



Back row: Evan Nosal, Josh Wiczek, Scott Wright, Natalie Thompson, Dan Eggiman, Kraig Archambeau, David Teeple, Erika Haataja, Ben Schumann; **Middle row:** Jen Pickett, Amanda Korynta, Lindsey Rotz, Averil Whiteford, Kya Anderson, Crystal Henderson, Josh Schroeder, Lindsay McLeod; **Front row:** Jon Ellerbusch, Emily Holmes, Noah Stanford, Josh Anderson, Katie Schultz, Joel Voxland, Alli Delheimer, Christie Lewandoski, Amelia Lemar, Jenna Crabtree

LEADERSHIP BARNESVILLE IS UNDERWAY!

In September, 26 individuals participated in the **Leadership Barnesville** opening retreat held at the *Character Challenge Course* in Park Rapids. Participants attend monthly sessions which include a Barnesville business tour and presentation on leadership topics, in addition to completing community project prior to March 2024.

GRANTS AWARDED FOR SCHOOL PROJECTS

Through the School Foundation arm of the Barnesville Area Community Fund, teachers are able to apply for grants to fund projects, equipment and activities not covered through the School District budget. In November, **\$480 was awarded for the purchase of five Apple pencils**. Teachers interested in applying for grants should contact School Foundation Chair Ryan Tonsfeldt at 218.354.2378.

DATE SET FOR 2024 DAY OF CARING

Based on the positive response from senior citizens and BHS students after its inaugural event in May 2023, we're planning to coordinate the **2nd Annual Day of Caring on May 1, 2024**.

This special day is an opportunity for students to help seniors and disabled people in the Barnesville area with window cleaning, raking and yard clean-up.

Watch for info on how to apply for assistance in February.

Barnesville
DAY OF CARING

COMING
MAY 1, 2024



From our Family to yours...
"Merry Christmas!"

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Area Community Fund

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Barnesville
Area Community Fund

Fall

2023

**Touching People's Lives.
Making a Difference.**

THREE COMMUNITY PROJECTS SELECTED FOR 2024 GIVING HEARTS DAY!

Earlier this year, the Barnesville Area Community Fund invited local non-profits to submit project ideas for Giving Hearts Day. From those applications the Advisory Board selected THREE fabulous projects:

- Fire Department** - purchase new cordless Jaws of Life to rescue individuals in serious car accidents
- Friends of the Library** - upgrades to the children's area, new comfortable seating throughout and meeting room upgrades
- FFA Alumni & Supporters** - purchase of a food trailer so that FFA students can fundraise at regional events

One longtime Giving Hearts Day sponsor **Dr. Katie Ptak** said,
"Wow! Those are three great projects that will impact a lot of people throughout the community for a long time. What a good idea - I'm proud to support Giving Hearts Day again in 2024!"



In September, the Barnesville Area Community Fund kicked off their fall Fund Drive with a goal to raise \$200,000. Over 220 donors committed \$207,552 in cash and pledges! A huge Thank You to all that contributed, but in particular the lead donors - **Barnesville Lions, Midwest Bank, Dean's Bulk Service Inc., Lind Family Foundation, City of Barnesville, Barnesville Grocery, Bell Bank, Knights of Columbus, Stoneridge Software and Lake Region Healthcare.**

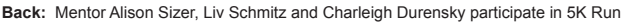
Advisory Board Chair **Dionne Merkens**, is grateful for the support,
“We are so appreciative of the generous donors who made made their support of our mission a priority.....Together we can accomplish so much more!”

Fund drives are held every four years. These dollars raised will fund grants, scholarships, projects and activities from 2024 through 2027!

As we approach the end of the year, consider these opportunities to support the Barnesville Area Community Fund. **Donate appreciated stock instead of cash.** Think about gifting stocks held for over a year because this can eliminate capital gains tax and maximize the impact of your contribution.

If you're 70½ or older, **donating your Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)** to the Barnesville Area Community Fund can reduce your taxes!

Jamie Bucholz recently stepped down from our Advisory Board. In addition to being an active board member, Jamie was also the treasurer for the last two years. We thank Jamie for her commitment and service!



In July a \$1,500 grant was provided to **BIO Girls** to help launch this new initiative in the community.

Fargo-based BIO Girls (“Beautiful Inside and Out”) provides confidence building & preventive mental health programs to girls in grades 2-6. The program is an all-volunteer effort led by volunteer site directors **Annie Sauvageau & Victoria Lau** in Barnesville, in combination with many local mentors.

Betsy Stadick, BIO Girls Grant Manager, was thrilled with the award provided through the Barnesville Area Community Fund,

"BIO Girls is so grateful for the support of the Barnesville Area Community Fund in our very first season here. Their support helps give our program credibility. It also brings attention to our efforts to increase the self-esteem and improve their mental health for as many girls as possible in the Barnesville area. Thank you!"

In February 2023, generous donors raised \$72,692 for the renovation of the former American Legion building by the City of Barnesville into what will now be called the **Barnesville Event Center**. Over the last few months a significant amount of work has been done to make the restrooms ADA compliant, update the kitchen, reinsulate the walls and ceiling and replace the floors.

As with any remodeling project, there are always a few surprises. It is hoped that the project will be completed in early 2024.



In conjunction with 2023 Homecoming Week activities, the Hall of Honor event recognized Barnesville High School graduates, community members and faculty for their achievements.

Inducted into the Barnesville Hall of Honor this year were **Steve Hilgers**, **Duane Rossett**, **Beth Stangeland Randklev**, the **1982 Boys and Girls Track Teams**, and the **2010 Barnesville Trojans** football team.

Nominations for the annual Hall of Honor event are accepted on an ongoing basis. The form is available on the community fund website.

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.

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

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Secure online gifts can be made at:
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