



**Educational
Foundation**
OF WATERTOWN, WI

Community-Education-Opportunities



**Empowering Teachers and Inspiring Children in Watertown's
Public and Private Schools with Grants from Your Donations Since 1999!**

**FALL
2024**

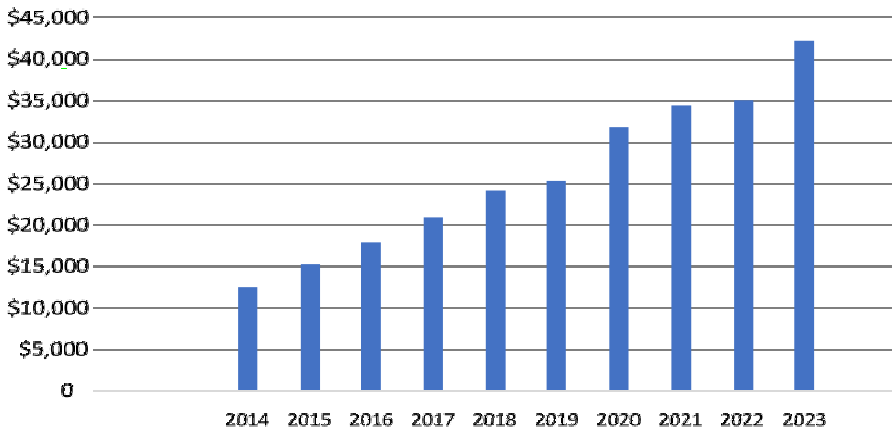
President's Annual Report



This year, we proudly continue to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Educational Foundation of Watertown. What began in 1999 with a modest \$100 donation has grown into a powerful commitment to educational excellence for the teachers and students in our community.

The early champions of this vision sparked a legacy of community involvement, inspiring ongoing financial support for Watertown students. A historical overview of our founding group can be found in this report.

ANNUAL TEACHER GRANT AWARDS - 10 YEARS DATA



As we look ahead to 2024, our goal is to award \$50,000 in grants to teachers in both public and private schools throughout Watertown. In 2023, we exceeded our target of \$35,000 in grant awards, distributing over \$40,000 to support classroom projects. Teachers have expressed immense gratitude for the resources these grants provide to their students. That gratitude extends to you—the generous supporters who make this all possible.

While the impact on Watertown's classrooms goes beyond dollars, none of it would be achievable without your unwavering financial contributions to the Educational Foundation of Watertown. Thank you! ▲

Kathy Wagner



**Since 1999, we've proudly
funded 685 projects and awarded
\$330,316 in total grants**

THANK YOU!

**Your Generous Donations
Make All of This Possible**

**Visit Our
New Website!**

edfoundationwtttnwi.org

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand new website! You'll find:

Grant Information: Learn how our foundation supports local public and private schools and see how past grants have made a difference

Event Updates: Stay informed about our upcoming fundraisers

Donation Options: Discover the many ways you can support our mission

Impact Stories: Read inspiring stories about how the Ed Foundation of Watertown's efforts are positively impacting education in Watertown

Teacher Features: Get to know the amazing educators in our community who are enriching the lives of students

List of Donors and Sponsors: See the generous individuals and organizations that help make our mission possible

Photo Galleries: Visit our photo galleries to see the moments we've captured from events, community initiatives, and more

And so much more! Check it out today, and don't forget to bookmark the page for future updates

The Watertown Jig Jog 5K Walk/Run Sets New Course!



We are already gearing up for our 11th annual Watertown Irish Jig Jog! This exciting 5K Run/Walk (*just over 3 miles*) is set for **SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025**. This year's route will take participants through some of

Watertown's highlights, including the public library, Bentzin Town Square, and many beautiful, historic areas of our town. Best of all, every dollar raised benefits students across Watertown, both in public and private schools.

\$17,697 in 2023 and \$100,000 Overall

Last year, we raised an impressive \$17,697 for the Ed Foundation of Watertown, and since the Jig Jog's inception, we've proudly contributed over \$100,000 to the Foundation, thanks to the generosity of our amazing community. As always, we need your help to make this year's event a huge success.



Run or Walk in the 5K

We always have more walkers than runners. You can join solo or as a team, sponsor a runner, or involve your kids/grandkids in the kids run. With plenty of surprises along the way, this is an event you don't want to miss. Stay tuned by visiting our website and/or Facebook page for updates as the day approaches.

Volunteer on the Course

As a course volunteer, you'll pick up your vest and head to your assigned station along the route, helping runners and walkers cross safely and cheering them on. It's a small commitment—about an hour on race day—and your support makes a huge impact on the event's success.



Become a Jig Jog Sponsor

We offer a variety of sponsorship levels to fit every budget. Your contribution goes directly to supporting Watertown's schools.

Thank you SO MUCH for helping us continue our mission to support the schoolchildren of Watertown. We couldn't do it without you!



The Numbers

The Educational Foundation of Watertown received 74 Grant Applications totaling \$56,240 for 2023. We were able to fund 60 (72%) of the applications which totaled \$40,260. Forty percent of the grant monies were awarded to private schools and 60% to public schools of Watertown.

Projects Fueled by Your Support

Examples of projects fueled by your support in classrooms include: Flexible seating and Sensory Tools, Books for Classrooms – elementary through high school, Science and Math Manipulatives, Materials and Equipment for Playgrounds, Scripts for Speech and Drama Collection, Sanding Equipment for Woodshop, Technology including Chrome Books and iPads, Repair and Rehabilitation for Outdoor Agriculture Education Space, Baseball Gloves for Physical Education.

The grant committee considers all applications and uses a variety of criteria to choose grant



awards. We seek out projects that stimulate academic achievement and provide enhanced learning opportunities. We encourage creative and innovative educational enhancements. We want to address all populations of students – youngest to oldest; all areas of education; and continued availability of technology. We support academic achievement, as well as social/emotional growth of students. We also look at the number of students who will be impacted by the grant project and the duration and continued use of the funded materials. ▲

A Legacy of Support for Watertown Schools

The Educational Foundation of Watertown Celebrates 25 Years

In January 1999, the Educational Foundation of Watertown held its first meeting, committed to strengthening public and private schools in Watertown. Founding members included President Ray Kubly, Vice President Cathy Kwapil, Secretary Belle Luhman, and Treasurer Mark Sweet, along with additional board members and representatives from the Watertown Unified School District.



Ray Kubly: A Lifetime of Service

Ray Kubly, the Ed Foundation's first president, was a lifelong Watertown resident and a 1942 graduate of Watertown High School. Ray had a remarkable history of service, both to his country

and his community. During World War II, while serving as a bombardier in the 8th Air Force, his plane was shot down over German-occupied Holland, and he was taken as a prisoner of war before escaping with the help of the Dutch Underground. Ray was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery. Beyond his military service, Ray was heavily involved in the Watertown community, serving 16 years on the Watertown School Board, holding leadership roles at Immanuel Lutheran Church, and being a member of the Lions Club, Country Club, and Elks Club. As president of the Educational Foundation, Ray's goal was to raise funds to enhance education in Watertown schools, a mission his wife, Ruth, children and grandchildren continue to support. Ray passed away in 2008, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to education, community service, and family.

Randy Phelps and Neale Jones: Continuing the Tradition

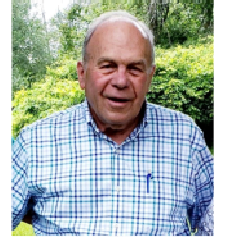
Randy Phelps and Neale Jones, each with 25 years of service to the foundation, also have deep ties to the Watertown community.

Randy, now retired after a 32-year career with ORBIS Corporation, where he was Vice President of Business Development and Acquisitions, has used his expertise in finance and negotiations to benefit the foundation.



His skills also played a crucial role when he helped negotiate the sale of Watertown Hospital to LifePoint. Randy remains actively involved in the community, serving on the Watertown Hospital Joint Venture Board, the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation, and the Rainbow Hospice Foundation. His dedication to Watertown's health and safety has been invaluable.

Neale Jones, a lifelong community member and retired livestock marketer, has also been instrumental to the foundation's success. In addition to his role as Treasurer of the Educational Foundation, he's been deeply involved in agriculture-related organizations, including serving as a 4-H Beef Project Leader and Chairman of the Livestock Meat Animal Sale at the Dodge County Fair. Neale's commitment extends beyond education—he has served as Chairman for the Town of Shields for 40 years and remains an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. His leadership and dedication to local agriculture are well respected.



From \$50 Each Granted to 2 Teachers in 1999 to \$42,260 Granted to 60 Teachers in 2023!

In 1999, the Ed Foundation awarded its very first grants, giving \$50 each to a teacher in a Watertown public school and a teacher in a Watertown private school. Today, the Foundation has grown significantly, awarding \$42,260 in 2023 to 60 teachers across Watertown's schools. The Ed Foundation supports projects that encourage innovation, promote excellence in education, and enhance student well-being. As we continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary, we aim to fund \$50,000 in grants to benefit public and private school teachers.

Celebrating 25 Years with Our \$25 for 25 Campaign



We owe our success to the generous support of individuals, families, businesses, and foundations through annual donations, memorial gifts, and events like the Brat Fry at Glenn's Market and the Jig/Jog 5K Walk/Run.

To mark our anniversary, we invite the community to join our \$25 for 25 Years campaign...donate \$25 to honor each year of the foundation's work. Visit edfoundationwttwnwi.org to contribute. Your support is essential to continuing this important mission. We could not continue this support for the education of the children of our community without you and look forward to the next 25 years! ▲

Grants in Action

We're always thrilled to hear from teachers who express their gratitude to the Educational Foundation of Watertown for the improvements they've been able to bring to their classrooms. Often, they share photos of their students and projects in action, giving us a glimpse of the incredible impact your support makes. Enjoy these snapshots showcasing the EFW Grants at work.



A Light Table for Students to Explore in an Interactive Way: Mrs. Gutzdorf, 3K Classroom, Good Shepherd Lutheran School, utilizes this light table to create a fun and engaging environment where students can explore science, math, and other subjects in a hands-on, interactive way.

Upgrade to New Kitchen Equipment Enhances Students' Culinary Skills and Kitchen Safety: Foods Classes at Riverside Middle School. Ms. Beaudoin used grant funds to upgrade outdated kitchen equipment.



Ukuleles to Help Students Develop Musical Skills, Improve Hand-Eye Coordination, Enhance Cognitive Abilities, and Boost Creativity and Self-expression: Music Classes at Trinity-St. Luke's Lutheran School. Mr. Leckwee purchased Ukuleles to teach music theory by learning how to play different musical instruments.

Sensory Bins Enhance Learning: Kindergarten classrooms at Douglas Elementary School, led by Ms. Kreutzman, Ms. Chapman, and Ms. Johnson, have introduced sensory bins. These hands-on kits foster language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and social interaction.



John David Grant Awards

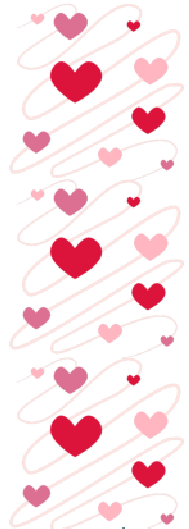
John David, (1948-2023), was a valuable member of the Watertown community who contributed to the welfare of citizens in many ways. One of those ways was as a valued member of the Board of Directors of the Educational Foundation of Watertown. Two special John David Grant Awards were given in the 2023 Grant Offerings.



\$2,000 Technology Grant for students at Watertown Catholic Schools



\$2,000 Social Studies Grant for 3rd Grade Social Studies Curriculum at Douglas Elementary School



Honor Roll 2023

- Andrew and Elizabeth Bare
- Margaret Luchsinger
- Gayle Ebert
- Hillary Lobenstein
- Bonnie Sukow
- Joseph and Robin Radocay
- Laura Nechkash
- Emily McFarland
- Dr. Edward Hoy
- James and Loralie Isely
- Cary and Nancy Gillingham
- Wayne Kempen
- John and Gladys Ebert
- Janice Runge
- Maas Brothers Construction
- Hafemeisters Funeral Home
- Scott and Carol Quest
- Frances Milburn
- John and Denise Grinwald
- David and Judith Frohling
- Donnell Geib
- Tikvah
- Michael and Monica Grajewski
- Karla and Bill Mullen
- Ramona Hackbarth
- Richard and Kathleen Schuett
- Koplin Excavating
- Timothy and Cynthia Schuler
- Daniel and Kay Lapin
- Thomas and Susan O'Connor
- The Will Family Foundation

In Honor of 2023

- All Teachers in Watertown by Randy and Barbara Phelps
- John David by Dr. Edward Hoy
- Mary R. Schultz by Tom and Mary Schultz
- Our Grandchildren: Jule, Rory, Henry, Arwen, Hudson, and Hadley by John and Carleen Schloemer
- Our Grandchildren: Mya, Izzie, Audrey, John, Peyton, and Britta by Fred and Cindy Gremmels
- Josh, Christian and Evelyn Rhodes by JR and Lorraine Rhodes
- Our Grandchildren by John and Christine Maas
- Our Daughters: Angela, Amy, Amanda by Richard and Kathy Wagner
- Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Granddaughter by Neale Jones
- Our Grandchildren by Robert and Jane Bender
- Our Grandchildren by Joe and Sue Rhodes

Jig Jog Sponsors 2024

- Watertown Regional Medical Center
- Animal Health Center
- Grinwald Ford
- John Beltz Family
- American Family Insurance
- Bank of Lake Mills
- Century 21
- Chickens Unlimited
- Pauli Plumbing Inc.
- Carew Heating & AC
- CLARIS Eye Care
- Culligan
- Domani Salon, Spa & Café
- Family Dental Practice
- Far Horizons
- Fort Community Credit Union
- Hodgett Family Farm
- Innerpak
- Koplin Excavating
- Maas Bros. Construction
- Phelps Family
- Preferred Builders
- Realty Executives Platinum
- Richter Heating & A/C
- Schaefer's Soft Water
- Watertown Moose Lodge 830
- Watertown Rotary
- YES! Watertown
- First Weber Realtors
- Watertown Tourism
- Watertown Piggly Wiggly

Cum Laude \$1,000+ 2023

- Christian Brothers of Watertown LLC
- Joseph and Sharon Darcy Foundation
- The Saturday Club
- Watertown Area Community Foundation
- Menasha Corp. Foundation/Orbis
- Bob and Joan Wilkinson
- William and Cathy Kwapil Foundation
- Dr. Edward Hoy
- Johnsonville Charitable Trust
- Roger Kubly

In Memory of 2023

- Catherine Kwapil by Rich and Kathy Wagner
- Peter Schmitz by Kitty Stueber
- John David by Don and Jean Kwapil
- John David by Grinwald Ford Inc.
- John David by Alan & Barb Anderson
- John David by Mary Degner
- John David by Dan and Kay Lapin
- John David by Loeb & Co. L.L.P.
- John David by Watertown Tourism Council
- John David by Watertown Chamber of Commerce
- John David by Jarrod B. Thomas, Area Dental
- John David by Stephen and Judith Zillmer
- John David by Richard and Marry Witte
- John David by Richard and Kathy Wagner
- John David by Sandra and Peter Thompson
- John David by Kitty Stueber
- John David by Randall and Diane Strunz
- John David by Phillip and Sheila Strunz
- John David by Mary and Alfred Shumaker
- John David by Daniel and Kathleen Shea
- John David by Thomas and Mary Schultz
- John David by Adam Richter
- John David by Edward and Arlene Raether
- John David by Randy and Barbara Phelps
- John David by Thomas and Susan O'Connor
- John David by Arthur and Karen Melcher
- John David by Ruth Mack
- John David by Diane LaPoint
- John David by Donald and Jean Kwapil
- John David by Lynda F. Harris
- John David by Roger and Sandra Herbert
- John David by Fredrick and Cynthia Gremmels
- John David by Grant and Susan Graves
- John David by David and Judith Frohling
- John David by Robert and Suzanne Harms
- John David by Kathleen Ehlinger
- John David by Duane and Anne Brett
- John David by Karen Beckman
- John David by Pamela Bartee
- John David by Curt Crogan
- John David by Nancy and Richard Decono
- John David by Jon Holthaus
- John David by John Jagler
- Jon David by Neale R. Jones
- John David by William Kern and Kathryn Caylor
- John David by John and Louise Lemke
- John David by Robert and Sarah Miller
- John David by Diane Strege
- John David by Cynthia and David Weisbecker
- John David by Watertown Moose Lodge No. 830
- John David by Richard and Marie Kuckkahn
- Dr. C. Morton Hawkins by Alan and Barb Anderson
- Scott Wickmann by Jeffrey and Vicki Allen
- Bill Tim by Kate Lapin
- Richard and Loretta Sommers by Paul Sommers
- Ken Sina and Sandi LeRoy by William and Juanita Edginton
- Gary Fontaine by Diane Fontaine
- Annie Egan by Cathy and Dave Egan
- John David, John Dickinson, Tom Kwapil, Herb Engelbrecht, Jim Kraemer, Pastor Sue Larson, Don Reichert, Bruce Kopp by Elden and Valerie Engelbrecht
- Ray and Ruth Kubly by C.K. Scott
- Ray and Ruth Kubly by Mary, Jan, and Alice Held
- Ray and Ruth Kubly by Michael Wilkinson
- Ruth Jones by Neale Jones
- Ruth Christensen by Don Christensen
- Gary Smith by Jan Smith
- George and Janet Hennings by John and Carol Christian

We Seek to Promote Excellence in Education

The Educational Foundation of Watertown, Inc. seeks to promote excellence in education through the use of its resources.

- **Stimulate** outstanding academic achievement and provide enhanced learning opportunities to students.
- **Increase** local business, civic and private sector involvement within the schools of the Watertown area.
- **Recognize** outstanding achievement by teachers and support staff.
- **Encourage** creative and innovative educational enhancements.
- **Promote** and maintain use of the most recent technologies in teaching and learning.
- **Provide** schools, students and teachers with financial support through grants.



How You Can Help

There are many ways you can help us grow, which in turn helps students in our community. Please visit our website and click on Donations and then Ways to Donate for full descriptions and details of everything listed below.

- **Make a Donation**
 - Visit our web site and click on Make a Donation to do so: **edfoundationwttwnwi.org**
 - You'll be able to pay with your credit card, Pay Pal, Venmo, or you can mail in a check.

- **SHARE** our website with your family, friends, and associates
- **LIKE** and/or **SHARE** our Facebook page. Invite your family and friends to do the same. **facebook.com/EFofWatertown**

- **Participate in, Volunteer, Attend, or be a Sponsor for our three Fundraisers:** The Watertown Jig Jog 5K Walk/Run, Glenn's Brat Fry, and Piggly Wiggly Round-Up Event

- **Tribute and Memorial Gifts**
- **Bequests:** Name the Educational Foundation of Watertown in your will/estate plan
- **In-kind Gifts:** Donate a raffle gift for one of our fundraisers

- **Gifts of Appreciated Stocks, Bonds or Real Estate**

- **Creation of a Named Fund:** \$10,000 minimum contribution

- **Pass-Through Gifts:** for specific projects

- **"Class of" Alumni Gifts**

2025 Community Partner Events

Glenn's Brat Fry

Thank you for the many walk-up and delivery orders at the Brat Haus Fry held at Glenn's Market in 2024. Stay tuned for our new 2025 date and come eat lunch with us or we will deliver to you! ▲

Piggly Wiggly Round-Up Event

We are excited to announce that we will participate in Round-Up from February 9-15, 2025. This is an opportunity for grocery shoppers to contribute to the Educational Foundation of Watertown and support our Grant Awards. ▲

2024-2025 Board Members



Kathy Wagner, President, Retired Administrator/Educator



Randy Phelps, Vice President, Retired Vice President Business Development and Acquisitions - ORBIS



John Higgins, Treasurer, Retired WE Energies



Kate Lapin, Secretary, Retired Physical Therapy Asst



Jeff Allen, Jig Jog Coordinator, Retired Administrator/Educator



Neale Jones, Retired Livestock Marketer



Charity Chandler, DEI Experience, Sodexo, Inc



Jeanne Higgins, Retired Librarian



Ed Hoy, Retired Ophthalmologist



Tina Johnson, Business Owner



Jenifer Hedrick, Occupational Therapist



Elizabeth Boxell, ESL Student Educator



Sarah Duncan, WUSD Director of Biz Services



Dan Voeltner, School Board Representative



Diane Schultz, Retired HS English Teacher



Paul Sommers, Retired Dentist



Pete Thompson, Customer Service Representative