

Newsletter

November 2017



THANKS FOR GIVING – Local Watertown High School students thanked many local nonprofits as they wrote essays for the Watertown Area Community Foundation Thanks For Giving Essay Contest. Nearly 50 essays were submitted this year and judged by the WACF Youth Council. Winners were first place, Sally Boerma, who wrote about the Beacon Center; and second place went to Madison Ward, who wrote about the Watertown Regional Library. The Beacon Center will receive a \$500 WACF grant and the library, \$250, for the students' efforts. From left are: Jamie Formanek, Watertown Regional Library young adult librarian; DeeDee Whitman, library director; Ward; O'Brien, Dawn Sikkink, Beacon Center director; and Boerma.

K9 RETIREMENT - Sgt. Kirk Ellis of the Watertown Police Department shares a hug with Thera-Dakota as well as some stories



about her with those attending her retirement party at the police station in November. With the support of Bob and Janet Endres and their fund at the Foundation, Thera-Dakota and other K9s have been instrumental in the WPD's fight against drugs in the Watertown area in recent years. Sgt. Ellis and Thera-Dakota worked together since October 2010. Now, Sgt. Ellis welcomes Thera-Dakota to his home and family after her retirement. Thera-Dakota was diagnosed with bone cancer in October.

Jan's Note



November...the start of the holiday season. We are thankful and blessed for so many reasons at the Watertown Area Community Foundation, but especially for our donors. Because of WACF donors, nearly \$400,000 has been awarded in 2017 grants to many worthwhile programs, projects and organizations.

The WACF Board met recently. A grant of \$2,500 was awarded to the Urban Renewal Board for flowers in downtown Watertown and the board discussed plans for the Foundation's upcoming year.

The annual WACF Christmas Tree Fundraiser will be held through December at the Watertown Regional Library. Nonprofits participating this year are: 60's Plus Dining/Meals on Wheels, Beacon Center, Boys & Girls Club of Watertown, Codington County 4H, Codington County Heritage Museum, Lake Area Zoological Society, Salvation Army, Town Players, Two Sides of the Same Coin, Watertown Area People Against Child Hunger, Watertown Area Special Olympics, Watertown Figure Skate Club, Watertown Regional Library, Watertown Volunteer Center. The public is invited to come and view the trees and vote for their favorite trees/organizations. Votes are \$1 each.

The Foundation will match up to \$300 for each organization's total donations and the organization with the most donations will receive an additional \$500 grant from the Foundation.

Thank You Lee - We'll Miss You

The Watertown Area Community Foundation Board, staff and trustee representatives thanked local businessman Lee Schull for his service on the board for the past 8 years. During his term, Schull saw the Foundation grow as well as award millions of dollars in grants.

Schull noted the multi-year \$500,000 grant awarded to the Boys & Girls Club in 2016 for its expansion/renovation as his favorite. "It was the most strategic, significant and accountable grant we offered during my tenure on the board," he said.



The lifelong Watertown resident has a business management degree from Colorado State University and has been with Building Products Inc. since 1977. Schull has been president of the company since 1983. BPI's corporate office is in Watertown, SD and the company also has locations in Watertoloo, IA; Council Bluffs, IA, Fargo, ND, Watertown, WI and Sioux Falls, SD. He currently serves on the Prairie Lakes Healthcare Foundation Board, and several state and national boards.

He and his wife Jan have four children: Kyle, Kathryn, Kari and Collin.

Schull said he enjoyed his board term and will continue to support the Foundation. "I wholeheartedly believe the future for the Watertown Area Community Foundation is bright...namely because the community of Watertown wants it to be bright and because we have an incredible, experienced staff of people to run it," he said. "Those who came before us provided a great foundation to build on. I am confident those who follow will do the same."

In appreciation for his service, Schull was given the opportunity to designate a \$1,000 WACF grant to the charity of his choice. He chose Great Plains Lutheran High School to receive the grant.

Watertown Area Community Foundation



From Left: Angie Reppe, Lee Schull, Charlie Ewalt, Dr. Jeff Danielsen, 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.

As of January 2015 our assets were approximately \$16 million. We have over 100 funds that provide grants and scholarships each year to residents and organizations in Watertown.

***Temporarily located at: Redlin Art Center, 1200 Mickelson Dr., Watertown, SD 57201
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