



# Rusk County Community Foundation

# Newsletter

Bringing Together People Who Care With Causes That Matter

Welcome To  
Issue #7

**Heart of Gold**  
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## Rusk County Community Foundation

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### Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life in the Rusk County Community through permanent endowments and grant giving.

### Vision Statement

The Rusk County Community Foundation is the catalyst for community improvement and development, being a leading local resource promoting our community by providing the Rusk County non-profit community with philanthropic support used to responsibly address community needs.

## RCCF Establishes 'The Legacy Circle'

The Legacy Circle recognizes a special group of donors who have made a provision in their estate plans to benefit their favorite charitable cause through the Rusk County Community Foundation.

Including a charitable bequest in your will is a simple way to make a lasting gift to benefit the Rusk County region. Our organization can provide you and your advisor simple language to include in your will or other planned giving vehicles. Your future gift can be made in the form of cash, stock, or property, whether specific or by percentage; a gift of real estate, a gift in trust to benefit family members during their lives, or a gift of the remainder of an estate when other specific bequests have been fulfilled.

A bequest is a way that is:

- Flexible. You can change your mind at any time.
- Economical. Your charitable gift is excluded from your assets for estate tax purposes.
- Personal. Your gift can be placed into any of our existing endowment funds or you can create a fund for your specific charitable purpose.
- Permanent. Your gift – and all future earnings from your gift – is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

Joining the Legacy Circle helps to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy a vital and caring community. It's simple and flexible. There is no minimum or maximum gift. While we hope Legacy Circle members will allow us to list their names, you may choose to remain anonymous. You do not need to share the amount of your gift. Although

if you wish to create a fund for a specific purpose, a confidential conversation with our organization can ensure your intentions will be met.

How to get started:

- Discuss your estate plan with your advisor.
- Contact the Rusk County Community Foundation office at 532-0772 for sample language to include in your will, trust or other deferred gifts.
- Notify us when your estate plan is complete and we will send you a Legacy Circle Welcome Form.

Members of The Legacy Circle will be invited to our annual Heart of Gold Banquet, receive our newsletter and be given notice of other special events.



## RCCF Foundation Board Welcomes New Members

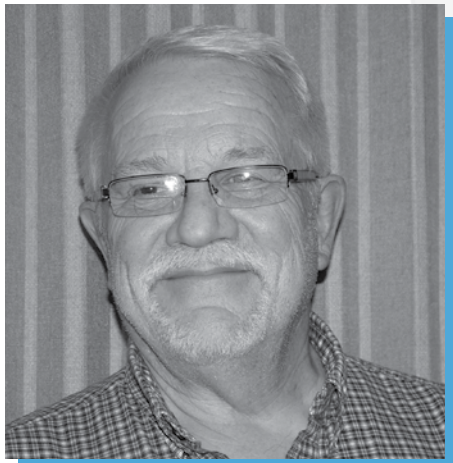


### Diane Doke

Was born Diane Larrabee in Superior, Wisconsin and lived with her parents and sister in Hayward, Wisconsin until she was eighteen years old. After graduating from high school, she went to college and received her Bachelor of Arts at the University of



Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Diane married Jim Doke, moved to Bruce, and had two children, Dana and Matthew, who are both married now and live in Neenah and St. Cloud respectively. Jim and Diane have three grandchildren that they love to be with any time they can! Teaching English and history at the Bruce School for twenty-nine years gave Diane a sense of accomplishment as it was both challenging and rewarding. She enjoyed teaching very much and now she enjoys doing volunteer work in her church and in her community and surrounding area. Being a member of the Care and Outreach Committee in her church has been particularly gratifying and she has been the Secretary of the Bruce Kiwanis for the past five years, which has as its focus helping children in our area and around the world. In the summer you will find Diane golfing, fishing, traveling, reading, and being with family and friends. In the winter she likes to go where it is warm, in Arizona. Diane is happy to be on the RCCF Board and she looks forward to doing her part to make Rusk County a better place to live, now and in the future.



**Richard LaBelle**

Born in Waukegan, IL. Raised in Balsam Lake and Chippewa Falls, WI. BA from UW-Eau Claire in Art Education. Taught Art in Cornell, WI for 30 years; special needs aide in Bruce for 6 years. Served on board

of Cornell Teacher’s Credit Union for 28 years. Active in Cornell Education Association. Presently a trustee on Bruce Village Board and trustee on Bruce Area Library Board. Partner in Norte Antiques, Gifts and Floral in Bruce and does wedding and special event flowers. Active in fund raising for Westlake Enterprises in Ladysmith and the special needs student annual Snoball dance in Ladysmith. Semi-active in Bruce Garden Club.



**New RCCF Chair  
Bev Dukerschein**



Early in 2010 Bev Dukerschein was appointed as the Chairperson of the Rusk County Community Foundation. Dukerschein replaces Kathy Pakes who served several years in that capacity.

Dukerschein has been involved with the Foundation since its inception, being elected to the all-volunteer board in 2007. She serves on the Publicity Committee and was Heart of Gold co-chair the past two years.

A lifelong resident of Rusk County, Dukerschein was raised on a dairy farm in Glen Flora, graduated from Flambeau High School and obtained a Medical Assistant degree. Bev and

her husband Gordie own Artisans, Inc., a screen printing and embroidery manufacturer and have three adult children.

“I am looking forward to helping direct the next critical phase of the Foundation. We have the groundwork laid and now need to concentrate on further education about what a community foundation does and specifically what our foundation means to Rusk County. We’ve begun working on the necessary component of donor development so that we can benefit the hard-working nonprofits by providing much needed grants,” Dukerschein stated.

The full slate of appointed officers include: Vice Chair, Gloria McGahey; Secretary, Lori Stushek; and Treasurer, Kevin Smith. Other board members include Andy Albarado, Eleanor Anderson, Diane Doke, Dinah Hahn, Richard LaBelle and Bill Rands.

The Foundation has been gaining recognition in the county and now holds four endowed funds (funds with \$10,000 or more): Gordon & Beverly Dukerschein Donor Advised Fund, The Gordon & Beverly Dukerschein Scholarship Fund, Norda (non-traditional student scholarship fund) and a General Unrestricted Endowed Fund. The Women with Courage Foundation has created an Endowed Agency Fund and an acorn School District of Ladysmith Educational Enrichment Fund has been established.

In three short years, the Foundation has granted \$10,000 to Rusk County nonprofits.

Board members are available to make presentations to individuals and organizations that are interested in learning more about RCCF.





## Flambeau Valley Arts Celebrates 39th Season

The Flambeau Valley Arts Association (FVAA) is currently completing its program schedule for 2010-2011 (its 39th season). The 2009-2010 season set a new “at the door” ticket sales record. Another season is being planned and it will include the following musical groups: UW - Madison’s Pro Arte String Quartet and Master Class, the Tower Brass Quintet from Toledo, and St. John’s Men Chorus from Minnesota.

Another visit from the Missoula Children’s Theater will provide the opportunity for sixty local youngsters to be on stage to help with the exciting telling of a popular story. The “Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir” from Traverse City will present a hilarious a cappella show, and planning is ongoing to land a performance from a “daredevil, acrobatic, comedy group.”

The FVAA is one of the few groups in the state that is led strictly by volunteers and offers a diverse and entertaining schedule of events. Since its beginning, the group has pledged to provide professional artists presenting their craft in a diverse schedule of events for the people in the Flambeau Valley area.

The support of mainly local sponsors and ticket buyers allow the opportunity to plan/present each wonderful season and also provide free admittance for children accompanying their paying parents.

The FVAA will once again be sponsoring a “Music in the Park” musical group on a Wednesday evening this summer. Without question the “big show” for this summer will be the two performances of Brad Bradshaw’s “Ladysmith Story” during Mardi Gras week. Professional singers/musicians and producers will lead this production which will also include local singers/musicians and a couple of lumberjacks.

The FVAA hopes to continue to serve this area with great entertainment for many years to come. With the continued support of the people in the area, they will.

# HEART of Gold Heart of Gold Awards 2010

Planning is well underway for the 2010 Heart of Gold recognition awards. Set aside September 12 and join the Foundation as we recognize the 2010 recipients. Nominations were received through June 30 and then reviewed by a selection committee. Three finalists were selected for their volunteer spirit and in the Foundation’s unique way of honoring them, will be able to select the Rusk County non-profit of their choice to receive a \$1,000 grant in their name.

The 5:00 p.m. event will be held at Tee Away Golf and Steak House and includes hors d’oeuvres, a wine bar and desserts. The three finalists will be recognized and the grants to their non-profits will be presented. Besides honoring three finalists, three runners-up will also be recognized. A silent auction and live auction will be conducted. The donation is \$35 per person. Please RSVP by August 28 by visiting our website at [www.ruskfoundation.org](http://www.ruskfoundation.org), e-mailing us at [info@ruskfoundation.org](mailto:info@ruskfoundation.org) or calling our office at 532-0772. Watch the Ladysmith News for announcements of the honorees and plan to help support the Foundation by joining us the evening of September 12.

## RCCF School Mini-Grants Helping catalyze dreams into actions



Flambeau High School Emergency Responders - \$500. Training for school Emergency Team



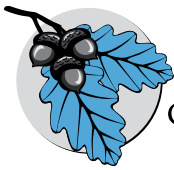
Flambeau High School AODA Group - \$500. Creating and filming a commercial to support the prevention of underage drinking.



Weyerhaeuser High School Outsiders Group - \$500. Charting, mapping, and creating a brochure of unique areas of the Blue Hills.



Lee Stevens – Weyerhaeuser High School. \$357. Community Service Project for the elderly. To build an octagonal table to be placed in the community square for people to sit, rest, and relax.



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Permit No.  
1005521

## Consider an Acorn Fund!



An Acorn Fund allows people from all walks of life to make a difference....a little at a time. Here's how it works. An individual or couple makes a pledge to establish an Acorn Fund and begins making periodic contributions that will eventually grow to be a permanently named fund.

Contributions begin to give back to our region when your balance grows to \$10,000. Because your Acorn Fund is "planted" in our already-growing Unrestricted Endowment it helps provide income to support grant funded projects in local Rusk County. These projects help make our community a great place to live. The arts, environment, civic projects, human rights, adult education and community, youth & family services are areas that currently receive funding. Your Acorn Fund will help address the needs of our county now, and as they change over time.

To create an Acorn Fund you simply make a commitment to contribute at least \$10,000, with a minimum gift of \$1000 now. You have 10 years to bring your balance up to \$10,000 for permanent unrestricted granting. You may, of course, pledge a larger sum, or choose a shorter time period. The choice is yours. If your circumstances change and you are able to fulfill your pledge sooner than expected, that's find. If, on the other hand, you find you are unable to continue making the minimum contribution, gifts received will become part of the Unrestricted Endowment.

Donors building an Acorn Fund will be recognized in our Annual Report, unless you request to be anonymous. You will receive our newsletter and invitations to special events where you can meet others who share your commitment. Choose a name for your Acorn Fund....your own name, or the name of a family member or friend you wish to honor. When the fund reaches \$10,000 the name will become public.

Once your acorn matures you can continue to grow the fund with additional gifts at any time. Family and friends are welcome to contribute as well. You can also add to your fund through a bequest in your will or through beneficiary designations. Income from your fund will continue to benefit your community generation after generation.

Plant your acorn. Whether you have permanent roots in Rusk County or simply want to give back to our region, we invite you to consider establishing an Acorn Fund Today.