Mary Bencini was a beloved teacher and community leader whose legacy will continue through the Mary Bencini Scholarship Fund. Mary Bencini (1949-2004) was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She was a graduate of Marmion Military Academy and Benedictine University. She was a nuclear physicist for many years in the roofing material business, relocating from Illinois to Michigan and then to Maryland. During his career, he was awarded four patents. Later, he formed a consulting business that he operated for more than fifty years. Neal E. Meyer, who passed away in 2004, provided income for the charitable purposes of the children of John E. Meyer through a bequest from his father’s private foundation. The Dunham Fund also created a historic video project featuring Aurora pioneers and their families. Sincere thanks to the Dunham Fund for its assistance toward these special community projects.

The John E. Meyer Family Advisory Endowment Fund was established by the children of John E. Meyer through a bequest from their father’s private foundation. The fund’s primary goal is to support organizations that “nourish the lives of children.”

The Janet Kitcher Isler Endowment Fund was created upon receipt of a generous bequest from the estate of Janet Isler. The bequest was given to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools which then directed that an endowed fund be established within the Community Foundation for the perpetual recognition of Mejia’s contributions. The fund provides income for the charitable purposes of the A+ Foundation. Janet Isler (1918-2010) was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She attended Washington Grade School in La Crosse where her father was a professor. She was a 1936 graduate of Central High School and then studied at the State Teacher’s College in La Crosse where she earned a degree in education in 1939. Later that year, she began her teaching career in Racine, Wisconsin. Miss Isler then moved to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin where she taught for one year. In the fall of 1942, she began teaching for the West Aurora Schools at Greenman Elementary School. She also taught at Lincoln, Freeman and Smith Elementary Schools. After teaching for over a quarter of a century, Miss. Isler retired from the school district in 1968.

The Mary Hogan Bencini Memorial Scholarship Fund was created at the time of Mary Bencini’s passing. Mary Bencini (1915-2002) also bequeathed a portion of her estate to support the fund which provides scholarships to graduates of Geneva High School who are pursuing a degree in education. Mary Bencini was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she taught second grade at Western Avenue Elementary School for thirty-four years. As a teacher, she thought it was important to encourage exemplary teachers and also to provide them with the opportunities and resources to learn. In June 2006, she retired from teaching. She continued her volunteer activities which were recognized by the community in 2004 when she received the Geneva Chamber of Commerce Wood Community Service Award. Mary Bencini was a beloved teacher and community leader whose legacy will continue through the annual awarding of scholarships in her name.

The Community Foundation Historic Video Project Fund was created through the receipt of a generous grant from the Dunham Fund to help support the Community Foundation’s production of historic videos of its endowment fund donors and their families. To date, videos have been produced featuring the Dunham Family, William B. Greene, Urban and Margaret Hipp, Edward and Sharon Stredde, Ruth Wagner and Marian Winteringham. In addition, a video of the Paramount Arts Centre Endowment and Paramount Theatre was produced. The Dunham Fund also created a historic video project fund within the Community Foundation for the Aurora Historical Society to launch its video project featuring Aurora pioneers and their families. Sincere thanks to the Dunham Fund for its assistance toward these special community projects.

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The Neal & Mary Clark Ormond Endowment Fund was created by the couple to encourage educators to pursue ongoing professional development and to reward effective teaching and learning strategies. Neal Ormond has lived in Aurora almost his entire life. In his professional career he served as a vice president for Human Resources for W.W. Grainger, Inc. He has gifted the community for nearly half a century by founding and leading such organizations as the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools and the West Aurora Sports Boosters, and serving as a long-time board member and president of School District 129 and chairman of the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. For more than fifty years he has volunteered innumerable hours coaching youth and high school basketball, tennis, softball, cross country and track and has served on the radio and television Voice of the West Aurora Blackhawk sports teams. A native of Chicago, Mary Clark Ormond served as head of the Aurora Public Library in the 1970s and as a volunteer has served as president of such organizations as the Aurora Historical Society, the Tuesday Garden Club and the Aurora Festival Association. She was a co-founder of the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame and the Fox Valley Garden Club. She served on the board of the Community Foundation for twenty years and remains involved with the scholarship program. A dedicated gardener, she has worked on projects throughout the community with special devotion to trees.

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Charitable Fund

- Beryl E. Lopez
- Britton E. Lopez
- Colleen M. Laitinen
- Edward F. Lai
- Jennifer L. Landsman
- Patti Lee
- Brett L. Langer
- Deshanna K. Lau"
Administrative Endowment

The income from this fund supports the administrative activities of the Foundation.

General Fund

The General Fund is a fund that helps to supplement the Foundation’s grantmaking and administration needs.

Career Family Foundation—

The following gifts are in honor of Tony Schoen.

The following contributions were received since the last issue of the Memorandum.

The income from this fund supports the Foundation’s grantmaking and administration needs.

The following gifts are in memory of Harriet C. Stephens.

The following gifts are in memory of Lawrence W. Pinnow.

The following gifts are in memory of Richard J. Dorsey.

The following gifts are in honor of Sherry Eagle on Passover.

Permanent Endowment

The income from this fund is allocated as grants from the charitable five percent needs of area nonprofit organizations.

The following gifts are in memory of Barbara G. Newton.

The following gifts are in memory of Brian Leask.

The following gifts are in memory of William L. Goheen, Harriet C. Stephens, Class of 1958.

The following gifts are in memory of Claude Allen.

The following gifts are in memory of Lucile M. Kane.

The following gifts are in memory of James Bradford Heiss, Sr., William C. Deisher, Jr. & Samantha Jungels.

The following gifts are in memory of Eugene Doebert on his birthday.

The following gifts are in memory of Thomas M. Otte.

The following gifts are in memory of Wilman Joseph Favero.

The following gifts are in memory of Thomas M. Otte.

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals, families, or organizations for their commitment to the charitable needs of our area.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions from universities, businesses, and individuals.

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