

Our Mission

We strengthen our community by offering donors opportunities to establish charitable legacies, by making grants, and by serving as a catalyst to address community needs.

Special points of interest:

- Remember the Foundation in your year end giving.
- NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS through March 2nd, 2009.
- Don't forget to sign up for a grant workshop.
- Visit our new Website.

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Eau Claire COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



For Good. For Eau Claire. For Ever.

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Seasons Greetings



Extraordinary Times Create Opportunity

These are truly extraordinary economic times. It is evident that the financial landscape has changed dramatically in the past months. These economic shifts have created greater community need and at the same time a decrease in resources available. This however creates an opportunity for each of us to reflect upon our personal philanthropic vision and the impact we wish to have on the Eau Claire community now and in the future.

The Eau Claire Community Foundation was founded as a permanent resource for the community, specializing in fund opportunities that provide long-term security generously entrusted to us by our neighbors. Since 1997 the Eau Claire Community Foundation has matched generous donors with worthy causes.

As 2008 comes to an end and as we look to 2009, now is the time to act. The Eau Claire Community Foundation has many opportunities to help fulfill your philanthropic vision. Whether a donor advised fund, designated named fund, field of interest fund, agency fund, acorn fund, or planned gift we can be the vehicle to help you realize your dreams through charitable giving.

Gifts to the Eau Claire Community Foundation can empower others and allow you to enjoy tax benefits. Gifting can come in many forms. A gift of cash, transfer of investments or, if you are required to take distributions from your IRA/retirement plan a gift of part or all of this distribution can help limit your tax burden.

To learn more about the funds or gifting options, visit our new website at www.eccommunityfoundation.org. You may also contact Heidi Fisher, Executive Director, at 552-3801 or via email at hfisher@eccommunityfoundation.org

Foundation Welcomes New Look

Be sure to check out the new website for the Eau Claire Community Foundation. The remodeling of the website has been a months-long project for Christina Taddy, the intern from UW-Eau Claire. She worked with First Net Impressions to produce a colorful and informative presence for the Foundation. The Foundation would like give a special thanks Chuck Henning for the photos he provided for the website. Take a look and let us know how you like it.

WWW.ECCOMMUNITYFOUNDATION.ORG

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Professional Advisors Gather

On November 6th over 40 lawyers, accountants and financial planners gathered at Florian Gardens to hear Jeff Kowieski speak about a variety of charitable vehicles. Jeff, a CPA with Wipfli LLP, provided an educational session on public and private charities, foundations and donor advised funds. Attendees had the opportunity to earn credit, as appropriate. Thanks to the gracious support of our sponsors Weld, Riley, Prenn and Ricci and Gene LaRock.

Jack Postlewaite, past president of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, announced the inception of the Public Charity Advisors (PCA). PCA's purpose is for nonprofit organizations to have available to them professional advisors from the fields of accounting, tax, law and finance who are willing, without charge, to assist them in a single issue matter. Jack shares, 'as a lawyer I have been approached many times by local charities for help. Most recently, I worked with an organization that was developing a planned giving program. They wanted to ensure that they had the correct legal language for their new promotional materials. In a very short period of time, I was able to offer them the language they desired at no cost. They now have a document that is professionally produced and follows legal guidelines.' To learn more about PCA, contact Heidi Fisher at 715-552-3801.

Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

Grant applications are being accepted through March 2, 2009. Application forms can be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.eccommunityfoundation.org. Awards will be announced in mid May, and the distribution of funds will be completed at the Foundation's Annual meeting in June.

Three orientation sessions are scheduled to assist potential applicants learn about the Eau Claire Community Foundation, become familiar with the applications, and have an opportunity to ask questions. The sessions, all covering the same material, will be held as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009	10:30am-noon
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009	noon-1:30pm
Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009	4:00pm-5:30pm

There is no charge for attendance, but registration is requested. To register or for information contact the Grants Coordinator, Lorraine Henning at 715-552-3801 or via email at grants@eccommunityfoundation.org.

Women's Fund – The Giving Circle

The Women's Giving Circle awarded \$10,000 in grants to four community organizations in June for projects benefiting women, youth, and children in the Eau Claire community. At the November membership meeting, representatives from these organizations shared with the membership how the grant monies were being used. Affinity House, a program of Lutheran Social Services, has developed a program to enhance the recovery process of their residents by providing them with the supplies and coaching to learn new leisure skills to replace their former addictive behaviors. Western Dairyland used their grant to help fund the Youth Entrepreneurship day camp, which assists youths in starting their own individual businesses. The Community Table used their funds to provide snacks and bag lunches to children participating in the 2008 summer recreation programs at three parks in Eau Claire. Wisconsin Family Ties discussed its parent-to-parent peer support program serving families of children with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

Kris Becker, Executive Director of the United Way, and Kimera Way, Executive Director of the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, presented information to the membership about philanthropy and giving in the Chippewa Valley.

The membership also approved the Officer and Team Chairs and Co-Chairs for 2009.

An invitation was extended to all attending to renew or begin their membership in the Women's Giving Circle, and to join one of the teams. Others interested in membership can contact the Eau Claire Community Foundation office at 715-552-3801 or email Heidi Fisher, Executive Director, at hfisher@eccommunityfoundation.org.

Annual Gathering

Each year the Foundation gathers to thank the many community members who support our mission. This year's event was once again held in September at the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club. Over 100 individuals gathered. The Foundation honored Jon Homstad, Jack Postlewaite and Sue Tietz for their outstanding dedication to the Eau Claire Community Foundation. Each has shared their professional expertise with the Foundation since our inception. Their past and continued commitment has set a strong base for our organization to continue grow, now and in the future. Laura Hookom, Eau Claire Community Foundation's Executive Director from 2006 - 2008 was also honored. An unrestricted fund was established in Laura's honor. Contributions can be made to the Foundation Leadership Fund. Laura recently relocated to Minnesota with her family.



Above: Charlie Graaskamp presented Jon Homstad an award for his outstanding leadership at the Annual Gathering.

Grant Seekers' Workshop

In September, the Eau Claire Community Foundation, in collaboration with the L. E. Phillips Memorial Library, sponsored a workshop to introduce the Library's Cooperating Collection, a database of grant resources located at the Library. The Cooperative Collection database from the Foundation Center (www.foundationcenter.org), a national non-profit organization headquartered in New York, provides convenient access to grantseeking information, tools, and local expertise. About forty people attended to learn how to use the on-line database to search for funding sources for their programs and organization needs. As a follow up, the Library hosted an On-line Open Lab in November, when the Library's Information & Reference staff were available to assist participants in using the database. Most local non-profit organizations need multiple sources for their funding, and will be greatly assisted by this resource available, without cost, at the L. E. Phillips Memorial Library.

Membership to the Cooperating Collection database was made possible in part by a grant from the Eau Claire Community Foundation through the Chippewa Valley Fund Raising Professionals (CVFRP.)

Below: Annual Gathering at the Eau Claire Country Club.



Philanthropy Honor

In November, the Chippewa Valley Fund Raising Professionals (CVFRP) held its Fourteenth Annual Celebration of Philanthropy to honor outstanding philanthropists. The well-attended luncheon was held at Florian Gardens. Josh Davis, a five-time Olympic medalist and captain of the 2000 USA Men's Swim Team, provided an inspiring and entertaining keynote address.

The 2008 *Philanthropist of the Year Award* was given to Richard and Marcia Larson, recognizing their commitment to their community through their generosity of financial support and volunteerism. The United Way of Greater Eau Claire, Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley, and the Eau Claire Community Foundation are among the many non-profit organizations they serve. They are members of the Foundation's Society of Founders and Richard is a past President of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Beyond their personal philanthropy, Richard and Marcia have encouraged intergenerational giving by passing on their personal values to their children and grandchildren.

Receiving the 2008 *Youth Philanthropist of the Year Award* were the students of Altoona Middle School, represented by the Altoona Middle School Student Council. The students commit their support to a different cause each quarter of the school. In 2007-2008 they raised over \$5000 to give to Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity, Feed My People Food Bank, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Altoona Outdoors. They also reach out to help fellow classmates and their families when tragedy strikes.

The 2008 *Legacy Award* was presented posthumously to William J. and Gertrude R. Casper, who formed a foundation that bears their names to provide grants and scholarships that annually support many non-profit organizations and students from Chippewa County.

Below: Richard and Marcia Larson, the 2008 Philanthropists of the Year.





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Visit us on the Web!
www.eccommunityfoundation.org

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A Message from the Director



Since the inception of the Foundation in 1997, I have shared with many the impact the Foundation has had, and will have, within the Eau Claire community. The impact is significant and pervasive. From 1997 through 2008 the Foundation has awarded over \$2 million in grants to over 140 nonprofit organizations. It could not happen without the vision of many generous donors.

This year you may have noticed, many new fronts for the community foundation including a new logo, website, bill boards, and informational flyers. While we have realized change, much has stayed the same. Displayed prominently on each of these are seven words that indemnify our mission - *For Good. For Eau Claire. For Ever.* These words share the long term goal of the Foundation.

During the past couple months; I have been reminded that community members have not lost sight of the importance of philanthropy and the importance of the Foundation to our community. I have met with individuals who have shared that contributions to the Foundation are favorable investments in our community, even during difficult economic times.

I feel fortunate to have grown up in the Eau Claire community. We have so many role models who give of time, talent and treasure to make our community a better place. While this is admirable, I ask us all to remember that as we give to others, we receive so much in return. During these turbulent times, I challenge each of us to continue to give what we can and what we feel important.

Our collective gifts make Eau Claire a wonderful place to live.

The Eau Claire Community Foundation is a member of:

