorden Charitable Donor Advised Fund.

Lincoln Schools provides presentation with grant funds

Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School district used grant funds to bring a presentation by S.A. Bodeen (Stephanie Bodeen) to all their 650 students. Reading books as a child transported Ms. Bodeen outside her small, rural world and helped her realize what other opportunities were available. Her multiple presentations focus on where reading can take you, as well as the process she follows as a writer.

This nationally published, award-winning author, graduated from Lincoln High School, and earned a degree in Secondary Education from UW-River Falls. She joined the Peace Corps with her husband and went to Tanzania, East Africa. Her first picture book, Elizabeth’s Doll (written as Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen) was published in 1998, followed by six other picture books.

Her first YA novel written as S.A. Bodeen, the award-winning The Compound, came out from Feiwel and Friends in 2008. The novel count is up to nine, with the tenth releasing in 2018. She has lived in eight states, two African countries, and an insular possession. Currently, she lives in the Midwest with her husband and two daughters.

Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County: to support the summer programs. Fully funded by the Peter & Jone Hoffman Donor Advised Fund.

Black River Area Child Care Services: for a new commercial dishwasher/sanitizer. Partially funded by the Jim & Carol Dougherty Family Donor Advised Fund.

Black River Falls School District – Girls Swim Team: toward team transportation costs. Fully funded by the Tim & Kay Finch Family Donor Advised Fund.

City of BRF – Parks & Rec Department: to replace surveillance camera system at Lunda Park. Fully funded by the Gil & Alice Homstad Donor Advised Fund.

City of BRF – Public Library: for additional computers and software for youth area and to support the Summer Reading Program for youth. Fully funded by the Tim & Kay Finch Family Donor Advised Fund.

Friends of the Black River Falls Library: for materials to start an adult literacy program. Fully funded by the Jackson County Bank Donor Advised Fund.

Friends Sharing Food: toward a new walk-in cooler/freezer for the new Gebhardt School site. Partially funded by all Donor Advised Funds.

Jackson County 4-H – Small Animal Project: to construct new, safer, more secure pens for those animals in the north end of the Small Animal Barn at the Jackson County Fair, such as the goats and exotic animals. Fully funded by the Katherine Wold Memorial Fund.

Jackson County 4-H – Summer of Science: to support this summer’s educational program. Fully funded by the Tim & Kay Finch Family Donor Advised Fund.

2017 Grant Recipient – Town of Brockway/Dale Borreson Field/Jackson County Little League for the construction of a concession stand.

Jackson County Division of Public Health: for car seats for low income families. Fully funded by the Mary Van Gorden Charitable Donor Advised Fund.

Jackson County Farmers Market: to support the Farmers Market program including purchasing picnic tables to create a social atmosphere for customers at the market. Fully funded by the Katherine Wold Memorial Fund.

Jackson County GreenLifeXpo: to support the Jackson County 4-H “Kids Green Zone Workshop”. Fully funded by the Katherine Wold Memorial Fund.

Jackson County Historical Society: direct donation of a projector and screen to help make educational programs to the community. Equipment donated by Julie Murray, Foundation Executive Director.

2017 Grant Recipient – Jackson County 4-H to build secure pens in the small animal barn.
**Jackson County Humane Society:** toward construction of a new animal shelter. *Partially funded by the Mary Van Gorden Charitable Donor Advised Fund.*

**Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers:** to support transportation costs by volunteers. *Fully funded by the Stanley Held Fund.*

**Learn & Play Daycare & Pre-School:** for new classroom items to replace items in disrepair. *Partially funded by the Hoffman Construction Donor Advised Fund.*

**Melrose/Mindoro School District – Elementary School:** to purchase exercise balls with legs for seating for students in grades K-2 who learn best by moving and being able to wiggle. *Fully funded by the Katherine Wold Memorial Fund.*

**Skyline Golf Course:** to construct a pole shed to store golf carts during golf season. *Partially funded by the Gil & Alice Homstad Donor Advised Fund.*


**Village of Alma Center:** for Main Street Christmas decorations. *Fully funded by the Mary Van Gorden Charitable Donor Advised Fund.*

**Village of Merrillan – Fire Department:** to upgrade their extraction tools. *Partially funded by the Tim & Kay Finch Family Donor Advised Fund.*

**Village of Alma Center, Fire Department:** purchase new handheld radios.

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**Foundation Donor Advised Funds**

**Peter & Jone Hoffman Fund**
- Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County: for operating expenses in Black River Falls.
- BRF United Methodist Church: for general operations.
- Gateway Council - Boy Scouts: for Camp Decorah.
- Hazelden foundation: for admission payments for those in financial need.

**Foundation General Fund**
- Jackson County Historical Society: at the request of donors John & Nancy Howard.
- Mary Van Gorden Endowment Fund
- BRF Library History Room: for operating expenses.
- Grace Webb Memorial Fund
- BRF Elementary School Libraries: for materials to enhance children's interest and love of reading.

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**Alma Center Area Community Fund**

**Village of Alma Center, Alma Center First Responders:** new roof for their building.

**Lincoln Schools, All Lincoln Students:** presentation by author & Alma Center alumni, S.A. Bodeen.

**Alma Center Improvement Club, Turtle Pond Park:** replace fence, repair deck add plants and trees.

**Village of Alma Center, Main Street Beautification:** Christmas decorations for Main Street.

**Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Tech Ed Department:** purchase a new metal cutting band saw.

**Lincoln High School, Family & Consumer Science Department:** upgrade kitchen equipment for six high school FCS kitchens.

**Village of Alma Center, Fire Department:** purchase new handheld radios.
Fund Donations, (June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017)

BRF Educational Enrichment Fund

High School, Character Strong: t-shirts for participants in Summer Leadership Institute - Character Strong.

Red Creek, English/Language Arts: levelled books for the book room.

Middle School, Choir: three part sheet music for vocal groups.

Forrest Street, 4K Classrooms: Social Emotional Foundations - materials for lessons/instruction.

Forrest Street, Spatial Reasoning/Math: Picasso Tiles - magnetic building tiles. (Geometry, numbers, measurement, etc.)

High School, Music: Piccolo.

Red Creek, Speech: Portable Interactive Whiteboards - turns any wall into an interactive board.

High School, Art: clay and glaze for Empty Bowls Project.

High School, Foods: collaboration with the Empty Bowls Project.

Forrest Street, First Grade: iPads - independent learning through technology.

High School, Science/School Forest: Extractigators and Buckthorn Baggies (Tools needed to manage native plants in School Forest.)

Red Creek, Fourth Grade: Wobble Chairs - chairs that provide movement for those students that need it.

Red Creek, Fifth Grade: Portable Interactive Whiteboards - turns any wall into an interactive board.

Red Creek, Critical Thinking: Escape Room Materials - one hour puzzle where participants need to “solve” their way out of the room.

Red Creek, Special Ed: Brailler - machine that will create braille materials for students in need.

High School, Phy Ed: adaptive recreational biking and scooting equipment for physically disabled students.

Forrest Street, Kindergarten: Sensory Table.

Forrest Street, Music: Contra-Bass Xylophone bars.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS:

BRF Alumni Scholarship
• Duane Bowen
• BRF Alumni Banquet Donations
• Clarice Franke (In Memory of Peter McGillvray Class of 1961)
Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship
• John & Nancy Howard
James, Jr. & Anna Klir Memorial Scholarship
• Rose Ann Klir
Krohn Clinic Physicians Memorial Scholarship
• Dr. Michael & Tina Mahan
• Ann Peterson (In Honor of Dr. Gene Krohn)
Philip & Aldena Meyer Memorial Scholarship
• Mary J. Goens
• Dave & Luane Meyer
• Marlene Meyer
• Clyde & Katherine Smith
Dean Nortman Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Margaret A. Mattson (In Memory of Ron Nortman)
Dustin Rozmenoski Memorial Scholarship
• Harold D. & Donna L. Frett

2017 Grant Recipients

2017 Grant Recipient – BRF Library to support the Summer Reading Program for youth and Friends of the BRF Library to start an adult literacy program.

2017 Grant Recipient GreenLifeXp to support the JC 4-H Kids Green Zone Workshop.

2017 Grant Recipient – BRF High School Girls Swim Team for transportation costs.

*NEW* - Alma Center/Humbird/Merrillan Educational Enrichment Fund

• In 2016, donors gave $6,270 to the ACHM Education Enrichment Fund. These donations have been acknowledged directly by the ACHM Education Enrichment organization. Thank you to all who have and continue to support this worthwhile project.

Alma Center Area Community Fund

• In 2016 donors gave $13,915 to the Alma Center Area Community Fund. These donations have been acknowledged directly by the Alma Center Area Community organization. Thank you to all who have and continue to support this worthwhile project.

BRF Alumni Scholarship

• Duane Bowen
• BRF Alumni Banquet Donations
• Clarice Franke (In Memory of Peter McGillvray Class of 1961)

Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship

• John & Nancy Howard

James, Jr. & Anna Klir Memorial Scholarship

• Rose Ann Klir

Krohn Clinic Physicians Memorial Scholarship

• Dr. Michael & Tina Mahan
• Ann Peterson (In Honor of Dr. Gene Krohn)

Philip & Aldena Meyer Memorial Scholarship

• Mary J. Goens
• Dave & Luane Meyer
• Marlene Meyer
• Clyde & Katherine Smith

Dean Nortman Memorial Scholarship Fund

• Margaret A. Mattson (In Memory of Ron Nortman)

Dustin Rozmenoski Memorial Scholarship

• Harold D. & Donna L. Frett

2017 Grant Recipients – BRF Library to support the Summer Reading Program for youth and Friends of the BRF Library to start an adult literacy program.

2017 Grant Recipient GreenLifeXp to support the JC 4-H Kids Green Zone Workshop.

2017 Grant Recipient – BRF High School Girls Swim Team for transportation costs.
Friends of the Foundation Recognition Program

Bronze~$100   Silver~$500   Gold~$2,000  
Platinum~$5,000  Diamond~$10,000  
Leaders Circle~$15,000  
Legends Circle~$20,000  Founders Circle~$30,000  

The Foundation has established a permanent Recognition Program for Friends who have donated so generously through the years. The program allows donation amounts to accumulate each year as Friends advance through eight giving levels.

Friends who have donated to the Foundation, between January 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017, are listed below, together with the level of giving they have thus far achieved.

**BRONZE** ($100 & up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stacy Burgau</td>
<td>New York Life Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Burqau</td>
<td>Georgia Button</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avin Chown</td>
<td>James Dingeldein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doris Dingeldein</td>
<td>Judy Dugan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Dugan</td>
<td>Terri Goettl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Hansen</td>
<td>Ruth Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Hermann</td>
<td>Joan Higgins</td>
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<td>Sherry Holt</td>
<td>David O. Hoonsbeen</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Howard</td>
<td>Patricia Jacobson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene C. Johnson</td>
<td>Livia A. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Kaphengst</td>
<td>Jill Kaphengst</td>
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<td>Rose Ann Klir</td>
<td>David Meyer</td>
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<td>Luane Meyer</td>
<td>Marlene Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carla (Drecktrah) Nielsen</td>
<td>Jordan Nortman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Ott</td>
<td>Robert Ott</td>
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<td>Sandra Pistorius</td>
<td>Ray Ransom</td>
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<td>Betty Schanz</td>
<td>George Schwab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lary Severson</td>
<td>Shelly Severson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Severson</td>
<td>*Timothy Turk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Wood</td>
<td>Diane Wood</td>
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**SILVER** ($500 & up)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Ackerson</td>
<td>William Arndt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Barnes</td>
<td>Black River Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black River Falls Clinic Pharmacy</td>
<td>Black River Chiropractic Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Bowen</td>
<td>Mike Brauner</td>
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<td>Georgia Button</td>
<td>Larry Button</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ricky Capper</td>
<td>Wally Capper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coldwell Banker River Valley Realty</td>
<td>Mary Curtis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Danielson</td>
<td>Ron Danielson</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dickman</td>
<td>Annette Dickman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Dougherty</td>
<td>Cindy Dougherty</td>
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<td>Mrs. James Dougherty</td>
<td>John Drace</td>
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<td>Julie Drace</td>
<td>Axel Dressler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Fox</td>
<td>Chris Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald (Tuffy) Gaier</td>
<td>Don Galston</td>
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</table>
| Fred Goettl | Wayne, Jerry & Mike Gross; 
| Chevrolet - Buick-GMC | Judy Hansen |
| Kristi Hanson | Carol Haugen |
| Mary Hegna | Dr. Steve Hegna |
| Connie Helstad | Dr. Paul Helstad |
| Richard Hilliker | Alden “Buz” Hoefler |
| Eric Homstad | Nomi Homstad |
| John Hogden | Kari Hogden |
| Joanne M Holder | Dr. Richard L Holder |
| Allan Hostrawser | Nancy Mills Howard |
| Peter Jacobs | Jordan Chiropractic Clinic |
| Jim Kertis | Bobbi Kitowski |
| Karen Stai Koenigs Insurance Agency | Jean Lee |
| Sue Lindahl | John Lindahl |
| Sally (Sarah) Lister | Tom Lister |
| Brad Lobenstein | Monica Lobenstein |
| John Drace | Mary Mack |
| Dr. Carol Martin | Carla Mills |
| Ernie Nicholas | Mary O’Brien |
| Lynn Overman | Mary Perry |
| Dr. Jeff Polzin | Sue Polzin |
| Bill Potter | Kathy Potter |
| Arlene Reid | Thomas Reid |
| Margaret Rewald | Paul Ripp |
| Theresa Ripp | Ripp Distributing Company |
| Norbert Sedelbauer | Lynn Sedelbauer |
| Jay Severance | Mrs. Vern (Margaret) Severson |
| Fred Stai | Kathy Stittleburg |
| Todd Stittleburg | Dr. Jon Stowe |
| Julie Stowe | Marion Stuart |
| Jean Tammenin | Glen Tammenin |
| Sherrill Torkelson | Tim Torkelson |
| Susan Wester | Mitch Wester |
| Mary Beth White-Jacobs | Sara Wiersma |
| Dennis Young | Alice Young |

**GOLD** ($2,000 & up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Ackerson</td>
<td>Black River Memorial Hospital</td>
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<td>Dr. Donald Delebo</td>
<td>Mike Dougherty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Hagenbrock</td>
<td>John Hagenbrock</td>
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<td>Dr. Lyle Hart</td>
<td>Peter Hoffman</td>
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<td>Jone Hoffman</td>
<td>Dave Hoffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Hoffman</td>
<td>Jon Homstad</td>
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<td>Maureen Homstad</td>
<td>Gil Homstad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Al Lahmayer</td>
<td>Jeanette Lahmayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kirk Lane &amp; Family</td>
<td>Dr. Jerry Kitowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Kitowski</td>
<td>Dr. Nicholas Kitowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Gene Krohn</td>
<td>Janet Krohn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krohn Clinic</td>
<td>Dr. David Kellen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kari Kellen</td>
<td>Margaret Legois</td>
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**DIAMOND** ($10,000 & up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County Bank</td>
<td>Co-Op Credit Union</td>
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**LEADERS CIRCLE** ($15,000 & up)

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millis Family</td>
<td>D &amp; S Manufacturing</td>
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**LEGENDS CIRCLE** ($20,000 & up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Timothy Turk</td>
<td>Northern Family Farms, John &amp; Ginger Ahl Family</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE** ($30,000 & up)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Welcome 1st time Friends!</td>
<td>Thank you for giving!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map your own route to helping others.

Donate your time-talents-money to one of the many worthwhile organizations in the area.

‘Giving Back’ is a wonderful road to take on the route to any of your destinations.

Thank you for remembering the BRF Area Foundation as a stop along your way.