



THE CONNECTION

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Carl Mueller - Area Director
Jon Cronce - Area Director

WINR LAUNCHES NEW LOAN PROGRAM

A great new program is on the move at WINR. Through a grant from the government, WINR has begun providing loans to qualifying individuals for the purchase of automobiles or auto repairs. Car purchase loans range up to \$4,000 dollars while auto repair loans are expected to average under \$1,000. WINR's mission of filling people's basic needs while maintaining their dignity still applies to the loan program, and the loan recipients will be limited to those who already applied at other credit institutions and were denied. In this respect WINR will not come into competition with banks and hopes to help recipients achieve self-sufficiency while improving their credit rating.

The new loan program comes along at a time of great need in Wisconsin and America. Cash for Clunkers and a slumping



CEO Gary Wilner with Joni, a recipient of a 0% interest loan

auto industry took many possible vehicle donations out of WINR's grasp. Also, with a slumping economy, people keep their vehicles longer, making fewer of the vehicles we do receive reliable enough to put back on the road. The ability to grant loans allows access to personal mobility for those who normally face a prohibitive barrier for whatever reason. Hopefully this loan allows its recipients to improve their employment status, thereby contributing to the rebuilding of America's economy.

The grant to WINR was given through the Job

Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program under the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. The program is trying to aid low-income people in the unique challenges they face as the search for new or better jobs and work to keep them.

WINR's qualification requirements for loan program recipients aim to ensure that those who receive loans need them from us, having previously been turned down elsewhere. While recipients must be at or below

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New Faces at WINR

BOARD



Jim Barthel-Board Chair

Jim Barthel has a long history of service beginning with the Peace Corps in 1966. He currently gives his time to the community through his position as the WINR Chair, his church community, and tutoring through the Winnebago Literacy Council. Jim works with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Center for Career Development and Employability Training currently as the AmeriCorps Training Officer.



Melanie Buyarski- Board

Melanie Buyarski is the department chair for Fox Valley Technical College's Goal Oriented Adult Learning (GOAL) English and Social Studies departments, where she also serves as an instructor. Melanie became involved with WINR through the Leadership Oshkosh program, becoming an adjunct member of the board to satisfy her Leadership Oshkosh requirements. In May she chose to become a permanent board member. Melanie and her husband actively support their three daughters through activities at United Catholic Schools of Oshkosh. She is also a member of the Mid-Morning Kiwanis.



Susan Frederickson-Board

Susan Frederickson has worked in Human Resources Management for 25 years. She has spent 20 of those years with ThedaCare's Human Resources department. Caring for people in an industry all about care, it comes as no surprise that Susan became involved with WINR. She donated multiple vehicles to us because of the "satisfaction" she received from knowing she had improved someone's life by helping them to get or keep their job. Susan's MA in counseling no doubt helped lead her in her humanitarian commitments.



William Mode-Board & Fox Cities Advisory Committee Chair

William Mode, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Geology Department Chair, holds a Ph.D. in geology, which he received from the University of Colorado. He has been a professor at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for 28 years and volunteers for the campus ministry. Mode actively volunteers in his church community and has served from the local to the national level in various capacities.

STAFF



Karen Maas-Financial Dir. & Oshkosh Area Coordinator

Karen Maas came to WINR in June of 2007 to be our Financial Director and has since expanded her duties to Oshkosh Area Director (serving Southern Winnebago County clients), then to the Waupaca County and Waushara County Director positions as well. Karen hopes to bring dignity to the clients she serves in keeping with the organization's mission, and enjoys meeting both the families she serves and the donors who make the WINR mission possible.



Carl Mueller- Fox Cities Coordinator

Carl Mueller is a recent graduate from Marquette University who came to WINR by way of the AmeriCorps Connects service program. His degree is in Political Science and he plans on attending law school in the fall of 2010. Carl's main responsibility is the director position for the Fox Cities office. He previously has spent time working for the environmental organization Milwaukee River Keepers as an intern.

Meet the People Helped by Your Contributions to WINR



Andrew and his mini-van



Atak and Bol

Many barriers face new immigrants to the United States as they try to become successful members of our communities. Access to personal transportation combines many of these barriers into a large ordeal. Andrew's family, from the Sudan, received a WINR car in February to help alleviate some of the pressures that immigrant families face. A touching part of this placement comes from the strong community-oriented culture Sudanese immigrants brought with them to America. As part of their culture of pooling resources for the greater good, the family that received the WINR car in February loaned it to Atak and Bol's family in March so they could make it to the WINR offices and apply to become part of the Donated Wheels program.



Amy, her daughter, and their Saturn

Amy was employed at Fazoli's when her car started experiencing troubles forcing her to cut back her hours. With a new car, Amy was able to regain the hours she had lost. Also, through the FISC financial counseling provided by WINR, Amy was able to figure out a payment plan to eliminate old debt she had assumed she would never be able to pay off. Besides the job-related positives that came through the Donated Wheels program, Amy's car enabled her to travel to Milwaukee more easily; a frequent destination in the treatment of her daughter's liver disease.

Transit Agencies Collaborating to Address Personal Transportation Issues

Different types of organizations must rely on each other's strengths to ensure travel needs are met for all in Wisconsin.

Current upswings in leading indicators for the American economy have yet to make up for the vast economic hardships faced by so many in our communities during the recent months. With that in mind, new economic and employment opportunities seem to be waiting in the wings for America and Wisconsin, but people must be able to take advantage of those opportunities when they become available. For many members of our communities, those opportunities will come in the form of new jobs, and to take advantage of those new jobs, community members must be able to travel. Wisconsin Community Action Program (WisCAP) identified transportation as a major barrier to employment in their 2005 study "Poverty Matters: Facing Poverty in Wisconsin". ([http://www.wiscap.org/pdfs/Poverty Matters - Facing Poverty in Wisconsin.pdf](http://www.wiscap.org/pdfs/Poverty%20Matters%20-%20Facing%20Poverty%20in%20Wisconsin.pdf))

In a 2000 study, "Access to Jobs - Transportation Challenges in Welfare to Work," the Metropolitan Council of Minneapolis illustrates the problems for those without personal transportation seeking to enter the workforce. When re-entering the workforce, people generally look for entry level and newly created positions. Disproportionately, businesses create these opportunities in the

suburbs or along highways rather than city centers. Financially needy living in urbanized areas and relying on public transportation then face significant problems accessing these new employment options. (<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/jobaccessstudy/jobaccessstudy.htm>)

Public transportation's access to the suburbs and areas outlying city centers is generally limited. Freeway travel remains generally beyond the reach of those relying on public transportation, and the time it takes to travel the same distance through town is usually prohibitively long. Other factors also prohibit reliance on public transportation. Many entry-level positions require working through nighttime hours when public transportation either becomes limited or completely stops, and daily cab fares are too expensive for many income levels. Not to mention the complexity added to public transportation when a rider has to stop at the grocery store or pick up a child from school or daycare on the way home from work.

Currently, public transportation effectively serves many members of our communities. Those with established relationships and routines using public transportation understand and rely on the quality service provided. However, public transportation isn't set up to fill all transportation needs, so other organizations aid the system in filling in gaps. Rideshare programs

help coordinate effective carpooling for the various travel needs of seniors, non licensed participants, or anyone looking for help getting to work. More specialized transportation services help those with disabilities get around conveniently and quickly. Still other programs provide participants with the resources to facilitate personal transportation.

Local officials and citizens have definitely learned the lessons and read the studies telling us that public transportation alone can't solve the travel needs of every individual in our areas. While mass transit is important and serves many, its executives understand the diverse needs of many, and either partner with private relief organizations or have created special needs programs, like Valley Transit2 in the Fox Valley. Nonprofit organizations, such as WINR and Leaven, also serve very important functions helping keep people mobile so that they can be productive members of American and Wisconsin society. The problems we face will not be solved overnight or by one person. We need many working to fix the problems we have, and that is what we see happening every day all around us.

- Carl Mueller

Partner Spotlight

Steinert Printing Company

Steinert Printing Company promises more than just ink on paper, and their partnership with WINR has delivered on that promise. Operating since 1947, Steinert shines as an organization that gives back to the community it has been a part of for so long. Their quality work helps WINR operate effectively while making us look good too.



Steinert Printing Company is located in Oshkosh and on the web at www.steinertprinting.com.

Scaffidi Motors



Scaffidi Motors provides numerous services to WINR to aid our operations in Portage County. Scaffidi provides space to WINR to store inventory, gives reduced rates on car repairs, displays a large WINR sign, cleans WINR vehicles, processes donated vehicles on WINR’s behalf, and even sees its staff represented on the Portage County Advisory Committee. Scaffidi Motors’ dedication to WINR and the community are truly appreciated.

Scaffidi Motors is located in Stevens Point and on the web at www.scaffidi.com

WINR would like to thank all of its community partners and looks forward to shining the spotlight on all of you in upcoming editions of our newsletter.

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200 percent of the federal poverty level, employment over the last six months is necessary. Employment with the same employer over that time demonstrates reliability and is preferred, however WINR understands that there are extenu-

ating circumstances and will contact employers for recommendations and work history. WINR also requires that recipients attend a Financial Counseling program provided by FISC Consumer Credit Counseling Service to help recipients plan how to afford their new automobile. We also use the financial counseling reports to prove to

us that applicants will be able to repay their loans. Although the loans offer 0 percent interest, some recipients will find themselves unable to pay back their loans. In these situations WINR will do its best to work with recipients to avoid loan default, however repossessions of automobiles may occur.

- Carl Mueller

Donors' Hall of Fame 2008-2009

Gold (\$5,000 and up)

Adams County H&HS	Connie D Abert	Mary Jane Schilcher
Community Foundation Fox Valley	Craig Temochovich	Maryellen Pung
David & Cindy Riese	D L Sullivan	Michael & Amy Gervasio
Dennis & Cynthia Kavanaugh	Dane Klintworth	Nelson Luk
Department of Transportation	Daniel Texidor	Norman Keats
Estate of Maria A. Kugler	David & Catherine Hoffman	North New Hope Evangel
First English Lutheran Church	David & Jacqueline Belter	LuthChurch
First Presbyterian Church of Neenah	David and Kristen Janssen	NWTC Auto Club
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Herlache Industrial Supply Co	David Smith	Patricia Bloom
Greenheck Foundation	Diane M Haug	Paul Engen
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Menasha Corporation	Ellen Robertson	Richard & Connie Becker
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Oshkosh Area Women's Fund	First Congregational Church	River Valley State Bank
Paul & Susan Frederickson	Florence Prybylowski	Robert & Mary Lontkowski
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United Way Portage County	James Peebles & Dawn Bucholz	Scott F Putman
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	Jaqueline M Dressang	Steven & Rose Goyke
	Jenna L Miller	St. Stephen Parish, Stevens Point
	Jennifer Lewis	Susan & David Leonard
	Joann Cross	Tate Scharf
	John & Carol Poffinbarger	Theodore & Marilyn Wojahn
	John & Darleen Klemp	Thomas A Hughes
	Josephine Strey	Thomas Hallquist
	Judy L Schrank	Thrivent, South Winnebago County
	Karen Zentner LaBorde	Chapter
	Keith & Melissa Hoops Rice	Trinity Lutheran Church
	Kenneth Schmidt	Valeri A Butler
	Kent & Diane Langdon	United Way Inner Wisconsin
	Kent A Mosebach	Wade & Jennifer Landsverk
	Kristin B Benbow	Waupaca Community Chest
	Louise M Skornia	Wendy Potratz
	Mark R Schmidt	Women's Fund of Portage County
	Marsha Hughes	Woodlands Church Portage County
	Marvin E Pohl	Waupaca United Way
	Mary Ellen Bakken	
	Mary J Glass	

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Barbara Lucas		
Brad J Masterson		
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Carol A Pringle		
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Chad & Kristina Olsen		
Chris J Mortensen		
Clyde & Karen Weege		
Collene Ottum		
Community Blood Center Inc		
Community foundation of Portage County		

Bronze (\$100 to \$999)

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 CAP Services, Inc.
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 Cindy Draws
 Christ Child Society
 Community First Bank
 Com Foundation of Central Wisconsin
 Condon Oil Company
 Daniel & Dolores Lynch
 Dennis & Angie McCarthy
 Digital Printing Innovations
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 Kohl's
 Living Waters Community Lutheran Church
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 Oshkosh Rotary Southwest
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 William & Catherine Mode
 William & Beverly Armstrong
 Winnebago County DHHS
 Winneconne Area Assistance Center, Inc.

Friends (Under \$100)

While WINR would like to recognize all of our donors, we have too many friends to list here. Too many friends, the best problem to have.

REMEMBER THE EXCEPTIONAL

WINR TAX ADVANTAGE FOR VEHICLE DONATIONS!

By donating a car to WINR you receive the maximum vehicle donation tax advantage. Donors claim "Fair Market Value" when donating cars to charities. Since most other charities either auction or sell these cars, this results in a "Market Valuation" well below the actual value of the automobile. Because WINR directly uses your car to carry out its mission, you can declare the entire Kelley's Blue Book value of the car on your taxes.

Also, because WINR's mission allows us to donate cars directly to needy people, the entire value of your donation goes towards helping the community. A Government Accounting Office study found that in charities where cars are sold or auctioned, only five percent of the standard valuation actually went towards the charity's mission.

With this in mind, WINR presents itself as a fiscally sound and socially responsible choice for the destination of your donated vehicle. Also, if anyone you know plans on getting rid of a vehicle soon, inform them of the great opportunity provided through WINR.

Keep needy families rolling by:

- *Talking about the WINR TAX ADVANTAGE.*
- *Suggesting to those getting ready to part with a car that they look into donating it to the WINR Donated Wheels program.*
- *Referring them to the WINR website at www.winronline.org for more information.*



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Needs Response, Inc.**

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Oshkosh, WI 54903-0144

Phone: 920-236-0131
Fax: 920-236-0132
Email: winr@tds.net

See our website at
www.winronline.org
You can also find us
on Facebook or
follow us on
Twitter!

WINR Transitions to E-News

*We need your email as WINR transitions to an electronic newsletter in an effort to save paper and communicate with you more frequently.
Please email us at winr@tds.net We hope to hear from you soon .*

**Office Locations and
Phone Numbers:**

Fox Cities:
209 S. Allen St
P.O. Box 1111
Appleton, WI 54912
920-560-5575

Portage County:
3017 Church Street
P.O. Box 812
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-498-2465

Oshkosh Area:
808 N. Main St
P.O. Box 144
Oshkosh, WI 54903
950-236-0131

Waupaca County:
N2845 Shadow Rd.
P.O. Box 133
Waupaca, WI 54981
920-647-0585

Waushara County:
301 E Mt Morris Ave
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-647-0585



WINR is a
United Way Agency