

■ GPCF Donors

March 2, 2014 - November 10, 2014

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Whitefish Credit Union
Toni Krebsbach Young
Gordon and Abby Zimmerman

■ Opportunity Knocks

The Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) has been given an opportunity other local community foundations only hope for. Anonymous donors have offered a \$50,000 "Challenge Match" if other GPCF donors collectively raise another \$50,000.

This offer makes every donation made after October 15, 2014, double in value. Every gift of \$25 becomes \$50; every \$100 becomes \$200; every \$1,000 becomes \$2,000. Thus, the \$50,000 "challenge" plus the \$50,000 "match" mean \$100,000 will be added to the GPCF permanent endowment fund.

As the permanent endowment increases in size, there are more earnings available to answer needs within our community. The endowment is permanent, meaning only earnings are spent and not the principal. Therefore, the principal of the endowment continues to grow resulting in increased annual distributions available to improve our community.

Currently, the permanent endowment amounts to \$356,000. The addition of \$100,000 will have a profound impact on future earnings.

GPCF president Penny Jarecki said, "This challenge grant also makes a profound statement about the generosity of the donors, their support of and belief in the GPCF's potential, and their love and commitment to our community."

GPCF directors have set the goal of raising the \$50,000 match by next summer. Already, \$12,000 has been pledged or donated to the match. "We hope new, as well as current donors, will take this opportunity to double their investment in our community's future. This is one of those 'once-in-a-blue-moon' chances to make a real difference for Polson," Jarecki said.

Donors to the "Match" will be acknowledged for their generosity at the annual "Passion for Polson Celebration" in August, 2015.



■ GPCF Named Non-Profit Organization of the Year

The Greater Polson Community Foundation was honored to receive the "Non-Profit Organization of the Year" award at the annual Polson Chamber of Commerce banquet Friday, November 7. Pictured with the plaque are (l to r) Toni Young, vice president, Penny Jarecki, president, Dorothy Ashcraft, secretary. Back row l. to r. are directors Lou Marchello, Gordon Zimmerman, and Jules Clavadetscher.



■ New Signage in the Works

New signs welcoming visitors at Polson's three "gateways" are nearing completion in the workshop of craftsman, Rob Gunderson. Rob, a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, spent ten years with Studio Displays and as production supervisor for Paramount Studios before returning to his hometown of Polson. He submitted a scaled down model of his proposed sign that was displayed, along with two other design submissions, for a selection contest this past summer. Rob's design received the most votes. The finished signs measuring 9 feet x 12 feet will be placed at the north and south entrances to Polson on Hwy 93 and on Hwy 35. Construction and placement of the signs is funded by the Polson Chamber of Commerce and directed gifts administered by the GPCF.

Treasurer's Corner

What does an increase of \$100,000 mean to the permanent endowment fund of the GPCF after 10 years? The original 100K would be increased to \$134,000 based on historical growth, and there would also have been generated \$41,800 in cash distributions to benefit the Polson community. That is more than a 100 percent return on our effort to raise the \$50,000 Challenge Match. This is food for thought in this season of Thanksgiving.

John Cowan, GPCF Treasurer

Directed Gifts Fund Garden Upgrade

The little triangular shaped garden at the east end of Ducharme Park has a new look paid for with a directed gift to the GPCF that memorializes Thomas J. Doherty who loved spending time in our community.

The former plantings have been replaced with a selection of cotoneaster, forsythia, barberry, juniper, spiraea, and blue oat grass which will provide a seasonal change of color in the area surrounding the brick planter filled with summer flowers.

New weed barrier and mulch took the place of the old lava rock.

A second directed gift to the GPCF replaced the battered railroad ties that marked the garden's boundaries on the street side.

These improvements, costing approximately \$7,200, welcome our visitors and express the pride we have in our community.



Viva Polson!

Funds raised by summer residents and "year-rounders" attending the GPCF annual "Passion for Polson Celebration" in mid-August added \$22,985 to the permanent endowment fund. This year's theme, "Viva Polson!" was carried out with bright tablecloths and sombreros filled with large tissue-paper flowers, and a background of Latin guitar music.

Proceeds from the live auction supplemented dinner ticket sales and special gifts. Bidding was especially competitive for a catered dinner for twelve held at historic Rocky Point Lodge (\$1675.00), the hotel/ticket package for the Seattle/Seahawks/Denver Broncos game (\$1650.00), and a gourmet dinner for eight held at a lakeside home on Indian Bay (\$1000.00). Bids on six other items brought the total for the auction to \$6,970.00.

2014 Grants For Community Needs

Grant recipients for 2014 were announced at the GPCF's annual "Passion for Polson Celebration" held August 16. Altogether, \$21,584 was distributed among 10 qualifying local non-profits this year.

- Polson Youth Soccer Association was granted \$2,500 to help construct new soccer fields on newly acquired land.
- Mission Valley Aquatics will receive \$2,500 to allow the children of financially challenged families to use the facilities.
- Polson Ski Club was granted \$2,287.50, which will be used to give financial assistance to youth not otherwise able to participate in the ski program.
- Boys and Girls Club was granted \$2,500 for a healthy eating/nutrition program for youth using local produce.
- Polson School District received \$2,500 for upgrades to the high school auditorium, the only auditorium in Polson, which has not been improved for 40 years.
- Polson Loaves and Fishes was granted \$2,000 for the purchase of a metal storage container.
- SAFE Harbor received a grant of \$1,500 for video devices to help law enforcement officers provide evidence of domestic violence.
- Polson Fairgrounds was granted \$2,500 to improve the concession stand, the commercial kitchen and storage facilities.



Polson Police Chief Wade Nash is pictured with Joleen Barce (l) administrator of the GPCF Grants and Awards Committee and DeeAnn Richardson (r), director of Safe Harbor. He is about to receive a \$1500 grant check for the purchase of video recording equipment police will use especially when responding to domestic violence calls.

- The Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) will receive \$2,500 to support the third annual event that sparks our winter economy
- The Dayton Proctor Park Association will receive \$797 to insulate a park building for energy-efficient winter use.

Because of generous donors, a total of \$125,00 has been contributed to meet needs in our community since grants were first awarded in 2009.



Introducing New GPCF Directors

Three new directors have recently joined the Greater Polson Community Foundation board. We welcome Dorothy Ashcraft, retired elementary school teacher who serves as GPCF secretary, Gordon Zimmerman, president of Community Bank, and (not pictured) Mark Vergeront, financial advisor with Edward Jones.

Special Grant For Salish Point Trail

One of Polson's most noticeable improvements this year has been the construction of a walking path linking Riverside Park with Salish Point. The trail, a cooperative effort between S-K Tribes and the City of Polson, was partially funded with Polson Redevelopment Agency monies.

A number of signs highlighting local history, geology, flora and fauna will be added. GPCF awarded a special \$15,000 grant toward the completion of the trail which is expected to become an educational spot for our visitors.