



The St. Croix Valley Foundation fosters local philanthropy to respond to community needs. Last year alone, over \$7 million was granted to enhance the quality of life in the St. Croix Valley and beyond. By partnering with the St. Croix Valley Foundation, donors know that their gifts will have meaningful impacts today and for generations to come.

A **LEGACY** OF **OUTSTANDING** LEADERSHIP

Since its inception, the St. Croix Valley Foundation has been led by individuals passionate about the people, programs and organizations that make the region a great place to work, live and play.

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP (1995 - 2022)



(PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT): Sue Gerlach (Board Chair 2018-2020), Steve Wilcox (Board Chair 2010-2012)
Steve Schroeder (Board Chair 2016-2018), Ann Herzog Drewiske (Board Chair 2024-2026), Jim Ellis (Board Chair 2022-2024)
Katrina Larsen (Board Chair 2020-2022), David Palmer (Campaign Co-Chair, Together We Are Stronger), Heather Logelin (President/CEO)
Sarah Andersen (Board Chair 2000-2002), Peter Kilde (Board Chair 2004-2006), Gretchen Stein (Board Chair 2006-2008)
David Brandt (Board Chair 1998-2000), David Wettergren (Board Chair 2008-2010), Todd Gillingham (Board Chair 2014-2016)
Orv Johnson (Board Chair 2002-2004)

(NOT PICTURED): John Baird Deceased (Board Chair 1996-1998), Jim Bradshaw Deceased (Board Chair 1998-1999)
Marty Harding (Board Chair 2012-2014)





MESSAGE from the BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT/CEO

JIM ELLIS BOARD CHAIR

HEATHER LOGELIN

Dear Friends,

There are many ways to leave a legacy for future generations. Interactions with children and grandchildren, time spent with friends young and old, talents shared with community organizations – these all create impacts that ripple forward through time.

Likewise, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is here to help donors create philanthropic legacies – gifts that impact the Valley forever. The Foundation carefully stewards donations, investing with prudence and ensuring donor intent is honored.

By partnering with the St. Croix Valley Foundation, donors help respond to today's needs and support future generations – all in the most tax-advantaged way possible.

We truly enjoy interacting with our donors. Every conversation provides insights and helps us better understand donor passions and hopes for the future.

The St. Croix Valley Foundation is here forever. Give us a call. Let's talk legacies.

JIM ELLIS HEATHER LOGELIN

P.S. If you'd like to talk more about *your* legacy and the causes nearest to your heart – we are always here for you!

ON THE COVER:

Former Board Chair and donor Steve Wilcox with his granddaughter, Grace

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL OEM BUSINESS & STRATEGIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, IMATION (RETIRED)

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SCALEUP NONPROFIT CONSULTING

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST

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SVP/CFO, HEALTH PARTNERS (RETIRED)

IESSICA FHRI ICHMANN

VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC SOURCING & SUSTAINABILITY, ANDERSEN CORPORATION

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FACULTY EMERITUS, WALDEN UNIVERSITY;
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, GARY KELSEY & ASSOCIATES

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SCOTT SODERBERG

CEO, FNC BANK

MATTHEW THUESON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF DIGITAL MEDIA, THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

MARY ELLEN VIETOR

FINANCE DIRECTOR, ANDERSEN WINDOWS (RETIRED)

CHARLES WIKELIUS

ATTORNEY, ALLIANZ LIFE (RETIRED)



A LEGACY OF DOING GOOD SMARTER

If you have met Steve Wilcox, you know that his energy and optimism greets you before he does. Steve served on the St. Croix Valley Foundation Board for nine years, including two years (2010-12) as Board Chair, but his involvement and contagious enthusiasm for the organization began long before - and continues to this day.

"I'm a big fan of the St. Croix Valley Foundation," Steve explains. "Working toward the greater good of the Valley is a part of everything they do."

It could be said that Steve, by profession, is a finder of under-developed opportunities and a builder of successful businesses. He now shares his entrepreneurial acumen with businesses and nonprofits across the country through the consulting firm he founded with his wife, Terri. Smarter, more efficient, and with better results is the motto that has guided his work and his philanthropy for decades.

In line with that motto, Steve often explains to those not familiar with the St. Croix Valley Foundation that while annual charitable giving is fine and good, longer-term philanthropic investments (through endowed funds at the Foundation) amplify the value of gifts, forever preserving principal while granting income to nonprofits throughout the region. Smarter, more efficient, and with better results.

Steve and Terri's legacy will live on through their children (and granddaughter, Grace!), to whom they have passed many lessons and values. A philanthropic legacy is also a part of their plan, as they have made provisions in their will for a legacy gift to the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Steve and Terri know that their legacy gift will be invested, will grow, and will serve the needs of the Valley forever. And that's not only generous, thoughtful, and meaningful for future generations – but, as Steve would say, "pretty darn smart."

"There is no greater privilege and continual motivator for a St. Croix Valley Foundation Board Chair than seeing those grant checks get to the organizations responding to needs in our region – organizations so deserving of our support." - Steve Wilcox





The St. Croix Valley Foundation stands at the nexus of generosity and need, ready to help connect local resources with opportunities. The recent \$1 million anonymous gift for the Somerset Public Library is a perfect example of how the St. Croix Valley Foundation lives up to that promise.

Prior to the anonymous gift, library staff and board members had already worked hard to secure funding for the library expansion through grants and generous community members.

Despite this generosity, the library re-opened with just over \$1 million in debt—funds that future library volunteers would need to raise.

The anonymous donor explained, "I didn't want the library focused on raising funds to pay off the mortgage; I wanted them focused on how to best leverage that new building to serve the community." The \$1 million gift erased the mortgage/construction debt on the building, allowing library staff and volunteers to instead focus their time and resources on programming and community needs.

The St. Croix Valley Foundation is pleased to be a resource for donors who prefer to remain anonymous in their support of projects near and dear to their hearts. Whether utilizing gifts of cash, stock or more complex gifts involving land or a business, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is a trusted philanthropic partner for individuals throughout the region.

In December 2022, a beautiful donor wall was installed with a flowing design evoking the Apple River – a fitting tribute to 362 donors who provided \$3.16 million in funds, bringing the 6-year project to completion and welcoming a grateful community. ■

The Somerset Public Library isn't done growing!

The library has recently added a preschool sensory room, it continues to develop the History and Genealogy Room, and a *Library of Things* is being established – for items beyond books that community members can check out. With such a beautiful and engaging new facility, it is no surprise that library usage increased dramatically in 2022.



Those interested in supporting the future of the Somerset Public Library can give to the Somerset Public Library Legacy Fund, a long-term fund established at the St. Croix Valley Foundation in 1999 (with another anonymous gift). Gifts to this fund are invested for growth, with earnings providing annual support for library programs in perpetuity – supporting a resource that will serve Somerset for many generations to come.

GIVINGBACK

CREATING BONDS

In the 1960s in Dunn
County WI, two kids
grew up attending
rival high schools,
then met after
graduation during
a night on the town.
A romance blossomed
and Bev (Johnson)
Lightfoot and Mark

Lightfoot married in 1972. Mark studied welding and metal fabrication at District One Technical Institute, securing a job with American Hoist and Derrick where he continued to expand his knowledge of fabrication.

In 1974, Bev and Mark moved to Hudson, where they lived and raised their 3 children: Chris, Becky and Allison. Mark saw opportunity in this region and developed a portable welding setup in 1987, initially repairing farm equipment and large machinery. This was the birth of Northern Metal Fabrication, which began in Hudson and in 1991 moved to Baldwin.

Bev worked with Mark as he built the business with Bev handling HR and safety needs. Mark's drive, innovation and high standards led the company to become a leader, eventually growing to two plants in Baldwin. Mark was preparing

for retirement and leadership succession when cancer struck. Mark died in 2019 at the age of 68.

As a legacy to Mark, his business, and the communities which helped to foster success, Bev worked with the St. Croix Valley Foundation to establish **The Mark Lightfoot Scholarship**, which will award its first scholarship grants in 2023.

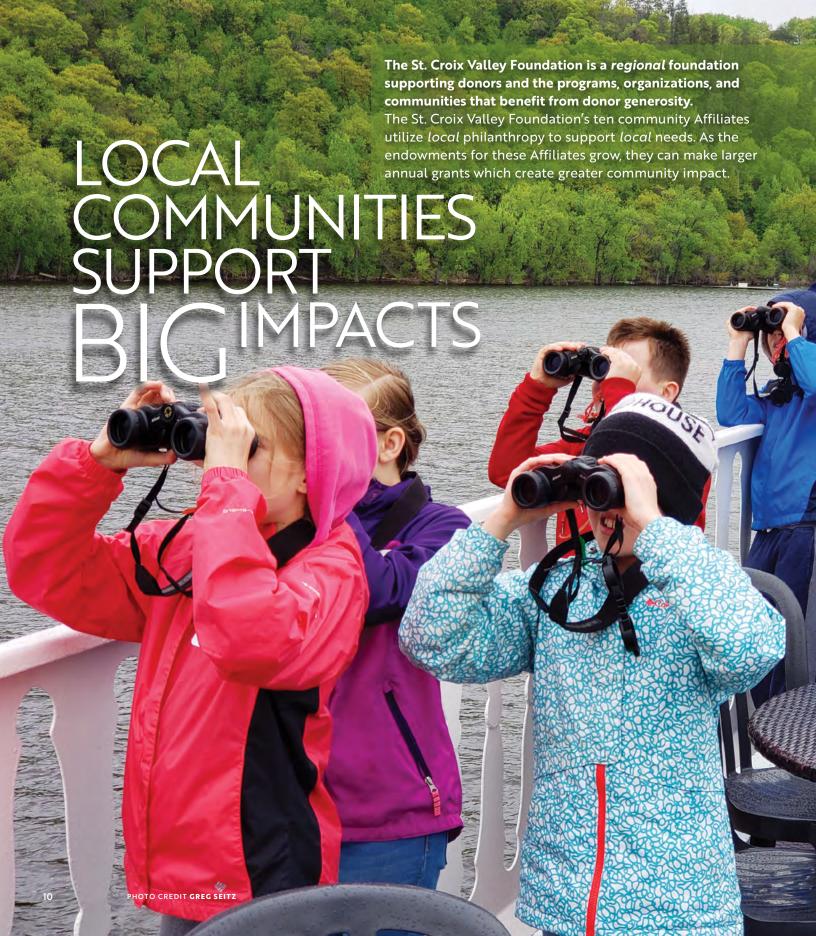
The scholarship will assist those graduating from St. Croix County high schools (or St. Croix County non-traditional students) interested in learning the welding trade at Northwood Technical College's New Richmond campus. The fund will award two annual scholarships of \$1,000. Because the fund is endowed, the scholarships are made from investment earnings on gifts to the fund, enabling the scholarship program to continue in perpetuity.

"It's our hope that this scholarship not only provides future workers for Northern Metal Fabrication and similar businesses," says Bev, "but also that the whole region benefits from young people who can learn a trade, work locally, raise families, and become active community members."

Mark impacted this region significantly during his life. **The Mark Lightfoot Scholarship** ensures a legacy that will continue to value workers, opportunity, and community – forever." ■

The St. Croix Valley Foundation manages and administers 70 scholarship funds with assets of more than \$9 Million. Last year, 285 students were awarded scholarships totaling \$410,000. To learn more go to SCVFoundation.org/scholarships.







Both grants provide important outdoor experiences to school children in those communities. The grants help children connect with their hometowns, feel rooted in the natural world that surrounds them, and engage in activities that support mental and physical health.

The Stillwater Area Community Foundation's "BIG" grant (through its *Great Idea* competitive grant program) brought school children to the St. Croix River and aboard paddleboats. Even though the river defines the community through geography and history, many children had never directly experienced the river. The *Great Idea* grant enabled hundreds of Stillwater area 4th graders to enjoy a "Wild River Journey" coordinated by Wild Rivers Conservancy and the National Park Service. A goal of the program was to strengthen students' sense of place and provide a strong connection to the river – creating future stewards of the river.

The Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation recently issued its first "BIG" grant. The inaugural grant program, "Project Wild Rooted," will bring 1st graders of Chisago Lakes School District to Wille Farms in Shafer to experience fields, forests, and wetlands common to the area. The grant will support these field trips for the next five years, ensuring hundreds of children experience outdoor adventures rooted in nature and community.

Both grant-funded programs aim to develop future caretakers of nature. "You won't protect something you don't value, and you can't value something you've never experienced," noted Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation Board Chair Kathy Kirvida.

No single outing is a panacea against the stresses and anxiety of a complex world, but school trips like these are, for many children, an important introduction to peaceful natural wonders very close to home.

To learn more about how adults and children become positively connected to PLACE, both physically and emotionally, visit SCVFoundation.org (Convening/Placemaking)

To learn how legacy gifts can impact young lives in your hometown – today and for future generations – contact the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

PHILANTHROPY'S

THE HAROLD MEISSNER BEQUEST



Young Noah began utilizing Courage Kenny St. Croix services in 2020. Cerebral palsy limited his ability to stand, walk and move about. Less than two years later, Noah is able to stand independently, walk short distances with crutches, and step up and down stairs – each and every accomplishment a milestone!



driving impossible. Since that time, his wife

did all the driving. When she died in 2020,

St. Croix got him back on the road utilizing

and Training Program at Courage Kenny

hand controls.

Ken was left isolated. The Driver Assessment

IMPACT

To reflect upon one's career is to assess one's impact on an organization. Growth, innovations, product launches – these are some of the measures that shine a light on one's commitment and success. But when talking about the late Harold Meissner, there is another reflection of success – his philanthropy.

Harold's accomplished decades-long career with Andersen Windows led to his appointment as its sixth president and vice chair in 1981 (a position he held for 12 years until retiring in 1993). All told, Harold worked for Andersen Windows for 57 years.

While working he was often traveling, checking on accounts across the country, but home was the St. Croix Valley. He was a private man, often supporting organizations that he stayed involved with anonymously. When Harold Meissner died in 2016 at

age 98, he left the St. Croix Valley Foundation a large bequest to benefit three organizations he wanted to support in perpetuity; the Hudson YMCA, the Lakeview Memorial Hospice Program, and Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute-St. Croix.

In the fall of 2018, St. Croix Valley Foundation President and CEO Heather Logelin had the privilege of delivering the first annual grant checks to each organization and learning how these significant recurring gifts would forever impact those receiving



THE LATE HAROLD MEISSNER

services. "It was moving and inspiring," said Logelin. "In each case, employees talked about how this legacy gift would increase their ability to serve people who may otherwise be missed. At Courage Kenny St. Croix, stories of clients' needs and triumphs brought tears to many eyes that day."

Courage Kenny St. Croix provides services that improve motor and cognitive abilities, function, and quality of life. Last year alone, Courage Kenny St. Croix provided

services to 4,143 individuals with a range of rehabilitative needs. Since the first grant distribution in 2018, Courage Kenny St. Croix has received over \$700,000 from the Meissner bequest.

Because Harold was an astute businessperson who understood the long-term impact of endowing his legacy gift with the St. Croix Valley Foundation, the principal remains untouched, growing to support annual grants to the three designated Valley-serving organizations – forever.

LEGACY THE CORE OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Jennifer Vieth, Executive Director of Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center (CNC), recently shared that when talking with potential employees or volunteers, the conversation is often less about work experience and job duties and more about what she calls *legacy*.



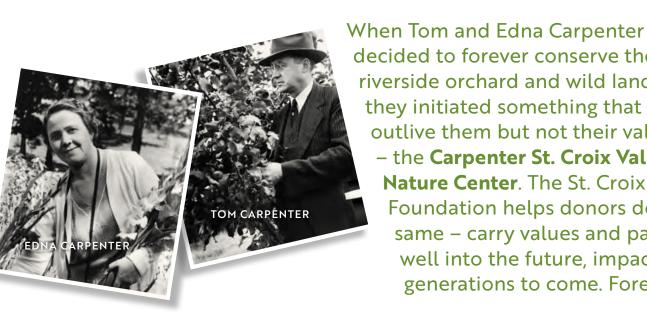
"For many social service nonprofits, the ultimate goal is to solve a problem, find a cure, or respond to unmet needs," Vieth explains. "Their ultimate success could eliminate their need to exist, and that would be a great legacy. But for a land conservation organization, legacy has a different meaning."

For CNC legacy encompasses not just the land but the generations of visitors, volunteers, donors, and champions who experience the land and ensure its place in the lives of future generations. "In land conservation, we're never done, we never won't need to be stewards of the land." stresses Vieth. "It's a forever mission."

The St. Croix Valley Foundation has a similar forever mandate. The Foundation exists, in part, to manage philanthropic funds in perpetuity and ensure those funds are available to support nonprofit organizations long into the future. CNC first partnered with the St. Croix Valley Foundation in 2007, ensuring long-term funds designated for CNC are managed for optimal long-term benefit. That partnership continues to be built upon a collaborative approach, as well as a shared understanding and appreciation of Valley communities, resources, and passions - the kind of knowledge that supports success.

The story is similar for nearly 100 other nonprofit organizations that have long-term funds with the St. Croix Valley Foundation. These partnerships involve the St. Croix Valley Foundation diligently managing designated endowments, while also helping these mission-driven organizations grow and thrive through networking, convening, donor matchmaking, and nonprofit management consulting (i.e. SCVF's allvolunteer Consultants In Service program).

Staff and board members of both Carpenter Nature Center and the St. Croix Valley Foundation have walked the trails at CNC and celebrated its growth from the original 425 acres in Hastings, MN to its 300-acre campus (with a new visitor center) just south of Hudson, WI. Words like legacy, forever, and for the Valley are foundational to both organizations. But partnership helps ensure that both CNC and SCVF will be positioned to serve and care for the Valley for many generations to come.



decided to forever conserve their riverside orchard and wild lands, they initiated something that would outlive them but not their values - the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center. The St. Croix Valley Foundation helps donors do the same - carry values and passions well into the future, impacting

generations to come. Forever.

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



LOCAL AFFILIATES

Our communities are strengthened by visionary citizens who give generously to support the Valley. While the St. Croix Valley Foundation works throughout the Valley, our ten affiliated community foundations raise and distribute funds in response to issues unique to their hometowns. Each local affiliate is a part of the St. Croix Valley Foundation. *Together We Are Stronger.*











Community Foundation









112 VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY LEADERS

SERVE ON THE BOARDS OF THESE LOCAL AFFILIATES

MORE INFORMATION

SCVFOUNDATION.ORG/AFFILIATED-COMMUNITY-FOUNDATIONS

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION

516 SECOND ST, SUITE 214, HUDSON, WI 54016 | 715.386.9490 | INFO@SCVFOUNDATION.ORG

SCVFOUNDATION.ORG

ST. CROIX VALLEY FOUNDATION FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The St. Croix Valley Foundation was founded in 1995 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization fully accredited by the Community Foundations National Standards Board and the Charities Review Council.

All donations made to the St. Croix Valley Foundation, including through affiliated community foundations, are tax deductible as allowed by law.

SINCE 1995, OVER \$110 MILLION HAS BEEN GIFTED TO THE SCVF

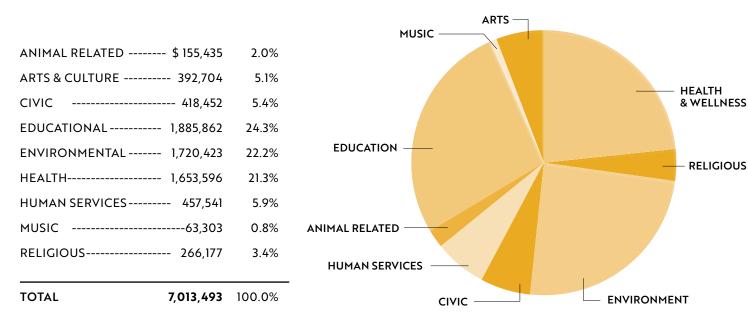
NUMBER OF CHARITABLE FUNDS 493

TOTAL ASSETS (FISCAL YEAR 2022) \$77,504,281

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS (FISCAL YEAR 2022) \$7,013,493

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022 EXTERNAL GRANT & PROGRAM AREAS

FISCALYEAR 2022 GRANTS



YOUR PHILANTHROPY YOUR WAY - FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

When you donate to the St. Croix Valley Foundation or an affiliated community foundation, your gift gets reinvested – locally – impacting the people, places and programs close to home or closest to your heart.

WE ACCEPT

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

FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUERST (CHAIR)
DAVE DZIUK (VICE CHAIR)
MARK BULEY
DOUG GEISSLER
CATHY JENSON
MELANIE KLEISS
KIM KUSILEK
BUCK MALICK
ERIC NEALY
MARY ELLEN VIETOR

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

FUND EVALUATION GROUP, LLC RICHARD GRZYMAJLO, MANAGING DIRECTOR/OCIO ADVISOR

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

AKINS HENKE & COMPANY

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST

FUND OPTIONS

UNRESTRICTED ENDOWED FUNDS

Unrestricted endowed gifts enable the SCVF board, staff and community partners to put resources where the need is greatest. No one knows what the next greatest community need will be, but gifts to Unrestricted Endowed Funds (today or as part of a bequest) provide the most flexibility and responsiveness.

FIELD OF INTEREST ENDOWED FUNDS

Field of Interest Endowed Funds let you designate your gift for specific grantmaking areas (the environment, music education, health and wellness, the arts, etc.). SCVF board, staff and volunteer committees will ensure your dollars work hard to advance opportunities and programs within your area of interest - forever.

DONOR ADVISED/ DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS

By establishing a Donor Advised Fund, you essentially establish an individual, family or business foundation within SCVF. If you already know which

nonprofit(s) you'd like to support each year, a Donor Designated Fund makes your annual giving easy and automatic – and, unlike a Donor Advised Fund, can receive Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRAs. Both can be endowed or non-endowed, and both offer tax advantages and a long-term plan for your philanthropic intentions.

FUNDS FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Gifts to one of our ten affiliated community foundations directly support local grantmaking and programs impacting your hometown.

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 programs, capital or operating needs.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The St. Croix Valley Foundation is the experienced resource for donors who wish to establish scholarship programs. Each of our 70 scholarship funds fulfills a heartfelt legacy in support of educational advancement.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR ENDOWED FUNDS

The St. Croix Valley Foundation offers investment options for philanthropic fund advisors – traditional or socially responsive investing. The socially responsive Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) option generates comparable returns while also considering environmental stewardship, societal impact, and corporate governance.

Learn about all fund investment options at

SCVFoundation.org/fund-allocation



516 SECOND ST, SUITE 214 HUDSON, WI 54016

493
CHARITABLE FUNDS

\$7_{MILL}

2022 GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRIBUTED \$77 mill

TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC
ASSETS

Donor generosity drives community impact.

Thank you for supporting and partnering with the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

715.386.9490
SCVFOUNDATION.ORG







