

Luverne Area Community Foundation 2017 Annual Report





A Letter from the LACF Executive Director

The power of "Thank You" cannot be underestimated. You may never really know its impact, its ripple effect or how it can create a unique connection between people. We say thank you for a number of things. Thank you for supper. Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your honesty. Thanks for being there when I needed you. We convey words of thanks in many simple phrases:

> Thanks a ton I'm so thankful Thank you so much Thanks for everything I can't thank you enough Many thanks

I recently had the privilege to work with a donor who is planning to leave a portion of his and his late wife's estate to the foundation. We have been having conversations over a number of years since his wife (formerly of Luverne) passed away. He wanted to do something special for her. Something that would honor her life and the life they created together. So we talked, and listened, and shared ideas and options until finally the right focus came to light. A designated fund, set up in honor of his late wife, would be established at the community foundation to support the ongoing needs in a community that had meaning to her and honor to him. After the paperwork was finished and a breath of satisfaction from both of us was shared I said to him, "Thank you so much for choosing the Luverne Area Community Foundation to honor your wife with a gift that will make a difference forever." His response overwhelmed me. He said, "No Emily, thank you. Thank you for helping me find a way to honor my wife, our life together and make a difference in the world." It took several days before my heart, so filled with joy, finally settled back to its normal size in my chest. We are meant to be connected in this world, to help, share, support, live and at the end of the day say, "Thank You."

> Thank you for your support of the Luverne Area Community Foundation this past year.



Sincerely, **Emily Crabtree** LACF Executive Director

"I can no other answer make but thanks. and thanks and ever thanks... -William Shakespeare

- 2017 LACF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Past President Mike Cox President Nadine Schoep Vice President Mike Engesser Treasurer Sharla Reisch

2017 BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Schear Ryan Johnson Mary Tilstra Nancy Sandager

Heidi Sehr leff Haubrich Isaac DeBoer Keith Elbers

Donor Advised Funds - Local Issues - Local Solutions

Donor Advised Fund (Your Name Here)

Donor Advised Fund gives you: The power to make a difference Your own charitable savings account The ability to tackle a community issue with solutions Match passion with causes

Opening a donor advised fund is an effective charitable donation tool for your financial portfolio. It gives opportunity for an immediate tax deduction It allows for a charitable gift to have growth through investment It allows the donor to advise gifts to favored charities or community needs over time











Deduction





Administration Investments







Use a Donor Advised Fund or DAF with your IRA

If you are 70 ½ years of age and are facing your required minimum distribution (RMD) but don't need or want the tax burden, consider rolling it into a DAF at the Luverne Area Community Foundation (up to \$100,000 per year). Because you gave the dollars to a charity there will be no tax on the RMD. It now becomes a charitable savings account that you advise to your favorite charities, including gifts to your church, alumni funds, scholarship programs, local or national 501c3 organizations.

Contact Emily about more information on DAFs or consult your financial advisor on how we can partner together to help meet your charitable goals through a Donor Advised Fund.



-2017 Grant Award Recipients-

Recipients of the Luverne Area Community Foundation grants in 2017 were (from front row left) Dr. Nicole Woodley (Sanford Luverne), Louella Voigt (BMAT), Corrine Bonnema (Farmer's Market/L.I.F.T.), Jennifer Lindsey, (SW Crisis Center), Sara Wahl (SW Crisis Center), Lisa Nath (Big Buddies of Rock County), Carrie Soto (Luverne BackPack Program), Cathy Schear (Blue Mound Ice Arena), Emily Crabtree (LACF Exec. Director), (row two) Shirley Connor (Green Earth Players), Helen Saum (Sanford Hospice Luverne), LaDonna VanAartsen (BMAT), Phil Paquette (LPS), Evan VerBrugge (LPS/A.L.I.C.E. Committee), Jim Susie (City of Hills), Harlan Vandekieft (Rock County Ambulance), Sara Hartquist (S.H.A.R.E.), (row three) Cory Grimm (Luverne Street Music), Tom Rolfs (Sanford Luverne), Jamie Reisdorfer (Sanford Luverne), Craig Oftedahl (LPS/A.L.I.C.E. Committee), Joe Schomacker (Good Samaritan Mary Jane Brown Home), Jordan Winter (LPS/A.L.I.C.E. Committee), Wade Hiller (LPS/A.L.I.C.E. Committee), Eric Hartman (Luverne Rotary Club), Greg Burger (Atlas) and Lee Sells (Rock County Ag Society). Individuals and groups not pictured are Ser-

ena Gutnik (Rock County Library), Lauree Teunissen (Luverne Senior Citizens Center), Lois Lenderts (HBC) and David VanBatavia (Luverne Fire Department).

BIANNUAL GRANT CYCLE

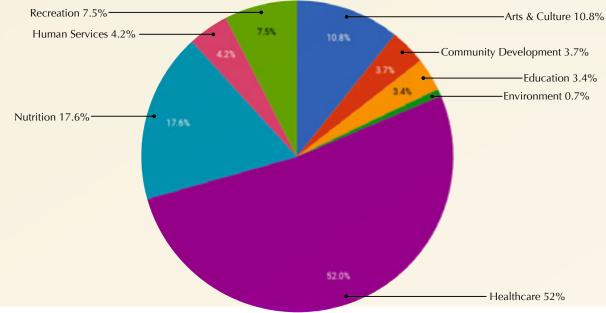
Twice yearly the LACF offers grant opportunities for projects that enhance the quality of life in Rock County in the following areas: arts & humanities, community, social and economic growth, environment, people and health and wellness.

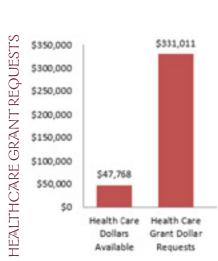






\$69,006 awarded in community healthcare and general category grants in 2017





2017 HEALTHCARE GRANTS

Sanford Luverne Medical: \$6120 for a transvaginal probe

Luverne BackPack Program: \$5000 for weekend nutrition needs for students

LIFT/Luverne Farmer's Market: \$2500 Healthy eating program/family education

Rock County Ag Society: \$1400 Handwashing stations at the fairgrounds

Rock County Ag Society: \$500 AED machine with \$500 match from Sanford Luverne

Luverne Public School: \$2,458 Flu shot clinic Hills-Beaver Creek School: \$816 Flu shot clinic

Lutheran Social Services: \$513 Shelf stable meals for seniors

Sanford Luverne Medical Center: \$10,000 for a fluid control system

Luverne BackPack Program: \$2800 for food supplies

Good Samaritan Society, Mary Jane Brown Home: \$1273 for a code crash cart

Sanford Luverne Hospice: \$250 self-care for professionals workshop

Southwest Crisis Center: \$2000 for social media exploitation education

SHARE: \$1000 for senior citizen meals

Luverne Fire Department: \$2,015 AED and neck/backboard supplies



2017 COMMUNITY GENERAL FUND GRANTS

Atlas of Rock County: \$2224 for security and beds for emergency short term housing

Luverne Senior Dining: \$105 for coolers for home delivered meals

Blue Mound Area Theatre: \$1690 for Missoula Children's Theater experience

Blue Mound Area Theatre: \$415 for signage stanchions

Rock County Community Library: \$285 director education

Luverne Street Music: \$1000 PA system for performances

Blue Mound Ice Arena: \$2,160 for new rental skates

City of Hills: \$2500 city softball field improvements

Blue Mound Area Theatre: \$4,106 for new stage lighting

Luverne Rotary Club: \$500 for Rotary Park Dog Park

Big Buddies of Rock County: \$400 big buddies/mentor families holiday gathering

ALICE Committee/LPS: \$500 for escape ladders

Community Partners

The Luverne Area Community Foundation and its partners are about IMPACT...

making a difference in the communities we live in.

In 2017 our partners added \$302,668 in program grants to enhance the lives of our friends and neighbors.



LUVERNE BACKPACK PROGRAM

Program provides at-risk children with nutritious, easy to prepare foods for the weekends until school and access to meal programs resume. This program is staffed by volunteers and serves approximately 160 children ages pre-school to twelfth grade.

\$20,000 Invested back in the Community in 2017

SANFORD HEALTH LUVERNE

Sanford Health Luverne is a vital partner in the health and well-being of the community. All dollars given to Sanford Health Luverne stay local to improve the quality of care received here. Dedicated to the work of healing.





SANFORD HEALING GARDENS

The Healing Garden at Sanford Luverne offers a beautiful, therapeutic garden where people can relax in nature.

\$4,303 Invested back in the Community in 2017

LUVERNE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Luverne Basketball Association strives to provide support for and opportunities to play, learn and love the game of basketball for youth and teens of Luverne.

\$952 Invested back in the Community in 2017



BIG BUDDIES OF ROCK COUNTY

The mission of Big Buddies of Rock County is to promote positive family and community values by mentoring children one-to-one in the hopes of enhancing their quality of life, character development and education.

\$8,500 Invested back in the Community in 2017





SOUTHWEST CRISIS CENTER

The mission of the SW Crisis Center is to provide help, hope and safety to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking through supportive services.

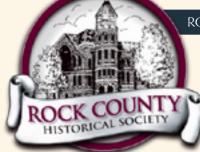
\$850 Invested back in the Community in 2017

ROCK COUNTY FOODSHELF

The Rock County Food Shelf's mission is to offer 2-3 days of emergency food to eligible Rock County residents one time per month. They are located in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Luverne.

\$20,166 Invested back in the Community in 2017





ROCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of the Rock County Historical Society is to preserve the history of Rock County to share with generations to come. The Historical Society has recently moved their History Center to Main Street in Luverne.

\$96,578 Invested back in the Community in 2017

CHILD GUIDE

The Luverne Child Guide Program cares for all students but has a central focus of connecting at-risk students and their families with resources in our community and school.

\$29,495 Invested back in the Community in 2017





LUVERNE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Stewarded by the Luverne School Foundation this fund is intended to help support the needs of the Community Education program in Luverne.

\$4,627 Invested back in the Community in 2017

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MORE GREAT LACF OMMUNITY PARTNERS



LUVERNE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Established to allow individuals and businesses to make tax-deductible donations to the school for any purpose. There are classroom grants available for staff with program needs beyond the general budget. The Foundation also supports specific school/campus projects.

\$3,766.75 Invested back in the Community in 2017

HOSPICE OF SANFORD LUVERNE

Sanford Hospice Luverne provides quality, compassionate end-of-life care for terminally ill persons. Hospice care focuses on quality of life, comfort and dignity for patients and their families. Hospice staff members work together as an interdisciplinary team to care for the whole person as well as family members addressing physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The patient is cared for according to a plan personalized to meet their needs and wishes.



\$106,280 Invested back in the Community in 2017

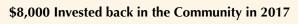


BLUE MOUND AREA THEATRE - THE HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE

BMAT serves as a regional resource providing cultural experiences that enrich, entertain and educate audiences and artists. The Historic Palace Theatre, a city owned building, is operated by the BMAT board and offers live events, movies and performances by the local Green Earth Players.

ROCK COUNTY AG SOCIETY

The mission of the Rock County Agricultural Society is to bring "the farm" and "the town" together to increase exposure to, and participation in 4-H events, industrial exhibits, the arts and in programs that preserve, promote and showcase both Rock County and the region's rich agricultural, historical and cultural heritage.





LACF LONG-TERM **COMMUNITY PARTNERS FUNDS FOR GROWTH**

The LACF can help build secure, long-term endowments.



- This year they added 3 new funds.
 - 2) SW MN CEO Investor Fund
 - 3) SW MN CEO Friend Fund

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LACE DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS) PERSONALIZED CHARITABLE GIVING

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) offer year round grant gifting, tax relief AND advisement for gifts!

A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is a charitable giving vehicle sponsored by the LACF that allows you to make a contribution to LACF and be eligible for an immediate tax deduction.

- But because your account is a donor-advised fund, you advise the organization on how to grant the money out to your favorite charities.
- Plus the dollars you put into your DAF will be put into a growth fund so your donation will grow for even more charitable impact.

DAFs held within the foundation:

Sanford Luverne Physician Fund Schutz DAF Boyenga DAF Eric Schaap Memorial Fund

NEW IN 2017

Crabtree DAF Hemme DAF

Don't forget to consider a DAF to roll your RMD (required minimum distribution) into for tax savings and future charitable gift giving.



www.luvacf.org 100% LOCAL 100% BENEFIT 100% DEDUCTIBLE



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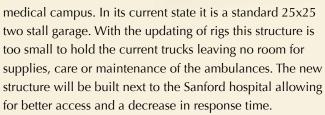
SPECIAL GIFTS IN 2017

SPONSORSHIP

Throughout 2017
we have been
assisting Sanford
Luverne in raising funds for a
new structure and
location for the Rock
County Ambulance
garage.

The current garage is

located in a residential area 2.1 miles from the



The goal is to raise \$350,000 and break ground by the end of this year. While the efforts are close, more funds are still needed. If you are interested in making a donation to a critical service in our community please contact Emily at the foundation office 507-220-2424 or Emily@luvacf.org Donations are tax deductible per the IRS rules.





ROUND UP FOR CHARITY

Residents of Luverne on local city utilities can opt to "Round Up" their utility bill and have the extra dollars and cents given to the Community Grants Fund.

2017 Gift: \$1,942

150 FOR 150

Celebrations and parades, acknowl-



edgments and history; that is what has happened in the community we love this past year. 150 years as Rock County's county seat, Luverne had much to be thankful for. In celebration of such a milestone and in line with our mission we challenged 150 donors to give \$150 toward our Community Grant Fund. Through this challenge we raised \$17,650 from 117 donors, a nice year end addition to this fund.

2017 Gift: \$17,660

1-ACRE CHALLENGE

Being a community rich in agriculture the foundation challenges local crop producers to donate one acre of corn or beans to the Luverne Area Community Foundation Community Grant Fund. This is an ongoing gifting option. Inquire at your local elevator on how to give. These gifts are used to support the community grant fund.

Gifts of Grain are accepted at all New Vision Co-op and CHS Easter Farmers Elevators in the county.

Grain can be accepted year-round.

2017 Memorials to the Community Grant Fund IN MEMORY OF

Beverly Christensen
Deb Martius
Erling Tofteland
Esther Petersen
John Gabrielson
Kathryn Aaker

Mary M. Odland Mildred Heikes Shirley Papik Sylvester Lonneman Tim Christensen Verlyn Hoff

Warren Herreid

A unique way to honor someone special or remember a loved one who has passed is to make a gift to the Foundation Community Grant Fund in their name.



LIFETIME GIVING

Sometimes things need a name change

The Healthcare Fund

anything healthcare related There are two funds in which members of any Rock County community can apply for competitive grants. This year we decided the General Fund sounded too general, so we gave it a better name.

When you give to the Community Grant Fund we secure those dollars for the applicants and their projects looking for funds through the grant application process!

The Community Grant Fund

formally the General Fund anything non-healthcare

LACF's number one priority is to increase the Community Fund.

The Community Grant Fund is still our fund of greatest need. These dollars are unrestricted and give the LACF the most flexibility to meet the needs in the communities in which we live.

Total Lifetime Giving to the Community Fund will continue to be acknowledged in the Annual Report. Gifts given in the Community Fund since the Foundation's inception will be cumulatively calculated and acknowledged.

K.A.H.R. Foundation

SILVER (\$25,000 +)

Eleanor Loger EllaMae Josendahl First Farmers & Merchants Bank H. Allison Ordung Phyllis Nelson

BRONZE (\$10,000 +)

Bruce and Brenda Loosbrock MainStreet Financial Services Tollefson Publishing - Rock County Star Herald W.R. Berkley Corporation Charitable Foundation

PEWTER (\$5,000 +)

Blue Mound Area Theater, Inc Buffalo Ridge Insurance Dr. Harold and Mary Tilstra Michael and Cheryl Ann Cox Minnwest Bank Rock County Corn & Soybean Association Round Up Campaign

PATRON (\$1,000 +) Ben and Deb Vander Kooi

Betty Mann

Blandin Foundation Cary and Karen Radisewitz Cleveringa Construction Continental Western Group Curt and Marilyn Bloemendaal Dallas Bowron Diane Harrison Ogawa Dingmann Funeral Home Don and Lisa Dinger Dr. and Mrs. Joshua J. Crabtree Dr. John and Jeanne Bowron Eisma & Eisma Law Offices Everett and Janice Brandenburg Exchange State Bank Gary and Barb Golla Gene and Nadine Schoep Glen's Food Center Greg and Janet Burger Harold and Lori Schmidt Hartquist Funeral Home

Jeff and Sara Hartquist

Jody and Sharla Reisch

Klosterbuer & Haubrich LLP Luverne Chamber of Commerce Luverne Farm Store Luverne Optimist Club Main Street Financial Services, Inc. Margaret Vegge Mike and Jennifer Engesser Monte and Michele Van Dyke Nelson Benson Pamida Papik Motors Prairie Heights Bison Robert and Carol Fawley Ron and Cathy Honken Samuel and Barbara Berghorst Sanford Luverne Medical Center Sioux Valley Energy Steve and Marianne Perkins Tim and Sue Dispanet Timothy and Karis Gust Vander Kooi Law Offices

DONOR (\$500 +)

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Joseph and Amanda Barton

KQAD-AM/KLQL-FM Radio

Keith and Betty Luethje

Lowell and Diane Jauert Lowell and Shirley Harrison Mark and Cindy Kurtz Martin Shearer Michele and Monte Van Dyke Mike and Rosie Reker New Horizon Farms & New Horizon Feeds Pat Scheidt Professional Ag Marketing Inc. R & S Sales Robert and Sheila Stegenga Rock County Chiropractic Ron and Elaine Fick Ryan and Charlotte Johnson Shirley Klosterbuer Skattum's Confinement Systems, Inc. Terry and Michele Vajgrt Tim & Connie Connell Tollefson Publishing - Rock County Star Herald

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Van Dyke Bros., Inc.

Alan and Ruth Stoakes

Alisha Tack Allie and Kevin Rozeboom Alvin and Connie Wieneke Amy Kruger Angela Beyenhof Anna Tilstra **Anonymous** Arlene Wynia Arthur and Carol Wulf Audrey Gabrielson Barb and Gary Golla Barb Ashby Barbara Bot Bart and Paula Thielbar Beryl Haugen Beth Bartels Betty Ehlers Betty Luethje Bill and Gayle Stegemann Bill and Janet Preuss Blue Mound Liquor

Bob Juhl

Brad Cowell



1 LIFETIME GIVING

Community FUND



Bryan and Patricia Kienholz Burdell and Monica Braa Butch Herding Cargill Carl and Debra Leuthold Carol Kuhlman Celeste Alison Heather Chad and Krista Kempema Chad Overgaard City of Luverne Clifford Albertson

Connie Wieneke Cornerstone Dental Cory and Paula Bloemendaal Cragoe Realty Craig and Patrice Hohn Curt and lean Laudon

Dale and Patti Nelson Dan and Becky Anderson Daniel and Colleen Nath Daniel and Lisa Wiese

Darlene Woolsev Darrel and LaDonna Van Aartsen Dave and Cloyce Smith

Dave and Randa Gangestad David and Bonnie Groen David and Carol Svingen

David and Jane Heitkamp Dell Hogan Post #123

Delphine Brakke Denise Hanson

Derek and Alison Chinn Dianne and Rodger Ossenfort

Dolly Talbert Don and Lorna Bryan

Douglas and Rebecca Eeten Dr Joshua and Emily Crabtree

Dr. Nathan and Sandy Rud Dr. Paul and Janice Rud

Dr. Wrede and Barb Vogel Edward and Joan Salzer Elizabeth and Jason Schear

Elmer and Karen Ehde Elmer and Karen Menage

Eric and Cheryl Hartman Evan and Michele Verbrugge

Fave Bremer Francelle Slocum

G&S Auto Service Gary and Janine Papik

Gary Kurtz Gawaine and Diane Diekevers

Geff and lackie Fitzer Gene and Debra Aanenson Gene and Lilly Miller

George and Carol McDonald

Glen and Connie Boler Glen Oeltjenbruns Gold'n Plump Poultry, Inc.

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Mark Sandager Gordon and Faye Bremer

Gordon and Lois Mulder Grant and Diane Robinson Greg and Dianna Spath Greg and Patricia Aubert

Harlan and Sylvia Christians Harley and Jodeen Fransman Harold and Eline Forsberg

Harold Hess Helen Jensen Ingrid Sanden Isaac DeBoer

James and Carol Hatting James and Paula Jelken

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Jason and Angela Chesley lason and Naomi Graves

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Jensen Management Service, Inc. Jere and Suanne Ohme

Jerry and Kathy Deuschle Jerry and Mary Hoff Jerry Hoff Floor Covering

lim Bartels

John and Brenda Call John and Janet Sudenga

John and Nyla Sohl Johnna and Jeff Ahrendt IRA Accounting

Judy Fenske

Kar Mar Farms Ltd A Mn Corp Keith and Joan Erickson

Keith and Velda Maine Ketterling Services Inc. Kim and Pat Von Tersch

Kyle and Sara Oldre L. Sam and June Polzin

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Larry and Janice Nelson Les and Diane Van Dyke

Lewis Family Drug Lisa Heronimus Lisa Lindsay Lois Young

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Mr. Leroy W. Luitjens Nathan and Molly Golla

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Roger Sherman

Rosemary and Ron Tabbert

Salon 75 Scheels All Sports

Sherri Thompson St. John's Womens Society

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Todd and Patricia Evans Tom and Sue Brakke

Tom and Vonnie Nergaard Travis and Stephanie Pierce Twila Versteeg

United Way of Greater Fort Dodge Vincent and Peggy Gacke Walter and Ardith Tofteland

Wayne and Ann Robinson William and Carolyn Ketterling William and Esther Beimers William and Sherri Thompson William D. and Zora Martin

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Bradley and Amy Versteeg Bradley and Susan Skattum Brian and Kim Arends Brown Church Antiques Bruce and Vicki Baartman Bud and Janice Van Eck

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Joan Heeren Joe and Christina Wessels Joe and Sherry Dorhout Joel and Linda Christensen John and Imogene Krogmann John and Patricia Remme John and Rosa Johnson

John Palaschak Joseph Stearns Judy Busswitz Judy Peter Karen and Cary Radisewitz

Karen DeBoer Karen Lovell Katharyn Vollmer Kathy Schadwinkel Katie Hemme

Ken and Karen Hoime Kenneth and Nancy Scheidt Kenneth and Phyllis Vos Kimberly Morgan Kimberly Rockeman

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Marilyn Bloemendaal Marilyn Van Santen Mark Lundgren

Marlyn and Audrey Jansen Marlys Brandt Marsha Baker Martha Bakken

Martha Evenson Marvin Cleppe Marvin Fuerstenberg Mary Carroll Mary Grace Miller

> Mary Keck Matt and Katie Mostad Melvin and Beverly Viessman Melvin Smook

Michael and Leola Sweeney Michael and Patricia Winkels Michael Davis

Michael Dirks Michelle Munk Mike and Laurie Ketterling Ms. Barbara Ball

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Peter and Carrie Bakken Rachel Untiedt Randy Goebel Randy Schneekloth

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Roger and Kathy Fick Roger and Lisa Vos Ronald and Anita Boyenga Ronald and Lynnette Rother

Ronald and Mary Niessink Ruth Rodgers Sandra Hitch

Scott and Peggy Adams Scott Wessels Sid and Vivian Aarestad Stacev Renken

Stacey Schmuck Stanley Van Wettering Steve and Laura Earl Steven and Julie Tofteland

Steven Haper Stuart and Kelley Hoime Suanne and Jere Ohme Sue Dispanet

Susan and Randy Schneekloth Suzanne Kennedy

Tammy and Troy Loosbrock Tammy Anderson

Tammy Makram Tanya Light Tanva Stroh Teresa Wessels Terri Ebert

Terrie and Linda Gulden Terry and Diane Gonnerman Terry and Donna Jo Judson

The Coffey Haus Thursday Bridge Club Todd and Carrie Oye Tom and Martha Nelson Tom and Nan Skattum

Twila Versteeg

Vernon Fick

Velda Maine Vern and Nancy Van De Berg Vernon and Louise Noll

Victor and Marla Van Dvk Virgil and Mary Schutz Warren and Carol Sandbulte Warren and Davonn Tinklenberg William and Barbara Weber

William and Elizabeth Ziska William and Karri Korth

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ANNUAL GIVING 2017 giving outside the Community Grant Fund

Jaycox Implement Co.

Larry and Jane Lanphere

Luverne Area Chamber

Luverne Body Shop

Kyle and Sara Oldre

Larry Domagala

K & M Concrete Construction

SILVER (\$25,000.00 +)

City of Luverne County Of Rock Luverne Area Community Foundation Southwest Initiative Foundation

BRONZE - (\$10,000.00 +)

First Farmers & Merchants Bank Gene and Barb Ashby Katie Hemme Minnwest Bank

PEWTER - (\$5,000.00 +)

Curt and Marilyn Bloemendaal Dr. and Mrs. Joshua J. Crabtree Esther Spease Frakes Exchange State Bank Harlow and Anne Schaap Rock County Corn & Soybean Association Rock County Red Arrow Sanford Luverne Physicians Fund Sexton Family Foundation United Methodist Church

PATON - (\$1,000.00 +)

American Reformed Church American Reformed Church Sunday School Mission Berkley Insurance Company -

Continental Western Group

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LUVERNE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CELEBRATES PHILANTHROPY

Making a difference in the lives of those with whom we live in and around is a goal of the LACF.

Many of us do things everyday to make an impact. In 2017 these 3 award winners were recognized for doing just that.



OUTSTANDING CORPORATION OR BUSINESS

This award recognizes a corporation or business that has created a culture of philanthropy within their organization and has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to philanthropy through its:

1) financial support of one or more nonprofit organizations, 2) leadership involvement and 3) volunteer participation and commitment of its workforce in establishing a role model for other businesses in our community. This award does not recognize a single individual representing a corporation or business, but rather the work of the entire corporation or business.

2017 RECIPIENT: FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

First Farmers & Merchants Bank of Luverne is this year's Outstanding Corporation or Business. This award is given to a business that has created a culture

of philanthropy within their organization. Leaders of FF&M share that "we are grateful to live in a community that recognizes the needs of our community." Needs in a community cannot be met without the financial and volunteer support of businesses and community members. FF&M Bank financially supports youth programs, community fundraisers and events, educational needs, programs for senior citizens, agricultural projects and organizations, nutrition causes, health and wellness programs and preservation programs – 28 different organizations if they were all to be named. Bank employees are encouraged and supported to be involved on local boards, civic organizations and volunteer based causes. When roll call is complete their staff serves on 34 local committees and organizations. The bank cosponsors the free monthly family movie night and has served the Relay for Life and Backpack program from their beginnings. When a community need presents itslef, FF&M reacts often leading the charge with financial commitment. In house fundraising through bake sales and cash for jeans day on Fridays is used for charitable programs. Choosing to give gifts to those in need during the holiday over gifts shared with each other is another example of how FF&M bank staff put others before self. Giving of self is a family affair. Current Vice President/ Branch Manager Ryan Wynia states, "Our employees are like family to us." This environment was nurtured by former bank President Mike Engesser and we look forward to watching Ryan and his staff continue this culture. At FF&M Bank they take care of each other but together they take care of others. Congratulations to all of the employees at FF&M.

SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD

This award recognizes an outstanding individual or family with a proven record of exceptional financial generosity and volunteer leadership to one or more Rock County nonprofit organizations who has: 1) demonstrated extraordinary civic and charitable responsibility, and 2) whose generosity inspires others to philanthropic action. This award is to honor the achievements of a living person(s).

2017 RECIPIENT: BETTY MANN

Betty Mann is this year's recipient of the Spirit of Philanthropy award. This award is given to a living person(s) who has shown a commitment to charitable responsibility and a generosity to inspire others to philanthropic action. Betty's inspiration as a person of philanthropy comes in many forms. She gives generously of her heart, her time, her money and her passion. Some of Betty's most public generosity comes in her passion for the



Rock County History Center. For 23 years Betty has been the president of the Rock County Historical Society and visionary for keeping the history of Rock County alive through the museums which have grown from one building to six. The research room and volunteers guided by Betty at the History Center have created a system of history collection that is invaluable. Betty says, "It is so gratifying to help someone to find information on their family or subject matter." In addition to her personal financial commitment to community, Betty has also donated her nutcracker collection, numbering 2,800 and counting in hopes that it would attract people to the History Center. Betty told me that she gives because of how it makes her feel. She states, "I really enjoy doing things to help others. God has given me a great life and I feel happy when I can do something for others." It is her hope that her example of giving would inspire others to do the same.



THE NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Recognizes an outstanding volunteer group that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the community through direct involvement, financial support and leadership. The group should have official status or recognition, i.e., be a chartered support group or incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

2017 RECIPIENT: BACK PACK PROGRAM

There are many outstanding nonprofit organizations in Rock County. This year's Nonprofit Spotlight award winner has been doing the good work of providing at risk children with nutritious, easy to prepare food for the weekends and access to meal programs for the past nine years. The Luverne Back Pack Program serves 180 students. The success of this organization rides of the dedication of a working volunteer board. The program is funded through charitable gifts from individuals, businesses, organizations and grants. The program has very little overhead due to the generosity of rental space and being an all-volunteer labor force. Carrie Soto, President of the Back Pack Program, reports that 98 cents of every dollar goes directly for the purchase of

food. Outside volunteer groups are also involved in helping the Backpack

program be successful. Businesses, churches, coffee groups and more volunteer to pack food bags each week to be delivered to the school and anonymously placed in lockers of eligible students. The Backpack program has grown once serving only elementary age students to now offering its food program to ages three through 12th grade. Middle school and high school students have the opportunity to hand select food to help meet their hunger needs. The Luverne Backpack Program works hard to bring the issue of food insecurity to light in Luverne. Carrie states, "We have a beautiful community and it becomes easy to think that issues like food insecurity don't exist. By speaking about the issue, the challenges, and needs of many of the families that we serve, we have been able to help bring about a greater understanding and sense of collaboration. All of which helps further our mission of Enriching lives one bite at a time." Congratulations to the Luverne Backpack Program and its volunteer board members.

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In the event that you or a loved one would suffer a heart attack in Rock County there is a strong chance that there will be an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) nearby that could save your life thanks to the AED grant program in partnership with Sanford Luverne.

There are now 54 AED units in the county. You can find them in churches, public buildings, squad cars, city trucks, fire halls and lead trucks, and local establishments.

In 2017 we started a pad and battery replacement grant to make sure that when an AED is in need the parts can be replaced. Our local boy scout troop led by scout Tyler deCesare (Troop #0032) did an inventory of all the AEDs in the county, recording battery and pad serial numbers and expiration dates. That information is now in the hands of the Rock County Ambulance for future replacement awareness. Any AED unit can now get re-

placement parts at no cost through this program.

Why are AEDs important in our communities?

- 1. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the U.S.
- 2. CPR is not enough
- 3. EMS is fast.... but not fast enough
- 4. Certain populations are at higher risk (men over 45 and women over 55)
- 5. Early treatment dramatically improves survival rates

(when an AED is used within the first 3-5 minutes survival rate goes up 60%)

6. Preparation for the unexpected matters

(34% of places with an AED have used theirs at least once to save a life)

- 7. Get trained in how to use an AED and CPR
- 8. An AED can save a life: yours, your loved one, your neighbor, your co-worker

Give \$ - Save a Life – Rock County is a healthy place to live!!