

Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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Fort Dodge Community Foundation
&
United Way

24 North 9th Street, Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515.573.3179

www.f-d-foundation.org
www.unitedwayfd.org

ABOUT US

The Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way is a 501(c)(3) public charity serving Fort Dodge and Webster County. We make grants to a wide range of nonprofit organizations and charitable causes to advance the quality of life of all citizens and to address important community issues, challenges and opportunities.

OUR MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for charitable giving –developing charitable resources to support important community programs, services and projects that will benefit the public good and improve the quality of life of all citizens, families and youth in Fort Dodge and Webster County,

To serve as a strong and vital community foundation, providing positive, effective, innovative leadership to advance positive community growth and development and help Fort Dodge and Webster County become a vibrant and robust community – a place where people will want to live, work and raise their families.



MEETS NATIONAL STANDARDS

The Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way is an accredited community foundation, which means it meets the National Standards established by the Council on Foundations for U.S. Community Foundations - philanthropy's most rigorous standards. Community foundations that meet these standards have demonstrated that they abide by the highest legal, ethical and effective operating practices, financial oversight, transparency and accountability.

A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION

The Fort Dodge Community Foundation is a unique philanthropic organization. In July 2007, the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and the United Way of Greater Fort Dodge merged into one philanthropic organization. Both organizations share a common mission – to advance the common good and improve the quality of life of people in our community and region through charitable giving. This partnership has provided the opportunity to leverage resources and reduce duplication in philanthropy. This collaborative model is the first of its kind in the nation and offers our community and region a “one-stop shop” for community-based philanthropy.

Organizations that received grants from the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way in 2024

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

Blanden Memorial Art Museum
City of Harcourt
Dayton Community Club
Des Moines Performing Arts
Fort Dodge Choral Society
Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association
Fort Dodge Public Library Foundation
Fort Museum Historical Foundation
Friends of Iowa PBS Foundation
Friends of the Fort Dodge Public Library
Friends of Webster County Conservation
Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance
Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund
Historic Arnolds Park
Humane Society of North-central Iowa
Iowa Public Radio
IPTV
PICA
Rezound! Handbells Inc.
Rogers Sports Complex Develop Group
SAAB Heritage Museum USA
Sacred Heart Preservation
Shellabration, Inc
Twin Lakes Restoration Foundation
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
Veterans Memorial Park Project
Vincent House
Washington National Cathedral

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fort Dodge Fireman's Association
Fort Dodge Police Association
Gowrie Fire Board Agency
Webster County Crime Stoppers
Webster County EMS Association
West Fargo Police Department

HUMAN SERVICE & FAMILY SUPPORT

Allies in Youth Development
American Friends Service Committee
American Red Cross of North & Western IA
Audubon Society
Badger Lake Dragon Boat Association
Beacon of Hope
Calvary Family Center Daycare
CARE
Church of the Master
Community and Family Resources
Community United Presbyterian Church
Compassion & Choices
D/SAOC
Deer Creek Food Pantry
Diocese of Sioux City
Doctors Without Borders USA
Everytown
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
First Baptist Church
First Covenant Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Food at First
Greenpeace Fund
Heifer International
KIVA Administration
Linking Families and Communities
Lutheran Family Services
Marian Home
Marine Corps League
National Geographic Society
New Covenant Christian Church
No Kid Hungry
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Oxfam
Safe Haven Baby Boxes
SALT Center
Salvation Army
Smile Train
Special Olympics of Iowa

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
The Nature Conservancy
Tunnel to Towers
UNICEF USA
Union of Concerned Scientists
Warren Willis United Methodist Camp
Webster County Health Department
World Central Kitchen
Wounded Warrior Project
Youth Shelter Care
YWCA

MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Alzheimer's Association
American Parkinson Disease Association
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Friendship Haven
Iowa AIDS Foundation
Mayo Clinic, Dept. of Development
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
Trinity Health Foundation
Univ. of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

AFES
Backpack Buddies
FDSH Athletic Booster Club
FDSH Speech & Drama Booster Club
Fort Dodge Amateur Sports
Fort Dodge Area Symphony
Fort Dodge Community School Foundation
Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (IJAG)
Manson Youth Cougar Club
Omaha Conservatory of Music
Sacred Heart School
Southeast Valley School District
St. Edmond Catholic School
St. Thomas Aquinas School
TOKA
Webster County 4-H
Youth for Christ

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FROM THE FORT DODGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 2024, 73 students attending 18 different colleges and universities received scholarships

- Carleton College
- Coe College
- Concordia University Chicago
- Des Moines University
- Drake University
- Ellsworth Community College
- Grand View University
- Indian Hills Community College
- Iowa Central Community College
- Iowa Lakes Community College
- Iowa State University
- Kirkwood Community College
- Northwestern College
- University of Iowa
- University of Nebraska
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of St. Thomas
- Upper Iowa University

Our Funds

The Fort Dodge Community Foundation manages over 150 funds with a total investment of more than \$23.5 million. All funds are managed professionally with the long-term objectives of safeguarding principal, increasing that principal's growth sufficiently to offset any decrease in purchasing power, due to inflation, and generating income for distribution to support our donors' charitable interests. Professional fund managers are retained to invest and manage our fund with the objective of achieving the highest total return possible commensurate with appropriate risk and prudent investment strategies.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

- Ahlers-Leman Charitable Fund
- Averill Memorial
- Charles Foughty Memorial
- Dale and Donna Decker Charitable Endowment
- Decker Family Charitable Non-Endowed
- Donney Family Endowed and Non Endowed
- Dr. Edward Miller Memorial
- Flaherty Charitable
- Fort Dodge Ford Toyota
- Gift From India
- Guderian Fund
- Habhab Charitable
- Haire Family
- Humes Family
- Jan and Fred Moeller Family Fund
- Jeff Bocken Fund
- Megan Bocken Fund
- Merrill Family Non-Endowed & Endowed
- Mulholland Charitable Non-Endowed & Endowed
- Neiss-Beekman Fund
- Palmer Foundation
- Pendry Endowed and Non-Endowed
- Perkins
- Simpson Charitable Non-Endowed & Endowed
- Stanek Memorial
- Stark Endowment
- Susan Ahlers-Leman Memorial Fund
- Tibbitts Family Foundation
- Wilson Family Fund
- Woodruff Charitable Fund

DESIGNATED FUNDS

- Blanden Foundation
- Cline 4-H Foundation
- Danuta & Kent Oberg Children's Rosary FD
- Collegiate Singers
- FD Public Library
- Fireman's Fund
- First Covenant Church
- GFDGA
- Janet Burns Scholarship
- Jaquelynn A. Oberg Fund of the Holy Spirit
- Lady of Guadalupe
- Manson Community Betterment Manson
- Youth Cougar Club
- Market on Market
- Messerly Children's Rosary Scholarship
- Prairie Land Preservation
- Rogers Sports Complex
- Rufer Education Fund
- Serving Our Servants
- Webster County 4-H
- Zylstra Charitable

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

- Averill, Emily Joy Scholarship
- Charles F. Foughty Scholarship Fund
- Class of 1958 FDSH
- Daniel Scholarship
- Deardorf Oakland Cemetery
- Don Schnurr Memorial Scholarship
- Dorothy Jensen Scholarship
- Merrill Fund MM Scholarship
- O'Connell Scholarship
- Schmoker Scholarship
- Simpson Scholarship
- Touney Scholarship

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS

- Boone Forks Fund
- Celebrate the Trails
- Compassionate Friends
- Deer Creek Food Pantry
- Dragoon Etching Trail Fund
- Fort Dodge Mountain Bike Association
- Fort Dodge Santa's Helpers
- Fireworks - GFDGA
- Freedom Rock
- Frontier's Day
- Grain Silo Memorial
- Historic Preservation
- Holiday Decorations Fund
- Home Base Iowa
- ICCC Sim Lab
- Iowa Great Places
- Lord's Cupboard
- Lost Grove Community Center
- Market on Central
- Parks to People
- Patterson Field
- Phillips Auditorium
- PICA
- Pleasant Valley Awareness
- Prairie River Trail Ride
- RAGBRAI
- Rec Center Project
- Safe Haven Baby Box
- SALT Center
- TOKA
- Veteran's Bridge
- Webster County Conservation
- Webster County Historical Society
- Webster County Trails

AGENCY FUNDS

- Ashlar Lodge 111
- First Covenant Church
- Fort Dodge Choral Society
- Fort Dodge Fine Arts
- Fort Dodge Police Foundation
- FD Police K-9
- Fort Museum Historical Foundation
- Friends of Conservation
- Gowrie Development Fund
- Rec Center Foundation
- Twin Lakes Restoration
- Twin Lakes Restoration Foundation
- Webster County Sheriff's Fund
- YWCA

CALHOUN CO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS

- CCCF Endowment Fund
- CCCF Grant Making Fund
- Southern Calhoun School Fund

PROGRAM FUNDS

- Bridging the Gap Fund
- C.H.N.P.P. Grant Character
- Counts
- Children's Hope Chest Fund
- Homelessness Fund
- Hope for Healing Fund
- Humanitarian Fund
- Joy of Reading
- Little Free Libraries
- Meals on Wheels
- PACE
- RVCRI
- Safe Communities Coalition
- Special Events
- VITA
- Wheels for Work
- Women's Support Network

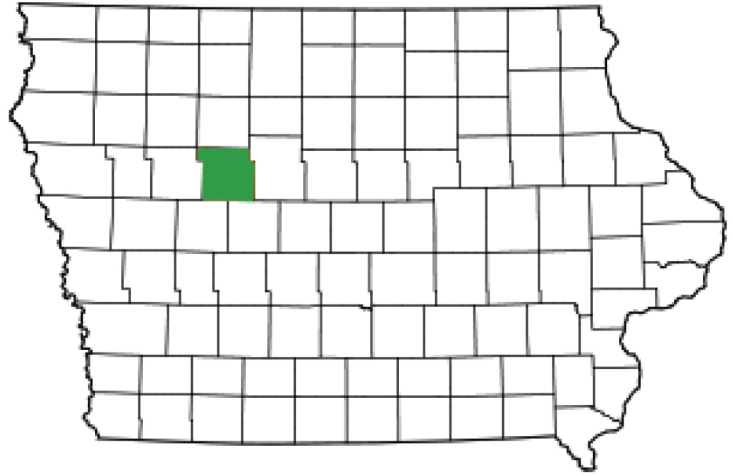
FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

- Iowa Native Lands Fund
- Ivan Metzger Public Safety Fund
- Keepers of the Land Fund
- Pendry - Improving Iowa Fund
- RLY Fund
- Tibbitts Field of Interest
- Wilson Benevolent Fund

Our Affiliate Community Foundation: Calhoun County Community Foundation

Calhoun County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation. As an affiliate, all funds of the Calhoun County Community Foundation come under the jurisdiction of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation.

As the host and partner of the Calhoun County Community Foundation, the Fort Dodge Community Foundation provides investment fundraising assistance, fund development support, financial management of funds, and administrative assistance for the Calhoun County Endowment Grant Program.



2024 Calhoun County Community Foundation Grants

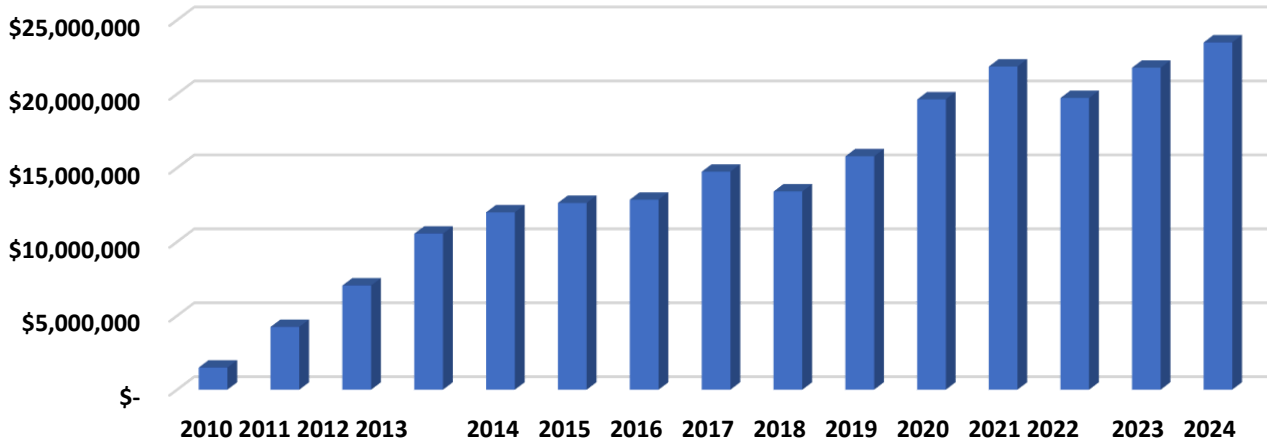
- Calhoun County Museum
- Central School Preservation, Inc
- City of Knierim
- City of Lohrville
- J.J. Hands Public Library
- Lohrville Ambulance
- Lohrville Fire Dept.
- Lohrville Visions
- Manson Area Community Center
- Manson Fire Dept.
- Manson Hometown Grocery
- Manson Lion's Club
- Manson Police Department
- Manson Public Library
- City of Manson Swim Team
- Pomeroy Public Library
- Reading Cedar Fire Department
- Rockwell City Public Library
- Sommers Public Library
- Top Rail Saddle Club

2024 Grow Green County Grants via Calhoun County Community Foundation

- Calhoun County Expo
- Lake City Capri Theater
- Pomeroy Fire Department

Funds Under Management

2010-2024



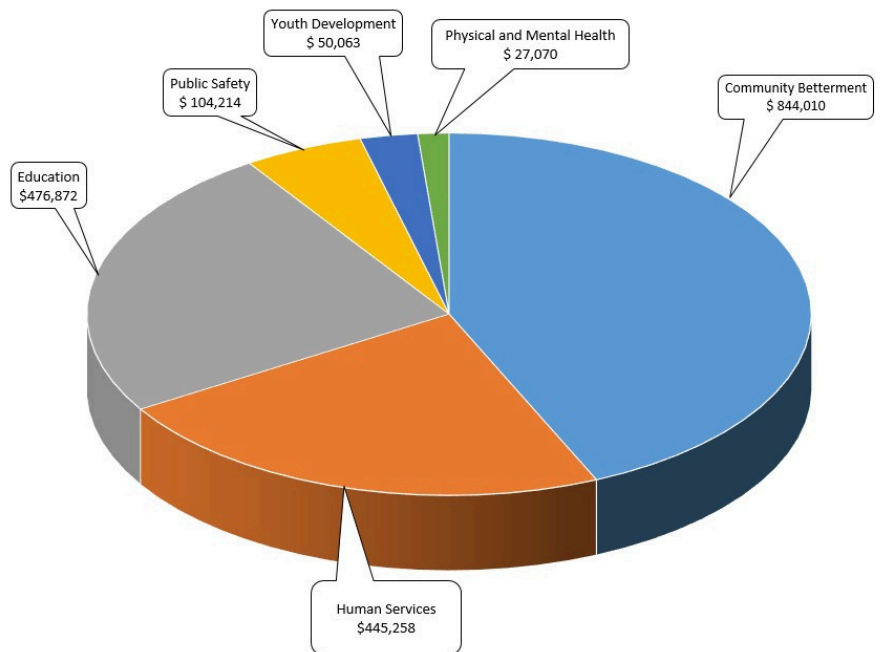
2024 Grants

Community Betterment	844,010
Human Services	445,258
Education	476,872
Public Safety	104,214
Youth Development	50,063
Physical/Mental Health	27,070
Total Grants	1,947,488

2024 Donations

Donor-Advised	189,361
Scholarship	89,279
Designated	1,091,203
Undesignated	680,284
Total Donations	2,050,127

2024 Grants and Contributions





Veterans Bridge Project



In the heart of Fort Dodge, the Veterans Memorial Bridge stands tall, a lasting tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country. Opened in 1969, the bridge was envisioned by Mayor Albert Habhab as a vital connection between the downtown area and the new Crossroads Mall on the east side of town, while also easing traffic congestion caused by frequent railroad crossings. The bridge was soon named the Veterans Memorial Bridge, honoring the veterans from Fort Dodge and Webster County who had proudly served their nation.

Today, the bridge has undergone a magnificent transformation, thanks to the support of the Webster County Veterans Association, the City of Fort Dodge, the Fort Dodge Community Foundation, and dozens of donors. The first two phases of the project have already added stunning enhancements: vibrant lighted emblems of folded flags and military branch medallions now adorn the bridge's light poles. Entrance signs on the ends of the bridge are completed and new light poles are illuminated offering a patriotic show across the skyline.

The final phase, Phase 4, is the creation of the Veterans Plaza. This beautifully landscaped space will offer seating, six columns representing each branch of the military, and a flagpole proudly standing at the center. The Plaza will also host the donor recognition wall and be a place for both veterans and the public to gather in respect and remembrance of our veterans who have served our country.

As Fort Dodge looks toward the future, the Veterans Memorial Bridge will continue to stand as a testament to the courage and service of our veterans, a symbol of pride, patriotism, and community.





Fort Dodge/Webster County Safe Communities Coalition:

In 2023, the Fort Dodge Community Foundation, in partnership with the Webster County Sheriff's Office, was awarded a federal grant to provide education and support for parents and people of all ages on a variety of safety issues. This partnership with the Sheriff's Department and the Fort Dodge Police Department was launched with the goal of helping reduce violent crime and other criminal behavior including combatting illegal drug use. In 2024, the Safe Communities Coalition provided a \$30,000 matching grant to the Webster County Sheriff's Department to support the hiring of a new narcotics officer dedicated to investigating and preventing the trafficking of narcotics in Webster County. According to Sheriff Luke Fleener, "at least 80% or more of criminal activity is related to the buying and selling of illegal drugs." The Safe Communities Coalition is committed to helping local law enforcement significantly reduce narcotics trafficking in Fort Dodge and Webster and in doing so, the amount of criminal activity will also be reduced.

Helping Homeless Families with Children



The United Way of Greater Fort Dodge is committed to helping families with children who are struggling due to financial hardships, homelessness, and basic living challenges. As the homeless crisis continues to rise, with families being the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population, United Way has stepped in with a variety of essential programs that provide immediate relief and long-term support for children and their families in our community.

Earlier this year, a young mother found herself in a desperate situation—living out of her vehicle with her three children after fleeing a domestic violence situation. With nowhere else to turn, and two of her children on the autism spectrum—one of them nonverbal—her days were filled with uncertainty and fear. She made call after call to different agencies, each time hoping for someone who could help, but the doors kept closing.

That was until she called United Way of Fort Dodge. From that first call, everything began to change. United Way acted swiftly, arranging a hotel stay so the family could sleep somewhere warm and safe. It was the first time in weeks that the children had a place to rest that wasn't a backseat.

But United Way didn't stop there. They worked closely with the mother to help her secure an apartment, covering the rental deposit and the first month's rent to give her a solid foundation. Through the Bridging the Gap program, they also helped furnish the apartment, turning it into a real home. Clothing, food, and vital resources were provided to ensure the family could begin healing and rebuilding their lives.

Today, that mother and her children are on a new path—one of stability, safety, and hope. This is just one of the countless stories of how United Way of Fort Dodge is helping our community not only survive, but thrive.

In Memory of Susan Ahlers Leman

1969-2024



Susan Ahlers Leman was a wonderful supporter of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way. She is a very instrumental colleague and board member. She was the board president of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way in 2008 and 2009. Susan played an integral role in the merger process of the organization that took place in 2007.

Besides her leadership with the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way, Susan was the catalyst behind the establishment of the Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association and led the effort to reestablish the organization to advance the fine arts in Fort Dodge. Susan was a very generous donor of her time and money to United Way and to the Community Foundation. Her support in so many ways was amazing. In 2024, Susan and her husband Rod established a donor advised fund with the Community Foundation so she could continue to support her community of Fort Dodge even after her death. Susan definitely “walked the talk” regarding her support and commitment to her community and our mission.

Susan Ahlers Leman, 55, of Iowa City, formerly of Fort Dodge passed away peacefully at home on May 22, 2024. Throughout her 14-year journey with breast cancer, she cherished the good moments and never let the hard days conquer her spirit.

Susan grew up in Webster City, graduating from Webster City High School. She attended the University of Iowa where she earned a B.A. in Political Science in 1991 and then graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1994. After college, she moved back to Fort Dodge where she would raise her children and begin her career as an attorney. Susan worked for the Johnson Law Firm for many years before becoming the Market President/Senior Trust Officer for First American Bank and then Vice President/Senior Trust Officer at GreenState Credit Union. Among many other things in life, Susan was passionate about her job and worked up until a week before her death.

In 2006, she married her best friend Rod Leman and became a loving blended family. The couple lived in Fort Dodge until moving to Iowa City in 2022. Together, they enjoyed traveling to different parts of the world. She lived to see others grow and succeed. Susan was passionate about community involvement and led by example. She was active in various ways, serving on the Boards of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way, Iowa Central Community College Foundation, the Blanden Charitable Foundation, FILMSCENE, and Community Collaborations Committee.

Susan will be remembered by her family as a devoted wife, mother, and loving sister, and as one of the most generous, involved, and inspiring fixtures in her community.

Susan is survived by her husband Rod Leman of Iowa City, five children Ben Ahlers of New York City, NY, Lauren Leman of Cedar Falls, Katie Ahlers of Minneapolis, MN, Jack Leman of St. Joseph, MO and Jillian Leman of Iowa City.

Randy Kuhlman, C.E.O. of the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way states; “I, like many in Fort Dodge, will certainly miss Susan’s friendship, her intoxicating enthusiasm, and her beautiful smile. Susan had a “can do” attitude that was contagious for everyone who worked with her in various volunteer capacities. When Susan set her mind to accomplishing a goal that was usually focused on making our community a better place to live, we just knew she was going to make it happen. The positive impact she made on the Fort Dodge community will live on for decades to come.”

Learn and Celebrate our Fort Dodge History & Culture

www.fortdodgehistory.com

Fort Dodge and Webster County is blessed with a dynamic history, a vibrant culture, rich traditions and interesting nostalgia. Learning about and celebrating the history of our community is important because it allows us to know our past, understand our present and shape our future. It helps us appreciate the context of how our community's history was so notably integrated into the history and development of our state and the pioneer movement that built and expanded our nation.

Our history provides us with insight into our community's culture, traditions and folklore. It details the progress and growth of our community and how it happened. Celebrating our history helps us gain greater understanding, appreciation and respect for the amazing leadership, commitment and sacrifice that early Fort Dodge pioneers made to build our community, and it will create greater appreciation for the place we call home.

Our Fort Dodge History website (www.fortdodgehistory.com) encourages people of all ages to learn, embrace and enjoy the robust history, abounding culture, and fond memories of our community. Plus – reading about our community's and county's history and nostalgia is just plain interesting and enjoyable.

Reasons Why Learning, Embracing and Celebrating Our History Is Important

1. It helps us understand and appreciate Fort Dodge and its rich culture.
2. It gives us greater appreciation for the Fort Dodge pioneers who helped build our community.
3. It helps us relate our own history to our nation's history.
4. It helps us preserve interesting and educational stories.
5. It offers us wonderful memories and nostalgia of days past.

If you have ideas or information that can enhance our website, please contact us and let us know. You can reach the Fort Dodge Community Foundation at 515-573-3171 or email Randy Kuhlman at rk@fd-foundation.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT
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Director,
Webster County Consersation



VICE-PRESIDENT
Troy Shaner
Plant Manager
Valero Renewable Fuels



SECRETARY
Deb Johnson
Vice President,
Fort Dodge Ford Toyota



TREASURER
Scott McQueen
Financial Representative,
Northwestern Mutual



PAST PRESIDENT
Mike Johnson
Owner,
Calvert & Johnson



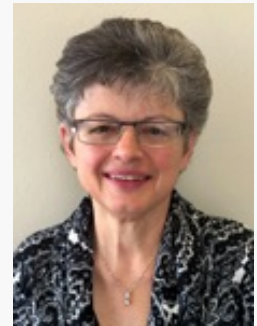
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Senior Trust Officer,
GreenState Credit Union



Kraig Barber
President,
First State Bank



Kellie Guderian
President,
Northland Travel



Chris Hayek
Retired,
FD Community Foundation and
United Way



Scott Johnson
President,
Kallin Johnson Monument



Sarah Livingston
Attorney,
Thatcher & Toflon



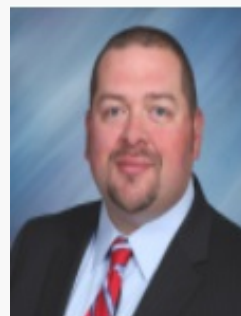
Sydney Pokorny
Plant Manager,
Cargill



Dan Scott
C.E.O.,
Citizens Community Credit Union



Lin Simpson
Retired,



Dr. Jesse Ulrich
President,
Iowa Central Community
College



Lisa Wilson
Retired,
Misty Harbor



OUR STAFF



RANDY KUHLMAN

Chief Executive Officer



JULIE PITON

Development and
Communications Manager



**TRICIA
WINNINGER**

Program Coordinator



**JEANETTE
POTTER**

Safe Communities Coordinator



JOE KUHLMAN

Financial Manager



**SARAH
KENNEBECK**

Communications
Coordinator