

Newsletter

January 2017



Jan's Note



2016 was a great year for the Foundation. As 2017 begins, we look forward to partnering with donors and organizations as we continue to invest in the vitality of Watertown.

I encourage organizations to apply for grants to assist them throughout the year. We are off to a good start: Annual distributions have already totaled more than \$100,000 supporting local organizations. In addition, grants awarded by the Board thus far in 2017, include:

- \$2,000 to Artwalk
- \$3,000 to Codington County Post 17 American Legion to support the purchase of a bus.
- \$500 to Friends of the Library to support the annual book sale.
- \$4,000 to the Watertown Chapter of SD Symphony Orchestra to bring in local concerts.
- \$5,000 to Watertown Park & Rec in support of the new Skate Park.

I invite you to a special forum on estate planning that the Foundation will be conducting during the Watertown Winter Farm Show, Friday, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m. in Classroom C at the Codington County Extension Building.



TREE FUNDRAISER - Jan DeBerg, executive director of the Watertown Area Community Foundation distributed checks to the participating organizations in the 2016 WACF Christmas Tree Fundraiser. Nearly \$18,000 was raised and all organizations made the \$300 match by the Foundation. Front, from left, are Megan Fischback, Lake Area Child Protection Team; Kate Deen, Beacon Center; Kelly Jaderborg, Boys & Girls Club of Watertown; Jodi Loehrer, Codington County 4-H; Char Torgerson, Watertown Volunteer Center, and Margaret Davis, Watertown Senior Activities Center. Back row: Collette VanWell, Special Olympics of Watertown; Prudy Calvin, Mellette House; Nancy Johnson, Town Players; Wendy Cline, Watertown Area Transit; Christy Lickei, Codington County Historical Society; Mike Mullin, Watertown Regional Library; Kim Konrad, Lake Area Zoological Society; and DeBerg. Not pictured are representatives from Habitat for Humanity for Greater Watertown Region and Holy Name Boy Scouts Troop 209. Mellette House was the top fundraiser with a total of \$4,918 before its \$300 match and an additional \$500 grant awarded by the Foundation for receiving the most votes/dollars. The Foundation and organizations thank the library for hosting the event and all of the donors who supported the effort.

Reppe, Schull Elected Board Chairs



The Watertown Area Community Foundation Board elected Angie Reppe as its new chairperson during the Board's first meeting of 2017. Angie was appointed to the Board by the City Watertown and has been serving on the Board since 2015.

Reppe earned her Sales/Marketing/Management degree from Lake Area Technical Institute. She and her husband, John, own Backspin LLC which manages the Foley Building in downtown Watertown. She is very involved in developing plans for a revitalization of the City Center. The couple has two children.

Reppe is a member of the Codington County Historical Society, SEEK Watertown, H20-20, past chair of NESD MLS and a former member of the Urban Renewal Board.

"I'm excited about 2017," Reppe said. "We're off to a great start. We've just implemented a new program to support area schools and I know we will be impacting many more organizations and programs as we continue to partner with others investing in this wonderful community."

Reppe succeeds Laurie Benson, 2016 chairperson.

Lee Schull was elected vice chair. Schull holds a business management degree from Colorado State University and has been with Building Products, Inc. since 1977. He has been president of the company since 1983. BPI's corporate office is in Watertown and the company also has locations in Waterloo, IA; Council Bluffs, IA, Fargo, ND, and Sioux Falls. He and his wife, Jan, have four children.

Both Reppe and Schull are Watertown High School graduates and have roots deep in the community.

WACF has grown to roughly \$16 million in assets since its humble beginnings in 1979. The Foundation has awarded nearly \$6 million in grants since it began awarding grants in 1981. Other WACF Board members are: Benson, Dr. Lesli Jutting and Charlie Ewalt. Trustee Representatives are Tyler DeBoer, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; and Scott Olson, Great Western Bank. Staff includes Jan DeBerg, executive director; Greg Blow, donor development, Julianne Endres, marketing/donor services; and Jill Slobotski, administrative assistant.

The next Board meeting will be Friday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Foundation office.

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.*

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