COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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Community Foundation of Chippewa County Celebrates National Community Foundation Week, 25 Years of Impact, and Release of Annual Report

November 12, 2026 – Chippewa Falls, WI – The Community Foundation of Chippewa County will join community foundations across the nation in celebrating National Community Foundation Week, November 12-18, recognizing the vital role these organizations play in fostering local collaboration, charitable giving, and innovative solutions to community challenges.

This year's observance holds special significance as the Community Foundation of Chippewa County marks its 25th year, celebrating a quarter-century of helping donors, families, businesses, and community leaders strengthen local communities through philanthropy.

The milestone was recently honored during the Foundation's annual Seedlings to Shade Trees Social on October 27 at Fest Valley Events. A record number of guests attended the celebration, bringing together nonprofit organizations, businesses, community leaders, donors, and residents committed to advancing charitable giving and community impact throughout Chippewa County.

"Philanthropy creates an endless circle of caring and bonds our communities together," said 2025-2026 Board Chair Tony Willkom. "Over the past 25 years, we've witnessed the extraordinary generosity of individuals and families who have chosen to invest in the future of Chippewa County. Their commitment continues to create meaningful and lasting change."

The Social featured a special toast commemorating the Foundation's 25th year and recognizing the collective accomplishments made possible through charitable giving. Since its founding in 2001, the Community Foundation has connected donors with causes they care about while building permanent endowments that will support local needs for generations to come. Since its inception, the Community Foundation has granted more than $24.9 million to support nonprofits, programs, and initiatives throughout Chippewa County.

"This 25-year milestone is a celebration of the generosity and dedication that makes Chippewa County so strong," said Executive Director Jill Herriges. "The Community Foundation has been a trusted partner in local philanthropy. We're proud of our history, confident in our future, and committed to making a lasting impact for generations to come."

The Foundation also released its 2025- 2026 Annual Report during the event. The report highlights the organization's grantmaking, fundholder stories, community impact, and financial stewardship over the past year while recognizing the individuals, families, and organizations whose charitable funds continue to strengthen the region.

The Annual Report is now available online at yourlegacyforever.org.

As part of National Community Foundation Week, the Foundation reflects on the broader impact community foundations have nationwide. Community foundations are independent public charities that steward philanthropic resources from individuals, families, and organizations to support local nonprofits and community initiatives. Since 1989, National Community Foundation Week has recognized their collaborative approach to addressing community challenges and creating opportunities for growth and prosperity.

"The work of community foundations extends beyond the practice of giving," 2026-2027 Board Chair, Craig Toycen said. "There is a tangible impact that can be seen in the lives of people throughout our communities. As we celebrate this milestone year and look ahead to the next chapter, we remain dedicated to actively seeking and prudently managing charitable assets, helping donors achieve their philanthropic goals, and ensuring resources are available to meet the changing needs of Chippewa County communities for generations to come."

To learn more about the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, please contact us:

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