Dear Friends,

2020 is a year none of us will ever forget – it has already become a shared experience seared into our collective memory. Job losses, food and housing insecurity, racial tension, the strain of parents and kids working and schooling from home, separation from friends and family, illnesses and deaths – it’s been overwhelming.

And yet, like the late Fred Rogers taught us, “When bad things happen, always look for the helpers.” It is our privilege at the St. Croix Valley Foundation to work every day with helpers who are compassionate, optimistic, generous, and future-minded.

In this 25th year of the St. Croix Valley Foundation, our response to the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the value of our long-standing relationships, the importance of our earned community trust, and the power of flexible philanthropic funds. Thanks to partners like you, we were able to raise and grant more than $1 million to help meet the basic needs of those most impacted by the pandemic.

The St. Croix Valley Foundation will be here forever, supporting our donors’ philanthropic dreams and connecting resources with needs in our communities. When faced with unexpected challenges, we step up – and look for the helpers.

Thank you for standing with us as we care for our region, now and for generations to come. With your help, we are “For the Valley. For Good.”

With gratitude,

KATRINA LARSEN
BOARD CHAIR

HEATHER LOGELIN
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE from THE BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT

The St. Croix Valley Foundation was founded in 1995 to foster local philanthropy and address community needs. In 2020, philanthropic resources, relationships, and goodwill were called upon to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. New donations were added to existing charitable funds, providing more than $1 million to respond to pressing community needs.
Community Capital is banked ‘good will’ built of trust, respect and cooperation among community partners. It is created steadily over time, through solid partnerships, clearly expressed values and aligned purposes— all in the service of community.

Community Capital is what the St. Croix Valley Foundation was able to quickly marshal in response to the urgent needs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The St. Croix Valley Foundation put community trust and area relationships to work, quickly and effectively linking donor compassion with nonprofit action. The Foundation created an easy pathway for generosity to meet need.

Over the next six months, in collaboration with partners throughout the region (including leadership support from the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation and the Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation), the COVID-19 Response Fund raised and distributed more than $1,000,000 to help local nonprofits support those most impacted by the pandemic crisis.

Community Capital was utilized to help meet this unprecedented need. But Community Capital was also replenished through the Foundation’s approach, partnerships, outreach, and dogged determination to support nonprofit partners.

SCVF waved all administrative fees for the Response Fund, ensuring 100% of donations would be granted to nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable populations.

Nonprofit organizations were put first—receiving personal outreach, easier application tools and expedited fund distribution.

New donors were welcomed. Neighbors who wanted to support pandemic relief but were unsure how discovered the St. Croix Valley Foundation, its network of nonprofit partners and its trust and reputation within the community.

Existing donors were invited to contribute to the COVID-19 Response Fund. This included those who already partner with SCVF through donor advised funds, legacy plans or other philanthropic arrangements.

“By choosing SCVF as your philanthropic partner, you support Valley communities. The St. Croix Valley Foundation is a trusted steward of philanthropic funds. Our added value is that we take the fees on those funds and put them back into communities, programs and resources. Our response to COVID-19 is a great example of how philanthropic partnerships support community-building work.”

- Heather Logelin, President, St. Croix Valley Foundation

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF GRANTEES, PLEASE VISIT SCVFFOUNDATION.ORG/COVID-19

MARCH 16 Just weeks after the first U.S. cases of COVID-19 emerged on the West Coast, SCVF leadership convened a meeting with local philanthropic leaders to tee up the idea of a coordinated regional pandemic response.

MARCH 23 The COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley was launched—a partnership of the St. Croix Valley Foundation, United Way St. Croix Valley and United Way Washington County East.

MARCH 30 First grant distributions announced—nearly $200,000 to 22 nonprofits responding to basic needs for food, shelter, financial assistance and mental health services. By early autumn, over $1 million was raised and granted to 112 area nonprofits.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP - RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN THE VALLEY

EVER PRESENT.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP - RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN THE VALLEY

5
David and Sandy Brandt were teenage friends with a shared interest in bringing like-minded individuals together for the good of the community while indulging their taste for fun and adventure. After graduating from Harding High School (David in ’59 and Sandy in ’60), David headed to Macalester College and the U of M Dental School. Sandy pursued her education at the U of M. By the time they married in 1965, Sandy was certain about David. “I knew very well the character of the person I was about to marry – and character is everything.”

Throughout their lives together, the Brandts have always understood that community is not just a geographic place but a thing you create and nurture with others. They built community with friends in high school and college. They built community in Tokyo when Army Captain Brandt became the first orthodontist stationed at the U.S. military base there. And they built community in the Valley after the St. Croix River beckoned them home in ’72.

The river had been their youthful playground – David taught Sandy to water ski from the shores of the St. Croix – and now the broader St. Croix Valley would be where Dr. Brandt would build his practice (from Stillwater to New Richmond and Hudson) and where they would raise their children.

The Brandt home became an epicenter of community-building as David and Sandy hosted events for friends and organizations from throughout the Valley, including the St. Croix Valley Foundation, the United Way, Rotary, Young Life and various church groups.

The Brandts have helped to ensure that the St. Croix Valley Foundation – built by caring, future-minded individuals – will support the people, families and natural resources of the Valley – forever.

“The fact that I like people and always have is probably the main reason for finding myself in so many activities. Wherever we go we see the need for improvement to make our community a better place to live. I enjoy this type of challenge and have found that many other people do also. I find it interesting to gather these people together in a united effort to plan and carry out these various programs.”

~ David Brandt, age 16
The Amery Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the St. Croix Valley Foundation, is made up of committed individuals who encourage local donors to establish long-term funds to enhance the quality of life in the Amery area. When a donor’s legacy plans include educational support, one of the first calls they are encouraged to make is to Karen Ganje.

Karen has worked for the Amery School District for nearly 30 years. Most of that tenure has been in guidance counseling, helping students overcome challenges and explore new opportunities.

The Ganjes (husband Josh is also a teacher in the district) chose Amery not just for work but as a place to put down roots, get involved, and raise their daughters. Karen recently described her fondness for Amery. “It’s the kind of community where bumped carts at the grocery store can become an impromptu parent-teacher conference and a Saturday morning soccer game can telegraph important information about a family dealing with loss or hardship.”

In this rural small town, 40% of families qualify for free and reduced lunch for their school aged children. Yet despite challenges, this community of just 2,800 people displays outsized civic pride. The longstanding LIKE A WARRIOR program encourages families, alumni, and businesses to stay involved with and connected to the community – most often through the schools.

Amery has produced many hard-working, successful individuals through the years – people with a desire to give back. Every individual who has established a fund offers an example of possibility for others with philanthropic aspirations. In a small town, word gets around. One scholarship fund often spurs others to similarly invest in education. This past year the St. Croix Valley Foundation managed 61 scholarship funds which provided over $345,000 to 200 students throughout the Foundation’s 6-county service area. Fully a third of those funds were specifically set up for, offered to, or received by Amery High School students.

Throughout the St. Croix Valley, donors establish funds to support the things they care about most – whether that involves support for arts organizations, wellness groups, environmental causes or service organizations. In Amery, donor generosity is often directed to Amery High School and its students.

Addie Tollakson (A.H.S. class of ’19) is studying Nursing at Luther College. She noted how financially daunting college can be. “The scholarships I received made it more affordable but also, by hearing donor stories on Awards Night, you feel inspired. It helps you see why you’re going to college, and maybe someday you can give back too.”

Ella Schmidt, (A.H.S. class of ’20) is studying Elementary Education at Viterbo University. “Karen’s door is always open. She really helped me focus on the ‘best chance’ scholarships,” said Ella. “The money helped a lot but receiving a scholarship was like walking out of High School with a pat on the back from the whole community – it’s like they’re saying, ‘You got this’.”

Because of GASB 84 – a ruling from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board which establishes new reporting and compliance procedures for funds held by school districts for the purpose of granting to district students – Amery High School opted to transfer $118,000 from 4 funds to the St. Croix Valley Foundation. Donor intent is unaffected, but the school is relieved of fiduciary responsibilities and of managing complex reporting requirements.

With its 25-year history managing donor assets and administering grant and scholarship programs, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is well-positioned to partner with schools in the management of scholarship funds.
Throughout the years, many representatives of Andersen Corporation have served on SCVF boards and committees. This "good fit" is not surprising as Andersen’s corporate culture has long encouraged civic engagement. The Andersen Corporate Foundation was founded in 1941 to “improve lives and strengthen communities,” primarily where Andersen’s employees live and work. In the simplest terms, Andersen Corporation, the Andersen Corporate Foundation and the St. Croix Valley Foundation share a mantra – improving quality of life for those who live and work in the Valley.

In 2020, the Andersen Corporate Foundation provided critical early support to the COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley. “Andersen’s early involvement telegraphed a sense of urgency and worthiness to other potential donors,” noted Katrina Larsen, SCVF Board Chair. By early June, The COVID-19 Response Fund had raised over $1 million to help Valley nonprofits support those most impacted by the pandemic.

Like the St. Croix Valley Foundation, Andersen Corporation encourages philanthropy. Through a special arrangement, Andersen employees and retirees can gift appreciated Andersen stock to the St. Croix Valley Foundation. While not typically an option for privately held stock, Andersen Corporation created this pathway to encourage and enable their employees and retirees to give back to the community through the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

The values of Andersen Corporation are Integrity, Innovation, Partnership, Excellence and Corporate Citizenship. Through a strong St. Croix Valley Foundation, there is a pathway for every Andersen employee and retiree, and indeed every Valley neighbor, to share in those values and impact the future of the St. Croix Valley.

DONATING STOCK
This philanthropic option can provide significant tax advantages, as the stock donor can claim a charitable deduction for the full, current, fair market value of the stock while avoiding capital gains taxes which would result from sale of the stock. From the St. Croix Valley Foundation, a stock gift donor can designate nonprofits to support. Please contact your professional advisor or the St. Croix Valley Foundation to explore the stock gift option.
BRIDGE for Community Life serves teens and young adults with cognitive disabilities from Washington county (MN) and Pierce and St. Croix counties (WI). BRIDGE nurtures and supports these individuals as they leave school systems and transition into adulthood. BRIDGE’s life skills training and recreation activities equip clients with a holistic approach to a healthy productive life.

The population that BRIDGE serves thrives from trusted, caring, face-to-face interactions. Without those connections, clients can become mentally isolated, frustrated, and can quickly lose social and coping skills developed over months or even years.

When COVID-driven lockdowns curtailed BRIDGE’s regular operations, their staff went into overdrive. “We had to quickly pivot to establish a whole new online experience for our clients,” explained Peg Gagnon, BRIDGE’s executive director. By early May, BRIDGE had restructured its entire service delivery model, investing in new technology, curriculum and staff training.

“We had to figure out how to keep our clients active and engaged while they sheltered at home,” explained Peg. “Because adults with cognitive disabilities often have other underlying health issues, both our BRIDGE client and their older caregivers are at higher risk for COVID-19. We needed this to work in order to keep everyone safe and well.” With the average age of BRIDGE clients approaching 30, many of their at-home caregivers are older parents who may themselves struggle with new technology. BRIDGE staff made several tele-visits to guide and support clients and caregivers as they learned new systems.

BRIDGE received a grant from the COVID-19 Response Fund for the St. Croix Valley to help fund the critical transition to online services, enabling BRIDGE to support the mental and emotional health of their clients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

For BRIDGE, the significant effort it took to develop effective online services has also allowed the organization to reach individuals who, due to health or social/behavioral issues, would not otherwise be able to participate in traditional in-person activities. According to Peg, “Even when we go back to a face-to-face world, these online capabilities will become a regular part of our offering. For a segment of our clients, it’s just a better way forward.”
This seemed to be the most glaring need I could identify. If not me, who? It’s something that reached out to my heart, grabbed a hold of it and squeezed,”

“Serving clients who care for the valley”

Did You Know?

Clients appreciate being asked about their philanthropic goals. Client/Advisor relationships are strengthened when advisors respect and support a clients’ legacy goals in addition to their financial goals.

Estate planners, wealth advisors and tax accountants regularly invite SCVF staff to talk with their clients about philanthropic fund options and benefits. SCVF works with advisors to help those clients identify the best philanthropic plan for their current situation and future goals.

Professional advisors have many choices when meeting a client’s philanthropic fund needs. Those who partner with SCVF help build local philanthropic assets impacting local communities. While fund donors can recommend grants to causes within and beyond the Valley, partnering with SCVF means dollars – and fees – stay local, supporting this region.

SCVF is the only nonprofit in the Valley that can receive gifts of appreciated Andersen Corporation stock. This is a unique opportunity for significant tax advantages, as donors receive a tax-deduction for the full value of the stock while avoiding capital gains taxes.

SCVF holds 482 charitable funds, manages nearly $70 million in assets, and distributes millions each year to respond to needs and enhance the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley.

Few are as well-positioned to discuss service, legacy and impact as Dwight Cummins. As an attorney with over 30 years of experience, Dwight has helped many clients with legal solutions related to estate planning and wealth transfers. Dwight is a proponent of charity planning, in addition to wealth planning.

“A person’s estate is a reflection of their life. That person’s values can be expressed and nurtured forever through philanthropic legacies.”

~ Dwight Cummins

Through his past service on the boards of the St. Croix Valley Foundation, Lakeview Health System, Lakeview Hospital Foundation, Family Means and the Stillwater Lions Club, Dwight has seen firsthand the good that legacy planning can bring to a community. First and foremost, Dwight understands the importance of minimizing tax and transactional costs while serving a client’s greater financial and legacy goals.

Today there are unique opportunities for efficiently transferring wealth, providing for loved ones, and supporting beloved causes. For example, the SECURE Act eliminates the “stretch IRA,” potentially increasing tax burdens for individual beneficiaries. Naming the St. Croix Valley Foundation as an IRA beneficiary (either directly or through a testamentary charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity), maximizes philanthropic impact while minimizing taxes to individual heirs. As always, plans for the charitable use of these funds can be customized to reflect the donor’s values and passions.

Whether legacies are established utilizing IRAs, gifts of land, appreciated stock, real estate or other assets, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is a ready partner. Dwight recently summed up his comfort level in recommending the St. Croix Valley Foundation to his clients, “The Foundation is big enough to accept and manage funds of any size but small enough to engage with every donor on a personal level.”
OUR MISSION

The mission of the St. Croix Valley Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley by:

Encouraging charitable giving in the Valley
Building permanent funds that will provide resources for the needs of today and tomorrow
Connecting people and programs
Bringing together people’s charitable interests and the funding needs of programs and organizations
Encouraging collaboration
Forming partnerships and providing servant leadership through programs that enhance the quality of life in our region’s distinct communities

OUR STAFF

SHELLEY CALVERT, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
SALLY HERMANN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE
HEIDI HERRON, SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATE
HEATHER LOGELIN, PRESIDENT
EMILY LOWNSBURY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & INVESTMENTS
ELLEN MONTGOMERY, MARKETING ASSOCIATE
ANGIE PILGRIM, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT
STACEY RIVARD, ADMINISTRATIVE GIFTS ASSOCIATE

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION

YOUR PHILANTROPY – FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

By donating to the St. Croix Valley Foundation, or one of our affiliated community foundations, your gift gets reinvested in your community. As local funding priorities and needs change, the St. Croix Valley Foundation can respond.

WE ACCEPT

- OUTRIGHT GIFTS
- APPRECIATED STOCK
- REAL ESTATE
- PRIVATE FOUNDATION ASSETS
- BEQUESTS
- LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES
- CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS
- CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS
- CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

FUNDING OPTIONS

UNRESTRICTED ENDOWED FUNDS
Providing unrestricted endowed gifts to SCVF allows the board, staff and community partners to assess issues and put resources where need is the greatest. No one knows what the next community crisis will be, but unrestricted endowed gifts (today or as part of a bequest) provide flexibility and responsiveness.

GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Gifts to one of our ten affiliated community foundations directly support local grantmaking and programs impacting your hometown.

DONOR ADVISED/DESIGNATED FUNDS
By establishing a Donor Advised Fund, you essentially establish an individual, family or business foundation within SCVF. A Designated Fund makes your annual giving easy and automatic – until you decide differently. Both offer tax advantages and a long-term plan for your philanthropic intentions.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS
Board and community members ensure your dollars work hard to advance opportunities and programs within your area of interest. You can designate your gift for specific grantmaking areas (music education, health and wellness, the arts, etc.).

AGENCY FUNDS
Nonprofit organizations establish funds to take advantage of SCVF’s expertise in accepting complex gifts (such as appreciated stock, IRA QCDs, real estate, etc.) investment protocols, and economies of scale – creating a long-term funding source for their programs, capital or operating needs.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
St. Croix Valley Foundation has helped hundreds of donors establish scholarship programs. Each one is unique, and each scholarship fulfills a heartfelt legacy in support of educational advancement.

FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
DENNIS DIVERST (CHAIR)
JIM ELLIS (VICE CHAIR)
MARK BULEY
DOUG GEISSLER
BUCK MALICK
MIKE PEPIN
STEVE SCHROEDER

INVESTMENT ADVISOR
FUND EVALUATION GROUP, LLC
RICHARD GRZYMAJLO, MANAGING PRINCIPAL/OPIO ADVISOR

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
AKINS HENKE & COMPANY

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST
The St. Croix Valley Foundation provides support to ten volunteer-led affiliated foundations. That support includes 501(c)3 credentials, fiduciary expertise, board and committee guidance, office and staff support and – most importantly – a shared understanding of and love for the St. Croix Valley.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
Please contact the St. Croix Valley Foundation or your local Affiliate Foundation.

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION
516 SECOND ST, SUITE 214, HUDSON, WI 54016 | 715.386.9490 | INFO@SCVFUNDATION.ORG | SCVFUNDATION.ORG

LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED AFFILIATE FOUNDATIONS

AMERY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 11
AMERY, WI 54001
715.386.9490
AACF@SCVFUNDATION.ORG

CHISAGO LAKES AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 449
LINWOOD, MN 55045
715.386.9490
CLACF@SCVFUNDATION.ORG
CLACF.FOUNDATION.COM

Hudson Community Foundation
516 SECOND STREET, SUITE 214
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016
715.386.9490
HCWF.651.246.3652INFO@HCWF.ORG

New Richmond Area Community Foundation
P.O. BOX 96
New Richmond, WI 54017
651.246.3652INFO@NRAFCFOUNDATION.COM
NRAFCFOUNDATION.COM

River Falls Community Foundation
516 2ND STREET, SUITE 214
Hudson, WI 54016
715.386.9490
RFCF@SCVFUNDATION.ORG
RIVERFALLSCOMMUNITYFUND.ORG

Somerset Community Foundation
P.O. BOX 322
Somerset, WI 54025
715.386.9490
CHAIR@SOMERSETCOMMUNITYFOUNDATIONWI.ORG
SOMERSETCOMMUNITYFOUNDATIONWI.ORG

Stillwater Area Community Foundation
516 SECOND STREET, SUITE 214
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016
715.386.9490
INFO@STILLWATERAREAFOUNDATION.ORG
STILLWATERAREAFOUNDATION.ORG

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION
FINANCIAL STATUS

2020 2019
TOTAL ASSETS $ 69,681,649 $ 69,453,184
TOTAL REVENUE $ 9,058,248 $ 10,892,063
EXPENSES Grants and Scholarships $ 6,811,514 $ 3,824,714
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES Program 1,576,205 1,816,762
FUND DEVELOPMENT 126,851 240,087
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL 390,860 397,975
TOTAL EXPENSES $ 8,905,430 $ 6,279,538
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $ 152,817 $ 4,612,524
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR $69,362,544 $64,750,020
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR $ 69,515,361 $ 69,362,544

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020
GRANTS & TRANSFERS
ARTS $ 99,370 1.46%
MUSIC 47,343 0.70%
EDUCATION 570,757 8.38%
ANIMAL RELATED 65,322 0.96%
HUMAN SERVICES 1,398,122 20.53%
CIVIC 333,913 1.97%
ENVIRONMENT 565,917 8.31%
RELIGIOUS 324,305 4.76%
HEALTH 1,594,250 23.41%
OTHER 3,685 0.05%
INTRA-FUND TFRS 2,008,530 29.49%
TOTAL $ 6,811,514 100.0%

AMOUNTS LISTED ABOVE ARE UNAUDITED AND INCLUDE FUNDS HELD AS AGENT AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS. AUDIT REPORT AND IRS FORM 990 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.
Donor generosity drives community impact. Thank you for supporting and partnering with the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

INFO@SCVFOUNDATION.ORG
715.386.9490
SCVFOUNDATION.ORG

482
CHARITABLE FUNDS

$1,098,312
GRANTED TO AREA NONPROFITS RESPONDING TO IMPACTS OF COVID-19

$70 MILL
ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT