



Our Vision Portage and the surrounding area will continue to build on its history by embracing the future through its thoughtful and giving citizens.

August 2020
Volume 1, Number 1

Hello Community members,

Welcome to our first newsletter!

The Portage Area Community Fund (PACF) was established in 2016 with the goal to bring awareness to philanthropy in the community.

Annually the Advisory Committee has awarded grants to qualified organizations in the Portage area. PACF is a regional giving partner of Madison Community Foundation (MCF), which provides access to field expertise, administrative and investment services, marketing opportunities and legal status in an efficient and effective manner.

PACF is dedicated to enhancing the lives of all citizens in the Portage area through raising private and community funds, awarding grants, and developing partnerships to strengthen and enrich our community for present and future generations.

If you have any ideas how we might work together to improve the community, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at: Portagefund@gmail.com

Learn more at: www.madisongives.org/portage

Sincerely,

PACF Advisory Board Jeff Davis*, Bill Tierney*, Dennis Dorn*, Sandy Gunderson*, Steve Sobiek, Jesse Spankowski, Vicki Walz, and Amber Kiggins-Leifheit. (*founding members)



Dennis Dorn awards grant to Kyle Little of PFSP

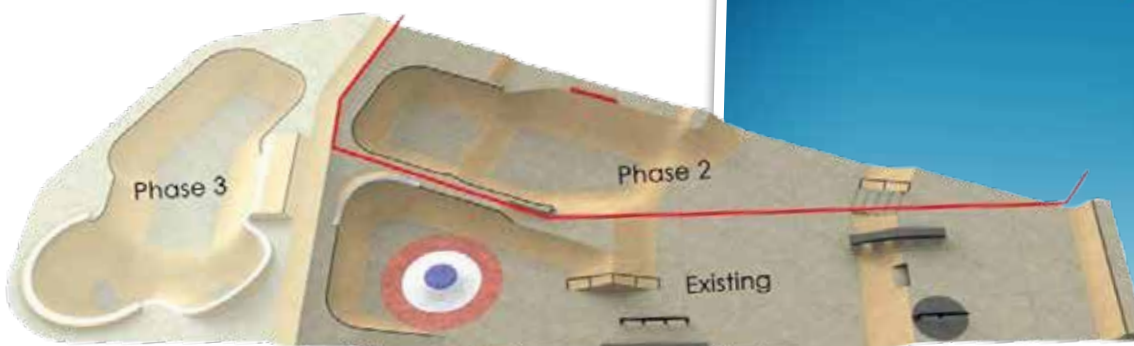
Gift Awarded To...

► Portage Area Family Skate Park

The Portage Area Community Fund awarded an \$800 grant to the Portage Family Skate Park (PFSP). The organization has achieved their goals for Phase II and they will begin construction on August 10th. Kyle Little, president of the PFSP, said "PACF's donation really sparked others to donate, helping them meet the Phase II goal." Learn more at Portageskatepark.org

Portage Skatepark Concept

GRINDLINE



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Gift Awarded To...

► Portage Area Food Pantry, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our community in many ways. In our region, unemployment has reached over 27% and 20% of children are experiencing food insecurity. More individuals and families are turning to food pantries for help.

The Portage Food Pantry, Inc. has seen a large increase in participation since March. Charles Bradley, chair of the Portage Food Pantry Board, reports that they have not been able to accept food and personal item donations during the coronavirus, so they have to purchase most supplies. They receive monthly USDA commodities for the Portage School District.

The Portage Area Community Fund has stepped in to help our neighbors, donating \$2,300 to the Portage Food Pantry. This will provide 50-pound boxes of food to families and extra money for the pantry to purchase supplies as needed. Bill Tierney, a founding member of PACF said "Our Advisory Committee was delighted to provide a grant to the Food Pantry. It's a great way to help our community reduce food insecurity for so many."



PACF Advisory Committee gives check to Portage Food Pantry, Inc.

Portage Area Distinguished Families Awards Ceremony

October 2019



From left to right, Marion and W.J. "Dietz" Eulberg, Adele and Phil Walz Family, Betty and Dr. Edward Harkins, Fran and Patrick Malone Family

The intergenerational families of Marion and Dietz Eulberg, Betty and Dr. Edward Harkins, Fran and Patrick Malone, and Adele and Phil Walz were honored at PACF's first Distinguished Families Award Ceremony in October of 2019 at the Portage Center for the Arts.

These families were honored for their distinguished legacies of building our healthy community in the past and maintaining it today for future generations with their families, always focused on hard work, leadership, non-profit service to others, education, civic, social, business engagement, and family fun!

OUR DISTINGUISHED FAMILIES

► The Eulberg Family

The Eulbergs have had a history of retail stores and a brewery in downtown Portage since the 40's. In 1976, the W.J. "Dietz" Eulberg family established a scholarship in wife Marion's name at Portage High School. Two annual \$10,000 scholarships were set up for a student in health care and a student in football. Today, these scholarships continue under the Portage Area Community Fund; a perfect fit for the Eulbergs in awarding this investment in education.

The Eulberg's legacy in education actually began with Elvira Haertel who sold the brewery to the Eulbergs in the forties. At that time, Elvira set up an educational scholarship in her name.

Now over 100 years later this scholarship still exists! This has set a wonderful example for the extended David and Judy Eulberg family as they continue to build a better community for future generations.

► The Walz Family

Following a 1976 winter vacation at Cascade Mountain, Naperville, IL native Phil Walz purchased the ski hill business. Utilizing his plumbing and construction background, Phil expanded Cascade, particularly the snowmaking capability and chair lifts.

Today, son Rob, along with wife Vicki and their two sons, have expanded Cascade to 47 trails and 4 terrain parks, including snow tubing and boarding. The ski hill now employs more than 450 people and volunteers.

The long list of events and fundraisers that have received support from Cascade Mountain through the years, includes La Vita Wellness Center, among many others. Rob, Vicki and their two sons are carrying on the family legacy of giving back to the community. In particular, they are especially dedicated to developing recreation for youth in the Portage area.

► The Harkins Family

Four generations of the Harkins family have given their time and talent to the Portage community, starting with Dr. Edward and Lillian Harkins in 1933. Beginning with an eye, ear, nose and throat clinic, Edward and Betty Harkins joined them in 1951 to focus on a new Harkins Eye Clinic. While they were raising 5 boys Edward became chief of staff at Divine Savior Hospital and Betty became an integral part of bringing the Head Start program to Portage.

Son Edward headed over 30 different medical mission trips, donating eyeglasses all over central America. Dennis Harkins followed in his father's footsteps and continued the medical mission trips around the world. Other members of the family have given their time to coaching sports, helping as volunteer teachers and serving on many local committees and boards. Dennis and Jack have performed over 50 volunteer shows for over 25 charities as part of the Late 4 Dinner band.

► The Malone Family

After marrying and moving to Portage in 1956 Pat and Francis Hamele Malone became active in the community and worked to advance the city. While Pat was developing a successful insurance business, Fran started working on a center for the arts in Portage, now known as the Portage Center for the Arts. Over the years, Fran also served on many area boards, including as a founding member of the successful ARC of Columbia County. Pat served as a past President of the Chamber of Commerce, helped found the Shamrock Club, and organized the successful Portage water tower painting project.

Today, Pat and Fran's 6 children have followed in their parents footsteps. Several own businesses in the area and have helped Sean with his Alumni Basketball Tournament. For over 20 years this tournament has raised money for the Greater Portage Youth Foundation.



NOMINATE A GROUP OR PERSON TODAY! See back page for details

