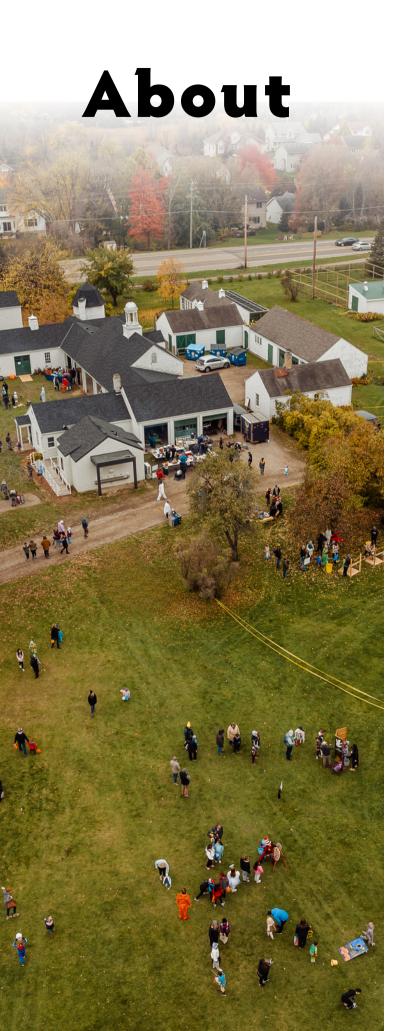


# NOURISHING EVERYONE'S NEED FOR NATURE



# **ENVISIONING THE NEXT 50 YEARS**

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2023



# Mission

Providing exceptional experiences in nature through environmental education.

# Vision

We envision a future where everyone inspired by Dodge intentionally cares for nature.

# Values

### Dodge Nature Center and Preschool:

- Provides joyful, inclusive, and collaborative experiences
- Nurtures relationships with people and the environment
- Acts as responsible stewards of the natural world
- Inspires curiosity and wonder

### Access & Inclusion

#### Dodge Nature Center and Preschool is for everyone.

As stewards of the land, we create and foster a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where all can nourish their need for nature. We listen to, honor, and learn from lived experiences and feedback to create a space where everyone feels welcome.

Providing access to environmental education and experiences in nature is essential to Dodge Nature Center and Preschool's mission, vision, and values. As educators, we are committed to staying curious, challenging our status quo, and changing in ways that facilitate greater diversity, equity, and inclusion.

# Nourish Your Need



## Dear friends,

In 2019, Dodge launched a bold fundraising campaign to transform its buildings and grounds, build access to natural spaces and environmental education, and sustain this natural oasis to meet our community's changing needs today and into the future.

#### The Nourishing Everyone's Need for Nature Campaign wrapped in December 2023

and we are excited to celebrate its success with you. Thank you to our amazing friends, volunteers, and donors for your tremendous generosity. Visit our <u>website</u> to see all we achieved together!

This past year also saw the launch of our new <u>strategic plan</u>, committed to shaping a secure future and working to meet our community's needs for environmental education and accessible greenspace. This strategic plan rests on the pillars of Sustainability, Access, Legacy, and Relationships.

**Under the Sustainability Pillar,** we pledge to protect our resources today and for generations to come. In the year ahead, this includes redesigning our Preschool playscape and restoration on our four properties to foster a closer connection with nature and enhance our relationship with the land.

Within the Access Pillar, we commit to identifying, reducing, and eliminating barriers to ensure universal access to Dodge. Our commitment extends to fostering inclusivity for participants with physical limitations, communities of color, and LGBTQIA+ youth and adults.

**The Legacy Pillar** is dedicated to building upon our environmental education legacy. Initiatives include developing a plan for managing our four properties, enhancing the self-guided visitor experience, and implementing a data collection process.

The foundation of all these pillars is the Relationships Pillar, emphasizing the connections that align with our values. We are actively growing our relationship with South Washington County schools to meet the needs of their growing student population.

Planning for the future demands the input of everyone invested in Dodge. We encourage you to <u>share</u> <u>your thoughts</u> with us. Your support is invaluable. Together, we will transform our vision into a reality where



everyone inspired by Dodge intentionally cares for nature.

#### Thank you for helping nourish everyone's need for nature.

# With gratitude,

farm Ja Save I Beekstrand

Jason Sanders Executive Director

Sara Beckstrand President, Board of Directors

# NOURISHING EVERYONE'S NEED FOR NATURE



The Nourishing Everyone's Need for Nature <u>Campaign</u> officially closed with the end of 2023! What began in 2019 as a vision for the next 50 years of Dodge resulted in a series of tangible improvements that can be found throughout all of Dodge's properties and programs. Read below for several Campaign accomplishments addressing the three vital areas:

- **1** Increasing access for all
- 2. Sustaining our learning places and greenspaces
- **3.** Building on the legacy of our founder, Olivia Irvine Dodge



- Installed a solid-surface <u>elevated boardwalk</u> through the Farm Pond to increase accessibility on one of the most heavily used trails
- <u>Paved parking lots</u> for visitors to safely arrive at Dodge
- Created <u>pride programs</u> for the LGBTQIA+ community



- Hired a Restoration Specialist to preserve our most precious asset —<u>the land</u>
- Added an Outreach Naturalist position to reach underserved communities
- Renovated existing buildings at Shepard Farm to create functional classroom and program space



- Grew the number of children, adults, and families served
- Increased the endowment with legacy giving to sustain Dodge into the next 50 years
- Opened a <u>new Education</u> <u>Center</u> at Shepard Farm to expand adult programming

### See all Campaign accomplishments online here.

While the Campaign is now completed, our dedication to providing high-quality environmental education is blossoming into the future. We invite you to nourish your need for nature at Dodge —at any of our <u>four properties</u>—365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset.

# ACCESS

"Dodge does lots of amazing things, but not everyone is able to come to Dodge Nature Center," says Mick Garrett, Naturalist and Outreach Specialist.

Outreach programming brings Dodge to students unable to visit the nature center—and it's growing. From 2022 to 2023, the number of outreaches nearly doubled as naturalists brought roosters, reptiles, and raptors on the road to 35% more students. For those first-time students, it opens a whole new world of learning.

"In many cases, they don't know what they're missing until it's presented to them. They realize, "Oh, you mean we could have more of these experiences?" and that's incredible," shares Mick.

Mick stepped into the dedicated role of Outreach Specialist to expand environmental education to new audiences at community events, libraries, after-school programs, senior centers, and more.

"There are so many opportunities. With support from the Campaign and having more of my time specifically focused on outreaches, we're going to be able to reach more people to meet needs and build relationships—and that's so exciting."

Click the play button below to see an outreach in action at Oak Meadows Senior Living. Hear from residents on the impact and importance of Mick's visits.



# SUSTAINABILITY

"Shepard Farm is unique in that it really wasn't touched much until Dodge acquired it," says Sean Gokey, Buildings and Grounds Director.

In 2013, Dodge received Shepard Farm from the Wilder Foundation. Its 140 acres offered a unique setting from the nature center's other properties: stands of 100-year-old woods, 1920s-era historic buildings and barns, and large animal pastures.

Thanks to support from the Campaign, Dodge's vision for Shepard Farm—a sustainable destination for agricultural and environmental education—is becoming a reality.

Historic buildings were given energy-efficient upgrades and new classrooms, Jamie Navarro (pictured below on the left) was hired as Dodge's full-time Restoration Specialist to help sustain the land, and old coops were renovated for new chickens, quail, and turkeys to help teach about life on the farm. More is coming in 2024.

"We have a new opportunity at Shepard Farm with a new community to get them outdoors and have an environmental experience," says Sean. "We're trying to make it as enriching and sustainable as possible so folks can keep coming here for another 50 years."

Click the play button below below to see sustainability in action at Shepard Farm.



# LEGACY

"There are so many amazing teachers at Dodge, but one who really sticks out to me is Pam," says Viola El-Afandi, Naturalist Fellow.

Pam Welisevich, one of Dodge's long-time naturalists, started her career at Dodge 25 years ago. She fostered a love for nature through teaching and found family, too. She met and married her husband and watched her son grow up at the nature center when they lived onsite.

Viola began her journey with Dodge as a preschooler. She returned 20+ years later—this time as a Naturalist Fellow, following the trail blazed by teachers like Pam.

Dodge's founder Olivia Irvine Dodge had the vision to preserve natural space for environmental learning when she purchased and set aside farmland 55 years ago. Her legacy lives on today through dedicated educators like Pam and Viola.

"Someone once asked me how I got involved in the environment—for me, it was the vacant city lot down the street," says Pam. "I hope when someone poses the same question to Viola and other future educators, they'll be able to say Dodge Nature Center."

Click the play button below to learn more about Pam and Viola's journey and their legacies being created today.



### Individuals

**\$1,000,000+** Anonymous Silas and Olivia Ford

#### \$100,000-\$999,999

Kari and Scott Anderson Chadwick and Margaret Dayton Elizabeth Driscoll Tom and Susan Hobert Jim and Jill Putman Michelle and Thomas Schlehuber David Schmidt and Sara Klasky Ann Schwichtenberg and Bill Wassweiler

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#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Thomas and Kimberly Dodge Robert Dybvig and Bonnie Rohr Litton and Anne Field

# Thank you to all who support nature learning at Dodge Nature Center and Preschool.

Includes total support given to the Nourishing Everyone's Need for Nature Comprehensive Campaign, September 2019–December 2023.

Peter and Barbara Fleming Peter and Christine Garretson Thomas Good, in memory of Mary Lou Good Horace H. Irvine III and Trisha McGovern Jean and Bruce Johnson Paco and Alma Medina Thomas and Anne Marie Peltier Jason and Heather Sanders

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Stephanie and David Adams Linda Bjornberg Jay and Page Cowles Peter and Lucy Dunning Stephen and Linda Dygos Stephen and Fay Finn Paul and Suzanne Hanifl Catherine and John Harvanko Ed and Libby Hlavka & The Alces Trust

## Individuals

#### \$5,000-\$9,999 cont.

Victoria and Douglas Holmen Jason and Lyndsay Howard John and Ruth Huss William and Theresa Irvine Christopher and Valorie Jackson Pete and Beth Jackson James Johnson and Lucy Jones Ward and Charlotte Johnson Donald and Shirley Mager James and Rosemary McCarty Elizabeth Moran-Johnson and Brian Johnson Richard and Nancy Nicholson Todd and Martha Nicholson Michael and Kristen Nicklawske John and Marla Ordway Charitable Lead Trust Rachel Quick James and Kristine Rollwagen Tom and Julie Rydeen Mary Ann and Gary Schokmiller Jim and Linda Wagner

#### \$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous (4) Carter and Holly Balfour Betty Bauer Alice and Charles Berquist Susan and Kurt Bjorklund Michael and Jane Brodie Pamela Burkley and John Peterson John and Pam Chandler Larry and Kay Craighead Elizabeth and Gregg Cummings J.P. and Melissa Doffing Adam and Mary-Megan Ehrmantraut Tom\* and Flopsy Farnham Nathan and Parisa Gibson Bill and Jennifer Kellogg Kathy and John McCall lennifer and Steven McCormack Kate and Jordan McGowan -The Longview Foundation Tim and Gayle Ober Robert Olafson Rick and Kathy Orr Christopher and Danielle Parish Susan and William Powell **Richard and Lois Rockney** Dasha and Mike Rosenthal **Gregory Scott** Stanley and Lucy Shepard Linda Silrum The Sobon Family Alice Stees Ionathan Stimes Pondie and Mark Taylor Ginnie Weyerhaeuser Record Tom and Sydney Ward

#### \$1,000-\$2,499

Phyllis and Hans Abrahamsen lason Akey Karen Amezcua and Nikolas Patronas William and Sarah Armstrong Stephanie and Peter Auran Kim Austrian and Howard Simon Justin John Baker Stephen and Lynda Bany Stephanie and Justin Bartholomew **Bradley Baune** Andy and Courtney Berndt Thiago Bittencourt Barcel and Megan Elise Kinkead Barcel Keith Boland Carrie Bowser Ionathan and Irina Brenner William and Virginia Buell Megan and Guy Buonincontro Ginny and Stuart Campbell Kristin and David Carr Peter and Kimberly Cleary Evans Chip Connelly, Jr. **Iill Irvine Crow** Diana and Dave Dawkins Allison Deep and Ben Perry Greg and Helen Dehn

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cont.

#### Questions about your recognition?

Contact the Development team at Development@DodgeNatureCenter.org

### Individuals

\$1,000-\$2,499 cont. lason Dietsch and Suzanne Feiertag Debbie and Clark Donnelly Angel Douglas Britt and Mark Drake Kathryn and Cory Engelhardt Mo and Tina Fahnestock Kraig and Brandee Finwall Ann Frazer and **Gregory Sullivan** Susan Fridley Bryn and Michael Gerthoffer **Renee** Gesell Donna Gies and Richard Hamer Mark and Jennifer Gobel Renae and Philip Goldman Sharon and Lee\* Grose Chris Haack **Polly Henkel** Matthew and Ali Hourigan Melissa and Clifton Hull Katie and Larry Jacobs Timothy and Allison Johanson Mary Ann Johnson Dawn and Gil Kinnunen Howard and Wendy Kleckner Diane and Al Klinefelter Marit Knutson and Haakon Nelson Stephanie and James Levine Heidi Louise and Curt Campbell Julia Madore

**Elizabeth Mairs** Elizabeth and Daniel McGowan Shawn McNeely Joel Moline and Rachel Roy Mark and Andrea Morse Bruce and Ann Nerland Ford and Catherine Nicholson Helen and John O'Brien Erin and Luke Olson Patrick and Kelly O'Shaughnessy Linda and Craig Ostrem Maria Pastoor and John Klein Terry and Mary Patton C. Michael-jon Pease and Christopher Taykalo Nancy and Marlin Pierson Stephanie Quick and Jorge Espinoza Mike and Vicki Robole **Richard Rodell and Anna Smith** Sally and Alan Ruvelson David Sanborn Kate Schaeffer Michael Schokmiller lason and Lisa Sem Eric and Allison Sharkey Simpkins Gerald and Mary Shaughnessy Justin and Kristin Small Margaret Soma and Angela Andrist Patricia Stewart Will and Katie Stewart

Tasia and Alex Stuart Steven Sullivan Cynthia Swan and Robert Gage **Benjamin Swanson** Katherine and David Swanson Brenda and Mark Teats Ron and Kris Ulbrich Cheryllyne Vaz and Andy Harwood Don and Jan Voight Charles and Susan Ward Melissa and Brad Ward Sarah and John Ward Todd and Lindy Ward Colleen Watson and Mary McDougall Christy and Philip White Karen Winter Nicole Winter Tietel and Mike Tietel Mitchell Wittenberg and Jaine Strauss Sheri Zigan

\*Deceased

### Institutional

#### \$1,000,000+

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation The FS Foundation Inc.

#### \$100,000-\$999,999

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation Ecolab Foundation Hardenbergh Foundation Marathon Petroleum Corporation Slaggie Family Foundation Donald Weesner Charitable Trust

#### **\$25,000–\$99,999** Hugh J. Andersen Foundation The Boss Foundation Dellwood Foundation

David and Barbara Nicholson, Richard and Nancy Nicholson, Ford and Catherine Nicholson, Todd and Martha Nicholson through the Nicholson Brothers Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation South Robert Street Business Association Xcel Energy Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$24,999 Beim Foundation Bill Rascher Mechanical Inc. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota City of West St. Paul

# Thank you to institutional donors for support through sponsorships, grants, and gifts.

Includes total support given to the Nourishing Everyone's Need for Nature Comprehensive Campaign, September 2019–December 2023.

> **Creative Fundraising Advisors** Dakota County Community **Development Agency Deluxe** Corporation Foundation Ecolab, Inc. Mairs and Power, Inc. Marathon Petroleum -Saint Paul Park Refinery Microsoft Mission Construction Morsekode MSP Plumbing Heating Air Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP UBS Financial Services, Inc. Winnebago Industries Foundation **Xcel Energy**

> > cont.

Left: A class of Dodge Nature Preschool students in winter. Right: Night for Nature guests seeing the new Education Center.







### Institutional

\$5,000-\$9,999 **3M** Foundation CHS Inc. Espresso Services Inc. Lucky Seven MN Foundation Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Utilities & Excavating Morgan Stanley Old National Bank Pulse Electric, Inc. **RBC Foundation - USA** RoehrSchmitt Architecture Schechter Dokken Kanter CPAs Walter & Leona Schmitt **Family Foundation** Ska Fabricating Inc. Alice and Fred Wall **Family Foundation** 

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Left: GMCC students holding a snake at an outreach program. Right: Spanish-language Guided Hike participants on the boardwalk.



# **Egret Society**



Thank you to the following donors who provide support to Dodge through their estate plans.

Anonymous (3) Terry Alewine\* Karen Anderson Kari and Scott Anderson Lani and John Bennett Paul and Jennifer Berg Carol and Aaron Bouw Pamela and Iohn Chandler Ann Cieslak Hazel Currier\* Olivia I. Dodge\* Thomas Dzik and Hannah McGraw-Dzik Litton and Anne Field Nancy Field\* Dorothy Fobes\* Vance\* and Darlene Grannis Reuel D. Harmon\* Tom and Susan Hobert John M. and Bonnie K. Holub leff Johnson and Patt Seleen Sara Klasky Allan W. Klein and Harriet Lansing lantha LeVander\* Sarah Lightner Joan Lindusky

Thomas G. Mairs\* Virginia McCain Pauline Mueller\* Elizabeth F. Murphy\* Patricia\* and Robert\* Oas William and Sheila Owens Clarys\* and **Robert Peterson** Tom Rittmaster\* lason and Heather Sanders David Schmidt Ann Schwichtenberg and Bill Wassweiler McNeil\* and Mary Seymour Stanley and Lucy Shepard Georgiana Simmons **Jonathan Stimes** Kelly and Chris Unger Ben\* and Julie Van Gundy Nicole Winter Tietel and Mike Tietel Jean Wirsig\*

\*Deceased

# Tributes

Thank you to the following donors who chose to recognize special people in their lives with tribute gifts.

## In Memory of

Max William Davis Stefanie and Brad Guindon Rachel Quick

Gary DeLoia Allison and Timothy Johanson

**Vicki Doble** Barb Knutson Marty Watson Sheri Zigan

**Olivia Irvine Dodge** David Derauf and Yuko Ishimura

Leah Droubie Sarah and Ted Pongracz

**Cyndy Freeman** Patricia Frankenfield

**Dennis Gruba** Dennis and Dorothy Kruse

**John (Jock) O. Irvine** Harriette T. Irvine

Rosemary Lundquist, one of the best women to walk this earth Nancy and Dan White

**Connie Otis** Blake Shepard and Ann Godfrey

Jim Reinardy, who loved the outdoors and nature Steve Reinardy Edna Safe Ricky and Shari Sanders

**Paul Schaeppi** Barbara Thumser

George Cole Scott III Richard and Mary Daniels

**Jamie Alicia Sear** Rebecca Neafus

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Patricia Myser Nancy Lee Nelson Bill and Sheila Owens Ioan Pedersen William and Carol Queenan Corinne Retzlaff Mary Ann and Gary Schokmiller Ann Schwichtenberg and **Bill Wassweiler** Georgiana Simmons Katherine Skor Edward and Ginny Stringer Burt and Helen Swanson Barbara Telander Jerrol and Alleen Tostrud Walter and Janine Tysk Ginnie Weyerhaeuser Record lames Wicker Karen Winter

Lois and Irving Sobon Paul Sobon

Virginia Colin Platt Stees Alice Stees

**Cynthia Knott Steinhauer** Ed and Suzanne Steinhauer

John G. Turnbull Andrew Turnbull

Laura Walsch Best Christmas Ever

# Tributes

### In Honor of

An Old Friend Jamie Peterson

**Ryan, Finn, Baker, and Ronan** Brenda and Mark Teats

Valorie Bauer Anonymous Kimberly Bauer Valorie and Alan Bauer Mary Beckman Kim Kuppenbender Lori McCahey Jessie Monfleury

Amy Bloomquist Rachel Edmunds

**Carol Bouw** Larry Bick and Youngsoo Margolis

Michael Crider Caleb Johnson The Derauf Siblings David Derauf and Yuko Ishimura

Dodge Nature Preschooler Matthew D. Ganter Dan Ganter

Alison and Gillian Hitchcock and the joy Dodge has given them Cheryl Littau

Allan Klein and Harriet Lansing Charlotte and Ward Johnson

**Karen Lanson** Lisa Griebel

Jake Muszynski Creative Fundraising Advisors **James and Jill Putman** David Putman

In gratitude for the love of the outdoors Dodge has helped instill in our Grandsons Ansel and Leo Swanlund Susan and Leon Kramer

**Jed Taylor** Amanda Taylor

**Rebecca Kim Tryon** Rebecca Tryon



Left: Vista View Elementary School students learning about chickens. Right: Green Seniors participants walking through Dodge's woods.



# Financials

# September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023

evenue Total Exper		Expenses	Total
Gifts and Grants	\$1,661,819	Environmental Education	\$2,910,306
Program Fees and Tuition	\$2,084,852	Management and General	\$464,332
Endowment Income	\$1,100,201	Fundraising	\$472,583
Total Revenue	\$4,846,872	Total Expenses	\$3,847,221
Assets	Total	Liabilities	Total
Cash and Equivalents	\$472,949	Accounts Payable	\$1,000
Accounts Receivables	, \$1,119,176	Accrued Liabilities	\$62,571
Property and Equipment	\$11,486,896	Deferred Revenues	\$161,975
Operating Investments	\$1,006,872		
. ,	\$1,006,872 \$18,657,766		
Operating Investments			

Change in Net Assets	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$10,550,208	\$21,009,769	\$31,559,977
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$2,411,482	(\$1,411,831)*	\$999,651
Net Assets, End of Year	\$12,961,690	\$19,597,938	\$32,559,628

\*Decrease in assets reflect capital construction costs.

More financial information is available online in our <u>990</u> or <u>audited statement</u>.

# Team

Providing environmental education to the East Metro and Greater Twin Cities communities.



Department directors are listed first.

**Environmental Education** 

#### Administration

Jason Sanders Sheri Zigan Signe Hushagen Thuy Jones Amanda Wenc

Peter Cleary

Megan Beatty

Julie Allen

Jeff Boland

Mary Dybvig

Mick Garrett

Ben Pritchard

Teresa Root

Alex Sable

Andy Vang

Pam Welisevich

Viola El-Afandi

# Buildings and Grounds

Sean Gokey Andy Berkeland Jamie Navarro Nate Soderberg

Farm

Don Oberdorfer

Jorge Espinoza

Zack Tormoen

Noah Blickensderfer

Austin Schwantes-Kleven

### **Development and Communications**

Brenda Teats Rosie Johnson Heidi Louise Natalie Stephens

#### Preschool

Amy Warzybok Allison Bodkin Kristin Carr Beki Cook EJ Coolidge Kristi Culp Danielle Decock Liz Deziel Angélica Heller April Greibrok Justin Jones Sally Mattison Katie McCreary Jill Monsour Judy Moran Kristenza Nelson Kari Nusbaum Julia Pedersen Mikaela Peterson Dasha Rosenthal Joey Schoen Melissa Thompson Melissa Tobias fionn warren Anna Wieser

Left: Dodge Nature Center and Preschool staff, summer 2023. Right: Preschool teachers EJ Coolidge and Joey Schoen.





# Team

### **Board of Directors**

### **Board President**

Sara Beckstrand

#### **Board Emeritus**

Thomas Dodge Si Ford Vicki Ford

#### Founder

Olivia Irvine Dodge, 1918–2009

### **Board Members**

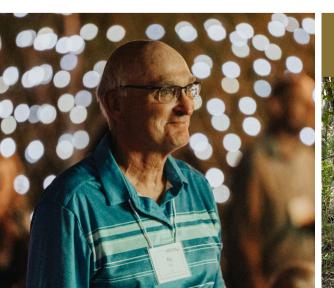
Kari Anderson Stephanie Bartholomew Amy Bloomquist Carol Bouw Megan Buonincontro Chad Dayton Stephen Dygos Adam Ehrmantraut Andy Freeman Peter Garretson Ron Goldser Alan Johnston Allan Klein Erin Olson Michael-jon Pease Sue Powell Jim Putman Natasha Rambacchus Angela Richardson Ann Schwichtenberg Shehla Tauscher Jim Wagner Sheila Williams Ridge

## Volunteers

378 dedicated volunteers6,148 hours given\$34.47 per volunteer hour\$211,921.56 in social return

### Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year 2023 – Jeff Zurn

Jeff has been an unsung hero of Dodge for years, working on countless projects at Shepard Farm to bring it fully online for visitors. He turned old farm interiors into classroom spaces, helped renovate the chicken and turkey coops and new barn, and revitalized historic buildings. Jeff's time and talent have been indispensable and we are thrilled to recognize him.



Left: Jeff Zurn, Shan Knox Volunteer of the Year 2023. Right: Xcel Energy volunteers and Board Member Carol Bouw.





365 Marie Avenue W West St. Paul, MN 55118

651-455-4531 info@DodgeNatureCenter.org <u>DodgeNatureCenter.org</u>

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**Photo Credits** Andy Berndt, District 191, Rosie Johnson, Jim Kammerer, Kerem Yücel | MPR News

