



Madison

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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madisongives.org

Saying Goodbye to Tom Linfield



Tom Linfield, MCF's Vice President of Community Impact for the last 19 years, said goodbye to Madison Community Foundation in June. He accepted a new role as President & CEO of Madison Children's Museum.

Tom's commitment to MCF and his leadership of our grantmaking program have been instrumental in advancing a more vibrant and equitable community. MCF has grown its Community Impact team over the last several years, and we are confident that Angela Davis, Andy Davey and Jazzmine Haygood will keep the department running smoothly as we initiate a search for his successor.

While we are sorry to lose Tom, we are thrilled he will be leading such a vital community asset and wish him the very best in this new endeavor.

If you have any questions or concerns during this transition, please feel free to reach out to us. We remain committed to ensuring MCF grants advance our community in thoughtful and compelling ways.

MCF is conducting a nationwide search for Tom's replacement. We are making a concerted effort to find a pool of diverse candidates. The job description and instructions to apply can be found [here](#).

**Make a Gift in Tom's Honor to
Madison Children's Museum**

DONATE TODAY



Berbee Derby & Technology Education Foundation

Over the past 20 years, the Berbee Derby has become a Thanksgiving tradition for many. The run not only challenges runners but has also raised significant support for access to technology and education in our community.

Jim Berbee shares why they chose to move the Technology Education Foundation funds to Madison Community Foundation and why MCF is uniquely positioned to carry out the Foundation's work in our community.

See Jim's full story and those the technology fund has been able to support [here](#).



Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman
Nonprofit Center

Announcing the Irwin A. & Robert D. Goodman Nonprofit Center

A \$5 million lead gift from the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation will help endow the new Goodman Nonprofit Center, which is being developed by Madison Community Foundation. This center will address a critical gap in professional resources for nonprofit organizations.

Despite the vital role nonprofits play in our community, Wisconsin lacks a statewide nonprofit association, placing it as one of only four states without such a resource. Yet nonprofits are essential to the well-being of our community and make up a sizable portion of the local economy — an estimated 11% of the workforce and billions of dollars in economic activity.

The lack of a dedicated resource center leaves these organizations struggling to piece together the professional development resources they need to advance their missions and realize their full potential.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Goodman Foundation, we will be able to move forward with plans to create a much-needed nonprofit center for the Greater Madison area," said Bob Sorge, MCF's President and CEO. "The Goodman Nonprofit Center will serve as a hub for education, collaboration, research and support for nonprofit leaders in our community."

The Goodman brothers and the Goodman Foundation have long been major supporters of nonprofit organizations working in the Madison area. The Goodman Foundation has made numerous transformational gifts, totaling \$67 million, in the last 14 years.

*Have an idea for a story?
Have exciting news you'd like to share?*
Join the conversation!





Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman
Nonprofit Center

Goodman Nonprofit Center, continued from page 2

“The Goodman Foundation has worked with many local nonprofits,” noted E.G. Schramka, Executive Director of the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation. “This gift will preserve and enhance the legacy of the Goodman brothers by ensuring that the leaders running nonprofits addressing strategic focus areas that were important to the Goodman brothers will have access to the professional development resources they need to continue to expand their impact.”

Realizing a Transformational Opportunity

The need for a nonprofit center in Greater Madison is well established. A joint study of 80 nonprofits conducted by MCF and UW-Madison Extension Dane County, published in 2022, concluded that the need for capacity-building resources was the primary issue facing the local nonprofit field. In addition, the number of local nonprofit organizations has doubled in the last two decades. There is no place dedicated to serving and developing the 4,500 organizations in the Greater Madison area, and lack of knowledge about the sector leads to redundancy and inefficiency.

“Providing nonprofits with access to the information they need, professional development, and a neutral space to advance collaboration will help these organizations and their leaders use the resources entrusted to them more efficiently and effectively,” said Tom Linfield, Vice President of Community Impact at MCF. “We’re so grateful to the Goodman Foundation for its generous gift to help make this center a reality for our community.”

Programs and Resources to Enhance Nonprofit Excellence

Beginning in late 2025, the Goodman Nonprofit Center will launch a year-long professional leadership development training program, an online resource library, a calendar of local workshops, a directory of consultants, and will create a forum where organizations can gather to collaborate.

These initial programs were selected as the result of extensive research conducted by MCF, showing that nonprofits want training in practical business skills and are looking for in-depth learning experiences. The Goodman Fellows Program will focus on professional leadership development, providing the opportunity for leaders to gather regularly, build relationships, and foster skills in finance, program evaluation, human resources, marketing, fundraising, and other topics.

The free, online resource library will strengthen nonprofit organizations by providing curated materials from credible sources on key subjects such as fundraising, board development, capital campaigns, finance and operations, advocacy, and impact investing.

For nonprofits looking for focused learning on specific subject matter, the Nonprofit Center will connect them to those who offer that content by collaborating with several other local organizations.

A directory will allow nonprofits to review the qualifications and experience of local consultants, ensuring the best fit for the projects they have.

And finally, the Nonprofit Center will provide a forum for nonprofit organizations to work together, perhaps collaborating on major grants from outside the region. Tapping into these funding sources – whether grants from national foundations or federal funds – could provide millions of additional dollars of funding for local organizations.

Given the lack of a nonprofit center regionally, Center programming will be available to nonprofits serving Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Columbia and Green counties – Greater Madison.

“One of the many challenges of the nonprofit field is the lack of access to professional development,” said Schramka. “We hope other funders will join us in supporting this new resource for the Greater Madison area, and further leverage their current donations by enhancing the skill sets of nonprofit leaders.”

Watch the video telling the story of the Goodman brothers and how the Nonprofit Center can help change Madison [here](#).



Earning Trust By Honoring Donor Intent

When donors make gifts or establish funds with MCF, they trust that those gifts or funds will be used for their intended purposes. Upholding this trust and honoring donor intent is central to MCF's values and mission.

We work closely with donors to record their intentions, especially for future gifts they are planning through their estates. We also help donors create succession plans that clearly specify how named funds will make a difference in the future. These records are flexible and can be updated at any time during the donors' lifetimes, and their guidance can be critical to ensuring that gifts and funds make their intended impacts.

Honoring Intent for Undesignated Gift

MCF recently received a gift from a donor's revocable trust, and it arrived without a specific gift designation. Fortunately, the donor had completed a Legacy Statement of Intent with MCF prior to their passing indicating that their future estate gift should be used to "improve educational opportunities for younger children so that kids got off to a good start that would allow them to have success in the future."

With this background, MCF used the gift to establish a new Field of Interest Fund, named after the donor, that will provide permanent annual support for early education in our community.

Succession Plans Ensure Continued Legacies

Succession plans help create lasting philanthropic legacies for individuals and families and the causes and communities they love.

For advised funds, MCF works with donors to create succession plans that detail how those funds will continue to make a difference when the donors are no longer willing or able to advise on their distributions. Donors have many choices for their succession plans, and often name children as successor advisors. Others choose to identify specific nonprofits or fields of interest to benefit from their funds.

Finding A New Fund Purpose

Honoring donor intent is also a central consideration when the purpose or organization for which a fund was established changes or ceases to exist. In these situations, whenever possible, MCF works directly with the fundholder to identify appropriate alternatives that align with the fund's original purpose and honor the intent of any donors who supported it.

[Honoring Donor Intent continues on page 5](#)

**Take Advantage of High
Interest Rates**

CONSIDER A CGA



Honoring Donor Intent, continued from page 4

Recently, an organization that held an endowment with MCF dissolved. Working with members of MCF's staff, the organization's board of directors helped identify another public charity whose mission most closely matched theirs to receive future distributions from their fund.

These proposed changes were brought before MCF's Board of Governors to ensure they honored the fund's original purpose and the intent of its donors. Once these changes were approved, the fund agreement was amended to support the new organization moving forward.

Variance Power Makes This Possible

MCF's ability to modify a fund's purpose is granted through the variance power it holds over funds. All funds held by MCF are governed by a fund agreement between MCF and the fundholder. These agreements, along with MCF's trust agreement, include a provision that allows the MCF Board of Governors to modify the restrictions on distributions from that fund if it "should ever determine that those restrictions have become unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment or inconsistent with the charitable needs of our community."

We, and all community foundations, are required to retain this variance power as part of our tax-exempt status. MCF's variance power ensures that funds will continue to support the needs of our community while honoring donor intent when the fund's original purpose can no longer be fulfilled.

As the community's foundation, we are thankful for the trust donors and fundholders place in us to carefully steward their gifts into the future.

If you would like to create a plan to guide your future estate gift to MCF, or ensure that your named fund has an updated plan for its succession, please contact our Donor Engagement Team at 608-232-1763, or by email at legacy@madisongives.org.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

JULY

MCF Staff Retreat

31

Staff will be out of office for our annual staff retreat.

AUG

Legacy Society Luncheon

15

Our annual luncheon celebrating our Legacy Society members.

SEP

MCF Office Closed

02

MCF Staff will be out of office to enjoy Labor Day.

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Madison Community Foundation

111 N. Fairchild Street, Suite 260, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-232-1763 | Email: frontdesk@madisongives.org