

Honoring a Legacy Through Service

“When I first began learning about dementia, I quickly realized it was so much more than a medical condition. Understanding the challenges faced by individuals and caregivers showed me the importance of community, and that’s when I found Fox Valley Memory Project.

The resources I received opened my eyes to how connection and quality of life can flourish even after diagnosis. Volunteering with Mindworks has allowed me to give back while honoring my dad’s memory. Over time, participants have become dear friends, and their stories of resilience and history inspire me each day.

Fox Valley Memory Project truly serves as a lifeline, offering respite, connection, and hope to all who are touched by dementia.”

– Joan O’Toole

Our Mission:
Fox Valley Memory Project supports all those on the dementia journey, including individuals, caregivers, and families, through community and connection.

Our Vision:
Fox Valley Memory Project envisions communities where those affected by dementia feel understood and supported, with connections to resources that help them live well.



“My mother began showing signs of memory loss in her early 80s, not long after we lost my dad. My siblings and I did our best to support her at home, but after a few close calls and a serious fall, we realized she needed more supervision. Having that difficult conversation about leaving her home was one of the hardest moments of my life. Even as a neurologist, it is different when it is your own family.

I saw firsthand how dementia takes things away such as home, independence, and confidence, and how hard it can be to fill those gaps with purpose and joy. Several years ago, a colleague introduced me to Fox Valley Memory Project. Through Mindworks, I witnessed not only meaningful engagement for participants but also much-needed respite for caregivers. I will never forget the laughter and connection in those classes, a reminder that while dementia changes many things, it does not erase our capacity for joy and friendship.

Today, FVMP continues to grow, reaching more families across the region and setting a powerful example of what it means to be dementia friendly. I know my mother would have loved these programs, and I am proud to support an organization so devoted to helping individuals live well with dementia.”

– Lisa Kokontis, Neuroscience Group Board Member

How can you help?



DONATE ONLINE: Scan the QR code or visit our website to make a secure donation.

OTHER GIVING OPTIONS: To learn about donating through retirement plans, appreciated assets, or other methods, please call us or visit our website.

REFERRALS: If you know someone experiencing memory loss or caring for someone who is, please encourage them to contact FVMP. We are here to help.

2025 Board of Directors

Jim Reid – President
Retired, American Digital Cartography, Inc.

John Barkmeier M.D. – Past President
Retired, ThedaCare

Paul Larson, M.D. – Vice President
Retired, Radiologist

Tara Crawford – Secretary
ThedaCare

Jim Heiting – Treasurer
Retired, CFO, Voith

Curt Baltz, M.D.
Retired, ThedaCare

Eric Broten
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Ebertsch
Miron Construction

Lisa Kokontis, M.D.
Neuroscience Group

Keith Kostecke
Retired, Attorney

Jonathan Krause
Woodward Radio Group

Sara Micheletti
Attorney, McCarty Law

Ted Regalia
VP Pharmacy, Network Health

Paul Sletten, M.D.
ThedaCare

Kevin Tubbs
Retired, VP, Oshkosh Corporation



Serving Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca & Winnebago Counties

1800 Appleton Road
Menasha, WI 54952
(920) 225-1711
info@foxvalleymemoryproject.org

foxvalleymemoryproject.org



2025 Annual Report



Serving Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca & Winnebago Counties

Your Annual Impact

Your support of Fox Valley Memory Project empowers people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias to stay connected, engaged, and joyful. Because of you, care partners receive vital respite time, one-on-one guidance, and access to meaningful community resources. Your generosity helps individuals live safely at home, enhances quality of life, and fills families' days with purpose and hope.

 **10,055**

hours of respite care provided through **Mindworks and Thryve**, giving care partners time to recharge while participants find friendship and new meaning.

 **1,136**

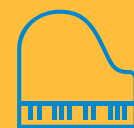
attendees at special events and support groups, finding comfort and shared understanding through peer connection.

 **225**

families guided by **Memory Link resource navigators**, receiving compassionate, ongoing support throughout their dementia journey.

 **2,023**

individuals reached through dementia education and community outreach, spreading awareness and understanding across our region.

 **2,893**

attendees at **Memory Cafés and On a Positive Note Chorus**, fostering connection and preventing social isolation.

Together, we're building a community where everyone touched by dementia can thrive.

Finding Light in the Journey

When Craig and his wife, Kathy, first connected with Fox Valley Memory Project in late 2024, they discovered a community that truly understood their journey. Together, they have found comfort and connection through programs like Mindworks, Memory Link, and Support Groups, where Craig now helps lead the Men's Support Group in Oshkosh.

"Kathy is always bright and happy when entering the classroom," Craig shares. "She benefits most from the social interactions and sense of belonging."

For Craig, FVMP has been a lifeline. "I felt understood and cared for the first time I talked to a resource navigator," he reflects. "The information, classes, and relationships have given me strength to keep going."

Despite the challenges of caregiving, Craig has learned to find moments of joy and grace. "I've been taught to engage in better self-care and to let others help," he says. "I keep coming back because it makes Kathy happy and because this community helps me survive the difficult path."

Craig also finds purpose in giving back, playing music for Mindworks participants and sharing his gifts with others. "I have found the FVMP an oasis," he says. "All the people I have met, whether staff, participants, or care partners, have a place in my heart for what we all collectively do each day to make this heavy reality a little lighter."

His message to other caregivers:

"Be patient and loving to your loved one and to yourself as you travel the road of dementia together."



Thryve: Where Connection & Joy Take Root

Fox Valley Memory Project launched **Thryve** in September 2025 to meet the growing need for longer respite opportunities and more personalized support for people living with memory loss.

This program offers **five hours of extended respite**, giving care partners valuable time while participants engage in activities tailored to their interests and abilities in a joyful, supportive setting.

Funded by a **\$115,555 grant** from the Alzheimer's Association Center for Dementia Respite Innovation, Thryve reached full capacity before its official start—highlighting strong demand across the region, including **Waupaca and Calumet counties**.



Sustaining and Expanding Respite Services

Fox Valley Memory Project is committed to sustaining and growing **Thryve** and **Mindworks** through July 2026. Continued funding and strong community partnerships will help us reach more families in rural and underserved areas, where memory care resources are limited and the need is profound.

By investing in the future of our respite services, we are building stronger communities rooted in

connection and understanding. Care partners find relief and renewal, while participants experience joy, belonging, and purpose.

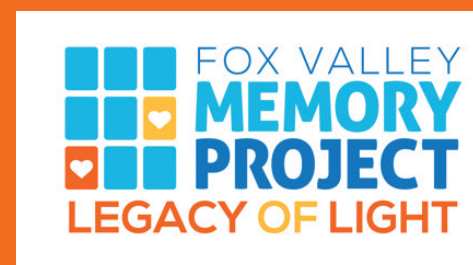
With ongoing community support, these programs will not only endure but continue to grow, reaching every corner of our region and helping more families thrive together on the dementia journey.

Legacy of Light Giving Program

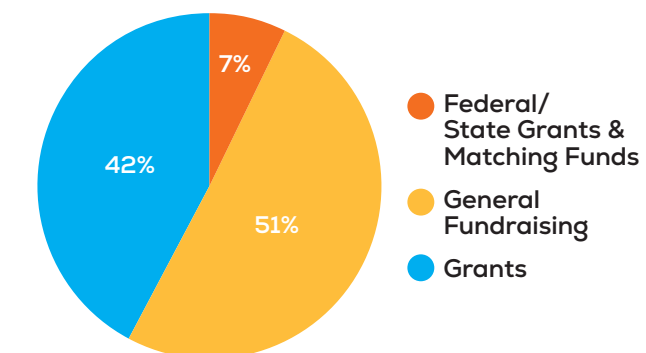
Support Fox Valley Memory Project through planned giving. The Legacy of Light Program offers a meaningful way to align your charitable goals with your financial and estate planning strategies. Your generosity helps strengthen our community and may provide valuable tax benefits for you and your family.

Let your legacy shine.

We'd love to talk to you about how your gift can make a difference. Contact us to learn more.



2025 Funding Sources



2025 Projected Expenses

