

Your *Looking forward and giving back* Watertown

Area Community Foundation

Fall 2016

“Opening Doors” Raises Funds for Club’s Improvements & Future

Jodi and Scott Driscoll, Watertown Ford-Chrysler, gave \$250,000 to match the Watertown Area Community Foundation’s \$250,000 for the Boys & Girls Club Campaign. From left are Jan DeBerg, WACF executive director; Liz Christianson, Boys & Girls Club executive director; and the Driscolls.

Earlier this year, the Club embarked on a fund-raising campaign, “Opening Doors,” to raise funds for capital improvements as well as the Club’s endowment fund at the Foundation. WACF awarded a \$500,000 grant which included a \$250,000 match for capital campaign gifts and a \$250,000 match for the endowment fund.

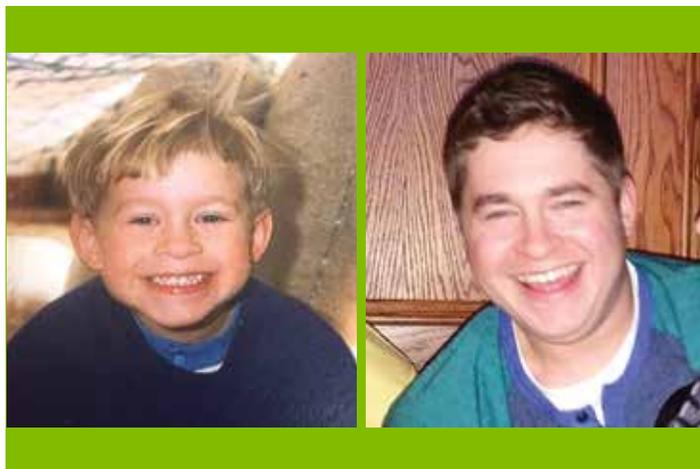
The Club announced this month that it has met their fund-raising goals for the campaign. Thanks to donors supporting WACF and the Boys & Girls Club, more doors are truly being opened for local youth.



The Christopher Rieb Fund

“Success is not in monetary gain but in the happiness you obtain, or you bestow on others”

Written by Chris Rieb



The Christopher (Chris) Rieb fund has been established in memory of Chris by his parents, Dr. Mark and Susan Rieb of Watertown. The fund will honor Chris by supporting youth and his passions, including hockey and baseball.

“Chris was proud of the Watertown community and grateful for all the benefits he received as a youth growing up. September marks Chris’ birthday. Our deepest hope is that he will continue to live on through this wonderful organization of giving.” said the Riebs. Chris had a huge smile as a child and grown man, and an infectious laugh that warmed hearts. He loved people and conversation/debate. His friends were his extended family and it all started right here in the Watertown community.

Texting Program Helps Teens

While there are definitely times when teens get in trouble for texting too much, there is at least one instance in which teens are encouraged to text. The crisis texting program for Watertown area high school students is coordinated through the Human Service Agency's Glacial Lakes SAFE program and the Help Line Center in Sioux Falls.

"I hope that teens in Watertown never need to use it and at the same time I hope teens use it every time they are in a crisis," said Dr. Michael Butts, WHS principal.

Teens have been using it since the program began in February. At that time, the Watertown Area Community Foundation Youth Council awarded a grant to support the program's implementation. The WACF Women & Giving group is following suit by supporting the continuation of the program with another grant.

"The data that was collected February through July definitely shows the need," said Kelli Rumpza, Watertown Community Prevention Specialist at HSA.

Statistics reported note 27 text conversations (92% of these were female and 8% male). The top issues identified in the text conversations:

- 29% suicide (one that required an intervention with law enforcement to ensure the texter's safety).
- 29% relationship problems
- 17% emotional distress
- 13% self-harm
- 6% academic pressures
- 6% family issues

"If we didn't have this, things could have been completely different for the teens who texted," said Rumpza. We are finding that the anxiety level is very high among teens - especially those heading to college. With that in mind, a pilot for postsecondary students at some colleges across the state is now in progress.

The texting line is for any teen who is feeling overwhelmed and is more comfortable texting versus talking.

"The availability of a quick text support line for teens is a great move," Butts agreed. "Teens today will text much more readily than any other communication method. The opportunity to have this potentially lifesaving feature at our teens' fingertips is critical."

Students can text "icare" to 898211 for help.



Watertown Trail System – Then & Now

Jim and Susan Jones and their family are among those who have enjoyed the Watertown Trail System since its very beginning. In fact, they helped kick off fund-raising for the Watertown Trail Fund at the Watertown Area Community Foundation more than 15 years ago. That fund has awarded approximately \$40,000 in grants toward trail expansions in recent years. "We think it's wonderful," Susan said of the trail. "It has truly enhanced Watertown and we have used the trail nearly every day."

The Watertown Area Community Foundation's initial investment in the trail was a three-year grant totaling \$250,000 beginning in 2001. The City and Park & Recreation Department partnered with the Foundation and other entities to make the trail system all it could be.

The trail includes several sidewalk feeder linkages and in its entirety totals over 30 miles. It really covers a lot of Watertown, Jones continued. Nearly everyone is by a certain segment of the trail. The Joneses have used several facets of the trail including the oldest area behind Bramble Park Zoo (where this photo and the one 15 years prior were taken). One of Jones' new favorite scenic views is going through the trail along the bypass out to the Redlin Art Center.

Dr. Herb and Sandy Wiswall kicked off support to the fund designated for trail around Lake Kampeska. With that support, as well as the City's, the next section of trail onboard for developing will incorporate Memorial Park. According to Jay DeLange, park & rec supervisor, construction should begin this fall. This segment will enhance the trail around Lake Kampeska.

Thank you to the Jones family for permitting another photo to be taken. While the family has grown up, Harrison (walking, left,) and Alex were in Watertown for the recent photo opportunity (in the archived photo, they are 5 and 7 respectively).



The Jim and Susan Jones Family have enjoyed the Watertown Trail System since its very beginning.



Thank you donors for helping the Foundation grow and make a difference in our community.