



JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

FOUNDATION
for Winona Area Public Schools

LEAVING A LONG-LASTING IMPACT

There's something special about handmade thank you cards.



Crafted from the heart, handmade cards carry a warmth and intentionality that digital messages and store-bought cards just can't replicate. And that same sentiment can be said about our generous donors to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. Your warmth and intentional support **leave a long-lasting impact** on our schools and students.

As you read this newsletter, take note of the numerous ways donors left a long-lasting impact in 2025-2026. Of special significance was the incredible **\$326,000 raised** through the **Forging a Future** fundraising campaign! Read more on Page 3.

As we enter the 2026-2027 school year, public school supporters can look for new

opportunities to make an impact, including membership in the newly-formed **861 Club**. Learn more on Page 8.

For over 30 years, the Foundation has existed for one clear, powerful purpose: **to enrich and expand educational opportunities in WAPS**. Consider this newsletter our handmade thank you card, crafted with warmth and sincere gratitude for your continued support of this very important mission!

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

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Shawn Beier

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**Ex-Officio; Voting

***Ex-Officio; Non-Voting

Jenny Baertsch, Executive Director

VISIT US ONLINE!

Information about the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, our mission, Board of Directors, grants, and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.FoundationWAPS.org

Connect with us!



Also, a LINK FOR ONLINE DONATIONS is available for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program, or event.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

61 grants

were awarded, totaling
\$62,282
to WAPS projects
& programs

72% of grants

went to
educational trips
for students

\$326,000

raised through
Forging a Future
fundraiser

375 registrations

for the **Donut Dash**
4K Run/Walk and
Mini Donut Kids Run

500

Bloedow's donuts
consumed at the
Donut Dash

10 student winners

earned **\$1,400** from
Haake Poetry Contest

84 poems entered

in the **Haake Poetry**
Contest, 53 from WMS
and 31 from WSHS

34 scholarships

totaling \$52,000
awarded from 24 funds
at the Foundation

\$5,000

Dare to Dream grant for
WSHS
Unified Kitchen

\$5,000

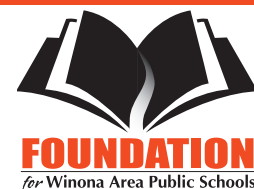
Dare to Dream grant for
WMS
Greenhouse

The Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors would like to extend its deepest gratitude for your **generosity and kind support**. Your help has made all of the special programs, projects, and field trips listed in this newsletter possible.

FOUNDATION FOR WAPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...INCOMING & OUTGOING

The **Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors** is a group of 18 volunteers from all walks of life, including business professionals, parents, educators, even a high school student representative! All provide valuable support, direction, time, and resources to advance the Foundation's mission.

While it's hard to say goodbye to 3 outstanding and dedicated Board Members who have completed their terms, we're thrilled to welcome the enthusiasm, ideas, and energy of 3 new Board Members for 2026-2027!



OUTGOING



Judy Davis
Retired



Jessica Richards
Minnesota DCYF



Katrina Scoville
Family &
Children's Center

INCOMING



Lindsey Abrahams
WKM Properties



Caitlin Crouchet
Minnesota Marine
Art Museum



Marcy Faircloth
Winona State
University &
Faircloth Law

WAPS STAFF PAYROLL DEDUCTION PARTICIPANTS 2025-2026

WAPS staff members spent the 2025-26 year working hard for our students. Not only did they meet the students' educational, social, and emotional needs, they also continued to keep the students in mind by **personally donating to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools** through our Payroll Deduction program. Their support provided **nearly \$17,000** for our students' education. We remain humbled by these gifts and grand support. **THANK YOU TO:**

Lora Aeliot	John Casper	Jeremy Graves	Trisha Johnson	Sarah Mickelson	Ann Riebel	Jacqueline Stevens
Gloria Alatorre	Emily Cassellius	Elizabeth Hall	Jessica Jordan	Amber Mlynczak	Judy Sanvik	Brenda Svendsen
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Jenna Anderson	Stacy Cottrell	Kimberly Hancock	Kathrine Konop-Wolf	Jeffrey Morgan	Kirstin Schultz	Marjorie VanCleave
Melanie Anderson	Kristin Coudron	Jaime Hanratty	Matthew Krage	Brenda Nelson	Mary Schultz	Renae Vinton
Molly Appicelli	Courtney Dahlby	Justin Hanson	Kayla Lager	Kalvin Nogosek	Amber Scott	Dwayne Voegeli
James Baertsch	Jolene Danca	Calandra Haugen	Anna-Lee Landers	Kristie O'Brien	Julie Seeley	Kimberly Wadewitz
Amber Barnard	Russell Diggins	Sarah Hedin	Sarah Langowski	Samantha Papenfuss-Krage	Melanie Sheridan	Jennifer Walters
Jerry Benedict	Patricia Donahue	Karen Hemker	Lisa Larson	Kim Penrod	Melissa Shields	Dheadra Wang
Bradley Berzinski	Tamara Eastep	Karla Hemker	Dawn Lueck	Gregory Peterson	Anne Simon-Debroux	Cody Weadge
Sara Bittle	Lisa Eddy	Jon Hogenson	Jessica Marish	Nathan Pollock	Sarah Slaby	Rebeckah Webster
Paula Braaten	Amanda Flesch	Marie Holmquist	Sydney Martinache	Riley Quinn	Tina Smeby	Kara Welch
Janet Bridwell	Jennifer Foster	Amanda Indra	Samantha McCormick	Stacy Rasmussen	Terri Spartz	Terry Total
Kimberly Brist	Christopher Geurink	Casey Indra	Sundra Menton	Amblyn Reisetter	Traci Stachowitz	Allison Witt
Joel Bruels	Timothy Gleason	William Jacobs	Audrey Mercier	Jed Reisetter	Brittney Steine	Nicole Wood
Bertina Caldwell	Katrina Glick	Gina Johnson	Kelly Micalone	Susan Reyes	Travis Steine	Jennifer Woyczik

PAYROLL DEDUCTION AWARDS

Each year, the Foundation awards two \$250 grants from a pool of Winona Area Public Schools staff members who generously donate to the Foundation through payroll deduction. The awards are used to further the Foundation's mission of enriching and enhancing educational opportunities in WAPS. This year's grant winners were **Cody Weadge** and **Jennifer Walters**!



Cody Weadge



Jennifer Walters

In his Career Exploration class at Winona Middle School, **Cody** teaches about healthy digital habits and balancing screen time with other activities. He used his grant award to purchase **board games and card games** for his classroom.

As the Nutrition Director at WAPS, **Jennifer** oversees the District's dedication to sourcing fresh, local ingredients. She used her grant to purchase **Farm to School shirts** for the WAPS Nutrition Team.

Forging a Future **RAISES \$326,000** for WAPS Industrial Technology



A grand total of **\$326,000** was raised for **Industrial Technology** initiatives at Winona Area Public Schools from the Foundation's **Forging a Future** campaign in 2025-2026!

The campaign supported the District's long-term goal of raising \$540,000 to advance Industrial Tech pathways, specifically in the areas of manufacturing, engineering, construction, robotics, and mechatronics. Industrial Tech allows hands-on learning where students use tools, machinery, and computer systems to solve problems and build solutions. A *Forging a Future* fund will remain open at the Foundation for WAPS to accept tax-deductible donations for the program.

In our *Forging a Future* effort, the Foundation held two fundraising events on May 9, 2026. The day began with the **3rd annual Donut Dash Run/Walk**, and that same evening, supporters gathered for the **14th annual Dinner & Auction**. The event planning team included Event Chair Laura Greseth, Auction Chair Rachel Stoll, and numerous volunteers. A special thank you to Merchants Bank and WNB Financial for Lead Sponsorships of the *Forging a Future* fundraising events, as well as many generous Event Sponsors and Corporate Sponsors.

Additional *Forging a Future* fundraising came from **community partnerships**, including \$50,000 from Fastenal as a *Workforce Development Strategic Partner*, as well as \$30,000 from Altra Federal Credit Union, \$25,000 from Merchants Bank, \$20,000 from a local manufacturer, \$15,000 from Farmers Insurance, and \$15,000 from the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #1243. Numerous foundations also added to the campaign success with **grant awards**, including \$20,000 from the Xcel Energy Foundation, \$10,000 from the Elizabeth Callender King Foundation, \$10,000 from The Winona Foundation, \$4,000 from the Celanese Foundation, \$2,500 from the Jamf Nation Global Foundation, and \$1,000 from the Walmart Foundation.

You can still donate to the *Forging a Future* fund! Donate at www.FoundationWAPS.org, or use the envelope included in this newsletter to mail a check.

Mark Your Calendar for Next Year's Fundraiser – May 8, 2027



375 participants consumed
500 Bloedow's donuts!



3rd Annual Donut Dash 4K Run/Walk and Mini Donut 1K Kids Run

Event proceeds supported the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools and its *Forging a Future* fundraising campaign, benefiting the Industrial Technology Program at WAPS.

The timed 4K (2.5-mile) course was mostly on grass around the scenic property at Winona Senior High School.



July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

We make every effort to ensure all donors are listed. If we missed you, we apologize and will list your name in the next newsletter.

GENERAL FUND DONORS

Jennifer Anderson
Anonymous
Larry & Mary Bergin
Judith Bodway Estate
Julie Brand
Barbara Burchill
Celanese Foundation
Greg & Terri Evans
Marcy Faircloth & Caylan Larson
Fastenal

Gregory & Nicole Fedor
Timothy Firstbrook
Leslie Foote
Carol Heyl
Robert Holz
Bridget Honsey
Patrick Hopf
Robert & Marlene Kohner
Margaret Lambert
Susan Larsen
Alejandra Lopez

Joel & Breanna Malin
LaVerne & Jolene Olson
Terrance Olson
Chad Pike
Jason Quinn
Brian Sisson
Carole Stever
John Urness
Laura Walker
Joyce Woodworth
Brian Zeller

ENDOWMENT FUND

Stephen & Anne Hayes
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IN-KIND DONATIONS

Bloedow Bakery
Dallas Denzer
Fastenal
Kimo's Pumping
& Portable Toilets
Midtown Foods
Russell & Associates
WinCraft by Fanatics

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FUNDS

6th Grade Field Trip

C&V Family Holdings –
Market Street Tap
Fastenal
Hei N Low
Winona Bar Owners Group –
The Brickyard
Winona Masonic Lodge #18

American Indian Additional Access

Scott Pollock

Bob Johnson Instrument Rental Fund

Anonymous

Distance Running Fund

Anonymous

Goodview School

Marcy Faircloth & Caylan Larson
Judy & Scott Yess

Hal Edstrom Auditorium Fund

Nancy Edstrom Bachler & Steve Bachler
Nick Edstrom

Miller Mentoring

Altra Federal Credit Union
Anonymous
Brennan Ashton
Nate Beske
Nancy Boyum Brown
Pamela Davick
Judy Davis
Edward Jones
Fastenal
Dick & Sharon Flatten
Fraternal Order of the Eagles #1243
Kim Hancock
Shannon Helgeson
Justin Jordan
Judy Kiekbusch
Karen Linn
Adam & Maggie Maine
Miller Ingenuity
Nate & Ally's Frozen Treat Creations
Nelson Creamery
James O'Laughlin
Jon & Betsy Olson
Jerry & Patricia Papenfuss Family Fund
of the Winona Community Foundation
Nick & Shanna Quimby
Amblyn Reisetter
Bonnie Retzinger
Terri Roemer
RTP Company
Beatrice Salisbury
Jami Severson
Nathan Warneke
Watlow
Winona Community Foundation
General Operating Fund

Miller Mentoring Summer Program

Miller Scrap & Disposal

SLIPA

Fraternal Order of the Eagles #1243

Special Athletic Competition

Bulldog Nation Foundation
Kidz Physical Therapy – Lindsey Shay
Kiwanis Sunrises
Kenneth Overring

WAPS K-12 Music Department (Music For All)

Dr. Lee & Kathryn Edstrom
Nancy Edstrom Bachler & Steve Bachler
First Congregational Church
Gayle Goetzman-Stolpa
Richard & Marianne Harding
Gayle Gordon & Kurt Hinz
Mike & Diane Kennedy
Linda & Chris Knecht
Ann Lubinski
Jonelle Moore
Karin & Karl Sonneman

Winhawk Swim Fund

Anonymous

Winona Diamond Club

Bay State Milling Company
Angie & Mark Bennick
Bradley Berzinski
Sara & Richard Bittle
Borkowski Towing & Salvage
Joel Bruels
Gregory Evans
Mark & Donna Faanes
Farmers Insurance Dave Jensen Agency
Marty & Debbie Gappa
Paul Gilbertson
Goodview Activity Group
Gordie's Towing & Repair
Bruce & Janice Harem
Hoff Celebration of Life Center
Thomas & Cecilia Hoffman
Robert Holz
HyVee
Dean & Cheryl Kalmes
Kohner Materials
Daniel & Natalie Matejka
Miller Scrap & Disposal
Gina Murphy
Linda Pfeilsticker
Reed's Tree Service
RTP Company
Mark & Julie Schneider
Michael Semling
Matt & Katy Smith
Sean & Leigh Ann Thompson
Walnut Street Dental
Marty & Leslie Werden

Gregory & Pamela Wing
Winona Elks Lodge No. 327
WNB Financial
Jason & Kristina Wright
Ziebell's Hiawatha Foods

Winona Hoops Club

Fastenal
Geotek

W-K Bob Hogenson Fund

Marcy Faircloth & Caylan Larson
Barbara Hultgren

W-K Playground Glow-Up

Joyce Woodworth

WSHS Boy's Golf Team

Gabby's Bar

WSHS Boys Tennis

Bake Sale at VFW

WSHS Business/Economics Dept.

Helen Imm Trust Fund

WSHS English Dept.

WSHS Class of 1955

WSHS First Robotics Competition

Watlow Enriching Lives
Foundation

WSHS Touchdown Club

WAPS Touchdown Club



EVENT 2026 SPONSORS

\$6,000 Lead Sponsor

Merchants Bank
WNB Financial

\$3,000 Event Sponsor

(inc. in-kind support)
Excel Images
Fastenal
WinCraft by Fanatics

\$1,500 Corporate Sponsor

Altra Federal Credit Union
Associates in Mental Health & Addiction
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Winona
Dahl Automotive
Farmers Insurance Jensen Agency
Joyful Interiors
LAB Midwest
Midtown Foods
Miller Ingenuity

Miller Scrap & Disposal
Minnesota State College Southeast
RTP Company
Sugar Loaf Automotive
WAPS School Board Members –
Nancy Denzer, Jack Hedin,
Michael Hanratty, Monica Siegfried,
Karl Sonneman, Martin Stickney
Winona Education Association
WKM Properties

EVENT 2026 DONATIONS

\$51,975 Friend

Fastenal

\$30,000 Friend

Altra Federal Credit Union

\$25,000 Friend

Merchants Bank

\$20,000 Friend

RTP Company
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$15,000 Friend

Farmers Insurance Corporate
Citizenship Program
Fraternal Order of the Eagles #1243

\$10,000 Friend

Elizabeth Callender King
Foundation
Chuck & Judy Shepard
Winona Foundation

\$4,000-\$5,000 Friend

Celanese Foundation
Judy Davis
Dallas & Corinne Denzer
Nancy Denzer & Maynard Johnson
Kevin & Cassandra Gorman

\$2,000-\$3,000 Friend

Lindsey & Mark Abrahams
Jacob & Nora Woodworth
Jamf Nation Global Foundation

\$900-\$1,075 Friend

Mark & Angie Bennick
Michael & Josie Deiss
Greg & Terri Evans
H30 Jazz Trio
Justin Hanson & Caitlin Crouchet
Jack Hedin & Jennifer McHugh
Brandi & Torry Moore
Kim & Kraig Penrod
Josh Severson & Jennifer Knapp
Severson Fund of the Winona
Community Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Betsy Wells
Winona Elks Lodge No. 327

\$500-\$550 Friend

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Bachler
Shawn & Heather Beier
Steve & Jill Burt
Chad & Alison Heltemes
Hoff Funeral Home
Dawn & Jeff Lueck
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Oz Lifting Products

Pizza Ranch
Bill & Jill Schmidt
Eric & Monica Siegfried
Randy & Deb Skarlupka
Robin & Lee Trombetta
Winona Nursery
Joyce Woodworth
Robyn Wangburg
Nathan Warneke
Brianna Zabel

\$200-\$350 Friend

Arby's of Winona
Erin Benson
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Courtney & Joel Dahlby
Marcy Faircloth
Andrew & Dawn Guzzo
Cassandra Knott
Paul & Terrie Lueck
LaVerne & Jolene Olson
Patti Richards
Karl & Karin Sonneman
Two Fathoms Brewing

\$100-\$199 Friend

Jenna & Josh Anderson
Bruce Bechly
Jerry Benedict
Larry & Mary Bergin
Brian & Aubrey Bergler
Brad & Tanya Berzinski
Blue Heron Coffeehouse
Nicolle & Jon Brady
Sam Bolstad
Michael & Tiffany Calhoun
Stacy & Dan Cottrell
Dan Dreher
Bekki Ellinghysen
Gregory & Nicole Fedor
Gregg & Linda Folgers
Tim Gleason
Jeremy & Wendy Graves
Scott & Amy Halverson
Ellen & Ken Hanson
Sarah Hedin
Keith & Marie Holmquist
Casey & Amanda Indra
Kerrie Kaspar
John & Brenda Kowalewski
Matt & Abbie Loos
Adam & Maggie Maine
Sundra & Patrick Menton
John & Shelley Milek
Brian & Karen Mueller

Nate & Ally's Frozen Treat Creations
Martin Oines
Sally & Dave Olson
Nancy O'Reilly
Anthony & Linda Palubicki
Nate & Sally Pollock
Nick & Shanna Quimby
Christopher & Susan Rand
Jessica Richards & Dave King
Katrina & Ben Scoville
Jami Severson
Signatures / The Grill
Brian & Kaitlin Sisson
Jackie & Todd Stevens
Sydney Thompson – Coldwell
Banker River City Realtors
Michael & Sandra Todd
Toppers Pizza
Nathan & Lexi Warneke
Julie & Phil Winegar

\$50-\$90 Friend

Anonymous
Companion Animal Care Center
Terri Hanson
Breanna Malin
Katherine Marquez
Samantha & Nathan McCormick
QDOBA of Winona
Jason Quinn
Amblyn & Jed Reisetter
Marcus & Kayla Teachout
Marianne & Steven Texley

\$10-\$25 Friend

Sarah Andrews
Anonymous
Rachel Bartelson
Molly Blaess
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Erin Mumma
Barb Nagel
Kay Peterson
Lindsay Sherman
Eli Smith
Dan Wilson
Alis Zellmer

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Jon & Ruthanne Weispfenning

Joel Bruels

Jon & Ruthanne Weispfenning

Judy Davis

Anne Olsen Wagner

Flatten Grandchildren

Richard & Sharon Flatten

Mitzi Henderson

Jamie Henderson

Marie Holmquist

Jon & Ruthanne Weispfenning

Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

Donald & Sandra Curtin

John Ruggeberg

Polly Renk

Bill & Jill Schmidt

Jon & Ruthanne Weispfenning

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Subscribe to the Foundation's "MONTHLY MESSAGES" e-newsletter by sending an email to: Support@FoundationWAPS.org

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Susan Gannaway
Meadow Acres Townhouse
Association
Sheryl Miller
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EVENT 2026 AUCTION DONORS

Acoustic Café

Adventure Cycle & Ski

Alerus Financial

Altra Federal Credit Union

Ashley Furniture

Behrens Manufacturing

Blue Heron Coffeehouse

Julie Boelter

Kathy & Bob Calvey

Cedar Valley Golf Course

Children's Museum of La Crosse

City of Winona Park & Recreation

Coffee Camper

Commonweal Theatre

Coron Family Chiropractic

Culver's of Winona

Cynor Syrup

Dahl Automotive

Dallas Denzer

Nancy Denzer

DJ's Surplus

Bob & Deb Dunn

Elmaro Vineyard

Erbert & Gerbert's

Eupraxia Winona

Greg & Terri Evans

Fantastic Sam's

Farmers Insurance Dave Jensen

Agency

Fastenal

Fifth Street Liquor

Fleet Farm

Linda Folgers

Jack & Maureen Gerson

Gourdgeous Jewelry

Lisa & Matt Hawkinson

HBC

Hoff Funeral Home

Holtan Jewelry Co.

Hurry Back Productions

Hy-Vee

Jay & Dee's Special T's

Kickass Snacks

Deb Krackow

Kwik Trip

La Boutique

Jose & Nikki Lavariega

Little Caesars

Dawn & Jeff Lueck

Kris & Mick Lynch

Kat Marquez

Stacey Matthees

Meadow Sweet Flower Farm

Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

Midtown Foods

Shelley & John Milek

Miller Scrap & Disposal

Milwaukee Burger Company

Minnesota Frost

Minnesota Marine Art Museum

Minnesota Renaissance Festival

Minnesota State College Southeast

Minnesota Twins

Minnesota Vikings

Minnesota Zoo

Modern Ready Mix

Muddy Waters Yoga

Mueller Photography

Nate & Ally's Frozen Treat Creations

National Eagle Center

NONA Designs

Off the Rails Sports Bar

Old Time Mercantile

Peerless Chain

Penguin Zesto

Pillbox Bat Company

Pinhaws Club

River Hills Dental

Rocco's Pizza

Terri & Ralph Roemer

RTP Company

Saint Mary's University Athletics

Bill & Jill Schmidt

Dave Schulz & Connie Miller

Brenda & Bryan Scott

Scrappin' on the Ranch

Steak Shop Catering

Sugar Loaf Automotive

Technical Die Casting

The Loos Team – Matt & Abbie Loos

Angela Thompson – Coldwell Banker

Total Wine & More

Robin Trombetta

Two Fathoms Brewing

University of Minnesota Bell Museum

& Planetarium

Visit Winona

WAPS Activities Office

Taylor & Dawson Wardwell –

Coldwell Banker

Nathan & Lexi Warneke

Winona Axe & Arcade

Winona Family YMCA

Winona Feed Seed & More

Winona Hatchery

Winona State Athletics

WSHS Industrial Technology

WinCraft by Fanatics

Judy Yess

Brian & Susan Zeller

SCHOLARSHIPS

Class of 1974 Winhawk Spirit Memorial Scholarship

Anonymous

Fly Like an Eagle WSHS AVID Scholarship

Fraternal Order of the Eagles #1243

Jake & Hal Edstrom Music Scholarship

Nancy Edstrom Bachler & Steve Bachler

Craig & Patricia Jilk Scholarship

Craig & Patricia Jilk

Mark Steffes Memorial Scholarship

Mark Steffes Memorial Fund

MiEnergy Cooperative Scholarship

MiEnergy Cooperative

Pete Weess Science Scholarship

Collection from Cameron Weess

Rollingstone Scholarship

Kimberly & Corey Hancock

Sophia Allena Moe College Scholarship

Steven & Linda Boris

John & Jane Brinkman

Dennis & Karen Cleveland

Amanda Durnen

Edward Jones – Matt Reek Office

Mark & Julie Erickson

Good Citizen Volunteer Organization

Goodview Activity Group

Goodview Winona Area Youth Hockey Association

Julie Hennessy

Jay and Dee's Special-T's

Jeffrey Grund & Kristie Stevens

Joseph & Antoinette Kluck

Timothy & Summer Kohner

David Ledbetter

Patricia Moe

Richard Moe

Traci Morken

New Horizon Foods

John & Debbie Nielsen

Billy Ortiz

Randy & Mary Jo Pfaff

Port 507 Bar

RTP Company

Gregory & Elizabeth Scarborough

Mike & Sue Schroeder

Rodney Sines

Macaulay & Abby Smith

Michael & Kimberly Smith

Zoey Smith

David Stewart

Thomas R. Hennessy Family Charitable Trust

Edward Urbick

Terry Westby

Winona Bar Owners Group – The Brickyard

Winona Post

Winona Senior Living

ZC Plumbing

Susan Jane Fey Hoffe Band Scholarship

Arnold Hoffe Estate

Tim Speltz Light the Lamp Scholarship

Tim Speltz Light the Lamp Foundation

Tom Blacklock Memorial Scholarship

Anonymous

Explore La Crosse – Between the Bluffs Festival

Trendah Acres Changemaker Scholarship

Sarah Dixen

Xcel Energy Scholarship

Xcel Energy

Youth Alliance & Community Merit Scholarship

David Dreas

Jon Lica

LEAVE A LEGACY

THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S LOWELL NELSON SOCIETY

The Foundation's planned giving program, the **Lowell Nelson Society**, was named in honor of the service and leadership of Superintendent Lowell Nelson who served the District from 1959-1973. Society members generously perpetuate their support of public education beyond their lifetimes.

Membership is accorded to those who **leave a legacy to the Foundation** by naming it as a beneficiary in their wills or other estate plans, insurance policies, qualified pension plans, or through charitable trusts, bargain sales, or other charitable arrangements. The Foundation urges donors to consult with their financial advisors when considering a planned gift.

Current members of the *Lowell Nelson Society* are listed below. We hope you'll consider joining those who are leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit WAPS students for generations to come.

SOCIETY MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Judy Bodway*

John & Susan Eddy

Mark Godsey

Gayle Goetzman-Stolpa

Norma Grausnick*

Jim & Shannon* Hanzel

Donna Helble*

Arnold Hoffe* & Susan Fey Hoffe*

Neva King*

Harland & Pauline Knight*

Ruth Kottschade*

Tom & Leone Mauszycki

Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

Roger* & Ramona Metz

John & Shelley Milek

GRANT DOLLARS IN ACTION

2025-2026 APPROVED GRANT AWARDS

The Foundation awards monthly grants to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools. This year, **61 grants totaling \$62,282** were approved and awarded, helping to support important programs and projects that would otherwise not be available through normal District resources.



GOODVIEW ELEMENTARY

Exploration Table
Kindergarten is Dramatic
Kindergarten to Schwertel Family Farms
Screen Free Literacy
Sensory Materials

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

1st Grade to Children's Museum
2nd Grade to Celebration for the Arts
2nd Grade to Lake Park
2nd Grade to National Eagle Center
3rd Grade River Boat Tour
3rd Grade to Beatrix Potter Play
3rd Grade to MMAM
4th Grade to MMAM
4th Grade to Science Museum
4th Grade to Whitewater State Park
4th Grade to WSO Children's Concert
BrainPOP Jr Membership
Elementary Library Magazines

W-K ELEMENTARY

1st Grade to Children's Museum
1st Grade to Oxbow
2nd Grade Rios to National Eagle Center
2nd Grade to Celebration for the Arts
3rd Grade to Cal Fremling & MMAM
3rd Grade to Celebration of the Arts
3rd Grade to Prairie Island
4th Grade Fishing Trip
4th Grade to MMAM
4th Grade to Whitewater State Park
4th Grade to WSO Children's Concert
Elementary Library Magazines

WAPS

Parade of Graduates
Payroll Deduction – Farm to School Shirts

WINONA AREA LEARNING CENTER

Crash Course
WALC Gives Back
WALC to Whitewater State Park
We Miss You Postcards

WINONA MIDDLE SCHOOL

5th Grade Story Works
5th Grade to MN Zoo
6th Grade to Cemetery Walk
6th Grade to Eagle Bluff
6th Grade to MN History Center
7th Grade to Guthrie Theater
7th Grade to Whitewater State Park
Choir to Valley Fair Trills & Thrills Music Festival
Dare to Dream – Greenhouse
Outdoor Rec Rock Climbing & High Ropes Course
Payroll Deduction – Board Games & Card Games
Pond Ecosystem Restoration Project
US Parks Class to WSU Climbing Wall

WINONA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

American Government to State Capitol 1
American Government to State Capitol 2
AP Biology to Whitewater State Park
Band, Choir, Orchestra to Disney World
Bussing to Mayo Clinic Career Day
Calculators for Math Students
Corsages & Boutonnieres
Dare to Dream – Unified Kitchen
FFA National Convention
FFA State Convention
SOS for 9th and 10th Grades
STEM in the Real World



Goodview Kindergarten is Dramatic



W-K 2nd Grade Rios to National Eagle Center

WSHS American Government to State Capitol



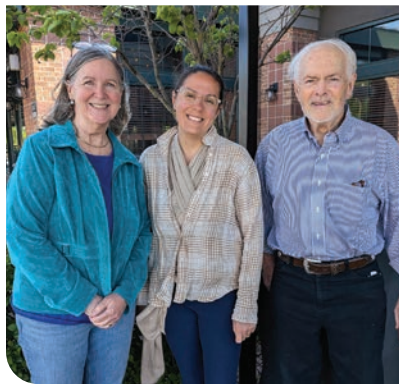
WMS Pond Ecosystem Restoration



FOUNDATION NEWS & NOTES

In May 2026, the Foundation celebrated 10 student winners of our annual Haake Poetry Contest. A total of 84 poems were entered in the contest, with 53 from WMS and 31 from WSHS. All entries were assigned a code and student names were removed for the judging process. Judges included Winona community members Eileen Dahlin, Marcia Ratliff, and Ken McCullough.

In 2008, Dr. Paul Haake initiated a fund with the Foundation for WAPS in memory of his father, Arnold, who was known for his love of poetry during his years at WSHS. The purpose of the fund was to support an annual poetry contest for WMS and WSHS students. Paul was a 1950 WSHS graduate who retained a strong bond to his hometown, giving generously to Winona's educational institutions.



Haake Poetry judges: Eileen Dahlin, Marcia Ratliff, Ken McCullough

Haake Poetry CONTEST

WINONA MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1st - \$200 – Emily West : *Chemistry for Cruelty*
- 1st - \$200 – Shekinah Bailey: *Your Gaze*
- 2nd - \$100 – Nora Pollock: *Don't Wait*
- 2nd - \$100 – Drew Spalding : *The Football Game*
- 2nd - \$100 – Ryan Speltz : *In the Stillness of My Room*

Winona Middle School Haake Poetry winners



Winona Senior High School Haake Poetry winners



WINONA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- 1st - \$200 – Will Kihanya: *Hesitation*
- 1st - \$200 – Ashiiyah Alexander : *Unstudied Silence*
- 2nd - \$100 – Alanys Lemke: *Injuries Left*
- 2nd - \$100 – Marguerite Lungerhausen: *Sonnet XI XVIII*
- 2nd - \$100 ~ Madilyn Gibbs: *That Dreaded Word*

'DARE TO DREAM' GRANT AWARDS

In fall 2025, the Foundation's Board of Directors announced **two winners of \$5,000 "DARE TO DREAM" GRANT AWARDS!** The awards supported a **greenhouse** at Winona Middle School, and a **unified kitchen** at Winona Senior High School.

Each year, the Foundation supports innovation and creativity by offering WAPS employees the opportunity to apply for one \$5,000 Dare to Dream grant. Applicants don't need to follow the Foundation's normal grant guidelines, but the funded project must benefit WAPS students. **Thanks to a generous gift from Fastenal, a second Dare to Dream grant was awarded!**

Brittney Steine, who leads the DEEDs (Discover, Explore, Engage, Develop) program at WMS, collaborated with the Advanced Woodworking Class at WSHS to **build a greenhouse that will produce plants to be sold in a student-run store.** Revenue will sustain greenhouse expenses and generate funding to support DEEDs initiatives. Through building the greenhouse and managing the store, students gain authentic experience in professional communication, time management, budgeting, marketing, and collaborative teamwork to enrich classroom experiences.

Kellie Fihn and Molly Rossbach lead the Independent Living Program at WSHS. With secondary transition support from Mindy Reinardy, the team helps students with disabilities prepare for life after high school. **Their grant award supported a unified kitchen at WSHS to provide every student with the space to learn cooking and daily living skills with the same access and equity as their peers.** The updated, accessible kitchen includes a French door wall-mounted oven, roll-under induction 4-burner stovetop, induction pots and pans, grab bars, solid bottom pull-out shelving, and a pull-out cutting board.

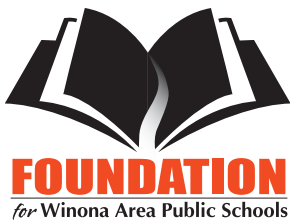
WMS Greenhouse



WSHS Unified Kitchen



INVESTING IN **TODAY'S** STUDENTS FOR **TOMORROW'S** FUTURE.



1570 Homer Road
Winona, MN 55987
507-494-1004

Join the 861 Club today by visiting www.FoundationWAPS.org or use the envelope included in this newsletter to mail a check.

Welcoming All Learners SM



www.FoundationWAPS.org

Your generosity helps grow our General Fund – the resource that fuels every grant we award. As a member, your name will be listed among other 861 Club members in the Foundation's annual newsletter and on our website at:

membership.

Foundation donors with cumulative gifts of \$861 or more between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027 earn membership in the 861 Club. Donations must be directed to the Foundation's General Fund to count toward 861 Club

Join The Club!

In Minnesota, school districts are organized by numbers, and District 861 refers to Winona Area Public Schools! With that number in mind, the Foundation for WAPS has established a new, exclusive membership club called the 861 Club.

Did you know?

