

Newsletter

September 2018



DIRECTOR NOTES

September included strategic planning meetings for the Watertown Area Community Foundation Board, staff and trustee representatives. The group looks forward to working toward short and long-term goals set at those meetings.

The Board also met recently in regular session and awarded the following grants:

- \$1,600 to Northeast Artist Network to support promotion of the annual "Deck the Walls" Art Show and Sale.
- \$5,681 to Beacon Center to help with costs of equipment and furniture to improve the training/counseling area at the center.

Upcoming events include:

- Oct. 1-5 - The Delta Dental Smile Mobile will be located at Lake Area Technical Institute. Women & Giving helps support this program which brings free dental care to area children. For more information, call Kathy Dargatz, Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership: 605-886-7674.
- Watertown Hall of Fame Luncheon will be Friday, Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m. at the Watertown Event Center.



NOW PLAYING- Local youth enjoyed a movie at the Boys & Girls Club this week. The Watertown Area Community Foundation Youth Council awarded a grant earlier this year to support the purchase of a 150-inch drop down screen and projector for the theater in the newly expanded and renovated Club



2018-19 YOUTH COUNCIL - The Foundation Youth Council met this month and began planning for the year by compiling a SWOT list (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) regarding Watertown area youth/peers. The Council is made of three juniors and three seniors. They are from left Braeden Kluver, Tessa Holien, Alison Kluver, Sydney Walker, Gracie Ebsen and Alyssa Roby, The group learns leadership skills, information about local nonprofits and awards grants each spring to youth-serving organizations and programs.

First Meeting

Youth Council Compiles SWOT List



The Watertown Area Community Foundation Youth Council met for the first time during the current school year. An important first duty was to conduct a SWOT analysis to help plan the year's goals and speakers. The list follows.

STRENGTHS:

- Awesome Boys and Girls Club
- Dual credit program, LATI, Mt. Marty, Middle College and NE Tech
- Good Homecoming; community comes together to support students
- Increased school safety
- Variety of programs for young kids through Park and Rec and Boys and Girls Club
- Tutoring/mentoring programs available for students
- Gift – Get It Finished Today program.

WEAKNESSES:

- Not many activities/things to do in Watertown on weekends
- Lack of support for everything except football and boys basketball. Lack of support for the fine arts.
- Underage drinking, smoking, vaping, juuling, drugs. (oddly, vaping and juuling may have cut down on drug use)

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Variety of Clubs available, more art electives and club now
- Dual credit courses, NE Tech, on-line courses, AP courses
- Jobs available for students who need/want them
- After school homework assistance available
- PACH program
- Watertown Area Transit
- At least three school trips available during the spring/summer

THREATS:

- Underage drinking, drugs, vaping, juuling, smoking, even in Middle School
- Students feel unaccepted/liked at school; bullying; small, closed groups
- School safety
- Lack of participation in available sports and clubs

The students and Foundation staff will use this information when inviting guest speakers to meetings and when they are reviewing grant applications and awarding grants. They would like to visit about Arrow Nation and with the School Resource Officer in addition to touring the new Boys and Girls Club. The Youth Council awarded a grant to them last year and toured the facility in the early stages of construction. They would like to see the finished facility.

As of January 2018 our assets were approximately \$18 million. We have over 100 funds that provide grants and scholarships each year to residents and organizations in Watertown.

Board Members: Laurie Benson (Chair); Charlie Ewalt (Vice Chair); Liam Culhane, Dr. Jeff Danielsen, Kristen Henderson, Angie Reppe and Joel Vockrodt