

Wausau Pilot & Review**COMMUNITY****AbbyBank Foundation donates to United Way of Marathon County**

May 24, 2024



Pictured are Jenelle Thompson AVP/branch manager Wausau AbbyBank, left, and Ben Lee from United Way of Marathon County. Photo courtesy AbbyBank.

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. announced this week its \$1,000 donation to United Way of Marathon County to help support the agency's mobile pantry services.

This donation will be used to buy essential items, such as shelving, crates, coolers, cooling blankets and tables, ensuring the mobile pantries can efficiently serve those in need.

Wausau Pilot & Review

BIZ BRIEFS

AbbyBank Foundation donates \$500 to literacy group

October 24, 2024



Pictured are Judy Staszak, McLit; from left, Jenelle Thompson, Wausau branch manager AbbyBank; and Connie Heidemann, McLit. Photo courtesy AbbyBank.

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. announced in October a \$500 grant to the Marathon County Literacy Council to help replace aging chairs in its computer labs and tutoring spaces.

The grant will allow the purchase of new chairs with casters, replacing 20-year-old chairs.

“We are proud to support the Marathon County Literacy Council as they continue to provide essential educational services to our community,” said Jenelle Thompson, Wausau branch manager at AbbyBank. “This donation will not only increase comfort and safety for students and tutors, but will also allow the council to focus on what matters most – helping individuals learn and grow.”

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COMMUNITY**AbbyBank Foundation gives to Peyton's Promise, GiGi's Playhouse**October 29, 2024

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. announced in October a \$1,000 grant to Peyton's Promise and a \$1,500 donation to GiGi's Playhouse.

Peyton's Promise is a local organization dedicated to fighting hunger and food insecurity. The donation will be used to buy a new computer, replacing a 10-year-old system, to help the organization work more efficiently and continue its vital efforts in the community.

GiGi's Playhouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational, therapeutic and career-building programs for people with Down syndrome. The money will help meet a variety of equipment needs, ensuring the Playhouse can continue offering high-quality programs and services.

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COMMUNITY

AbbyBank Foundation gifts \$1,500 to Opportunity of North Central Wisconsin

November 5, 2024



Pictured are Emily Plowman, Opportunity Inc., from left, and Jenelle Thompson, Wausau AbbyBank branch manager. Photo courtesy AbbyBank.

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. announced in late October a \$1,500 grant to Opportunity of North Central Wisconsin, Inc. to assist with renovation costs for the organization's upcoming project.

The business that works to advance the independence, productivity and citizenship of children and adults with disabilities, plans to convert a home in Weston into an eight-bed community-based residential facility, with completion expected in the fall of 2024.

"We are thrilled to support Opportunity of North Central Wisconsin, Inc. in its mission to provide crucial care through this new residential facility," said Jenelle Thompson, Wausau branch manager at AbbyBank. "This project will positively impact the Weston community."

Wisconsin Bankers Association

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Four WBA Member Banks Share Fraud Prevention Release: Scammers Are Pretending to Help – But They’re Really Hacking into Your Life

April 11, 2025

Categories: Community, Member News, News

Tags: Bulletin Board, Fraud, Member News



Four WBA member banks: AbbyBank, ForwardBank, Northwestern Bank, and Prevail Bank continue to collaborate to educate their communities on how to prevent common forms of fraud.

Have you ever gotten a phone call from someone saying there’s a problem with your computer? They might say they’re from Microsoft, Apple, or even your bank. They sound super helpful. But here’s the truth — they’re not here to help. They’re trying to scam you.

These fake “tech support” calls are on the rise, and they can lead to stolen money, locked accounts, and big headaches. That’s why local community banks are warning customers: hang up and don’t click.

Here’s what usually happens:

- You get a call or pop up on your computer saying something is wrong.
- The person says they need remote access to fix it.
- You give them access — and boom! They’re in your system and eventually your bank account.
- Some even ask you to “refund” money they “accidentally” put in your account.

“These scammers are smooth talkers. They sound kind and professional, which makes people trust them,” said **Connie Zuleger**, COO at Prevail Bank. “But no real tech support team will ever ask for access to your computer out of the blue.”

Here’s what you can watch for:

- Pop-ups with scary messages about viruses
- Phone calls saying there’s a problem with your computer or bank account
- Anyone asking you to download something or visit a website
- Requests for your online banking password or for remote access

“If it feels fishy, it probably is,” said **Natalyn Jannene**, Assistant Vice President of Marketing at AbbyBank. “We tell our customers to slow down, hang up, and call us directly. It’s always safer to double-check.”

At each local bank, teams are trained to watch for unusual transactions. If something doesn’t look right, bankers will reach out to you directly. Many banks also teach customers how to spot scams through workshops, emails, and one-on-one help.

Here’s how you can protect yourself:

1. Never give control of your device to someone you don’t know.
2. Don’t share your banking info unless you call the bank yourself.
3. Talk to someone you trust before sending money.
4. Call your bank if something feels off. We’re here to help.

Let’s work together to stop tech support scams before they hurt more people.

- AbbyBank www.abbybank.com (<http://www.abbybank.com>)
- Forward Bank www.forward.bank (<http://www.forward.bank>)
- Northwestern Bank www.northwesternbank.com (<http://www.northwesternbank.com>)
- Prevail Bank www.prevail.bank (<http://www.prevail.bank>)

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COMMUNITY

AbbyBank Foundation donates \$2K to Hagar House

April 21, 2025



Pictured are Chris Neuens, associate director, Hagar House, from left: Hillary Strebe, executive assistant, AbbyBank; Jenelle Thompson, AVP/branch manager Wausau AbbyBank; and Jessica Brett, executive director, Hagar House. Photo courtesy AbbyBank Foundation.

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. has donated \$2,000 to The Hagar House in Wausau to empower single mothers in central Wisconsin.

The money will support the organization's expansion efforts, including the construction of a garage that will provide a safe parking area for residents.

The Hagar House exists to free single mothers from cycles of crisis through a Christ-centered community, providing a safe, stable and supportive environment where mothers and their children can heal, grow and thrive.

"We are proud to support The Hagar House and their mission," said Jenelle Thompson, AVP/Wausau branch manager at AbbyBank. "Their work is making a real difference, and we're honored to help them expand their reach and impact."



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POSTED ON JULY 15, 2025

AbbyBank Foundation Donates to Colby Rural Arts Museum

When a tornado struck Colby on May 15 it didn't just cause physical damage, it wiped out a cherished summer tradition. The Colby Rural Arts Museum's brat fry trailer, a key fundraiser and community staple, was completely destroyed.

Recognizing the urgency, the Abby-Bank Foundation held a special off-cycle review outside of its usual schedule and approved a grant to help fund a new permanent "Brat Barn" at Smith Bros Meats, where the original trailer was destroyed.

"The new Brat Barn isn't just for the museum. It's something the whole community can use," said Hillary Strebe, executive assistant at AbbyBank. "It's built to last and will give a lot of local groups the opportunity to hold their own brat frys. We're just really happy to help make that happen."

The AbbyBank Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1986 as a private charitable foundation of AbbyBank, which contributed over \$1,826,300 to the foundation. Since 1986, the foundation has made donations in Abbotsford, Appleton, Gresham, Medford, Shawano, Wausau, Weston and neighboring area organizations totaling over \$1,413,830.91.

For more information regarding Abby-Bank and its charitable foundation, visit www.abbybank.com, call 715-223-2345 or stop at one of our full-service locations in Abbotsford, Appleton, Gresham, Medford, Shawano, Wausau, Weston or Withee.