

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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***Enhancing Education Through  
Community Support since 2017***

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation:

The WMEF Board of Directors and I are grateful for a strong donor base that has allowed us to provide financial support to students and teachers since 2017. Our volunteer board has worked hard to help us set a record for donations over the last year.

On May 10, 2023 we awarded over \$68,000 in scholarships to 84 graduating seniors, the highest amount in our history. We tripled our Community Scholarship scholarship awards due to our increased fundraising efforts. We also approved over \$5,000 in teacher innovation grants supporting classroom activities and special education programming. We will continue to increase our impact and awareness through our involvement in community events and our social media outlets.

We are proud to share our accomplishments from the last year in this report, and we thank each of you - our donors, sponsors and volunteers - who make our work possible.

Sincerely,

Pat Hittle Niermann

President, WMEF Board of Directors

### **WMEF Board of Directors**

Pat Hittle Niermann, President  
Scott Wakefield, Treasurer

Lori Sieling, Vice President  
Angela Eick-Eliason, Secretary

Lori Bauer  
Penny Rundell Presser  
Gina Phearman  
Baylee Wells

Seth Bossert  
David Niermann  
Russ Runck  
Linda Yantes

### **A Record-Setting Year**

WMEF raised over \$100,000 from July 2022 to June 2023, the most in one year since its inception in 2017. Highlights from the past year include:

- Raffling off a 2022 Polaris 1000 side-by-side that raised over \$10,000.
- Running the first ever “Royal Celebration” gala, raising \$41,819 thanks to our sponsors, silent and live auctions, and games played.
- Increasing marketing efforts by participating in events such as the Carver County Fair and Watertown Rails to Trails.
- Increasing our social media presence to raise brand awareness and boost donations.

Thanks to these efforts and your financial support, we awarded over \$68,000 in scholarships to 84 students in May, almost doubling the amount awarded in 2022. Since 2017 WMEF has awarded over \$233,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors.

We are currently selling raffle tickets for another Polaris Ranger 1000 Premium and will be hosting another Royal Celebration “Casino Royale Night” fundraiser on October 7, 2023. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Marketplace Foods in Watertown or CorTrust Bank in Mayer. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to find out more about Casino Night and other activities!

### WMEF Account Balances and Financials 01/01/2023 - 06/30/2023

Account	Beg. Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Income/Expense	End. Balance
CorTrust Checking	\$39,589.57				
		\$26,489.55		Donations	
			(\$63.00)	Postage	
			(\$143.91)	Office Supplies	
			(\$869.26)	Insurance	
			(\$1,733.32)	Oct '23 Fundraiser	
			(\$1,200.00)	Grants	
			(\$18,939.13)	Polaris SideXSide	
			(\$29,471.80)	Transfer to scholarship acct's	
		<b>\$26,489.55</b>	<b>(\$52,420.42)</b>		<b>\$13,658.70</b>
Citizens Alliance	\$100.00	\$3,900.00		Raffle Sales	
		<b>\$3,900.00</b>			<b>\$4,000.00</b>
Speikers Account	\$7,434.55	\$0	(\$343.50)		<b>\$7,091.05</b>
Scholarship accts	\$84,217.03				
		\$26,505.00		Donations	
		\$29,471.80		Account Transfer	
			(\$12,600)	Scholarships*	
			(\$19,119.03)	Account Transfer	
		<b>\$55,976.80</b>	<b>(\$31,719.03)</b>		<b>\$108,474.80</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$130,997.65</b>	<b>\$86,366.35</b>	<b>\$(84,139.45)</b>		<b>\$133,224.55</b>

\* Reflects payments made to date for over \$68,000 in scholarships awarded

## Thank You to our 2023 Donors!

Amazon Smile	Gary C. Janisch Revocable Trust	Russ Runck & Associates
American Legion	Charlotte Christensen-Johnson	Ed & Joy Rundell
Back Channel Brewing	Mark & Colleen Kelzer	Joel Salonek
Rachelle Barfknecht	Ellen Kniebel	Russell & Barbara Scherber
Rob & Linda Berg	Koch School Bus Service	Elizabeth Schultze
Mary Ann Bernat	Rev. Frederick & Janet Kogler	Dan & Lori Sieling
Lori Bernick	Deb Kompelien	Subway of Watertown
Ron Bonstrom Memorial	Kopp Family Foundation	Jennifer Szabo
Bremer Bank	Vi Kuehne	Greg Theisen
Andrew & Kelly Busch	Patrick Lynch Memorial	Joe Traen Memorial
Allen Chadwick	MarketPlace Foods	Dr. Robert & Betty Van Tassel
Jody Christensen	Bill & Lis McDonald	Doug & Mary Paul Voerding
Citizens Alliance Bank	Jay & Kristine Miller	Watertown American Legion
Citizens State Bank	William McMullen	Watertown Lions
Chiropractic Specialists	Margaret Nace	Watertown Rod & Gun Club
Coborn's	Neaton & Puklich, PLLP	Watertown Mayer BPA
CorTrust Bank	Eileen Nelson	Watertown Mayer Para Union
WM Education Minnesota	David Nielsen	Watertown Mayer Youth
Jennifer Edwards	David & Pat Hittle Niermann	Basketball
Gone Again Travel	Suzanne Blackketter Noor	Watertown Pharmacy
Craig Guetzkow Memorial	Ovation Orthodontics	Watertown Veterinary Clinic
Rawdon Hawkinson Memorial	Kim Perry	Mike & Joann Werner
Hendricks Insurance Agency	Dr. David & Charlotte Philp Memorial	Bill & Janet Windsperger
Laura Hertzog	Penny Rundell Presser	Wings of Watertown
Diane Hirsch	Procise Solutions, Inc	Vicky Wingert
Jered Hokenson	Red Devils Baseball	Wright-Hennepin Coop Electric
Taylor Hubbard	Vern & Mary Richter Memorial	James & Judy Younk
Iten Funeral Home		Donna Zitzloff
Barbara McBrady-Janikula		

## Thank You to our 2022 Royal Celebration "Diamonds & Denim" Sponsors

### **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Russ Runck & Associates  
ProCise Solutions/Gone Again Travel  
Workshops of Watertown/Edina Realty

### **GOLD SPONSORS**

Coldwell Banker Burnet - Dave Philp Realty  
John Kraemer & Sons Custom Builders  
Dr. Nathan & Charlotte Speikers Johnson

Watertown Veterinary Clinic  
Watertown-Mayer FFA Alumni Association

### **TABLE SPONSORS**

Bremer Bank  
Burns Excavating  
Kevin Butcher - Edina Realty  
Chani Health  
CorTrust Bank  
Colin Charlson State Farm  
InterTech

Marketplace Foods  
Jennifer Schuler