

Jeff and Barbara Wahl Scholarship Endowment

For Barb and Jeff Wahl, finding ways to make a difference in the lives of others is a daily quest. The middle school classroom presents frequent opportunities for Barb to uplift students. Jeff invests time regularly to support organizations that endeavor to make the community better for all. Together, they make powerful impacts in the lives of many throughout the community.

When Jeff was 10, his family moved to Devils Lake so that his brother could attend the ND School for the Deaf without commuting. Jeff graduated from Devils Lake high school and attended the “Junior College” (now known as Lake Region State College). He began a career in the automotive business, as a sales leader for Bergstrom Cars. When he was ready for a new challenge, Jeff became a consultant to auto dealers across the region, helping them strengthen the skills of their sales staff. More recently, Jeff launched a pair of local businesses, Reign

Realty and Wahl Family Auto. He is joined by his three sons, in these endeavors and together they are creating new choices for consumers and numerous new employment opportunities. Despite a hectic work schedule, Jeff makes time to give back to his community. A strong advocate for Lake Region State College, Jeff is once again serving on the Community College Foundation Board of Directors, after having previously served two three-year terms several years earlier. His passion and gift of persuasion make him a real asset to the board. In

addition, Jeff has long been a member of the Rotary Club, where he currently is president-elect. Jeff loves working with youth and for several years he coached boxing and volunteered at the youth center.

Barb (McDowell) grew up in New Rockford ND. After finishing high school Barb pursued a dream to become an educator. She enrolled at the University of North Dakota and completed a degree in elementary education. Barb’s first teaching appointment was in Devils Lake where she has continued to serve children and families for many years. Her role in the classroom was interrupted

periodically with the arrival of their three sons, Chris, Dan, and Michael? When time allows Barb loves to quilt, creating functional works of art. She is also passionate about spending time with their five busy grandchildren. In 2013 Barb and Jeff worked with a small group of caring individuals to envision and launch the Hope Center. They are proud that the Center is now well established and continues to provide regular food distributions and special programs to impact hunger in the lake region.

Jeff and Barb Wahl are pleased to establish this Endowed Scholarship. It will provide support each year for a Lake Region State College student with financial needs. Special consideration may be given to students enrolled in American Sign Language classes and/or the DECA (Distributed Education Clubs of America) program.