Opening doors and LIGHTING PATHWAYS

This event is sponsored by County Materials Corporation in support of the Sonnentag American Foundation.
Dear Friends,

Your participation in County Materials’ Charity Golf Outing is changing people’s lives for the better within our local communities. This booklet reveals the power of your gift through heartfelt stories about perseverance, personal growth, and community support.

Together, we are Opening Doors and Lighting Pathways!

With help from our dedicated industry partners, the Sonnentag American Foundation is reaching more people than ever before. The contributions from County Materials’ Charity Golf Outing support dozens of worthy organizations and causes in four key service areas: Hunger & Homelessness Support, Service Member & Veteran Support, Sexual Abuse & Domestic Assault Services, and Mentoring & Skills Building.

Your gift is lighting pathways to a better future, where people have access to life-changing services and the opportunity to succeed.

We are moved by your generosity and want you to know how meaningful your participation is to our Foundation and the thousands of people your contributions will reach. You are helping change people’s lives for the better.

Thank you.

Sonnentag American Foundation
Thank You

2022 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Our corporate partners make the County Materials’ Charity Golf Outing possible. Your generosity is being felt by many.

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GOLF HAT SPONSOR ($4,500)
- The Hill and Griffith Company

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Opening doors and LIGHTING PATHWAYS
The Sonnentag American Foundation helps provide food relief, advocacy, and safe and accessible housing. The organizations we partner with challenge structures and policies perpetuating the poverty cycle. Together, we’re building stronger communities to meet basic needs and ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Our Foundation supports programs that change the narrative for our communities’ underserved children, teenagers, and adults. We partner with organizations to provide services and resources for career readiness, financial literacy, academic success, life skills, and mentorship. Additionally, we target support to offer accessible and adaptive sports and recreation opportunities for people with different abilities. We can make a positive and lasting difference by empowering individuals to try new activities without limitations.

The Sonnentag American Foundation is patriotic and a proud supporter of service members and veterans. We expand community resources to improve the lives of service members, veterans, wounded heroes, and the families that love and support them. Our Foundation also assists in building memorials that recognize our heroes and acknowledge their sacrifice.

In response to staggering statistics for cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse, the Sonnentag American Foundation has committed resources to local organizations that empower survivors. The organizations share a transformative approach to education, prevention, and advocacy that is changing society’s response to sexual abuse and domestic assault. Our goal is to end this violence forever.

### Services and Organizations Supported by the County Materials’ Charity Golf Outing

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More information about the Sonnentag American Foundation is available on pages (50-51).
Dare to Care Food Bank
Louisville, KY • daretocare.org

Feeding the Hungry to Conquer the Cycle of Need
Dare to Care Food Bank is on a mission to feed the hungry and conquer the need cycle. The Louisville-based organization was created nearly 50 years ago in response to the passing of a nine-year-old boy who died of malnutrition in his home. Since then, the community has fought to eradicate hunger by ensuring everyone has enough food to live an active, healthy life. Dare to Care partners with more than 300 community agencies along the Kentucky-Indiana border to distribute food and provide more than 21 million meals annually.

Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen
Greenfield, IN • kbmsk.org

Continuing the Work of a Local Hero
Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen honors the work of Fire Chief Kenneth Butler, a local hero who sought to eradicate hunger and homelessness in Greenfield, Indiana. The organization provides free healthy meals to all who walk through its doors, regardless of background or ability. Each year, Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen serves more than 24,000 meals.

Your Giving in Action!
Amanda’s Story
Amanda spends most of her day caring for her father with disabilities and her son, who has autism and is nonverbal. She tries balancing her provider and caretaker roles but says it can be challenging. Amanda confided in her friend, who suggested she contact Dare to Care to ensure her family has enough food. Amanda received food through Dare to Care’s community partner, First Baptist Hope Center. She said, “If you need help, go get the help you need. Dare to Care is here to help.”

Jordan’s Story
“I came in needing help with grocery items because I had an unexpected surgery. I was blown away at how nice and sweet the staff members were. I have never had to do anything like this before, so I was uncomfortable, but they made me feel so welcomed. Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen truly blessed my family, and I can’t thank them enough.”
HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

Lake Cares Food Pantry

Mount Dora, Eustis, Tavares, and Paisley, FL • lakecares.org

Providing Stability Through Food Assistance

Lake Cares Food Pantry provides food to residents who need assistance through seven satellite distribution sites throughout Lake County, Florida. With the help of committed volunteers, Lakes Cares Food Pantry distributes more than 1.3 million pounds of food to 55,000 individuals each year. Lake Cares’ staff and volunteers empower people by treating them with dignity and compassion and offering stability.

Janet’s Story

After her great-grandchildren tragically lost their parents within days of each other, Janet became their guardian. At 75 years old, Janet had to find a way to provide for her family of seven. Janet learned about Lakes Cares Food Pantry through a conversation with her neighbor. She contacted the organization and was able to feed her family confidently. Janet said, “The first question they asked me was what help I needed. And from these volunteers, with angels in their hearts, my worry about food was eased. They gave us such healthy food.”

Your Giving in Action!

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

Lockport Love

Lockport, IL • lockportlove.com

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Lockport Love is a nonprofit partnership between the Lockport Police Department and community members interested in helping local families in need. The organization helps community members facing unexpected hardships by providing emergency funds for utilities, medical expenses, and essential home repairs. With additional community support, Lockport Love provides toiletries, baby formula, warm clothing, and blankets.

Your Giving in Action!

Holiday Gift Parade

Families in need are often impacted the most during the holiday season. Because of this, Lockport Love sponsors 20 families each year. Sponsored families receive gifts from Santa during the holiday parade. Community members and police and fire vehicles accompany Santa to make the day memorable for families.
Salvation Army Grace Place
New Richmond, WI • sagraceplace.org

Finding Healing and Independence
Grace Place Emergency Shelter assists more than 350 people each year, guiding them through some of the most challenging seasons of their lives. The shelter is open 24/7 and continually accepts new residents. During the intake process, new residents meet with a case manager who ensures their needs are met and helps them set goals, such as securing stable employment or finding long-term housing. Grace Place approaches the path to healing and independence case-by-case to provide individualized support.

Your Giving in Action!
Gail’s Story
Gail had been homeless for four years before coming to Grace Place. When she got to the shelter, she met with a case manager who helped her secure permanent housing. The pair worked together to develop a trusting relationship and progress toward Gail’s goals of building a stable future. Gail recalls her supportive case manager, “If I felt overwhelmed, she was there to listen.”

The Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter Counties
Leesburg, FL • salvationarmyflorida.org/leesburg

Lifting People Out of Poverty and Providing Disaster Relief
The Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter Counties provides emergency relief and case management to help lift people out of poverty. The organization assesses community needs and designs programs that benefit the most people, including emergency financial support, food services, disaster relief, holiday assistance, and youth character building. The Salvation Army annually serves more than 10,000 meals and provides 9,000 nights of emergency shelter.

Your Giving in Action!
Pathways of Hope
Pathways of Hope was developed to break the cycle of generational poverty. The program empowers families with a case management approach that helps them establish a support network and seek employment, childcare, housing, and legal services. The Salvation Army creates better living conditions for children by positively changing their parents’ lives. Influencing children in their developmental years is crucial, as studies show that children who spend more than half of their life in poverty are 32 times more likely to live in poverty as adults.
Shelter House
Iowa City, IA • shelterhouseiowa.org

Moving Beyond Homelessness
More than 900 individuals turn to Shelter House each year for emergency shelter. In addition to a roof, bed, and daily food service, clients receive the tools and support necessary to move beyond homelessness. Programs and services assist with housing, employment, and mental health recovery. Shelter House strives to be a catalyst in eradicating homelessness, as its staff members believe housing is a need and a right.

Your Giving in Action!

Jovannah’s Story
“I got to the point where I didn’t have any place else to go,” Jovannah recalls moving between the houses of friends and family members with her young children. “I transitioned them to this house, that house, and I can’t do that. It’s hard for them, not just me.” Jovannah was nervous about coming to Shelter House but quickly realized the difference it made for her family. Within two weeks, she had a case management team who helped place her in a re-house program and secure permanent housing. “My case manager got me in the place I’m in now. It went fast. The following week I was in there.” Jovannah continued, “If you’re motivated to do it, you’ll be out of [Shelter House] in no time. It’s not just a bed; they help you with food and resources.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters
(*Multiple Chapters) • bbbs.org

Igniting the Power and Promise of Youth
Big Brothers Big Sisters creates and supports one-on-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Children “Littles” are matched with caring adult volunteers “Bigs” to instill confidence, earn better grades, and develop lifelong friendships. Matches meet at least twice a month to see movies, do homework, play games, and hang out. Match Support Specialists provide age-specific resources to enhance the program’s value and the matches’ experiences.

Pablo and John’s Story (BBBS of Northeast Wisconsin)
Pablo was 11 years old when he met his Big, John. Pablo’s parents separated three years prior, and his mother wanted him to have a positive male role model. Pablo and John set goals to improve Pablo’s English and help him get into college. They read English as a Second Language (ESL) books, attended Pablo’s first Packers game, and shared a lot of time biking.

Pablo and John continually discussed the importance of school. Pablo wanted to pursue post-secondary education but was hesitant to take out student loans. John helped him research his options. After graduating from Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, Pablo embarked on his career with the Navy. Pablo said, “I thank God for bringing you into my path. I wouldn’t be the man I am today if I hadn’t met you six years ago.”

*Chapters Served
- Central Illinois, Urbana, IL
- Central Indiana, Indianapolis, IN
- Central Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI
- Dane County, Madison, WI
- East Central Wisconsin, Neenah, WI
- Johnson County, Iowa City, IA
- Mid-Illinois, Charleston, IL
- Northcentral Wisconsin, Wausau, WI
- Northeast Wisconsin, Green Bay, WI
- Northwestern Wisconsin, Eau Claire, WI
- South Central Wisconsin, Delavan, WI
- Seven Rivers Region, La Crosse, WI
Your Giving in Action!

Kelly’s Story

“My kids have attended the Boys & Girls Club since they were old enough to start going. The staff has always been super with the kids, very caring and supportive, even during rough family times. The activities provided throughout the school and on breaks are well-planned, organized, and executed. The kids have the opportunity to participate in many things that they wouldn’t have the chance to outside of the Club.”

*Chapters Served
- Boys & Girls Club of Joliet, Joliet, Illinois
- Boys & Girls Club of Boone County, Whitestown, IN
- Boys & Girls Club of Hancock County, Greenfield, IN

Can Play
Coralville, IA • can-play.org

Sports & Recreation for Every Body

Participating in sports can be a transformative experience for kids and adults. But for individuals with physical, cognitive, emotional, or financial needs, playing sports isn’t always accessible. Can Play is a nonprofit organization formed by the union of two organizations dedicated to removing barriers to sports participation: Courage League Sports and Opportunity on Deck. Can Play offers adaptive sports and recreation programming for children and adults of all ages and abilities at no cost. The organization has two programs, one offering year-round programming and a safe and accessible environment for children and adults to participate in sports, and another offering free sports programs that include mentoring, meals, and personal development.

Empowering Girls Through Sports

Last year, Can Play introduced a new program specifically for girls. The Can Play team developed and introduced the HERS program for female Opportunity and Courage participants. The weekly program provides positive role models that address meaningful topics that affect girls’ physical and emotional health. In both programs, 3rd through 5th-grade girls learn new sports and important lessons involving health, empowerment, leadership, and respect, which will help them stay healthy throughout their lives.
Compass for Kids
Springfield, IL • compass4kids.org

Cultivating Skills So Children Thrive

Compass for Kids empowers underserved elementary students with innovative programs designed to improve academics and cultivate the life skills children need to thrive. The organization’s vision is to help all children in the community experience success and reach their full potential. Compass for Kids operates three distinct programs for children in Springfield Public Schools. Club Compass is a free community-based, after-school program that includes hands-on projects, a meal, reading support, and taking home a non-perishable food item for the weekend. Camp Compass prevents summer learning loss and improves reading and math skills. Its purpose is to reduce the achievement and opportunity gaps between low-income students and their higher-income peers. Camp Care-A-Lot is a five-day, four-night residential camp additionally offered for children to help them achieve their future goals and live healthier and safer lives. Campers leave believing they can be successful no matter their upbringing.
Sonnentag American Foundation

Your Giving in Action!

Easterseals Wisconsin
Madison, WI • eastersealswisconsin.org
Creating Life-Changing Experiences to Maximize Opportunities

Easterseals Wisconsin provides children, adults with disabilities, and veterans and their families a camping experience that allows them to live without limits. Nearly 2,000 campers attend camp each year to participate in social and recreational activities in a welcoming and accessible environment. Easterseals Wisconsin offers camp experiences that cater to specific needs, Camp Wawbeek, Respite Camp, and Veterans Camp. Camp Wawbeek welcomes children and adults. Wawbeek campers gain a sense of independence by trying new activities without limitations, such as high ropes courses and zip lining. Campers with severe disabilities receive individualized care at Respite Camp. Respite campers enjoy an experience that mirrors that of their peers, while their attentive 24-hour caregivers relax knowing their loved ones are having fun in a safe, nurturing environment. Veterans Camp allows military veterans and their families to reconnect in a week-long camp that provides structured activities and free time.

Don’s Story
Don networks with veterans every year at Veterans Camp, but his favorite part is the quality time he spends with his family. From walking in nature to taking a trip on the Original Wisconsin Ducks Boat Tours, he cherishes every minute. He enjoys challenging his son on the high ropes course, refurbished last year with a donation from the Sonnentag American Foundation. His daughter, who has disabilities, can enjoy an adaptive camp experience. Don and his wife can participate in the adult’s dinner and the Quilts of Valor Ceremony while trained AmeriCorps staff take care of his daughter.

Easterseals Wisconsin

Eduardo and Teddy’s Story
Before Eduardo was paired with Teddy as a mentor, he didn’t care about school and often slept during class. Eduardo was surprised someone outside of his family had any interest in his future. As Eduardo and Teddy’s conversations continued, Eduardo discovered how valuable his education is for creating a successful future. He began to focus on homework and set goals for continuing his education. Eduardo’s mentor, Teddy, became involved in Take Stock in Children because he was the first person in his family to attend college and wanted to share his experience with other first-generation students.

Easterseals Wisconsin

Education Foundation of Lake County
Leesburg, FL • edfoundationlake.com
Powering Public Education to Inspire Students and Families

The Education Foundation of Lake County connects the community with public education to enhance instruction quality and ensure the success of high school students in Florida’s Lake and Sumter Counties. The organization supports student scholarships, mentors, teacher classroom grants, school supply distributions, Take Stock in Children, and teacher recognition initiatives. Take Stock in Children is designed to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, academically qualified students and provide opportunities for post-secondary education. Students begin the program as sophomores and are paired with adult mentors. Upon high school graduation, students can receive scholarships for any public college, university, or trade school in Florida. The Education Foundation of Lake County raises $375,000 and impacts the lives of more than 15,500 students each year.

Easterseals Wisconsin
Greenfield Central School Foundation

Greenfield Central School Foundation connects the community to the classroom to support student learning, provide extraordinary classroom experiences, and prepare students for success. These goals are achieved through educational enrichment grants, scholarships, and mentoring. Project Arrow matches high school student mentors with seventh and eighth-grade students for goal setting and skill-building activities. The Foundation builds a stronger community by helping students succeed in school, business, and life by preparing them to be leaders and critical contributors to the workforce.

Heart Haven OutReach

Heart Haven OutReach, also known as H2O, serves teens experiencing challenges through research-based programs. The organization’s mission is to transform the lives of struggling teens through caring relationships and programs that support healthy emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual development. Heart Haven OutReach offers one-on-one mentoring, tutoring, support groups, life skills training, leadership training, and community service opportunities. Middle and high school students can participate in field trips, in-school groups, and summer activities.
Little Lakes Memories
Irma, WI • littlilakesmemories.org
Accessible Experiences in Nature

Spending time in nature hunting, observing, and photographing wildlife can instill a feeling of accomplishment in anyone. At Little Lakes Memories, people with disabilities get an opportunity to explore the outdoors without limitations, along with their families. The nonprofit organization coordinates accessible hunting and outdoor adventures for 10 families annually, at no cost to participants. Each weekend retreat provides relief for families. Caretakers can join in the fun or enjoy a reprieve from their usual role, and guests with disabilities can participate in activities they may have thought impossible due to their physical limitations.

Raymond’s Story
Raymond is a little boy who, like many other kids his age, loves accomplishing something and earning bragging rights. For Raymond and his family, the weekend spent at Little Lakes Lodge was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They took a hunting trip and brought home a deer that fed them throughout the winter. Even though Raymond is nonverbal, his joy and appreciation for the gift of time in nature were evident to everyone in his family.

Your Giving in Action!

Mentor Richland County
Olney, IL • mentorrichlandcounty.org
Building Brighter Futures in Rural Communities

Mentor Richland County strives to create brighter futures for youth who live in rural areas through one-on-one mentoring. Students get the help they need to earn higher grades, build confidence, and develop a more positive attitude toward school. Each school year, more than 70 elementary students are referred to the program and are matched with a mentor based on personality and interests. The children in the program often face adversity at home and benefit from a positive role model, especially when a parent is not present. The match meets weekly to work on homework and connect during open gym and free play. Depending upon the need of each student, a mentor may act as a role model, listen, build a relationship, and tutor for specific subjects.

Ensuring the Success of Mentor Matches
Case management is a new approach Mentor Richland County uses to check in with matches, evaluate the mentee’s progress, and ensure they receive the care, support, and encouragement they need. Support from the Sonnentag American Foundation helped add a part-time case manager position. The case manager also accepts referrals, conducts background checks, and communicates with the mentee’s parents and teachers.

Your Giving in Action!
OccuPaws Guide Dog Association

Leading an Empowered Life

OccuPaws Guide Dog Association provides life-changing services for Wisconsin residents with visual impairments. The organization pairs fully trained guide dogs of excellent health with individuals at no charge. The client and their dog train together in the comfort of the client’s home and familiar surroundings. This inclusive approach ensures all individuals, regardless of personal circumstances or secondary health conditions, can enjoy the companionship and assistance of a guide dog. Pairs have similar lifestyles, personality types, and activity levels. After personalized in-home training, clients feel confident in their ability to work with their guide dog to lead an empowered life.

Your Giving in Action!

Guide Dog Simba with Leo
Simba is one of the larger pups of the litter and the first to the dinner table. After Simba finished his harness training, he went to work for Leo. Leo’s first OccuPaws guide dog, Angus, can now enjoy a well-earned retirement.

Guide Dog Sammi with Leon
Sammi is the most active and challenging of the litter but is proving that even a wild puppy can do it too. She finished her harness training earlier this spring and is now working with Leon.

Operation Fresh Start

Madison, WI • operationfreshstart.org

Overcoming Barriers While Learning Career Skills

Operation Fresh Start students give back to the community by building affordable homes for deserving families and completing conservation work in local parks. While doing that, they earn their high school diploma, driver’s license, construction and conservancy certifications, and gain college and career readiness skills. The organization serves young adults, ages 16 to 24, focusing on populations facing the most significant barriers. Last year, 76 percent of Operation Fresh Start participants were young adults of color, and 80 percent were from low-income households. After graduation, Project Fresh Start staff support graduates as they transition into secondary education or self-sustaining employment.

Caden’s Story
During his first year in the Operation Fresh Start Legacy Program, Caden was unsure he could commit to getting up every day and going to work. His construction supervisor made it easier by answering his questions and providing positive feedback. Caden earned his high school diploma through the Legacy program and gained additional hands-on training in the Build Academy, where he spent 90 days training side-by-side with a journeyman carpenter. He earned certifications in safety, high lift operation, and CPR/First Aid. He also passed his apprenticeship test for the Carpenters Union.
Camp Hope
Farmington, MO • camphopeusa.org

Empowering Veterans Through Outdoor Experiences
The mission of Camp Hope, a retreat for military veterans injured in the War on Terror, is to honor the fallen by helping the wounded. William “Mike” White and his wife Galia created Camp Hope as a tribute to their son Christopher, who was killed while serving in Iraq. Inspired by Chris’ passion for the outdoors, the White Family seeks to offer veterans of all abilities the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, and hiking — at no cost. Located in the rolling hills of rural Missouri, Camp Hope provides a respite from daily life and the chance to connect face-to-face with other guests.

Donnie’s Story
Donnie Jokinen suffered combat injuries while serving with the National Guard in Iraq. He first visited Camp Hope in 2012, where he found healing and developed skills to cope with his wounds and continue to enjoy outdoor adventures with dignity. In 2020, he and his father paddled the length of the Mississippi River from north to south to honor other veterans and show them they can survive their wounds.

STEM Scouts, Samoset Council
Weston, WI • samoset.org

STEM Scouts Build Confidence While Exploring Interests
The Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America, was chosen in 2015 to pilot a STEM Scout program for girls and boys in third through eighth grade. In STEM Scouts, young people learn the values of the Scout Oath and Law while participating in lab activities focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). STEM Lab comprises five to 15 youth who meet weekly with volunteer lab managers to engage in lab modules such as Chemistry Mania, Hydro-Hype, Robotics, and more. STEM Scouts is an extracurricular activity; some labs meet immediately after school, and others meet in the evening. The labs include presentations from professionals in STEM fields and visits to facilities where they work. Since the program began, it has expanded to include a mobile lab, day camps, and other communities throughout the district.

Your Giving in Action!

Exploring Career Opportunities in STEM
STEM Scouts connects students who might not otherwise have an interest in scouting. In addition, research shows that mentoring adds significant value to education in science, technology, engineering, and math. Amanda Flannery of the Samoset Council said, “STEM Scouts helps youth find interests in a variety of fields that may lead to career paths.” According to feedback from schools and scout districts participating in the program, STEM Scout Pilot Programs have increased interest and understanding in the subjects. Morgan from Crandon, Wisconsin, said, “All my friends are in STEM Lab; I love how fun it is and that everyone is nice.”
Custom Canines Service Dog Academy

Emotional Support for Veterans

Custom Canines Service Dog Academy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with diverse disabilities by creating and supporting lasting partnerships with highly skilled service dogs. Canines receive training for military and civilian post-traumatic stress disorder, mobility assistance, and visual aid.

The organization pairs trained service dogs with veterans, free of charge, to aid them in their healing and wellness journey through its Heroes for Heroes program. Service dogs provide these individuals stability and support, which can help them manage and prevent PTSD episodes and anxiety attacks.

And for veterans who already have a dog, Custom Canines offers an Owner Training Academy, a three-month program designed to help veterans with disabilities train their dogs to perform tasks that help them manage their disability.

Easterseals Crossroads

Connecting Veterans with Disabilities to Jobs & Resources

Easterseals Crossroads is on a mission to change how the world defines and sees disabilities. For more than 85 years, the organization has been helping individuals improve their mobility, gain greater independence, and achieve personal goals through various services. One service area addresses the urgent needs of veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life. Easterseals Crossroads offers programs that help veterans achieve self-sufficiency through stable employment. The program focuses on connecting veterans with hiring managers and providing professional services, such as career coaching, resume development, and networking.

Your Giving in Action!

Bob's Story

Bob is a veteran who served in Vietnam and has helped people with visual impairments for more than 40 years as a Guide Dog Trainer. Over his career, he has trained more than 2,000 dogs and people. It wasn’t until he was asked to raise Anke, a German Shepherd, as a possible guide dog for Custom Canines that he was diagnosed with PTSD. He continued to train Anke, thinking she would one day assist another person. But those around Bob saw his need for comfort and support from this wonderful dog, and Custom Canines gave him Anke as his full-time service dog. “Anke is my guardian angel; she has my back, and I am grateful,” Bob says.

Jeff’s Story

“I lost everything. I lost my place to stay, and I lost a lot of items that I cherished. I had problems just keeping money in my pocket. That’s when I told myself that I just didn’t need to live that way anymore,” said Jeff, a veteran. Jeff sought assistance and resources from Easterseals Crossroads’ veteran services department to help with housing, transportation, and employment. “There are plenty of resources to help veterans, but it is difficult to take that first step. Without Easterseals Crossroads, I would probably still be lost and trying to find my way,” said Jeff.
Looking Out for Heroes

For the many veterans who deal with post-traumatic stress, service dogs can play an important role in helping them manage their symptoms. However, the cost of training a service dog can be a barrier for veterans. Ketchum’s Got Your Six is on a mission to ensure Wisconsin veterans can access a service dog’s often life-saving support and stability by providing financial assistance to help purchase and train a service dog.

The family of Marine Brandon Ketchum founded the organization. Brandon served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, and during his last tour, he sustained physical and emotional injuries that impacted his quality of life. He suffered from PTSD for several years and died by suicide on July 9, 2016. Many veterans experience post-traumatic stress - nearly 22 die by suicide each day.

In the military, “Got your six” means “I’ve got your back” and “I’m looking out for you.” Ketchum’s family and friends are determined to change the sobering statistics around veteran suicide by reminding veterans that they’re not alone.

Heroes’ Stories

Through the financial assistance provided by Ketchum’s Got Your Six and the local organizations that support its mission, dozens of veterans have been able to receive guide dog companions provided by Custom Canines Service Dog Academy.

Michael’s Story

Michael, a US Navy Vietnam veteran in Madison, completed the three-month Owner Trainer Academy with Reggie, his Standard Poodle service dog. Reggie serves as a mobility and PTS service dog and helps Michael with daily tasks.

Mark’s Story

Mark is a US Army veteran in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, who recently certified with his service dog Bucky through the Owner Trainer Academy. Bucky serves as a mobility and PTS service dog for Mark.

Your Giving in Action!

Your Giving in Action!

Nicole’s Story

The Navy offered a path out of poverty for L. Nicole Henderson. Still, when her naval career ended in medical retirement after serving 14 years, she feared she and her daughter would repeat the cycle of homelessness she experienced growing up. Through Operation Homefront’s Transitional Housing program, Nicole was able to save money, pay down debt, and build resources for her daughter’s ongoing medical needs. She now plans to pursue a degree in nursing. Nicole credits the Village program with building her confidence for her new chapter. “I’m forever in debt for their support for the reset in getting my new life started,” she says. “They were a godsend.”

Operation Homefront

Chicago, IL • operationhomefront.org

Supporting Military Families

For over twenty years, Operation Homefront has provided programs offering relief, resilience, and recurring family support for military families. Their financial assistance, caregiver support, and transitional and permanent housing services help military families across the United States overcome many challenges inherent in military life so they can thrive in their communities.

Nicole’s Story

The Navy offered a path out of poverty for L. Nicole Henderson. Still, when her naval career ended in medical retirement after serving 14 years, she feared she and her daughter would repeat the cycle of homelessness she experienced growing up. Through Operation Homefront’s Transitional Housing program, Nicole was able to save money, pay down debt, and build resources for her daughter’s ongoing medical needs. She now plans to pursue a degree in nursing. Nicole credits the Village program with building her confidence for her new chapter. “I’m forever in debt for their support for the reset in getting my new life started,” she says. “They were a godsend.”
Patriot K9s of Wisconsin
Wausau, WI • patriotk9s.org
Winning the War Against PTS

Post-traumatic stress is a deadly disease that affects many veterans in the United States. Each day, approximately 22 US veterans with PTS die by suicide. Patriot K9s of Wisconsin is helping veterans in Central Wisconsin win the war against suicide, depression, and anxiety by pairing them with service dogs specially trained in post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual incident. Through these partnerships, the veteran and the service dog receive a second chance at life, as dogs are rescued from local shelters and trained to become highly skilled emotional support companions. Patriot K9s of Wisconsin provides training and education to veterans, service members, and service dog candidates to create the highest quality Service Dog Team at no cost to veterans and active-duty service members.

Scot’s Story
Scot, a US Army veteran in Green Bay, Wisconsin, suffered for many years after a traumatic experience during a tour in Germany in the 1970s. Like almost 500,000 other veterans, Scot’s condition went undiagnosed for decades. After he received a diagnosis, he found Patriot K9s of Wisconsin. Through the organization’s training and education service for service dogs and veterans, he was paired with Buddy, a service dog who developed an instant attachment to Scot. They went through the training program together, learning to care for each other’s needs and advance Scot’s healing from trauma. “Without this organization, I honestly think you would probably see a lot more veterans choosing to take their life,” Scot said.

Helen’s Story
When Helen reached out to RSVP of Rock County in 2013, she wanted to help others but didn’t know how to start since she was homebound and couldn’t leave the house. But her limitations were no obstacle to getting involved with RSVP. She was assigned to make friendly check-in phone calls to seniors and veterans. During the talks, she reminded individuals to take their medicine on time and provided friendly company. Over the eight-plus years she volunteered with RSVP, she touched many lives through her telephone. She would sometimes log over 130 hours in a month. When she passed away in February 2022, she left behind a remarkable legacy and a testament to just how much good an individual can do, even when challenged with personal limitations.
SoldierStrong began its journey of helping members of the armed services in 2009 with a simple sock drive, which led to delivering more than 75,000 pounds of essentials to troops abroad. Since then, the organization has pivoted its mission to serve American veterans worldwide, providing revolutionary technology, innovative advancements, and educational opportunities to help veterans better their lives and the lives of their families. One of their programs, SoldierSuit, makes prosthetic and robotic exoskeleton devices available to veterans to aid in rehabilitation for various combat and non-combat-related disabilities.

Dan’s Story
An explosive blast injured Dan Rose while deployed with the Army Reserves in Afghanistan. He was paralyzed from the chest down and thought he would never walk again. Despite his injury, he has continued to pursue an active lifestyle through adaptive sports, participating in downhill skiing, wheelchair racing, hand cycling, and even riding a longboard skateboard from his chair. And with the help of a robotic exoskeleton device donated by SoldierStrong, he has been able to experience standing and walking again. “I had given up on walking and thought of it as a pipe dream, so to be able to stand on my own two feet and walk across a room was a very emotional experience. The first time I stood up (I realized), I’d forgotten what it was like to be at eye level with everyone. It was like standing on top of a mountain.”

United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties
Leesburg, FL • uwls.org
Mission United Helps Service Members and Veterans
United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties seeks to create long-lasting change by addressing the community’s greatest needs. The organization wants to improve the quality of life for at least 40 percent of Lake and Sumter Counties residents through education, health care, and income stability programs. Veterans, service members, and their families are an area of focus through Mission United. More than 34,000 veterans reside in Lake and Sumter Counties, and Mission United provides direct services and assistance navigating the benefits system to access resources. The program assists with medical transportation, employment, legal help, education, health care, and financial and housing stability.

JC’s Story
JC suffered a back injury during basic training with the Navy in the 1960s. He spent decades dealing with medical problems related to his active-duty injury, including having two hip replacement surgeries. A neighbor encouraged him to seek help through the Veterans Administration. JC did not realize he might be eligible for a disability claim and had received all his medical services through private insurance, including hefty co-payments. After an appointment with a Veterans Service Officer, his claim for hearing loss was approved, and he began receiving disability checks. He also obtains prescription medication at lower costs as part of his benefits. JC continues to pursue a claim for his back injuries, receiving help with providing proof of service, filing a claim, and attending hearings.
Helping Eradicate Domestic and Sexual Violence

Alternatives, Inc. supports more than 2,500 women and children each year as they escape abusive relationships at home. The Central Indiana organization works to eradicate domestic and sexual violence through education, prevention, and intervention. Trained staff work with survivors to draft safety plans, arrange temporary housing, and provide the support and resources to escape cyclical abuse successfully. The organization offers programming for children that focuses on establishing high self-esteem, enhancing school performance, and forming healthy relationships. Alternatives, Inc. extends its services to the community, offering professional training, education sessions, employment training, dating violence prevention, and other workshops catered to survivors and supporters.

Paula’s Story
Paula hesitated to seek help because her husband promised he would never harm her again. Paula was referred to Alternatives after she was hospitalized for her injuries. Her journey to recovery inspired her to return to school and pursue a career that will allow her to help others who have faced abuse. Paula is not ashamed to share her story and encourages everyone to seek help at the first sign or act of abuse.

Your Giving in Action!

The Amy Schulz Child Advocacy Center
Mt. Vernon, IL • amycenter.mvn.net

The Amy Schulz Child Advocacy Center and its partners serve as front-line responders to reports of physical and sexual abuse against children. The organization’s mission is to provide a safe place for survivors to share their stories in their own words with experts who will listen to them, protect them, and help them heal. The Amy Center’s experienced staff provides intervention, prevention, education, and advocacy services in the best interest of children who have experienced abuse. Staff at the center believe educated children are empowered, so they have developed a comprehensive prevention program taught to children in preschool through high school and offer online resources to educators.

Dennis Schulz founded the Amy Schulz Advocacy Center in memory of his daughter Amy after her abduction, sexual assault, and murder in 1987. After Amy’s death, Dennis learned that nearly half a million children are reported sexually assaulted each year. His goal was to help ease child abuse survivors’ pain and prevent other children from experiencing sexual and physical abuse.

The Amy Center serves nearly 300 clients annually, provides educational programs to 48 schools, reaches 8,500 children and 500 adults, and conducts more than 200 forensic interviews.

Your Giving in Action!

Body Boundaries

Body Boundaries teaches children about patterns of abuse, how to avoid unwanted attention and touches, and gives practical instruction to those victimized. This comprehensive sexual abuse prevention program is an age-appropriate curriculum for preschool through eighth-grade children.
Gateway Human Trafficking
Chesterfield, MO • gatewayhumantrafficking.org

Inspiring Systemic Change to End Human Trafficking

Gateway Human Trafficking educates communities to inspire systemic change to end human trafficking. The organization offers anti-human trafficking programs to inform the public about access points for help, methods of force, fraud and coercion, and risk factors for human trafficking. These programs seek to increase victim identification and reporting, combat child trafficking, and help community members identify signs of human trafficking. Gateway Human Trafficking believes education is the key to prevention and partners with law enforcement and social service agencies to reach thousands of people yearly in the greater St. Louis area.

Emma’s Story

Emma’s mother noticed her 15-year-old daughter had been acting differently. She was struggling in school and had stopped sharing things with her mother. Emma met someone online but wouldn’t talk about who he was and what they did. She ran away, sometimes for a day or two; other times, she would be gone for more than a week. Emma’s mother reached out to friends and police to try and find Emma and ask her to return home. One day, police contacted her and said they found Emma during a sting operation targeting sex trafficking. They found her in a hotel room with her “boyfriend,” who was 14 years older than her. The man psychologically manipulated Emma with gifts and attention. He lied to Emma about their relationship, coercing her into prostitution. Emma is still recovering from the trauma and psychological abuse. Gateway educates parents, police, and children about recognizing and responding to trafficking efforts to prevent others from becoming victims.

Guardian Angel Community Services
Joliet, IL • gacsprograms.org

Lasting Change for Survivors

Guardian Angel Community Services empowers people to improve the quality of their lives. For more than 120 years, the organization has been helping Illinois residents overcome adversity and make lasting change. One of its core programs, a transitional living program called Suzy’s Caring Place, provides domestic violence survivors a place to stay for two years to build independent, violence-free lives. The program offers counseling, legal and medical advocacy, life skills training, and prevention education to help survivors disengage from their abuser permanently and regain their independence.

SEXUAL ABUSE & DOMESTIC ASSAULT SERVICES

SEXUAL ABUSE & DOMESTIC ASSAULT SERVICES

Project ‘Push Back Trafficking’

Your Giving in Action!

Preventing Sexual Violence Through Education

In April 2022, New Lenox Safe Communities America collaborated with Guardian Angel Community Services (GACS) to put on an event that would provide education to high school students about sexual assault and domestic violence and engage the students in a service project to support survivors. The Sexual Assault Services Center — part of GACS — provided a one-hour presentation to nine students and one adult on the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, what sexual assault looks like, and what to do if someone is in a toxic or abusive relationship. After the presentation, the students helped assemble 84 medical advocacy bags out of donated supplies. The advocacy bags were given to GACS for their advocates to use when meeting survivors of sexual assault at the hospital.
HOPE of East Central Illinois
Charleston, IL • hope-eci.org

HOPE for Survivors of Domestic Assault

HOPE of East Central Illinois empowers survivors of domestic assault to live independent, non-violent lives through the provision of housing, outreach, prevention, and education. HOPE was founded by a domestic abuse survivor who saw a need and drew community partners to establish a small shelter in a two-bedroom apartment. Since then, it has grown to offer a 24-bed shelter, five transitional housing units, and a 24/7 crisis hotline. HOPE of ECI serves seven rural counties in Central Illinois, providing education, group and individual counseling, referrals, and children’s services, such as its therapeutic summer recreation program.

Safe Families for Children
La Crosse, WI • safe-families.org

Support Systems Keep Children Safe and Families Together

Safe Families for Children creates an extended support system for families experiencing a crisis to help keep children safe and families together. The organization helps families voluntarily place their children with a volunteer host family while the situation resolves. The average placement time is six weeks. The two families form a partnership to care for the children and prepare for a safe return to their families. The goal is for the relationships to continue after the placement ends, reducing social isolation and building a support network. Families are assigned “Coaches” who can help foster communication and establish problem-solving and crisis management skills. Volunteers also provide other resources to the families involved, from bedding and clothes to counseling and advocacy. Research demonstrates this approach reduces foster care placement and promotes permanency compared to more common child welfare services.

Your Giving in Action!

Marianne’s Story

Whenever Marianne would leave the house for more than an hour, her husband would accuse her of cheating, doing drugs, and ruining their lives. He counted the money in her wallet before she left the house and compared it to her store receipts when she returned. Even having one cent unaccounted for was dangerous. When Marianne broke her shoulder, she was placed in assisted living for eight weeks. As her stay came to an end, Marianne grew visibly anxious. Her doctor noticed and gently encouraged her to share her story, then referred Marianne to HOPE of ECI’s emergency shelter. Marianne met compassionate shelter staff who are helping her break the cycle of abuse. “I’m relaxed, safe, happy, full of spirit, and ready to go on. I have lived through every kind of abuse possible, but I am strong. HOPE of ECI and its staff helped me heal and set me on the right path,” Marianne said.

Artima’s Story

Artima was homeless when she became pregnant. If she did not have a home by the time she gave birth, Artima might have needed to place her son in foster care. She was unable to find support from her family or the family of her son’s father. When Carter was born, Artima attended school during the day and was on the waiting list for childcare. Safe Families introduced her to the Dennis family, who took her son, Carter, into their home for 30 days. The Dennis family said the experience taught their children how people must care for each other by example. A network grew around Artima, and the families continue building their relationships.
As the largest nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, Sojourner Family Peace Center is challenging the traditional way of providing services to survivors and their families. The Family Peace Center was one of the country’s first co-located child advocacy and family violence centers. The organization offers a single stop for families affected by domestic violence, providing all the services and support survivors need to attain safety and healing under one roof. The campus is a beautiful, serene space where families can receive case management, psychotherapy services, massage, reiki, acupuncture, and other services to help them achieve safety, justice, and well-being. Established in 1975, Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy, and individual support.

Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence

The vision of Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence is to end domestic and sexual violence in Wisconsin’s Pierce and St. Croix counties. The organization has been an ally to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse for nearly 40 years. Founded as a crisis line and safe house, Turningpoint has grown to offer a crisis shelter, legal advocacy, support groups, safety planning, and violence prevention education. In addition to serving women and children, Turningpoint breaks the stigma and extends its services to men. Often an underserved population, 1 in 10 men experience sexual or domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Hannah’s Story

Hannah discovered Turningpoint through the Lethality Assessment Program’s partnership with law enforcement agencies in Pierce and St. Croix counties. She sought safety and support planning through the 24-hour crisis line after her husband’s arrest for assault. Hannah has learning and physical disabilities, making leaving her husband challenging. She was frightened and overwhelmed as her husband made bail and was out of custody. During the following weeks, a Turningpoint caseworker helped her obtain a restraining order and file for a divorce. The caseworker also contacted the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center to support Hannah with her case. Hannah has grown a great deal in the process and is safe as she continues the process of removing herself from an unhealthy relationship.
The Women’s Center

Waukesha, WI • twcwaukesha.org

Securing Futures Free from Abuse

For 45 years, The Women’s Center has provided advocacy, support, and shelter in its mission to empower all impacted by abuse, sexual violence, child abuse, and trafficking. The organization’s vision is to create an engaged community that does not tolerate violence and provides resources to secure futures free from abuse. The Women’s Center offers free advocacy counseling services and onsite childcare. The organization additionally provides emergency services, including shelter, a 24-hour hotline, and sexual assault crisis response. More than 1,100 people receive direct help each year, and the hotline answers more than 7,000 calls annually. Community outreach includes more than 200 school presentations.

Jane’s Story

Jane credits The Women’s Center for changing her family’s lives and teaching them a new way to live. “The services provided for my children were outstanding. They felt loved and were so happy. My children and I have never been around people who were so caring and supportive,” she said.

Your Giving in Action!

The Women’s Community Inc.

Wausau, WI • womenscommunity.org

Helping Survivors Recover and Reach Self Sufficiency

The Women’s Community Inc. provides support and resources to people in Central Wisconsin affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. The organization aims to help people gain greater emotional and economic self-sufficiency. Free services include an emergency shelter, transitional living, advocacy, counseling, and referrals. The Women’s Community has specialized services to help Latino, Asian, and aging populations. The organization also offers education to the community and medical and law enforcement professionals. Each year, the Women’s Center serves 1,500 people, presents to more than 3,000 people, and holds awareness events that reach 30,000 people.

Jane’s Story

Jane credits The Women’s Center for changing her family’s lives and teaching them a new way to live. “The services provided for my children were outstanding. They felt loved and were so happy. My children and I have never been around people who were so caring and supportive,” she said.

Your Giving in Action!

Tammy’s Story

According to Tammy, group counseling with The Women’s Community provides her a safe space to express her pain, doubt, and confusion. She doesn’t have to justify her decisions and can speak without being judged. Group sessions validate her perceptions about herself and help her recognize abusive behaviors she experienced. Other participants assure her the abusive experiences are “wrong,” and she does not have to accept or tolerate them. According to Tammy, group counseling has restored her sense of hope.

Your Giving in Action!
YWCA of Rock County
Janesville, WI • ywcarockcounty.org

Empowering & Uplifting
Women in Crisis

The YWCA of Rock County eliminates racism, empowers women, and promotes peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Since 1922, the organization has been transforming lives and communities through education and action, helping people facing adversity rebuild self-confidence, regain self-respect, and become role models. The organization offers emergency shelter, case management services, and long-term housing for survivors of domestic violence as they establish independence. Through these programs and a 24-hour crisis hotline, the YWCA helps nearly 100 women and 200 children flee abuse each year.

Hunger & Homelessness Support
Did you know that...

- $25 helps one person in a homeless shelter purchase gas to commute to work
- $50 feeds eight children living in hunger for one weekend
- $100 covers 20 gallons of milk for a food pantry
- $500 purchases 500 bottles of laundry or dish detergent for a food pantry
- $1,000 sponsors one week of fresh produce for a food pantry
- $4,000 feeds 640 children living in hunger for one weekend

Mentoring & Skills Building
Did you know that...

- $25 equips a child with special needs for one month of recreational play
- $100 provides two weeks of summer learning supplies for one classroom
- $500 sponsors youth mentoring curriculum or a volunteer appreciation event
- $2,000 covers one week of youth camp enrichment activities
- $3,000 feeds 240 children for two weeks of summer programming
- $100 sponsors a field trip for 300 students
- $4,000 pays one camp counselor for six weeks
- $5,000 sponsors four swimming pool field trips for 300 students
- $5,000 pays one teacher or youth mentor for six weeks

Service Member & Veteran Support
Did you know that...

- $50 purchases a jacket for a veteran to wear to an interview
- $50 transports a veteran to an interview via Uber
- $100 buys dog food for two months of service dog training
- $100 sponsors a veteran’s car insurance payment for one month
- $200 pays for a veteran’s bus pass for four months
- $600 covers a veteran’s car maintenance and repairs
- $1,000 sponsors the equipment provided to a veteran and service dog match
- $2,000 pays for two service dogs
- $4,000 covers a veteran’s car maintenance and repairs
- $1,000 sponsors the equipment provided to a veteran and service dog match
- $2,000 pays for two service dogs
- $3,000 covers one month of rent for a service dog training program
- $5,000 covers one-third of the total cost to train and equip a service dog

Sexual Abuse & Domestic Assault Services
Did you know that...

- $50 feeds a survivor living in temporary housing for one week
- $75 covers the fee for one survivor to file a protective order against their abuser
- $100 purchases two months of diapers and other necessities for a family in an emergency shelter
- $200 sponsors a week of shelter for a family escaping abuse
- $500 provides therapy for an abused child
- $1,000 supports a family fleeing domestic violence

Your Giving in Action!

Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

A woman and her five children came to the YWCA’s Alternatives to Violence Shelter fleeing abuse. The family joined Transitions three months later. The program provided a 3-bedroom apartment for a year, giving the woman the opportunity to find stable employment and enroll in a local college to study Early Childhood Development. After the program, the woman secured independent housing and continued to pursue her associate degree. Through the support of Transitions, this woman broke the cycle of abuse and began writing a new story for her family.
Inspiring the Next Generation

The Sonnentag American Foundation is a strong advocate for continuing education. Our goal is to inspire the next generation and encourage young people who want to pursue studies and careers, especially in the construction and landscape industries. We believe scholarships help change the lives of deserving students and their families and are an investment in our future workforce, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

The Sonnentag American Foundation established our scholarship program to assist students pursuing post-secondary education. Students can apply for one $2,000 scholarship to study at an accredited institution and field of study of their choice. Since its inception, nearly $438,500 in scholarships have been awarded. The program supports various programs, including vocational and technical training and associate and bachelor's degrees.

Local Impact Areas

The Sonnentag American Foundation’s philanthropic interests are strategically focused on supporting programs and projects that empower and inspire people. Preference is given to regional construction and landscape-oriented projects that serve the broader communities where the County organization has facilities. The following are a few examples of the many local and regional community projects our Foundation supports:

- Community gardens and walking trails
- Habitat for Humanity homes
- Masonry apprenticeship and building trades courses
- Park and recreation landscape materials
- Playground sand
- Veteran monuments
- Youth baseball/softball dugouts and structures

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

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Far-Reaching Results

Since County Materials hosted our first charity golf outing in 2007 to support the Sonnentag American Foundation, more than $2.4 million has been donated to deserving programs and charitable organizations serving communities where we have locations.

To date, the County Materials’ Charity Golf Outing supports more than 60 charitable organizations throughout Central Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Ways to Give

Make an impact on people’s lives in local communities.

100% of your gift supports organizations funded by the Sonnentag American Foundation.

Contributions to the Sonnentag American Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable nonprofit contributions under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. (TIN: 92-0679101)

Mail
Sonnentag American Foundation
PO Box 100 • Marathon, WI 54448

Online
sonnentagamericanfoundation.org

Phone
(800) 289-2569
Opening doors and LIGHTING PATHWAYS

countymaterials.com  sonnentagamericanfoundation.org