The Foundation is Looking for a Few Good Men and Women . . .

With several of our long standing Directors completing their terms of office, we find ourselves in a search for people who have a passion for seeing Boulder Junction remain vibrant and are willing to help us continue the mission of preserving and enhancing our community now and in the future.

Below, you can read about our two newest board members, John Altschwager and Adam Zogata. We are excited to have them share their knowledge and expertise as well as their passion for our beautiful town. We are still looking for a couple more Directors to expand our Board and increase our effectiveness in the upcoming year.

Would you consider joining us on one of our Committees (Finance, Fundraising, Publicity & Community Relations, Grants, and Colorama Dinner) or learning more about becoming a Director of the Foundation? Curious about the Foundation? Guests are always welcome at the monthly board meetings usually held the third (3rd) Tuesday of the month at 5:30 at the community center building. Check out the names of our current Directors on this page and feel free to ask us questions. You can also find a plethora of material on our website www.boulderjunctioncf.org or send any questions to us at our email: info@boulderjunctioncf.org.

Welcome John Altschwager and Adam Zogata

At its November meeting, the Foundation was pleased to welcome new board members John Altschwager and Adam Zogata. John and Adam bring a diverse set of backgrounds, skills, and experience to the board that will certainly benefit the Foundation in its operations and achieving its mission.

John has a life-long career in hospitality management in the hotel, country club, and resort industries. He and his wife, Sue, own and manage White Birch Village Resort. He still manages to make time to serve on the BJ Chamber board and committees for the United Methodist Church of the Pines.

Adam is passionate about his role in people’s lives as a Welding Instructor at Northcentral Technical College. Seeing the profound effect of pouring yourself into a person, project, or anything with living potential, has helped shape he and his wife, Jaimie’s, life and family’s goal: “To have a positive impact in someone’s life, every day!”

And it should come as no surprise that these two mover-shakers both love enjoying the outdoors, hunting, and fishing with their families and friends.
President’s Message

Thanks to everyone receiving this newsletter, the Boulder Junction Community Foundation had a banner year in 2016. For the first time in our history, we made it to a $50,000 one-year goal! We realized we had reached this goal while at “The Between the Holidays” community event held at winter park. As a result of reaching this landmark and with subsequent contributions in January and February this year, the total value of the Boulder Junction Community Endowment rests at just over $208,000! Each year we set a “stretch” goal to motivate our Directors to forge new relationships, steward on-going relationships and gifts we have with present donors/neighbors, and manage our community endowment for the benefit of present and future generations. It is a wonderful feeling to have as an organization and it speaks volumes to the commitment of founding board members and the myriad of volunteers who are the backbone of Boulder Junction.

As the newly elected Acting President of the Foundation and a relatively recent immigrant to the BJ community, I was really struck, when I moved here to work at Camp Manito-wish in 2013, by the integration of the many community efforts that are at play. I am very certain that I have not witnessed them all but I have seen the Chamber do so many things here to empower our businesses and culture, the Lions and Lioness Clubs have their amazing service efforts in every branch of our town, and the town government is making every attempt to reach out and involve the community in its work. We have volunteer organizers, bike, snowmobile and ski trail organizers, other service organizations including the American Legion, BJ Historical Society, and the Christmas Scholarship Fund, the library, amazing church groups providing services to our community and an active business community contributing to many, if not all, of these organizations. Sometimes it is difficult to see the beauty in what we have because we are always in the middle of the challenges that small communities tend to face. However, from my incoming perspective, it is a wonderful community and my efforts, along with those of others on the board, go to preserve the opportunities for Boulder Junction to always be a great little town.

As most of you know, besides building an endowment that will produce interest income for community grants forever, we also have been involved in some very tangible projects: The crown jewel of course has been the Boulder Junction Community Center and Library. We have distributed several grants to area non-profits to support their growth in community service and have $5900 available for distribution this year. Our newly formed “Enhancement Funds” have produced support for the baseball park, the placement of two bike maintenance stations on the Boulder Junction Bike Trails, the 4 season Mural depicting the many faces of life in Boulder Junction, and the Arts and Culture Fund to support music, dance, theatre, fine arts and other events. This year already we have awarded a grant to the Chamber for the upcoming Music on Main Street performances.

Upcoming for the remainder of 2017:

Remember to save the date for Colorama Dinner this fall on Saturday, September 23rd at the historic Nash Lodge at Camp Manito-wish YMCA.

Keep your eyes peeled for our “Mostly Socials” events designed to gather our “Neighbors” together in a casual small group format to thank our supporters, exchange ideas, and receive feedback and advice about the Foundation. We hope you will come and get to know other neighbors in the Boulder Junction area.

We are always looking for community members to help on our various committees. We are presently in need of willing volunteers on our fundraising and Colorama Dinner committees. In addition, we are looking for some expertise with Website updates, newsletter production and publicity. To volunteer, call any board member or email us at info@boulderjunctioncf.org.

Again, many thanks for all you are doing for the Foundation and for your other efforts in our community. I hope to meet many of you this year.

In community service,
Grant Herman
Acting President

Inspiration: VOLUNTEERING is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

— Author unknown
The Foundation lost a friend and super volunteer in Jim Konopacki, who passed away on January 27, 2017, at Season’s of Life Hospice, surrounded by his loving family. As Jim’s family remembered him, “Jim was a kind, gentle giant who loved his family. He was always willing to help out a friend or a stranger. Jim wore many hats. He never left a job unfinished. He believed strongly in being involved in his community. Jim was a proud and active member of St Anne’s Catholic Church, the Boulder Junction Lions, the Boulder Junction Community Foundation, Friends of the Boulder Junction Library and Friends of the Boulder Junction Chamber.”

In lieu of flowers the family asked for donations to be made in honor of Jim to either the BJ Lions or the BJ Community Foundation. His loving wife, Barb, a past Foundation board member, recently presented board members with donations she received for the foundation in Jim’s memory (See photo above). The Foundation is grateful to Barb and her family for including the Foundation in memorial plans for Jim. We honor and will miss Jim’s enthusiasm for his community, including the work of the Foundation, along with his bright-eyed grin.

Those who love and care about the future of Boulder Junction are reminded that all gifts to the Endowment Fund are welcome large or small. Every gift demonstrates a donor’s conviction that together people of all ages and means can truly influence the future of Boulder Junction.
Foundation Members Complete Terms of Office

2016 was a big year in the life of the Foundation. Six years after the Foundation was formed, we saw the last of our founding members leave the board, completing two full terms. According to our bylaws, a Director can serve two – 3 year terms and then must move off the board. We want to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to past president Dennis Aukstik, past treasurer Leslie Gauberti, and Gene Klisnick for the vision they helped create many years ago become a reality. Their combined efforts are one of the main reasons we have a community foundation today.

We also wish to thank outgoing Directors Lois Smith and Parker Sterner as they completed 3 year terms and worked tirelessly to make the Foundation the success it is today. Among their many volunteer activities for the foundation, Lois served as chair of the Grants Committee and Parker served as Chair of the Fundraising Committee.

In December, Barbara Boston, finished her second year on the board and her first year as President, and announced her resignation from the board in order to concentrate her efforts to run for a town supervisor position. Our many thanks for her insight and leadership were heartily given by all board members.

Parker Sterner will continue on as the chair of our Fundraising committee and Leslie Gauberti continues to help create our newsletters and Annual Reports. They are both excellent example of what it means to be an awesome Emeritus Board Member!

Meet Mary Van Grinsven

Founding board members donate their time and personal expenses for many of the Foundation’s activities. We thought our readers would enjoy reading about these incredible and committed people in the quarterly newsletters. Mary Van Grinsven is serving her 4th year on the board as a Director, including her second year as Secretary. She currently chairs the Grants Committee. Mary and her husband, Greg, have been coming to the Boulder Junction area since the 70’s. In 2011 they retired, bought the family home and became permanent residents. Professionally, Mary was an international gymnastic judge & clinician for 16 years and served on their National Board of Directors 12 years. A teacher by degree and always active in the school systems wherever they lived, Mary was a PTA President 5 years in 3 different cities in 2 countries.

Volunteering and helping others has always been a passion for Mary! The friendliness of the Boulder Junction community made it easy to join in and make new friends. Mary served as the Secretary of the Fundraising Committee and member of the Color Workgroup for the new Community Center & Library and is currently a Boulder Junction Public Library Trustee. In her free time, you can find Mary in her kayak, sewing studio, skiing, helping at church, outdoors enjoying nature or cooking up something tasty in the kitchen. Their sons, Marc & Matt and families consider Boulder Junction their “second home” and being a Grandma is the best!
Between the Holidays Community Celebration

The Foundation was given the opportunity this year to host the Between the Holidays Community Celebration at Boulder Junction's Winter Park. The Chamber of Commerce formerly sponsored this event for several years and felt it was no longer consistent with their mission. Since many Boulder Junction families, extended families and guests traditionally attend this fun winter wonderland event, the Foundation felt it was right up our alley to coordinate. We thought it would be great to turn this into a true community event by inviting all area civic groups, North Lakeland School, our volunteer fire department EMTs and more to participate. The response from everyone exceeded our highest expectations. Complete with a snowy backdrop, music, skating, sledding, a bonfire tended by our EMTs, singing wagon rides, roasting marshmallows and cocoa, learning about sled dogs, and fireworks were enjoyed by those who attended.

In Case You Missed It!
LEGACY CIRCLE DONATIONS PLEDGED

The Foundation is excited to receive its first recorded gift to our LEGACY CIRCLE by being named beneficiary on three (3) life insurance policies. Is this something you might consider as a way to help us in our mission to preserve and enhance Boulder Junction for present and future generations?

The LEGACY CIRCLE recognizes donors who have made arrangements through their estate planning (such as a bequest, a trust, a retirement plan, insurance policy or some other form of deferred gift) that will support their charitable giving dreams through the Boulder Junction Community Foundation. Since estate gifts are often made after the donor’s death, the Legacy Circle allows the Foundation to recognize those individuals now who are planning to make a difference in our community in the future.

If you are interested in finding out more about the LEGACY CIRCLE, please ask any Director for details, visit our website boulderjunctioncf.org or email us at info@boulderjunction.org

“Preserving and Enhancing Boulder Junction for Present and Future Generations”
Donation Form

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________ City___________________________ Zip ____________

Email [for newsletter]: ____________________________________________________________________________

I/we would like to make a gift to the Boulder Junction Community Foundation to support:

☐ The NEIGHBOR FUND (supports operations): ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $ __________

Additional Donations may be made to:

☐ BJ COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND: $_______________

☐ BJ COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE ENHANCEMENT FUND: $_______________

☐ BJ COMMUNITY BIKE TRAIL ENHANCEMENT FUND: $_______________

Optional Tribute Information (for Community Endowment Fund or Community Enhancement Fund donations only):

This donation is being made ☐ in honor or ☐ in memory of ________________________________________________

Please Notify________________________________________ Relationship to honoree _________________________

Address, City, ST, Zip______________________________________________________________________________

☐ PLEASE KEEP MY DONATION ANONYMOUS

Make check payable to: Boulder Junction Community Foundation

Return this portion to: BJ Community Foundation, PO Box 675, Boulder Jct, WI 54512