Fundamentals

2022 EDITION - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR 43 YEARS YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

Rockford Mutual Insurance Company planting trees at Levings Park

2022

Inside this issue:

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT DONOR SPOTLIGHT FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS DONORS



FOUNDATION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Mike Robinson, President, Rockford Park District Foundation Lori Berkes-Nelson, Director, Rockford Park District Foundation

Making lemons out of lemonade is how we would sum up 2021. If the pandemic showed us anything, it's that despite the uncertainties, the demand for the valuable services the Rockford Park District provides remained strong. Madelyn is a young lady who attended camp through the Rockford Park District in 2021. Read how she literally made lemonade out of lemons to raise money for other children to enjoy camp like she did.

We are thankful to donors like Clyde "Andy" Anderson and his late wife, Marge, who donated funds to complete **Atwood Trails** phase two in 2021. They are a beautiful couple who have made a difference for outdoor recreation.

Keye-Mallquist Park and Playground was dedicated in 2021. Funded through donations and grants, this park has amenities and features like no other park in Rockford.

Disc golf volunteers designed and installed Shorewood Park Disc Golf, the **Bill Laude Memorial** Golf fund was established, and hundreds of trees were planted.

All of this could not have been possible had it not been for relationships with donors, citizens, and leaders.

This year, the Foundation will continue to build relationships, and raise funds to help develop and maintain a quality park system that will last for generations, yielding invaluable health, environmental and economic benefits.

2022 ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our volunteer Board of Directors oversees the Rockford Park District Foundation, supporting our mission and vision and ensuring that the Foundation continues to strengthen parks and recreation throughout our community.

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BE LIKE MADELYN!

In 2021, six-year-old Madelyn attended Nature Quest camp through the Rockford Park District. While at camp, she met new friends, learned to respect nature, and had fun singing and playing with others. Madelyn also learned that some kids are not able to attend camps because of financial restraints. She wanted to do something to help other kids attend and enjoy what she experienced.

Madelyn ran her own lemonade stand at her family's garage sale, and donated \$105 to the Help Me Play fund, which provides fee assistance and free programming in the Park District. Madelyn has participated in a variety of Rockford Park District programs and camps, and wanted to make sure that other youth have the same opportunities.

All gifts are worth celebrating – regardless of size!

Even though Madelyn is too young to work, she wanted to donate to the Rockford Park District Foundation in her own special way. BE LIKE MADELYN!

Madelyn's mom Emily said, "Madelyn attended Nature Quest through the Rockford Park District this past summer, and enjoyed it so much that she wanted to help as many kids as possible to attend camp."



FOUNDATION **HIGHLIGHTS**

HELP ME PLAY

The Rockford Park District Foundation raised \$150,292 in 2021 for Help Me Play through private donations and grants; this exceeded our \$111,000 goal!

Help Me Play provides financial support so all youth can access and experience the lifelong benefits of play through the Rockford Park District.

"The Help Me Play fund is always an important piece to all of the youth programs. As June arrived, programs were free to enjoy, bringing back some of the summertime favorites like field trips. Help Me Play took it a step further and enabled qualified youth, who needed more assistance to attend these trips at a more affordable cost. Field trips to Lockwood Park and

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens exposed many of the youth to Rockford Park District facilities they had never been to," stated Ashya Ford, Recreation Coordinator.

Help Me Play doesn't stop with summer playground programs. Many youth that attend the summer programs also attend the 21st Century After-School programs in partnership with RPS205. These young people build our teams, with the assistance of Help Me Play, for Jr. NBA, NFL Flag, FIRE Track & Field, ice skating lessons at the ice facilities, and many more. Help Me Play has helped eliminate the burden of families having to choose or limit which child or which programs their children can be engaged in.



FOUNDATION **HIGHLIGHTS**

TREE REPLACEMENT

Rockford Mutual Insurance Company celebrated 125 years by planting 125 trees in Rockford Park District parks. The Rockford Park District added an additional 283 trees to the tree canopy in 2021.

KEYE-MALLQUIST PARK & PLAYGROUND

The renovation of Keye-Mallquist Park & Playground was completed in June 2021, thanks to grants from the Blazer Foundation and IDNR, as well as private donations!

Keye-Mallquist Park & Playground is one of the largest free summer playground programs, with more than 100 kids participating.

ATWOOD TRAILS

Phase Two was completed in October 2021, finishing seven miles of the proposed master plan of 20 miles. This was a citizen-funded campaign primarily supported by funds from Clyde "Andy" Anderson and Marge Anderson, in memory of Marge. Come check out "Marge's Trail."

BILL LAUDE MEMORIAL GOLF FUND

The first Family Golf Day for youth and their parents was held at Sinnissippi Golf Course on October 9, 2021. This event was made possible through The Bill Laude Memorial Golf Fund. The fund is supported by an annual distribution from Bill Laude's estate. Bill loved golf, and wanted to give all youth the opportunity to enjoy the game like he did.

SHOREWOOD PARK DISC GOLF

Citizens that love disc golf raised nearly \$4,500 to develop the Shorewood Disc Golf Course.

Like golf, but not entirely, disc golf uses the same general rules and etiquette, but requires a disc to play.



EMPLOYEE & BOARD GIVING IT STARTS WITH US!

Rockford Park District has been changing lives for 113 years; this includes employees of the Rockford Park District, or "Parkies," as they are lovingly referred to. It has given thousands of youth their first job, helped countless children enjoy playgrounds, camps, and lessons, and learn the importance of recreation. Families have enjoyed the shaded parks and watched their children play sports. Even our furry dog friends have exclusive parks to play in.

At Rockford Park District, giving is part of the culture. Every gift through the employee giving campaign speaks to the employee's pride in the work they do, and how deeply invested they are in the Rockford Park District.

Rockford Park District employees demonstrate a remarkable spirit of giving by participating in the annual employee giving campaign. Since 2008, more than \$200,000 has been donated from employees to support a variety of projects and programs within the Rockford Park District.



EMPLOYEE GIVING 2021

- \$16,037 donated
- · 32 employees participated
- The highest amount ever!

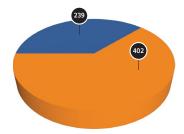
BOARD GIVING 2021

- \$49,199 donated
- · 20 Board Members
- · Combined individual, corporation, and foundation

BY THE **NUMBERS**

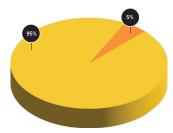
TOTAL DONORS 2021

- New Donors 239
- Returning Donors 402
- Total Number of Donors 641



TOTAL DONATIONS 2021

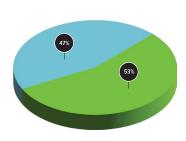
- New Donations \$130.002 5%
- Returning Donations \$2,361,497 95%
- Total Donated \$2,491,499



TOTAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO PARK DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

TOTAL SUPPORT 2021

- Operational Programs \$1,064,515.84 47%
- Capital Improvement Programs \$1,180,145.88 53%
- Total Overall Support \$2,244,661.72



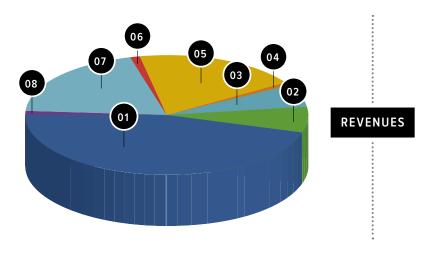
ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT **FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT**

For year ending December 31, 2021 (audited)

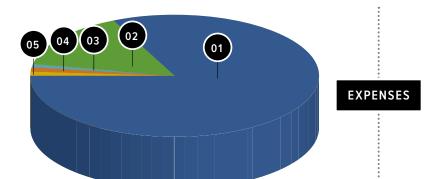
The Rockford Park District Foundation carefully manages the funds entrusted to us by our committed supporters. We are committed to creating impact from the philanthropic investments of our donors.

Total Revenues \$3,465,813

Total Expenses \$2,304,085



- **01** Contributions **\$1,617,791** 46%
- 02 In-Kind Donations from RPD \$257,895 7%
- 03 Grants \$190,428 6%
- **04** Donated Goods **\$32,600** < 1%
- **05** Pledge Revenue **\$650,680** 19%
- **06** Special Events **\$3,055** <1%
- 07 Earnings from Investments \$688,072 20%
- **08** Lease Income \$25,292 < 1%
- NA · Sponsorship Income \$0 0%
- NA Miscellaneous Income \$0 0%



- 01 Project Expense \$1,908,899 82%
- **02** Operating Expense \$351,785 15%
- 03 Project Expense Services \$619 <1%
- 04 · Donated Goods Expense \$32,600 1%
- 05 Miscellaneous Expense \$71 < 1%
- NA Donation Expense (Land/Fixed Asset) \$0 0%
- NA · Special Event Expense \$0 0%
- NA · Bad Debt Expense \$10,111

"Yes, the Rockford Park District does receive public funding to operate and maintain our parks, but tax dollars alone are not enough to cover the capital, programming, and maintenance needs of our parks system. That is where the private sector can help. Financial support by individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, and foundations will ensure that the Rockford Park District is able to maintain and develop quality parks in which we can continue to take pride. If our parks are to flourish for our children and their children, we must all do our part. Your donation can make a difference, and has made a difference."

Lori Berkes-Nelson, Director, Rockford Park District Foundation.

2021 DONORS

The Rockford Park District Foundation relies on the generosity of our donors and supporters. Without their commitment to our programs and projects, Rockford's parks would be in even greater need. We are grateful to the many businesses and individuals who are making an investment in our community through our mission of Helping People Enjoy Life.

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TRIBUTE GIFTS

The Rockford Park District Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following honorarium and memorial gifts received January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. If you would like to make a tribute donation, please visit www.rpdfoundation.org or contact Lisa Alexander-Grigoletti at 815-987-1632, or email at lisagrigoletti@rockfordparkdistrict.org.

In honor of those who inspire and enrich our lives ...

Steve Forss

 Richard and Mary Anne Toppe

David Gomel

• Ann Bown

Molina Family

• Michael Molina

Nayak Family

• Pooja Nayak

Dan and Ruth Nicholas

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