**2019 Hops & Grapes**

**Please Vote for No More Than TWO Organizations**

**One Ballot Per Rotary Member**

**Descriptions of Candidate Organizations**

**Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony-Rich Frevert, fellow Rotarian**

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony will celebrate its 90th Anniversary Season in 2019-20. The Symphony has a proud history of presenting exciting and inspirational performances in Waterloo, Cedar Falls and the surrounding areas. Major artists that have performed with the Symphony over the years include Janos Starkar, Victor Borge, Peter Nero, Robert Merrill, The King’s Singers, Isaac Stern, Doc Severinsen, Sharon Isbin, Simon Estes, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Schickele and Nadja Salerno-Sonenberg. In addition to main-stage performances, the Symphony provides small ensemble, full orchestra and in-school performances for over 7,500 students in the Cedar Valley each year. The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony is widely-recognized for its innovative programming and exceptional artistic quality. Pauline Barrett Artistic Director Jason Weinberger has led the Symphony for the past 16 years and is one of the few conductors in the U.S. that makes his home in the same community as his orchestra.

**The Job Foundation Cyd McHone, Executive Director, fellow Rotarian**

The Job Foundation eradicates present and future financial poverty and greatly reduces the risk of financial disadvantage for children. This is accomplished through a comprehensive approach that stresses financial education, stewardship training, academic achievement and attainment of key resources to increase financial stability. Over 140 students have been impacted by the program since its inception in 2006. Upon graduation from High School and the program, students will have a positive credit rating with all of its associated benefits, a driver’s license, demonstrate financial stewardship skills and behaviors, have an employment history and/or experience in beginning and running a self-owned business, and have at least $3,000 in their savings account to launch them into independent living and/or higher education. The Job Foundation envisions a world where all children, from every socio-economic background, are well-equipped with all the financial skills, knowledge, and assets needed for their financial and life success both in childhood and into adulthood.

**Dollars for Drama program of the Black Hawk Children’s Theatre – a division of the Waterloo Community Playhouse, Norman Ussery, Executive Director, fellow Rotarian**

The Waterloo Community Playhouse/Black Hawk Children’s Theatre has served Northeast Iowa since 1916 and providing theatrical opportunities for children since 1982.

The Children’s Theatre offers daytime school performances of youth productions.  Each of these shows runs on two consecutive weekends and during the intervening week we offer three performances daily for two days for schools (public and private) and local home school groups.  The admission price is $1 per person, student or teacher. The program is open to all schools, pre-school and special needs programs.  Particular attention is paid to giving access to underserved youth and low income populations and, when requested, the $1 is waived.  For the students, parents and their sponsors, it is a truly amazing experience. Our cost to provide this service is $8 per person, including royalties and direct production expenses.  Funds raised in support of this program allow more students to attend.

**Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center, Linda Laylin, Board Member, fellow Rotarian**

The Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center provides comprehensive and accessible mental health services for children, adolescents, adults, older adults, couples and families.  One in every five people struggles with mental illness. Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center is a private, nonprofit, community mental health center accredited by the Iowa Department of Human Services. Experienced staff design treatments to meet each individual’s specific needs.  The Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center serves those with short-term and long-term needs, including those with depression.
 **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley; Phil Nash, Board Member and Bryan Burton, Director of Operations, both fellow Rotarians**The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley is an after school drop in site that focuses on providing a safe space and impactful programming for youth 6 years old to 18 years old.  Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.  We are located at five different locations around the Cedar Valley; Waterloo (515 Lime Street), Sacred Heart School, Evansdale (Lafayette Rd), Highland Elementary, and Holmes Junior High.  We have over 700 registered members from the Cedar Valley that pay just $30/year to attend the club.  $30 gives them access to homework time, gym time, our nationally recognized programming, art room, and music room. Along with all of these amenities, each afternoon we provide all attending members with a snack and a dinner provided by Northeast Iowa Food Bank.  Without our organization over 700 youth would be displaced every year after school, with some being left to unsafe spaces, and others going hungry at night.

**Junior Achievement, Katelyn Tungland, District Manager, fellow Rotarian**

Description: Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa is dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in the global economy through work reediness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy educational programs. JAEI’s programs are delivered by 1,397 local volunteers that can provide students with real-world examples of how obstacles can be overcome and success achieved. JAEI provides programs to 47,655 students throughout Eastern Iowa. Funds gifted to JAEI will be used to purchase program materials and curriculum that volunteers use to teach the impactful programs to local K-12th grade students.

**House of Hope, Megan Kugler, Board Member, fellow Rotarian**

House of Hope provides homeless mothers with individualized support and transitional housing to achieve secure families and permanent homes. Our vision is to end the cycle of homelessness for mothers and children in the Cedar Valley with respect, empowerment, stewardship and accountability as our core values. Starting with a peer support model, evolving over time into a trauma informed care model, House of Hope has been a support system for hundreds of families who needed the opportunity to land on their feet. Over the years it has grown from housing 7 families to 15.

The House of Hope has also opened the Pillars program for girls transitioning out of Foster Care. Transitioning out of foster care is a significant challenge—it requires you to grow up. Fast. We can help make that transition a little easier, and a little less scary, by helping figure out how to live independently.

**Grout Museum District, Niki Litzel, Staff Member, fellow Rotarian**

Of the Cedar Valley’s many gifts, perhaps no institution tugs at more heartstrings in Waterloo than the Grout Museum District. From  wide-eyed kids laughing, “oohing and ahhing” at an Imaginarium science demonstration, to a family sharing tears of pride seeing a video display of a loved one killed in Vietnam at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, the Grout holds deep, enduring and lasting impact for many people. Because the Grout isn’t just *about* us; it *is* us – across generations. People who enjoyed Museum School as kids two decades ago may bring their own children to have fun discovering nature, meteorology and physics, but also to learn about their grandpa who fought in Korea, or a great-grandma who worked in a defense factory – and maybe go to a fun holiday-themed tea at Rensselaer Russell House. Their grandparents may attend one of our weekly veterans’ coffees. Those kids’ uncles or aunts may attend one of our veteran-service fair “stand down” events. Being a non-profit, funding is always needed to support programming, exhibits and all these great things that happen at the Grout Museum District. Time doesn’t stand still at the Grout. It’s Waterloo’s Curiosity Shop - and reflects who we were, are, and aspire to be.

**2019 Hops & Grapes Benefiting Organizations Ballot**

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**\_\_\_\_\_ The Job Foundation Cyd McHone, Executive Director, fellow Rotarian**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for Drama program of the Black Hawk Children’s Theatre – a division of the
 Waterloo Community Playhouse, Norman Ussery, Executive Director, fellow Rotarian**

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**PRINT YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**