

Newsletter July 2017



Welcome Dr. Jeff Danielsen



As of July, new Superintendent Dr. Jeff Danielsen will serve on the Watertown Area Community Foundation Board. "The Board members, staff and I are excited to welcome Dr. Danielsen," said Jan DeBerg, WACF executive director. "I know he will be an asset to our Board; we look forward to working with him."

Danielsen grew up in Salem, earned an elementary education degree from Augustana College, a master's from the University of Sioux Falls and a doctorate in school superintendency from the University

of South Dakota. He has extensive teaching and superintendent experience. He was superintendent at West Central School District for the past nine years.

He and his family are getting settled in Watertown and look forward to the year ahead. "I am excited about the possibilities I have already been exposed to in Watertown," Danielsen said. "The people I have been able to meet express a lot of enthusiasm about the good things happening presently along with future opportunities to lead the community of Watertown into the future."

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve on such a successful board like the WACF," he continued. "I can't believe the amount of money raised by this organization dedicated to bettering the community."

Danielsen's wife, Stephanie will be a school counselor for the Deuel School District. The couple has a son, Riley, who is a senior at SDSU; a son, Brodey, a sophomore at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; and a daughter, Sadie, who will be a sophomore at WHS.



SHREK - Local young talent entertained as they presented 'Shrek' the musical as one of the Town Players youth theatre productions in July. WACF awarded a \$2,500 grant to support the two productions. The 'Lion King' was performed by younger actors also this summer.

Jan's Note

July literally came in with a bang. The fireworks display at the Redlin Art Center was Amazing - with a capital A. As always, it seems summer flies by after the Fourth.



We welcome Dr. Jeff Danielsen to the Watertown Area Community Foundation Board. He hails from the Hartford area and he and his family are getting to know Watertown as they settle into their new home.

The WACF Board awarded the following grants in July:

- \$4,788 to Interlakes Community Action Partnership to support the purchase and installation of a fences at Head Start pre-school's new location in Watertown.
- \$750 to North Country Fiber Fair, Inc. to support marketing/promotion efforts for the annual event set for September at the Codington County Fairgrounds in Watertown.
- Up to \$3,500 to Watertown Park & Rec for the new skatepark. (This is a matching grant.)

August means we'll have to say goodbye to many summer activities like the outdoor pool and Thursday Night Live. The month will also bring students back to school.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Women & Giving Grants Awarded

Thanks to Women & Giving donors, grants totaling more than \$15,000 are being awarded locally to help women and children overcome barriers, increase their opportunities and achieve their goals. The Watertown Area Community Foundation W&G Advisory Committee also set aside approximately \$15,300 for more 2017 grants and scholarships to non-traditional female students who are attending LATI, Mt. Marty College or National American University in Watertown.

The W&G advisory committee awarded the following grants:

- **\$3,130 to Beacon Center** for the purchase of a commercial size refrigerator/freezer for the facility and its clients.
- **\$1,229 to the Boys & Girls Club** of Watertown for the implementation of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program for girls at the club.
- **\$1,250 to Inter-lakes Community Action Partnership to support the Delta Dental Smile Mobile** visit to Watertown this October which will serve children up to age 21.
- **\$600 to LATI Educare** to help with costs of diapers, formula, baby wipes, etc. for clients in need.
- **\$7,555 to Lake Area Zoological Society to support two Girls Rule programs** (one for 3rd- through 5th-graders and another for 7th to 9th-graders) at Bramble Park Zoo.
- **\$530 to REACH (child advocacy center)** to purchase a camera and memory cards in support of the pilot project in Watertown in its mission to help victims of child sexual abuse in our region.
- **\$900 to McKinley Elementary School Social Worker** to help families in need of household and hygiene supplies.

Committee members thanked Susan Jones for her service and welcomed new member Jan Brooks. The group will meet in October to award scholarships. Thank you for being a part of the Watertown Area Community Foundation Women & Giving program. Since Women & Giving began 14 years ago, it has awarded approximately \$145,000 in grants and scholarships.

The grantees and the foundation, thank Women & Giving donors for their gifts. These gifts keep giving to women and children in the area long after the grants are awarded.

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.

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 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.

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