



# Fort Foundation Focus

by Fred A. Rose, Volunteer Publicist

[www.fortfoundation.org](http://www.fortfoundation.org)

A huge number of people volunteered and provided help in many ways following this summer's flood. Of course, it happened in every community affected by the flood. But, the reason for this column is to recognize what I think is an unusually generous response by Fort Atkinson residents, and a rather unique response by quite a few people not currently connected to Fort.

This story started when the Chamber of Commerce received a call from a couple living in Pennsylvania. The woman of the couple had grown up in Fort and she had heard from her mother about the flooding. She and her husband had decided to spend their vacation here helping with the flood relief. But their generosity did not stop there. In addition to wanting to donate money to the cause themselves, they collected donations from other people in their Pennsylvania community! How about that?

They were delighted to find out that a special Flood Relief Fund had been set up in the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation (FACF), to which these monies could be donated. They were also glad to learn that, in addition to the tax deductibility of the contributions, that FACF is matching such contributions to increase the impact of the donations! The other strong appeal of donating through the Foundation is that 100% of such donations are guaranteed to be used within the immediate Fort Atkinson area.

There have been other generous donors. Another former resident, who grew up in Fort, donated a substantial amount, as have some businesses. And then, of course, there have been a large number of private contributions, large and small. Everyone pitched in!

Currently over \$38,000 in donations have

been received by the Flood Relief Fund, and, by the way, contributions are still being accepted. As mentioned above, the Directors of FACF have pledged to match contributions to the Flood Relief Fund up to \$50,000. That leaves another \$12,000 that, if donated, would be matched!

Certainly, many people have donated to flood relief, here and around the state, but I suspect that the story of these previous residents and their friends is fairly unique. It demonstrates again a point that I have made in this column a number of times before: Fort Atkinson is an almost unique community with respect to its generosity and humanitarianism – an absolutely great place to live!

Grants can be made only to non-profit organizations exempt from federal taxation that serve a public purpose, and not to individuals. Organizations from outside of the Fort Atkinson area may request grants but grant proceeds must directly benefit the Fort Atkinson community. Information about who is eligible and detailed grant guidelines are posted on the Foundation's Web site, [www.FortFoundation.org](http://www.FortFoundation.org): Click on Grants on the home page. As announced recently, grant request applications for flood relief must be submitted by October 1.

Anyone needing more information, or who would like to make a donation to the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation, is asked to contact Helen Rose, Program Administrator, at 920-563-3210 (office), 920-563-4926 (home), or visit the Foundation's Web site at [www.fortfoundation.org](http://www.fortfoundation.org).