



Photo by Mark Justesen

Dr. Karl Hertz, formerly President of the Village of Thiensville and Superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District, received the 2018 Pillars of the Community award from Vanessa Nerbun of the Mequon Community Foundation. Look inside for more information.

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MEQUON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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MCF HAPPENINGS

Serving the Mequon Community to Enhance Our Quality of Life

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

In 1999, Mequon Mayor Christine Nuernberg invited a group of Mequon residents to create a vision and mission for the Mequon Community Foundation, an organization that would partner with the City and residents to enhance safety, recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for residents and guests. Since then, the Foundation has been a part of many City improvements and programs, including the River Barn Park expansion, Jonathan Clark House, Mequon Police Department K-9 and Garrison's Glen. Our ability to support these ventures depends on the generosity of local businesses and individuals.

As we look forward to our 20th anniversary in 2019, we are starting this decade with revised by-laws, updated governance and administrative policies, improved committee structure, a new grants process and investment policies. We are proud to see the growth of our partnerships within the City and with organizations that support a strong community.

One such partner is the local and well-respected Richmond Investment Services (RIS), independent advisors with deep roots and proven commitment to community. The Foundation has entered into a relationship with RIS to improve our investment opportunities, allow donors to make gifts of appreciated stock and increase philanthropic opportunities for residents.

In addition, the Mequon Community Foundation opened a Donor Advised Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF) to assist with grant-making and to further diversify our investment portfolio. GMF's century of effort and support is aligned with MCF principles. For anyone who already has a Donor Advised Fund at GMF or is looking to create a Named Endowment Opportunity, GMF provides support and convenience.

However, our greatest partnership is with you — individuals and businesses who show your support through financial and in-kind contributions. Thank you in advance for your continued commitment over the next 20 years. As always, if you have questions or need information about MCF projects, opportunities or gifting, please contact us at www.mcfgives.org.

Save the Date June 4, 2018
8th Annual Pillars of the Community Luncheon

ABOUT MCF

The Mequon Community Foundation (MCF) is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides grants to community organizations, programs and services that enhance the quality of life in Mequon. Since its founding in 1999, MCF has raised and distributed over \$750,000 through the charitable giving of the generous residents and businesses of Mequon. A great big "Thank You" to all of our donors!

Visit our website:
www.MCFgives.org to learn more about MCF and to make a contribution.

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MCF celebrates its Pillar of the Community

MEQUON — Karl Hertz moved to Mequon in 1984 to become superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District at a critical juncture for the schools and both communities.



Hertz

Mequon was experiencing plenty of growth as subdivisions sprouted on farmland. Hertz took the reins in the blooming school district and ensured it was firmly footed on a path of academic excellence that has continued through today.

In addition to spending a dozen years guiding the school district, Hertz has taken on other leadership roles, including as a Thiensville trustee and village president, an Ozaukee County Board supervisor and president of the M-T Rotary Club.

The Mequon Community Foundation honored Hertz Tuesday for his decades of service and leadership as a Pillar of the Community during a luncheon at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Hertz's acceptance remarks kept most of the 160 who attended the sold-out event

laughing. He turned serious and said he was raised to help others.

"My parents did it. My grandparents, too, were people I know who were kind and gave of themselves and their modest resources," he said. "The Providence sisters, Holy Cross brothers, Franciscan sisters and Jesuits all made the path of service clear and modeled it."

Hertz quickly gave credit to his wife, Carol, for supporting him along the way and putting her career in education second. When opportunities, such as the one to move to Mequon, came up, she always quickly urged him to "go for it."

Hertz was introduced and recognized by two speakers, Vanessa Nerbun, a director on the MCF Board, and current M-T School Superintendent Matthew Joynt.

Nerbun said she first met Hertz when she reached out to join the Rotary Club. She said she was young and intimidated.

"His smile and sweet, steady voice was all I needed to feel welcome in a club that at the time, surprisingly, was nearly all men," she said. "Karl took me under his wing and quickly began introducing me to all of the wonderful individuals — like him — who are also committed to service above self in our community. At this moment, I felt 'at home.'"

During his remarks, Joynt said he reached out to teachers who served under Hertz, many of whom were hired by him. The interview process culminated with a one-on-one meeting.

One teacher recalled that "interview" was not such much answering questions as an opportunity for Hertz to

stress the need to uphold the district's commitment to academic excellence.

Others recalled a tradition started by Hertz of hiring a school bus to take the new teachers on a tour of the community.

Another current teacher said Hertz always had his priorities straight and heart in the right place.

"His motivation was always the children and what was best for them," the teacher recalled. "I have fond memories of discussions we had through the years, his encouraging words and what an active 'cheerleader' he was at school events and competitions."

Joynt spent much of his career — starting as a fifth-

High School.

"Those were the words of encouragement I needed at that time, on that day," Joynt said.

Joynt added that Hertz is a deserving Pillar of the Community.

"You define service above self," he said. "You are a visionary, you take a personal approach to leadership, you focus on what matters most and you empower others to be the best versions of themselves — both in work and life." Hertz concluded his remarks by recalling a guiding principle.

"As an old English teacher, I remember that Thoreau tells us, 'Goodness is the only investment that never fails,'" he said. "So let me suggest that



Photo by Mark Justesen

Vanessa Nerbun of the Mequon Community Foundation presents the Pillars award to Karl Hertz.

grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School — as part of the M-T schools. While he never had the opportunity to work directly with Hertz, he recalled getting a handwritten, encouraging note from Hertz shortly after he started as principal at Shorewood

our attention to goodness, excellence and justice — especially to our poorest kids, whose sorrows should stay close to our hearts and minds — is an excellent way for us to repay the greatest personal kindnesses done to us over the years."

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BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: VANESSA NERBUN

Vanessa (Brown) Nerbun works at the University School of Milwaukee as the Director of Alumni and Annual programs. In that position Vanessa coordinates major events, secures major gifts and travels to meet alumni across the U.S. She currently serves on the Weyenberg Library Foundation Board and the Mequon Festivals Committee. In the past she chaired the Taste of Mequon and was a member of the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club. Vanessa and her husband, Alderman Andrew Nerbun, also remain active in Mequon coaching youth sports and leading Scouting activities for their two sons Bret and Drew. Vanessa served as co-chair of our 2017 Pillars of the Community luncheon and chaired in 2018. Thank you, Vanessa, for your years of energetic and inspiring service on the MCF Board.

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: SALLY LYNE

Sally Lyne is a transplant to the area, growing up in Massachusetts, where she graduated from Mount Holyoke College. A move to Los Angeles shortly after graduation allowed for a chance meeting with Bill, a Milwaukee native, whom she would eventually marry. Sally and Bill settled in Chicago until Sally received her MA from the University of Chicago and they eventually moved to Mequon in 2005. For the last sixteen years, Sally has worked as a fundraiser in the non-profit community. With her work focused on the City of Milwaukee, getting involved with the Mequon Community Foundation was a way to give back to the community she calls home and to learn more about the amazing people and businesses who help make Mequon a great place to live. Over the last three years, Sally has shared her knowledge and experience in fundraising to help strengthen MCF's capacity to raise funds to help further their mission.

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