



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BLACF Welcomes Newly Elected Members to Serve on Board of Directors**

Brainerd, Minn. – The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) recently announced that Brandon Andersen and Jill Casper have joined the Board of Directors. The current Board of eleven members governs BLACF, conducts development activities, approves grant recommendations, and works to engage people, connect resources, and build community. All members are volunteers and serve up to three, three-year terms.

Jill Casper is the Director of Marketing and Community Engagement at Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC). With an undergraduate degree in Organizational Behavior and a master's degree in management and leadership, she loves working with people and systems to create efficient and fun environments. Jill has sat on numerous non-profit boards in the Brainerd Lakes Area, and throughout the state, many with a focus on the leadership development of women including Presenting Yourself, a program of the Brainerd Women's Fund. Jill and her husband, Troy, live in Nisswa, Minnesota. They have five adult children and enjoy being empty nesters!

Brandon Andersen is the co-owner of Lonesome Cottage in Pequot Lakes, MN with his wife Jill. Most recently you would recognize them as royalty, as Brandon and Jill presided over the 2023 Pequot Lakes Bean Hole Days. The Andersen's bought Lonesome Cottage Furniture Co. in 2003 and have grown the once small retail store into a national producer of high quality furniture made from logs and reclaimed lumber. Brandon is an entrepreneur at heart and has owned several successful businesses over the years. Brandon is very active in the Lakes Area and helps support many community projects, especially in the Pequot Lakes community. Brandon and his wife Jill live in Merrifield and have three children.

Terri Foster, BLACF Executive Director stated, "Jill and Brandon both bring a great amount of passion and commitment to bettering communities in the Lakes Area and to ensure individuals who need a hand-up, get the support needed. Both Jill and Brandon certainly bring a wealth of business acumen and have a unique perspective of community needs to help BLACF ensure that we are helping to meet those needs now and well into the future. We are excited to welcome them to the Board and we are confident that they will be a positive addition to what is already a great group of thought and community leaders making an impact in the Lakes Area."



Brandon Andersen



Jill Casper

BLACF attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of supporting your favorite charities and causes. BLACF was founded in 1998 and celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is excited for not only the growth in fund assets that the foundation hosts – over \$19.26 million, but even more proud of the \$9 million in grant funding provided to nonprofit organizations from BLACF and in-partnership with its fundholders and donors. Those dollars are truly transforming lives and changing our communities! The BLACF is governed by a local board of directors and is a partner of CommunityGiving, a collaborative of community foundations creating efficiencies that maximize donor impact. Collectively, CommunityGiving administers over 1,000 funds, totaling nearly \$210 million. Learn more at [CommunityGiving.org/blacf](https://CommunityGiving.org/blacf).

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