

# ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR 2025**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation,

On behalf of the WMEF Board of Directors, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity. Since our founding in 2017, your support has made a profound impact – fueling scholarships, classroom innovation, and grant programs that enhance our students' education.

## 2025 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

On May 8, 2025, we awarded **over \$90,000** in designated, memorial, and community scholarships to **68 graduating seniors**, marking our largest annual scholarship award to date. Every applicant received at least \$300, and we're incredibly proud to support students across academic, vocational, trade, and 2- and 4-year degree programs.

## TEACHER INNOVATION & SPECIAL-NEEDS GRANTS

WMEF continued supporting educators with innovation grants – supporting classroom strategies, new programs, and special education initiatives, including the Lucy & Fred Spelkers Special Needs grant program.

## BUILDING ENDOWMENT STABILITY

We've continued growing the Royal Endowment Fund to ensure sustained financial support for our mission. Contributions and recurring gifts are strengthening the foundation's long-term stability.

We are proud to share our accomplishments from 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

Pat Hittle Niermann, *President*

Lori Sieling, *Vice President*

Gina Phearman, *Treasurer*

Seth Bossert, *Secretary*

Robyn Behrens

Becky Burns

Cody Kottke

David Niermann

Penny Rundell Presser

John Rosholt

Russ Runck

Theresa Thompson

## ANOTHER RECORD-SETTING YEAR

For the third consecutive year, the WMEF raised more than \$100,000 in support of student scholarships and teacher grants!

### ***Some highlights from the past year include:***

- “Bust A Move: Dance for Education” and “Own The Crown” trap shoot competition – Our newest fundraisers brought energy and excitement while raising critical dollars for our mission.
- Expanded community outreach – We strengthened our visibility by participating in local events such as the Carver County Fair, Watertown Rails to Trails, Mayer Rising, and more.
- A successful cash raffle – This community favorite brought in over \$3,000 to support scholarships and grants.
- Stronger digital presence – By growing our social media reach, we've boosted awareness and engagement. WMEF now has 942 Facebook followers and 210 Instagram followers, helping us connect with more supporters than ever before.
- Endowment growth – Our Royal Crown Endowment Fund continues to grow steadily, ensuring long-term financial sustainability and impact for future generations. In May we honored our largest donors to the Endowment fund - 3-Crown donors Paul and Joan Nesvold, 2-Crown donor Russ Runck, 2-Crown donors Jim and Becky Burns, Chris and Dan Neaton of Neaton Brothers Erosion Control, and the Watertown Mayer FFA Alumni Association.

We're also excited to launch our 2025 Raffle, featuring three incredible prizes:

- 1st Prize: 2025 Polaris Ranger 1000 Premium (valued at \$17,900)
- 2nd Prize: Private wine & dinner night for 10 people (valued at \$1,000)
- 3rd Prize: \$500 in cash

Raffle tickets are available now at Marketplace Foods in Watertown, CorTrust Bank in Mayer, or from any WMEF board member.

Mark your calendars for another fun and exciting way to support our mission: "A Royal Evening for Education: Casino Night" – September 27 at the Watertown Community Center.

This action-packed evening will feature casino-style games, Pay-To-Win games including our first ever Human Slot Machine, a live auction, delicious food and drinks, plus the drawing for the winning ticket for the Polaris Ranger!

### **Together, we're building brighter futures – one student at a time.**

Thank you WM Education Foundation and the donors that made it all possible. This scholarship will help make my goals and dreams more accessible as I begin my college education. Thank you for supporting such an amazing scholarship program that helped me and my classmates this year. ~ Natalie

Thank you so much for the generous gift to us all! Your work and contributions to the students of WM does not go unnoticed. I feel extremely blessed by this scholarship and will do my best to use it well. ~ Nicholas

Thank you for awarding me the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Community Scholarship! As a first-generation college student, I am immensely grateful for the financial support. The fact that my community lifts up my peers and I in this way truly means the world to me. I am looking forward to my education journey - thank you for being a part of it! ~ Emma

Thank you for this scholarship! It will truly help with my financial needs next year. Watertown-Mayer has been more than just a school to me. It's been a home and a family. I am beyond thankful. ~ Addie

It is an honor to receive this scholarship. I am so thankful and it is greatly appreciated. I will be sure to pass on the generosity! ~ Jaeger

# ACCOUNT BALANCES AND FINANCIALS

7/01/2024 - 6/30/2025

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END. BALANCE
<b>GENERAL CHECKING</b>	<b>\$55,718.21</b>			
Fundraising income		\$48,363.00		
Misc. income		\$40.00		
Account transfers		\$21,977.50		
Scholarship donations		\$17,803.22		
Business expenses			(\$3,570.86)	
Insurance			(\$1,397.33)	
Fundraiser expenses			(\$32,888.00)	
Grants			(\$4,379.65)	
Scholarships			(\$29,080.00)	<b>\$72,586.09</b>
<b>RAFFLE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>\$1,810.00</b>			
Raffle sales		\$16,655.00		
Account transfer			(\$13,675.00)	<b>\$4,790.00</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND</b>	<b>\$5,337.06</b>			
Account transfer		\$10,635.00		
Investment gain/loss		\$1,008.29		<b>\$16,980.35</b>
<b>SPEIKERS ACCOUNT</b>	<b>\$5,794.55</b>			
Donations		\$2,500.00		
Grants			(\$1,949.00)	<b>\$6,345.55</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$96,009.51</b>			
Donations		\$64,082.85		
Interest earned		844.10		
Scholarships			(\$50,455.00)	<b>\$78,366.66</b>
Transfers			(\$32,114.80)	
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$164,669.33</b>	<b>\$183,908.96</b>	<b>(\$169,509.64)</b>	<b>\$179,068.65</b>

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-25 DONORS

All Season Sports	Patrick Day	Iten Funeral Home
American Legion Post #121	Education Minnesota	Duane & Gloria Janikula
American Red Cross	Jennifer Edwards	Gary C. Janisch Revocable Trust
Arvu Auto	Angela Eick-Eliason	Lucille Jirik
Back Channel Brewing	Jerry Emery	Charlotte Christensen-Johnson
Julie Balamut	Michael & Suzanne Ericson	Dr. Nathan Johnson
Rachelle Barfknecht	Denise & Jeff Ertl	K9 Corner
Michelle Barthel	Cynthia Essen	Mark & Colleen Kelzer
Mike & Lori Bauer	Farmer's Plate Restaurant	Kensington Bank
Norman & Cynthia Bauer	Brian & Chris Fiskus	Ellen Kniebel
Kurt & Shelly Becker	Pat Florek	Koch School Bus Service
Robyn & Chris Behrens	Ed Foley	Rev. Frederick & Janet Kogler
Rob & Linda Berg	Trish Freydenlund	Dale & Debra Kompelien
Martha Bergland, PHD	Anne Fritzke	Kopp Family Foundation
Bob's Repair	Mark Fritzke	Cody Kottke
Chris Boerner	Mike Fritzke	Cate Kraemer
Ron Bonstrom Memorial	Christine & Andy Gagnon	John Kraemer & Sons
Jeannie Brever	Glenn & Elizabeth Gerads	Kraus-Anderson Insurance Agcy
Bremer Bank	Golden Day Coffee	Gary Kubasch
Buddy Boy BBQ	Gone Again Travel	La Catrina Restaurant
Burns Excavation	LuAnn Gravelle	Jeffrey A Larson
Jean & Jeffrey Burns	Craig Guetzkow Memorial	Christy Ann Lee
Jim & Becky Burns	HH Fabrication	Legends On Main
Stacie & Brian Burr	Teri Haataja	Gregory Lien Memorial Fund
Cabin Fever Sports	Patrick & Suzan Hall	Debra & Donald Lorsung
Carpenter's Daughter	Halstead Laser Engraving	Luce Line Orchard
Cathy Mackenthun's Meat Market	Steve Hangartner	Luebke Farms
Chiropractic Specialists	Dan Hanson	Joan Lynch
Citizens State Bank	Phil & Mary Hanson	Mackenthun's Grocery
Coldwell Banker Realty - Dave Philp	Haven & Home	Sue Magnuson
Katelin & David Davis	Bonita & Tom Heilman	Mindy Maiers
Coborn's Delano	Hellmuth & Johnson	MarketPlace Foods
CorTrust Bank	Hendricks Insurance Agency	Matter Excavating
Joanne Dalglish	Laura Aspen Hertzog	Mayer Baseball Club
Dave's Town Club	Jerry & Diane Hirsch Trust	Mayer Lumber
	Hollywood Heating & AC	Nace Heating & AC
	Infinity Diamonds Waconia	Nancy McAfee

Bill & Lis McDonald	Red Devils Baseball	Taylor Meats
Jay & Kristine Miller	Lori Reinhardt	Thaemert Trucking LLC
Mindy Maiers of Hair Architects	David & Cathy Richter	Theresa Thompson
Mocha Monkey Coffeehouse	Vern & Mary Richter Memorial	Tim Thompson Realty
Janet & Kevin Molohon	Riverside Bar & Restaurant	Joe Traen Memorial
Roberta Morehouse	Rebecca Rong	Total Wine
Tim & Lou Mulqueeny	Neil & Jeri Roth	Dr. Robert & Betty Van Tassel
Jenny Nace	Ruby's Roost - Victoria	Cathy Vanderbilt
Kevin Nace	Russ Runck	Jeff Vanderlinde
NAPA Auto Parts	Ed & Joy Rundell	Emily Victory
Neaton & Puklich, PLLP	Joel Salonek	Paul & Mary Voerding
Neaton Bros Erosion Control	Renee Salonek	WM FFA Alumni Assoc
Curt & Eileen Nelson	David Schleddy	WMHS Football Boosters
Paul & Joan Nesvold	Darren & Jennifer Schuler	Scott Wakefield
David W. Nielsen	Elizabeth Schultze	Watertown Baseball Assn
David & Pat Hittle Niermann	Colleen Score	Watertown Lions Club
Liane & Richard Oens	Shelby Jade Photography	Watertown Rod & Gun Club
Ovation Orthodontics	Short Cut	Watertown Mayer Youth BB
Carol Paschke	Dan & Lori Sieling	Watertown Pharmacy
Nancy Pedersen	Dave & Mary Sloneker	Watertown Veterinary Clinic
Troy & Tiffany Peterson	Snap Fitness - Jared Hokenson	Mike & Joann Werner
Scott & Gina Phearman	Taffy & Peter Soley	Vicky Wingert
Dr. David & Charlotte Philp	Sotashine Car Wash Waconia	Wings of Watertown
Memorial	Veronica Stifter	Workshops of Watertown
Pioneer Creek Golf Course	Justin Stohs	Wright-Hennepin Coop Electric
Penny Rundell Presser	Theresa McDonald-Sullivan	Judy Younk
Presser Rentals	Subway of Watertown	Bette Zeman
Rochelle Prigge	Jennifer Szabo	Colleen & Roger Zeman
Procise Solutions, Inc	Taralan Corporation	
Gloria Radde	Target	

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 EVENT SPONSORS

## BUST A MOVE DANCE FOR EDUCATION

### **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Ameriprise - Russ Runck & Associates  
Gone Again Travel - Becky Burns  
Procise Solutions Inc. - Jim Burns  
Mayer Baseball Club  
Watertown-Mayer FFA Alumni  
Association

### **SILVER SPONSORS**

Chanl Health  
CorTrust Bank  
Hellmuth & Johnson Law Firm  
KA Insurance  
Linda Berg Edina Realty  
Marketplace Foods  
Presser Rentals

### **GOLD SPONSORS**

John Kraemer & Sons  
Watertown Veterinary Clinic

### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Buddy Boy Fine BBQ  
Burns Excavating  
Dave Philp Coldwell Banker Realty  
Koch Bus Service  
Luce Line Orchard  
Luebke Farms  
Mayer Lumber  
Thaemert Trucking  
Vanerlinde Group  
Watertown Pharmacy

## OWN THE CROWN TRAP SHOOT

All Season Sports  
Cabin Fever Sports  
Farmer's Plate  
La Catrina

Luce Line Orchard  
Luce Line Lodge  
MarketPlace Foods  
Scott Wakefield

Taylor Meats  
Wings of Watertown