

DEFINING MOMENTS

FALL/WINTER 2024

*The
Greatest
Gift is the
Legacy you
Leave*



Howard Young
Foundation

Celebrating
40
years

Thank you!

All of us at the Howard Young Foundation wish you joy and good health in the coming year. Your generosity is a lasting gift to our community.



Rising STAR Transition Center students celebrate their new Chevrolet Traverse. Read more on Page 12.



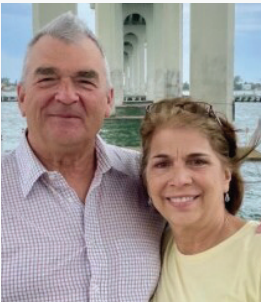
Bear Cupboard Run volunteers. Learn about our Community Events on page 15.



Decorated carts at Let's Tee Off Against Breast Cancer Event

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In Memory of

In loving memory of Greg and Audrey Bohn, whose warmth and dedication enriched our community. Audrey's 11 years of work at the Foundation exemplified her unwavering commitment to improving lives, while Greg's steadfast support amplified their impact. Together, they inspired countless others through their generosity and kindness. Their legacy lives on in the hearts they touched, and this issue is dedicated to honoring their memory.

Special Thanks

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And to all who shared their stories.

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Dear Friends,

The greatest gift is the legacy you leave. This issue of Defining Moments is dedicated to the memory of our colleagues Audrey Bohn (HYF Associate 2009-2020) and her husband Greg, and Bill Pirie (HYF Board Member 2005-2017), whose generosity and commitment to the Howard Young Foundation's mission touched countless lives in our community.

One person can't do it alone. We all have to work together if we want to leave behind a better community for future generations. The story of Bob Saffron's inspirational legacy gift is a powerful reminder of that. Like Bob, anyone can join the HYF Signature Society by designating HYF as a beneficiary in their estate plans. This year, Tula and I became the newest members of the HYF Signature Society, hoping to inspire others to consider their own legacy gifts to help transform healthcare in the Northwoods for years to come. Learn more on page 6.

During this season of giving, we hope you consider a year-end gift for an echocardiogram, an essential tool in diagnosing and treating heart conditions. By supporting this campaign, you directly help us equip our healthcare facilities with the tools to provide life-saving care to our friends and neighbors. Every gift brings us closer to reaching this important goal.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our generous donors, whose support allows us to provide essential healthcare equipment and services. Your contributions make a lasting difference in our community's health. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, and may the New Year bring you and your loved ones health, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely,



Trig Solberg, Board Chairman
Howard Young Foundation



Erin Biertzer, President
Howard Young Foundation

Our Mission

The Howard Young Medical Center was built in 1977 through a very generous bequest provided by philanthropist Howard Young. Bearing his name to honor his philanthropic gift, the Foundation was established in 1984 to advance the health and wellness of all people in the communities we serve through your charitable support.



Trig Solberg



Erin Biertzer

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A NEW ECHOCARDIOGRAM MACHINE

Help Us Bring Heart Care Closer to Home

When Nick experienced sudden chest discomfort and shortness of breath, his doctor recommended an echocardiogram to assess his heart's health. An echocardiogram is a vital diagnostic tool that gives doctors a detailed view of the heart's structure and function. It helps assess how well the heart is pumping, the condition of the valves, and the overall blood flow through the heart. As Dr. Michael Zevitz, cardiologist at Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC), explained, "It is often the first diagnostic test that we do in cardiology because it helps guide the decisions we make in terms of management." HYMC has a goal of becoming the place to go for cardiac care in the Northwoods, and owning and operating echocardiography equipment is another step to making that a reality.

Aspirus Health patients will come from all over the region to receive non-invasive cardiology services to manage conditions like heart failure, coronary artery disease, and cardiac arrhythmia issues. This will allow patients to get the care they need close to home, with Aspirus Wausau Hospital continuing to focus on the most critical cardiac patients in need of emergency procedures.

"We want to capitalize on the amazing culture we have at HYMC," said Dr. Andrew Weber, medical director for the hospitalist program at HYMC and Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital. "It's a culture of excellence that's unique, and we want to build on that by offering consistent, high-quality cardiology services locally, instead of patients having to travel far." The echocardiogram would be used for both inpatient and outpatient services and would allow Dr. Weber and Dr. Zevitz to offer

more comprehensive care to our family, friends and neighbors like Nick.

Strengthening Cardiac Care Together

Our donors generously supported the creation of the Cardiology Suite at HYMC, and we want to continue to enhance cardiac care by purchasing a GE HealthCare echocardiogram machine. This equipment will be used at HYMC and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital, enabling care teams to offer cardiac ultrasounds five days a week, right here in the Northwoods. Together, our goal is to raise \$135,000 for this lifesaving equipment, and every gift will be doubled in value with a promised match from Aspirus.

Your support is key to making this a reality. By donating to our year-end Special Gift Initiative, you are not just giving medical equipment—you are giving peace of mind, faster care, and keeping loved ones close to home when they need it most. Join us in improving heart care in the Northwoods by contributing today.

Make a gift to the Howard Young Foundation Special Gift: Echocardiogram at howardyoungfoundation.org



One person dies every

33 seconds

from cardiovascular disease.



The Greatest Gift — is the — Legacy you Leave

INSPIRING GENEROSITY

The Solberg's Gift to the Community

With a heartfelt dedication to the future, Trig and Tula Solberg have announced the creation of the Solberg Foundation, a natural evolution of their lifelong commitment to give back to the place that has given so much to them. "We believe that by working together with other Northwoods stakeholders, we can create a stronger local

community," they shared. Along with this exciting news, they have pledged a remarkable gift to the Howard Young Foundation (HYF) through their estate, becoming the newest member of the Foundation's Signature Society and further solidifying their legacy of generosity and impact.

Fostering Generosity

For Trig, the inspiration to give comes from a life lesson his mother instilled in him at a young age. She taught him to recognize what needs to be done to improve the community and, more importantly, to take action. This principle of giving back has shaped Trig's long history of involvement with the Howard Young Foundation, where he has served as a donor since 1980, a board member since 1996, and Chairman of the Board since 2011. For over 40 years, he has been a steadfast supporter of initiatives that enhance healthcare in the Northwoods.

It Takes All of Us

According to Trig, the act of giving goes beyond a simple donation. "One person can't do it alone," he said. "We all have to work together if we want to leave behind a better community for future generations." Trig's influence as an inspirational leader extends beyond his personal contributions. His philanthropic spirit has a ripple effect, encouraging friends and fellow community members to join in the effort to make a difference. When Trig donates, others often follow suit, motivated by the strong relationships he has cultivated over the years. This network of support is crucial in addressing local needs and creating a sustainable impact.

Blazing the Trail for the Future

Trig and Tula have asked that their gift goes to the HYF Greatest Needs fund, because they recognize that the needs of healthcare are constantly evolving. This means that their gift will not only support the immediate needs of the hospitals, but it will also contribute to long-term health solutions for the community. "I believe in the board of directors at the Howard Young Foundation," he said. "They know the community, they know the hospitals, and I trust them to make the right decisions about where the funds should go." By becoming a member of the HYF Signature Society, Trig and Tula



hope to inspire others to consider their own legacy gifts, reinforcing the idea that collective action can lead to meaningful change.

Trig and Tula Solberg's commitment will serve as a beacon of hope. Their legacy of generosity not only aims to address current needs but also inspires a culture of giving that can resonate for generations. As they work to strengthen their local community, their story serves as a reminder of the profound impact one can have through compassion and collaboration.

Through the Solberg Foundation and their generous planned gift to the Howard Young Foundation, Trig and Tula are not just leaving a mark—they are paving the way for a brighter, more optimistic future for all.

“One person can't do it alone. We all have to work together if we want to leave behind a better community for future generations.”

ROBERT SAFFRON

A Legacy of Compassion and Generosity

In a world often defined by high-profile philanthropists, the story of Robert “Bob” D. Saffron stands out for its quiet strength and profound impact. At the age of 75, Bob left a legacy gift of approximately \$500,000 to the Howard Young Foundation, a testament to his commitment to improving healthcare in our community. Though he may not have been well known, his gift will also make a mark on the lives of countless individuals and inspire others to consider their own legacies.

A Life Marked by Resilience

Bob’s journey was not without its challenges. He lost vision in his left eye at the age of seven

due to a BB gun accident and later experienced macular degeneration in his other eye. Despite these hurdles, Bob lived a life grounded in his core values: God first, family second, and education third.

His executor and friend, Linda

Liesman, recounts how Bob embodied the spirit of community and kindness, often emphasizing that helping others was what God would want.

A Unique Path to Philanthropy

Bob’s career path was eclectic, ranging from teaching to various odd jobs and working as a government contractor in California. He found solace in Boulder Junction, where he owned property next to his brother, who was an aerospace engineer. Bob experienced bouts of depression throughout his life, compounded by the loss of his brother to cancer. This tragedy deeply affected him and ignited a desire to contribute to healthcare improvements.

The Impact of Bob’s Gift

Bob’s estate was structured thoughtfully, designating a specific percentage of his estate

for the Howard Young Foundation in his will. His generous legacy reflects a profound understanding of the challenges faced by many in accessing healthcare, and his legacy will live on through our mission. Linda noted that his gift is a call to action for others in the community. “He knew the great work the Howard Young Foundation did and believed it could help many others,” she said. Bob’s vision and generosity serve as an inspiration for anyone considering how they might leave a lasting legacy.

Inspiring Others to Give

The story of Bob Saffron is a powerful reminder that every individual has the capacity to make a difference, regardless of their public stature. His life and legacy invite each of us to reflect on our values and consider how we might contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Just as Bob did, we can all explore the possibility of leaving a planned gift to the Howard Young Foundation, ensuring that our impact is felt long after we’re gone.

Bob Saffron’s life may have been lived quietly, but his legacy will speak volumes. His \$500,000 gift to the Howard Young Foundation will create ripples of hope and healing in our community and serve as a model for how one person’s vision can transform lives. As we remember Bob, let his story inspire us all to think about the legacy we wish to leave behind—a legacy of compassion, generosity, and care for those around us. Together, we can continue the work Bob started, building a healthier, more compassionate community for generations to come.

Inspired to leave your legacy? Become a member of the Howard Young Foundation’s Signature Society today by simply naming us in your will. For more details, call us at 715-439-4005.

“He knew the great work the Howard Young Foundation did and believed it could help many others.”

31

Members of the HYF Signature Society which honors individuals who have chosen to leave a legacy through their estate plans.

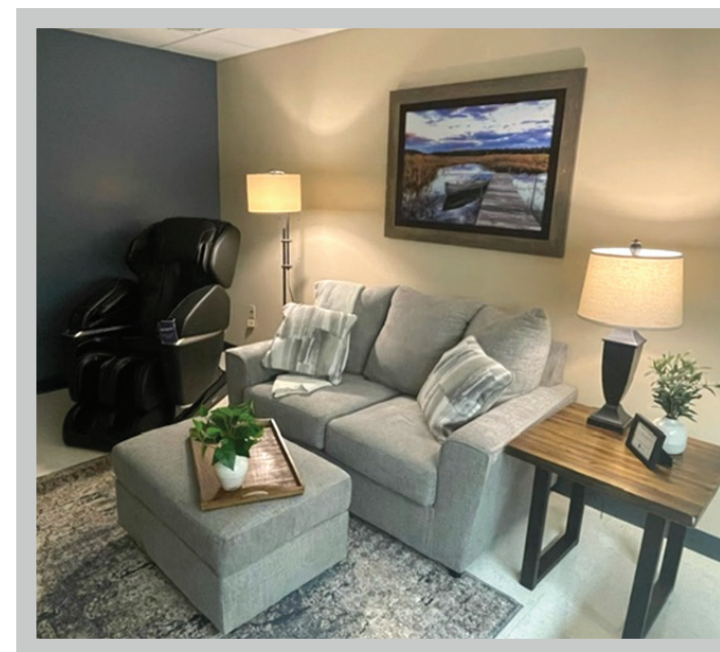
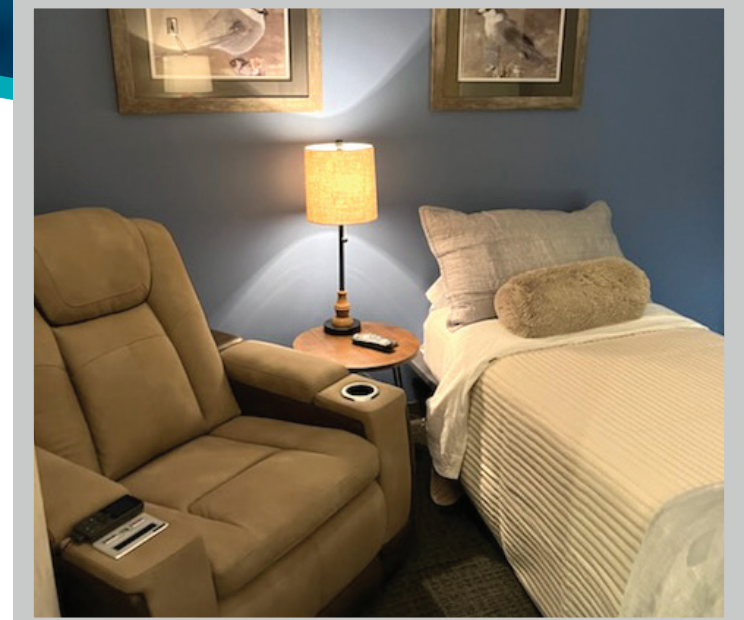
The Holidays came early

The Holidays came early for staff at Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC) and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital (AERH) with updates to several staff lounges, made possible by our generous donors.

“The Foundation funded a facelift for our sleep room, and it is now a calm, relaxing area where the techs can take a break and rejuvenate. It is also a comfortable setting for whoever is on call to get quality rest while being close to respond to calls. The Foundation is so generous to the hospitals and communities we live in. That’s why I donate. I am proud to be part of such a great mission.”

– JENIFER ADAMOVICH, RT(R)(CT)

Supervisor of HYMC and AERH Radiology Departments and HYF donor since 2012 through employee giving.



“The recent renovations of the physician lounge and patient care areas are one way the Foundation makes our healthcare professionals feel valued and supported, which in turn benefits each of their patients. I love to see so many of our physicians and advanced practice clinicians enjoying the new spaces - especially the massage chair! Knowing that my contributions to the Foundation are being used to enhance the well-being of both our medical team and the patients they serve fills me with gratitude and pride.”

– WENDY HUNTER, CPMSM

Coordinator, Medical Staff Services – Aspirus North and HYF donor since 1991 through employee giving.

EMPOWERING WOMEN'S HEALTH

A Community Commitment



Dr. Joelle Wennlund with her new colposcope and LEEP machine, generously provided by our donors.

At Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC), they believe that every woman deserves access to comprehensive health care tailored to her unique needs. Their dedicated women's health services, led by Dr. Joelle Wennlund, are designed to support women through every stage of life—from adolescence to menopause and beyond. With a focus on preventive care and holistic well-being, their programs empower women to take charge of their health.

Dr. Wennlund, a board-certified gynecologist and obesity medicine specialist, emphasizes the importance of addressing a wide range of health concerns. "We see patients for everything from menstrual irregularities and contraception to menopause management and preventive

screenings," she explains. Annual wellness exams, breast health evaluations, and cervical cancer prevention are just a few of the vital services they provide. These efforts ensure that women in our community receive the care they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

One of the most significant impacts of HYMC women's health services is the ability to offer state-of-the-art procedures in a familiar and comfortable environment. Thanks to generous gifts from our donors, they now have advanced equipment such as a colposcope and LEEP machine. These tools

allow them to perform critical procedures in-office, reducing the need for surgical interventions and making care more accessible. Patients can now visualize their procedures, which not only demystifies the process but also alleviates anxiety.

The impact of these advancements is profound. "Our ability to provide timely care leads to better health outcomes and reduces stress for our patients," Dr. Wennlund states. Additionally, her commitment to ongoing education means that she and her staff stay current with the latest medical techniques, directly benefiting the women they serve.

The support from our donors not only enhances services at our hospitals, but also enriches our community. Howard Young Foundation's Walter Olson Fund has allowed Dr. Wennlund to explore innovative approaches to health, including culinary medicine and physical activity programs, helping patients improve their overall well-being. This holistic approach recognizes that women's health is about more than just treating symptoms; it's about fostering a healthy lifestyle that can reduce the risk of chronic diseases, including cancer and cardiovascular issues.

Our donors' support is vital in helping us expand and improve women's health services. Together, we can continue to empower women of all ages in our community to lead healthier, happier lives. Thank you for being a part of this important mission. Your contributions make a difference every day, enabling us to provide high-quality, compassionate care that meets the diverse needs of women in our community.

You can help provide the best healthcare possible for each patient's unique healthcare journey by donating to the Howard Young Foundation. Visit howardyoungfoundation.org.

ASPIRUS TICK-BORNE ILLNESS CENTER

It's a Dream Come True

Dr. James Thatcher's journey to the Aspirus Tick-Borne Illness Center feels like the fulfillment of a dream he has been chasing for years. As the new Medical Director, he brings with him not only a wealth of experience but a profound dedication to helping patients struggling with the often-overlooked effects of tick-borne diseases.

Dr. Thatcher's personal stories illustrate how deeply he cares. He recalls a young girl who had previously been misdiagnosed only to discover the real culprit was a tick-borne infection. After treatment, her symptoms disappeared. "That case changed me," Dr. Thatcher shares, "I realized I had a special eye for this, and it's become my mission."

In his first few months, Dr. Thatcher has already treated over 150 patients, many arriving with urgent symptoms. "I've never seen so many acute cases in my life," he admits. Stepping into northern Wisconsin at the height of tick season has been eye-opening, with cases of Lyme disease and other tick-related illnesses flooding in. For many patients, seeing Dr. Thatcher means finding answers they've been searching for, and finally feeling heard. His passion for understanding these complex conditions has made an immediate impact.

Ashley Johnson, NP-BC, the Center's long-standing provider, Morgan Setzer, MA, and Kathy McCaughn, are thrilled to have Dr. Thatcher on board. "Dr. Thatcher's energy and commitment have been amazing," Johnson says. "We've already seen how his expertise is helping to elevate patient care. It's wonderful to have a partner who shares our passion for healing and who's just as dedicated to finding the right answers for our patients."

Looking ahead, Dr. Thatcher's vision is even more inspiring. He hopes to expand the Center's role into a research hub, collaborating with healthcare professionals to improve diagnosis and treatment for both acute and chronic tick-borne diseases. "My goal is not just to treat the patients in front of me, but to create lasting change in how these diseases are understood and treated," he says.

His family is also settling into northern Wisconsin, adjusting to the region's charm and beauty. "My kids have never seen snow, so that's something we're all excited for," he laughs. It's clear that Dr. Thatcher has found not just a new job, but a community where he can make a difference. "It's a dream come true," he reflects, "and I'm so grateful to be here."

To make an appointment, call 715.356.8702. Support our Tick-Borne Illness Research and Treatment fund by visiting howardyoungfoundation.org



150

Patients treated since Dr. Thatcher started in June 2024.

AUTISM SERVICES

Driving Success

100%

of Rising STAR students employed or volunteering in our community

57

students that have received the education & interventions they need

11

students have received their driver's license

Every child deserves to be understood, to have the support they need so they can maximize their potential and grow in confidence. Every child deserves success, whether their definition is independence, landing a job or achieving their personal best. Lakeland STAR makes this possible for diverse learners, including students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Howard Young Foundation and our community of generous donors have supported autism services and Lakeland STAR from the very beginning. Rising STAR Transition Center, the newest member of the STAR constellation, is a special space in Woodruff where students ages 18-21 with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) work on skills for success after school. One thing that is helping drive that success is the donation of a new Chevrolet Traverse SUV, making it easier for students to volunteer, work and access community resources.

"The Traverse has been a crucial asset for our Rising STAR Transition Center," said Stephanie Cull, Principal of Lakeland STAR School/Academy. "One of our key goals is helping students secure gainful employment, and we're proud to say that every student at our Transition Center has

achieved this. The Traverse has played a vital role in providing access to community resources, volunteer opportunities, and job experiences, greatly enhancing our program and the lives of our students."

Gerb Smith learned about Rising STAR's transportation needs during the 2023 Lakeland STAR Golf Outing. In response, Gerb collaborated with Tim Runde of Runde Chevrolet to provide this vital vehicle for our school. This thoughtful gift beautifully illustrates how each of us can give in a way that feels meaningful and personal, reflecting our own unique connections and values.

"We are incredibly grateful for the extraordinary support from our community and donors like Gerb and Tim," Stephanie stated. "Your commitment has been truly transformative for Lakeland STAR and Rising STAR, helping us achieve remarkable success with our students and significantly improving their quality of life. Your dedication has made a life-changing difference."

You can help support autism services by mailing your donation to the Howard Young Foundation, PO Box 10, Minocqua, WI 54548, or by donating online at howardyoungfoundation.org.



LAKELAND PANTRY

A Lifeline in our Community

The Lakeland Food Pantry is on track to support more families than ever this year, reflecting a rising need in the Northwoods community. With food costs steadily increasing, many households face difficult choices, and the pantry plays a critical role in filling this gap. By providing essential groceries, clothing, household items and basic medical screenings, it helps our neighbors maintain stability during challenging times. This infographic highlights the numbers behind the pantry's efforts, illustrating the growing demand and the impact of generous community support.

This holiday season, help Lakeland Pantry make life a little brighter for those in need by making a donation to the Lakeland Pantry Greatest Need Fund through the Howard Young Foundation. Go to howardyoungfoundation.org or call 715.439.4005.



Projected Food Distribution Statistics for Current Year

1045
HOUSEHOLDS

24K
VISITS



290 Families
to receive a Holiday Meal Kit for Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter



30% AGES 50+ | **45%** AGES 0 - 18



150 Students
to benefit from the Backpack & School Snack Programs



603K Pounds
OF FOOD SERVED



1200 Individuals
RECEIVE GROCERY GIFT CARDS



Scan to help make the holiday season bright

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, Lakeland Pantry brings in extra food to meet increased demand. They also provide meals for the four grade schools, and distribute gift cards to Trigs. You can help our neighbors enjoy this special time of year by making a gift at howardyoungfoundation.org.

WLC WELCOMES KATIE DRERUP

A Legacy of Compassion

The Women's Legacy Council (WLC) is delighted to welcome Katie Drerup as its new chairperson, marking an exciting chapter for the committee of the Howard Young Foundation. Katie joined WLC in 2021, introduced by her friend Carrie Hoye, HYF board member and past WLC chair. Katie has since been involved in its mission to support healthcare in our community. WLC is known for its dedication to charitable efforts, including support of Aspirus Seasons of Life Hospice House, a cause that has become close to Katie's heart.

Katie's connection to the Minocqua area is deeply rooted. Her family has been tied to the community for generations, with her great-grandfather purchasing property along Lake Minocqua in the early 1900s. Her family's long history in the area has fostered a strong sense of connection, which Katie has carried forward by living full-time in the region and actively participating in community initiatives.

A pivotal moment that fueled Katie's passion for hospice care was her involvement in the "Giving the Old Fashioned Way" event, a fundraising effort to benefit Aspirus Seasons of Life Hospice House. Initially hesitant about fundraising, Katie was moved by the community's generosity and the personal stories shared by those who have been touched by hospice care. The event raised an impressive \$150,000, which will go toward providing

patient care for those who cannot afford the costs that Medicare does not cover. This experience inspired Katie to deepen her involvement, leading her to complete hospice volunteer training.

“I am so inspired by our committee members, and those who have served before me on WLC. It is exciting to be part of a group that is dedicated to making life better for our neighbors.”

Katie's leadership is a natural fit for WLC, an organization comprised of diverse, passionate women who come together to support meaningful causes. Under her leadership, the council will continue with their vision to bring about positive and necessary change in the world through women's philanthropy.

Katie's passion for giving back and her dedication to the community make her a great fit for the role as WLC chairperson. "I am so inspired by our committee members, and those who have served before me in WLC. It is exciting to be part of a group that is dedicated to making life better for our neighbors."

Katie Drerup,
WLC Chairperson

ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

MONDAY JUNE 9TH AND
TUESDAY JUNE 10TH, 2025

Lakeland STAR
Golf Outing

The annual Lakeland STAR Golf Outing held at Northfork Fin & Filet restaurant and Minocqua Country Club benefits Autism Services and the students of Lakeland STAR School/Academy and Rising STAR Transition Center.

For more information
visit lakelandstar.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH, 2025

Let's Tee Off Against
Breast Cancer

A vibrant, women-only golf event at Trout Lake Golf Club raises funds for "We Care" care package totes for first time breast cancer patients across the Northwoods.

Visit troutlakegolf.com to learn more.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2025

Lakeland Pantry Bear
Cupboard Run

Get ready for the 16th Annual Bear Cupboard Run on the scenic Bearskin Trail! This fun event benefits the Lakeland Pantry.

Learn more at lakelandpantry.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 2025

Seasons of Life
Gardenfest

Garden tours, photo opportunities, Lakeland Gardeners plant sale, ice cream social, live music, raffles and more await you at this event to benefit the Seasons of Life Gardens.

Learn more at lakelandgardeners.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 2025

Minocqua Dragon
Boat Festival

Feel the energy of the 9th Annual Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival! Enjoy camaraderie, fun, and thrilling races to benefit the work of the Howard Young Foundation. **Register, volunteer, sponsor or pledge at** minocquadragonboat.com.

Thank you
to all who sponsor,
volunteer, participate
in or donate to one
or more of these
community events.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025

Bonhomie Club
Recognition Dinner

This dinner is all about you, the donors that allow us to continue advancing healthcare in the Northwoods. Qualifying 2024 donors are invited to an exclusive event to celebrate your contributions to our hospitals and/or Seasons of Life Hospice with hors d'oeuvres and an update on Howard Young Foundation activities. To be a part of the Bonhomie Club in 2025, donate \$100 or more before the end of this year.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2025

Wine, Women
and Winter

Celebrate the holiday season while benefiting Lakeland Food Pantry. Wine tasting, holiday demos, festive holiday appetizers and gift raffles. You won't want to miss it!



**Howard Young
Foundation**

P.O. Box 10, Minocqua, WI 54548

EVERYONE HAS THE CAPACITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Inspired to leave your legacy?

The Signature Society honors friends of the Howard Young Foundation who choose to leave a legacy through their wills, life income gifts or other estate plans. When you designate the Howard Young Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate plans, you are welcomed as a member of the Signature Society.

Call 715-439-4005 or email info@hyfinc.org for more information.

This publication is brought to you by the Howard Young Foundation,
serving our community since 1984. To make a donation:



CALL

Our office at
715-439-4005



MAIL

Howard Young Foundation
P.O. Box 10
Minocqua, WI 54548



ONLINE

Visit our website at
howardyoungfoundation.org



PLANNED GIVING

when you include us in
your estate planning.
(Talk to your tax advisor.)



STOCK

donations are a
tax-smart way
to give. (Call for
instructions.)

The Howard Young Foundation does not provide financial or tax advice and encourages donors interested in advanced planning to speak with their CPA and/or tax advisor.