



BLACK RIVER FALLS AREA
Foundation



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BEING GRATEFUL IN 2021

Julie Murray, Executive Director



Gil Homstad

In 1985, Gil Homstad recognized a need and took action. That action resulted in the creation of the **Black River Falls Area Foundation**, which **set a record as the smallest (population) community in the entire country to have a Foundation**. Starting with zero dollars, the Foundation set course with their first fund raising campaign called 'The Black River Spirit'. From those humble roots the Foundation has grown to over five million dollars in assets, assuring that it will continue to enhance the quality of life in the BRF area far into the future. For thirty-five years, Gil's purpose, foresight, and leadership, together with

amazing community support, has allowed the Foundation to grow into what it is today. The continuous generosity of the people in our community indicates 'The Black River Spirit' is very much alive and going strong. In 1987, the Foundation awarded its first grants, \$2,562 to four local non-profit organizations. Since then, **more than 800 Grants have been awarded to 117 diverse, local, non-profit organizations, totaling over \$6.7 million dollars!** What an astounding community accomplishment for which we are very grateful!

A common misconception is that in order to use the Foundation to make a difference in our community, donors must be very wealthy and make large contributions. This is absolutely not the case! In fact, smaller donors use the Foundation for their charitable giving precisely because **a donation of any size will touch many in the community**. Contributions to the Foundation go on to support a large number of local non-profit organizations. These organizations support an even larger number of area residents in a variety of different ways, which results in many grateful people!

On pages 4 and 5 of this report is a story about local people and organizations that have recognized a need and taken action. This story offers examples of ways to take action without necessarily donating money. Younger people often find it difficult to give financially, but many are willing to volunteer their time and talents providing valuable services that fulfill many community needs. Some of these generous people are taking action to help foster parents and foster children in our area. The shortage of people willing to act as foster parents is a serious and growing concern. **As of November, there were 60 children in Jackson County requiring out of home placement.** For all of those individuals willing to volunteer services, or work in careers helping others, we are very grateful!

I personally have a new appreciation of, and gratitude for, those who are willing to give of themselves to foster children. I would like to share the story of my recent experience with the foster care system, and the lessons I learned. My granddaughter, Evie, is 19 years old and graduated from high school this year. This young woman has been a 'little mother' since she was a baby herself, always taking care of others and helping wherever she could. While in middle school she decided when she grew up she wanted to be a counselor and help children. Evie never wavered in that decision. As graduation grew near, her family anxiously urged her to decide where to go to post-secondary school. However, between the chaos of the pandemic, some health issues, and holding down a job, Evie's senior year had been a definite struggle, she was simply worn out. She wanted, and needed, some time to regain her strength and simply catch her breath. Evie told us she was not going to

school right now, and possibly not ever. While this was difficult for her family to accept, we were eventually forced to acknowledge that she is a very mature and level-headed young woman, who is perfectly capable of making her own decisions.

Evie and her boyfriend Brandon, who is 21, both have jobs which they really enjoy, and they rent their own home. Early this fall, through a chain of almost unimaginable events, and circumstances far beyond their control, Evie and Brandon found themselves caring for a new-born baby girl, and facing a decision about becoming her foster parents. Looking back, we 'adults' knew what **we wanted for Evie** and believed that was what was best for her. I am ashamed to admit, we were not listening to Evie, or considering what **she wanted for her own life**. Selfishly, I also never gave much thought to what would happen to the baby and where she would go. I believe, without really thinking about it, I assumed that surely someone else would take her in and she would be fine. I was focused on the tremendous responsibility my granddaughter would be assuming and the burden caring for this child would be for her. I asked Evie, "What about your dream of being a children's counselor, and what if your heart gets broken?" She replied, "No one knows what the future holds. I'm young, if I want to I can still go back to school someday, but I know **right now, this child needs us and we can help**. Our hearts may get broken, but that won't take away the positive impact we can have on her life." Evie and Brandon's minds were made up. They were, and remain, determined to provide this tiny baby girl with a safe and loving home.

Now, five months later, I am in total awe of the wonderful parents Evie and Brandon are, and I am happy to have found my own way to recognize a need and take action. When Evie and Brandon's work schedules overlap, or there are errands to attend I am there, as is our entire family. This tiny baby girl entered our lives and because of the love she gives us, and that we feel for her, no one in my family will ever be the same. Evie and Brandon have taught us that helping where and when you can, sharing what you have even when it isn't much, and giving love selflessly is the best possible gift you can give yourself. I still struggle with fears about my family getting hurt, but I am grateful to Evie for helping me see that we shouldn't miss happiness in the present with worry about sadness in the future. Yes, at some point we may all have our hearts broken by this situation, but for today we are focused on the joy this child brings, and to the solid, loving, foundation we can provide for her tomorrows.

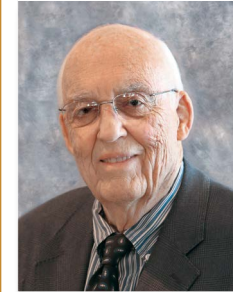
Thank you Evie and Brandon for recognizing a need and taking action. I am so very, very proud of you!

Hoping each of you had a Merry Christmas and an opportunity to truly appreciate time with your family. May each of you have a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous New Year. As always, an acknowledgment of sincere appreciation and gratitude for the wonderful donors who continue to support our community through the Foundation, and for the Trustees who donate their time and talents. Without these generous gifts of time, talent and money, there would be no Foundation. Until we can gather again, please stay safe, focus on all we have to give thanks for, and don't hesitate to 'Recognize a Need and Take Action'.



Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Black River Falls Area Foundation. It is responsible for overseeing the investment of donor funds and the distribution of grants in accordance with donors' wishes. Trustees serve without compensation and are selected because of their judgment, integrity, community involvement, and understanding of philanthropic needs. They serve a three-year term of office with a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer can serve additional terms.



Gil Homstad*
Chairman



David Hoffman*
Vice Chairman



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Secretary



Michael Dougherty
Treasurer



Ashley Ahl



Jim Bible



Brad Chown



Kristi Hanson



Nicholas Kitowski, M.D.



Shelly Severson



Dennis Young



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Executive Director

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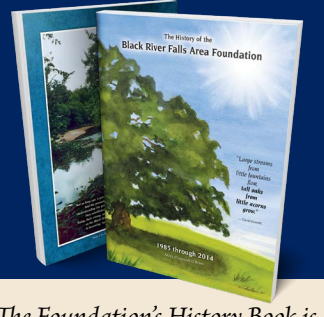
Mary O'Brien

Dennis Richards*

Dale Sherman*

Fred Stai

Tom Mills—
Executive Secretary
from 1985 to 1999



The Foundation's History Book is available at no cost. Contact Julie Murray at the Foundation office
executivedirector@brfareafoundation.org
or 715-284-3113.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Black River Falls Area Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the Black River Falls Area. We work to realize that goal with the support of individuals, families, businesses and organizations that share this commitment. We achieve this by:

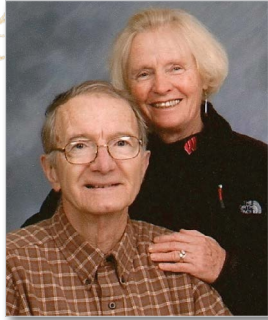
- Providing a vehicle for donors with diverse community interests;
- Protecting donations through prudent investing and stewardship;
- Serving as a resource and catalyst to accomplish community projects;
- Expanding our communities' endowment by encouraging philanthropy.

We address a broad range of community goals rather than focusing on one particular issue. In this way, we are able to meet changing needs and provide support to the people who live and work in the Black River Falls Area.

Previous YEARS "Special People" Award Recipients:

2015, Bee Herzberg
2016, Peter & Jone Hoffman
2017, Bill Millis
2018, Al & Jeanette Lahmayer
2019, Mary Van Gorden

Recognizing Need, Taking Action!



Peter & Jone Hoffman

In June, the Foundation published a newspaper article listing the 2020 and 2021 recipients of scholarships managed by the Foundation. It also discussed the wonderful support our community provides for graduating seniors and addressed the need for additional Alumni Scholarship awards.

Unfortunately, student's costs do not stop after the first year. The cost of post-secondary education continues to rise each year, while the number of scholarship opportunities for subsequent years of education drops precipitously. Each of these student applicants have a proven track record in their post-secondary education and have achieved much success. They are working hard to complete their education and many have a very real struggle with the financial burden.

Peter and Jone Hoffman read this article and wanted to help. They took action! The first thing Peter and Jone did was to make a commitment to provide five \$2,000 Alumni Scholarship awards each year, beginning in 2022. Next, they called the Foundation office and inquired about this year's final scholarship statistics. There were 30 Alumni Scholarship applications. All were excellent applications from outstanding young adults. Peter and Jone decided that they would like to see each and every 2021 Alumni applicant receive financial assistance, and they again took action. Thanks to the additional ten scholarship awards provided by Peter and Jone, the Foundation was able to award a scholarship to each of the students that applied. *Thank you Peter & Jone for taking action and for the very generous gifts!*

Bobbi Kitowski & Annilese Eddy

Bobbi and Anneliese recognized a need and took action. They presented a grant request to the Foundation for start-up funds to create a new community resource. This resource will help foster families and children in the BRF area. The organization is known as the 'Black River Area Foster Closet' and will serve as a conduit to connect those in our community who want to help, and those that need extra support. The mission of the organization is to offer a free resource for caregivers of foster children in BRF and surrounding communities, and will be attained by utilizing space donated by the BRF Evangelical Lutheran Church to create a place for foster families to 'shop'. Community members can donate gently used children's items, clothing, high-chairs, cribs, walkers, etc. Monetary donations will be used to purchase diapers, wipes, and hygiene items. Closet volunteers will clean, sort, organize, and set the 'closet' up in an efficient manner for easy, fast retrieval. Social workers will be able to obtain needed items for foster caregivers at any time, but particularly when they are receiving a new child into



their care. Foundation Trustees were truly impressed with the thought, planning, organization, preparations, and level of support already shown for the project. They readily approved the grant to purchase shelving, storage containers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and other immediate needs. *Thank you Bobbi and Anneliese for your superb work, your dedication to this project, and for taking action!*



Tim & Kay Finch

After attending a presentation about Alumni Scholarship funds, Kay shared how strongly she and Tim believe donating scholarships is truly an investment in the future. Kay spoke with Tim and together they decided to match Peter & Jone Hoffman's scholarship contribution. Each year, beginning in 2022, they

will provide five \$2,000 Alumni Scholarships. Thanks to this fantastic gift, the Foundation now has more than twice the number of Alumni Scholarships available for distribution every year. See what so impressed Kay and Tim that it motivated them to take action on pages 10-11. *Thank you Tim & Kay for your investment in our youth and for taking action!*

JC Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

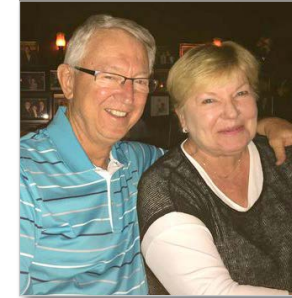
Roots of the Foundation and JC Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers are closely intertwined. In 1987, Ernie Holman, of Osseo, met with Foundation Trustees and shared information about a successful program similar to Interfaith in Eau Claire County. He said funds were available for this type of program from a private benefactor in Palm Desert, California. The Trustees took action and voted to accept the initial \$5,000 grant from California, and hold the funds until a firm Interfaith program had been established.

Thirty-four years later, Lori Chown, Program Director, her staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors, accepted the fact that their current location is simply no longer capable of meeting Interfaith's ever expanding needs. They know that Interfaith provides an invaluable service by helping people maintain independence and dignity when life's difficulties make remaining in their homes more challenging. They also recognize the need to grow to an independent facility in order to sustain their program and to ensure their ability to meet the increasing demands of the community. Interfaith's Team realized that by expanding their office space and adding a community room, they will be able to increase their staffing and volunteer outreach to meet the grocery delivery, transportation, dementia support, and respite needs that are currently being seen.

Interfaith's Team took action and decided to move forward with a capital campaign to build a new home for their organization. The Lunda Charitable Fund graciously offered a matching grant, up to \$800,000, to begin fundraising. The



Foundation quickly took action and followed suit with a commitment of \$200,000 to the project. The Interfaith Team continues to work diligently and the community has responded with resounding support of the project. *Thank you Interfaith Team for taking action to ensure Interfaith's future viability.*



David & Marilyn Hoffman

Having served as the Foundation's Vice-Chairman since its inception thirty-five years ago, David is very familiar with the difficult decisions Trustees face each year when awarding grants. There are always more requests and more need than there are funds. Determining which requests

best serve the needs of our community is never easy. In 2021, Keith Cormican submitted a request on behalf of Bruce's Legacy. Bruce's Legacy is a volunteer organization that provides education on water related safety, as well as search and rescue/recovery operations to fire and rescue departments and the public. Jackson County recently dissolved its non-profit Dive Team and turned its assets over to Bruce's Legacy to service the Jackson County area. The grant request was for funds to purchase a 7'x16' enclosed trailer to house the Remote Operated Vehicle and all related equipment, and to be kept in the BRF area, facilitating a much faster response time. David saw a way he could help, and took action. He informed the Trustees that he owned a trailer such as the one being requested, and he offered to donate the trailer to Bruce's Legacy. Telephone calls were made and David's trailer now has a new home serving a noble purpose. *Thank you David and Marilyn for taking action and donating a personal item for the good of the community!*

Jim & Kathy Powell

Jim and Kathy Powell have a soft spot for their home town, and for children in need, particularly those whom by no fault of their own have been placed into foster care. Kathy spent 24 years working, in part, as Juvenile Court Clerk for Jackson County. Her experience afforded a special awareness of the many challenges that arise when a child is placed in foster care. This type of event frequently happens during emergency situations. Often children arrive at foster homes with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing, leaving behind everyone, and everything, that is familiar to them. Foster parents have limited resources and must focus on satisfying the most urgent emotional, physical, and essential needs of the child. With assistance from Jenny Dormady at JCHHS - Children & Families Division, Kathy and Jim came up with an idea. Kathy contacted the Foundation office, explained the idea, and asked if the Foundation could help. The Trustees were enthusiastic, together they worked out a plan and Kathy and Jim created a fund to give back to their community.



Many years ago, relying on philanthropic lessons they learned from their father, Bill Millis, Kathy and her siblings began purchasing Christmas gifts for children in foster care. Imagine being a child placed in foster care at Christmas time! Each year, beginning in 2021, the Powell's new "Warming Hearts Fund" will continue the tradition of the Millis siblings. The Fund will provide monies to JCHHS to purchase special Christmas gifts for ten children in foster care. In addition, at any time throughout the year, should a foster child have an urgent need that cannot be satisfied by traditional avenues, JCHHS may apply to the Foundation and Warming Hearts Fund Advisor for a special grant distribution.

The new Warming Hearts Fund is open to all donors. Several of Kathy's siblings were eager to help and have also made contributions. If you like this idea and want to support the fund, donations can be sent to the Foundation office with 'Warming Hearts Fund' in the memo line. *Thank you Jim & Kathy for your generosity and for taking action!*

Barb Simonis, Jordan Nortman and Brad Dobbs

These three friends have several things in common, one of which is their commitment to the Black River Falls area. Earlier this spring, they shared a conversation including the topics of upcoming graduation, outstanding school lunch debt, families facing financial hardship due to the pandemic, and the question, "How can we help?"

School policy requires that a student's lunch debt be paid before they are allowed to graduate. Brad was aware of the Angel Fund, which the BRF School District created to help pay lunch debts for students in need. Barb, Jordan and Brad took action! Using their talents, Jordan and Brad's knowledge and enjoyment of golf, and Barb's super-strengths of organization and 'getting things done', they decided to raise money for the Angel Fund by hosting a golf event. Brad reached out to the Foundation. He asked about the possibility of creating a temporary 'Swing for Students' fund to accept the donations they received and distribute the proceeds to the BRF School District. Realizing this was an excellent way for the Foundation to support smaller, informal groups of community members wanting to raise money for a local need, Trustees unanimously approved their request. *Thank you Barb, Jordan, and Brad for taking action and helping BRF's graduating Seniors!*



Left to right, Brad Dobbs, BRF School Superintendent Shelly Severson, Barb Simonis and Jordan Nortman.

Foundation Highlights of 2021

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

- On December 31, 2020, Trustee Mike Mahan's third three-year term came to an end. Mike often brought community health related issues forward and supplied his expertise in discussions of how best to address these needs. THANK YOU MIKE for contributing your time and insights over the past nine years!
- On January 1, 2021, Dr. Nicholas Kitowski became the Foundation's newest Trustee.
- On January 1, 2022, Mary Beth White-Jacobs will become the Foundation's next Trustee.
- For the sake of being cautious with regard to COVID, Trustees decided to push our annual FRIENDS appreciation gathering back to mid-September and also planned to add a golf outing to coincide with the luncheon. Unfortunately the event was later cancelled due to a spike in COVID numbers.
- In an effort to identify and help individuals who may be "falling through the cracks" during the pandemic, Trustees approved emergency grants to Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers and Friends Sharing Food – Essential Needs Program.
- Members of the Foundation Scholarship Committee reviewed and scored 66 scholarship applications, 36 graduating Senior applications and 30 BRF Alumni applications, as well as representing Foundation Managed Scholarships at the BRF High School Scholarship Selection Committee's meeting on April 15th.
- Trustees reached out to the County with concerns regarding maintenance of the new Animal Shelter. Issues were discussed and solutions will be implemented.
- Trustees researched, reviewed and considered twenty-seven grant applications. Sixteen grant requests were fully funded and one grant was given a partial match.
- Approved a request by the family of Dubs Young to assist them with accepting memorial donations for a planned deck replacement at the Skyline Club House. The Foundation office will handle the receipt of donations and final distribution of the funds to the Skyline.
- Trustees approved a distribution of funds to Interfaith's capital campaign for construction of a new building. This contribution will be considered a community contribution for the purpose of Lunda's Charitable Matching Grant.
- After thirty-five years, Foundation Chairman Gil Homstad presided over his last board meeting on December 14th. On January 1st, Gil will become the Foundation's Chairman Emeritus and Trustee Kay Finch will become Foundation Chairman. This was a bittersweet event. When the meeting concluded, Trustees surprised Gil with a small gathering consisting of his family; long-time Foundation supporters Mary Van Gorden and Marilyn Hoffman; and past Trustees Sue Michaelson, Jean Lee and their spouses; and special guest, long-time Foundation supporter, past Trustee and Gil's very good friend, Judy Hansen.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD December 14, 2021



GIL HOMSTAD

2021 Donor Advised Disbursements

\$497,866 distributed to 18 local area Non-Profit Organizations.

Kay Brauner Memorial Fund

- Western Technical College – Student Emergency Assistance Scholarship Fund

City of BRF - Field of Honor Maintenance Fund

- City of BRF for reimbursement for 2020 expenses

City of BRF - Foundation Trail Maintenance Fund

- City of BRF for repair to walking bridge by the Chamber building

City of BRF - Skyline Golf Course

- Cart replacement project

Disability Association of Jackson County

- Provide party supplies for seasonal events for disabled citizens

Tim & Kay Finch Family Fund

- Alma Center VFW Post 8494
- Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County
- Bolton Refuge House
- Black River Falls VFW Post 1959
- City of BRF - Fire Department
- Friends Sharing Food
- Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
- Village of Alma Center Fire Department
- Village of Merrillan Fire Department

Peter & Jone Hoffman Fund

- Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County
- JC Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Warming Hearts Fund – Jim & Kathy Powell

- JC Health & Human Services – Children & Families Division to purchase Christmas gifts for ten children in need living in Foster Care

'Swing for Students Event' Temporary Fund

- BRF School District – Angel Fund: Proceeds used to help pay student lunch debt for those in need

Mary Van Gorden Funds

- City of BRF - Library History Room for expenses

Grace Webb Memorial Library Fund

- Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District: Elementary Library to enhance the joy of reading for younger children

\$268,614 awarded to 21 Local Non-Profit Organizations

Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan

School District; Elementary School: Renew existing old planters and create an indoor garden at the Merrillan Elementary School

Aptiv (f/k/a Riverfront): Creation of an outdoor program space for youth & adults with disabilities

Bolton Refuge House; Jackson County Outreach: Remove existing boiler system, purchase and install a new boiler in transitional housing units A and B

Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County: Upgrade technology for application of dedicated computer programming to strengthen member's technology skills and career readiness

Black River Area Child Care Services: Purchase two sensory tables and one double sided storage cubby/shelf

Black River Area Foster Care Closet: Initial set-up costs of the closet, including shelving, storage containers, diapers/wipes, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, larger items such as pack-n-play, high chairs

Black River Memorial Hospital: To purchase gas cards and WalMart gift cards to assist local chemotherapy patients in financial hardship. These cards will provide assistance in getting to treatments, as well as, purchasing self-care items to help manage their unique health needs.

Children's Service Society of WI:

Funding to provide two nine-week parenting courses in a hybrid model using the Family Resource Center and a Virtual format

City of BRF; Fire Department: Purchase a thermal imaging camera and truck mount to be placed in the primary response engine

City of BRF; Public Library: Youth services and programming to promote summer reading; Prize books for the '1000 Books Before Kindergarten' program

City of BRF; Spaulding Road Community Garden: Replace the north entry gate at the garden

Friends of the Black River: Materials to erect twenty-three signs, including lumber, posts, mortar; Chain saw expenses

Hixton Volunteer Fire Department:

Purchase of enclosed cascade fill station

Jackson County Crime Stoppers:

Promotion of new program

JC Health & Human Services;

Division of Public Health: Purchase a laboratory compliant counter refrigerator/incubator for the JC Public Health Water Lab

JC Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers:

Toward building a new facility

Karner Blue Garden Club: Maintenance of flowers in the city of BRF

Melrose Volunteer Fire Department:

Supplement purchase of a UTV with modified box skid for patient transport

Millston Park Commission: Replace current damaged ballfield fence in Millston Memorial Park

Village of Alma Center; AC Community Fire District: Purchase twenty-four fire helmets to ensure safety of volunteer firefighters

SPECIAL COVID-19 GRANT AWARDS

Friends Sharing Food – Essential Needs

Program: Initial start-up costs for this new program, which will provide essential, non-food, personal care items to those in need. Examples, shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors, Kleenex, toothpaste and toothbrushes (adults/children) diapers, feminine hygiene, etc.

JC Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers:

To assist local people who may be "falling through the cracks" during the pandemic. Interfaith has procedures firmly in place, and expertly managed, to evaluate requests for assistance. These funds are to be distributed to individuals most in need, as identified by Interfaith staff, for any purposes deemed acceptable by Interfaith staff.

2021 Community Fund Grants

\$9,702 to fund 7 community and educational projects

Alma Center Area Community Fund

- Alma Center Improvement Club** for landscaping and deck repair at the Turtle Pond
- Alma Center Community Fire District** for purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator
- East Lawn Cemetery** for purchasing lawn mowing and trimming equipment

BRF Education Enrichment Fund

Red Creek Elementary

- Heather Bluedorn's 4th Grade Class** for Geocaching for Students. Thirty hand-held GPS navigators will be purchased for students to locate objects, learn and use map skills and develop an appreciation of the outdoors. Students will then teach other 4th grade classes, thus spreading the geocaching experience beyond one classroom.
- Kelly Zimmerman's 4th Grade Class** for 'Snap Circuit Exploration' kits. Kits will be used to build electrical circuits, learning about controlling electrical flow, identifying the path of electricity through a circuit, investigating alternative energy, and transforming electrical energy into light, sound and motion.

Forrest Street Early Learning Center

- Jody Gawron's Music Classroom** for purchase of a 'Circular Music Rug' with music symbols. Ms. Gawron's classes are very active, and the rug will facilitate quick movement for games and dances. The symbols on the rug will reinforce basic music concepts in the kindergarten and first-grade curriculum.

BRF Middle School

- Amy Olson's Art Class** for purchase of a laptop computer, 27" monitor and Canon EOS Rebel Camera. Equipment will be used to create a middle school yearbook. The camera will also be used to teach photography and elements of design within the middle school art curriculum.

Foundation Funds and 2021 Donations

* Family added additional funds
• Individual Donors to Listed Fund
NEW! New funds created in 2021

FAMILY FUNDS

Dougherty Family Fund
* Tim & Kay Finch Family Fund
Peter & Jone Hoffman Fund
Gil & Alice Homstad Fund
Mary Van Gorden Charitable

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Mike & Mona Anderson Memorial Fund
Kay Brauner Memorial Fund
• Higgins, Joan
• Schwab, George
Stanley Held Memorial Fund
Erwin & Thelma Homstad Memorial
Bill Millis Memorial Fund
Grace Webb Memorial Fund
• John & Jane Lokken
Katherine Wold Memorial Fund

SPECIFIC PURPOSE Donor Advised FUNDS

Warming Hearts Fund
(Jim & Kathy Powell) **NEW!**
• Millis, Dan & Cheryl
• Millis, Steve & Sue
• Pearson, Todd & Kari

MAINTENANCE FUNDS

City of BRF – Field of Honor Fund
City of BRF – Library History Room
Foundation Trail Maintenance Fund
• Grosskreitz, Lee
• Murray, Barry & Julie
In Memory of Sheila Danielson
Hoffman Aquatic Park Maintenance Fund
• Hoffman, David & Marilyn
Lunda Community Park Maintenance
Mills Park Maintenance Fund
• Howard, Mary Alice
In Honor of Nancy Mills Howard
Rotary Skate Park Maintenance Fund

COMMUNITY FUNDS

Alma Center Area Community Fund
• Alexander, Karen
In Memory of Gary Alexander
• Cleary, Mary Jane
• Comstock, Larry & Georgia
• Comstock, Charles & Bonnie
• Durni, Jean M.
• Evenson, Alice
• Fischer, Paul & Angela
• Graff, Lars & Ingrid
• Grupe, Steven
In Memory of Kermit & Lorane Grupe
• Hanson, Eric & Judy
• Hoffman Construction Company
• Holub, Leonard & Judith

• Jacobson, Ruth
• Jacobson, Charles & Barbara
• June, Carrie
• KF Electric
In Honor of Kevin & Michelle Forsting Family
• Laufenberg, Frank & Susan
In Memory of Lorane Grupe
• Laufenberg, Peter & Joann
• Leis, Kathleen
In Memory of Rose & Francis Michels
• Mahan, Michael & Christina
• Massman, Brian & Brianne
In Memory of Will & Sandy Prindle
• Olson, Gaylord E.
• Prindle, Doris
In Memory of Will Prindle
• Prindle, Jacob & Nicole
• Prindle, James & Jane
• Ransom, Gene & Judy
In Memory of Anna & Clyde Ransom
• Rousey, Donna
In Memory of Richard Rousey
• Rousey-Frenette, Sara
In Memory of Richard Rousey
• Rowekamp, Kathy
In Memory of Bob Rowekamp
• Rowekamp, Jason & Megan
In Memory of Charley Rowekamp
• Ruzic, Rozanne
• Security Financial Bank
• Seichter, Greg & Mary
• Sequin, Norman & Judy
In Memory of Norman & Milly Sequin
• Sheffer, Jeffrey D. & Chom Hae
• Stephens, Dean & Janet
In Memory of Lawrence Anibas
• Strandberg, Virginia
In Memory of Dr. D.L. & Sylvia Strandberg
• Strandberg, Hoyt & Jeanine
• Strawberry Square
• Stroupe, Phillip & Patricia
• Stubrud, Janice
In Memory of Gene Stubrud
• Szymanski, Jane
• Van Gorden, Mary
In Memory of Marcel Kujak
• Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District
• Anderson, Todd & Steph
• Central WI Ag Services
• Dietzel, Gerald & Susan
• Downer, Nancy
• Durni, Jean M.
• Fischer, Paul & Angela
• Franke, Clarice
• Friedrichs, Mary A.
• Hagenbrock, Jeffrey & Barbara
• Hansen, Judith
• Hanson, Eric & Judy
• Janke, Larry & Betty
• Kappen, Michael & Leanne

• Larson, Richard & Sara
• Paine, Thomas & Fay
• Paul, James & Kara
• Rowekamp, Jason & Megan
• Schreiber, Steve
• Slosser, Margie
• Stephens, Dean & Janet
• Szymanski, Jane
• Hanson, Michael & Kristi
On Behalf of Lincoln Class of 1992
• Laufenberg, Diana
On Behalf of Lincoln Class of 1992
Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan Education Enrichment Fund
• Forsting, Michelle Clark
Black River Area Youth Fund
City of BRF – Public Library Fund
Developmental Disabilities Fund
Disability Association of Jackson County
• Aldach, Steven & Diane
• Bowen, Duane
• Gearing, Rodney & Ellen
• Knights of Columbus
• Lovelien, Jean M.
• Musser, Nyla
• Severson, Linda M.
Incubator Economic Development Fund
Skyline Funds
Dubs Young Memorial Deck Project
• Anderson, Todd & Steph
• Antonelli, Darrin & Pamela
• Bell, M.D. & R.E.
• Bell, Molly K.
• Beranek, William & Donna
• Bill, Alban & Susan
• Brauner, Patrick & Judith
• Brown Family Fund, Terry & Shelly
• Burgau, Chris
• Burgau, Kate
• Burnstad, Kent
• Carey, Ronald & Joan
• Crest, John
• Drugan, Mike & Mary
• Franke, Clarice
• Goodman, Steven & Roberta
• Haug, Charles & Susan
• Haug, Eric & Brenda
• Hilliker, Richard
• Hoffman, Peter & Jone
• Hogden, Carolyn & John
• Horan, Debra
• Hotzler, Mark A.
• Jacobson, David
• Kappen, Michael & Leanne
• Keefer, Paige E.
• King, Charles J.
• Krehbiel, Dan
• Krohn, Eugene & Janet
• Larkin, Everett & Alice
• Larkin, Thomas
• Leadholm, Tom & Sue
• Lee, Dan & Julie

• Lund, John & Sharon
• Lunda Charitable Fund
• Lyngdal, Thomas M.
• Malchow, Richard & Jean
• Mashak, Michael J Living Trust
• Mason & Family, Pat
• Maul, Robert & Renee
• McDonald, Burton & Carolyn
• McManners, Gregg & Wendy
• Meyer, Stephen & Rebecca Young-Meyer
• Meyer, Dave/Luane
• Miller, Andrew & Kristen
• Millis, Steve & Sue
• Mills Foundation, Philip B
• Mitchell, Bob (Mike) & Joan
• Musser, Nyla
• Northern Family Farms, The Ahl Family
• Pierce, Mark
• Rasmussen, Robert & Patricia
• Rosenberg, Arthur E.
• Russell, Randy & JoAnn
• Sequin, Norman & Judy
• Severson, Margaret
• Skyline Golf Course
• Smetana, James & Rosemary
• Stuart, Marion & Alden (Buz) Hoefer
• Tangney, Patrick & Phyllis
• Thibodeau, Mark & Theresa
• Thompson, Calvin & Kathleen
• Turk, Tom
• Van Gorden, Mary
• Vine, Paul
• Wiersma, Leroy & Sarah
• Young, Sam & Corinne
• Young, Judith
• Young, Steven J.
• Zauhar, Terry
Golf Cart Replacement Project
• Black River Falls Rotary Club
• Hoffman, David & Marilyn
• Sequin, Norman & Judy
In Memory of Richard Corcoran
• Skyline Golf Course
• Iverson, Algin & Sherry
• Laabs, Nancy
• Sacia, John & Jane
• Torgerson, Charles & Roxanne
Skyline Legacy
• Young, Dennis & Alice
• Young, Samuel

ORGANIZATION FUNDS

Boys & Girls Club Fund
BRF Education Enrichment Music Fund
• Evenson, Millie
In Memory of Lillian McManners
• Burgau, Stacy
In Memory of Vaughn Hestekind
BRF Education Enrichment
M.C. Schmalleberg Fund
• Carlson, Barb
In Memory of Lillian McManners

• Hansen, Mary J.
In Memory of Lillian McManners, Hal Haugstad
BRF Education Enrichment General
• Arndt, William
• Autumn Ridge Holdings
• Bible, Jim
• Black River Falls School District
• Chambers, Thomas & Verona
• Co-op Credit Union
• Hansen, Mary J.
In Memory of B.J. Buske and Marie Marecek
• Higgins, Joan B.
• Hoefer, Alden (Buz)
• Lund, David & Judith
• Millis, Paul
• O'Brien, Mary
• Radcliffe, Loren & Mary Jo
• Radke, Douglas & Barbara
• Ransom, Gene & Judy
• Stuart, Marion
• Tops of WI #9462
In Memory of Leota Simonson
Jackson County Historical Society Fund
Jackson County Humane Society Fund
Rotary Club of BRF Fund

LOCAL BUSINESSES COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDS

Black River Memorial Hospital Fund
Hoffman Construction Fund
Security Financial Bank Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED BY INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Tim & Kay Finch
Alumni Scholarship Fund **NEW!**
David & Marilyn Hoffman
Alumni Scholarship Fund
Peter & Jone Hoffman
Alumni Scholarship Fund **NEW!**
Elizabeth Janssen Nursing Scholarship
Gerald & Nancy Laabs Scholarship Fund
• Laabs, Jay & Katherine
Mary Perry Fine Arts Scholarship Fund
Gene & Judy Ransom Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED IN MEMORIAL

Allan Brenengen Memorial Scholarship -
Alma Center Lincoln High School
Don Halverson Memorial Scholarship
Duane & Lavina Hoffman
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Alice Homstad
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Leland & Jeanette Larson
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ralph & Alice Lund
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Kelly Mauck
Memorial Scholarship Fund

Philip & Aldena Meyer
Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Goens, Mary J.
• Meyer, Dave & Luane
• Meyer, Marlene A.
Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dean Nortman Memorial Scholarship
• Mattson, Margaret A.
Meghan Powell Memorial Scholarship
Lt. Terry Preston
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dustin Rozmenoski
Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Frett, Harold D. & Donna L.
• Medick, David & Luann
• Rozmenoski, Danny & Mary Jo
Kristin Wood Fine Arts
Memorial Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED BY ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES

BRF Alumni Association Scholarship
• Bowen, Duane
• Curtis, Mary
• Radke, Douglas & Barbara
• Franke, Clarice
In Memory of Gilbert Poff Class of 1944
BRF Area Foundation Scholarship Fund
BRF High School Store Scholarship Fund
Security Financial Bank Foundation
Alumni Scholarship Fund
Krohn Clinic Physicians Scholarship Fund
• Krohn Clinic
• Forsting, Kenneth & Julie
• Mahan, Dr. Michael & Christina
In Memory of Mrs. Gary (Jiana) Peterson
• Musser, Nyla
In Honor of Drs. Jerry Kitowski & Etson Cameron, In Memory of Joanne Holder
• Hansen, Mary J.
In Memory of Dr. Richard & Joanne Holder
• Sprester, James & Kathleen
In Memory of Dr. Richard & Joanne Holder
Lions/Rotary Scholarship Fund

SPECIFIED TERM SCHOLARSHIPS

Foundation Technical School Impact
Scholarships
Richard Hilliker Scholarship Fund
• Hilliker, Richard
Robert (Knuckles) Johnson
Memorial Scholarship Fund
• Hoffman Construction Company
James Jr. & Anna Klir
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ann Krohn Peterson Scholarship
• Hilliker, Daniel
• Hilliker, Mark
• Hilliker-Mahr, Kristin
Rotary Scholarship Fund

FOUNDATION makes HISTORY with ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Thanks to a generous gift from Peter and Jone Hoffman, the Foundation was able to award a scholarship to each and every BRF Alumni Applicant in 2021. It would generally be assumed there would be some applications that would be ineligible due to the scholarship requirements. This was certainly not the case as all student applicants met the requirements for academics, community involvement, financial need and had a proven history of success in their post-secondary educations.

Twenty-five of the thirty applicants are attending four-year Universities. The remaining five students attend Technical Colleges. Their average GPA was 3.46. All were involved in volunteer activities in both their home and college towns. Here are just a few of their amazing accomplishments:

• **Matthew B. (BRF Class of 2016)** graduated from UW Madison in 2020 with distinctive scholastic achievement and a GPA of 3.866 and having been named to the Dean's list five times. During his time at UW Madison, Matthew majored in both Spanish and Biology. He achieved one of his major life goals by being accepted into UW La Crosse's graduate Physician Assistant Program. Rated as one of the top PA programs in the country, the competition to be accepted is fierce. The average GPA of those accepted is 3.91. To further his learning and to help in financing his education, Matthew received a CNA certification and worked at Unity-Point Meriter Hospital and at Fairview Ridges Hospital. In addition to scholarships, part-time jobs, his personal savings, and full-time summer jobs, he has received substantial help from his parents. Matthew writes, *"I could not have gotten this far in my post-secondary education without them. As I look to pay for six total years of education, scholarships and other forms of financial assistance will be required to continue. I am very appreciative of the scholarships that community members in Black River Falls have been able to reward students with, and I hope to be able to do the same someday."*

• **Lauren P. (BRF Class of 2018)** has financed her education thus far with scholarships and by working multiple jobs. While studying full time, Lauren also worked as an EMT for the Jackson County EMS. Lauren was one of many local students to have a front-row seat to the COVID pandemic. She writes *"Never, as a twenty-year-old college student, did I think that I would be a frontline worker in a global pandemic. However, it has made such a big impact on my life by increasing and verifying my desire to work in the healthcare field."* Thus far, Lauren has been on the Academic Dean's List every semester at UW La Crosse. She holds an advanced EMT license. Lauren served on a Vida Medical Mission trip to Costa Rica. She continues to volunteer at the St. Clare Health Mission, a free healthcare clinic in La Crosse, where she helps provide healthcare services to those that do not qualify for health insurance. Lauren is also able to use her Spanish minor to help provide translations when needed. Once she has earned her undergraduate degree, it is Lauren's goal to continue her education in Physician Assistant's graduate school, where she will be able to provide healthcare in many different areas.

• **Elizabeth P. (BRF Class of 2018)** has made the Dean's list all six semesters at UM Duluth where she is studying Biology, Biochemistry and Spanish. Last year Elizabeth volunteered on a medical trip to Costa Rica. She was awarded a scholarship for the summer of 2021 to do lab research at her University, where she is working on developing and testing at-home protocols in an upper level chemistry course. Elizabeth is still discerning what life after college will mean for her, but she is drawn to careers in either the medical or environmental science fields. One of Elizabeth's recent classes provided her with new insight into the biotechnology field, and she is considering that as well.

• **Madysen M. (BRF Class of 2019)** is one of only 24 students who have already been accepted into the 2025 3+2 Physician's Assistant Program at Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences. She recently traveled to Guatemala, where she was a clinic volunteer. During the 2021 school year, Madysen began her senior thesis research where she is working with mice to determine if ingesting probiotics can reduce the inflammatory response. Upon graduation, Madysen plans to work as an OB/GYN Physician's Assistant in a rural area. She plans to continue volunteering in areas of need in both the U.S. and other countries. Madysen is also considering becoming a part of the Doctors Without Borders organization.

• **Sydney S. (BRF Class of 2019)** is majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management at UW Milwaukee where so far she has been named to the Dean's list every semester. Sydney was selected as one of 2021's Lubar 25, twenty-five undergraduate students in the Lubar School of Business who stand out for their accomplishments in academics, entrepreneurship, leadership, and campus/community service. In addition, for two consecutive years, Sydney's team won first place in the school's Ethics Case Competition. She was also chosen for two professional marketing internships. Upon graduation, Sydney would like to work in a corporate digital marketing role and eventually return to BRF to open her own bakery.

• **Zoe D. (BRF Class of 2020)** is proud to have been accepted to New York University and did not hesitate to begin her post-secondary education even in the midst of a pandemic. Zoe is pursuing a degree in Communications and plans to further her education to work in environmental law. Zoe works two jobs while attending school full time. She and her best friend, whom she met at NYU, rent a small apartment on the lower east side of Manhattan. Below is an excerpt from Zoe's application where she eloquently describes facing COVID in New York City as a young student from a small town.

"Last semester was a semester of growth, a semester of confusion, and one of understanding. I grew out of my shell and found myself faced with new challenges every day. New York City has shown me the importance of self-discipline. Along with the challenges of beginning anew in New York, I've had to learn how to make time for myself; COVID-19 has allowed for introspection and perseverance. In a strange way, I'm thankful for this past year of chaos. I feel as though I've grown in insurmountable ways and become a stronger, more dedicated, student."

It's an interesting world here; the culmination of competitiveness graced with the expectation of success, creates an environment that doesn't necessarily accommodate working students and so it is rare to find an NYU student that works during the school year. However in order to pay my living expenses, I must. I accepted a job as a nanny to young twin boys. Currently I'm in the process of applying for summer internships in the city, and plan on continuing to nanny to support myself."

Had it not been for scholarships, I wouldn't have been able to finance my education here. I cannot begin to put into words how thankful I am that I came from the small town of Black River Falls and graduated from high school there. I always smile when people ask where I'm from. I usually respond with "A very small, rural town in Wisconsin." I enjoy watching as their faces change from curiosity to surprise. I have yet to encounter a Freshman at NYU who is also from Wisconsin, let alone Black River Falls. In retrospect, I believe I owe my time here at NYU to BRF High School. Back home, I was offered every possible opportunity for growth by my teachers and aids. I have come to realize that, while I assumed this was the norm, not everyone here, or at any other University for that matter, is fortunate enough to have had that same experience. I feel that the sense of stability and the education I received in BRF, has prepared me well for life."

• **Erin R. (BRF Class of 2015)** received an Associate's Degree for Pharmacy Technician in 2016. In 2020, she was named to UW Eau Claire's Dean's list with a 4.0 GPA and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Erin volunteered as a Student Academic Apprentice where she assisted the Professor and helped mentor students. She completed six graduate school applications and interviews, and in September she entered the University of Western States in Portland Oregon to earn her Master's Degree in Applied Sport and Performance Psychology. After graduation, Erin will use positive coaching and demonstration to help athletes, performers, or military personnel, succeed both mentally and emotionally in their field of performance.

• **Eric W. (BRF Class of 2020)** graduated during the pandemic and was determined to make the most of his first year of post-secondary education at UW Green Bay. Eric earned a GPA of

3.46 and served as both a Student Ambassador and as President of the Student Senate. He was selected for a student leader award from the Menomonie & Marinette Foundation. Eric did his work study at the Boys and Girls Club in Marinette where he served as a Youth Development Specialist. In the summer of 2021, he worked at Aptiv as a youth mentor for children with disabilities. Eric was chosen to participate in the National Network for Safe Communities program at UW Green Bay. In addition, he is an advocate for the LGBT community and did an interview on news Channel 18 about the correlation of suicide and LGBT youth. Eric is a Psychology major with minors in Biology and Criminal Justice. His ultimate goal is to become a forensic psychiatrist. He will be attending Northern Arizona University in his Junior year. Eric is also delighted to have been accepted for an internship to help at the winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

BRF Alumni Students make their Hometown Proud!

BRF Alumni not only shine during their years in school, but also once they have completed their educations and enter the workforce. Below is a short update on a few past BRF Alumni Scholarship recipients. The BRF community should be very proud of these young men and women, the services they are providing and the marks they are leaving on the world today.

• **Olivia L. (BRF Class of 2011)** graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2015 from UW Oshkosh with a degree in Biochemistry and a distinctive award for her work in Biomolecular Science. Olivia went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Concordia University's four-year pharmacy program and became a Dr. of Pharmacy. She did her internship at Froedert Hospital and began her career there as a Clinical Pharmacist. Olivia works in both the transplant and cardiology departments with the hope to eventually work in cardiology full time.

• **Maria L. (BRF Class of 2013)** went on to attend UW La Crosse, majoring in Exercise/Sports Science with a minor in Spanish. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Exercise & Sports Science and then continued with grad school at UW La Crosse in the physical therapy program, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2020 and is now a Dr. of Physical Therapy. She was one of only three students to receive a scholarship from the La Crosse Foundation. Maria did her clinical studies in three different locations, including Arizona, where she accepted a job offer. When she graduated, the pandemic was in full force. She was not able to have a traditional graduation and wasn't able to start her job as expected. Maria wanted to stay in Arizona and thanks to BRF resident Roger Castle, she was able to do so. She stayed at his second home and he only asked that she pay utilities. Maria worked at Target and made it through COVID. She has now started her originally planned job, where she loves her patients and feels she is truly making a positive difference in their lives.

• **Matthew L. (BRF Class of 2015)** graduated from UW La Crosse in 2020 where he majored in Sport Management with Concentration in Coaching. He is currently attending UM Twin Cities and will be graduating in May of 2022. Matthew has been selected to serve a paid school year internship with the Minnesota Golden Gophers. He will be working with event coordination, collaborating with athletic department units, campus and city officials, and vendors. Matthew will also be assisting with event production including game operations, guest services, crowd management, participant transition, risk management assessment, and emergency response. He will also be assisting the administration in hiring, training, and supervising staff, fiscal and inventory management and updating operation publications.

• **Hannah S. (BRF Class of 2015)** graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College in 2017 and from UW Eau Claire's Health Care Administration Program in 2020. Hannah received several local scholarships to help with the costs of her post-secondary education. She writes *"I would like to thank the committee for giving students the chance to prove their academic excellence and by funding their educational journey with these generous scholarships. Going to college and working part-time is no easy task and the scholarship awards provide much needed help. Again, thank you on behalf of every student for the opportunity to attend college and lead a successful life."* Hannah financed most of her education by working two part-time jobs, one at Kwik Trip and the other as a CNA. She writes *"During my years in college I've found satisfaction in giving back to the community by volunteering and working as a Certified Nursing Assistant to extend my education as a Health Care Administrator even further. I believe being a strong leader means being knowledgeable in all roles, not just your own. I aspire to be the type of leader where I'm not just seen as the Administrator, but can help my clinical staff with the daily tasks."* Hannah currently holds both Federal and State Nursing Home Administrator Licenses and serves as an administrator for Dove Healthcare systems. She is responsible for the overall operation of the fifty bed SNF in Rice Lake and the 35 unit RCAC located in Baron.

• **Nikolas P. (BRF Class of 2016)** graduated with highest Latin honors from the University of Minnesota in 2020 with a degree in aerospace engineering. In 2017, Nick drove to Texas, INTO Hurricane Harvey, to begin his first of two internships with NASA. The second internship was done at NASA in California. He is currently working at Honeywell in the Twin Cities applying his skill set to drone research/development while simultaneously attending graduate school for robotics at University of Minnesota. Nick also continues to compete on the UM triathlon team.

As you can see, these fantastic young people are thriving. They have overcome many obstacles from COVID to speech impairment, learning disabilities and financial struggles, and all have been successful. What a commentary they are on the BRF community and an inspiration for all of us to be the best we can. It truly 'takes a village' and what a village we have been blessed with where people are willing to share their time, talents and money to help others succeed. If you, or someone you know, is interested in contributing to any of the Foundation Scholarship Funds, please contact the Foundation office. There are options available for donations of all size.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION OPTIONS

In addition to our Traditional Scholarship Fund the Foundation now offers two additional scholarship donation options:

- **Foundation Scholarship Fund**- Donors who desire to help with the rising costs of education may make a donation of \$100 or more at any time to this fund. Please specify a Jackson County school if other than BRF.
- **Specified Term Scholarship**- This fund is designed for donations in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$24,000. Scholarship amounts are preset at \$2,000 per year and the length of the scholarship term will be determined by the amount of the donation, or the scholarship may be funded annually. Donors creating this type of scholarship fund may name the fund, perhaps in honor of a loved one or as a memorial. In addition, donors may be involved in establishing the scholarship's requirements and selection guidelines if they so desire.
- **Traditional Scholarship Funds**- Our traditional scholarship fund has been designed to provide the opportunity for a perpetual fund. This fund begins with a donation of \$25,000 or more (which can be made in 5 annual installments of \$5,000). The traditional fund participates in investment earnings/loss allocations and Foundation administration expenses. It is hoped that annual earnings will be equal to, or greater than, the annual scholarship award plus costs, thus allowing the fund to remain in perpetuity. However, the minimum annual scholarship award is \$2,000 and the scholarship is required to be awarded each year, regardless of market conditions. Therefore, at times, it may be necessary to invade the fund's principal. Each year the Foundation will provide the donor, or their designated representative, a report showing the fund's earnings/loss for the year and the balance in the fund. Donors have the opportunity to add to the fund at any time if they so desire. Donors creating a traditional scholarship fund will name the fund, perhaps in honor of a loved one, as a memorial, or as a family fund. In addition, donors may be involved in establishing the scholarship's requirements and selection guidelines if they so desire. At the time the fund is established, donors may provide direction with regard to any or all of the following criteria:
 - Graduate of specific school (ACHM; BRF: Blair-Taylor; Mel-Min)
 - Specific post-secondary school requirement (example WTC or UW Eau Claire)
 - Field of Study (example must be pursuing a degree in education)
 - Who is the scholarship offered to (graduating seniors; alumni or both)

It is recommended that school scholarship selection committees determine the scholarship recipient.
Contact the Foundation for more information about these new options.

2021 KAY BRAUNER MEMORIAL FUND

Donates \$1,000 to: WTC Emergency Scholarship Fund

This fund helps Western Technical College students from the BRF area who are in danger of becoming unable to continue their education due to unexpected financial burdens. Emergency funds can be used to assist with things such as housing, meals, childcare, utilities, medical expenses, and transportation issues.



Grant Applications

The BRF 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: executivedirector@brfareafoundation.org
Or contact any member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Financial Statement

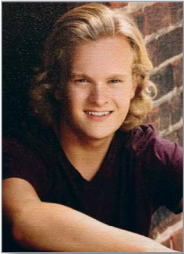
(For the years ending December 31, 2019 and 2020)

REVENUE	Audited 2019	Audited 2020
Contributions	\$ 337,723	\$ \$460,574
Investment Return	\$ 841,275	\$ (309,119)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,178,998	\$ 151,455
EXPENDITURES		
Grants	\$ 470,334	\$ 749,007
Scholarships	\$ 85,500	\$ 64,500
Support Services	\$ 55,430	\$ 51,677
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 611,264	\$ 865,184
Change in Net Assets	\$ 567,734	\$ (713,729)
Net Assets at Beginning	\$ 5,584,833	\$ 6,152,567
NET ASSETS AT YEAR END	\$ 6,152,567	\$ 5,438,838

A Scholarship Fund created by gifts from individuals, organizations and businesses, awards education grants to selected area students. The following 57 scholarships totaling \$106,500 were awarded from 31 of the Foundation's Scholarship Funds.

Black River Falls Alumni Association
Scholarship (\$1,500)

Matthew Bronsdon
(2016 BRF Graduate) (2020 UW Madison Distinctive Scholastic Achievement Graduate with Double Major in Spanish and Biology)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW La Crosse (First Year Grad School)
Course of Study: Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Career Path: Physician Assistant



Black River Falls Alumni Association
Scholarship (\$1,500)
James Jr. and Anna Klir
Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Katlyn Leadholm
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Viterbo University
Course of Study: Nursing
Career Path: Rural Health Care



Black River Falls Alumni Association
Scholarship (\$1,500)
Black River Falls Area
Foundation Annual
Alumni Scholarship (\$2,000)

Lauren Perry
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW La Crosse
Course of Study: Major-Biology; Minor-Spanish
Career Path: Physician Assistant Graduate School



Black River Falls Alumni Association
Scholarship (\$1,500)

Ryan Simonis
(2000 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Walden University
Course of Study: PhD in Public Policy and Administration
Career Path: Continue working at Depart of Homeland Security with a specialization in National Security and Policy.



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Annual Senior Scholarship (\$2,000)

Kyle Gilbertson
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Double Major-Investment Banking & Spanish
Career Path: Financial Advisor/Planning



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Impact Scholarship

(\$1,000 per semester up to 4)
Teri Syverson
(1999 Blair/Taylor Graduate)
Taylor
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Medical Administration
Career Path: Office Work in local Hospital or Clinic



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Impact Scholarship

(\$1,000 per semester up to 4)
MacKenzie Johnson
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Radiography
Career Path: Radiologic Technologist working in La Crosse area



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Impact Scholarship

(\$1,000 per semester up to 4)
Andrea Rave
(1999 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Human Services
Career Path: Social Work/ Hospice



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Impact Scholarship

(\$1,000 per semester up to 4)
Rebecca Ross
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Medical Administration
Career Path: Office Work in Hospital or Clinic



Black River Falls Area Foundation
Impact Scholarship

(\$1,000 per semester up to 4)
Karly Stemper
(2017 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Western Technical College
Course of Study: Criminal Justice
Career: Law Enforcement/ Criminal Justice



Allan Brenengen Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Natalie Fischer
(2018 Lincoln Graduate)
Alma Center
Attending: Winona State University
Course of Study: Major-Elementary Education/ Reading Instruction
Career Path: Teacher



Thomas R. Gilles Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Dean Nortman Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Kobe Nichols
Black River Falls
Attending: Lake Superior College
Course of Study: Firefighting/ Emergency Medical Technician
Career Path: Public Service – Firefighter & EMT



Thomas R. Gilles Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Don Halverson Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Duane & Lavina Hoffman Scholarship (\$1,500)
McKenna Dutton
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Platteville
Course of Study: Health and Human Performance/ Physical Education
Career Path: Physical Education Teacher



Richard Hilliker Scholarship (\$2,000)

Elizabeth Pardoe
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UM Duluth
Course of Study: Biology B.S; Biochemistry B.A.; Spanish
Career Path: Biotechnology, Environmental Science or Medical Field



David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship (\$2,000)

Abigail Ross
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Whitewater
Course of Study: Major-Communication Sciences & Disorders; Minor-Adaptive Education
Career Path: Speech-Language Pathologist



2021 Scholarships & Recipients

David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship (\$2,000)

Madysen McCormick
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: St. Mary's
University of Minnesota
Course of Study: 3+2 PA
Program (Biology-Health
Sciences); Minor-Creativity & Inquiry
Career Path: Physician Assistant within the Mayo
Health System



David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship (\$2,000)

Jessica Olson
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW La Crosse
Course of Study: Accounting
Career Path: Accounting,
CPA, potentially MBA



David & Marilyn Hoffman Scholarship (\$2,000)

Olivia Hefty
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Hixton
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Major-
Communication Arts;
Minor-Criminal Justice
Career Path: Law School



Duane & Lavina Hoffman Scholarship (\$1,500) Ralph & Alice Lund Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Madeline Diehn
Black River Falls
Attending: UM Duluth
Course of Study: Major-
Biology; Minor-Spanish &
Deaf Studies
Career Path: Medical School to
become an OBGYN



Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship-, Year 1 of 2 (\$2,500)

Caleb Laufenberg
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Hixton
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Human
Biology
Career Path: Health Science
Field or Teaching



Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship- Year 2 of 2 (\$2,500)

**Krohn Clinic Physicians
Scholarship (\$2,000)**
Emma Goodenough
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UM Rochester or
UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Nursing
Career Path: Medical Field



Alice Homstad Memorial Scholarship (Special 1 Year Award) (\$2,500)

Kasey Roskos
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Merrillan
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Elementary
Education & Special
Education
Career Path: Master's Degree in Special Education;
Teach at Red Creek Elementary, BRF



Jackson County Bank Foundation Alumni Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sydney Sampson-Webb
(2019 Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Milwaukee
Course of Study: Double
Major-Marketing &
Human Resources Management
Career Path: Marketing Director, Talent Acquisition,
Small Business Bakery Owner



Elizabeth Danielson Janssen Nursing Scholarship (\$2,000)

Brasia Hjelmberg
Black River Falls
Attending: Chippewa Valley
Technical College
Course of Study: Nursing
Career Path: Medical Field



Robert (Knuckles) Johnson Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Jack Anderson
Alma Center
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Marketing
Career Path: Go to School, Get
a Job, Live my Best Life



Gerald & Nancy Laabs Alumni Scholarship (\$2,000)

Jack Wirtz
(2017 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Economics
Career Path: Data Analytics
Field or Environmental
Economics



Gerald & Nancy Laabs Senior Scholarship (\$2,000)

Asia Rave
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Major-
Business Administration
and Entrepreneurship
Career Path: Business Owner



Leland & Jeanette Larson Memorial Scholarship – Taylor (\$2,000)

Abbigail Leer
Taylor
Attending: UW Stout
Course of Study: Health,
Wellness & Fitness
Career Path: Wellness Coach



Leland & Jeanette Larson Memorial Rotating Scholarship – 2021 BRF (\$2,000)

Kaytlin Johnson
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Concordia
University
Course of Study: Radiologic
Technology
Career Path: Work in a
hospital close to BRF



Lions/Rotary Scholarship (\$2,000)

Gabriella Antonelli
Black River Falls
Attending: Viterbo
University
Course of Study: Biology –
Pre Dental Student
Career Path: Orthodontist



Kelly Mauck Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Faith Leisang
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Stout
Course of Study: Marketing
and Business Education
Career Path: High School
Business Teacher



Philip & Aldena Meyer Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Brenna Roush
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Superior
Course of Study: Elementary
Education
Career Path: Elementary
Special Education Teacher



Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

Adelina Martinez
Black River Falls
Attending: Western
Technical College
Course of Study: Major-
Sociology Minor-Criminal
Justice
Career Path: Transfer to UW
La Crosse for BS; PA School
to become ER Physician
Assistant



Rick Millis Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

Isabelle Aguilar
Alma Center
Attending: Chippewa Valley
Technical College
Course of Study: Dental
Assistant
Career Path: Dental Hygienist



Mary Perry Fine Arts Scholarship (\$1,000)

Matthew Becker
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Stout
Course of Study: Game Design
& Development Art
Career Path: Working for a
Game Development Studio



Ann Krohn Peterson Scholarship (\$2,000)

Isabella Cowles
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: North Central
University, Minn. MN
Course of Study: Secondary
Education
Career Path: High School
English Teacher



Meghan Powell Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

Jacquelyn Paul
Alma Center
Attending: Iowa State
University
Course of Study: College of
Human Sciences
Career Path: Undecided



Lt. Terry Preston Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Quinn Cerda-Reyes
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Major-
Criminal Justice; Minor-
Sociology/Forensics
Career Path: Private or Crime
Scene Investigator



Gene & Judy Ransom Scholarship (\$2,000)

Molly Johnson
Alma Center
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Elementary
Education
Career Path: Teaching



Dustin Rozmenoski Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Danielle Johnson
Black River Falls
Attending: Western
Technical College
Course of Study: Digital
Media Production
Career Path: Marketing Field



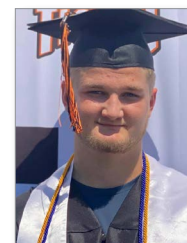
Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #1 (\$2,000)

Zoe Dal Cerro
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: New York
University
Course of Study: Liberal
Studies (Undecided)
Career Path: Environmental Law/Communications



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #2 (\$2,000)

Kaleb Dobson
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: Winona State
University
Course of Study: Composite
Materials Engineering
Career Path: Engineer



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #3 (\$2,000)

Anna Goldsmith
(2019 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW
Whitewater
Course of Study: Physical &
Health Education
Career Path: Phy-Ed Teacher



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #4 (\$2,000)

Jared Laufenberg
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Business/
Accounting/Finance
Career Path: Business



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #5 (\$2,000)

Kimberly Leadholm
(2018 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Madison
Course of Study: Majors:
Journalism and Political Science
Career Path: Video Journalist



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #6 (\$2,000)

Sam Lund
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Eau Claire
Course of Study: Major-
Education; Minor-History
Career Path: History Teacher
at either High School or University



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #7 (\$2,000)

Abigail Nelson
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Milwaukee
Course of Study: Major-
Video Production; Minor-
International Business
Career Path: Video Producer/Editor



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #8 (\$2,000)

Erin Rodenberg
(2015 BRF Graduate)
(2020 UW Eau Claire Cum
Laude Graduate with BS in
Psychology)
Black River Falls
Attending: University of
Western States (First year Grad School)
Course of Study: Master of Applied Sport and
Performance Psychology
Career Path: Certified Mental Performance
Consultant



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #9 (\$2,000)

Eric Wojtalewicz
(2020 BRF Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: UW Green Bay
Course of Study: Major-
Psychology; Minor-Biology
& Criminal Justice
Career Path: Forensic Psychiatrist



Peter & Jone Hoffman Alumni Scholarship #10 (\$2,000)

Seth Peterson (2020 Melrose-
Mindoro Graduate)
Black River Falls
Attending: St. Mary's
University
Course of Study: Biology Pre-
Physician Assistant
Career Path: Master's
Program for Certified
Physician's Assistant; Bring Medical knowledge
back home to BRF.



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.

2021 FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

are listed below, together with the current level of giving they have achieved.

Year designates most recent contribution.

BRONZE (\$100 & up)

Aptiv Foundation, 2018
Chown, Brad, 2020
* Chown, Lori, 2020
Deener, Dan, 2019
Hanson, Terry A., 2020
Herrmann, Carl F., 2019
Higgins, Joan B., 2019
Holt, Sherry K., 2020
Homstad, Richard (Rik), 2021
Howard, John, 2018
Howard, Mary Alice, 2018
Jelinek, Danny, 2021
Jelinek, Mary Jo, 2021
Kertis, Jeanette, 2019
Lee, Michael & Tara, 2020
Louis, Jean, 2021
* Mack, Mary, 2020
Matousek, Robyn, 2018
* Millis, Jana, 2021
Millis, Mike, 2021
New York Life: Stacy Burgau, 2019
New York Life: Stutz, Kristin, 2019
Ott, Kristen Richards, 2021
Peterson, Ann Krohn, 2018
Radcliffe, Judy, 2018
Sedelbauer, Phyllis, 2019
Steig, Tamara, 2020
Severson, Larry, 2021
* Waumandee State Bank, 2021

SILVER (\$500 & up)

Anderson, Todd, 2021
Arndt, William, 2021
Baker, Mona, 2020
Barnes, Al, 2021
Black River Area Chamber of Commerce, 2019
Black River Falls Clinic Pharmacy, Inc., 2018
Brauner, Mike, 2021
Button, Georgia, 2021
Button, Larry, 2021
Capper, Ricky, 2019
Capper, Wally, 2019
Curtis, Mary, 2021
Danielson, Ron, 2021
Dickman, Annette, 2021
Dingeldein, Doris, 2021
Dingeldein, James, 2021
Dougherty, Mrs. James (Carol), 2019
Drace, John, 2019
Drace, Julie, 2019
Dressler, Axel, 2021

Fox, Chris, 2019
Fox, Lori, 2019
Gaier, Gerald (Tuffy), 2020
Galston, Don, 2021
Goettl, Fred, 2018
Goettl, Terri, 2018
Gross Motors of Black River Falls, 2018
Hansen, Judith, 2021
Hansen, Mary J., 2021
Hanson, Kristi, 2021
Hanson, Michael, 2021
Haugen, Carol, 2021
Hegna, Dr. Steve, 2020
Hegna, Mary, 2020
Helstad, Connie, 2018
Helstad, Dr. Paul, 2018
Hoagenson, John, 2018
Hofer, Alden (Buz), 2021
Holder, Dr. Richard, 2021
Holder, Joanne, 2021
Homstad, Ann, 2021
Hoonsbeen, David O., 2021
Hostrawser, Allan, 2018
Howard, Nancy Mills, 2018
Jacobs, Peter, 2021
Jacobson, Patricia, 2021
Jessen (formerly Jordan) Chiropractic Clinic, 2019
Johnson, David, 2019
Kaphengst, James, 2021
Kaphengst, Jill, 2021
Kertis, Jim, 2019
Klir, Rose Ann, 2019
Laabs, Jay, 2020
Laabs, Katherine, 2020
Laabs, Nancy, 2021
*Lahmayer, Barb, 2020
Lahmayer, Bruce, 2020
Lindahl, John, 2019
Lindahl, Susan, 2019
Lobenstein, Brad, 2021
Lobenstein, Monica, 2021
Lund, John, 2021
Mack, David, 2021
Martin, Dr. Carol, 2019
Meyer, Dave, 2021
Meyer, Luane, 2021
Meyer, Marlene A., 2020
Musser, Nyla, 2021
Nicholas, Ernie, 2019
Nielsen, Carla Drecktrah, 2021
O'Brien, Mary, 2019
Overman, Lynda, 2021

Pistorius, Sandra, 2019
Polzin, Jeff & Susan, 2021
Ransom, Ray, 2021
Reid, Thomas & Arlene, 2021
Rewald, Margaret, 2021
Ripp Distributing Co., Inc., 2021
Ripp, Paul, 2021
Ripp, Theresa, 2021
Schanz, Betty, 2019
Scholze Ace Home Center, Dan & Sara Scholze, 2021
Schwab, George J., 2019
Severance, Jay & Katherine, 2020
Severson, Shelly, 2021
Stai, Fred, 2021
State Farm Insurance - Karen Stai Koenigs Agency, 2021
Stuart, Marion, 2021
Tamminen, Jean, 2021
Torkelson, Sherri, 2020
Torkelson, Tim, 2020
Turk, Timothy M., 2021
Wester, Mitch, 2021
Wester, Sue, 2021
White-Jacobs, Mary Beth, 2021
Wiersma, Sarah, 2020
Young, Alice, 2021
Young, Dennis, 2021
Louis, John, 2021

GOLD (\$2,000 & up)

Ackerson, Marilyn, 2021
Black River Memorial Hospital, 2019
Bowen, Duane, 2021
Coldwell Banker - River Valley Realtors, 2021
Delebo, Dr. Donald, 2021
Dickman, Dr. James, 2021
Dougherty, Cindy, 2021
Dougherty, Mike, 2021
Hagenbrock, Jean, 2019
Hagenbrock, John, 2019
Hoffman, David, 2021
Hoffman, June, 2021
Hoffman, Marilyn, 2021
Hoffman, Peter, 2021
Hogden, Carolyn (Kari), 2019
Hogden, John, 2019
Homstad, Jon, 2021
Homstad, Maureen, 2021
Kitowski, Dr. Jerry, 2021
Kitowski, Lori, 2021
Krohn Clinic, 2020
Krohn, Dr. Eugene, 2021

Krohn, Janet, 2021
Lahmayer, Al, 2021
Lahmayer, Jeanette, 2021
Lee, Jean, 2021
Michaelson Jr., Max, 2021
Michaelson, Sue, 2021
Mills, Carla, 2021
Nordahl, Mary, 2019
Norgaard Insurance Agency, John & Jane Norgaard, 2021
Overman, Dr. Jerry & Lynda, 2021
Perry, Mary, 2021
Ransom, Gene, 2021
Ransom, Judy, 2021
Richards, Dennis, 2021
Sedelbauer, Lynn, 2019
Sedelbauer, Norbert, 2020
Severson, Margaret, 2021
Tamminen, Glen, 2021
The Print Shop, Bill & Kathy Potter, 2020
Van Gorden, Mary, 2021

PLATINUM (\$5,000 & up)

D & S Manufacturing, 2021
Dr. Nicholas Kitowski Family, 2021
Homstad, Gil, 2019
Wiste, Roger, 2021

DIAMOND (\$10,000 & up)

Co-op Credit Union, 2019
Northern Family Farms, The Ahl Family, 2021
Security Financial Bank f/k/a Jackson County Bank, 2019

LEADERS CIRCLE (\$15,000 & up)

Dr. Kirk Lane Family, 2021

LEGENDS CIRCLE (20,000 & up)

Millis Family, 2019

FOUNDERS CIRCLE (\$30,000 & up)

Finch, Kay & Tim, 2018

**Thank you
for giving!**

* WELCOME 1st time Friends!