



Madison

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

November 28, 2022

madisongives.org

Collecting Seeds to Protect Our Lakes



When the glaciers covering Wisconsin receded 14,000 years ago, they left behind a landscape that still defines Dane County – including our county’s lakes. Today, Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa make up a watershed connected by the Yahara River. The Yahara watershed is home to roughly 370,000 people living in urban and rural/agricultural communities alike.

In late October, a group of MCF staff members spent an afternoon helping to protect those lakes and the watershed by volunteering with Clean Lakes Alliance and Dane County Parks. Our mission: to collect native prairie plant seeds.

Prairies and the Watershed

Wisconsin’s prairies protect the watershed in several ways. Their deep root systems help stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, keeping the silt and soil out of the lakes. That same root system also helps the soil absorb more water to prevent flooding and filters out impurities so that the water that does make its way into the watershed is cleaner.

This work doesn’t only protect the lakes and rivers we love. The increasing number of heavy rain events southern Wisconsin experiences makes Clean Lakes’ work to regreen the Yahara watershed important for everyone who lives in the area. MCF’s volunteer work was part of that effort.

Collecting Seeds, continued on page 4

Your gift, large or small, can have an impact.

GIVE TODAY



Plan Ahead: Year-End Giving Tips

It is hard to believe, but 2022 is quickly drawing to a close! At this time of year, many people start thinking about the types of charitable gifts they would like to make before year-end. As you prepare for your year-end giving, here are 10 things to remember:

- 1. Your advisor is a critical part of your year-end giving process.** Before making any type of substantive year-end charitable gift, consult with your tax advisor. They can help you determine how your proposed gift might affect your estimated tax liability and your existing estate plan.
- 2. Certain incentives for making cash gifts during 2021 are no longer available in 2022.** While it's possible Congress may yet vote to extend them, as of right now the following incentives are no longer available to taxpayers in 2022:
 - The additional deduction of up to \$300 for individuals (and up to \$600 for married couples filing jointly) taking the standard deduction for cash gifts to qualified charities.
 - The increased charitable deduction for cash gifts of up to 100% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for taxpayers itemizing their deductions.

- 3. Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from your individual retirement account (IRA) are still tax-free.** Anyone age 70 1/2 or older may receive QCD treatment for certain transfers of up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a qualified charity. Transfers qualifying as QCDs are not included in taxable income and reduce the balance of your retirement account (on which you and your heirs will ultimately pay tax). You can direct QCDs to one or more qualified charitable organizations, use them to establish or add to a designated nonprofit endowment at MCF, or support one or more of MCF's funds targeting grantmaking throughout Dane County.

NOTE: Before making a transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity, be sure to confirm with your advisor that



AFFW Grants Announced

For many women and girls in Dane County, going back to "normal" means facing inequities that were worsened by the pandemic. A Fund for Women (AFFW) awarded more than \$139,000 in grants to eight area nonprofits to support programs addressing these critical issues to help women succeed.

Bayview Foundation

A \$15,000 grant to the Women's Advancement Planning Pilot Year 2, for a team of female residents, already leaders in the community, to design a study focused on learning what is most needed by Bayview's women and girls to succeed.

Centro Hispano

A \$23,000 grant to the Latinas in Saving Initiative, to help participants understand their finances and achieve savings goals, and to work with local credit unions to support participants with access to low- or no-cost savings accounts and a savings match program.

Foundation for Dane County Parks

A \$21,711 grant for Chainsaw Workshops for Women, to provide women – specifically those of color, living in poverty and unstable economic conditions, and those with weak benefits and low/volatile hours – with the knowledge, confidence, and hands-on skills to pursue a career in natural resource management.

Latino Academy of Workforce Development

A \$20,000 grant to the Advancing Latina Career Pathways program, to expand education and job training services for Latinas in Dane County by providing more personalized, responsive mentoring and career coaching, and offering the region's only Spanish-language GED and bilingual workforce training programs.



Michael Johnson: 2022 Outstanding Fundraising Professional

Madison Community Foundation was happy to see Michael Johnson, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County, recognized as the 2022 Outstanding Fundraising Professional at AFP's National Philanthropy Celebration.

As President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County (BGCDC), Michael Johnson's infectious enthusiasm and ability to inspire donors have made him an extraordinarily successful fundraiser. This has led to an incredible impact on Madison, which is why MCF nominated him for the Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP's) Outstanding Fundraising Professional award, which he received at the National Philanthropy Day celebration on November 10.

A Vision for Brighter Futures

Johnson has a vision for how BGCDC can help open doors to brighter futures for the youth they serve. When Johnson meets people, he shares with them the impact the Boys and Girls Clubs already have, and then inspires them to imagine what would be possible with stronger programming, new clubs or innovative academic achievement programs.

Because of this, and supported by a strong development staff, time and time again Johnson has been able to imagine big, audacious projects – and then make them happen by helping BGCDC raise tens of millions of dollars.

Boosting Success Through AVID/TOPS

One of BGCDC's most successful programs is AVID/TOPS, a partnership with Madison Metropolitan School District designed to support students in grades 6 through 12 to excel and graduate from high school, and then attend and stay in college. The program began in 2008 at East High School with 28 students. Michael raised \$18 million to grow the program, which now serves nearly 900 students annually.

Last year, 100% of AVID/TOPS participants graduated and had at least one college letter of acceptance.

A Dramatic Changer

Johnson regularly finds ways to make dramatic changes, often on a very short timeline. When he sees an opportunity to have an impact, he acts quickly, inspiring donors to give their time and talent, as well as their treasure.

Looking at the explosive growth of Sun Prairie, he saw the need for a Club there, and set out to make it happen. He found a church that was being sold, and was able to capitalize on the opportunity, work with a new donor on a leadership gift, and within two years open a full-functioning club and childcare center.

Recognizing the Past and Looking to the Future

More recently, Johnson has been involved with two very different high-profile projects: The idea for the first was planted during the protests following the murder of George Floyd. Johnson was downtown talking to some of the young protesters, who expressed their unhappiness with the fact that there was no Black representation at the State Capitol. So he got to work.

Johnson contacted Gov. Tony Evers and wrote a letter to the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board, advocating for the addition on the capitol grounds of a statue of Vel Phillips, the first woman and first African American elected to statewide office in Wisconsin.



Collecting Seeds, continued from page 1

Clean Lakes partners with Dane County Parks throughout the fall months to organize volunteers to collect prairie seeds. The County takes the seeds, cleans them, dries them and eventually distributes them to partner groups throughout the County. Last year, volunteers helped collect more than 4,000 pounds of seeds, which were worth \$1.2 million. These seeds were instrumental in the efforts to expand the amount of prairie land in our area.

MCF staff was tasked with collecting showy goldenrod seed heads. (Each volunteer outing focuses on a single type of plant, sparing the County from having to separate tiny seeds.) After learning to distinguish the showy goldenrod from the other goldenrod varieties in the prairie, the team set out armed with clippers and large bags.

Building a Coalition to Protect the Lakes

MCF's commitment to the Yahara watershed and its connection to Clean Lakes Alliance goes back to 2008, when MCF funded a joint project by Clean Wisconsin and Gathering Waters to identify the stakeholders in the Yahara watershed, bring them together, and forge a path to work together to protect the lakes.

The Yahara Lakes Legacy Project, as the project was known, identified nearly 100 stakeholders who produced 70 recommendations. Shortly after the work by the Yahara Lakes Legacy Project ended, representatives of the Mad-City Ski Team – including James Tye, current Executive Director for the Clean Lakes Alliance – prioritized the 70 recommendations that had been created and applied for a grant to accomplish the top three. They succeeded with their efforts, and MCF subsequently awarded them a grant to help create the Clean Lakes Alliance to carry their efforts forward.

The Fruits of Our Labors

The lakes play an important role in Madison's and Dane County's identity. As the community's foundation, MCF is proud of our ongoing partnerships with the people and organizations that are working to protect them. The opportunity to get a hands-on view of that work was rewarding.

After two hours of seed collection, the MCF team regrouped and looked at the combined results of the day's efforts – two giant bags of seed heads that will eventually be sown throughout the county to provide more habitat, beauty and, of course, protection for our lakes.

If you'd like to learn more about Clean Lakes Alliance's work, [visit their website](#).

Madison Public Library Seed Library

Are you interested in starting or expanding a native garden at your home? Madison Public Library's Seed Library can help. The Seed Library began as a part of the Dane County Seed Library in 2014, funded in part by a grant from an anonymous MCF fundholder.

Today, you can visit one of the four participating libraries (Goodman South, Lakeview, Meadowridge and Pinney) and "check out" free seeds. Starting this year, the Seed Libraries include several species of native plants collected by Dane County Parks volunteers – like MCF's staff.

Using the Seed Library is easy:

- Visit participating libraries to pick up seeds.
- Grow your plants and enjoy the harvest.
- After harvest, collect and share seeds with neighbors if you'd like!

Prairie plants work best when sown over the winter, so it's not too late to get your native garden started. You can learn more [here](#).



Year-End Giving Tips, continued from page 2

the transfer meets the requirements to be treated as a QCD. Certain transfers, such as transfers from an IRA to a donor advised fund and transfers from an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA, do not qualify as QCDs.

4. Gifts of appreciated securities may provide an increased tax deduction. If you have stocks or other securities that are worth more than you paid for them, and you've owned them for a least 12 months, consider giving those to charity. Doing so may allow you to avoid capital gains tax and take a charitable deduction for the securities' full fair market value. Your deduction for donations of appreciated stock or securities to public charities is limited to 30% of your AGI each year, but you can carry over any excess deductions for up to five additional years.

NOTE: Since gifts of appreciated securities can take some time to process, you will want to coordinate the gift with the recipient as soon as possible to ensure the transfer of these securities can be completed by year end.

5. Gifts of appreciated real estate may also provide an increased tax deduction. Giving appreciated real estate to charity can provide a tax benefit similar to a transfer of appreciated stocks or other securities. However, like stock gifts, real estate transfers can take some time to complete, so planning ahead is important.

NOTE: If you are interested in making a gift of real estate to charity, you should coordinate with the recipient organization as soon as possible to confirm it will accept the property, and to complete the process necessary to transfer the property by year-end.

6. "Bunching" your giving can maximize the benefit of your itemized deductions, resulting in greater tax savings. The standard deductions for 2022 are \$12,950 for single individuals and married couples filing separately, \$19,400 for heads of household, and \$25,900 for married couples filing jointly. Because these standard deduction amounts are relatively high, you may want to ask your advisor if bunching your charitable giving into the years you itemize your deductions would reduce your overall tax liability.

Learn how the **timing of your gifts** may affect your overall tax liability.

7. Take time to learn about the organizations working in areas you'd like to support. If you have an area of interest rather than a specific organization you'd like to support, MCF's Greater Madison Nonprofit Directory can help. It provides a comprehensive online guide to charitable organizations in our region. You can sort broadly by area of interest, organization size or location. You also can use it to learn more about a specific organization's financial health, programs, operations and impact.

8. If you want to retain flexibility in the causes you support, consider establishing a donor-advised fund. If you are planning for a charitable tax deduction this year and want to retain the flexibility to distribute gifts to charities later or over multiple years, consider establishing a donor-advised fund. You can find out more about establishing a donor-advised fund with MCF here.

9. If you need any information, or have any questions, about the options available for giving at MCF, contact us! Working with a philanthropic advisor at MCF gives you access to our knowledge of the local nonprofit community and opportunities to make a difference in ways that matter to you. We can also help you and your advisor think strategically about the tools you can use to make gifts during your lifetime or through your estate.

10. Be aware of the year-end giving deadlines. Last on our list, but certainly not least important, if you do choose to make a gift before year-end, timing is important. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31, and any gifts made by credit card must appear on your credit card statement prior to December 31.

To allow adequate time to process transfers of stock and mutual fund shares, MCF recommends that you initiate these transfers by December 7. Distribution requests from existing MCF funds must be made no later than December 15. Be sure to check the **complete list of year-end giving deadlines**.



AFFW Grants,
continued from page 2

Friends of the UW Odyssey Project

A \$26,260 grant for wraparound support for Odyssey Women students and their families, to help them find pathways out of poverty through higher education, with an increased emphasis on providing financial assistance with basic needs such as housing, food, and transportation so they can remain focused on their studies.

OutReach

A \$3,500 grant to help transgender women feel more comfortable and better equipped to build a more stable future, by providing them with financial assistance to update identification documents and for purchasing gender-affirming clothing and accessories.

Progress Center for Black Women

A \$20,000 grant to the Under One Roof program, to provide both immediate interventions and long-term strategies for women and their families to receive counseling, education, coaching, and other resources in one place.

The Road Home Dane County

A \$10,000 grant to the Women's Employment and Training Fund to help women and teen girls avoid the financial barriers surrounding accessing and maintaining quality employment, such as costs for childcare, car repair, testing, college application fees, work clothing, gas cards, and bus passes.



Michael Johnson,
continued from page 3

Johnson also worked to raise almost \$300,000 to have the statue made, so it can be gifted to the state. "This would not have happened if the activists did not bring that to my attention."

Most recently, BG CDC has teamed up with the Madison Area Builders Association to create the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center and provide a career pathway in the trades for Madison-area youth. Johnson is leading the efforts to raise \$35 million for the Center and is also on track to raise a \$20 million endowment for its support, which will become one of the largest nonprofit endowments in Dane County.

Shining a Light Where There Is Need

Johnson is one of the most visible leaders in Madison and is fearless in his work to shine a light where he sees a need.

- For several years, he spent a week living on top of a truck in a grocery store parking lot to bring attention to BG CDC's annual fundraising bike ride.
- Once, Johnson and several colleagues lived on the streets to highlight the problem of homelessness and the fact that 300 youth in Dane County are living on the street on any given night.
- When he learned that young women were having difficulty finding menstrual products, causing them to sometimes miss school, he led a community campaign that provided free supplies in every middle school and high school in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Johnson understands the interconnection between the issues facing Dane County's young people, and he has worked to address them: After school programs, mentorship, nourishment and nutrition, sports and recreation, school and college retention. He cares about the youth in our community, and continues to bring about significant results to support them.

Your gift, large or small, can have an impact

Whether you'd like to support one of MCF's community funds, a specific nonprofit endowment, or a grow your own charitable legacy through a donor advised fund, a gift today can support the causes you care about long into the future. See the opportunities at www.madisongives.org/givenow or call us at 608-232-1763.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

DEC

1

Last day to contribute to your passthrough fund

If you want to recommend distributions in 2022, you must make contributions to your passthrough fund by today. [See all of the year-end giving deadlines.](#)

DEC

15

Last day to submit grant recommendations from your fund

Recommendations for December distributions from your fund must be submitted by today.

DEC

26

MCF office closed for Christmas

DEC

30

Donations delivered in person must be received by 4:30 today

Donations sent by mail must be postmarked by **December 31.**

Last Word

As the community's foundation, MCF works to help community members achieve their philanthropic goals, allowing them to tap into MCF's expertise in charitable giving, deep knowledge of the community, and commitment to permanent, sustainable philanthropy.

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



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Madison Community Foundation

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