

J. J. Keller Foundation

Celebrates \$75 Million Milestone of Giving

NEENAH, WI (December 19, 2022) – The philanthropic spirit of the late John J. & Ethel D. Keller continues to impact the most vulnerable throughout the greater Fox Valley region. The couple’s giving, which began in 1991 with a \$20 grant to the American Cancer Society, has since grown to establish the J. J. Keller Foundation, celebrating \$75 million in giving.

The J. J. Keller Foundation is committed to innovative and meaningful ways to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities. **Specifically, funding is targeted toward needs that would otherwise remain unfulfilled.**

In honor of the continued commitment of the J. J. Keller Foundation to address mental health, a surprise \$75,000 grant was awarded to Catalpa Health. The foundation has served as a key partner of Catalpa’s since its inception and continues to support their mission to help children and families improve their mental health and well-being.

“Addressing access to mental health services in our communities continues to be a pillar of the J. J. Keller Foundation,” said Marne Keller-Krikava, J. J. Keller Foundation Board Advisor and Secretary. “Catalpa has been a leader in our area for 10 years, changing the narrative around mental health and helping young people access the care they need. The J. J. Keller Foundation is honored to share this milestone grant with Catalpa to continue strengthening their efforts.”

“We’re on a mission to get at the root causes of these issues and make a difference in the lives of individuals and in our community as a whole,” said Bob Keller, chairman of the J. J. Keller Foundation board. “Mom was instrumental in rallying the partners that would initiate Catalpa Health. She would be happy to see how far they’ve come, serving so many families in our area.”

The concept today known as Catalpa Health started in 2004 when community leaders and three local hospital partners, Affinity Health systems (now Ascension, WI), Children’s Wisconsin, and ThedaCare, came together to address the need for pediatric mental health access in the Fox Valley. Today, Catalpa provides care for over 8,000 children and teens.

The J. J. Keller Foundation looks forward to its next milestone of giving, under its new incoming Executive Director, Monica Stage. As the foundation’s third executive director, Stage will provide strategic leadership and operational responsibility for the foundation and its assets.

“The J. J. Keller Foundation is a legacy of impact across the greater Fox Cities. While we celebrate this milestone of \$75 million in giving, and the receiving partners, we are invigorated for our future of giving,” said Stage. “Now, more than ever, our communities need our support. As Ethel Keller instilled in us, everyone can give something, our finances, our time, and our talents.”

About J. J. Keller Foundation, Inc.

The J. J. Keller Foundation is a private, independent family foundation focused on providing funding to nonprofit community organizations, projects and programs in the Fox Valley Region of Northeastern Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to support programs and organizations that address basic needs, the causes and consequences of poverty, in addition to specialty areas of interest, such as mental health.

The J. J. Keller Foundation is known for impact giving and partnering with other organizations to move the needle on basic needs and serving as a catalyst for the formation of collaborative programming.

The foundation was formed in 1990 by the Keller family, and since that time, over \$75 million has been given to numerous community organizations aimed at positively making a difference every day. www.jjkellerfoundation.org

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