



### GRANT FOR HANGING FLOWERS BASKETS!

In March, A \$1,000 grant was awarded to the **Barnesville Main Street Program** for the beautiful downtown hanging flower baskets. The funds will go towards the cost of planting and maintaining the baskets throughout the summer.

The baskets are planted each spring by **Thompson Greenery**. They welcome residents and visitors alike to the community! Barnesville has become known for the beautiful baskets and the Advisory Board was pleased to provide financial support for such an important community project!

### SCHOOL PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS

The **School Foundation** is an important arm of the Barnesville Area Community Fund. Teachers and staff are able to submit applications for funding assistance to this group for review. In 2023, a number of projects have been approved including flexible seating for classrooms, field trips, and STEAM programming which is focused on science, social studies and math.



For more information on the School Foundation, contact School Foundation Chair **Ryan Tonsfeldt** at 218. 354.2378.

### “TROJANS GIVE BACK” PROGRAM!

Again this year, the Barnesville Area Community Fund hosted the 6-week Trojans Give Back program to introduce the concept of philanthropy. Students learned about area non-profits and selected which organizations would receive \$900 in grants (with dollars provided by the Community Fund). Students selected the Barnesville Fire Department and Potato Days. Our thanks to **Aubree Martinez** who coordinated the program!



**Barnesville**  
Area Community Fund

Post Office Box 461  
Barnesville, MN 56514

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Barnesville Area Community Fund is pleased to be working with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity on the Barnesville Build project in Summer 2023. The wallraising for the project was on June 12. To donate: [www.lakeagassizhabitat.org/barnesville](http://www.lakeagassizhabitat.org/barnesville).



**Spring 2023** Touching People’s Lives. Making a Difference.

### FIRST EVER DAY OF CARING ASSISTS 60 SENIORS IN BARNESVILLE AREA!

On Wednesday, May 3; the Barnesville Area Community Fund hosted the first ever **Barnesville Day of Caring**, matching Barnesville High students, with lots of energy, with senior citizens who needed a little help with their spring outside projects!

The idea of partnering with the School District and City of Barnesville for a community Day of Caring came out of a Strategic Partners meeting last year! Over 85 students visited the homes of 60 area seniors citizens where they raked leaves, washed windows, cleaned flower beds and trimmed bushes!

**Rosie Cihak** was one senior who received assistance, *“The kids were the best....thank you so much for the assistance!”*  
Based on all the positive response from the seniors and the students, plans are in place to make this annual community event.





**\$62,000 OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!**

In May, Barnesville Education Scholarships for Tomorrow (BEST) was pleased to award \$63,250 in scholarships to 35 Barnesville high school seniors. Many of these scholarships were “named scholarships” with the funding being provided by generous donors.

BEST Committee Chair **Maggie Foster**, is grateful for these donors, *“The minimum dollar amount for a named scholarship is \$500. Donors are able to work with BEST committee members to determine the desired criteria. In some cases the scholarships are given in memory of a loved one who has passed away. In other cases, the goal is to help students pursuing a specific degree, such as business.”*

For more information on creating a named scholarship, contact BEST Chair Maggie Foster at [maggie.foster@live.com](mailto:maggie.foster@live.com).

*Leadership* **BARNESVILLE**

Applications are now being accepted for the **2023-2024 Leadership Barnesville program**. The program is sponsored by the Barnesville Area Community Fund. A special focus on this year’s program is encouraging new residents who have moved to Barnesville in the last five years.

The program kicks off in September with a one day retreat in Park Rapids, Minnesota. During monthly sessions, participants will learn more about our community assets, meet community leaders, discover opportunities to share their talents and ideas, enhance leadership skills and develop lasting relationships.

Program Coordinator **Karen Lauer** is very excited, *“This is a great opportunity to welcome new residents to the community and encourage them to get involved.”*

Interested? Contact Karen at 218.354.2145 or [klauer@bvillemn.net](mailto:klauer@bvillemn.net).



**COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS ARE RECOGNIZED!**

The Barnesville community is so dependent on the many caregivers who provide compassionate care to the youngest and the oldest in Barnesville.

In May, we celebrated **Childcare Provider Appreciation Week** and **Nursing Home Week**. To show our appreciation for these individuals, Advisory Board members delivered personalized travel mugs to all of the Barnesville area childcare providers. In addition, treats were provided to Valley Care and Rehab staff.

Family Childcare Provider **Tessa Mahar**, pictured above with board member **Dave Gross** was excited to receive this small gift, *“Thank you for recognizing local childcare providers! I understand how important it is to provide daycare for the working parents of the area and I’m happy to do so!”*

**GIVING HEARTS DAY \$S  
SUPPORT EVENT CENTER**

On Giving Hearts Day, February 9, generous donors provided \$72,692 in support of the remodeling of the former American Legion building into the *Barnesville Event Center!*

The building was donated to the City of Barnesville for use by the community in 2022.

In May, the Barnesville City Council awarded the bid for the work. The remodeling of the building’s interior is expected to be completed later this year!



**COLD WEATHER RESCUE SUIT FUNDED!**

In March, the **Barnesville Fire Department** received a \$1,000 grant for the purchase of a cold weather rescue suit. Blue Eagle Lake is aerated during the winter months, keeping open water for aquatic life. This creates a hazard for humans and animals in the area.

Cold water rescue suits allow volunteer firefighters to safely provide cold water rescue. The suit was already used for a rescue that occurred, said **Fire Chief Andy Boyum**.

*“We are grateful for helping fund this lifesaving equipment”*

**CONSIDER A GIFT TODAY!**

Gifts to the Barnesville Area Community Fund are accepted throughout the year. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donors may choose to make a secure online gift or simply mail a check. Checks should be made out to West Central Initiative with BACF in the memo line.

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| **YES, I Want to Help the Barnesville Area Community Fund!** |  
| Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ |  
| City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ |  
| Email \_\_\_\_\_ |  
| Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I would like my gift to go to the following area: |  
| \_\_\_\_Community Needs \_\_\_\_BEST Scholarships \_\_\_\_Humanitarian Fund \_\_\_\_Performing Arts Fund |  
| I understand that my donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. |  
| ☐ I would like more information about Planned Giving Opportunities |  
| **Mail to:** Barnesville Community Fund | Post Office Box 461 | Barnesville, MN 56514 |  
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Secure online gifts can be made at:  
[barnesvilleareacommunityfund.com](https://barnesvilleareacommunityfund.com)  
or just snap on this QR code!

