



A Note from Jan DeBerg

As February ends and March begins, I am excited for the coming month and the spring ahead.

Our juniors and seniors on the six-member Youth Council meet and send out notification that grant applications will be received from youth-serving local organizations and programs.

A cast of 100 young people from all over the world will come together to present Up With People's "The Journey" performance for our community.

We'll be asking for "Celebrate!" outstanding volunteer nominations soon. Women &

Giving and Watertown Artwalk are just around the corner.

All of these great things are made possible by you – thanks so much for your support!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

EVENTS

- **March 2 – Watertown Day at the Legislature**
- **March 6 – Up With People**
- **March 8 – Youth Council meets.**
- **March 27 – Happy Easter!**
- **April 22 – Women & Giving Event**

Farm Show

The Watertown Area Community Foundation presented a panel, "Planning the Future of Your Farm, Family and Community" at the Watertown Winter Farm Show in February. Jan DeBerg, executive director of the Foundation; Scott Olson, trustee representative, Great Western Bank; Greg Blow, Foundation development officer; and Tyler DeBoer, trustee representative, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; were on hand to give those attending information on estate planning and the Foundation's Farm Retention Program.

When a person gives the Foundation or other qualified charities a small portion of his or her estate, the value of that land acts as a charitable gift deduction on your tax return. With a plan, you can reduce the estate tax burden and possibly eliminate it. More importantly, you can do something for your community that will last forever.

To summarize, benefits of gifting farmland include:

- Land stays local with the Foundation and is tended to by local hands.
- Land remains functional as farmland.
- Land provides a lasting legacy for you and your community.



Farm Show Panel

- The donor receives a tax deduction for the fair market value of the property.
- Donor bypasses capital gains taxes.
- Possibly reduce or eliminate estate taxes for your family.

It's important to know that there are options which include ways that preserve part of a family's assets while benefitting their community forever. The Farmland Retention Program at the Watertown Area Community Foundation provides such options. For more information, please contact the Foundation's office at: 211 E. Kemp; call: 605-882-3731 or email: foundation@iw.net.



BBBS

NEW SIGN – A new sign for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Glacial Lakes went up recently to help identify the organization at its new location. Although BBBS has been at the location for roughly a year, people are still inquiring and getting use to the new site. Alissa Bauman (pictured), program manager, welcomes you at the office, located east of Hy-Vee in the East Gate strip mall. BBBS may be the answer whether you want to be a volunteer or utilize the services offered through the CORE mentoring program, Mentoring Mom program or The Crib. The sign, along with brochures and other promotional items was funded through a grant from the Watertown Area Community Foundation's Youth Council.

\$1 A Day Does Make A Difference

There's not a lot you can get for \$1 anymore. But, believe it or not, you can impact your community with just \$1 a day.

Almost \$12,000 has been awarded by Giving Back 365 donors who have chosen their 2015 grant recipients. Now in its fourth year, the Watertown Area Community Foundation program continues to make a positive impact by giving \$1 a day.

The following grants were awarded:

- \$2,000 to Beacon Center to purchase two new computers, accessories and software.
- \$1,200 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Glacial Lakes to purchase a new desk and locking filing cabinets for its office.
- \$1,776 to the Boys & Girls Club of Watertown to purchase four new tables to be used in the Education Center at the main club site.
- \$2,000 to Habitat for Humanity Greater Watertown Region to purchase new tools including a compressor, miter saw and stand, framing nailer, wobble lights, cords, hoses, circular saw and hand tools.
- \$2,000 to Joy Ranch to purchase materials for a wooden deck with roof and ramp to make the archery program handicap accessible, as well as materials to construct six targets and arrow holders also for the archery program.
- \$1,406 to Lake Area Zoological Society to support the Watertown Wildlife Warriors program at Bramble Park Zoo.
- \$950 to PACH to purchase roll carts to aid in the entire process, from receiving bulk food to the end result of packing items into the packs that are distributed to program participants.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to join the 2016 Giving Back 365 effort by giving \$1 a day to make your community better. Half of your contribution is used for grants in the current year and half is placed in an endowed fund to support future grants. As a member, you are eligible to participate in the grant-making process. There are several ways to join or make a donation. You can donate by check (whether that be a monthly gift or one lump sum of \$365) or go to www.watertowncommunityfoundation.org to use your credit card. For more information on how you can join Giving Back 365, please contact us at 605-882-3731, 211 E. Kemp or email: foundation@iw.net.

Save The Date



- Annual Fund-Raising Event
 - Friday, April 22, 2016
 - At Joy Ranch

Teens Text

As teens expand their “friends and followers” on social media, there is a new texting line that is hoped to be considered a friend to all.

With the help of a grant awarded by the Watertown Area Community Foundation's Youth Council, a new crisis texting program, specifically for teens is under way. Coordinated through the Human Service Agency of Watertown and the Help Line Center in Sioux Falls, the program was announced to Watertown High School in February.

“Currently the program will be geared to service 9th – through 12th-grade students,” said Kelli Rumpza, Watertown Community Prevention Specialist at the Human Service Agency.

Teens, overall, are more comfortable texting than calling or speaking to someone face to face, she explained. There is a growing concern for teens' mental health including depression and suicide, but the hotline isn't just for that. This gives them an opportunity to share any concerns or issues they may have. If the conversation does turn into a crisis, appropriate action will follow and staff will make sure the teen gets the necessary help whether that be emergency or otherwise. Rumpza is also the Watertown Healthy Youth/Tobacco Free Coalition coordinator. School administrators also think the new texting program will be an answer for many.

“I have discovered through all my years in schools that a key factor for teens is a sense of belonging. In the turmoil of being a teen the feeling of belonging can be there one minute and feel completely gone the next,” said Dr. Michael Butts, WHS principal. “Now there is a place for teens to reach out when they feel they have no sense of belonging and there are no options left for them. The immediate option to text “icare” makes for a quick and easy place to turn to. Thank you to those dedicated youth and adults that brought this option to Watertown teens!

Youth Council members were unanimous in wanting to support the program.

“When we received the grant application, it immediately appeared as a worthy cause,” said Shelby Kluver, a senior Youth Council member. “Not only will trained professionals be available to assist students dealing with difficult scenarios, but it will also be available anonymously and discreetly. Often times, when one is in a group setting, it is inappropriate or unrealistic to leave and call for help. With this program, students can receive help they need on a platform familiar to them whenever a situation might arise.”

Rumpza couldn't agree more. The program has had success in other places since 2012, she said. The pilot program began with three schools in South Dakota. Now, 30 schools statewide have implemented it. There is also the potential to add programs which will service postsecondary and middle school students.

“I think it is a step in the right direction in preventing teen suicide,” said Brett Ries Youth Council chair. “I can't wait to see how the program works out.”

“The Youth Council agreed that this will be a valuable tool that will benefit the students of Watertown immensely,” added Kluver.

Rumpza said the program will benefit both students and the community as a whole. Data will be collected regarding why teens are calling in. “Is it relationships, grades, a death in the family... That information will help us look at what other services and programs we can offer to the students and our community.”

Students can text “icare” to 898211 for help every day from 3 to 11 p.m.



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Board, Staff & Trustees



From Left: Angie Reppe, Lee Schull, Dale Christensen, Dr. Lesli Jutting, and Laurie Benson

Trustee Representatives: Scott Olson, Great Western Bank; and Tyler DeBoer, Wells Fargo Bank, NA; Staff: Jan DeBerg, executive director; Greg Blow, donor development; Julianne Endres, marketing/donor services; Jill Slobotski, administrative assistant.

The Watertown Area Community Foundation is governed by a volunteer board who broadly represent the Watertown Community. These board members are appointed by the:

City of Watertown

Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce

Watertown School District, Great Western Bank

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

As of January 2015 our assets were approximately \$15 million. We have over 100 funds that provide grants and scholarships each year to residents and organizations in Watertown.