

2022 EDITION



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the Foundation is often considered the financial conduit for donations to the Parks Department, I can assure you that the Board Members take a great deal of ownership in being active participants in making our parks a point of pride for the community. We all spend a great deal of time knowing and understanding the plans and aspirations of the Parks Department to effectively serve the mission of the Foundation.

When I think about how much this city has changed since my wife and I arrived here with our five kids in tow back in 1996, it is nothing short of amazing. Our adult children are very proud of their "little" hometown where they grew up, as it has become a "cool" place and a destination for many. A big reason for the change has been the improvement to our parks and the many projects that have happened since our arrival.

Listing the improvements that have been made, it is stunning how much has been accomplished. A new and improved ValPLAYso, Central Park Plaza, the Urschel Pavilion and Ice Arena, ValPAWrailso dog park, Samardzija Field and the courts at Tower Park, Creekside Trails and the list goes on and on. Wow! Amazing improvements which were made possible by the generosity and hard work of the people of this community, the City and Parks staff and a host of volunteers.

Successful organizations are constantly looking for ways to improve. Our City and our Parks Department continues to look for opportunities to improve the Valpo Parks system to better serve the citizens of our community. The Parks Department recently went through a strategic planning process, including surveying the community to assess the needs and desires of our residents. Our City leadership is in the process of determining how best to address the thoughts and ideas that came out of that process, so stay tuned as some of the actions recommended by that survey are gradually beginning to unfold.

Finally, I want to offer up a note of appreciation to the many people who have made our park system something we can be very proud of. We would not be where we are today without the wonderful work of our past and present City administrators, Parks Department Executive Director John Seibert and his incredibly hard-working and valuable staff, community volunteers and of course the many generous corporate and individual donors of both time and treasure. What we see today is truly the result of the hard work of many, and our vision for the future is dependent on the continuation of those efforts and ongoing generosity and support of our wonderful community.

Thank you to all of you for your support in making our Parks System what it is today!

*Jim Cunningham*

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# 2021 Board of Directors

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*Valpo Parks Foundation Executive Director*

**Jim Cunningham**

*Thorgren Tool & Molding President*

**Melanie Trowbridge**

*Valparaiso University Vice President*

**Brandi Anstine**

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**Christy Graf**

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*1st Source Bank*

**Dr. Rob Behrend**

*Valpo Family Dentistry*

**Dr. Rob Cavanaugh**

*Cavanaugh & Nondorf Orthodontics*

**Tim Warner**

*Centier Bank*

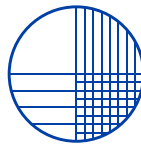
**Wade Breitzke**

*We Create Media*

*Thank you!*

# FOUNDATION PARTNERS

## PREMIER PARTNER



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## PLATINUM PARTNER



## GOLD PARTNERS



## SILVER PARTNERS

1st Source Bank

AM Stabilizers

CAPTRUST

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Community Healthcare System

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Douglas, Koeppen & Hurley

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Gariup Construction

Grieger's Motor Sales, Inc.

Hoepfner, Wagner & Evans

Horizon Bank

Kusbel Family

Lehman & Lehman, Inc.

Madewell Media

NITCO

Rodenbarger Family

Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering

Vale Park Animal Hospital

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



**Bill Oeding**  
Business Development Specialist  
Abonmarche



**Christy Graf**  
Director of Major & Planned Giving  
Valparaiso University



**Matt Evans**  
Broker & Owner  
RE/MAX Lifestyles



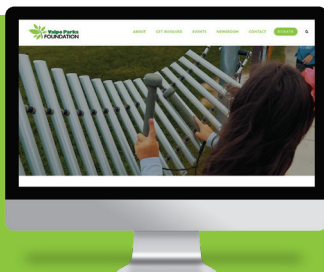
**Sarah Hunter**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northwest Health

# 2021 DONORS & SPONSORS

1st Source Bank  
Access LaPorte County  
Alderson Photography  
AM Stabilizers  
Amanda Taylor  
Aquatic Weed Control  
Bank of England Mortgage  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Executive Group  
Berglund Construction  
Birnam Design Co.  
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Boy-Conn Printing Inc.  
Bruce & Linda Berner  
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CAPTRUST  
Cavanaugh & Nondorf Orthodontics  
Centier Bank  
Change Therapy Center, LLC  
Chester, Inc.  
Chris & Jamie Sulcer  
Cinta's  
Circle "R" Electric, Inc.  
City of Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission  
Coastal Valley Water Company  
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Crystal Siewin  
Duneland Home Inspections, LLC  
Dillon Dalton & Cara Carrbine-Dalton  
Elegan Customwear  
Elite Services  
Engraveables  
FirstLight Home Care  
Flanagin's Bulk Mail Service  
Gary & Beth Germann  
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Grieger's Motor Sales, Inc.  
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Journeyman Distillery  
K & D Lawn & Landscape Group  
Kusbel Family  
Lakeshore Seasonal Services  
Larry & Laura Evans  
Larson Danielson Construction  
Leetz Family  
Lin Brehmer 93XRT  
Madewell Media  
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Metro Recycling  
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Northwest Indiana Fence Company  
Nuppau Lawn & Snow  
Oak Partners Inc.  
Ocean Life Construction  
Our Greater Good  
Ozinga Brothers Ready Mix  
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Patton Law Office  
Porter County Community Foundation

Powering America Northwest Indiana  
Pressure Tech Maintenance  
Puntillo & Crane Orthodontics  
Realty Executives Premier  
RE/MAX Lifestyles - Matt Evans Team  
Restoration Dental Studiot  
Rick Mezo  
Robert & Linda Eyerhmann  
Rodenbarger Family  
Seibert Family  
Shoreline Aggregate Solutions, Inc.  
Skillman Corporation  
St. Paul Catholic School  
Stanley Steemer  
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StoryPoint of Chesterton  
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Stu & Megan Summers  
Super Cuts  
T-Mobile  
Task Force Tips, Inc.  
Thorgren Tool & Molding, Inc  
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Tim & Shelly Rice  
Trailyard LLC  
Tudor Cleaning & Restoration Services  
UFS Corporation  
Urschel  
Valparaiso Family Dentistry  
Valpo Velvet  
Value Flooring  
Walt & Cynthia Breitinger  
Walt Tabor  
Waters Family  
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*Thank you!*

The Valpo Parks Foundation Website  
Maintained by WeCreate Media



# event recaps

## Friends & Legends



"Celebrating Friends & Legends" reception is held each year to honor those who lend support and volunteer to aid in the mission of the Foundation. On October 7, 2021, the "Art & Irene Malasto Legends Award" was presented to Rick and Erin Urschel to give recognition and appreciation of their leadership and support to Valpo Parks. Rick was a Team Leader of the 2014 ValPlayso Build and Erin serves on the Park Foundation Board. The 2021 Legendary Friend Award honoree was Jon Schmaltz of the Law Firm of Burke Costanza & Carberry. He is a past President of the Foundation Board and legal counsel for the Parks Foundation. The "Community Champion" Award was presented to Sandra DeTraz to honor her demonstrated leadership and stewardship in the community and dedication to mission of the ValPAWraiso Dog Park. Thank you to our sponsors; Circle "R" Electric, Indiana Beverage, Metro Recycling, Strack & Van Til, and Task Force Tips, Inc.

## Creekside Classic



This unique golf outing gives kids an opportunity to play in a real shotgun start, best ball outing! 2021 was an amazing year for the Creekside Classic with a record 30 hole sponsors. The July 15th event sold out with 26 foursomes and included golf, a youth skills competition, lunch, swag bags and more.



# Party in the Park



The Party returned September 17th, 2021 after a Covid hiatus in the format of a Trivia Night emceed by Andy Urschel and Karl Berner at Central Park Plaza under the Urschel Pavilion (a.k.a. Billy Pavilly). Hundreds of community members celebrated over 75 years of the Valpo Parks Board with a fun evening, thanks to our event sponsors.

# First Skate



Also returning after a one-year pause, First Skate on November 12, 2021 allowed 350 savvy skaters to be the first on the Ice at Central Park Plaza. This SOLD-OUT event was sponsored by inHealth, NIPSCO, Supercuts, and T-Mobile. If you missed out this year and would like to get tickets for 2022, sign up for any future emails at [www.ValpoParksFoundation.org](http://www.ValpoParksFoundation.org).

## STILL TO COME FOR 2022!

**FRIENDS  
& Legends**

**Thursday,  
October 6, 2022**

Butterfield Family Pavilion

*Honoring those who love  
and care for our community*

**FIRST skate**

**Saturday,  
November 12, 2022**

Ice Rink at Central Park Plaza

*Be the first to experience  
the ice this season*

# Your Support Helped Us...



## Get On Board

2021 saw the launch of the “Get On Board” fundraising phase of a new skatepark slated for Fairgrounds Park. Several community sponsors stepped up to provide \$210,427 in 2021, including 1st Source Bank, Bruce & Linda Berner, Bruce & Judy Leetz, Change Therapy Center LLC, Dillon Dalton & Cara Carrabine-Dalton, Greigers Motor Sales Inc., inHealth, CAPTRUST, Noon Kiwanis, Bob Pence, the Waters Family, Mark & Annette Ritzi, Crystal Siewin, Chris & Jamie Sulcer, Amanda Taylor, the Kusbel Family, the Leetz Family, the Seibert Family, Thorgren Tool & Molding Inc., Porter County Community Foundation, and Urschel. Fundraising is still underway with construction scheduled to begin in 2023. If you’d like to “Get On Board” this exciting project and see plans for the well-planned park, visit our website, [www.ValpoParksFoundation.org](http://www.ValpoParksFoundation.org).



## Valpo For All Generations

Valparaiso is a vibrant community with an outstanding Parks Department. 2021 saw the culmination of a study for a 5-year Master Plan to update and optimize the system of parks to better serve everyone in Valpo, for this generation and those who come after. The study dialed in to 4 major pillars of the new Valpo for All Generations initiative; optimizing our system of existing Legacy Parks, the new Valparaiso Skatepark, a reimagined Adult Center for Enrichment, and a 248-acre Community Sports and Recreation Complex to better serve youth and adult leagues. Each component is an ambitious project on its own, but extensive input from community surveys and focus groups pointed to broad parks use and appetite for better facility support for varied demographics.

# 2021 FUNDRAISING

 <p><b>VALPARAISO SKATEPARK</b> <b>\$210,427</b></p>	 <p><b>FOUNDATION PARTNERS</b> <b>\$63,000</b></p>	
<p><b>FOUNDATION EVENTS</b> <b>\$62,790</b></p>	<p><b>OTHER FUNDS</b> <b>\$16,075</b></p>	 <p><b>CREEKSIDE TRAILS</b> <b>\$69,687</b></p>





# WAYS *to give*



Cash Gifts



Planned Giving



Gifts in Honor,  
Memory &  
Special  
Occasions



Real Estate



In-Kind Support

# valpo for all generations

Working to better serve everyone in Valpo, for this generation and those who come after. To learn more about Valpo for All Generations and how to support projects that will enrich your community experience, visit

[www.valpoparks.org/630/Valpo-For-All-Generations](http://www.valpoparks.org/630/Valpo-For-All-Generations).





The Valpo Parks are reflective of the community's vibrancy and are a visible **symbol** of the quality of life in Valparaiso. The Valpo Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, exists to **support** the Valpo Parks Department. The Foundation often serves as a catalyst to bring projects to fruition, capturing the spirit and character of residents working side-by-side to make our community even **stronger**.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Because of your generosity, our treasured park system and its programs will continue to be responsive to community needs. Each gift, no matter the size, will help ensure that our parks will be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities for generations to come.



*Thank you!*

VALPO PARKS  
FOUNDATION

3210 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385

219.462.5144

[www.ValpoParksFoundation.org/Donate](http://www.ValpoParksFoundation.org/Donate)