



2019 **Richfield Foundation Annual Report**

Board Chair's Message:

This message is intended as a look back at 2019, but it's written in 2020, and it is impossible to ignore the events of the first half of this year – a pandemic, a dramatic economic downturn, and violent unrest in the wake of racial injustices exposed through the killing of George Floyd.

I don't know what the rest of the year will bring, and will leave most comments on 2020 to next year's report, but this hindsight makes me appreciate that 2019 was a calm and successful year for the Richfield Foundation.

In 2019 we celebrated our 30th anniversary, a tribute to the long-term planning done decades ago by our founders. The work they did to set up the Foundation and solicit donations for an endowment continues to pay off. Our city also benefits from the hard work done by the Foundation's present-day members:

- Our Wine Event last year netted more funds than ever, including an impressive number of sponsorships from community-minded local businesses (check them out in this report).
- Our Matching Grants application is now available in Spanish, as we try to reach and support a wider range of groups doing good work.
- We signed another fiscal agreement, with the Richfield Disability Advocacy Partners (R-DAP); we enter these agreements to help groups that cannot be 501c3 organizations (like Wood Lake Nature Center), or ones that are in the process of applying for that status (such as past agreements with the Veterans Memorial or the Richfield Bandshell).
- And we increased our grantmaking again in 2019: \$23,000 – a total that is double what we granted just seven years earlier. In our 30-year history, we have now distributed more than \$280,000.

I am grateful that we used 2019 to strengthen the Foundation's ability to respond to the then-unforeseen crises of 2020. Some of the individuals who helped with this are leaving the Board, and I'd like to personally recognize their efforts:

Isela Xitlali Gomez served as our Vice Chair and head of the Nominating Committee, improving the process by which we recruit and orient new members.

Steve Schneeberger and **Rose Jost** each served terms as the Foundation's Treasurer and, thankfully, kept up with the work required to manage the increasingly complex finances, as our revenue and grantmaking increased. Rose also served as Secretary; I am grateful for the way both have stepped into these critical but unglamorous roles, and filled numerous other needs when we needed extra help.

Aaron Lissarrague helped developed greater cooperation between the Foundation and the Richfield Chamber. **Ted Weidenbach** supported efforts to strengthen our vision and messaging. **Hamuda Ahmed** helped organized our annual meetings. The Foundation is completely dependent on the skills and initiative of members like them, and we are grateful to each of them.

I also note that after six years, I am stepping out of the Board Chair role. It has been a great honor to serve in this position, and I have gained a great deal – the opportunity to work with fantastic leaders, learn about good work being done in our community, and feel like I am giving something back to the city that has been my family's home for more than 25 years. I am staying on the Board, and look forward to building the Foundation as a resource for our community. We have a lot of work to do.



Scott Hvizdos
Board Chair

2019 Board of Directors



Hamuda Ahmed

Laura Gaitan

Kristin Bowman

Debbie Goettel

David Brown

Isela Xitlali Gomez

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(Vice Chair)

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Scott Hvizdos (Chair)

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Pat Elliott

Rose Jost (Secretary)

Steve Schneeberger

Alex Farrell

Aaron Lissarrague

(Treasurer)

Claire Plank Gahler

Maria Regan Gonzales

Theodore Weidenbach

About the Richfield Foundation

The Richfield Foundation partners with non-profit and neighborhood organizations seeking to change lives for the better in Richfield. A grassroots organization that is close to the community, the Richfield Foundation works with smaller, local projects that are often overlooked by larger agencies that work on a more regional basis. The Richfield Foundation is truly in tune with the heartbeat of the Richfield community.

The Richfield Foundation was created in December 1988. It is an all-volunteer organization that operates with no salaries and low overhead. Through the years, the foundation has given out nearly a quarter of a million dollars to local non-profit organizations and programs that strive to make Richfield a great place to live and work.



Grants

Grant's Committee Report

The Grant's Committee received 22 requests for funding in 2019 including 4 for our "Great Idea" Matching Grants program in the summer months and 18 requests for our Major Grants in the fall. The Richfield Foundation awarded grants to 14 agencies.

The Great Idea Matching Grants requests are solicited by the Foundation Board and collected by the Chair of the Grants Committee from March through August 2019. They are distributed to the Grants Committee for approval. The Grants Committee has autonomous approval authority sanctioned by the Foundation Board to make these small, matching grants. The Foundation Board sets a total dollar limit on all Great Idea Matching grants and the committee must stay within that limit for their awards.

During September and October 2019, the Foundation Board solicited major grant requests through mailings and the web site. The Chair of the Grants Committee collected and submitted them to the Foundation Board members for their review. In November 2019, the Foundation Board members gathered to discuss and ultimately vote on the merits of each proposal. This process was led by an impartial Richfield resident who is not a voting member of the Richfield Foundation. The checks were dispersed at a Richfield City Council Meeting in early December 2019.

The following is a list of grants awarded in 2019. The total amount awarded was \$23,300. \$1,800 was awarded for the Matching grants in the summer and \$21,500 for the major Grants in the fall.

Respectively Submitted,

Susan Rosenberg, Chair, Grants Committee, Richfield, Foundation

Summer 2019 Matching Grants

Blessed Trinity Science Fair
Granted: \$300

Centennial Elementary PTSO
Granted: \$500

Hope Church/Richfield Young Life
Granted: \$500

Richfield High School Senior Class
Party *Granted: \$500*



Grants

Fall 2019 Grant Program

Assistance League - The Penn Avenue Thrift Store works with Richfield Public Schools to provide items to help students. *Granted: \$2,000*

Bilingual Learning Center - A multi-cultural, dual language afterschool enrichment program for students pre-K through 5th grade. *Granted: \$2,000*

Crossroads Panorama - A six-week experimental camp harnessing the creativity of youth to help find ways to stop bullying. *Granted: \$2,000*

Loaves and Fishes - Healthy meals and a regular chance for community, at two dining sites in Richfield: *Granted: \$1,750*

Meals on Wheels - Nutritious meals and a friendly visit delivered by a volunteer. *Granted: \$1,000*

Oasis for Youth - A place to help teens and young adults stay connected to school and jobs while dealing with challenges of housing stability or homelessness. *Granted: \$1,500*

People with Capes - A weekly mentorship and community-building meeting to empower participants: *Granted: \$2,000*

Richfield Forth of July Committee - The all-volunteer committee continues this popular multi-day celebration of the 4th of July holiday. *Granted: \$2,000*

Richfield Human Rights Commission - Organizing a celebration of Richfield first Indigenous Peoples' Day in October 2020. *Granted: \$2,000*

Tapestry - Spanish and English speakers come together to teach each other language and forge connections. *Granted: \$2,000*

Senior Community Services - Chore and maintenance services to promote independence for low-income seniors, delivered by trusted professionals and community volunteers. *Granted: \$1,250*

VEAP - VEAP is trying to bridge the gap between poverty and poor nutrition - leading to better health, parenting, handling stress and job performance. Funds will support the summer youth food program, providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the community. There is also a mobile pantry component for Richfield residents. *Granted: \$2,000*

Financials

The Richfield Foundation funds are secured in several accounts through BMO Harris Bank. Cash deposits are in a checking account and the endowment fund is administered by the BMO Harris financial advisors. In addition, the Richfield Foundation made the decision to invest in a community resource in 2014; the Lake Winds Food Cooperative.

The Richfield Foundation is supported in a variety of ways: Monetary donations by individuals and businesses, special fund raising events, administrative revenue from services as a fiscal sponsor and in-kind contributions. Additional investment revenue is generated for the endowment fund and the Lakewinds investment, which concluded this year.

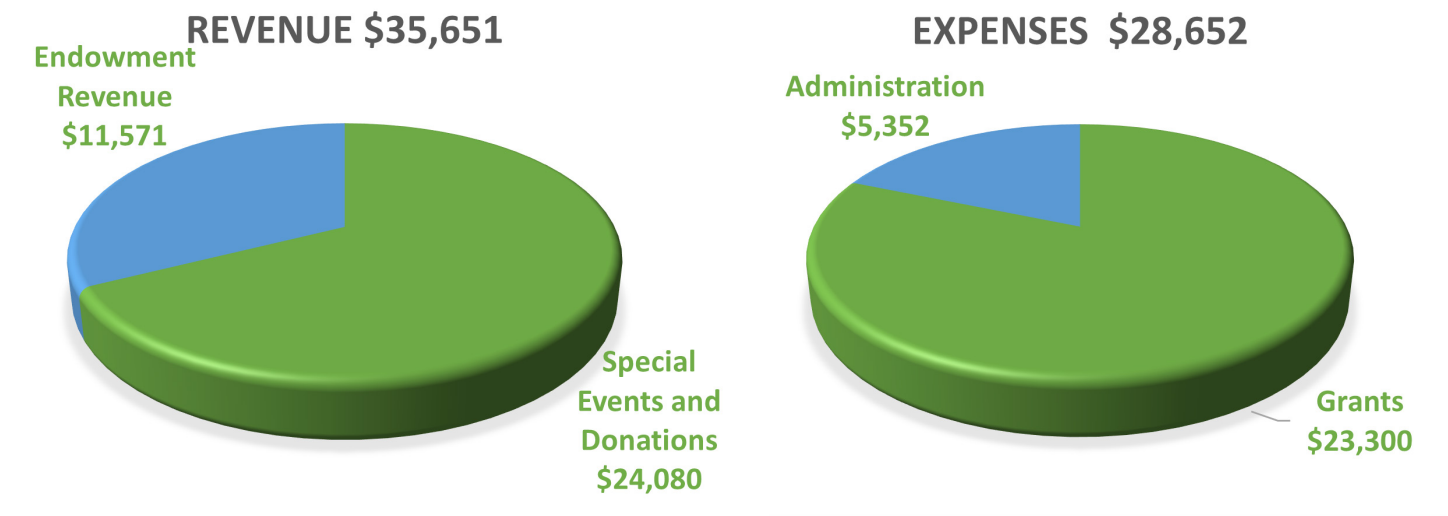
The Richfield Foundation acted in a fiduciary capacity as fiscal sponsor in 2019 for Wood Lake Nature Center.

2019 Assets as of 12/31/19

BMO Harris Checking Account \$26,754.53

BMO Harris Investment Fund \$236,595.01

Total Assets \$263,349.54



Richfield Foundation Legacy Society

It is easy to make the Richfield Foundation a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account plan or life insurance policy. The Richfield Foundation's Federal Tax ID number is 41-1634223.

Please consider informing the Foundation of your plans, and we can include your name in the Legacy Society list in future Annual Reports, recognizing your dedication to help the Richfield Foundation continue its tradition of working for the good of Richfield and it's residents. Please let us know your plans, or reach out to discuss at info@richfieldfoundationmn.org

Support

Autumn Wine Tasking Fundraiser

On October 10, 2019 the Richfield Foundation hosted the 7th annual Autumn Wine Tasting Fundraiser. We had a lofty goal - raise \$25,000. With the support of over 200 attendees, we were able to meet that goal. This was our best year yet!

Twenty vendors sampled over 120 wines (with a few beers and spirits). We shared tasty appetizers from El Tejaban's Mexican Grill, Local Roots, American Pie and Houlihan's Restaurant. Dairy Queen and Droolin' Moose donated dessert. Photos were provided by Amanda Gahler with a.photography. Music from Denise Boczek with Harp by Denise.

We also hosted a silent auction for the first time this year. With donations from businesses across the community, we had 19 offerings and were able to raise \$1,500.

And thank you to our sponsors. This event would not be possible without their generous support!

Aaron Lissarrague Agency
Audi Richfield
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Havenwood
John's Auto Shop
Leadership Vision Consulting
Downtown Eyes
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Trautmann Martin Law
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Schneeberger Group
Think Stucco
Timely Choices
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Village Shores
Xcel Energy

Submitted by Claire Plank Gahler & Liz Sanborn,
2019 Wine Fundraiser Co-Chairs



Thank you to 2019's annual donors!

American Family Insurance
Anonymous
Kristin Eide
Hugger Enterprises
Greg Johnson
Lunds and Byerlys
Robert Mulcahy
Andrea Olson

*We apologize for any errors or
ommissions in the donor or sponsor lists.*

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