

Issues and Programming – Q1 2023

(Voices of the Valley Runs Sunday Evenings)

1/8/2023 – 1/29/2023

Inclusion In The Outdoors

The Fox Valley is renowned for our outdoor activities, from lakes and parks to more than 340 miles of trails for use year round. But many people might be surprised to learn that not every member of our community feels safe or welcomed in our outdoor spaces, especially people who are considered historically marginalized, such as people of color, people who speak different languages, people with disabilities, and people who identify as LGBTQ+.

Why doesn't everyone have the same access to positive outdoor experiences, and what's being done about it?

Guests: Zephyr Kendzierski, Dennetra Williams

1/29/2023 – 2/19/2023

Mental Health: Do you need Emotional CPR?

Many people experience feelings of anxiety, depression and emotional trauma. The growing need for emotional support is urgent. This episode talks about a program in the Fox Valley called E-CPR, a community education workshop that teaches people how to support another person experiencing an emotional crisis.

2/19/2023 – 3/5/2023

Clintonville's Compassionate Connections

In many rural areas of the Fox Valley region, there are often serious gaps in services such as transportation, healthcare, and other services meant to help individuals and families that might be struggling economically.

Clintonville's Compassionate Connection Center, a nonprofit we partner with here at the Community Foundation, is working to bridge those gaps. In this episode we learn how an entire community is coming together under the guiding principle that everyone deserves the same opportunities and to be treated with personal dignity and respect.

The Compassionate Connections Center provides access to basic necessities like clothing, food, diapers, formula, emergency relief, home repairs, and automobile repairs, and provides children with enough food and resources to help support them at home.

Guests: Leak Wojnowiak, Jolyne Zaldivar, Makayla Easley

3/5/2023 – 3/19/2023

Kaukauna And King 50 Years Later

What happens when we uncover lost stories and tell them in new ways? And how might shared experiences, between people who are different from one another, bring us closer together? In today's very special episode we're going to take you back to a story that happened over 50 years ago. It's the story of an exchange of Black and White high school students in Wisconsin in 1966, right in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement.

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Black students from Rufus King High School in Milwaukee switched places with White students from Kaukauna High School during a time of heightened racial tensions in our country, and on the wave of big changes. The young people lived in each others' homes, attended classes in each others' schools and took what they learned to the stage, performing Martin Duberman's groundbreaking play called "In White America" in both cities.

Today a new generation of high school students are re-living that era in a project called, **"The Exchange In White America: Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later."** It's all thanks to journalist and filmmaker Joanne Williams, who had been a student at Rufus King when the exchange took place. She wondered about what happened to the students in the exchange and what their lives were like now and was inspired to embark on a 6-year journey to create a documentary film, which involved a revival of the play 50 years later by high school students in Milwaukee and Kaukauna.

Two weeks ago during Black History Month, over 1,000 people in the Fox Valley area had the chance to view the film and participate in conversations with the filmmaker Joanne as part a Northeast WI premiere tour.

3/19/2023 - 4/1/223

Housing: A Plan Forward

Imagine if all residents can live in a good home they can afford. Our region is composed of households across the income spectrum, and it's getting harder to find these homes. High-quality, stable housing is central to the health and wellbeing of all families in our communities. A new Fox Cities and Greater Outagamie County Regional Housing Strategy was developed in 2022 as the result of a study done in our communities. Over the next decade, our region needs roughly 11-thousand to nearly 18 thousand new dwelling units just to keep up with the estimated population growth. In this episode, we'll discuss the plan forward, thanks to the many who are coming together to take on the challenge. Do you have a role to play in this path forward?

Guests: Kara Homan, Curt Detjen, Peter Gianopoulos