

November 2019

Dear Friend,

The Mequon Community Foundation (MCF) exists to help enhance the quality of life in Mequon. MCF funds projects to help make Mequon an even better place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Since 1999, MCF has made grants totaling more than \$750,000 for the betterment of Mequon. The funds we raise improve our beautiful parks and open spaces, enhance recreational quality and athletic amenities, strengthen our cultural and historic organizations, and support our Police, Fire and Emergency Response teams.

Each year, we highlight a special project. It is an opportunity for our fellow Mequon residents to get involved by supporting and enhancing the community we call home.

In 2006, a group of Mequon citizens recognized the value a full-time canine patrol officer would bring. Funds were raised to start Mequon's first K9 program. Since 2014, the Mequon Police Department has been fortunate to have Officer Iron as part of its team. Along with his handler, Sgt. Jake Schiller, Officer Iron works unflaggingly on behalf of the 23,000 residents of Mequon.



The K9 program has proven to be an integral part of ensuring a low crime rate in Mequon – and one of the lowest in Wisconsin. Last year, Officer Iron:

- Was deployed 162 times and assisted with 53 arrests
- Sniffed 108 vehicles, of which 86 had positive indications for narcotics
- Tracked and found missing children and adults with dementia

The impact of the K9 program goes beyond law enforcement requirements. Sgt. Schiller and Officer Iron participated in 15 school events and made 11 public appearances last year to build rapport between the community and the police. It is especially important for children to learn that the police officer is

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approachable and to see Sgt. Schiller and Officer Iron in non-crisis situations.

At 7 years old and 5 years of service, Officer Iron is nearing the end of his service career. In a desire to maintain the level of safety our K-9 program provides, the police department desires to bring on another K-9 within the next year as the first step in transitioning Officer Iron to retirement. The Police Department and those assisting them on this project are hopeful that generous residents in the community will again step-up and assist with the purchase of the dog, the required training for the dog and handler, the specially outfitted squad car and other necessary items.

An anonymous Mequon resident has offered to make a very generous matching gift of \$50,000 if the Mequon Police Department can raise another \$50,000 by June 30, 2020. Every contribution, large or small, will be used to reach the fund-raising goal of \$150,000 to acquire, equip, train and maintain a second K9 officer and handler during a two-year transition period until Officer Iron's retirement.

The Mequon Community Foundation is proud to partner with the Police Department and a group of Mequon citizens to fulfill our mission of enhancing the quality of life in Mequon. We ask that you consider supporting this worthy cause and continue building on the success of the K9 program that is integral to keeping our children and our community safe.

During this season of thanks and appreciation, we ask you to consider a charitable contribution to the Mequon Community Foundation – whether it is to support the K9 project or another worthy program. Your gifts will be used to make Mequon a special place to live by enhancing our parks, recreational and other amenities, cultural and historical organizations and civic partners.

Please join us in our continuing efforts to build a strong sense of community here in Mequon. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Wishing You the Very Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Button'.

Jim Button
Board President

P.S. Remember that you can make a gift through your IRA or Donor Advised Fund

**Please return the enclosed envelope with your donation
or make your contribution online at our website: www.mcfgives.org**

The Mequon Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your support!