



# 2026 Making More Possible Giving Guide

**Designed to support values-aligned  
giving conversations between advisors  
and their clients.**





## Myths Donors May See About Giving Before Engaging With Us

### Myths:

You can't really know which nonprofits are credible.



We conduct thorough charity checks and handle all behind-the-scenes due diligence before presenting any opportunity.

When you give you don't hear or see the impact.



We work directly with nonprofits to provide updates so you can see how your generosity is making more possible in the community.

It's unclear where a gift can make the biggest difference.



We align your giving with real, local needs and opportunities, so your generosity goes where **you** feel it matters most.

It's hard to align your giving with your values and family mission.



Your philanthropy should reflect your values and family mission. We take time to understand your passions, build meaningful community connections, and present opportunities that align with your goals, making every gift intentional and personal.



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of Dunn County



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Our Making More Possible Giving Guide is made available to professional advisers (such as Wealth Managers, CPA's & Lawyers) and their clients *free of charge*.

It's part of our goal of making more good possible in Dunn County. If there is a project that best aligns with your philanthropic goals, you may write a check out to the Community Foundation of Dunn County and put the project title in the memo, or scan the QR code below.



Thank you for your generosity and all the good you make possible in Dunn County.

If some causes or organizations matter more to you, we are always here to help you support them. Please feel free to reach out to our office so we can assist you in making grants that reflect your values and the impact you want to make.

# Access/Social Justice:



## **Restoring Transportation Services for Youth and Families**

Positive Alternatives, which operates a group home for teens and provides community-based services in Menomonie, is seeking assistance with an unexpected **\$5,000** auto insurance deductible. Due to challenges securing liability coverage for their work, the organization moved to a high-deductible plan in 2025. In December, a staff member was involved in an accident, resulting in approximately \$9,000 in vehicle repairs (thankfully, no injuries occurred). An insurance claim has been filed, and assistance is needed to cover the deductible so the vehicle can return to service. This vehicle is essential for transporting youth and families to school events, appointments, supervised visitation, and mentoring activities, ensuring these critical services can continue without disruption.

The grant request of \$5,000 will go directly towards the auto-insurance deductible for the vehicle to return to service.



## **Enhancing Collaboration Through Space Improvements**

The Bridge to Hope, a nonprofit serving Dunn and Pepin Counties, is looking to complete a **\$4,428.96** project to improve its conference room and create a more collaborative, trauma-informed space. The upgrades will include a new projector (\$1,400), an Owl 3 conferencing device (\$1,249), cabinetry and countertops (\$684), and additional organizational items. These improvements are designed to create a more organized and flexible meeting environment that better supports services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. As a result, the organization anticipates improved service delivery, stronger collaboration with community partners, increased efficiency, and a more welcoming and professional space that reflects its mission to promote healing and prevent abuse.

The grant request of \$4,428.96 will go towards purchasing a projector (\$1,400) and Owl 3 conferencing device (\$1,249), installing cabinetry and countertops (\$684), and adding organizational items.



### **Pathways to Stability: Re-Entry Support Services in Dunn County**

Roundtable Revival, Inc., a nonprofit in Dunn County, aims to support formerly incarcerated individuals through re-entry support services. The project focuses on providing mentoring and support for individuals returning from incarceration, addressing challenges like housing instability and transportation limitations. With anticipated project income from donations, fundraising, and a grant of **(\$4,000)**, the organization seeks to offer in-jail and community-based programs, including one-on-one mentoring and group sessions. The project's goals include early engagement during incarceration, consistent post-release mentoring, community connection, and coordinating with local resources to maintain high-quality program services. Seeking funding for general operational costs.

The \$4,000 grant request will support key monthly program expenses for both the men's and women's programs. Funds will help cover two site managers, one for each program, who each work 10 hours per month at \$20 per hour, totaling \$400 per month. Site rental costs are \$50 per session, with four sessions held per month, totaling \$400 per month for both programs. Meals are provided at \$50 per session, totaling \$400 per month for both programs. Annual program insurance costs \$2,600, which averages \$217 per month. In addition, payroll services cost \$30 per month.



### **Scrub A Dub: Hygiene Support for Dunn County Human Services Consumers**

The "Scrub A Dub" project, if awarded a \$2,000 grant, would provide free hygiene products to Dunn County residents living below the median income. Operated by Dunn County Human Services, the initiative would distribute essential personal care items through existing staff across service areas such as foster care, behavioral health, economic support, and ADRC. With this support, the project could help remove financial barriers to hygiene products, improve personal health and dignity, reduce stress, increase self-confidence, and support school attendance, employment, and housing stability for individuals and families.

The grant request of \$2,000 will be used to purchase hygiene-related products for children, adults, and older adults.

# Art, Culture, & Heritage



## **2026 Four days of Imagination and Entertainment in Menomonie.**

The Red Cedar Film Festival, founded in 2018 by Peter Galante and now an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit in Menomonie, is a four-day event celebrating independent filmmaking in western Wisconsin. With a total project budget of \$15,937, the Red Cedar Film Festival is requesting **\$4,315**. The festival aims to increase film submissions to 96 and ticket sales to 155, while addressing challenges of financial sustainability in a rural area. Led by Peter Galante and Susan Jakober, the volunteer-run organization seeks to provide accessible arts programming through a diversified revenue stream mix, including ticket sales, film submissions, and sponsorships. The festival's primary goals include supporting independent filmmakers, expanding community partnerships, and offering a creative platform for media arts.

The grant request of \$4,315 will go towards Mabel Tainter rental and MTT tech assistance \$2850 +  
Printing expenses \$1465.00 = \$4315.00



## **Museum Facilities and Collections Care**

The Dunn County Historical Society, established in 1950 in Menomonie, Wisconsin, is seeking to enhance its artifact preservation efforts through a **\$1,550** project focused on museum facilities and collections care. The project involves purchasing specialized cleaning equipment, including two commercial HEPA vacuums, vacuum bags, a hand-held vacuum, and a professional textile steamer. The primary goals are to reduce dust, mold, and pest damage to their collection of over 20,000 artifacts, safely treat textiles, increase regular vacuuming, and decrease staff time spent managing ineffective equipment. By replacing outdated cleaning tools, the organization aims to protect its historical collections more effectively and maintain professional museum standards.

The grant request of \$1,550 will be for two commercial HEPA vacuums, each \$450, 2 packs of replacement vacuum bags for \$70, and a Jiffy professional textile steamer at \$350.



### **Wilson Place Museum - 50 Years of Preserving & Sharing Local History**

The Wilson Place Museum in Menomonie, Wisconsin, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a comprehensive community event aimed at preserving local history and engaging residents. The project includes a free open house, a Community Memory and Story Station, youth-focused historical activities, and a community time capsule. With anticipated participation of 300-600 attendees, including 75+ children and 20-30 volunteers, the event seeks to collect over 150 community stories. A grant of \$2,650 will help to expand public access to local history, preserve community narratives, and strengthen community connections by reducing barriers to historical education and capturing local voices and memories.

The \$2,650 grant request will cover \$450 for Community Memory & Story Station supplies (display boards, paper, pens, signage, recording supplies); \$500 for youth and family activity supplies (art materials, old-fashioned games, scavenger hunt materials); \$600 for educational printing and interpretive materials (timelines, handouts, activity sheets, signage); \$350 for volunteer support and facilitation materials (training materials, name badges, clipboards, supplies); \$450 for outreach and communication (flyers, posters, banner, digital promotion); and \$300 for contingency and general program supplies for unanticipated needs related to free activities.

## **Community & Economic Development**



### **Hay River Review Transition**

The Hay River Review, owned by Hay River Publishing Cooperative, is transitioning its business model to ensure sustainability by focusing on digital expansion and diversifying income streams.

The project aims to increase online presence, implement digital advertising, and maintain print publication while serving the Hay River Valley in northern Dunn and southern Barron County. Hay River Review is seeking **\$2,000** to prevent becoming a "news desert" for communities like Ridgeland, Prairie Farm, and Dallas. Led by a volunteer board and the newly created Hay River Review Foundation, the publication employs three part-time staff members and is working towards profitability.

The \$2,000 grant request will go towards the transition of Hay River Review to digital platforms to ensure news is sourced to rural areas in Dunn County.



### **Strengthening Storage and Transportation Capacity to Serve Rural Families**

Mission Restoring Hope, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Dunn County, Wisconsin, seeks to improve storage and transportation capabilities for serving rural residents in need. The **\$2,500** project aims to purchase shelving units, provide mileage reimbursement, rent vehicles for large item transportation, and acquire delivery and storage supplies. By implementing these improvements, the organization expects to reduce emergent needs response time by 25%, complete 40-50 annual pickups and deliveries, better organize donated goods, and ultimately enhance support for rural Dunn County residents.

The grant request of \$2,500 will contribute to the following costs: Heavy-Duty Storage Shelving Units – \$895, Mileage Reimbursement – \$870, Rental Vehicle (U-Haul) – \$300, Delivery and Storage Supplies – \$435

## **Disability Services**

### **Colfax Public Library**

#### **Read Without Barriers**

The Read Without Barriers project, initiated by Colfax Public Library, aims to enhance access to library materials for low vision children by expanding their collection with large print books, Vox talking books, and PlayAways across multiple reading levels and languages. This project will cost **\$2,500**. By carefully integrating these new materials with identifying stickers, the project seeks to create an inclusive library experience that not only supports low vision children but also potentially benefits all children. This initiative reflects the library's longstanding commitment to serving diverse community needs since its establishment in 1917.

The \$2,500 grant request would support the purchase of accessible and engaging reading materials, including 7 large print picture books (\$110), 7 large print Leveled Reader books (\$110), 7 large print juvenile books for grades 4–6 (\$110), and 9 large print YA books for grades 7–12 (\$150). Funds will also provide 30 Playaways (\$600); 5 Spanish/English bilingual VOX books (\$284.75); 5 Leveled Reader VOX books (\$284.75); 5 Early Reader Chapter VOX books (\$297.75); 5 Middle Grade Chapter VOX books (\$304.75); 5 Summer Reading VOX books (\$284.75); and one Leilong the Library Bus VOX book (\$54.95).



### **Transportation for Community Access**

The Transportation for Community Access project, led by Compass IL (formerly CILWW), aims to provide 125 no-cost rides to persons with disabilities and older adults in Dunn County. The grant request is **\$5,000**. The primary focus is on individuals needing ongoing medical treatment rides, addressing financial hardship for transportation costs. Compass IL, an Independent Living Center serving 10 western Wisconsin counties, will leverage nearly 100 volunteer drivers to support vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, older adults, and veterans.

This grant request of \$5,000 would support rides for 125 eligible people.



### **Expanding dignity and access to equine therapy with a wheelchair ramp and a Hoyer lift**

Hoof Beat Therapeutic Healing Center in Menomonie, WI, seeks to improve accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges by installing a wheelchair-accessible ramp and Hoyer lift through a grant of **\$10,399.47**. The project aims to enhance safety and inclusivity for participants in equine therapy, expanding therapeutic opportunities for students and community members. Founded by Patty Strand, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit uses retired Standardbred racehorses to provide therapeutic programming and to address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in its services.

The grant request of \$10,399.47 would support the construction of a wheelchair-accessible ramp to provide safe, stable access for participants who use wheelchairs or mobility devices.

# Education



## **Building Student Success Through Connections**

The Elk Mound Area School District is looking to implement the "Building Student Success Through Connections" project. The initiative focuses on enhancing student engagement and well-being through professional development, including a full-day K-12 staff training led by Gaelin Elmore and the University of Minnesota Check & Connect Training. Elk Mound Area School District is requesting **\$5,000**; the primary goals are to strengthen student connections, expand interventions for at-risk students, and improve staff capacity to support student well-being. Anticipated outcomes include improved student attendance, enhanced staff skills in relationship-building, and development of stronger multi-tiered support systems.

The \$5,000 grant request would pay for partial funding for two trainings for staff.



## **Connected & Confident: Older Adult Technology Training in Dunn County**

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Dunn County is seeking **\$4,000** to launch "Connected & Confident: Older Adult Technology Training in Dunn County." The project aims to enhance digital literacy among older adults through two training sessions in 2026, focusing on improving computer and internet skills, online safety awareness, and personal technology access. Expenses include laptops, instructor costs, and administrative support, with participants receiving a laptop upon course completion to promote independent digital engagement.

The grant request of \$4,000 will be used to purchase laptops (about \$1,000), instructor expenses (\$2,000), and the remaining funds will be for administrative support and Northstar Digital Learning curriculum fees.



### **Corrections Education in the Dunn County Jail**

The Corrections Education program at Dunn County Jail aims to support inmate rehabilitation through educational and vocational training. With an annual budget of \$15,300, funded by sources like the Community Foundation of Dunn County, Dollar General, and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, the program serves approximately 112 participants yearly and is seeking **\$5,000**. Key features include GED preparation, vocational certifications, and personal development courses. The program has demonstrated significant success, with 85% of students completing at least one goal and reducing recidivism rates to 10%, compared to the state average of 30%, thereby supporting inmates' employment and educational opportunities post-release.

The \$5,000 grant request will support a portion of the \$15,300 total project cost, including \$10,800 for salaries, fringe, and mileage (\$30 per hour x 360 hours), \$1,000 for administration, \$2,500 for supplies, materials, technology, and credential fees, and \$1,000 for organizational overhead.



### **Business Tours and Reflection for Menomonie Middle School JA in a Day Fall 2026**

The project aims to provide a "JA in a Day" event for 250 eighth-grade students at Menomonie Middle School, focusing on career exploration and workforce readiness. With funding from the AnnMarie Foundation and JA General Operation Funds, the \$12,546 project will include business tours, a career expo, and skills development for a student population that is 40% economically disadvantaged and 20.3% youth of color. With the **\$5,131** grant request, the primary goals are to introduce students to career clusters, workplace skills, and potential career paths, with an expected 15% increase in student knowledge and stronger community-business connections.

The total request of \$5,131 will support key costs for JA in a Day and Business Tours, part of a \$12,546 total project budget. This includes variable student costs (30% of compensation and 50% of other costs); bus services to transport 250 students across the city to visit up to 12 business sites (6 buses at \$175 each, plus driver tips); and substitute teachers (12 at \$87 per half day) to allow classroom teachers to accompany students on the tours.



### **Dunn County Journalism Project**

The Dunn County Journalism Project, initiated by The Badger Project and founder Peter Cameron, aims to provide accountability news coverage focusing on campaign finance in local elections. Specifically targeting the 3rd Congressional District race, the project will investigate campaign finances for U.S. House, state Senate, and state Assembly races in Dunn County. By partnering with local news outlets like Dunn County Eye and Dunn County News, the project seeks to reveal money sources in politics, including out-of-state billionaire contributions. Each investigative story will cost \$1,250, and with the grant request of **\$3,750**, the ultimate goal is to empower citizens with three pieces of factual information about political funding sources.

The grant request of \$3,750 will cover the cost to produce three stories, each costing \$1,250 for the reporter, editor, marketing, and their fiscal sponsor.



### **Strengthening Youth Mentoring in Dunn County**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin (BBBSNW) aims to expand youth mentoring in Dunn County, focusing on the Elk Mound School District. The project seeks to increase site-based mentoring matches from 5 to 10 and community-based matches from 18 to 23, addressing students' academic and social-emotional development needs. By providing professional staff oversight and consistent one-to-one adult support, the initiative intends to improve school engagement and student confidence. The total project cost is \$33,650, with a grant request of **\$3,000-\$5,000**, and the remaining funds coming from BBBSNW's existing sources.

The grant request of \$5,000 will support \$4,000 in personnel costs for program staff time dedicated to recruiting, enrolling, training, and providing ongoing match support for new youth matches, and \$1,000 in materials and supplies, including mentoring activity materials, school-based program supplies, background checks, printed training resources, and promotional materials.

# Enviroment



## **Purchasing a UTV and Pumper Unit for Enhanced Prescribed Fire Capacity and Safety**

The Prairie Enthusiasts is a nonprofit conservation land trust that seeks to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest. The project is requesting **\$5,000** to help purchase a Polaris Ranger 500 UTV and a Pumper Unit to support prescribed burns in Dunn County. These tools will help control invasive species, improve wildlife habitat, and create opportunities for volunteer involvement at Dobbs Landing and Colfax Red Cedar Preserve. Additional fundraising and volunteer training will ensure the equipment is used safely and effectively.

The grant request of \$5,000 would fund part of the Polaris Ranger 500 UTV and the Pumper Unit.

# Health



## **Wellness Investment - Sit-to-Stand Desks**

House Calls, a non-profit organization serving Menomonie for over 25 years, is implementing a Wellness Investment project to replace 11 outdated office desks with sit-to-stand desks.

The project, totaling **\$4,205.86**, aims to improve workplace wellness by prioritizing desk replacements based on employee longevity and physical needs. With 31 total employees focused on supporting older persons and people with disabilities, the organization seeks to enhance employee health, productivity, and comfort by upgrading their deteriorating workspace equipment

The grant request of \$4,200 will go towards 11 desks (\$2,405.28), tables/filing (\$1,457.85), and additional functional items (\$342.73).



### **Hmong Friendship Center**

The Hmong Friendship Center is a nonprofit organization that supports Hmong elders and adults with disabilities. The group meets twice a month for wellness activities, educational sessions, traditional cultural activities, social time, snacks, and lunch. Led by Director Frannta Lor and Board President Bernie Allen, the center works to reduce isolation and address language and cultural barriers by providing support through health education, exercise programs, and social connection. The center is requesting **\$5,000** to purchase additional exercise equipment, which will improve the quality of their wellness activities and allow them to serve more participants.

The grant request of \$5,000 will go towards exercise equipment (exercise bikes, hand weights, exercise bands, \$2,000) and seven additional Hmong Group Meetings (breakfast/snacks/beverages, lunch, and activity supplies, \$3,000).



### **Hope Restored Mentorship Program**

Red House of Hope (RHH) is a 501(c)(3) organization providing mentorship, guidance, and relational support to adults impacted by mental health challenges, addiction, trauma, and grief. RHH was founded to address gaps not fully met by clinical or government systems-particularly for individuals who fall between crisis and care. Approximately 26% of adults in Dunn County report heavy drinking, a rate associated with increased risk of depression, injury, family instability, and co-occurring mental health concerns. The **\$5,000** request will strengthen mentorship-driven support and rapid crisis stabilization efforts that complement existing systems of care. Funding will support two Trauma Reboot mentor training sessions in 2026 and provide suicide prevention and response training to equip mentors and community members with critical intervention skills.

The grant request of \$5,000 will go towards creating more access to the mentorship program.



## **Enhancing the Monday's Meal Capacity to Promote Food Security in the Greater Menomonie Area**

The Menomonie United Methodist Church (MUMC) is addressing food insecurity in the Greater Menomonie Area by providing 225-250 weekly meals through a drive-through service. The volunteer-driven program, supported by a Board of Directors and a Program Coordinator, sources meals from Feed My People and local donors. The project aims to upgrade kitchen equipment using a CFDC Grant of **\$1,200** to enhance meal preparation capacity and continue serving the community during economic challenges. Funded by grants, fundraising, and community donations, the initiative is a critical resource for individuals and families in Menomonie and Dunn County.

The grant request of \$1,200 will support a Virog Stainless Steel 12-piece cookware set (\$262.99), 3 18 Quart Electric Roasters Proctor Silex Industrial (\$447 total), glass measuring cups, cooking utensils (\$48), and 7qt kitchen aid mixer (\$650).

# **Human Services**



## **Building Community Safety Through Life-Saving Training and Supplies**

The Wisconsin Milkweed Alliance (WIMA), a peer-led nonprofit in Dunn County, seeks to enhance community safety through a \$5,000 grant. The project aims to train staff in critical life-saving skills such as CPR, First Aid, AED, and Naloxone administration, while also distributing essential survival supplies like hats, gloves, socks, tents, and sleeping bags. By addressing challenges such as substance use, mental health crises, housing instability, and poverty, WIMA hopes to improve staff emergency response capabilities, reduce health risks for vulnerable populations, and strengthen the organization's capacity to support at-risk individuals.

The grant request of \$5,000 will go towards training costs such as CPR, First Aid, and AED use (\$1,900), and also, life-saving supplies such as hats, gloves, tents, sleeping bags, and socks (\$3,100).



### **Funding - HVAC for Menomonie Twin Home**

The Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity (CVH4H) is planning to construct a twin home in Menomonie, addressing housing challenges in Dunn County, where 10.1% live in poverty and 38% of households are below the ALICE Threshold. With anticipated HVAC expenses of the project aims to provide safe, affordable housing for two low-to-moderate-income families. Construction is set to begin in March 2026, with completion expected in Fall 2026. The Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity is seeking **\$5,000**. The unique approach requires partner families to complete 500 hours of "sweat equity" and offers affordable mortgage opportunities, ultimately contributing to the long-term financial stability of Dunn County families.

The grant request of \$5,000 will go towards any of the following: furnace materials (\$4,107), furnace labor (\$6,965), rough AC materials (\$242), AC Labor (\$295), Air Exchange materials (\$1,299), Air exchange labor (\$1,554).



### **Homelessness Prevention**

Stepping Stones of Dunn County's Homelessness Prevention Project has successfully supported 28 working families and prevented 13 households from eviction so far. Stepping Stones is requesting **\$5,000** to help support the Homelessness Prevention Project. The request will provide rental and utility deposits, support continued employment, and strengthen community stability. This program addresses the growing need for homelessness prevention support for working individuals and families in Dunn County who do not qualify for traditional assistance programs.

The \$5,000 grant would support housing stability and essential needs, including \$1,200 for housing deposits (three units at \$400), \$1,250 for utility deposits (five at \$250), \$2,000 for rental assistance (five families at \$400), \$60 for laundry access through rolls of quarters (six at \$10), \$90 for gas cards (nine at \$10), and \$400 for board games to support community engagement at Cairn House and other program locations.



### **Improving IV and IO Clinical Preparedness for Colfax Rescue**

The Colfax Rescue, located in Dunn County, Wisconsin, is seeking to improve IV and IO clinical preparedness through a project funded by the Dunn County Community Foundation. The project costs are **\$2,101.76** and involve purchasing advanced training equipment, including venipuncture training aides and IO training kits, to enhance emergency medical service training. Led by EMS Director Chrystal Smith, the organization serves the Villages of Colfax, Wheeler, and Elk Mound and responded to 693 calls in 2025. The project aims to sustain training through long-term budgeting, community support, and integration into existing programs, while addressing challenges such as initial equipment costs and maintaining training relevance.

The grant request of \$2,101.76 will be used to purchase medical training equipment, including Advanced 4-Vein Venipuncture Training Aides with simulated blood flow (x2, \$360.99 each; \$721.98 total), 4-Vein Venipuncture Training Aides without blood flow (x2, \$172.49 each; \$344.98 total), SAM IO Training Kits with proximal tibia, distal tibia, and proximal humerus (x2, \$471.44 each; \$942.88 total), and IO tibia bone models with skin patches (x2, \$45.96 each; \$91.92 total).



### **Dunn County Housing Choice Voucher Program**

The Dunn County Housing Choice Voucher Program aims to provide housing assistance to low-income residents, serving 75 households (140 individuals) with an average voucher payment of \$523 monthly. Funded primarily by HUD (\$639,576), the county budget (\$49,000), and foundations, the program supports residents at or below 50% county's median income. With a 96% HUD performance rating, the program addresses challenges like a tight housing market and a 117-household waiting list. They are seeking **\$6,500** for this program. Key goals include housing stability, poverty reduction, and economic independence, with 49 households having a disabling condition and 63 on a fixed income. The program provides monthly rent assistance ranging from \$45,000-\$55,000 and seeks to improve housing access for vulnerable populations.

The grant request of \$6,500 will support essential operational expenses, including professional accounting fees (\$4,200), computer support (\$840), office supplies (\$300), postage (\$1,500), mileage reimbursement (\$120), insurance coverage (\$1,416), membership fees (\$80), and criminal background checks (\$1,200).

SHIRLEY DOANE  
SENIOR CENTER

### **Cabinets for Community and Capacity Building**

The Menomonie Senior Center, established in 1977 and renamed the Shirley Doane Senior Center in 2004, is seeking funding to upgrade its "Sunshine Room" with new storage cabinets and a butcher block countertop. With 1,273 paid members and the county's only Adult Day Service program, the center aims to improve storage, safety, and accommodate the UW-Stout Child and Family Center's temporary space needs. The project's total cost is \$6,730, with a **\$5,000** requested grant and additional funding from the Senior Center Memorial Fund and potential donations.

The grant request of \$5,000 will be used toward the purchase of storage and workspace equipment, including Norwood heavy-duty double-door mobile storage cabinets (3 units, 36" × 24" × 78", \$3,300), Norwood counter-height mobile storage cabinets (3 units, 24" × 36" × 36", \$2,640), and a butcher block countertop for mobile storage cabinets (1 unit, 1.4" × 25" × 10', \$280).

## Philanthropy.



### **2026 Give Big Valleys: Regional Giving for Local Impact**

The 2026 Give Big Valleys project is a one-day, online giving event that supports nonprofits serving the St. Croix and Red Cedar Valleys. The goal is to engage 100 local nonprofit organizations, provide \$22,500 in matching funds to inspire generosity, and deepen donor engagement—particularly in Dunn County. This regional effort will create a user-friendly giving platform that leverages peer-to-peer outreach and provides marketing tools to increase nonprofit visibility and build lasting donor relationships. United Way is seeking **\$5,000** to help fund and expand this impactful community initiative.

The grant request of \$5,000 would be used to provide matching dollars for registered nonprofits.

# Youth

## Colfax Splash Pad

### **Splash Pad and Playground Project**

The Colfax, WI Splash Pad and Playground Project, led by Allie Petznick, aims to develop an updated, accessible park in Dunn County that prioritizes special needs accessibility. The project seeks **\$5,000** to replace unsafe river/creek water play areas with a safe splash pad and modernize existing playgrounds. The initiative is expected to enhance family recreational activities, reduce swimming risks, support local businesses, and potentially increase property values through community-driven improvements. They are seeking funding for one piece of playground equipment.

The grant request of \$5,000 would be used to purchase a free-standing piece of equipment for the playground.



### **Girls on the Run Chippewa Valley Celebratory 5K Experience**

Girls on the Run Chippewa Valley's 8-week program aims to address mental health resource gaps identified in a 2019 Dunn County survey by building confidence for girls in grades 3-5 across 6 counties. The project culminates in a community-wide 5K at Carson Park in Eau Claire, expecting over 1,500 attendees, with a total budget of \$14,580. Led by a full-time Executive Director, a 9-member Board of Directors, 80 coaches, and 150+ volunteers, the program focuses on social-emotional learning, community impact projects, and a celebratory 5K event that connects the community.

The grant request of \$3,580 will be used to purchase event and program supplies, including a Girls on the Run-branded 10×10 event tent (\$800), seven foldable 6-foot plastic tables (\$500), a Girls on the Run-branded table covering (\$180), three Girls on the Run-branded bow banners (\$600), 100 Girls on the Run promotional yard signs (\$500), Happy Hair supplies (\$350), face paint supplies (\$150), friendship bracelet supplies (\$250), and art supplies for thank-you cards (\$250).



COLFAX RAILROAD MUSEUM INC.

### **After School Model Railroad Club**

The After School Model Railroad Club, based at the museum in Colfax, Wisconsin, is hoping to provide a hands-on, educational program that bridges the gap between the end of the school day and parents' work schedules. Seeking a grant of **\$3,500**, the program will offer 90-minute sessions on Thursdays and Fridays where students can design, build, and operate a model railroad layout. Participants will learn skills in layout planning, track installation, and scenery construction while developing creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and attention to detail.

The grant request of \$3,500 will be used to purchase project materials, including lumber (\$1,000), model train track supplies (\$1,500), and model railroad scenery supplies (\$1,000).



### **Establishing Equity in the Dunn County Girl Scout Leadership Experience**

The Dunn County Girl Scout Leadership Experience project aims to establish equity by providing comprehensive leadership development for girls across 58 counties in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The project seeks to raise an additional **\$2,500**. The initiative focuses on training 79 active volunteers and empowering girls through programs that build courage, confidence, and character. Key challenges include communicating the organization's value, emphasizing program outcomes, and increasing diversity in messaging. The project will measure leadership development in five key areas, with staff trained in ACES, Trauma Informed Care, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), ultimately aiming to create positive community change.

A \$2,500 grant would help GSNWGL provide financial assistance to Dunn County to expand programs to girls and adult volunteers in the community.



### **Cops For Kids**

The Cops For Kids program by the Menomonie Police Department (MPD) in Wisconsin provides support for vulnerable children through a Shop with a Cop initiative. Targeting children nominated by MPD officers and Dunn County Human Services who face challenging circumstances, the program offers two annual shopping cycles at Walmart, giving each child \$200 (up to \$800 for multiple siblings) to purchase essential items. This project is looking to raise **\$5,000**. By enabling children from difficult backgrounds to shop with police officers, the program aims to build positive law enforcement-community relationships, support children in need, and create meaningful interactions. The initiative is sustained through community donations, grants, and local agency partnerships, with an average of 23 children supported per cycle.

The grant request of \$5,000 will support 25 kids, at \$200 each.

## **Screen-Free Communication Group of Menomonie**

### **Screen-free communication group consisting of parents and elementary students in Menomonie**

The project aims to create a screen-free communication group for elementary students (K-5th grade) in Menomonie, addressing the negative impacts of excessive screen time. Led by a director, Mrs. Robin Gosai, and with Curriculum Coordinator Sarah David, the group will meet 1-2 times monthly, offering diverse hands-on activities like Lego challenges, creative writing, first aid kit assembly, Spanish courses, and fishing days. Wishing to be supported by volunteers from parents, high school, and college students, the initiative seeks to encourage creativity, teamwork, and face-to-face communication while promoting children's emotional, physical, and mental health. With a request of **\$2,000**, the program plans to sustain itself through membership fees, community donations, and potential fundraising, while anticipating challenges such as location, scheduling, costs, and transportation.

The grant request of \$2,000 covers four program activities, with approximate per-person costs, allowing for one \$25 LEGO prize and participation for 28 people in the remaining programs



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- Need to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
- Can make a Gift of Appreciated Stock and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation
- Have a commercial Donor-Advised Fund (such as: Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, Vanguard Charitable, National Philanthropic Trust, and American Endowment Foundation)



## Other giving we can assist with:

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- Planned Giving / Bequests