INTERVIEWED with a natural reader: "Agnes & Josef Goerges were the founders of Pequot Manufacturing, a company that Jim Kirzeder joined in the late 1970s. The company started with five employees and a dream to create a successful manufacturing business. Under the leadership of the Goerges family, the company has grown, and it is now run by the third generation of family members.

The Pequot Manufacturing legacy is being honored posthumously with the Legacy Hero Award from BLACF (Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation) for the family's dedication to giving back to the community. The company has a strong culture of philanthropy, with a core value of giving back to the community through support of schools, service, and charitable organizations. Their giving roots are strong and continually growing.

Jim Kirzeder was selected to receive the Global Humanitarian Award in recognition of his kindness, generosity, and passion for helping others around the world, especially for his work in Haiti over the past 25 years. Kirzeder has been involved in many aspects of helping Haiti up through being a founding member of Haiti Outreach, a nonprofit whose focus is on community initiated development projects in rural Haitian communities. Their work focuses primarily in increasing sustainable access to clean water; as well as through construction work in healthcare and public schools, and restoration of communities after catastrophic events; and most recently by initiating a loan program helping Haitians become self-sufficient.

Kirzeder has made 78 trips to Haiti since the mid-80's, most of which were paid out of his own pocket. Bob Skomars, friend and colleague of Kirzeder, would allow those staying there to connect easier and feel better about their temporary accommodations. One nonprofit staff member shared a story of how Ms. Covey once purchased ten new laptops with printers and even covered the computer software costs for five years. ‘Ms. Covey always wanted to help make a difference in people’s lives."

Marcy Goerges & Tim Moore of the Lakes Area Food Shelf
First Manufacturing Building
Joe & Josef Goerges
Mallory Goerges & Tim Moore
Jim Kirzeder Receives BLACF 2023 Global Humanitarian Award

JIM KIRZEDER RECEIVES BLACF 2023 GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Jim Kirzeder was selected to receive the Global Humanitarian Award in recognition of his kindness, generosity, and passion for helping others around the world, especially for his work in Haiti over the past 25 years. Kirzeder has been involved in many aspects of helping Haiti up through being a founding member of Haiti Outreach, a nonprofit whose focus is on community initiated development projects in rural Haitian communities. Their work focuses primarily in increasing sustainable access to clean water; as well as through construction work in healthcare and public schools, and restoration of communities after catastrophic events; and most recently by initiating a loan program helping Haitians become self-sufficient. Kirzeder has made 78 trips to Haiti since the mid-80’s, most of which were paid out of his own pocket. Bob Skomars, friend and colleague of Kirzeder, would allow those staying there to connect easier and feel better about their temporary accommodations. One nonprofit staff member shared a story of how Ms. Covey once purchased ten new laptops with printers and even covered the computer software costs for five years. ‘Ms. Covey always wanted to help make a difference in people’s lives.

MARILYN COVEY* SELECTED AS BLACF 2023 LEGACY HERO

The legacy of one local woman, Marilyn Covey, is being honored posthumously with a Legacy Hero Award from BLACF for her compassion and generosity, and even after, her lifetime. Ms. Covey may have been a small woman in stature but her heart and aspirations were Paul Bunyan size. She had a deep need and calling to help others, especially women and children who might need a hand-up to try and transform their lives. She enjoyed sports, the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing and thought one of the best ways to help transform someone’s life was through education and providing support.

One local shelter received the benefits of her generosity by receiving new furniture, including a kitchen table and chair set that would allow those staying there to connect easier and feel better about their temporary accommodations. One nonprofit staff shared a story of how Ms. Covey once purchased ten new laptops with printers and even covered the computer software costs for five years. ‘Ms. Covey wanted to ensure that we had what we needed and was diligent in ensuring that every detail was covered.’

Marilyn Covey not only supported many nonprofit organizations and assisted numerous individuals, but she is credited in helping to build the Essentia Health, Marilyn Covey Heart & Vascular Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. This center has saved many lives, provides local, and more immediate care.

JOE & JOSIF GOERGES

PEQUOT MANUFACTURING IS THE RECIPIENT OF BLACF 2022 AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY

Pequot Manufacturing, a modest company of only five people at its start in 1981, began as many successful companies do—with a dream, hard work, determination, and perhaps the most important cornerstone to founders Josef and Agnes Goerges, philanthropy. Over four decades of expansion, advancement, and tireless dedication, giving has remained a core value of Pequot Manufacturing. A value in which they encourage giving back to the community through support of schools, service, and charitable organizations. A value in which they ‘measure our success.’

Thanksgiving tradition started from year one where they would buy a turkey for everyone that worked for the company. We still do that to this day. Every year, we ask how many turkeys the company grew, and that was just one of ways we’d measure our success.

What began humbly, over four decades ago, continues in future generations, employees, and in the core values of Pequot Manufacturing. Workplaces expand, the workforce grows, multi-use machines continue to advance, and with it, a company’s success. No matter how successful or advanced, it’s a continued legacy of giving back to the community will always be the heart, mind, and motivation of Pequot Manufacturing.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) celebrates individuals and organizations who give generously of their time and resources to help others and their communities through selecting an annual recipient for the Award in Philanthropy. BLACF is thrilled to recognize Pequot Manufacturing as this year’s recipient.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and attendees for making this event possible. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!"
Celebrating 25 Years of Local Impact and Giving

The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) was founded in 1998 when John Sullivan, Rod Converse, Kevin Close, and Bernie Roberts got together at the Country Kitchen to discuss charitable giving and how a local community foundation might be a great addition to the Brainerd Lakes Area. They wanted the Foundation to help people make a difference through giving by those working to understand and who help prioritize community needs. They wanted a tool that would make giving easy, flexible, and allow for tax deductions and opportunities to support an individual’s favorite causes.

Our Founders had the foresight to know that our community needs would change, and that the Foundation could help in being a community leader and liaison and learn about needs through listening at community meetings around important topics. They didn’t know that in the past 25 years that the Brainerd Lakes Area would grow to the size that it has, face housing shortages, daycare shortages, endure a pandemic, have schools closed and families fear for safety, or that terrible windstorms and tornadoes might create havoc in local neighborhoods. But through their insight, in starting the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, they laid the framework for a vehicle to be able to support community needs that no one would have ever imagined 25 years ago.

Over $8.5 Million in Grants Distributed

Since 1998, the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation and partner fund holders have granted out over $8.5 million to nonprofits including $120,000 in the past two years for Difference Maker grants. Over the last decade BLACF has granted funds that have helped with large initiatives, some of which include: My Neighbor to Love Coalition to build the Creekside Community housing project - a fourplex in NW Brainerd; the Brainerd Family YMCA where they are renovating a new licensed early learning center which will serve 75+ daycare children, work at Camp Vanasek, and the expansion of the afterschool program to now allow up to 40 youth to participate in programming each weekday; to Bridges of Hope to make a significant impact in developing BOH’s Common Good store located in Bader, which in turn has helped the community as the profits from the store generated more than $1.6 million that has been directly invested back into BOH’s services helping those in need; and the long-awaited Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park where new green space with trails and pathways are coming to life, along with a community amphitheater, an outdoor classroom, and other amenities built on the shores of the Mississippi River. These community projects are truly difference makers for our community.

Helping the community since 1998

We welcome you to partner with us in providing additional funding to make an even larger impact and ask that you consider a gift to your Community Foundation to continue our good work and help make more of these projects a reality! Donations may be made by scanning the QR code to the right or via mail.
Helping generous people change lives and communities.

GET HELPING GENEROUS PEOPLE CHANGE LIVES AND COMMUNITIES.

come.

through gifts helping local nonprofits in those fields. Her legacy will live on for years to come.

Create Your Own Legacy!

- Making strategic investments in causes you care about
- Maximize the tax advantages of your giving
- Leave a local charitable legacy

This is Millie. Millie talked to her attorney and made a plan to establish an endowed fund with the BLACF to support nature and the outdoors through gifts helping local nonprofits in those fields. Her legacy will live on for years to come. How can we help you be like Millie?

Ways to Maximize Charitable Deductions

While tax laws have recently changed, smart taxpayers can still benefit from giving options through the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation.

Legacy Society

Dedication to the community can be demonstrated in several ways. There are those who are able to see the effects of the funds during their lifetime and others who make provision to provide for the community in the future. The Foundation’s Legacy Society recognizes those individuals who have made a provision for a future gift to the Foundation through their will, trust, retirement or life insurance plan— as well as donors who have chosen to receive lifetime income while providing for the future. Most assets can be charitably gifted to a Fund including cash, stock, real estate and life insurance.

Getting to the Basics • Donor Advised Funds

- Establishing a fund is easy and allows you to give to any eligible 501(c)3 nonprofit
- There are no start-up fees and a Fund may be set up as little as a day
- A Charitable Fund of $20,000 can immediately begin to make distributions to charity
- You may receive a tax deduction for any donations or contributions to your Fund
- Most assets can be charitably gifted to your Fund including cash, stock, real estate and life insurance.

GIVING STRATEGIES

Annuities

- The recent increase in charitable gift annuity rates makes these life income gifts even more beneficial for those over retirement age. By making a gift of cash or other assets, you can create a guaranteed income stream for yourself or a loved one, potentially receive a charitable tax deduction and support the causes you care most about.

IRA Rollover

- If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can gift up to $100,000 per year directly from your IRA to the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation to support or create areas of interest funds, scholarship funds or funds to support your favorite charities. By using your pre-tax IRA assets, your charitable gifts cost you less. In addition, IRA rollover gifts can be used to meet your required minimum distribution and may not be subject to income taxes.

Charitable Gift

- Appreciated Assets

- Bundling Donations

- Unrestricted Gifts

BLACF was given a gift of an unrestricted fund shortly after the Foundation started. The fund was called, In Christ’s Love or “ICL” and has allowed the Foundation Board of Directors to use the funds, as needed, to help the Foundation grow and provide even more impact and, or, to use to address urgent community needs through additional annual grantmaking. This gift has allowed BLACF to hire full-time staff and further grow the Foundation and to provide additional grants during times like the pandemic when nonprofits needed extra support.

You could provide an unrestricted gift to allow the Foundation to continue to meet the needs of our ever changing communities and to continue to be there when needed and to meet whatever need arises now, and well into the future, to ensure vibrant communities to live and work.

Give and Create Your Own Tax Deductible Donor Advised Fund

- GIVE

- IN OUR

INVESTMENT TOOLS

- WITH YOUR

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

GROW

YOUR CHARITABLE DOLLARS BY INVESTING

GRANT

TO YOUR FAVORITE 501(c)3 PUBLIC CHARITIES AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

Human Services

Religious Institutions

Universities

Favorite Causes

GIVE

AND CREATE YOUR OWN TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONOR ADVISED FUND

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Giving Stories

Unrestricted Gifts

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**2023 BLACFAward in Philanthropy Dinner**

Thank you to our early bird sponsors:

- Ann & Tim Bergin
- BLAEDC
- Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Brainerd Family YMCA
- Breen & Person, Ltd.
- Bridges of Hope
- Central Lakes College Foundation
- CliftonLarsonAllen
- Covey Family/Friends
- Crow Wing Power Community Trust
- Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
- Essentia Health
- Essentia Health St. Joseph’s Foundation
- Gull Lake Resort
- HUG Hydronics
- Janelle & Ken Riley
- Jim Kirzeder
- Joey Halvorson
- Johnson Enterprises
- Kevin and Terri Close & Family
- Lakes Area Music Festival
- Lakes Printing
- Mary & Jim Jettland
- Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union
- Mills Automotive Group
- Nor-Son Custom Builders/Nor-Son Construction
- Pequot Manufacturing
- Riverwood Bank
- Rob & Jennifer Birkeland
- Stifel-DG Wealth Management Group
- Winegar Dental
- Yvette & Scott Campbell

GET YOUR SPOT TODAY AT COMMUNITYGIVING.ORG/EVENTS

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**BERNICK’S BEVERAGES & VENDING FUND GRANTS**

APPLICATION OPEN

JULY 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2023

**BRAINERD LAKES AREA GRANTS**

APPLICATION OPENS DECEMBER 31, 2023 - JANUARY 31, 2024

WATCH FOR OTHER PRIORITY AREA GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ONLINE AT COMMUNITYGIVING.ORG/GRANTS

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Each year, BLACF celebrates the generosity of our community and recognizes individuals (or organizations) who have fostered passion and vision for philanthropy in the Lakes Area through these awards:

- **AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY**
- **GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD**
- **LEGACY HERO AWARD**

Learn more (or nominate) at: brainerdlakesareacommunityfoundation.org

**GET YOUR SPOT TODAY AT** COMMUNITYGIVING.ORG/EVENTS

**SPONSORSHIPS AND TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

INDIVIDUAL $100 • TABLE SPONSOR $800 • LARGE TABLE SPONSOR $950 • NON-PROFIT HALF TABLE $400

**JULY 12TH - 5:30PM**

AT GRAND VIEW LODGE

SCAN THE CODE TO DONATE TODAY TO BE PART OF THE BIG GIVE

**CONTACT US**

Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) 321 South 7th St. - Downstairs of Bremer Bank in the Nonprofit Center

Mailing Address - 406 W. Washington St, Suite 5, PMB 184, Brainerd, MN 56401

218-824-5633 | blacf@communitygiving.org | www.communitygiving.org/blacf | www.brainerdlakesareacommunityfoundation.org

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**WE ARE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT IN STYLE

Register today to be part of an incredible evening of giving where (with your help) we hope to give away $25,000 to support some important projects that our local nonprofits are working on and need our help. Donate now to be part of this momentous occasion and a BIG night of giving.

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