



Contact:

Becki Fiegel, Communications Director
Madison Community Foundation
(o) 608-446-5934 (c) 312-320-3132
bfiegel@madisongives.org

**Powered by Community Generosity, Madison Community Foundation
Awards \$935,000 in Grants**

MADISON, Wis., January 9, 2024 – Working to bring about its vision of Greater Madison as a vibrant and generous place where all people thrive, Madison Community Foundation (MCF) announced \$935,000 in grants to 19 local nonprofits across the Greater Madison area.

These grants, directed to organizations working in critical areas like learning, community development, arts and culture, and the environment, underscore MCF's commitment to supporting the nonprofit organizations in our community working to nurture creativity, increase inclusivity, bolster learning and provide opportunities for our community members.

Tom Linfield, MCF's Vice President of Community Impact, remarked, "These grants represent the seeds of change, cultivating new programs, bolstering organizational structures, and nurturing community initiatives. From expanding home ownership opportunities to restoring waterways to ensuring the arts are accessible to a wide range of people, these nonprofits are the backbone of our region. MCF is proud to invest in these organizations, and to stand by their side as they work to achieve their vision."

Improving the Quality of Life

This year's grants acknowledge the importance of art and cultural opportunities to the quality of life in our area. Another recurring theme in this year's grants is growth: helping organizations become better staffed and resourced to grow, pursue ambitious capital campaigns, and scale up key projects in community development, arts and learning.

The Village of Oregon, one of this year's grant recipients, and its surrounding areas are home to many diverse artists, and the Village has chosen to highlight their talent while improving the quality of life for area residents using public art – especially sculpture. With help from the grant from MCF, the Village plans to add new pieces to its successful Sculpture Tour.

"The Village of Oregon is excited to partner with the Madison Community Foundation to bring more public art to Oregon and Dane County," Oregon Public Art Committee Member Randy Glysch shared. "We look forward to celebrating the impact local artists have on our communities through the installation of more Public Art."

Empowered by Community Generosity

Bob Sorge, MCF's President and CEO, emphasized, "These grants and the impact they will have on our community are a testament to the incredible generosity of donors contributing to MCF's Community Impact and Field of Interest Funds. Their contributions, large and small, empower MCF's grantmaking and allow us to continue to support the organizations that are working to make the Greater Madison area a vibrant and inclusive place for all."

As the community's foundation, Madison Community Foundation does more than just award grants. It serves as a trusted leader, bringing people together to enhance the common good through the collective power of philanthropy and helping people create a plan for giving to support the organizations and causes that matter most to them.

The complete list of grant recipients includes:

ARTS For ALL Wisconsin

\$30,000 toward the launch of an adaptive dance program for people of all ages with disabilities in Madison.

Bikes for Kids Wisconsin (formerly Free Bikes 4 Kidz)

\$30,000 to buy a van to help streamline bike and gear collection and to expand the Bike Shop program in local schools, teaching students how to build and fix bikes.

Forward Theater Company

\$10,000 to support the Wisconsin Directors Lab, which provides educational and networking opportunities for early- and mid-career directors across the state.

Friends of the Nolen Waterfront

\$50,000 to help increase community outreach and establish a fundraising campaign to help bring the Lake Monona Waterfront redesign to life.

GSAFE

\$40,000 to hire a full-time development director to create a strategic plan that will increase funding opportunities and improve organizational sustainability.

Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival

\$30,000 to host a week-long woodworking symposium at San Damiano Monona showcasing international and First Nations sculptors while honoring Harry Whitehorse's legacy and Ho-Chunk identity.

Madison Area Community Land Trust

\$100,000 to help create a sustainable revenue stream to increase homeownership opportunities for low-income families.

Mentoring Positives

\$75,000 to hire support staff for the upcoming capital campaign for the Darbo Dream Center, a collaborative shared space for Mentoring Positives, JustDane and the African Center for Community Development.

Natural Circles of Support

\$30,000 to reduce racial disparities in Madison public schools by increasing support for African American students and building relationships to help them thrive.

Omega School

\$20,000 to leverage digital strategies to support more nontraditional young adult students as they work to get their GEDs.

Overture Center Foundation

\$35,000 to pilot a program that will help Madison-area middle schools create high quality musical theater programs and enrich existing programs.

RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center

\$55,000 to hire an education specialist to double the reach of current sexual violence prevention education in Dane County middle and high schools.

Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation

\$50,000 for its "Next Chapter Expansion Project," to increase the size of the current building and update programs and resources to meet the needs of 21st century library users.

The Playing Field

\$50,000 to build capacity and expand the childcare opportunities for some of the city's most vulnerable families.

Urban Community Arts Network

\$40,000 to hire a project manager for the Greater Madison Music City program, which is working to create a music ecosystem in Greater Madison that provides equity in entertainment and access for all.

Urban Tree Alliance

\$50,000 for the Neighborhood Canopy Project, a unique and innovative forestry pilot to plant trees and increase air quality and shade in South Side neighborhoods that lack tree coverage.

Village of DeForest

\$50,000 to improve the condition and increase public use of the Upper Yahara River Water Trail by stabilizing the stream banks and installing new boat launch sites.

Village of Oregon

\$10,000 to add new pieces to its Sculpture Tour, supporting area artists and increasing free public art exposure in the community.

Wisconsin Youth Company

\$180,000 to add a grassroots organizer to help create an advocacy movement for state funding of out-of-school time organizations across Wisconsin.

###

About Madison Community Foundation: Madison Community Foundation's mission is to enhance the common good through philanthropy. Community Impact grants are made possible by donors who support the Community Impact Fund, MCF's competitive grantmaking program. For more information, visit www.madisongives.org.