



Neighbors come together to help parade victim ▶ 2A



Waukesha community to unite with blue light ▶ 2A

WEEKEND EDITION



# The FREEMAN

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## Memorial and fund created for Jackson Sparks



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

A memorial at Dopp Park for Jackson Sparks.

WAUKESHA — A memorial featuring loving messages and photos of 8-year-old Jackson Sparks, a Waukesha Blazer, has been set up at Dopp Park since he lost his life Tuesday after being injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade.

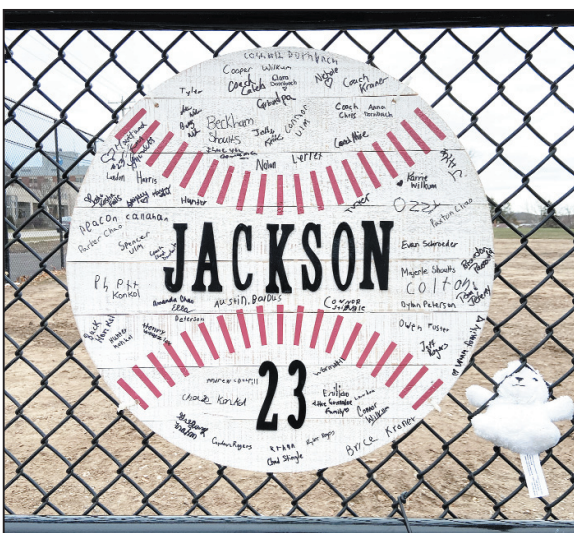
Sparks was one of the six victims who have died since the tragedy on Nov. 21.

The Waukesha Blazers Baseball announced Wednesday the launch of a memorial fund dedicated to help families impacted by the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy.

Blazers President Jeff Rogers described Sparks as "a sweet, talented boy who was a joy to coach... He was the little guy on the team that everyone supported. You couldn't help but love him."

Donations to the fund "will be used to assist our families with medical expenses, counseling, and to create a lasting legacy through future memorials honoring all of those impacted by this horrific event," the Blazers said.

To donate, visit <https://rb.gy/0kmcbr>.



Signatures are written on a paper baseball poster with Jackson Sparks' name on it at Dopp Park.



A community member views the memorial for Jackson Sparks on Friday.

## Donations pour in for United for Waukesha Community Fund

100% of funds to be donated to help those hurt, families who lost loved ones

By Nikki Brahm  
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WAUKESHA — The United for Waukesha Community Fund is continuing to raise funds for those who most need them after many were injured and loved ones were lost when a man drove into crowds at the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Nov. 21.

According to Shelli Marquardt, president of the Waukesha County Community Foundation, as of Friday afternoon, \$1,780,653 had been raised for the fund, from a total of 7,891 donors. Donations were received from 14 countries and all 50 U.S. states.

Although this is joyful news, Amy Lindner, president & CEO of United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, said they continue fundraising,

as additional funds will be needed as they gather more information.

Lindner said there are many with serious medical issues that the money will directly help. Over 60 people were injured last Sunday night.

"We knew that we are the leading philanthropic organizations in the community and we needed to step up and put this together," Marquardt said.

Lindner said that on Nov. 21 she was at home, about to watch TV, and then she started to see the news of what had happened appear on social media.

"You just think, 'Well, they can't be talking about my Christmas parade, I must be misreading that.' But as stories started coming in, it became increasingly clear," she said.

See FUND, PAGE 6A

### How to help

■ The United for Waukesha Community Fund can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3pmlqcz>.



Image courtesy of Sarah Koolman of Milwaukee Mom

### Inside

■ A list of donors to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. 6A

■ Resources for parade attack victims and those who want to help them. 6A

## Ginny Sorenson leaves legacy of kindness

Waukesha County local, Dancing Grannies member, one of six parade fatalities

By Jake Ekdahl  
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262-513-2657

MUSKEGO — Virginia "Ginny" Sorenson loved to dance. That's how she met her husband of 56 years, in fact.

Then named Ginny Gruell, the Milwaukee native and career nurse taught Dave Sorenson

See GINNY, PAGE 6A



Submitted photo

From left, Dave Sorenson and Ginny Sorenson with their two Goldendoodles, Casey and Murphy.

## One more child injured in Christmas parade returns home

Children's Hospital: Four remain in serious condition

WAUKESHA — Children's Hospital of Wisconsin announced Friday afternoon that one of the children being treated at the hospital after being injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade was able to return home on Thanksgiving to continue their recovery.

According to an update from the hospital, nine of the

patients injured in the parade remain in their care, including four in serious condition, three in fair condition and two in good condition.

Children's Wisconsin announced they have a Mental and Behavioral Health Helpline available at 414-266-6500, and they encourage parents to reach out for help for

themselves or their children. "Directly or indirectly, the tragedy impacts our entire community. Individuals also can call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990," Children's Wisconsin included in a statement.

Additional updates are on their website at <https://bit.ly/3p1bdSx>.

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### WEATHER



Tomorrow:  
Partly cloudy  
High 36 / Low 22

See complete forecast on Page 8A

### FREEMAN ONLINE:

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Attorney Kevin Bublitz



### United for Waukesha Community Fund donors

\*This is a list of some, not all, of donors to the United for Waukesha Community Fund.

**Largest donations:**  
 ■ GE — \$100,000  
 ■ Kohl's — \$50,000  
 ■ Walbec Group — \$50,000  
 ■ American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation — \$50,000

**Corporations & foundations**  
 Walbec Group  
 R&R Insurance  
 Badger Liquor  
 Century Fence  
 Acura of Brookfield  
 Wilde Honda  
 Wilde Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Subaru  
 Wilde East Towne Honda  
 Wilde Toyota  
 Educators Credit Union  
 Griffin Ford  
 Rogers Behavioral Health  
 Brunswick Corporation and Mercury Marine  
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 Zywave  
 M3 Insurance  
 Medline Industries  
 Woodman's Food Market  
 Tito's Vodka  
 American Family Insurance  
 Dreams Foundation  
 US Cellular Kohls Corp  
 Molson Coors  
 Landmark Credit Union  
 Sargento  
 ProHealth  
 Green Bay Packaging  
 Baltimore Ravens  
 WE Energies  
 Harley Davidson  
 Waukesha State Bank  
 Northern Trust  
 PNC Bank  
 Waukesha Metal Products  
 Birch & Banyan Coffee

**Individuals**  
 Trent Watt  
 Joe Schobert  
 Kevin Weidler  
 Derek & Gabriella Watt  
 Tony & Andrea Bryant  
 Former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Tonette Walker  
 Katherine Gehl

**Benefit fundraisers and sale proceeds**  
 Kendra Scott  
 Surg Restaurant Group  
 The Coop Restaurant  
 Milwaukee Brewers  
 Milwaukee Bucks  
 Raised Grain Brewing Company  
 Culver's (local)  
 Jersey Mike's (Local)  
 Subway (local)  
 Anika King — Waukesha  
 Strong Apparel Sales  
 Paws for a Moment  
 Coast Carwash  
 Waukesha Skateland  
 Mountain Top Coffee  
 Skyzone  
 Waukesha Masonic Lodge  
 Bosc's Social Club  
 Mulberry Candles  
 Brew City Drifters

# Resources for parade attack victims and those who want to help them

## UNITED FOR WAUKESHA COMMUNITY FUND

Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County have joined together to create the "United for Waukesha Community Fund." This fund will support the needs of the families impacted from the tragic event at the annual Waukesha Christmas Parade. Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way will be coordinating a unified effort to provide resources for these impacted families. Anyone who wishes to show their support can do so by visiting the donation page at [www.waukeshafoundation.org/parade](http://www.waukeshafoundation.org/parade).

## WAUKESHA STRONG FUNDRAISER

Among the several items being created and sold to benefit the United for Waukesha Community Fund are Waukesha Strong shirts created by Carroll University student Anika King. Profits from shirt sales will go to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. Orders can be placed here: <https://rb.gy/hne6pb>.

## HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE FUNDRAISER

Chef Pam's Kitchen, 280 W. Main St., is hosting a Holiday Marketplace event with Vocado MKE and a number of other vendors to raise money for the United for Waukesha Community Fund today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the Chef Pam's Kitchen Facebook page for more information.

## CARROLL UNIVERSITY BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The Carroll University chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters is selling "Waukesha Strong" shirts to raise funds for one of the organization's "Littles" who was severely injured in the parade. Funds will also go to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. Shirts can be purchased at [bit.ly/3xtGIbv](http://bit.ly/3xtGIbv).

## INGLESIDE HOTEL FUNDRAISER WITH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

This weekend, the Ingleside



Image courtesy of Sarah Koolman of Milwaukee Mom

Hotel, 2810 Golf Road, is donating \$5 for every regularly-priced carload admission to its Country Christmas drive-through light display to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the [countrychristmas.com](http://countrychristmas.com).

## LAKE HOUSE CAFÉ FUNDRAISER

The Lake House Café, 662 E. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, is hosting a fundraiser for the victims and their families on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fifty percent of sales will be donated.

## ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING BY THE WISCONSIN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION

The Wisconsin Art Therapy Association is hosting an art therapy and counseling event on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Donna Lexa Art Center, 247 Wisconsin Ave. Art therapists will be on site to support and guide those in need of comfort. All ages welcome.

## JOHN'S DRIVE-IN FUNDRAISER

John's Drive-In, 1317 Arcadian Ave., will donate 100% of sales to the United for Waukesha Community Fund on Thursday, Dec. 2,

during its normal business hours of 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## LOBSTER BENEFIT DINNER

Chef Pam's Kitchen, 280 W. Main St., is hosting a lobster dinner to benefit the United for Waukesha Community Fund on Thursday, Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. One hundred percent of proceeds from the event will go to the fund. The suggested donation is \$100 per plate. Visit the Chef Pam's Kitchen Facebook page for more information.

## MILWAUKEE DANCING GRANNIES FUNDRAISER AT PIZZA RANCH

The Milwaukee Dancing Grannies will receive 50% of all sales and all tips at the Waukesha location of Pizza Ranch, 930 Fleet-foot Drive, on Friday, Dec. 3. Pizza Ranch staff and the community are welcome to volunteer as guest attendants at the restaurant from 4 to 8 p.m.

## FREEMASONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

The Waukesha Freemasons' annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. will include a benefit for the United for Waukesha Community Fund. The event, which is hosted at the Waukesha Masonic Lodge #37, 317

South St., includes a pancake breakfast and a bake sale.

## MEAT RAFFLE AT TALLY'S TAP & EATERY

Tally's Tap & Eatery, S31-W24661 Sunset Drive, is hosting a meat raffle and 50/50 bingo games on Sunday, Dec. 5, to benefit the United for Waukesha Community Fund. Roberts' Specialty Meats, 135 E. Sunset Drive, is donating \$500 in meat for the fundraising effort. Ticket sales start at 1:30 p.m. Bingo games start at 2 p.m., and the meat raffle starts at 3 p.m.

## GOFUNDME DRIVES

GoFundMe has created a page of verified drives you can contribute to by visiting [GoFundMe.com](http://GoFundMe.com) and looking for the "Waukesha Christmas Parade: How to Help" link.

## BLOOD DONATIONS

Blood donation sites near Waukesha have been busy since Sunday. In response to the number of appointment requests, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, 2111 Springdale Road, has announced expanded hours. You can find the Waukesha location's hours and schedule an appointment at [versiti.org](http://versiti.org). Red Cross is also accepting donations at various sites. An appointment can be made at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

## UWM AT WAUKESHA CAMPUS COUNSELING CENTER

The Campus Counseling Center at UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha is available for campus community members with concerns. Contact [wak-counseling@uwm.edu](mailto:wak-counseling@uwm.edu) or call 262-521-5480.

## HELPLINE

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services said people can call or text 800-985-5990 to be connected to a trained, caring counselor 24/7.

## MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT LINE

A mental and behavioral health support phone line has been established by Children's Wisconsin-Milwaukee Hospital for families that need emotional support. The line can be reached at 414-266-6500.

## Fund

From Page 1A

The first thing Lindner did was call family members to ensure they were safe.

As soon as she hung up the phone, she got Marquardt's contact information and figured out how the organizations could help.

Together, they figured out the logistics and the scope of the work that was coming. They were able to get the fundraiser set up, live, on the night of Nov. 21

— hours after the tragedy occurred in downtown Waukesha.

Due to COVID-19, the two organizations had already worked to collaborate on efforts. That experience assisted them in setting up the fund on Nov. 21.

Marquardt said once they confirmed they were doing it, word quickly spread. Staff has been working tirelessly, around the clock, Marquardt said, to ensure everything runs smoothly.

All of the money donated will go directly to the people impacted by the tragedy. Credit cards may have a processing fee.

"The outpouring of support, from all over the

world, is just amazing," Marquardt said. "It really speaks to how much people care, want to support our community and be a part of the healing."

Marquardt said that in her time with the Waukesha County Community Foundation, she's seen every day how giving the community is; however, this has been unprecedented.

Marquardt said more information on where and how the funds are going to be distributed will be provided in the future, as they will continue to be transparent about the process.

According to a statement from the two organizations, the priority is to use

the funds to assist the families of the deceased and those who were hospitalized. That will be followed by those seeking medical attention (those who were non-hospitalized) and additional support provided for those needing mental health, trauma and grief counseling.

"I am absolutely heartbroken that anyone would experience this anywhere, and in a town like Waukesha," Lindner said. "I heard Shelli say this last week that Waukesha's really a town, like one degree of separation, where even if you weren't at the parade you just know somebody that was. That's such a heavy

weight on our hearts. It's going to be for a long time. It's not going to be something that goes away overnight."

The flip side of that, however, Lindner said, is she can see every single day people who care and want to be a part of the solution.

"I say sometimes the best antidote to feeling helpless is finding a way to help," she said. Lindner said she's just as grateful for the individuals who donate what they can as she is grateful for the corporations who have donated large amounts.

The fund can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3pmlqcz>.

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## Ginny

From Page 1A

and others from the Luther League at church how to do the can-can. She made an impression, and the two began dating.

Ginny Sorenson was a member of the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies.

"She was more or less the head of the group," Dave Sorenson said, "She was the instructor." She'd initially planned to ride along rather than walk in the Waukesha Christmas Parade Sunday, but decided

she'd hold the banner to help out, as the group was short-handed, Dave said.

Looking back, Dave Sorenson said, "Ginny probably saved the three of them," referring to three of their six grandchildren, who might have otherwise been holding the banner. It is common for the grandchildren of Grannies to hold the banner.

Ginny Sorenson is one of the five people who were killed Sunday when an SUV was driven into the parade. More than 60 were injured, one of whom died on Tuesday. A man has

been arrested and charged.

In addition to dancing, Ginny was passionate about animals and gardening. The Sorensons have two horses, two goldendoodles, two cats and multiple chickens.

"They'll remember her for her kindness, her thoughtfulness, and she'd do anything for anybody," Dave said of Ginny's legacy.

On his eightieth birthday, Ginny told Dave she wanted a bush put up outside their home. She'd arranged for him to be digging the hole when a line of police and fire vehicles drove by with signs stating "Happy Eightieth, Dave."

She made sure he'd be in the right place when the surprise came.

Kathy Sorenson said family called her mother-in-law "Grammy" and "we liked to say she brought the sparkle with her, wherever she (went) she'd just light the place up."

Ginny Sorenson was religious and was known to say "angels watch over you" when parting ways with a person. A nurse, she still working when she died at 79 years old. She is remembered by three children, six grandchildren, and many others.

A GoFundMe has been set up as a memorial fund for Ginny Sorenson. To donate, visit <https://rb.gy/sueygl>.

The Sorenson family also said donations to Operation Bring Animals Home would be appropriate. The Pewaukee-based 501c3 is dedicated to rescuing animals left behind or displaced by disaster events. To donate to OBAH, visit <http://obahrescue.org/donate>.

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 I-94 East-West Freeway  
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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation invites you to a Public Involvement Meeting regarding the I-94 East-West Freeway Corridor Study from 70th Street to 16th Street. The open-house style meeting will have the same information on both nights - stop in when it is convenient for you. Information shared at the meeting will be available on the project website after the meeting.

For more information, call project manager Josh LeVeque at 414-750-1468 or visit the project website: [wisconsindot.gov/94eastwest](http://wisconsindot.gov/94eastwest). For the hearing impaired or those requiring another language, please dial 711 prior to December 2 to request an interpreter.

**December 8, 2021, 4pm - 7pm, State Fair Park, Tommy Thompson Youth Center, Gate #5, 640 S. 84th St., Milwaukee, MCTS Route 33**

**December 9, 2021, 4pm - 7pm, WDNR Milwaukee Office, 1027 W. St. Paul, Milwaukee, Connections at nearby intermodal station - via HOP, MCTS Routes 12, 31**

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