

APPLETON ROTARY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP 2023-2024

Today, I am reporting on last year's activities of the Appleton Rotary Foundation which are supported by your charitable contributions.

First, let me introduce the 2024/2025 Foundation Officers and Grants Review Committee members:

President	Ron Altenburg
Vice President	Becky Boulanger
Treasurer	Rick Stark
Secretary	Barb Merry
Grants Review Liaison	Karen Laws
Investment Liaison	Curt Detjen
Club President	Erin Schultz-Wege
Club President Elect	Garrett Singer

Thank you all for your service to the Appleton Rotary Foundation. Rotarians, as you know, our funds are invested by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc. with a long-term investment focus.

The Foundation's total assets as of our fiscal year end on June 30, 2023 were \$1,392,579.52. The Foundation also maintains a pass-through checking and savings account for the Appleton Rotary Foundation. These accounts insure that your donation is tax deductible and that the beneficiaries have ready access to that cash. At this time, we have \$6,878.00 in checking and \$5.00 in savings.

Last year, the investment performance had an overall return of 14.98%. Over the last 10 years we have averaged 5.91%. We have 6 foundation funds totaling \$1,392,579.52. Included in this group are the Scholarship, Heeter, Groth, Art Scholarship, Community Service and Helen Thom Roemer Funds. These funds are subject to an annual distribution policy of 4.5% of the rolling 12 quarter average value. This approach helps to minimize annual fluctuations due to market performance.

Total distributions in the 2023/2024 fiscal year were \$56,095.78. Since 2004, our Foundation Fund distributions have totaled \$1,072,371.56.

The Scholarship Fund has a fund balance of \$385,932.61. We currently award up to three scholarships of \$4,000 paid over a four-year period to seniors from the five Appleton high schools.

The Charles Heeter Fund has assets of \$109,785.77. Last year \$4,855.78 was transferred to Rotary International for Paul Harris Fellowships on behalf of the individuals who received the Charles and Adele Heeter Outstanding Community Leadership Awards.

The Paul and Elaine Groth World Community Service Fund provides financial support for international projects endorsed by the World Service Committee who approved grants this year totaling \$1,275.68. These grants supported the Literacy for All program in Karnataka, India and a Protect the Environment project planting trees in a refugee camp in Uganda. This fund's year-end balance was \$102,004.34.

The Community Service Fund was established to direct charitable donations to address local community needs. The Community Service Committee approved grants of \$4,000.00 in the last year to organizations such as Community Clothes Closet, St. Josephs Food Program, Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance and Sleep in Heavenly Peace and has a balance of \$98,526.77.

The Helen Thom Roemer Fund provides support to projects that serve the needs of children with limited physical abilities and cognitive deficits in the Appleton area. Last year, the Children with Disabilities Committee approved requests totaling \$26,390.00. They provided grants to Appleton Public Library, Building for Kids Children's Museum, Covy, Inc., Cerebral Palsy, Exceptional Equestrians, Salvation Army of the Fox Cities Childcare Center, SOAR Fox Cities, Miracle League of the Fox valley, WisconSibs, YMCA Fox Cities Camp Hope and Valley Packaging. This is our largest single fund with a balance of \$613,642.01.

The Arts Fund balance is \$82,688.02. The fund provides grants for community and art related projects, performances and events where the club can increase access to the arts in the Fox Cities. The Art Scholarship Committee awarded grants in the amount of \$3,600.00 to NewVoices, Valley Packaging and Bergstrom Mahler Museum.

Last year, as a club, we contributed \$5,851.00 and over the last 20 years we have contributed \$370,606.54.

Rotary Club members contribute to our Foundation through annual gifts, memorials or bequests. We are fortunate in that not many clubs have their own foundation. I think we do a good job of reminding Rotarians to donate to Rotary International each year but I would like to ask that you keep both Rotary International and the Appleton Rotary Foundation in your thoughts as you do your annual gift giving and estate planning.

A final thank you to the committees who steward our funds and who continue the important work of Rotary in our community and around the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Altenburg
President
Appleton Rotary Foundation