



**BRAINERD
LAKES AREA
Community
Foundation**



**Winter 2024
Newsletter**

THE POWER OF
GIVING

What it means to give

THE POWER OF GIVING

For many of us, at one time or another, we've asked ourselves questions about our purpose in life and how we can best fulfill it. Pablo Picasso once said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." Everyone's life meaning is different, the opportunities you have to give of yourself are unique but giving of one's time, treasure, and talent are essential for bettering the world around us.

At times, it may be hard to see what difference one person can make and how you can help. But we invite you to join others in your community who are transforming lives through giving. Whether through a monetary donation, volunteering of time or sharing your talents, you are helping to spread seeds of kindness that have the power to make a real and lasting difference. For someone experiencing hard times, feeling alone and possibly even despair, one simple act of kindness can change everything! For inspiring ideas on how you can make a difference, read the stories below to learn how some of our community members have given generously to help others. Kindness can be infectious and spread to those around us. Let's all join in, starting a multiplying butterfly effect, improving lives for generations to come - showing the true power of giving!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BLACF 2024 AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY HONOREES

Each year, the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) celebrates the generosity of our community, and recognizes those making significant impact to the lives of others through philanthropy. The BLACF Board of Directors is proud to announce this year's honorees to be recognized at the annual BLACF Award in Philanthropy Dinner on July 18th at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, MN. These honorees are catalysts, inspiring others to give.

The Award in Philanthropy honors those who have demonstrated exceptional civic and charitable generosity, committed to bettering the world around them. Selected to receive this year's award is Thomas Anderson. Anderson, fueled by a passion for community, has a special focus on business mentorship and his personal mission has been to support the growth of the Brainerd Lakes Area. BLACF Executive Director, Terri Foster states, "Tom is the epitome of a philanthropist, and we couldn't be more grateful for his generosity, of not only his treasure but something even more valuable, his time and talents. He continually gives through his copious amounts of volunteerism through many local organizations including the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, the Brainerd Family YMCA, the Initiative Foundation, the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation, Essentia Health, AARP/VITA, Brainerd Public Schools Foundation and right here with the BLACF. Countless lives have been touched by Tom and the Lakes Area communities are a better place because of his generous nature, and we are honored to have him as the recipient of the 2024 Award in Philanthropy honoree," Foster noted.



THOMAS ANDERSON
AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY



**OUTREACH PROGRAMS OF
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN HONOREE

The Outreach Programs of Salem Lutheran Church of Deerwood, MN, will receive the 2024 BLACF Global Humanitarian honor for their humanitarian work, not only here but also for their global outreach in Honduras. The award recognizes those who work to improve access to basic needs and enhance lives of global neighbors who may experience extreme poverty or face adverse situations, through giving of their time, resources, and expertise. The Outreach Programs have been doing work in Honduras for over 25 years through the building of infrastructure including; churches, schools, homes, and providing education and ministry to support residents and organizations in need - transforming communities around the world.

John Poston will be remembered posthumously with the 2024 BLACF Legacy Memorial honor for leading a life with a purpose that was bigger than himself and fueled by stewardship and generosity. Poston truly embodied what it meant to be a public servant in all aspects of his life. He was an active leader in the City of Lake Shore, Nisswa and throughout the State of Minnesota. Poston served as Mayor of Lake Shore for four years and was heavily involved in local politics, he also served three terms as District 9A State Representative. Poston founded a humanitarian food-aid organization in 2012, what is now known as, The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes (formally Kids Against Hunger). He was a small business entrepreneur who stimulated the economy of the Lakes Area and expanded employment opportunities. Poston leaves a profound and lasting impact, a legacy that will resonate for generations to come; epitomizing his personal values, humility, generosity and kindness.



JOHN POSTON
LEGACY MEMORIAL
HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

Save the Date!

**BLACF AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY DINNER CELEBRATION
JULY 18TH, 2024 - GRAND VIEW LODGE AT 5:30 PM**



BRAINERD
LAKES AREA
Community
Foundation

A Letter from the Executive Director



“Life’s persistent and most urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

As we announce this year’s BLACF honorees for the Award in Philanthropy celebration and reflect on the essence of Dr. King’s above statement, we recognize the importance of kindness and generosity to create a better life for us now and generations to come. At BLACF, we strive to adhere to Dr. King’s message through our commitment of bringing people together and fostering positive change through generosity to address the needs of our community. In order to overcome the complex community challenges, generosity and collaboration are needed to prevail.

Your local Community Foundation seeks to make charitable giving of cash and other assets easy, by providing the highest tax advantages to donors and by multiplying the impact of your gifts. By supporting BLACF or establishing a charitable fund, you’re not only making a difference today, but you’re also investing in the future. Your donations help to create a sustainable source of funding for local organizations and initiatives, ensuring that vital services and programs can thrive for years to come. The Foundation serves as a lasting cornerstone of the community, harnessing the collective generosity of individuals with the flexibility to adapt as community needs change. Whether your passion is supporting education or workforce initiatives, advancing basic need services to under-served populations, religious beliefs, or cultivating community through arts; BLACF can help you make the greatest impact with your charitable gift.

Together, let us be inspired by others, strive to answer life’s most urgent question, and challenge ourselves to show kindness and compassion, give generously, and make a meaningful difference to those in need of a helping hand. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our shared mission and helping transform lives and communities through giving of your time, treasure, and talents.

Gratefully,
Terri Foster

Donor Corner

LEGACY GIFT FUELS LOCAL NONPROFITS

In a remarkable act of generosity, an anonymous donor of a charitable fund with the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF), recently granted \$50,000 to two local nonprofits who are dedicated to supporting the communities most vulnerable. There are two definitions of the word legacy, one definition is an amount of money or property left to someone in a will and the other, is the long-lasting impact of a person’s contributions throughout their life. The original fund was established 20 years ago and now, through investment returns, allows the fund successors to provide generous gifts to multiply the incredible impact of nonprofit recipients. This charitable fund embodies both legacy definitions, allowing the fund to support both immediate community needs, as well as future needs.

\$25,000 was gifted to Bridges of Hope’s, the Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter which is a low-barrier warming shelter for individuals 18+ who are experiencing homelessness in the Lakes Area. Guests are offered a safe and warm night’s sleep at the 1628 S. 7th Street location, open from 7pm – 8am through the winter season. Adults facing a housing crisis, not only receive a place to sleep, but warm clothing, a to-go breakfast and lunch, and may receive assistance connecting to supportive services. Since opening in late 2021, over 360 individuals have stayed for more than 6,500 nights.



Bill Weir, The Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter Manager; Terri Foster, Executive Director for BLACF, and Jana Shogren, Executive Director for Bridges of Hope share the donation news.



Jennifer Palmer, Amy Buchite, Ashley Paulson, Theresa Rardin, Dawn Conroy-Adkisson, Samantha Blocker, Cali Schweninger, Jesse Jones, Chuck Gifford, and Venus King staff of the Open Arms Community Center and Lighthouse Beginnings accept the check from the anonymous fundholders with BLACF.

The other \$25,000 gift (enhanced by another donor gift) provides Lighthouse Beginnings’ Open Arms Community Center support for their homeless and recovery resource center in Baxter. The Center offers a supportive, sober, safe environment that assists individuals with putting their lives back together, and providing the necessary resources. Lighthouse Beginnings has a mission to assist and empower individuals who face roadblocks in the recovery process. They are open Monday through Friday, 7:45am – 7:45pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 8am – 5pm. Open Arms has a community space for activities, a small kitchen for meals, and helpful staff who provide clients support to help increase employee retention and job placements. A woodworking and automotive shop will be added in conjunction with another program housed in the facility, the Fatherhood Challenge.

EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

COMMUNITYGIVING INVESTMENT UPDATES & CURRENT MARKET OVERVIEW

with Shale Lapping
President of IPEX



Wednesday, May 22, 2024
11:30AM - 1:00PM CDT

Register Online via Zoom!

Shale Lapping, investment manager for CommunityGiving and BLACF, partner foundation, will be giving an overview of our investment portfolio and the strategy of investing. A high level review of the overall investment market and investment results for quarter end March 31, 2024 will also be reviewed. This is a great webinar for fund-holders, nonprofits, and professional advisors to learn more on this topic and about BLACF.

Join us for
on Friday, June 14th
at the
Crosslake Community Center



You'll learn more about community happenings from your local community foundation and hear brief organizational updates from a variety of agencies including:

- Healthcare
- Nonprofit
- Tourism
- Government

OR, register at
communitygiving.org/events



Scan to Register



Stay tuned for upcoming free estate planning workshops!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND MORE AT COMMUNITYGIVING.ORG/EVENTS

Nonprofit Partner Spotlight



Award in Philanthropy
ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION
Save the Date THURSDAY JULY 18TH
at GRAND VIEW LODGE

BRIDGES OF HOPE PROVIDES MORE THAN HOPE



New and exciting things are happening at Bridges of Hope! February marked the opening of the relocated Baxter Common Goods store, which is now just a mile up the road from the previous location, you can find their expanded location at 17140 HWY 371 N, Baxter, from previously. The new location is not the only new thing occurring at the Common Goods stores. All locations are now accepting damaged clothing and fabric for their recycled clothing program (this program received grant funding from BLACF as a Difference Maker in

2023) to increase revenues and provide an option to utilize non-saleable textile items. If you wish to donate items to be recycled, please place them in a trash bag and label "FABRIC RECYCLE".

Incorporated in 2002, Bridges of Hope is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, servicing communities in and around Crow Wing County. Bridges of Hope provides assistance to those facing a financial or other crisis by connecting them with local human services and support resources. Bridges of Hope, has the three Common Good thrift store locations, provides meals through Operation Sandwich and also manages an overnight warming shelter.

The Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter is open seasonally from 7pm – 8am for homeless adults 18 years and older. The shelter provides a warm and safe place for individuals to stay during the colder months.

Bridges of Hope also leads Operation Sandwich, offering meals for area students through their program when free and reduced meals are not accessible at school. This is a grassroots program that exists to provide consistent food security to end childhood hunger by feeding kids when school is not in session over breaks and summer vacation. If interested in donating, volunteering or learning more about Bridges of Hope's services, please visit their website at: www.bridgesofhopemn.org.



Common Goods Thrift Store
New Location in Baxter.



Scan to Support
BRIDGES OF HOPE



A Partner Fund of the Community Foundation

As a BLACF agency fund partner, Bridges of Hope's reserve dollars are invested in their fund to try and hedge inflation, while providing the nonprofit other partner benefits, including training, connection with other local nonprofits, and exposure of programs.

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.



Brandon Andersen



Jill Casper

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 live in Nisswa, Minnesota. They have five adult children and enjoy being empty nesters!



**FOR
SALE**

Are you thinking about selling? Consider a gift of real estate!

If you own real estate and are thinking of selling the property we may have some options for you to consider that may lessen your capital gain taxes, provide a substantial tax deduction, or provide a fixed annual income stream. Many times, non-cash assets such as real estate may be a great option for donors to receive the greatest tax benefit and also support their favorite charities. Donors have many options from gifting a portion of the property to receive tax benefits and then outright sell the remainder portion. Contact us to set up a complimentary meeting to learn more and see if a gift of real estate is right for you.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Capital gain is typically avoided when given to a non-profit.
- Charitable deduction is based on fair market value on the day of the gift.
- Ability to establish many types of gifts such as charitable remainder trust.
- Property may be liquidated tax-free.

TYPES OF REAL ESTATE TO GIFT

- Residential or Vacation homes
- Commercial or Rental properties
- Agricultural land and buildings
- Vacant land

MORE THAN

\$800,000

Nonprofit grant funding given this fiscal year in partnership with our fund holders.

NEW CHARITABLE FUNDS CREATED (JULY 1, 2023 - PRESENT)

We'd like to welcome the following funds to the BLACF family. We thank each of the donors for entrusting us to host their fund, assist with their philanthropic goals and maximize tax benefits.

- Albrecht Family Fund
- Arwen Avenelle Arts and Activities Fund
- Crow Wing County Historical Society Fund
- GJH Fund
- Gull Chain of Lakes Association (GCOLA) - AIS Fund
- Nisswa Enrichment Fund
- R&L Barnett Family Fund
- Robertson Family Fund
- Timothy and Teresa Dirks Family Fund

Contact Us!



Terri Foster

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Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) 321 South 7th St. - Downstairs of Bremer Bank in the Nonprofit Center
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Information provided in this newsletter is not intended as tax or legal guidance; consult your tax, financial, or legal advisor to determine eligibility for your specific situation.

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