

Outstanding Volunteers Named

CELEBRATE! - – The 11th annual Celebrate! Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients were announced recently at the Watertown Volunteer Center's annual fund raiser. The award, sponsored by the Watertown Area Community Foundation, honors both an outstanding adult and youth community service volunteer. The recipients earn the right to designate a \$1,000 and \$500 WACF grant, respectively, to a local charity.



This year's Adult Outstanding Volunteer is Jodi Driscoll (left center), nominated by Liz Christianson (right center), executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, for her dedication and service to the Club which included chairing the recent Open Doors Capital Fund-Raising Campaign for the Club's expansion. Also pictured with Driscoll and Christianson are Kelly Jaderborg of

the Club and Jan DeBerg (left), WACF executive director. The Boys & Girls Club is only a portion of Jodi's passion for serving her community. She is involved with many other organizations, including: Make-A-Wish of South Dakota, Harvest, United Way of Watertown, Junior Achievement, After-Prom, Joy Ranch and Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. In addition, each year she and her husband, Scott, open their car dealership to hundreds of families for Thanksgiving dinner.

Patrick Buller is the 2017 Outstanding Young Adult Volunteer recognized for his efforts and time relating to the ongoing skate park project. His nominators (pictured with Buller and DeBerg) were Jay Delange (left), of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and Bradley Carter. A few years ago, Buller started contacting the Mayor's office. Eventually, Mayor Steve Thorsen met with him and more people became involved. Buller has been instrumental with every step from pre-planning and fund raising to setting up a 'go fund me' page, contacting other skate parks for ideas, researching builders and coordinating meetings among anyone interested.



As May comes to a close, I want to congratulate the many graduates from area schools. Special congratulations to our graduating Youth Council members, Mikayla Kludt, Michael Linngren and Brandon Maag. Best wishes to all in their future endeavors.

Grants awarded at the WACF Board's May meeting included:

- \$2,000 to South Dakota News Watch.
- \$20,000 to Arrow Education Foundation to purchase arena chairs for the arena remodel.
- \$2,000 to support advertising costs for Thursday Night Live.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming summer. There is plenty to do in Watertown. There are Park & Rec programs galore, the new Prairie Lakes Wellness Center, the Watertown Aquatic Center and a variety of other places and activities (like those listed at right) to answer any "I'm bored" statements.

The Veterans' Memorial at Stokes-Thomas Lake City Park was also supported by the Foundation as was a disc golf course at Jackson Park, both at Lake Kampeska. WACF is one of

Many Activities in Watertown This Summer

Summer has begun and the Watertown Area Community Foundation is proud to have been a partner in many of the places and activities that invigorate your summer. Did you know that the Foundation was a major sponsor of Watertown's bike/walking trails? Whether you play ball or watch ball, we are happy that Foundation Fields, named after the Watertown Area Community Foundation for its support, will be busy. The Foundation and its Youth Council recently awarded grants to support the new skate park in the works. The disc golf course at Jackson Park was also supported by a Foundation grant. Another grant is also supporting the enhancements at the Lions Park on Third Avenue North.

Watertown's first Artwalk began on May Day 2015. Now, Artwalk 2017 has begun. The sculptures will be on display in Watertown through March of 2018 and they are worth taking a "field trip" to view. The creation of Watertown Artwalk came about through the H2O-20 effort, as well as local donors who aim to beautify our community. There are sculptures on both sides of Kemp downtown and at the Redlin Art Center and Lake Area Technical Institute. Watertown's Artwalk is now a part of the South Dakota Sculpture Trail, which will bring even more tourists to our community. You'll have the chance to view the sculptures at various other seasonal events like the Chamber's Wine Walk and Thursday Night Live.

The Watertown Area Community Foundation's partnership with the Lake Area Zoological Society has accomplished much at the Bramble Park Zoo. A recent grant supported LAZS partnering with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate to develop Dakota animal and plant graphics at the zoo as well as to interview elders to create podcasts for educational programming about the Dakota. Also, recently, a grant was awarded to purchase butterfly plants for the zoo gardens, as well as the development of educational graphics about pollinators and butterfly gardens. Zoofari is set for June 23-24 this year.

The Redlin Art Center holds a special place in the heart of our community. The center and its amazing collection of Terry's works have made Watertown a year-round destination for many. The Redlin Art Center will again welcome all ages to its grounds on Saturday, July 1, for the City's amazing fireworks show, supported by many including the Foundation.

For many years, the Foundation has supported Town Players Youth Theatre. This year's productions will be *Shrek* the musical and *The Lion King*.

The Foundation has also supported the Mellette House, now open for the season, youth soccer and Joy Ranch, which of course, all have busy summers ahead. There are many more organizations and events to name, but this is representative of the Foundation's investment in the vitality of Watertown's summer activities.

the many sponsors for the City's amazing fireworks show set for Saturday, July 1, on the Redlin Art Center grounds.

Don't miss the chance to see young talent in the upcoming summer production of, *Shrek*. Thursday Night Live will have more outdoor concerts, also featuring a Merchants' Alley, to enjoy downtown.

I know there is so much more fun in store this summer. Have a great one!

Watertown Area Community Foundation



From Left: Angie Reppe, Lee Schull, Charlie Ewalt, 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 2017 our assets were approximately \$16 million. We have over 100 funds that provide grants and scholarships each year to residents and organizations in Watertown

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