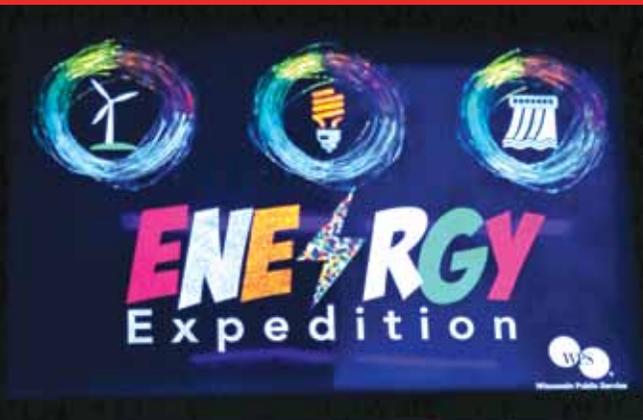


2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Building stronger communities
and creating brighter futures



Wisconsin Public Service
Foundation

The Wisconsin Public Service Foundation was created in 1964 to help to improve the quality of life throughout the utility's service area. We support activities that promote arts and culture, community and neighborhood development, education, human services and health, and the environment in communities across Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$32 million to worthwhile organizations.

In 2015, we provided nearly \$1.5 million in funding to eligible organizations. Here are just a few examples of how our contributions created brighter futures for the communities we serve.



Arts and culture

Arts and culture add to the richness of life in our communities. We support projects that promote diversity and make the arts accessible to all people, including theater, dance, music, drama and museums.



SUPPORT IN ACTION
Meyer Theatre Corp., Green Bay

The Meyer Theatre, a beautifully restored performance venue, books more than 170 performances each year and brings 70,000 people to downtown Green Bay.

In part from support provided by the foundation in 2015, Backstage at the Meyer opened to the public. The theater's adjacent space is a good spot to meet friends before a performance or to attend other events and activities the theater hosts.

"We are extremely grateful to the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation for its very generous contribution to the capital campaign for Backstage at the Meyer. With its support, we were able to renovate the corner property on Washington and Walnut streets, which cleaned up a blighted corner in our downtown. Now we can provide income to the Meyer Theatre from events held in Backstage, which will sustain the Meyer for many years. WPS Foundation made a wonderful investment into the arts and culture of our community."

JEFF MIRKES – board president

Community and neighborhood development

Communities become stronger when neighbors work together. We support nonprofit organizations dedicated to community improvement.



SUPPORT IN ACTION
Rebuilding Together, Green Bay

With a mission of bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of elderly and disabled low-income homeowners, Rebuilding Together believes in a safe and healthy home for every person.

In 2015, the foundation provided a gift that sponsored home improvements for an elderly homeowner. Besides making the home more comfortable and efficient, this sponsorship was enhanced by 48 WPS employees who volunteered on the project.

"The Wisconsin Public Service Foundation has provided many company employees the opportunity to give back to our community by refurbishing homes for the elderly and disabled. The foundation can be very proud that we are supporting an organization that is highly recognized by the greater Green Bay community for its services to our elderly and disabled."

ROGER VAN LANEN – board member



Foundation spotlight

Matching gifts

The Wisconsin Public Service Foundation's matching gifts program encourages employees and retirees to actively support nonprofit organizations within our communities.

Contributions to our major support areas – arts and culture, community and neighborhood development, education*, environment, human services and health – are eligible for matching gifts.

In 2015, the foundation provided \$178,740 in matching gifts to eligible organizations.

** Includes accredited K-12 and post-secondary educational institutions in the U.S.*

United Way

As part of the utility's commitment, the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation is an enthusiastic and steadfast supporter of the United Way. In 2015, the foundation provided more than \$409,000 in financial support to the United Way in corporate gifts, and employee and retiree pledges.

Innovative Educator grant

WPS Foundation helps educators strengthen programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through Innovation Educator grants.

In its ninth year, the program has provided more than \$117,000 in grants for 127 innovative teaching programs in grades 6 through 12. These projects benefit multiple classrooms and sometimes the entire school.

Brillion High School received one of 2015 Innovative Educator grants, which gave its students an opportunity to design and build houses, gardens and feeders for a pollinator they researched.

"This grant allowed me to add an engineering/design and math component to my unit. The kids spent the quarter studying ecology through the eyes of a pollinator. They discovered the importance of pollinators not only to people but also to other animals and plants in the web of life."

JESSICA PETERSON – Brillion Public Schools



Education

Life-long learning helps ensure a strong future for our communities and their economies. We support programs that complement our company's educational programs and philosophies, including opportunities for minorities and women. We support programs where businesses and educational institutions partner, provide career planning and mentor youth.



SUPPORT IN ACTION

Northwoods Children's Museum, Eagle River

The Northwoods Children's Museum is a hands-on, play museum that has interactive and educational exhibits for children of all ages. The museum urges visitors to get away from their gadgets and have some real hands-on fun.

The museum's most recent exhibit, Energy Expedition, was funded by the foundation. Through play and exploration, the exhibit is focused on providing lasting, life-long knowledge about energy and how it influences our daily lives.

"With play being an essential component in learning, the Energy Expedition funded by the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation has been a creative way for children to learn about energy. Through the hands-on exploration of solar, wind and hydro exhibits, children and their families begin forming concepts about energy and how it affects their world and the world around them."

ROULEEN GARTNER – executive director





Environment

Our foundation helps protect natural resources and supports efforts for the betterment of forests, recycling, renewable energy, energy efficiency, fish and wildlife, and water and air quality.

» SUPPORT IN ACTION **Monk Botanical Gardens, Wausau**

As central Wisconsin's first public botanical garden, this unique environment offers beautiful gardens and education opportunities for the region's residents.

With support from the foundation, the botanical gardens developed a power-line friendly project in 2015. WPS volunteers came together to help make the project a success.

"Wisconsin Public Service Foundation has been a key partner in transforming an inaccessible area of the gardens into a striking meditation garden with a boulder-lined pond area, beautiful trees, shrubs and plants and a handicapped-accessible pathway. Our pond's storm water ability was improved with a better run-off stream and strengthened shore line. It was rewarding to hear a delighted child say 'Grampa, hurry up! This is where we saw the frogs,' and watch the elderly gentleman enjoy a rest on one of the new boulders while his granddaughter thrilled over the sighting of frogs and other wildlife."

LINDA GRILLEY – board member

Human services and health



The physical and emotional well-being of everyone in our communities is a measure of the health of the communities. We support programs that serve limited-income, senior and handicapped individuals. We also support programs emphasizing wellness.

» SUPPORT IN ACTION **Fresh Meals on Wheels of Sheboygan County, Inc., Sheboygan**

The Fresh Meals on Wheels program works to enhance the quality of independent living through affordable, nutritious home-delivered meals and caring social interaction.

Locally sustained ingredients are key to Fresh Meals on Wheels. In addition to financial support, the foundation made arrangements for 11 raised garden beds to be planted at WPS facilities in Sheboygan.

"In 2012, we opened the door to our new facility, which included a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen. Our goal was to be able to grow and process fresh fruits and vegetables that we could use in our homemade, medically-tailored meals. Last year, we processed more than 6,000 pounds of produce that we grew. We are grateful to the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation for making our dream of serving our homebound and senior neighbors fresh, medically-tailored meals a reality."

KELLY HEYN – CEO



How to apply for a foundation grant

We encourage eligible organizations to apply for support.

Visit www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/company/grant_application.aspx for eligibility requirements and to apply for a grant.

Applications are accepted throughout the year and awarded quarterly. Applications for first quarter must be received by Jan. 31, second quarter by April 30, third quarter by July 31 and fourth quarter by Oct. 31.



Wisconsin Public Service Foundation