



BELWIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





Photo by Nancy Klinger

Dear Friends,

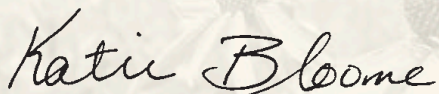


This year marked big strides forward. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of so many, we publicly launched *Inspiring Through Nature*, Belwin's first large-scale campaign since our founding 55 years ago. While the pieces of the campaign are largely focused on infrastructure, the goal is much greater — and deeply connected to Belwin's roots of conservation and education.

Belwin's new education building and renovations to other spaces will allow current partnerships to thrive, and make room for more programs. New trails and improvements to our entrances will increase visibility and enhance experiences for visitors. And investments in land protection and habitat restoration will make sure visitors and wildlife experience healthy and biodiverse ecosystems.

The work of creating deeper connections, more meaningful experiences, and a healthier wilderness would not happen without support from our community. I want to extend my thanks to those of you who gave your time, money, and perspective to Belwin this year. The groundwork we laid together will open doors to expand our impact into the future.

With gratitude,



Katie Bloome

Katie Bloome, Executive Director

The work of
creating deeper
connections,
more meaningful
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and a healthier
wilderness
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support from our
community.**



Photo by Jacob Kinneman



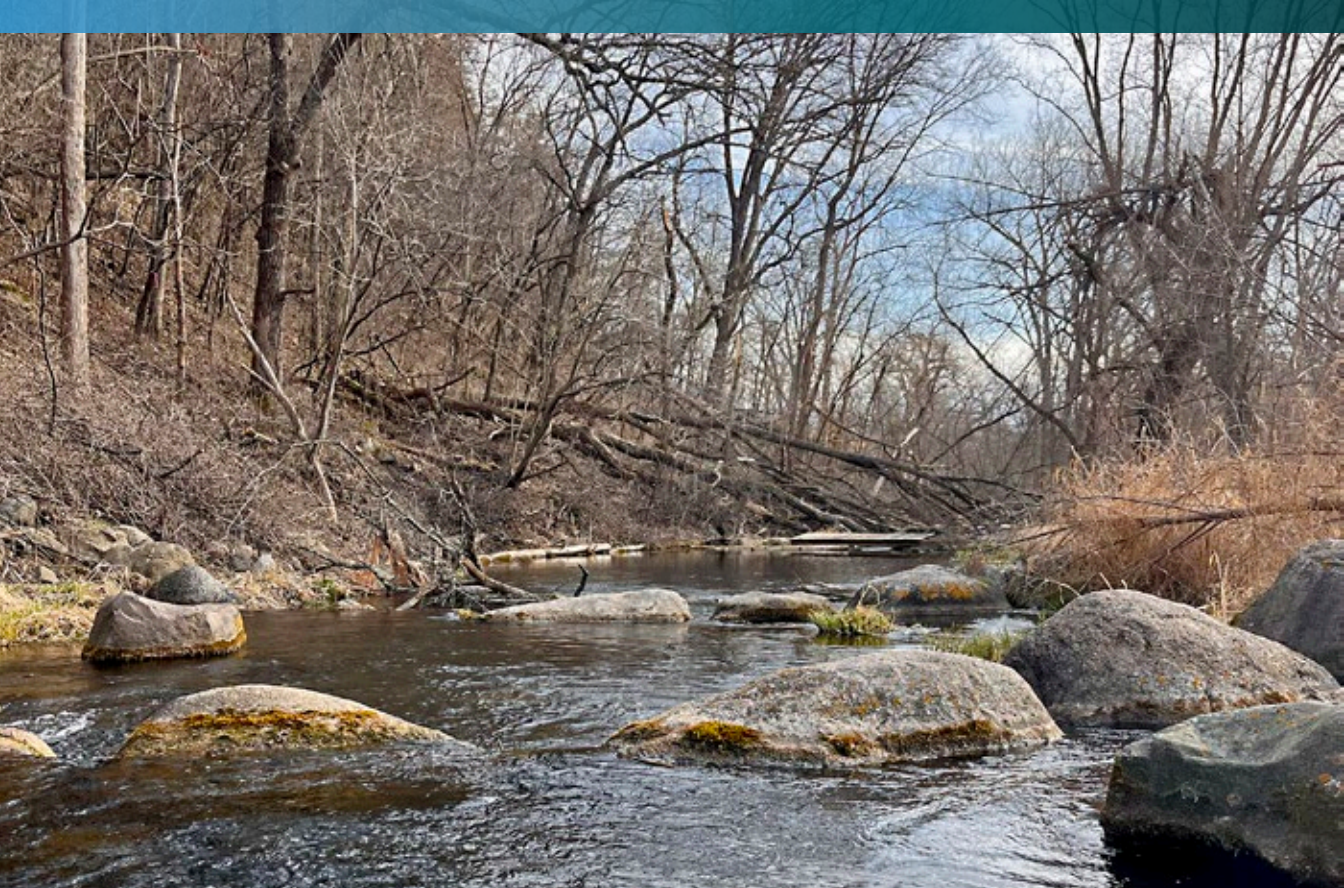
Mission

Inspiring connection and engagement with the natural world.

At Belwin, we spark passion for wild places. Through immersive community programs, partnerships, and environmental education, we inspire and engage people in the care of natural areas. Through land protection and habitat restoration, we revive threatened ecosystems so wildlife can thrive.

The Land We Are On

The land on which Belwin Conservancy exists is the ancestral home of the Wahpekute Dakota people, original stewards of this region. We recognize that despite government efforts to exterminate and diminish the Dakota, their connection to this land and water and their history and lifeways perseveres today. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.



Protecting and Caring for a Treasured Creek

In 2024, Belwin protected 24.4 additional acres along Valley Creek from future development. In one case, individuals donated a conservation easement to Belwin, and continue to own and live on the land. The rest was purchased from people who wanted to see their land preserved. Their decisions will have lasting ripple effects — for the watershed, for wildlife in need of connected habitat, and for others considering similar steps. Retired historian Kate Thomas, who sold 5 acres to Belwin in 2024, says, “I love how Belwin protects both the creek and the history of the area. They made me want to be a part of their legacy.”

Belwin now manages 7,830 feet, or 1.5 miles of bank along Valley Creek. Last year, Belwin seeded native plants along the creek, and removed invasive or ecologically inappropriate species like buckthorn and red cedar along the stream bank and adjacent hillsides. These efforts slow erosion and runoff, improving water quality in the creek. Recent surveys found sensitive species like mottled sculpin and American brook lamprey thriving in Valley Creek, a testament to the remarkable health of this increasingly rare resource.

“Small creeks often become degraded until they’re little more than just another ditch.

Valley Creek has the potential to be a showcase for the exponential power of concentrated protection efforts.”

Bill Ramsden, who, along with his partner, Doreen Lynch, donated their conservation easement to Belwin in 2024.

Indigenous Partnerships Blossoming

Indigenous cultures of the upper Midwest are inextricably tied to the ecosystems here. As Indigenous-led organizations connect their communities with the land, they are finding a partner in Belwin:

Anishinabe Academy students participate in care for the land and learn cultural traditions on 19 acres at Belwin. This partnership supported over 500 visits from students and their families in 2024, and continues to generate enthusiasm from other schools.

St. Paul-based **American Indian Family Center** provides traditional healing practices to members of their community at a dedicated site at Belwin. In 2024, some 1,200 community members were present at these gatherings.

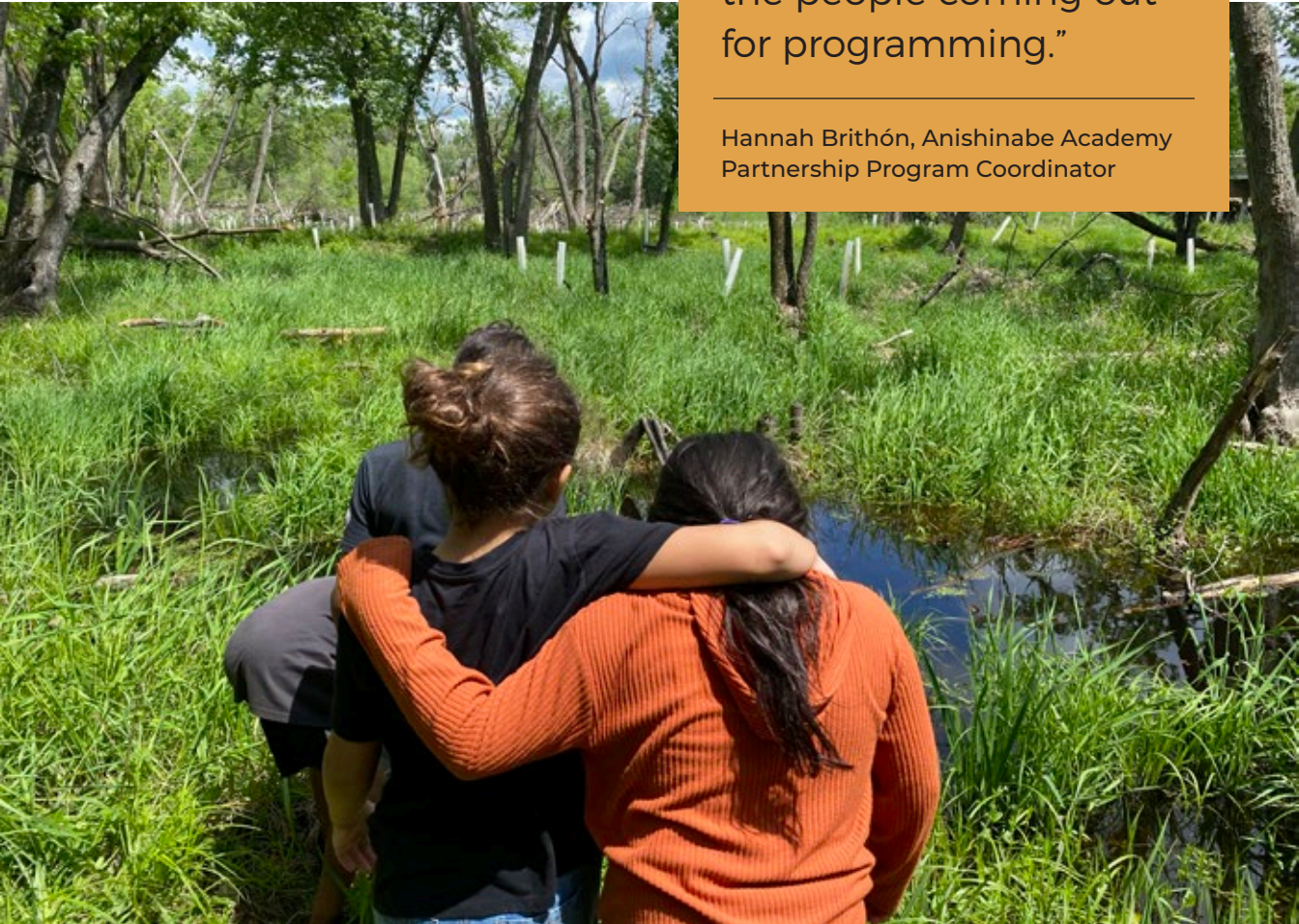
Ethan Neerdaels, Executive Director of **Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičhiye (DIO)**, calls Belwin “an ideal partner, interested in preservation of place and culture.” DIO operates Dakota language camps at Belwin. In 2024, they also taught Anishinabe Academy students and created a Dakota language and culture curriculum that will be available to educators statewide.

Each of these organizations comes to Belwin to connect with the land, and by virtue of being in the same place, mutual learning and collaboration is taking place. With an approach that centers Indigenous knowledge and leadership, we are excited to see what new connections emerge in the coming years.

Funded with support from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), the Mortenson Family Foundation, the St. Croix Valley Foundation, and our generous donors.

“By engaging communities descended from the original stewards of the land, **we are witnessing healing through reconnection**, both for the land and the people coming out for programming.”

Hannah Brithón, Anishinabe Academy Partnership Program Coordinator





Inspiring Connections in Nature – At Any Age

Every year, 10,000 K–12 students come to Belwin for environmental education through a partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools. While this program is going strong, newer partnerships are expanding outdoor experiences for people of all ages, because time in nature is beneficial to everyone — no matter how young or old the visitor.

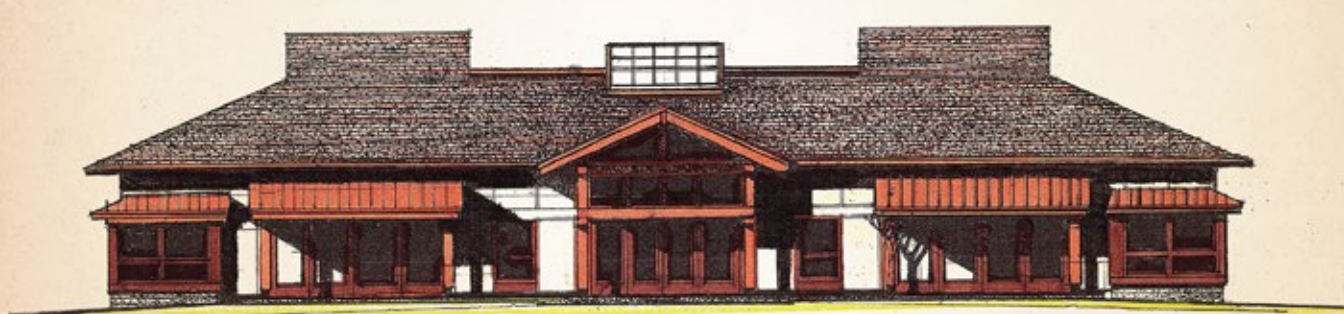
Stillwater’s Early Childhood Family Education sparks wonder in toddlers through guided hikes and outdoor story times at Belwin events. FamilyMeans’ Caregiving and Aging

program creates experiences in nature for older adults with dementia and their caregivers.

Thanks to donors to the Inspiring Through Nature Campaign, these programs will have a place to grow. In 2024, Belwin started construction on a new education facility (see below) that will support these and other growing partnerships, while also acting as the new home to our adaptive programs for students with special needs, which are attended by 1,500 students annually.

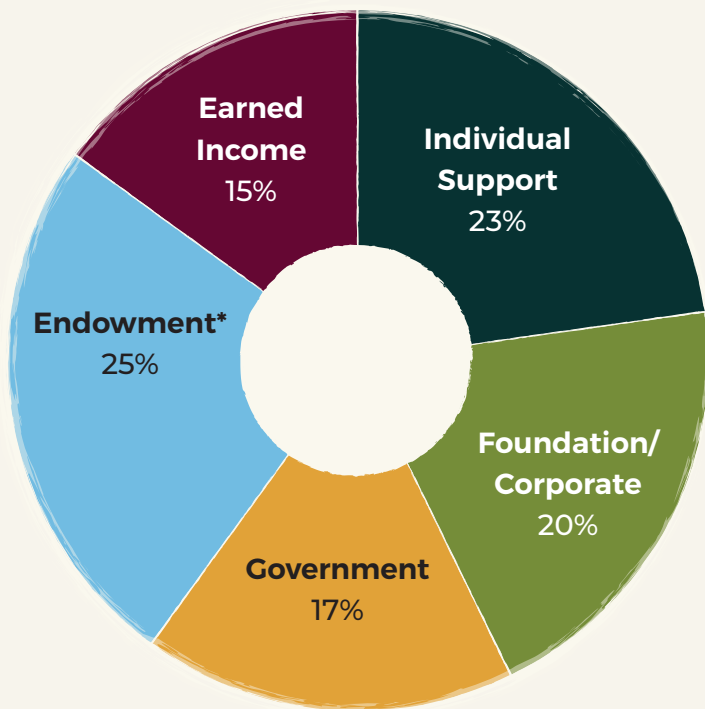
New Building Opens Doors for Outdoor Learning

When the new 5,000-square-foot Peter J. King Family Foundation Wetlands Center opens (estimated in summer 2025), Belwin will host up to 5,000 additional students each year, **increasing educational capacity by 50 percent.**

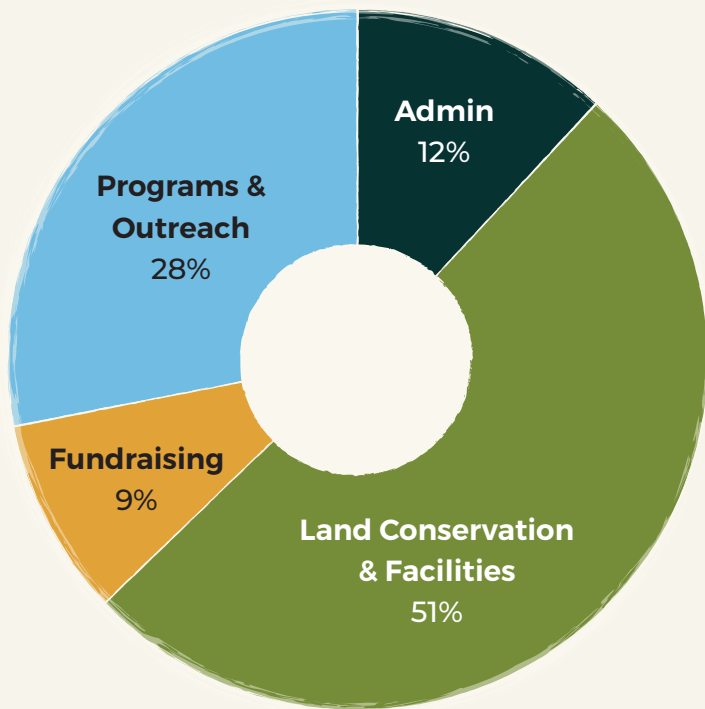


2024 FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



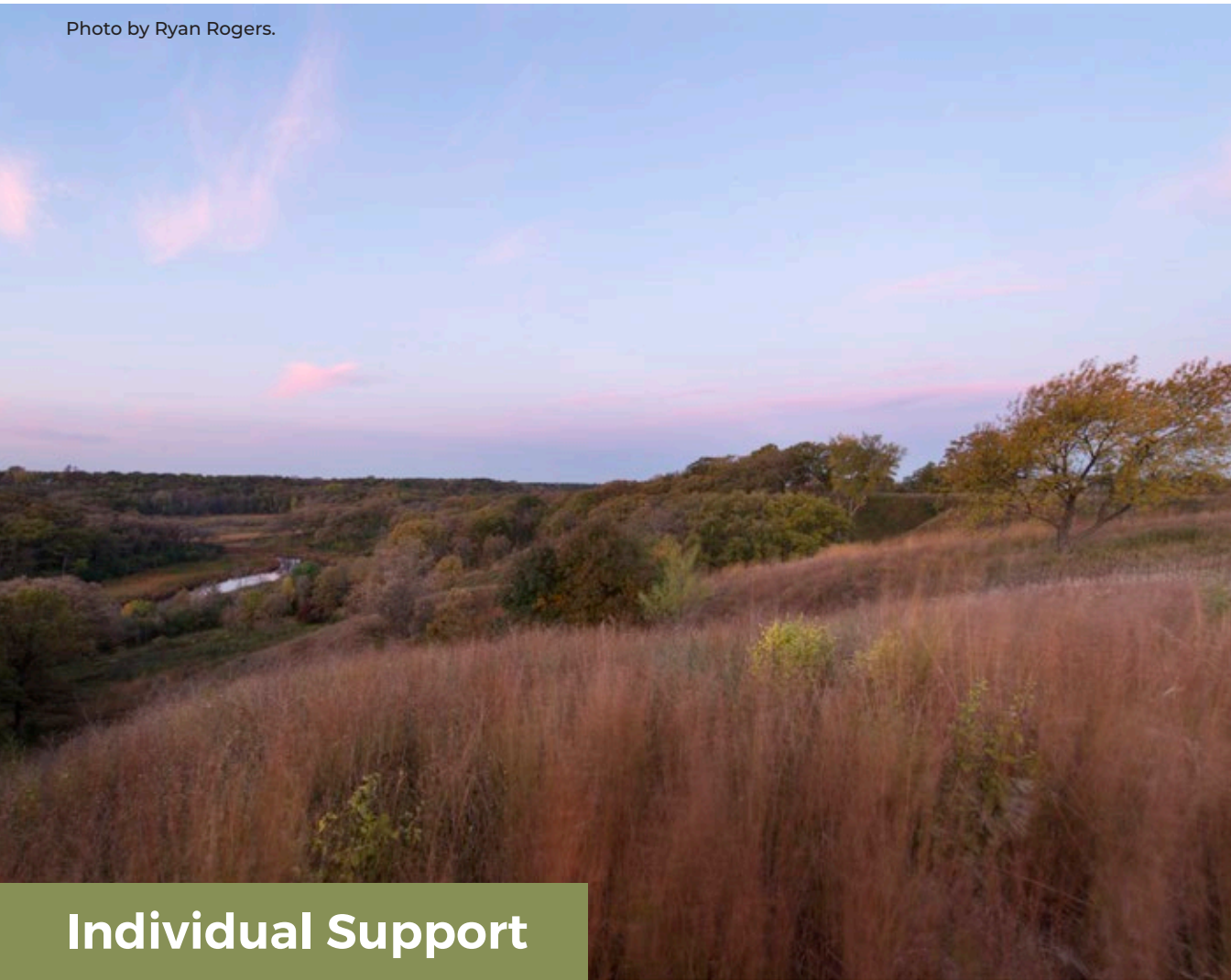
**Includes Belwin formal Endowment and Belwin Supporting Fund.
These numbers are unaudited. Complete audited financials will be available later this year at belwin.org/about/reports*

Thanks to our Supporters

Belwin Conservancy recognizes the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations who made donations in 2024. These gifts support operations, programs, special fund-a-need campaigns, and the stewardship of Belwin’s protected lands. You have our heartfelt thanks.

*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists.
Please contact Angie Eckel at 651-435-0687 with concerns.*

Photo by Ryan Rogers.



Individual Support

\$25,000+

- Daniela Bell & Eric Foster
- Silas & Olivia Ford
- Sharon Glasrud
- David Hartwell* & Amy Hebert Hartwell
- Douglas* & Pam Johnson
- Jill* & Chuck Koosmann
- Irene Qualters*
- William Ramsden & Doreen Lynch
- Ben & Mary Whitney

\$9,999 to \$24,999

- Jim & Debra Andrews
- Kurt & Louise Casby
- Dave & Diana Dawkins
- Jim Hagstrom
- Karen & Craig Hansen
- Kris Hansen* & Peter Bohacek
- Christy and Doug Hlavacek
- Robert & Heidi Hubbard

**2024 Board Member*



Children at the Bison Festival. Photo by Don Wendel.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Gretchen & John Corkrean
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Page & Jay Cowles
Cynthia & John Gilpin
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Charles Lea
Praba & Jessica* Manivasager
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Nancy N. and Paul E. Hansen Fund of the Saint
Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Ralph & Helen Pennie
Deborah Reynolds
Penelope Scialla
Adam Winer* & Laura Leu
Tom Youngblood

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Anonymous
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Hailey Alexander* & Joseph Rumppe
Meg Anderson
Gordon Andersson
John & Nan Beard
Johanna Bell
Jerry & Barb Beutel

Katie & Rigel Bloome
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Janet Ciegler
Steven DeLapp
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Nancy Gibson & Ron Sternal
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Jean Hays
Susan & Charles Hipp
Virginia Hubbard Morris
Renee Kinney
Leslie Koepke
Laurel Lapore
Jeanne & Jack Matlock
John & Deidre Mead
Joan & Rick Meierotto
Richard & Nancy Nicholson
Bonnie Niehaus
John Norton
Lisa Peterson

**2024 Board Member*



Workaday Wednesday volunteers. Photo by Nancy Klinger.

\$1,000 to \$4,999 (continued)

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 Jean & Chuck Ronnei
 James Rue & Susan Nelson
 Jeffrey & Susan Saffle
 John* & Linda Satorius
 James Sharer
 Tom & Sharon Simpson
 William Simpson
 Pondie Nicholson Taylor & Mark Taylor
 Jean Marie & Peter Ulland
 Dana & John C. Wood

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 Jim Bach & Cynthia Buckingham
 David Bealke & Carol Ecker-Bealke
 Jennifer & Richard Buckland
 Chris Bursack & Heidi Winters
 Laurie Carlson
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 Dllona Clendenen
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 Mark Olien
 Jennifer & Tim Otremba
 Alan Peterson & Mary Findorff

**2024 Board Member*



Attendees at Music in the Trees. Photo by Jacob Kinneman.

\$500 to \$999 (continued)

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Dale and Jenni Shaller
John & Gladi Sippel
Anne Archbold & Paul Sommers
Court Storey & Pam Neary
Benjamin Swanson & Carrie Rigdon
Truchot Family
Wallace & Jeanne Wadd
Don & Leny Wendel
Mary A. Williams
Frank & Alys Wilson
Vera M. Wong & Earl Morren
Karen Zeleznak & James Fournier

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous
Mary Aamoth
Rolf Anderson
Caroline Baillon
Stephanie & Justin Bartholomew
Deborah A. Brown
Elizabeth Charbonneau
Claude Clavette
Robert Cowle
Mary Croft
Susan & James Davis

Edward & Sherry Ann Dayton
Jim & Linda Dobbs
Cynthia Elder
Mark Enright
Carol & John Fitzgerald
Caroline & Henry Foster
Robert & Judy Gardiner
Timothy Geoffrion
Colette & Dan Hagen
Colin Hamilton
Julie Harper-Wylie & Rick Wylie
Susan Haugh & Jane Ramseyer Miller
Dynnell & Wilfried Hein
Angie & Henry John Huenink
Andy Joyce & Kristin Raab
Steven Kahn
Madeleine Kerr & David Shanteau
Kristoffer Kopitzke
Maureen & Richard K. LaMone
Richard Loe
Elizabeth Mairs
John Maloney
Sara Megchelsen
Chester & Miriam Meyers
Mary Miller
David Mrozinski
Lynn Mucciacciaro
Brenda Natala
Richard & Joan Newmark
David Nimmer



Audience at Music in the Trees. Photo by Lainey Charlsen.

\$250 to \$499 (continued)

Debbie & Richard Palmen
Susan & Donald Place
Susan & David Plimpton
Lucy Rogers
Patricia Ryan
Martha Sanford & Timothy Casey
Mary & Steve Slette
Jeremy & Michelle Snell
Sue Steinwall
Judith Steltzner
Haley Stender
Marjorie & James Wade
Jonathan White & Amy Lary White
Doug Williams
Lucia & Jen Wroblewski

\$100 to \$249

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Bruce Albrecht
Gary Albrigtson
Barbara Allan
Jerry* & Georgiana Allan
George Dennis Amoth
Craig Anderson
Donald & Lucy Anderson
Paul Anderson & Danielle Farchmin
Margaret & Charles Arnason
Nancy & Steve Aronson
Lorri & Gerry Balder
Douglas & Rene Barclay
James Beardsley
Robert & Camilla Beattie
Thomas & Judy Behr
Russ Belk
Michele Bevis & Steve Wardell
Barbara & Gerald Bird

John Bischoff & Kava Zabawa
Dawn Boernke
Marlene & Jerry Bohn
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Elizabeth Bonderson
Linda Brevitz
Jeff Brower & Donna Dalton
Robert & Susan Burns
Sherri Buss & Jeff Clowes
Keith Buttleman & Barbara Luck
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Binkie & Greg Closmore
Richard & Debra Crose
Valerie Cunningham
Kathy Davis
Debra Debroux & Mena Hautau
Heather Delisle
Ann Dieperink
Vicki Donatell
Krista Dorgan
Charles Driscoll
Sharon & Pat Durkin
Lizabeth & Steven Emert
Ken & Lynne Engberg
Anne & Steve Engdahl
Margaret Everist
Jennifer & Greg Ewig
Laura Fischer & Allen Fuechtmann
Stephanie Fitzgerald
Alexandra & Brandon Fitzsimmons
Regina Flanagan
Roxane Fogard
Barbara & Kenneth E. Ford
Erik Fratzke
Leonard & Lindsay Freeman

**2024 Board Member*



Visiting the Joseph J. Casby Observatory during Midwinter Family Fun.

\$100 to \$249 (continued)

Leslie & Roger Frick
Susan Fridley
David Gilpin & Joni Hawthorne
Roberta Gloppen
Carol & Richard Gross
Barbara & Joe Halligan
Charles & Patricia Hanlon
John & Ellen Harford
Peter & Sally Harris
Amy Hawks
Jon Hayman
Paul & Barbara Herzog
Sara Holmdahl
Kathy Hopkins
Robert Horn & Judy Lawhon
Marc Hugunin
Cheryl Hustad
Andrea & Lowell Johnson
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Reis Jones
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Laura Kigin
George & Julie Kinney
Stuart Kleckner
Peggy Kotila
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Helen Kruse
Harriet Lansing
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Cynthia & Eric Lund
Dennis & Janice Lund
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Stephan & Marion Potyondy
Brenda Poulin
Sven Risom
Patricia Rose
Alex Rothman
Susan Rupp
James Ryan
Therese Scheller
Dennis Scherber & Winnie White-Scherber
Ellie Schmidt



A runner gets a high five from Billy the Bison during the Bison Festival Fun Run.

\$100 to \$249 (continued)

- Theresa Schmidt
- Hubert & Helen Schneider
- Eugene Schutte
- Tyler, Chelsey & Siena Scott
- William & Merodie Seykora
- Sharon & Hiro Shinomiya
- Katherine Sieben & Joshua Straka
- Adam & Christine Smerud
- Gloria & Phillip Smith
- Matt Spector & Lisa Griffin Vincent
- Joseph Stanley & Loretta Zook-Stanley
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- Martha Wells
- Carl White
- Martha & Michael Willett
- Dana Williams
- Wendy Worner
- James Wright
- Chris Zadak
- Kim & John Ziton

Up to \$99

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- C. William & Evaughn Anderson
- Jim Anderson
- Cindy Angerhofer
- David & Sue Astin
- Sarah Atkins Hoggatt
- Peggy Audley
- Valerie Bartl
- Janet & Harvey Bartz
- Dan Beck
- Jeanette & Andy Beger
- Mitchell R. Berg
- Lisa & Eric Berglund
- Bill, Marit & Mary Bjork
- Mary & John Boyum
- Debra Brantingham
- Mark & Sheri Brown
- Karen Buggs
- Robert & Marjana Callery
- Angela & Ricardo Cervantes
- Ed Clark
- Eileen & Gary Classon
- Liz Coenen
- Lynn Colburn
- Christopher Collins
- Jim Cox
- Pat & Steve Cox
- Greg Coyan & Susan Turry-Coyan
- Gretchen Cudak
- Rozanne Czeck
- Sheri Dahlke
- Bill Davis
- Mary Ann & Dan Deeg



Ritika Ganguly and Shinjan Sengupta performing at Music in the Trees. Photo by Lainey Charlsen.

Up to \$99 (continued)

- Kathleen Delaney
Cindy Dey
Nancy Dohr
Timothy & Joanne Drahnak
Ron Draper
Thomas & Deborah Drobac
Angie & Matthew Eckel
Craig & Jan Eggers
Scott Eggert
Allen Egloff
Alison Emery
Sherry Engelbart
Edward & Kathy Fagerlund
Laura Fairweather
David Falkner
Irene Falksen
Priscilla Farnham
Dennis Ferche
Julio Fesser
Leslie Forster
Rachel Fulkerson
Amy Gabriel & Dawn Gelle
Paul Gade & Kathy Sidles
Ronald Gajewski
- Kathleen Gard
Robert Gergen
Don Gettinger
Shawna Gibson
Jenny Glock
Brenda Goeltl
Raymond Gorsky & Donna Zittel
Alison Green
Michael Griffin
Elizabeth Guthmann
Kimberly Guyer
Marilyn Habermas-Scher
Joseph Haid & Julia Burkhart-Haid
Tully Hall & Doug Brown
Kris Haslund
Holly & Wayne Heaser
Melanie Henriksen
Diane Herman
Phillip Herold
Steve, Madison & Michelle Hobbs
Susanne Holderried
Gary & Margaret Horning
Philip Hoversten & Patricia Sausser
Robyn & David Husebye
Shannon Ichel
William Ingham



Children enjoying s'mores at the Education Site during Midwinter Family Fun. Photo by Nancy Klinger.

Up to \$99 (continued)

- Naomi E Jackson
Eric Jaworski
Arielle Johnson
Caleb Johnson
Jeff & Renee Johnson
Judy & Tom Johnson
Sara Johnson
Sheila & Ron Johnson
Susan Johnson
Michael Jones
Girish Jorapurkar & Sujata Naik
Sharon & Alfred Kauth
Cindy Kinde
Kristin Kinney
John Patrick & Val Klett
Sandi Knolls
Janet Kortuem & Peter Nord
Caroline Kostroski
Gregory Kroiss & Peg King
Jill Krueger
Deb Kuehne
Jarell Kuney
Kenneth & Janyce Kurttila
Russell Lake & Britain Scott
Lee Ann Landstrom
Ann Latia
Claudia Lee
Richard & Sally Leider
Josh & Steph Leonard
Jeanne & Mitch Leppicello
- William Leslie
Susan Lindoo & Michael Wolesky
Julian Locke
Leroy & Sharon Looser
Heidi Louise
Karen Machlica & Russ Blankenfeld
Eloise Maki
Anita Martin & Paul Sinclair
Robert M. & Beverly J. McDonough
Jill McLean Odegard
Cynthia & Ronald Melzer
Marianne Moesch
George Morrison
John Mueller
Mark Nagel
Lynn Neely
John & Donna Nelson
Walter & Alicia Niemiec
Douglas Nienhuis
Rhonda, José, Gabriel & Elizabeth Niola
Lisa Ohnstad
Yvette Oldendorf
Marina Onken
Cheryl R Overvig
Kay Owen
Roger Pearson
Nancy & Frank Petersen
Gretchen Pick & Michael Flood
Carol Pierce & David Dixon
Paula, Sarah, Hunter & Kevin Pogatchnik
Laurel Porter



Observing how a beaver dam impacts a Belwin wetland.

Up to \$99 (continued)

Mary Porter
Patricia C. Price
John Pundsack & Joe Briol
Kristen Rain
Cheryl Rambosek
Deena Reisman
Lynn Richason
Tamsie & Thomasin Ringler
Jan Roeske
Bob & Elaine Rohloff
Kat Rohn
Eve Roycraft
Deb Rude
Maria K. Sanocki
Kevin & Mary Schaffer
Randall Schill
Christine Schmidt
Matt Schmit
Nancy & Richard Schneider
Kevin Schnittker
Richard & Marianne Schroeder
Richard & LaVerne Schultz
Barb Schwendig
Corinne Segal
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Peg Starke
Steinke Family
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Anne S. Stoddard
Valerie Stoehr & Carol Iwata
Christina Strand
Stacy Surratt
Ron & Colleen Tabaika
Terri Tilotta
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Vija & Valts Treibergs
Christopher & Judy Voigt
Jean Waddell
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Bonnie Wheeler
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Diane & Tim Wirth
Paul & Joann Wolner
Ingrid Youmans
Oliver Zhou



Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

\$100,000 and up

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund*
Hardenbergh Foundation
Manitou Fund
Marathon Petroleum Company, LP
Outdoor Heritage Fund*
Peter J. King Family Foundation
Smikis Foundation

\$25,000 to \$99,999

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Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
The Julia Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation
Maxtech Inc.
Ted & Lorraine Glasrud Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous
Midwest Exteriors MN
Mortenson Family Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

James Ford Bell Foundation
St. Croix Valley Foundation

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Art & Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation
Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
River Market Community Co-op
Saint Paul Garden Club
Steve Smillie Edina Realty

Up to \$999

3M Foundation
Brave North Technology
Brighton Jones, LLC
Bryan Rock Products, Inc.
CHS Backyard Giving Grant
Hudson Hot Air Affair
Kwik Trip
Lift Bridge Brewery
Royal Credit Union
SavATree
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Tropical Wings Inc.
United Way St. Croix Valley
Wild Rivers Conservancy

Employee Matching Gifts

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Andersen Corp
Anonymous
DaVita
Fluor
Securian Financial Foundation
Spotify
Splunk
Texas Instruments Foundation
Toro Giving Program
Travelers

In-Kind

Great Harvest Bread Co. – St. Paul
Susan & Charles Hipp
Kowalski's
NorthStar Bison
Dave & Sandy Oakes
Ralph & Helen Pennie
Pioneer Press
Third Street Brewhouse
Gina Vento & Tom Welke

Thanks to Midwest Exteriors

We are grateful to Midwest Exteriors MN for sponsoring all Belwin events in 2024, and for doing such a great job replacing roofs across Belwin recently! Thanks for all of your hard work on our buildings, and for showing up in the community as an event sponsor!



*Multi-year



In Memory

Gifts were made in memory of the following individuals in 2024:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Lucy Anderson | Marjorie Kiely |
| Charlie Bell | Hope Lea |
| Cynthia Bend | Linda Luckey |
| Richard Bruno | Sharon Mrozinski |
| Susan Reed Crouse | John Palmen |
| Bruce Engelbart | Kurt Peters |
| Anders Engstrom | Steven Reisman |
| Lucy Hartwell | John Ronnei |
| Gloria Haslund | Thomas Schmidt |
| Barbara Heitzeg | Bill & Murilyn Skeath |
| Mike Hopkins | Christopher Stamboldjiev |
| Janette M. Johnson | Martin Stern |
| Helen Kassenborg | Zelda |

Large-scale restoration projects in 2024 were made possible by funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.

Land protection in 2024 was made possible in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program.

Funding for the Anishinabe Academy partnership was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), as well as the Mortenson Family Foundation.





BELWIN

Staff

Lynette Anderson
Jeanette Beger
Katie Bloome
Hannah Brithón
Cooper Crose
Carey Davenport
Angie Eckel
Alissa Gold
Amanda Hanlon
Susan Haugh
Emily Hayne
Haley Kutzler
Anna Mathews
Eric Palmen
Kevin Smokyday

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Jerry Allan
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