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Media Contact: Kara Hanko, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
khanko@kalahariresorts.com

16th Annual Golf for the Future Raises More Than \$2.8M for Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation Scholarships

Event brings total raised since 2010 to nearly \$18 million, funding ten new scholarships for Wisconsin Dells High School graduates for 2026-2027 academic year

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (August 25, 2026) – [The Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation](#) (WDEF) hosted its 16th annual Golf for the Future Tuesday, August 25 at [Trappers Turn Golf Club](#) and [Wild Rock Golf Club](#), raising more than \$2.8M for scholarships benefiting Wisconsin Dells High School graduates. This year's tournament brought a lighthearted, movie-inspired twist to the course – channeling the spirit of golf classics – while staying true to its serious mission of making post-secondary education possible for local students. With this year's results, Golf for the Future has now raised nearly \$18 million since its founding in 2010, cementing its place as one of the region's most celebrated fundraising traditions.

[Golf for the Future](#) began as a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Dells High School Band Department, but the community's generosity quickly turned it into something bigger, leading to the creation of WDEF. Over the past 16 years, the foundation has remained focused on its mission to ensure every student who aspires to post-secondary education has the financial support to get there, awarding nearly \$3.5 million in scholarships to local graduates along the way.

Beyond scholarships, Golf for the Future also supports Fund A Need, an initiative launched in 2022 after federal pandemic-era meal funding ended. Created to ensure every Wisconsin Dells student has access to a free breakfast each school day, the program has provided 411,895 breakfasts since its inception, helping remove barriers to learning and setting students up for success.

Due to the event's continued success, WDEF added ten new scholarships this year, bringing the foundation's total endowed scholarships total to 121, with several more endowments already in development.

"Golf for the Future keeps proving what our community can do when it comes together," said Kelly Bauer, Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation president. "Ten new scholarships this year means ten more opportunities to say yes to a student's future, while programs like Fund A Need help ensure students have the support they need to succeed today."

The new scholarships included:

- **Land of Natura** – Created to support students pursuing careers focused on protecting and preserving the natural world, this scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who plan to continue their education in fields such as environmental science, sustainability, forestry, wildlife biology, environmental engineering or conservation.
- **Scholar-Athlete Soccer** – Established to recognize the lasting impact of the Wisconsin Dells High School Soccer Program, this scholarship honors student-athletes who have demonstrated commitment, leadership and service to their team while pursuing post-secondary education.
- **SSM Health** – Created to support the next generation of healthcare professionals, this scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education in a healthcare-related field.
- **Wisconsin Dells Youth Basketball** – Established to celebrate dedication both on and off the court, these scholarships recognize one male and one female graduating senior who have been active participants in the Wisconsin Dells Youth Basketball program and plan to continue their education after high school.
- **Todd Nelson Jr. Family**: Established to support students who demonstrate a passion for the outdoors and a commitment to serving their community, this scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who are civically minded.
- **Jack Capelle Memorial** - Established to honor the value of skilled trades, this scholarship supports graduating seniors pursuing post-secondary education in a trade career.
- **Culver's by S&L** - Created to encourage future leaders in agriculture, this scholarship recognizes Agricultural Science students who demonstrate excellence through a portfolio, presentation and interview as they prepare to continue their education.
- **Tommy's Express Car Wash by S&L** - Established to invest in the future of agricultural education, this scholarship recognizes Agricultural Science students who distinguish themselves through a portfolio, presentation and interview as they pursue post-secondary education.
- **Jon & Char Bernander Family** - Established to celebrate creativity and artistic passion, this scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated promise and involvement in music and/or the arts while pursuing post-secondary education.
- **BTU Management**: Created to support the next generation of skilled HVAC professionals, this scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education and a career in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC).

To learn more about Golf for the Future, the Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation or to make a donation, visit wdhsfoundation.org.

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About Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation

Established in 2011, the Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation raises, invests, and distributes scholarship funds for the benefit of Wisconsin Dells High School graduates. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide all Wisconsin Dells students wishing to pursue post-secondary education with the financial support to do so. For more information about the Wisconsin Dells Education Foundation, please visit wdhsfoundation.org.