Two nonprofits are unwrapping an early Christmas gift in the way of grants designated by winners of this year’s Thanks for Giving Essay Contest sponsored by the Watertown Area Community Foundation. Students in Kris O’Brien’s composition class expressed their gratitude to various organizations by writing about them in the annual contest.

Seniors Brandon Maag and Mikayla Kludt won first and second place respectively. Maag’s essay won a $500 WACF grant for The Upside of Downs, an organization that gives support to families affected by Down Syndrome; and Kludt’s resulted in a $250 grant for Town Players.

Maag’s little sister has Down Syndrome and his heartfelt gratitude for the Upside of Downs was evident in his essay. “All of the medical therapeutic expenses add up very quickly to thousands and thousands of dollars,” he writes. “It gets very hard to deal with all the bills that come in. This situation is not just unique to our family, it is one that is felt by any family with a child with Down Syndrome or any other kind of significant illness. That is where the group Upside of Downs come in.”

He continues to explain more about the organization and its support that ranges from financial to informational and support through events bringing other families in the same situation together.

Kludt has been involved with youth theater at Town Players since the sixth grade. “I find it unlikely that I would be the outgoing person I am today without my experiences at Town Players,” she writes. “This wonderful effect Town Players has had on my life has been felt by so many others, and I am so thankful for all they have given me,” she concludes her essay.

Many deserving organizations were written about by nearly 40 students in O’Brien’s class. Special thanks to Mrs. O’Brien for help in coordinating the contest and to the WACF Youth Council for judging the essays.

Thank You Dale . . .

As 2016 comes to a close, the Watertown Area Community Foundation gives heartfelt thanks to Dale Christensen for his many years of service. During the last 35 years, Dale has served the Foundation wholeheartedly, first as a trustee representative and then as a board member, and at times Chairman of the Board.

He was our Wells Fargo (then Norwest) trustee representative from 1981 until his retirement in 2002. He saw the Foundation award its first grants and has been with the Foundation every step of the way in awarding countless others.

Throughout the years, Dale has also been instrumental in the continuing growth of the Foundation through telling others about the Foundation’s good works and assisting donors with their charitable bequests. Rightfully so, he has seen the Foundation add “area” to its name as he has been a part of that growth!

While Dale’s board term ends December 31, 2016, we are thankful that our relationship won’t. Thank you, Dale, for your continuing support of the Watertown Area Community Foundation. You are truly one of our greatest ambassadors.
2016 Grants
Donors help us invest in the vitality of Watertown each and every day. In 2016 that has meant more than $500,000 in grants. The Watertown Area Community Foundation awarded the following grants (listed chronologically) this year – thank you donors for making it happen!

SD Symphony – $1,500 to support Symphony Chamber orchestra concerts in Watertown

Northern Prairie Arts – $1,000 for marketing materials

Town Players – $5,000 toward youth productions

Lake Area Technical Institute – $1,100 for equipment for Sensory Adventures Camp

Watertown Park & Rec – $543 for a kiln

Boys & Girls Club – $500,000 ($100,000 per year for five years) for renovation

Mother of God Monastery – $500 for Barbara Amaya, sex trafficking survivor, presentation

Watertown Regional Library – $500 to advertise used book sale

Artwalk – $1,500 to sponsor sculpture

LATI – $5,000 for Governor’s Luncheon

Lake Area Zoological Society – $1,000 to implement educational programming on the Dakota

Watertown Area Transit – $5,000 toward new busses

Grace Lutheran Church – $1,300 for new countertop and sinks in association with The Banquet

Joy Ranch – $2,445 for adult diaper changing table

Waverly School – $2,500 for an interactive whiteboard

Watertown Baseball Association – $10,000 for a field groomer for Foundation Field

Salvation Army – $5,000 for a commercial freezer and cooking utensils

Thursday Night Live – $2,000 for advertising

Watertown Lions Club – $20,000 for community shelter at Lions Park on Third Avenue

Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce – $1,000 to support 4th of July Fireworks

Thursday Night Live – $1,000 to sponsor Crossroad Station band

Watertown Regional Library – $1,000 for Termesphere exhibit

Senior Activities Center – $1,000 for new tables and chairs

Northeast Artist Network – $1,000 for Terrestrial exhibit

Watertown Area Swim Club – $11,000 for a new scoreboard for the swimming pool at Prairie Lakes Wellness Center

Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce – $1,000 to support 4th of July Fireworks

Thursday Night Live – $2,000 for commercial freezer and cooking utensils

Salvation Army – $5,000 for a commercial freezer and cooking utensils

Foundation Field – $10,000 for a field groomer for Watertown Baseball Association

Active Whiteboard – $2,445 for adult diaper changing table

Waverly School – $2,500 for an interactive whiteboard

Over the years, the Watertown Area Community Foundation has meant more than $500,000 in grants. The Watertown Area Community Foundation is committed to investing in the vitality of Watertown by supporting community priorities, responding to human service needs and enhancing recreation, education, arts and culture.

The mission of Watertown Area Community Foundation is to invest in the vitality of Watertown by supporting community priorities, responding to human service needs and enhancing recreation, education, arts and culture.
$500 to **Upside of Downs**, designated by Thanks For Giving Essay Contest winner Brandon Maag
$250 to **Town Players**, designated by Thanks For Giving Essay Contest 2nd place winner Mikayla Kludt

**CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER**
(2015 participants)
$859 to **Beacon Center**
$1,400 to **Boys & Girls Club**
$1,200 to **Codington County Heritage Museum**
$2,061 to **Habitat for Humanity Greater Watertown Region**
$1,400 to **Boys & Girls Club**
$1,200 to **Codington County Heritage Museum**
$2,061 to **Habitat for Humanity Greater Watertown Region**

**DONOR ADVISED**
$10,000 from the Doug & Lynn Sharp Fund to **Triple H Fund**
$200 from Judy Lynn Wright Fund to **Kiwani's Coats for Kids**
$250 from Judy Lynn Wright Fund to **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**
$143 from Judy Lynn Wright Fund to **WHS Needy School Fund**
$100 from Judy Lynn Wright Fund to **Children's Miracle Network**
$174 from Judy Lynn Wright Fund to **McKinley Elementary School**
$300 to **Boys & Girls Club** from Anonymous
$500 to **Beacon Center** from Anonymous
$100 to **PACH (People Against Child Hunger)** from Anonymous
$5,000 from John & Cindy Hopper Fund to **Boys & Girls Club**
$1,000 to **Access Ministry** from Anonymous
$945 to **Boys & Girls Club** for Go Girl Go program
$2,000 to **Human Service Agency** to support crisis texting program for students
$1,250 to **Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership** to support Delta Dental Smile Mobile
$2,500 to **Joy Ranch** to support winter retreat for victims of child sexual abuse
$600 to **LATI Educare** for baby necessities for families in need
$7,555 to **Lake Area Zoological Society** to support two Girls Rule programs
$900 to **McKinley Elementary School** social worker
$1,120 to **Watertown Middle School** for 3rd annual Girls' Night

**YOUTH COUNCIL**
$950 to **Big Brothers Big Sisters** for promotional materials
$973 to **Boys & Girls Club** for cameras for Image Makers Program
$750 to **Joy Ranch** for signs along hiking trails
$830 to **LATI Educare** for sensory tables for toddlers
$500 to **Lake Area Zoological Society** to support Roots & Shoots Free Day
$1,000 to **PACH**
$2,000 to **Watertown Area Transit** for camera equipment / installation on two busses
$200 to **WHS After Prom Event**
$500 to **Young Entrepreneurs Academy** for marketing materials

**GIVING BACK 365**
(Grants will be listed in March quarterly)

**A Gift to your Community**

_Your gift can grow and benefit your community forever. We make giving easy and effective._

My gift of $ _________________ to the Watertown Area Community Foundation is enclosed.
My gift is in honor of/memory of: __________________________________________.
Please send gift acknowledgement to: ________________________________.
Please acknowledge ________________________________________ as the donor of this gift.

Please send your gift to:
Watertown Area Community Foundation
PO Box 116, Watertown, SD 57201
Thank you for your support.
Or donate online at: [www.watertowncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.watertowncommunityfoundation.org)

Thank you donors for helping the Foundation grow and make a difference in our community.
Book of Memory

An inscription in the Foundation’s Book of Memory is a beautiful and lasting way to celebrate an anniversary, other special occasion, or remember a loved one. Commemorations with a gift of any size may be made to the general endowment fund or designated to another fund by the donor. Memorials become part of the Foundation’s permanent charitable endowment, the earnings from which are used to meet the growing charitable needs of our community. A memorial gift, therefore, keeps giving year after year.

The following are gifts included in the 2016 Book of Memory (at the time of this printing). We regret any errors or omissions.

Gottlesben, Karla
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Haan, Inez
Morrison, Bev
Schiefelbein, Bob & Rita

Harmel, Terry
DeBerg, Jan

Heninger, Kip
Watertown Area Special Olympics

Holiday, Amy
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Johnston, Harlan
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Johnston, Kent
Johnston, windy & Barb
olson, Matthew & Wendy
Rieb, Mark & Susan

Kingslien, AnnaBelle
Klatt, Ruth

Kinsman, Paul
DeBerg, Jan

Kraus, Carolyn
DeBerg, Jan

Krull, Jacob “Jake”
DeBerg, Jan
Redlinger, John & Monica
Austin, J.D. & Maylou

Kulesa, Valeria
DeBerg, Jan
Endres, Julianne
Slobotski, Jill

Little, Stella
Trygstad, Lynette

Natale, Gina
Crawford, John
Dahle, Gerald & Laura
DiCarlo, Kathy
DiCarlo, Marco
Engels, Cindy
Erickson, Mary
Fishman, Brad & Karen
Flaherty, Dan & Jeanne
Grippo, Allen & Marge
Halajian, Dean & Lori
Harrington, Doug & Kim
Hart, Lori
Knesel, William & Suzan-Oda
Krause, Daniel & Maria
LeVasseur, David & DeAnna
Longworth, Jackie
Majusiak, Olga
Miner, Jane
Moen, Hilmer & Elvira
Moore, Beverly

Natale, Gina cont’d
Natale, Antonio & Maria
Oviatt, Marion
Polly, Waneen
Rehorst, Steve & Stefanie
Roby, Jim & Annette
Sherrill, Marv & A.J.
Wiles, John & Phyllis

Neale, Donna Lee
Neale, William

Nelson, Joy
(SD Hall of Fame Honor)
DeBerg, Jan
Endres, Julianne
Slobotski, Jill

Nordquist, Marion
Fox, Don & Jean

Page, Timothy “Tim”
Rieb, Mark & Susan

Paulson, Betty
Hughes, Derald & Barbara
Wittenberg, Mark & Tamra

Petersen, Nancy
Petersen, Eldon & Shirley
Endres, Julianne

Petersen, Shirley
(In Memory of Birthday)
DeBoer, Tyler & Katie
Endres, Julianne

Plagens, Howard
Austin, J.D. & Maylou
DeBerg, Jan
Hinderaker, Paul & Carol
Plagens, Janice
Stein-Holien, Carol

Popham, Phillip
Watertown Area
Special Olympics

Poyner, Steve
(In Honor of Birthday)
Fulmer, Todd & Linda

Raderschadt, Lew
Endres, Julianne
Uthe, Travs & Sherri
Wiles, John & Phyllis

Rennie, Kristine
DeBerg, Jan

Rieb, Christopher
Evins, Sam
Jackson, John & Abby
Peterson, Jeff & Marcie
Rieb, Deborah
Rieb, Mark & Susan
Walters, Greg & Julie

Rudebusch, Tony
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Scheck, Brian
Slobotski, Jill

Schoepp, Robert
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Schutt, William
Popham, Duane,
Deb & Chelsea

Schwandt, Bob
Family of Bob Schwandt
Trav’s Outfitter, Inc.

Seaboy, Orville
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Snoozy, Eloise
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Strohschein, Doyle
Slobotski, Jill

Summer, Larry
Summer, Brett
Summer, Clark
Summer, Donna
Summer, Drew
Summer, Rock
Summer, Scott

Tibke, Esther
Dahle, Gerald & Laura
Sharp, Jan

Turbek, Grace
DeBerg, Jan

Wagner, Emma
Gackstetter, Dean & Ardyce

Walder, Don
Kuecker, Gary & Leigh
Morrison, Bev

Webber-Hunt, Karlie
Hunt, Todd

Weber, Cammi
Fulmer, Todd & Linda

Weber, Mary Kay
Endres, Julianne

Wolff, Larry
Baxter, Tom & Jackie

Woodring, Daryl “Woody”
Uthe, Travs & Sherri

Wright, Judy Lynn
Fulmer, Todd & Linda

Wright, Judy Lynn
(In Memory of Birthday)
Fulmer, Todd

Zimmerle, Audrey
Polly, Waneen