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## **Good Friend, Inc. Receives Greater Milwaukee Foundation Grant**

*The \$25,000 grant will be used to cover GFI's operating expenses.*

WAUKESHA — [Good Friend, Inc.](#) (GFI) was the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from The Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The grant was funded specifically by The Carl and Lora Otjen Family Fund and designated to cover the nonprofit's operating expenses.

"Before this generous gift from the Carl and Lora Otjen Family Fund, our grant revenue was less than a third of what it had been last fiscal year at this time," said Chelsea Budde, Executive Director. "Many grantmakers have had reduced capacity to raise funds themselves for the community programs they've supported, and the impact on small nonprofits like GFI has been keenly felt. We are so appreciative of this grant to keep us moving forward with our mission."

As an organization, GFI made nimble adaptations to adjust to the changing landscape of both program delivery and fundraising last spring. However, revenue was falling just short of the nonprofit's goals. This grant, made possible by the mobilization of resources and strategic direction of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, ensures GFI can continue to deliver its autism awareness- acceptance-empathy programs uninterrupted, Budde explained.

With one third of nonprofits in the U.S. at risk of failing due to the pandemic-induced recession, relying on funding made accessible through the Small Business Administration became a lifeline for many nonprofits last spring and summer. By the end of 2020, GFI had disbursed most of those funds to cover operating expenses, Budde said. Meeting these basic funding needs allows nonprofits to keep the staff paid, the lights on, and the doors open.

### **About The Greater Milwaukee Foundation**

The goal of The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is to make communities in southeastern Wisconsin better places to live. The Foundation is made up of thousands of charitable funds, created by donors to service charitable purposes they specify. Every year, a portion of each fund is used to make grants to support a wide range of programs and agencies in the community, as stated by each donor. Over time, investment proceeds increase both the value of the fund and the impact of grants on the community. The Carl and Lora Otjen Family Fund is one of over 1,300 different funds that are available nonprofit organizations.

### **About Good Friend, Inc.**

Autism is a neuro-biological disorder which is now diagnosed at a rate of 1 in 54 children, and is prevalent in 2.2 percent of adults in the U.S. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Since 2007, GFI has conducted services for students and professionals, explaining autism in age-appropriate, user-friendly terminology using positive, interactive tools to help others "step in the shoes" of someone on the spectrum. To date, the nonprofit has reached more than 54,000 people with its message of autism awareness, acceptance, and empathy. For more information, visit [goodfriendinc.com](http://goodfriendinc.com).

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