A Look Back at 2021

2021 was another interesting year as we worked to find ways to offer programs during the Covid Pandemic. Hunt Hill offered outdoor programs, limited attendance to allow for social distancing, offered coholed week-long day camps, required proof of vaccination for our Spanish Immersion residential camp, and followed the recommendations of the CDC. To our knowledge no participants contracted Covid as a result of participating in Hunt Hill events.

Even with the restrictions that our Covid policy put in place, we still experienced great program attendance, donor and member support, and built partnerships with area organizations and businesses. To learn more about our accomplishments, check out the rest of this report! To kick us off, I’ve included two of my favorite accomplishments.

Thank you and stay safe,
Nikki Janisin
Executive Director

New Partnerships

In addition to a great turnout, I loved Winter Festival because we were able to partner with two great organizations to put on a successful event: Lakeland Family Resource Center and Rice Lake High Schools’ National Honor Society.

(Background pic above is from Winter Festival.)

Reducing Program Waste

Glow sticks can be a wasteful item, but not at this year’s glow hike! The event featured reusable colored luminaries, an ideas sheet on ways to increase longevity and repurpose old glow sticks/necklaces and LED glow items so that they could be used well beyond the one-night event.
### Ten Noteworthy Accomplishments in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. New Programs</strong></th>
<th><strong>2. New Building Project</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Fest, Glow Hike, Active Outdoors, Breakfast under the Branches, Accessibility Day, School’s Out, and more brought people outdoors at Hunt Hill.</td>
<td>Design has started on a new project to improve the shower house and office facilities at Hunt Hill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>3. Tents and Trailer</strong></th>
<th><strong>4. New Trail Map</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We received a donation to purchase two event tents and a storage trailer so we could offer covered outdoor programs.</td>
<td>The new trail map is full color with more visitor information and more detail on the map. It also includes a campus map to help with orientation around camp.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5. Solar Installation</strong></th>
<th><strong>6. Plogging</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanks to an incredible anonymous donation, Hunt Hill has solar! The panels are located behind the chicken coop and should produce 29% of our electrical needs!</td>
<td>Plogging, or ‘picking up litter while jogging’ was a new fundraiser we offered over the week of Earth Day. We had over 100 people participate directly in our event and many more participate on their own.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>7. Partnerships</strong></th>
<th><strong>8. Strategic Plan</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community partners like Mayo Clinic Health System, Lakeland Family Resource Center, Rice Lake’s National Honor Society, Birds and Beer venues and many others actively supported Hunt Hill programs and events.</td>
<td>In December, the FOHHAS Board of Directors began the strategic planning process. The new plan should be available by February 2022.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>9. Trex Recycling Program</strong></th>
<th><strong>10. Committee Charters</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In just two years we have collected over 1000 pounds of plastic and have received two free benches through the Trex Recycling Program. Unfortunately, plastic collection was postponed in December due to the loss of a local receiving center.</td>
<td>In the spring the Board developed committee charters to define the purpose, authority, responsibility, and limitations of each committee and its members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Growing up my father and I spent time outdoors and he instilled in me an appreciation for animals, plants and nature. When I retired and moved to northern Wisconsin I wanted to find a place to continue exploring the great outdoors - I thought I would have to travel to State Parks and then I found Hunt Hill right in my backyard. 600 acres of pristine forest and meadows, with hiking trails, lakes, a bog and events.

There are many ways to interact with Hunt Hill. You can volunteer, no matter what your talents. Plant some flowers, manicure a trail, paint a fence, count the birds, help at one of the events organized for the public - the opportunities are endless.

You can attend one of their many events led by experienced professionals. Learn to canoe, do yoga on the lawn, search for mushrooms or dance to 50’s music. I enjoy the Birds and Beer events where I am surrounded by like minded people learning about nature.

You can teach - we all have talents. I enjoy teaching children and seeing the amazement on their faces as we cut into an owl pellet, discover which wild plants we can and cannot eat, build shelters in the woods or find real carnivorous plants.

Hunt Hill is a place to reflect, a quiet moment for yourself. You can appreciate the serenity of a quiet walk in the woods while listening to the call of a loon in the summer or the glistening snow as you quietly snow shoe in the winter. Nature in all her splendor is yours at the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.
A Glance at 2021 Programs and Engagement

140 Camper Days
We offered seven weeks of Day Camps with 20 campers attending per week for a total of 140 camper days. In total, 79 different children attended Day Camps in 2021.

24 School Field Trips
We offered 24 school field trips in the spring and fall of 2021, which were attended by a total of about 940 students.

Bouncing Back While Staying Safe
Although we were not able to return to all of our programs as we had before 2020, we found creative ways to continue programming while maintaining consciousness about COVID-19. We moved many of our programs outdoors whenever possible, encouraging participants to sit with their households. We ran our Cakes at the Lake program, which we renamed Breakfast Under The Branches for 2021, exclusively outdoors. Even Birds & Beer took place outdoors for as long as possible, opting for venues with outdoor patios in the summer and fall, and moving into large venues for the winter.

We reopened our Youth Day Camp program with great success in 2021. To reduce the chances of potential exposure to COVID-19, campers were placed in small cohorts that remained the same for the entire week. Campers stayed outdoors as much as possible and participated in many of the same activities as before since most of their favorite camp activities already take place outdoors including hiking, catching insects, playing on the nature playground and swimming in the lake.

Testing Out New Programs & Events
We tried several new programs and special events in 2021 that drew new participants to Hunt Hill and taught our community new ways to enjoy being outside.

On days that local schools had a non-school day, we offered a School’s Out program. Families came to Hunt Hill for outdoor fun, which included activities like sledding, snowshoeing, creating shelters, building a bonfire, ice fishing, snow art, tapping maple trees, making maple candy, searching for animal signs, creating plaster tracks, playing in the mud, and more!

Additionally, each month we held an Active Outdoors program sponsored by Mayo Clinic Health System. These programs encouraged people from our community to try activities outdoors. Activities included snowshoeing, snow sculpting, canoeing, mushroom hunting, nature photography, pumpkin carving, birding and geocaching.

Program Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Programs</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cakes at the Lake</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Camps</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Field Trips</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Note: We did not offer Day Camps or Cakes at the Lake programs in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. Cakes at the Lake was renamed Breakfast Under The Branches for 2021, but is still included in program attendance under Cakes at the Lake.

Social Media
FOHHAS continues to build its online presence.

- Facebook: 2,880 Followers
- Email List: 2,243 Addresses
- Instagram: 674 Followers
- Twitter: 154 Followers
- Pinterest: 17 Followers
- YouTube: 15 Subscribers
In addition to family favorites like Cakes at the Lake and Day Camps, each year we introduce new events and programs to encourage kids and families to connect with the outdoors. This year, popular activities included Day Camps, our nature playground, Active Outdoors, School's Out days and the following:

**Winter Festival**
Winter Festival brought families out to Hunt Hill to enjoy activities like: sledding, snowshoeing, fat tire biking, dog sledding and s'more making.

**Discovery Trail**
The Discovery Trail continues to be a popular family activity, where themed items are placed along the Barred Owl Trail each month.

**Outreach**
Sage brought educational opportunities to children this year through WITC’s virtual program and as a weekly educator in Spooner’s afterschool program.

**Glow Hike**
This event featured a colorful luminary hike through the woods, a DJ'd light show dance party, lots of glow items and plenty of fun! We welcomed just over 100 participants to this outdoor event.
Facilities in 2021

Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and our staff, we completed a number of improvements around the Sanctuary.

- **Solar Array**: Thanks to an anonymous donation and an incentive program offered through NES, Hunt Hill installed a solar array! It is expected that the array will provide up to 29% of our electrical needs.

- **Prairie Burn**: In partnership with the Birchwood Fire Department, Gary Dunsmoor and Jim Reimer the prairie was burned in the spring.

- **Overseeded the Prairie**: Thanks to a grant through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program through USFWS, Hunt Hill received native prairie seed. Volunteers scarified the recently burned ground and then volunteers hand broadcasted a native seed-sand mixture over approximately 50% of the prairie.

- **Driveway Improvements**: We reduced slope of the hills, added gravel and widened the narrowest section so two cars can safely pass in the winter.

- **Installed Larger Beaver Baffle**: Hunt Hill staff built and installed a larger pond leveler in July. There are currently two levelers in the beaver dam.

- **Bear Trail Improvements**: In partnership with WisCorps, Bear Trail segments were improved to stop erosion, reroute extremely steep sections and those consistently wet, and to widen narrow hillside segments. Boardwalk sections were added near both bridges.

- **Other Accomplishments**: WCC bridge stabilized, rope railing added on steep section of bear trail leading to the WCC bridge, new curtains installed in dorms and cabins, convection oven installed, barn loft electrical updated, a large event tent offered covered outdoor programming space, and parking area added at Red Shed.
Thank you to all our 2021 volunteers!

We’ve had a number of successful programs and made a variety of improvements to our facilities and trails throughout the year. Volunteers assisted with set up and leading portions of larger events like Winter Festival, Luminary Hike, Glow Hike, and Murder Mystery at Hunt Hill. Others donated their time as committee members, educators and assistants for programs like Birds & Beer, Active Saturdays and Breakfast under the Branches. We’re also grateful for the many hard-working volunteers behind our fundraisers: Plogging, Hit for Hunt Hill, Sock Hop and Ladies Night Out.

Volunteers ensured the grounds look beautiful for all who visit by planting flower pots, deep cleaning before opening camp for the year, reinforcing the WCC bridge, improving trails in wet areas, burning the prairie to maintain it as such, helping with mailings, hiking trails to assure they are safe, filling bird feeders and much, much more. Our wonderful volunteers range from young school age children to high schoolers to retirees.

With the help of our volunteers, Hunt Hill was able to offer quality programs and make improvements in camp and along the trails. We couldn't have done it without you!

A big thank you to all!!!

Volunteers 2021

Amy Adams
Steve Adams
Alex Adler
Nick Adler
Rob Adler
Nick Allen
Calb Anderson
Linda Angeloni
Arnold Angeloni
Del Bakkum
Paul Baribeau
Barron High Students
Sally Bartz
Dianna Bednar
Gail Behrens-McArdle
Myk Behrens-McArdle
Alyssa Bell
Prescott Bell
Joshua Bell
Declan Bell

Steve Betchkal
Kathy Binford
Pat Binford
Birchwood Fire Dept.
Tom Bogumill
Barb Bouma
Deb Bouma
Bryce Brettingen
Jennifer Brigham
Mark Brigham
Sarah Buchli
Karen Busby
Ron Busby
Christa Byrnes
Sandy Campbell
Kevin Campbell
Priscilla Capelle-Hahn
Paul Chase
Carolyn Cleveland
Dave Cleveland

Byron Crouse
Steve Demars
Anna DeMers
Dennis Dirks
Dexie Dunham
Dr. Jeff Dunham
Gary Dunsmoor
Doug Edwardsen
Pat Edwardsen
Diane Erdman
Jim Erdman
Gary Erickson
Linda Farrell
Jim Farrell
Lauren Finch
Akemi Fischer
Ed Fischer
Grace Forsberg
Mitch Fox
Greta Franti

Sharyn Friedell
Anne Gallagher
Ken George
Cindy Gerst
Thom Gerst
Becky Gudis
John Haack
Val Haack
David Haessig
Jeneice Haessig
Paul Hagen
Kathy Hagen
Sharon Hahn
Amie Hakari
Beth Halverson
Dan Hanson
Kathy Hanson
Dale Hanson
Mike Harvey
Brian Heerringa

Mary Hemshrot
Deb Higgs
Heidi Olson Hong
Daniel Hubatch
Al Imbery
Joan Jacobowski
Nikki Janisin
Dan Janisin
Johnniee Johnson
Sharon Johnson
Deb Johnson
Callie Karstens
Karen Kaufman
Jeannette Kelly
Deb Keys
Ruth King
Kevin King
Judy Koch
Paula Kodesh
Ray Kodesh
### Volunteers 2021 (Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kohl’s</td>
<td>Derrick Olson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Krautkramer</td>
<td>Vicky Ondell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Leamy</td>
<td>Nicolle Orson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland Family Resource Center</td>
<td>Chris Orson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betsy Laurent</td>
<td>Gavin Orson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Lindberg</td>
<td>Taylor Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Luekeke</td>
<td>Bob Papendieck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Minder</td>
<td>Wayne Rado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale Minder</td>
<td>Joannie Rado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Mitchell</td>
<td>Ed Reed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Nelson</td>
<td>Jim Reimer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storme Nelson</td>
<td>Rice Lake H.S. National Honor Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Nelson</td>
<td>Jordan Roethel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Nessen</td>
<td>Gene Romans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Samson</td>
<td>Laura Sandstrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Sauer</td>
<td>Mark Sauer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Schmitz</td>
<td>Jim Schmitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susie Schmitz</td>
<td>Dave Seis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayda Shutter</td>
<td>Mary Simpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Smith</td>
<td>Olave Spagnolo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Steffan</td>
<td>Beverly Stencil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
<td>Katherine Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Streitz</td>
<td>Randy Strickland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karly Swan</td>
<td>Linda Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Thrasher</td>
<td>Russ Tripp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Urban</td>
<td>Emma VandeVoort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Veldhuizen</td>
<td>Gloria Vonasek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Vonasek</td>
<td>Tom Vonasek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Wenz</td>
<td>Lois Whitehorn</td>
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*If we missed your name, we apologize. Your skills, time and efforts are of great value to Hunt Hill.*

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### Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Bob Kohl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cristina Szterensus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ana Lia Piattone de Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>Gary Dunsmoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greta Franti</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Haack</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Hahn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rowie Hansberger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Johnnice Johnson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bob Papendieck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>Tom Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Staff</td>
<td>Tom Vonasek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christa Byrnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Coordinator</td>
<td>Deb Bouma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Camp Educators</td>
<td>Louis Gatgens-Jimenez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eli Dalton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katy Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Josie Morton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willow Strobe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Annie Duda</td>
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### Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mike Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Tom Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer/Finance Chair</td>
<td>Tom Vonasek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Chair</td>
<td>Mike Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Chair</td>
<td>Carolyn Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Marketing</td>
<td>Heidi Olson Hong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Janice Swartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning Chair</td>
<td>Nick Allen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Reinforcing the WCC bridge, Managing the prairie burn, Wood splitters
Donations (cont.)

Jo Anne Olson
Peter Olson and Heidi Olson
Hoa
Jean Olund
On the Yellow River, LLC
Oriental Trading
Christa Oshynko
Nick Osness
Don and Carole Ott
Palisade Asset Management
Don and Elizabeth Palmer
Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Mary Patrick
Dr. Gary Pearson
Mike and Terri Pelant
Perlick Distillery
Tom and Christine Perlick
Kent Persinger
John Peter and Carol Kettner
Jessica Pettersson
Claudia Place
Randi and Dixie Plowman
Heidi and Mike Popelka
The Potters Shed
Randi and Linda Poznansky
Purple Pelican Gallery
Bruce and Sara Qualey
Brian and Rozanne Rasmussen
Janalee Rasmussen
Real Estate Solutions
Red School House Wines
Retreat Home Furnishings
Jane Reynolds
Rice Lake Fortnightly Club
Michael and Dawn Richter
Vernon and Susan Ringe
River Street Dental
Jim Riemer
Eugene and Carlotta Romso
Allan Rosenwald and Mary Gra
Alan and Charlotte Ross
Round Man Brewing Co.
Rebecca Ruddy
Doug and Sandy Rudolph
Janine Rueter and Dorie
Washburn
Stacy Rutup
Laura Sandstrom
Town of Sarona
Bill and Duffy Sauer
Mark and Julie Sauer
Marjorie Barton Savage
Savas Designers & Jewelers
Susan Schettle
JoAnn Schmidt
Jim and Susie Schmitz
Schmitz's Economart
Gene and Sue Schultz
Bob and Sally Schwarz
Jon and Candy Severson
Shell Lake State Bank
Shell Lake Woodcrafters
Robert Simonds and Karen Mergolis
Slumberland - Hayward
Dennis and Mary Ann Solie
Dean Southern
Jeff Southern and Linda Thompson
Spoonser Ace Hardware
Spoonser General Store
Spoonser Outlet
Roger and Kristen St. George
State Farm Insurance
Dr. Robert Stanley
The Steakhouse & Lodge
Mary Stenberg
Bill and Kathy Stewart
Stone Lake Lumber, LLC
Surplus Outlet
Synergy Cooperative
Tagalong Golf Course
Larry and Jan Tarnow
Tom and Julie Teltz
John and Kathy Terrell
Peter Tharaldson and Amy Schult
Thomas Marine
Mary Thostenson
Thrivent
Carrie Todd
Dan and Sarah Todd
Carla Townsend
Tremblays Candy Shop
Leonard and Diane Triebold
Juliana Tuel
Del Tura
Turtleback Golf
Undercover Golf
Valley Crossing Elementary
Ron and Carol Vantine
Keith Veldhuizen and Vicki Collins
Ventures Apparel
Marilyn Vig
Dave Vold
Tom and Gloria Vonasek
John and Gail Waldron
Lee Wallace and Rachel Speck
JoAnne Wartgow
Colleen Wedebrand
Rich & Cheri Weingartner
Gwen Welter
John and Lynn Westphal
Brad Wiedmann
Billy Wilson and Priscilla Capelle
-Haehn
Craig and Kathy Wood
David Wortman
Gary Yanagit
Lillian Zaho
Russ and Deb Zde
Marie Zellm...