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Senior Resource Center
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Large Business of the Year – 1 Nominee

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Business Name

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University

In 1982, a task force of educators and parents undertook the establishment of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, now Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College. A Needs Assessment and Planning effort was conducted in the Summer of 1982 and the task force called on the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a feasibility study to determine the appropriateness of a tribal community college at Lac Courte Oreilles.

In August 1982, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board chartered the college and provided it with Articles of Incorporation. Classes were held throughout the 1982 – 1983 academic year primarily through the volunteer efforts of part-time instructors. LCOOCC granted its first certificates of completion in the Community Health Educator program in June 1985. In May 1986, the college granted its first Associate of Arts Degree.

The College received Land Grant Status approval on October 5, 1994, in legislation passed by the U.S. Congress within the Tribal College Act Endowment Amendment. This Amendment was attached to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

In Spring 2003, the Cultural Resource Center was completed with the grand opening in November 2004. In May 2007, the Library at LCOOCC was completed and the grand opening was held in August 2007. In 2011, the College dedicated a fully equipped Nursing Simulation Lab to support instruction in Allied Health programs. In Fall 2016, a new 6,100 sq. ft. facility was dedicated, replacing a portion of campus that had been severely damaged during a fire in 2012. This new “600 Wing” addition contains a large Student Commons, a commercial kitchen, a study room, a classroom, storage spaces and houses the College’s Extension programs and staff.

The College began the process to offer bachelor’s degrees in Human Services and Business Administration in Fall 2018, including a proposed name change to recognize the change in program offerings. A Master Facility Planning (MFP) process also began at this time.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College formally changed to Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College with approval from the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board and the College’s Board of Regents in November 2019.

The bachelor’s degrees in Human Services and Business Administration were fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in May 2020. The college’s MFP was completed Fall 2020. The MFP resulted in a plan to expand the College’s footprint. The College expansion is currently under way.

The college began piloting its master's degrees in Human Services and Business Administration in the Fall of 2021 with accreditation in summer of 2022.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College formally changed to Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University with approval from the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board and the College's Board of Regents in August 2022.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University is celebrating 40 years of education in 2022.

Small Business of the Year –3 Nominees

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Business Name

Louie's Bar & Bites

Louie's Bar and Bites (formerly the Lil' Farm Bar and Grill) was purchased from Jim and Deb Meier on November 1st of 2021 and re-opened as Louie's on November 5th of 2021. My (Louie Welter) parents Jarold and Lori Welter previously owned Four Seasons Resort on Nelson lake for 24 years, but they sold the resort and closed two months before my opening. Growing up in the service industry and eventually working alongside my parents gave me valuable insight into the rewards that come with owning a local business. One of the most rewarding opportunities this business provides is the ability to give back to the community in numerous ways. We have had the opportunity to donate to Project Graduation, the Hayward Football Booster, the Hayward Hockey Club, the Northland Area Builders Association, SCOPE, and the ALS Wisconsin Chapter, among many others.

Route 63 Realty

Route 63 Realty opened one year ago in the fall of 2021 and has been very busy. The agents put a personal touch to connecting buyers and sellers of property in the area, along with promoting Hayward and surrounding area as a beautiful place to make their new home. It has been a booming business in the Hayward area competing with other top agents.

April has worked hard and dedicated her time to matching buyers and sellers of real estate.

The Whistle Punk

The Whistle Punk has provided some of the most consistently excellent service, products and experience of any business in the Hayward area. They constantly work to ensure the quality

of every aspect of their customer's visit, and are unfailingly energetic and positive, even through extremely challenging times for businesses in the service industry. They have, and freely share, an exhaustive knowledge of their products and provide a space/service that is unlike anything else around.

They've grown the physical space of their business, as well as it's offerings. They provide so many more unique things than just the pour of a beverage and a snack - movie nights, trivia, customized dining experiences, educational events, supportive physical fitness community, partnerships with other area small businesses and a welcoming, safe place for all peoples of the Hayward area. Their ownership and management truly embraces the spirit of the community and the happiness of their customers and employees, and they've managed all of their growth without sacrificing professionalism or quality of service.

Businesses should be recognized for excellence outside the norms of their industry, and the Whistle Punk has more than exceeded that criteria.

Business History: The Whistle Punk opened as a small, family owned craft beer and coffee bar in Stone Lake, and over its first few years has grown into a thriving center for the community.

New Business of the Year – 5 Nominees

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Business Name

Bill Kutka Angling and Guide Service

Bill Kutka has been associated with the Hayward Wisconsin area for over 40 decades and has lived here for 12. His passion for the sport of fishing and the community resounds in all he does with his business, Bill Kutka Angling and Guide Service. Bill and his wife Kelly's decision to join the HACC in 2022 was a natural fit. Bill and Kelly are huge promoters of the Hayward Wisconsin area through their business and their presence at outdoor sports shows throughout the Midwest. While exhibiting their business to promote his Hayward area guiding service at these sports shows, Bill also is a keynote speaker and does many seminars. One of which is specifically catered to walleye fishing in the Hayward area. These efforts reward our area with many new visitors and some that are returning.

Bill also has a very active website where he provides guidance to customers for lodging, eating and things to do. His website also has a variety of useful links including the HACC, the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and the Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau. It is Bill's desire to make the entire stay on and off the water pleasurable making his clients want to return over and over to our community.

Bill also gives back in many ways. He provides his time and even monies towards Fishing 4 Autism, Fishing Has No Boundaries, Veteran Organizations and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He also donates a full day guide trip each year to help raise new membership and donations to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, raising nearly \$20,000 in the past two years alone. His efforts are coaligned with Jim Grandt, and Hall of Famer at the Hall. Jim donates a \$500 custom rod each year.

In his first year as a member with the HACC in 2022 he has drawn in customers to Hayward from Montana, Colorado, Arizona, California, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana and Texas. This was also Bill's first year as a new business in Hayward and in a very compressed schedule of only 4.5 months has booked nearly 100 guide trips in our area. Many of his customers were up for 2 and even 3 day trips. He has already pre-booked nearly 15% of his 2022 total trips for next year in 2023.

Bill is all about differentiation in his market and promoting our beautiful area and bringing people into our community.

Business History: Bill started fishing early on as a kid growing up in Chicago. His passion for the outdoors and fishing has grown ever since, with over 50 years of fishing and boating experience. He is an accomplished Professional Walleye Tournament Angler for nearly four decades. Bill has qualified for championships and was named Sportsman of the Year in the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail. In 2022 the tournaments that he will compete in are the National Walleye Tour as a Pro and the Master's Walleye Circuit. Bill is a lifelong member of the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum located in Hayward, Wisconsin. He is also a Pro Member of the National Professional Anglers Association and The Walleye Federation.

Bill's sponsors include FXR Pro Fish, Razr Rodz, Frankie's Live Bait & Marine (Midwest's # 1 Ranger Dealer), Ranger Boats, Mercury Marine, FXR Pro Fish, Razr Rodz, Lowrance, EGO Fishing, Okuma Fishing, Off Shore Tackle, Powrtran, WavePro, Power-Pole, KYND Eyewear, Precision Trolling Data, Killin Time Kustom Baits, Custom Jigs & Spins, BFishin' Tackle, Dr. Juice Fishing, Rapala and Northland Tackle.

He started fishing the Hayward WI area back in the early 1980's, so he has knowledge and experience and can get you on fish. It is all about the experience with Bill. His love of the water and fishing will teach you techniques and provide you with boating and fishing equipment knowledge from firsthand use and experience.

Bill is CPR Certified, fully insured and is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard Master Captain

Louie's Bar & Bites

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McCormick House Inn & Restaurant

McCormick House Inn & Restaurant opened in January 2022. Our food is unique to the area, we offer Southern style dishes and other specials. We make everything fresh and use our own produce from our farm, White Stag whenever possible. We've opened up our back yard to live music throughout the summer months, Wednesday Winedown & Yoga, Oktoberfest, and we're excited about more to come in 2023. Our Inn has 6 newly renovated rooms all with their own en suites to enjoy your stay while visiting Hayward. We've become a great gathering place for friends, wine, and great food.

Business History: McCormick House was strictly a Bed & Breakfast up until 2020. In 2021 we started converting the main level to a restaurant so the public could come and enjoy the beauty and gardens of this 1887 home.

Powell's on Round Lake

Our goal when opening up Powell's was to provide a year-round opportunity for our community to come and receive a great dining experience. We believe we are accomplishing this and are adjusting and adapting to improve. Powell's is open year-round and seven days a week for locals and visitors alike to enjoy a great view of the lake in a family-friendly environment. We strive to provide excellent customer service and put out quality products in a great environment. Our feedback and reviews have affirmed we are off to a good start. We are continuously evaluating our dining experience in each season, finding out what we can do and do well throughout each part of the year. An example of this is adding dinner entrees and prime rib to our menu for the fall/winter. Within our first year and a half, we have started to follow through on our values of being community-minded. We have provided donations in support of many causes and groups throughout the area. Examples of this are meal sponsorships for a few Hayward High School sports teams, donations to the High

School scholarships and banquets, donations to fishing tournaments, festivals, fundraiser walks, Back the Blue event, Bingo for the Humane Society, and more. We are members of our area snowmobile/ATV groups and expect to be able to get more involved in various groups and organizations as we continue to get our feet under us. We are proud to be part of the Hayward Community and have enjoyed being able to provide another dining establishment for all to enjoy.

Business History: Heidi and Jimmy Powell purchased the site of Prop's Landing (the site of Famous Dave's) in spring of 2021. Powell's on Round Lake opened up in May of 2021 on beautiful Round Lake. It has been transformed from Prop's Landing into what it is today, providing a clean, family-friendly environment for all to enjoy year-round. Powell's provides indoor/outdoor dining and is accessible by boat, snowmobile, and ATV. Heidi grew up in Hayward, on Round Lake, and they moved their family back to the area to run this business and allow their children to grow up in Hayward.

Route 63 Realty

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April has worked hard and dedicated her time to matching buyers and sellers of real estate.

Outstanding Employee, Director or Manager of the Year – 4 Nominees

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name

Bill Grammer – Northwoods Community Food Shelf

I am nominating myself, Bill Grammer, for the Outstanding Director of the Year award. I had a vision/passion in January 2020 to open a 2nd Food Pantry in Sawyer County. Through this passion I was able to get connected with the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee who helped us get over \$100,000 in Federal Grant money to help the pantry grow. The money was used for an electric pallet jack, 2 pallet jacks, warehouse shelving units, a 3 door reach in freezer and a brand-new refrigerated van. These funds were made available through the American Rescue Plan Act and also the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection.

I also teamed up with Feed My People in Eau Claire, WI, they also have helped me get this pantry up and growing. During the pandemic they gave us \$6,500 for the purchase of 2 freezers and 2 refrigerators. Then in March 2022, Feed My People gave us \$37,684.14 towards our

garage project with the money coming from a grant from the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection. During the pandemic I started a drive through pantry which continues today. We distribute roughly 60,000 pounds of food a month and we feed over 1,106 families through our drive through and regular pantry. I have seen an increase from month to month with the number of seniors and children go up. As long as there is an emergency order in place through the Governor's office, we will continue to operate a drive through pantry.

I have seen an elderly couple drive down from Delta, WI looking for a loaf of bread over the holidays last year. If they drove over an hour, they must have needed the food so we encouraged them to sign up for the pantry and now they come down once a month for food. I also started a Senior Box of food for individuals over 60 with an income less than \$1,396 a month through the Hunger Task Force. Which they get a box of non-perishable foods once a month.

In March 2022 the Hunger Task Force made our pantry a distribution point for the Badger Boxes, which we were the 1st in the state to become a distribution point. The Badger Boxes is a box of food from local farmers and food producers in the State of Wisconsin. We distribute 147 to 250 boxes a month with no income guidelines. As long as you live in Wisconsin you can get a box from us. So, our motto is: As long as you need food you can get it from us..... We will never turn anyone away that is hungry.

Business History: I started this food pantry on January 10, 2020, as a 2-day food pantry. Look what I have accomplished in just 2 short years of starting the pantry. I have countless numbers of volunteers who come out week after week to help distribute food.

Nikki Hendricks-Wilson – Hayward Community Credit Union

What does it mean to be outstanding? After looking up this word, the terms excellent, marvelous, and remarkable appeared. All of these can be words used to describe Nikki Hendricks-Wilson's performance with HCCU.

During the last 2 years, like most businesses, HCCU had staffing shortages. At times, Nikki was the only member service provider who handled numerous account items, along with the consumer lending. Typically, this department requires a 3-person team in Hayward and one at our Cable Branch. Due to illness, departure, and other various reasons, Nikki had to step up and perform way beyond what is and should be expected. She not only got the job done but did it with remarkable speed and accuracy. This year, she exceeded expectations in loan growth and was recently granted a lending limit which allows her to underwrite her own loans.

Like most businesses, it is not just one person that brings forth excellence, it takes a team. Nikki is a team player and performs her job with kindness and care. She not only cares about her team members but each person she serves. She is quick to volunteer and desires to keep learning and improving.

HCCU has received numerous appreciation letters, emails, and note cards from members who were thankful to be helped by Nikki. Her ambition and kindness are the perfect combination for success. She is an outstanding employee with a bright future ahead!

Michelle Masters & Lisa Parker – Habitat for Humanity of Sawyer County + ReStore

I feel Michelle Masters and Lisa Parker both work very hard to help the citizens of Sawyer County by collaborating to help as many people as possible to repair and stay in their homes. Michelle, as the Executive Director, works hard to answer every request for home repairs by whatever means available. If Habitat cannot help them, she will find someone who can. Lisa works countless hours managing the ReStore. She has hired and trained an exemplary staff who all go above and beyond to make the system work like a fine-tuned machine. Most importantly, Michelle and Lisa work as a team. They both serve their community with all their heart and soul, doing whatever it takes to get it done. They truly care. One cannot be considered without the other. They are the perfect example of "it takes a village". Sawyer County is lucky to have them.

In addition, it is important to note that both Habitat and the ReStore have thrived exponentially under Michelle and Lisa's direction. Sales and foot traffic are way up, as are donations and corporate interest. All of this has translated to a sharply increased number of people and families helped and facilitates a greater service extended to the community. The entire energy of the operation has changed. Their positive, upbeat, cooperative energy has yielded very positive results.

Robyn Stryker – Flat Creek Lodge & Restaurant

I am nominating Robyn Stryker for **Manager of the Year** for her outstanding efforts in her continued dedication at providing excellence in Professional and Community Leadership.

She has help create and maintained a great company culture throughout Flat Creek Lodge and has the expertise to achieve goals established for her team and provide an environment that is motivational yet holds all team members accountable. She has created a mutual respect amongst all department heads that allows them to manage with a similar perspective. We operate in a challenging employment area yet Robyn has been able to keep and grow a great hospitality staff that feels like work is not just a job to show up to but a place they can interact productively in a "family oriented" and associate focused environment

Robyn is a Visionary. She possesses the skill of tracking what's behind you but always managing ahead. This is true within the asset she manages and throughout the community she lives and works in. She is not afraid to take chances, hold people accountable, and reinvent areas of the business that at times are currently not broke but understands we must always be nimble as change is normally good. Her management style is calm and observant that looks for any opportunity to mentor, train and always continues to have a positive outcome on performance.

Her dedication is tireless and unending. Her attitude is “whatever it takes” and she leads by example in this area. She is always aligned with our daily, weekly, monthly and annual plans and initiatives and has a keen sense of what is important both short term and long term. Lastly, her dedication to our customers and employees is second to none. As an owner that is not on property every day, it gives me great confidence knowing that these two extremely important elements of our current and future success are always handled in their best interest with the utmost professional care.

Her aptitude for community, economics and tourism is fully engaged at all times. She works tirelessly in her sales efforts to bring meetings and groups to the Hayward area hosting these meetings and events that provide positive economic trickle down throughout the Greater Hayward Community. She understands the importance and her role in bringing a variety of groups that are spending tourism dollars throughout our community that brings these after-tax dollars from outside our community, county and many times State. Furthermore, she took the initiative join the Hayward Chamber BOD and I would be confident in stating that her role here is also positive and productive. Her sense of community is strong. She pays special attention to Civic Events that Flat Creek is involved with and adds the special hospitality touches these events so deeply deserve.

Robyn Stryker lives every day in professional excellence. She wears many hats, maneuvers through hundreds of moving parts in this business every day with a smile on her face and a great attitude. She is a great addition to our hospitality community and we are very proud of her and her representation of our business and Hayward. I am proud to nominate Robyn Stryker for the Manager of the Year Award. Thank you in advance for consideration, it is truly appreciated.

Business History:

Flat Creek Lodge has been a hospitality anchor in Hayward for over two decades. With 66 guestrooms and suites, indoor pool and spa, 4,500 s.f. Conference Center and a large restaurant and bar footprint, Flat Creek Lodge is a leading Full-Service Hospitality Center serving the greater Hayward Area.

The property formerly known as the Country Inn and Suites and Ramada eventually found its natural place in the Hayward market as an independent property- Flat Creek Inn and Suites. Under new ownership in May 2017, the property was tired and in need for updating. Our company decided to make this property a “sister” property to the Lodge at Crooked Lake in Siren, WI so a name change was in order, renovations began and so did its new name Flat Creek Lodge. Part of our ownership goals is to consistently re-invent your business, invest back into your business and your community. Our plan was simple... reflag, reposition, renovate, be the best business civic partner we can be and focus on having the best “culture” with our most important assets (our employees) and the rest will take care of itself.

Volunteer(s) of the Year –4 Nominees

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name

Ken and Judy Bonser – Fishing Has No Boundaries

Ken & Judy Bonser are one heck of a team. They have volunteered for years and do so much for FHNB. They have brought generations of volunteers to this organization. Health issues may have slowed them down a little but still doing everything they can to help out. Our Main Event they are Guides/Check in person for boats/pontoons and do meal for set up day volunteers also donate to the event. Our Fall Fundraiser they donate, help set up and serve the dinner/get the line ready to serve. This is just a small explanation of things they do. They both deserve the award but would be happy if just one of them get it. I have only been a part of the organization for about 5 years now and Ken and Judy Bonser will always hold a place in my heart.

Business History: The purpose of Fishing Has No Boundaries-Hayward Chapter is to enrich the lives of persons with disabilities (both present and future) by providing information and education about the recreational value of fishing, promotion of participation in this leisure activity, development of accessible outdoor facilities and equipment and advocacy for inclusion in all outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities.

Linda Graham – Community Volunteer

Linda Graham spends her life in Service. She started the Free Store Thrift Shop. She spearheads the Northwoods Animal Shelter Thrift Shop where she volunteers several days a week. She helps facilitate the sharing of items and ideas between these two and Habitat for Humanity. Her other contributions are limitless. She gives selflessly of both her time and money. She embodies philanthropy and humanitarianism. She is at all times generous and giving. She cares to her core for the people and animals of this community. She deserves to be Volunteer of the year.

Northwoods Community Food Shelf Volunteers

We have 16-20 volunteers who come out every Tuesday to help with the set up of canopies, tables to put the bakery on and other food products that we get from Walmart and Marketplace. They also help with the unloading of the trucks and separating the food for distribution which comes from Feed My People in Eau Claire. Twice a month we get extra trucks that come out of Milwaukee. The volunteers show up for these in the rain or sun to unload, separate and get other trucks loaded so they can distribute the food at their locations. We supply food for Bad River, Red Cliff, Faith in Action, Spooner, LCO & the Northwoods Community Food Pantry. Without these volunteers who give of their time to help I (Bill Grammer) would not be able to do this on my own.

They volunteers get here at 9:30 am and stay until 3 pm on Distribution Day. There are other volunteers who show up just on Wednesday and Friday when the regular food pantry is open.

There are also volunteers who come out on the 3rd Thursday of every month to help with Ruby's Pantry distribution. If it was not for all these wonderful volunteers, the Northwoods Community Food Pantry would not be what it is today.

Business History: The Northwoods Community Food Pantry was started on January 10, 2020. We were just going to be open 2 days a week and supply food to the elderly and low-income families of Sawyer County. But in March of 2020 when the pandemic started, we started a drive through which is open every Tuesday. Anyone that needs food is welcome to attend. We never charge for this food, but we do accept donations for operating costs and a building fund. We have seen families from a 5 county radius that come to the pantry. We will never turn anyone away that is hungry.

Julie Zawistowski – Community Volunteer

Dear Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Julie Zawistowski for consideration for the 2022 Volunteer of the Year award with the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to performing her job as a Special Education teacher, Julie demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the Wisconsin Chapter of ALS as well as to her community as a Head Softball Coach and volunteer youth softball coach.

Julie takes her job seriously and puts kids first and herself second. She spends countless hours before and after school preparing lesson plans and IEPs (Individual Education Plans). She serves as Advisor to the Freshman Class, Head Softball Coach, Volunteer Youth Softball Coach, Cranberry Fest Volunteer, and serves on the "Be the 1" committee. Julie Zawistowski is selfless, caring, compassionate, patient, family oriented, Canes strong, an inventive teacher, an excellent advocate for her students and is available to help all students if there is a need. Her love is contagious, her children are goal oriented, she has connections in the community, and her friends will back her whenever there is a need. In other words: Julie is an angel and superwoman!

Julie has spent the last years caring for her father and has become greatly involved with the Wisconsin Chapter of ALS. This year's fundraising efforts were greater than 60,000 dollars. Julie had the honor of representing the ALS Wisconsin chapter on MLB's ALS day by throwing in the first pitch for the Brewers' game.

Sincerely,

Anita Seiler Special Education H.S. teacher

Stephen Panley Special Education H.S. teacher

Cathy Lawson Special Education H.S. Teacher

Dehose - IT tec H.S.

Elizabeth Gray - District Student Data

[Signature] - Athletic Director / Assistant Principal

[Signature] - Guidance Counselor

Kylah Eckes? School Counselor

Janice Freund - Admin. Asst.

Oliver Roersma - HS Admin. Asst.

[Signature] - HS Principal

[Signature] - HS. MATH TEACHER

[Signature] Highschool teacher

[Signature]

Samu Kura

[Signature]

Justin Gillin
WEBER

Kim M. Lambert

Bridget Rippey

Service Organization of the Year – 7 Nominees

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Business Name

Habitat for Humanity of Sawyer County & ReStore

I believe Habitat for Humanity and The Restore are a huge asset to our community. In these times of catastrophic affordable housing shortages, they are a candle in the dark. They make the dream of home ownership a reality by helping a well deserving family acquire on. A family is being placed in a house of their own this October (next month). The ReStore allows generous citizens to donate their no-longer needed items so that others can find a new purpose for them at a much-reduced price. Less in the landfills and more in the shopper pockets and more to be distributed to those in need. It is a win-win-win!!

Business History: Habitat for Humanity and the Restore have been serving Sawyer County since 1999. The efforts of their great staff have put families in new homes and helped countless others to stay in their homes through our "Brush with Kindness" and "Aging in Place" programs. In addition, they sponsor "Veterans" builds and work in conjunction with the USDA to help future homeowners acquire grants and low interest loans for crucial home repairs. The Restore helps those in need by providing discounted materials, appliances, and furniture through the thrift store. They work with other local non-profits and programs to provide some of these items to families in need, often at no cost. Generous donations within our community also helps us to serve so many in need.

Hayward Lions Club

The Hayward Lions Club has been serving the community for over 60 years.

Community service: Community dinner once a month, Memorial Day pancake breakfast free and open to the public, help at the hospital picnic, aid station at the Fat Tire race, vision screening at the grade schools. Donations of over \$30,000 each year to many different local organizations: Food shelves, Salvation Army, House of Hope, Boy Scout Troop 70, Park Theater, Quilts of Valor, and many other youth groups that need our help.

Northwest Connection Family Resources

The primary reason for the nomination is to increase the visibility for NCFR programs/services. While we partner with many families, we know not everyone knows about the great opportunities NCFR provides. "All families need a little Xtra support". We want to be sure parents/caregivers in our community know we are here and have access to the support needed to be successful. "Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment".

Business History: A very brief overview...Northwest Connection Family Resources (NCFR) is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1994. All of the programming and services NCFR provides supports our vision "to promote and nurture strong and healthy children, families, and communities with lasting benefits that touch the future" and mission "to support and strengthen families and care givers by building a long-lasting foundation through education, information, referrals and shared opportunities".

NCFR serves families in Sawyer and Washburn Counties, including the Lac Courte Oreilles community with family resource center programming. Programming currently provided includes: Home Visitation- Healthy Families America Affiliate (for parents/caregivers with children prenatal to age 3), Community Response Program (12-20 week program with help to access community resources), New Baby Hospital and Home Visits: includes Period of Purple Crying/Abusive Head Trauma Prevention education, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program: Primary (one on one training), Seminar (series of 3 sessions) , Workshops and coming soon for Parents of Teen, Parent Cafes' (series of 3 based on the Five Protective Factors), Car Seat Safety Education/Installation, weekly Storyhour at the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library, BEE Our Guest Events (free diaper give-away/resources), Musky Festival Children's Game/other family & community events and a fun children's environment, available by calling to book a time to play. All programming is available free of charge. NCFR is also participating in a statewide campaign to promote family support services: ROOM TO GROW - radio ads are currently running and watch for our billboard coming in 2023.

In addition, NCFR serves Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Vilas, Washburn Counties and the tribal communities of: Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Sokaogon and St. Croix with Child Care Resource & Referral services. We provide free child care referrals, onsite technical consultation/coaching at child care programs, technical assistance, child care certification and pre-licensing services to start a child care program, community consultation, trainings and conferences (examples: Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention, Strengthening Families, Mandated Reporter, Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light - prevention of child sexual abuse, Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Competency, Wisconsin Model Early Learning

Standards (WMELS), Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Inclusion, Early Literacy and many more.

NCFR has two Facebook pages: one for Parents/Caregivers and one for Providers/Early Childhood Professionals, both provide additional programming, resources and updates. NCFR also has a webpage: wisconsinchild.org

"Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment."

Regional Hospice Services

This service is not often talked about, but so very important to our community. It takes very special people to be that support and guidance.

Regional Hospice is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to providing individualized, compassionate, physical, spiritual, and psycho- social care and support to patients and families, enabling death with dignity as a completion of life.

Senior Resource Center

We are the Sawyer County Senior Resource Center serving the residents of Sawyer County in the beautiful northwoods of Wisconsin through our main office in Hayward, as well as satellite locations in Stone Lake, Exeland, and Spider Lake. Winter is being served through the Exeland site. The Senior Resource Center is affiliated with the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), one of three regional agencies on aging in Wisconsin that administer federal and state resources for the development of programs and services for older adults. Their mission is to affect positive change in the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of county and tribal aging units in order to preserve and enhance the quality of life of older adults in Northern Wisconsin. The programs of the Senior Resource Center are designed to achieve this mission.

Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club

Sno-Trails Snowmobile Club is a non-profit organization that has benefitted the tourism industry in the Hayward area for over 50 years. The club serves the local economy by attracting visitors to Hayward all winter long. In 2020, the club was named Snowmobile Club of the Year at the state, national, and international levels. These awards were in recognition for promoting safe and responsible riding, introducing new people to the sport, and promoting a positive image of the sport of snowmobiling. In 2021, Sno-Trails was featured in a video on WDIO's Up North feature – another way to bring positive attention to the area.

The club organizes 3-4 events each winter to draw people to area businesses. Those events range from family-oriented Bonfires and rides that are popular with weekend visitors, to the annual Spring Bash picnic which draws both snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers from across the community. As a part of the Sawyer County Snowmobile and ATV Alliance, the club contributes to funding for menu board signage across the county, and helps with the production of the county-wide trail map for snowmobilers and ATV'ers. Each year, the club offers 2 scholarships to students, one in Hayward, and one in Winter, WI. The club donates to numerous local fundraising events, including the Relay for Life and local fire departments.

Business History: Sno-Trails was founded in 1969. It has been a 100% volunteer organization from the very start. Volunteers put in hundreds of hours each year on brushing, grooming, lake staking, and raising funds to cover equipment costs and keep the trails safe and smooth. From the very beginning, the mission of this club has been to maintain excellent trails that keep snowmobilers happy and returning to the area year after year. Where other clubs emphasize the social aspect of being in a club, providing good trails has always been the number one priority of Sno-Trails. The club has over 30 business members and over 230 Associate family memberships. Only 40% of the Associate members are full-time residents of the Hayward area. The remainder either have second homes here or visit the area just for snowmobiling.

Wild Rivers Conservancy

I recommend Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon for consideration as Service Organization of the Year. The Conservancy works hard to serve as the voice of the Riverway. Supporting over 250 river miles takes diligent action. Standing for the national park in the face of ongoing pressures, our team, comprised of dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, tackles mounting threats to the riverway. From proposed housing developments, water pollution threats from concentrated animal feedlots, and the spread of invasive species, we draw inspiration from the ecological health, vitality, and natural beauty of the nation's first Wild and Scenic Riverway National Park to do our part. This year, the Conservancy balanced mitigation efforts with stewardship opportunities in the Hayward community. The recent Namekagon River Clean-Up brought more than 50 participants together, both on and off the water, to collect debris and litter found along the river. Over 100 people enjoyed responsible recreation with the Conservancy-led springtime hike, paddles focused on the birds and fish of the Namekagon River, paddles with the LCO Boys and Girls Clubs, and our sold-out 3-day Namekagon River paddles. Wild Rivers Conservancy is a proud member of the Hayward community; we look forward to new opportunities to support and promote local resources and partners.

Business History: Wild Rivers Conservancy boasts a 111-year legacy. Known formerly the St. Croix River Association, our organization changed its name in May of 2021, distinguishing us

and defining us as the official nonprofit partner for the entire St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The Conservancy implements a holistic approach to conservation. We conduct activities to ensure improved water quality and ecological health through strategic partnerships; raise awareness and create a shared understanding of the threats, needs, and resources of the Riverway; establish and implement common-sense policies and strategies to advance the Riverway protection; and create opportunities for everyone to access the Riverway, participate in stewardship programs, and enjoy the benefits of river-time. The protection and celebration of our natural places not only support the economy of our communities, which benefit from the millions of Riverway visitors each year, but it is also vital to who we are. It is essential that we protect this special place now and for generations to come.