



CHARLIE KUBLY

OUR MISSION

The Charles E. Kubly Foundation seeks to better the lives of those affected by depression by increasing awareness of the disease and its devastating effects, eliminating the stigma associated with it, supporting suicide prevention programs and promoting improved access to quality mental health resources within communities.



WINTER 2025

INSIDE:

- 01. ROCKETSHIP SCHOOL
- 02. PROJECTS FUNDED
- 03. BEYOND THE BLUES 2024 RECAP
- 05. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
- 06. C4C AND PADDLE WITH A PURPOSE

THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION

WWW.CHARLESEKUBLYFOUNDATION.ORG

An often asked question to those of us serving The Charles E. Kubly Foundation – Why are Wisconsin youth experiencing a mental health crisis?

Many of us have heard the phrase “our youth are experiencing a mental health crisis” but most of us don’t truly understand why this is or how this has happened. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) 59% of high school students said they have experienced at least one mental health challenge over the past 12 months. The DPI issued the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report in July, 2024 where that statistic and others are shared. Also reported in the survey is that students reported an increase in social media and overall screen usage, with additional decreases in the amount of sleep they get each night. The mental health challenges shared in the survey include 51.6 % experiencing anxiety, 35% experiencing depression almost every day for two or more weeks in a row and almost 21% reported non-suicidal self-harm.

All of the schools that have received funding support from The CEKF over the past few years have shared their own stories of increased mental health concerns with their students. These have impacted the well-being of their entire student body as they represent disruption in education, absenteeism, increased need of counseling staff hours and, sadly, for some a collective experience of a peer suicide death. All these issues, and more, require our schools (public, charter and private) to focus more and more on mental wellness with full support available to their students. This has also created division within school districts and leadership as they navigate the increased need for this type of support.

What can we do as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and community members? BE THERE for our youth. Ask the critical questions, such as “do you feel anxious or unusually sad often” and LISTEN to their answers. Often those experiencing anxiety or depression don’t want to bother anyone else with their issues. Help them find help and don’t give up. Help can be as simple as learning new coping strategies or may be the need for professional therapy or counseling. Spend quality time with our young friends or relatives engaging in activities other than screen time. While expanding their horizons with positive extracurricular activities, try not to burden them with bad news, job woes, financial concerns or anything that they cannot do anything about, but are worrisome.

The mission of The CEKF is to improve the lives of those affected by depression. We hope we can continue to support the needs of our Wisconsin youth to help build resilient, mindful and fruitful adults.

Kris Rick
Executive Director

*See our project feature article on page 1 that highlights the importance of this type of funding.

FEATURED PROJECT

ROCKETSHIP SCHOOL

ROCKETSHIP
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At Rocketship we believe in the infinite potential of each of the students we serve. This includes their potential to live full lives free from the stress of mental health challenges. We serve socio-economically disadvantaged families on the North and South side of the city, where students face many challenges outside of the classroom that can negatively impact their learning. The Kubly Foundation's commitment to mental health has been transformative for our students. With their support, our school community has experienced a wave of positive change, addressing the growing mental health needs of our young learners.

Over the past year, we've launched impactful initiatives, thanks to the Foundation's generous funding. One standout achievement has been the expansion of our on-site mental health counseling services. This crucial program has provided more students with access to licensed mental health professionals, helping them navigate challenges and develop resilience in the face of adversity. Bringing services into our school building removes the barriers that too often keep students like ours from accessing critical mental health support.



Recognizing the importance of preventive care, we've also revamped our school-wide social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Teachers have been equipped with training and tools to create an inclusive environment where every student feels seen and supported. The results have been remarkable: improved classroom behavior, higher engagement in learning, and an increase in peer-to-peer empathy.

The Kubly Foundation's partnership has been instrumental in helping us create a culture that prioritizes mental health and well-being. The impact of their support is evident in the smiles of our students, the gratitude of our families, and the dedication of our educators.



As we reflect on these accomplishments, we're reminded that this is just the beginning. We look forward to expanding these programs and further addressing the evolving mental health needs of our community. Together, we're building a foundation for lifelong well-being and academic success.

PROJECTS FUNDED - FALL 2024

THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

ALL IN MILWAUKEE

A partnership with STRYV365 to provide customized, non-clinical, trauma-informed programming to better prepare college bound students in the program. allinmilwaukee.org

BATTLE SCAR KIDS FOUNDATION

Screening of Battle Scar Kids programming for up to 300 middle and high school students in the Madison, WI area to build social engagement and awareness through social emotional learning, art therapy and the message of turning pain into power activities. battlesckids.com

THE BELLIN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Funding for the Bellin Psychiatric Sensory Room for patients' use in self-regulation, therapeutic needs and coping strategies. bellin.org

CENTRO HISPANO, INC.

A grant for "Escucha tus Emociones" – a linguistically and culturally affirming community based mental health outreach initiative in Dane County. micentro.org

EX FABULA

A partnership with HYFIN at Radio Milwaukee – programming for this collaboration with AfterDark: For the Culture which aims to bring honest and open mental health conversations for the Black and Brown community of Milwaukee.

exfabula.org

LA CASA DE ESPERANZA

Funding toward staff and volunteer training to become certified as Behavioral Technicians and improve their ability to understand and work with students in social emotional education.

lacasadeesperanza.org

MILWAUKEE URBAN STABLES, INC.

Horses 4 Heroes programming for Milwaukee Police Department officers, targeted through the MPD wellness program who have experienced traumatic events in the line of duty.

mkeurbanstables.org

MILWAUKEE COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL, INC.

A public education program: Southeastern Wisconsin Task Force on Veteran Suicide Prevention.

warmemorialcenter.org

REDGEN

A grant to bring QPR (Questions, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training to REDgen youth leaders committed to enhancing mental health in their school communities.

redgen.org

STARFISH FOUNDATION

Funding for Certified Peer Support training for Veterans and citizens who want to serve Veterans in this capacity. starfishfound.org

SCALING WELLNESS IN MILWAUKEE, LTD

Funding toward SWIM's Trauma-Informed Speaker Series: Addressing Trauma in Milwaukee. swimke.org

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE

Mindful I-Corps which will support student entrepreneurs by integrating mental well-being strategies with entrepreneurial training. uwm.edu



THE CHARLES E. KUBLY NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT IS FACILITATED BY FORESITE GROUP, LLC.

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BEYOND THE BLUES 2024 RECAP!

Our 21st Beyond the Blues fundraiser keeps us poised for another impactful year of grant making!

Thank you to everyone who made our 21st annual Beyond the Blues fundraiser a huge success! With gross income of nearly \$240,000 from our annual signature campaign, The Charles E. Kubly Foundation will seamlessly continue our mental health funding in and around SE Wisconsin. We thank our incredible Sponsors, Blues Backers, all contributors, attendees and volunteers who made Beyond the Blues 2024 a fantastic event. Please see our Sponsor and Blues Backer lists shared in this newsletter.

We also cannot thank Meg Kissinger and Molly Kubly Fritz enough for their candid conversation on shared loss of dear siblings to suicide and living with family members who exhibit mental health symptoms. This exchange was not only welcomed by our guests, but stimulated group conversation and meaningful questions to these two insightful women. Our guests were able to walk away with a signed copy of Meg's book "While You Were Out: An Intimate Family Portrait of Mental Illness in an Era of Silence". Thank you Meg for writing this important memoir and openly sharing it with the world. You are living our mission!

We can't wait to see you again [September 12, 2025 back at Discovery World Pier Wisconsin](#). The Bartolotta Group has provided us with a perfect Milwaukee backdrop year after year! Save the date!



SAVE THE DATE FOR

BEYOND THE BLUES 2025
AT DISCOVERY WORLD PIER WISCONSIN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

THANK YOU BEYOND THE BLUES 2024 SPONSORS

THANK YOU to our Beyond the Blues sponsors. Sponsorship is the backbone of our annual fundraising event. We are so grateful to those listed below who made this event the success that was!

SAPPHIRE LEVEL – \$20,000

Billie Kubly
Colony Brands
Meg Fetherston Kasch & Libby Kasch

AQUA LEVEL – \$10,000

William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Catherine & Paul Luber

TEAL LEVEL – \$5,000

Kathryn Burke
Continental Properties Company, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher L. Doerr
Tom Gould
The Hauske Family Foundation
Sandy & Dennis Kuester
Rogers Behavioral Health
Michael Schmitz
Kate & John Wasmer
Cathy & Mike White

TURQUOISE LEVEL – \$2,500

Anon Charitable Trust
Barbara Barrow
The Bourne Family
Libby & Andy Bruce
Crescent Grove Advisors
Nancy & John Dickens
Executive Benefits Network – Molly & David Fritz
Ann M. Goris
Kelben Foundation
Sally & Chip Kubly
Beth & Will Kubly
Catherine & Bill Perez
Jen & Mitch Prosk
Angela & Ross Williams

NAVY LEVEL – \$1,000

Gwen & Dan Armbrust
Deanna Braege
Suzy & John Brennan
Jose Carlino Design
Mary & William Cullinan
David Gordon
Patty & Mike Grebe
Hammes Family Foundation
Susan & Leander Jennings
Martha & Michael Klinker
Kopmeier Family Fund – Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Laura & Pat Koppa
Mary Ann & Charles LaBahn
Mary S. Lillydahl

Jon Lehrmann, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Department of Psychiatry

Leigh & Tuck Maxon
Keith & Dee Miller Fund – Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Katie & Mark Mohr
Candy & Bruce Pindyck
Peggy & Ned Purtell Family
Pamela & Robert Reilly
Reinhart Family
Schauer Family Foundation
Peggy & Bob Schuemann
Nancy & Greg Smith
Julianne & Stephen Spadafora
Drs. Mary & Chris Tomehl
Debbie & Camp Van Dyke
Ellen & Bob Venable
Brooke & Robert Walker
Mary & Willard Walker
Amy & Devin Wolf
Carol K. Wythes
Diane & Ed Zore

DENIM LEVEL – \$500

Ace Worldwide Elite Relocation Services/Steinergroup
Anonymous
Amy Argall
Peter Blommer
Ginny Bolger
Ashley & Mack Borges Family
Roberta & Peter Buening
Gretchen & Bill Burns
Maripat & Tom Dalum

Christiane Endres
Thayre Faust in memory of Sam Vertelka
Candy Flagstad
The Grebe Family
Gruber Law Offices, LLC
Marilyn Haker
Sharon & Don Hansen
Catherine & Phillip Heston
Susan Kasten
Julie & John Kennedy
Maryglen & Rob Kieckhefer
Pat & Bob Kraft
Marlene & John Kreilkamp
Barb & Ray Krueger
Linda & Curt Lundein
Debbie & John McGregor
Susan & Robert Mikulay
Barbara & Henrik Moe
Anne & Chris Noyes
Kris & Robert Rick
Mary W. Rickmeier
Lisa & Robbie Robbins
Julie & Mason Ross
Jen & Todd Schoon
The Sheehan Family Foundation
Barbara Sullivan
Jennifer & Joseph Teglia
Bonnie & Ned Timarac
Betsy Trimble
Barb & Bob Whealon
Abby & Scott Williams
Sunny & Sandy Williams

We thank those who donated \$100 up to \$500 as a Blues Backer for our 21st Beyond the Blues event. These contributions made a huge impact on the bottom line of this fundraiser – THANK YOU!

Barb & Tim Aik
Vicki & Mike Banaszak
Ann Becker
Julia & Mark Birmingham
Ridge Braunschweig
Traci & Alan Brown
Margy & Dennis Cahill
Mr. & Mrs. William Carpenter
Kathryn Choren
Barbara Donner
June Ehn

Susan V. Ells
Mary Evans
Barbara Faude
Jeffrey Frank & Family
Sue & Brad Gador
Cynthia & Jeffery Garland
Wendy & Tom Gebhardt
Beverly & Abe Goldberg
in Memory of Abby Goldberg
The Gottsacker Family
Kate & Perry Gould

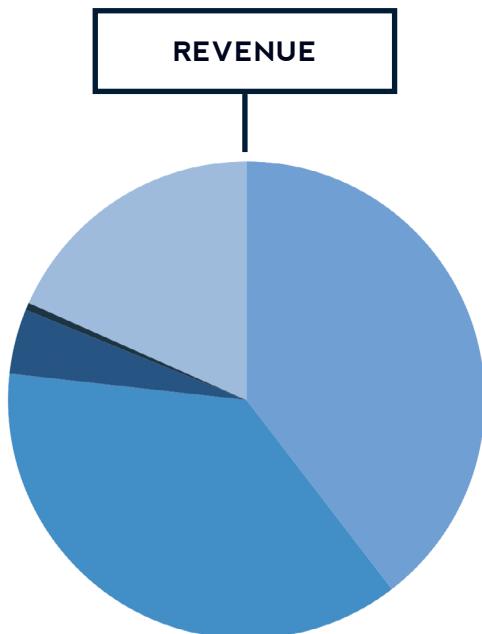
Laura & Bill Harrigan
Philip Henselin
Penny Howland
Roslyn S. Krause
Buffy LaBahn
Ladky Associates Foundation
Julie Laudon
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Jill & Pat Marget
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Judith Grace Scott
Mary & Scott Sullivan
Gail & Jose Teigeiro
Nan & Jerry Welch
Paul Zanowski

THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FY MARCH 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024



TOTAL REVENUE:

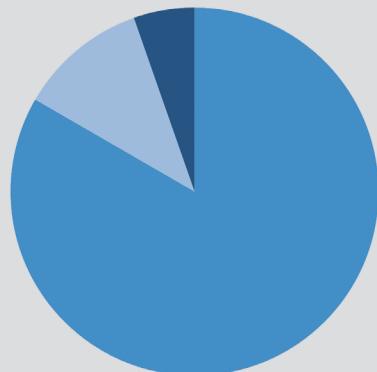
\$536,206

Beyond the Blues	\$212,125
Contributions	\$199,515
Other Events	\$23,623
Interest Income	\$2,682
Investment Return	\$98,261

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$509,339



Program Services	\$424,479
Core Activities	\$57,602
Mission Advancement	\$27,258

CEFK BY THE NUMBERS

ENDOWMENT RESERVE

\$1 MILLION

CUMULATIVE GRANT DOLLARS GIVEN

\$4 MILLION

**GRANTS FUNDED
SINCE INCEPTION**

448

FY 2023-24 DONATIONS RECORDED

476

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

11

YOUNG LEADER COUNCIL MEMBERS

11

CAUSE FOR THE CLAUS RETURNS!

Vice President of The CEKF Board, Lori Kilian, hosted her 5th Cause For The Claus holiday fundraiser in memory of her sister, Debbie Thom, on December 14, 2024 in Cedarburg, WI. With over 240 festive guests in attendance, the event raised over \$38,000!

Piano Brew kept the fun going with their pulsating beats of dueling pianos and fan favorite tunes. A silent auction included 45 wonderful baskets and items including a toy-loaded child's play tent, golf package, a five-diamond necklace, Amish Guild furniture and "beer for a year". There were two exciting raffles that featured stunning diamond earrings from Gallun Fine Jewelry in Cedarburg and a gorgeous drop necklace set donated by Mona Gildner.

This event was a true testament of the willingness of a community to come together from far and wide to celebrate and support such an important cause. Thank you Lori and her friends and family for your generosity and making this a holiday party to remember!



PADDLE WITH A PURPOSE

BREW CITY CHARITY OPEN CO-CHAIRRED BY AARON GARDNER AND CURT LUNDEEN

Brew City Charity was founded in 2014 as a friendly competition between two platform tennis clubs, The Town Club and Cedar Club, raising approximately \$4,000 for a single charity. Since its inception, the event has grown tremendously, with participants forming teams and now supporting two worthy causes. Thanks to the dedication of the co-chairs and committee members, who worked relentlessly to reduce event costs and maximize the funds directed to the charities, Brew City Charity has made an even greater impact each year.



This year, the event reached a new milestone, raising over \$38,355.00, a record-breaking total. The event's success was bolstered by the generous support of an anonymous donor and a key sponsor, who covered the costs of food and beverages, ensuring that the proceeds could go directly to the charities. The Charles E. Kubly Foundation is especially grateful for the significant portion of funds they received, which will further their important work in our community.

The CEKF would like to thank the families of Jackson Szyszak and Thomas Pire for their recommended memorial gifts. Our condolences to both families for their loss of these dear men.

We also want to shout out to Julie and Justin Randall for hosting their 2nd annual DrewFest. This Madison based fundraiser has brought funds back to The CEKF to use in Madison area grant giving. Thank you Julie and Justin!

We also want to thank everyone who has created social media fundraising events over the past few months! These will all make a difference in our community!

THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION

A public charity devoted to improving the lives of
those with depression

The Charles E. Kubly Foundation
1341 W. Mequon Road
Suite 220
Mequon, WI 53092



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Lundein, President

Lori R. Kilian, Vice President

Nick Hengst, Treasurer

Thayre Faust

Molly Kubly Fritz

Meg Fetherston Kasch

Dean Knauss

Dylan Ross, PhD.

Brenda Wesley

HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

Billie Kubly

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kris Rick

SAVE THE DATE

BEYOND THE BLUES 2025

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2025

At Discovery World Pier Wisconsin