

The Valparaiso Parks Foundation provides opportunities for the community to support the continuing legacy of high quality experiences provided by Valpo Parks.



Spring 2016

roots

A publication of the Valpo Parks Foundation

THANK YOU 2015

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2015 Annual Report Edition

A Letter from the President

Who would have thought 2015 could compare to the amazing year we had in 2014 when we rebuilt ValPLAYso? Most would agree the past year was equally exciting thanks to the Valpo Parks Department, Parks Foundation, and most importantly the wonderful community that continues to provide support to these projects. We saw the completion of the restroom building, The Grounds Specialists T-ball fields, Faceplace Plaza and Family Express Pavilion at ValPLAYso Park. Thousands of children enjoyed this world class park throughout its first full year.

Building upon the success of Central Park and the Porter Health Amphitheater, 2015 was also the completion of Central Park's west campus, dedicating the William E. Urschel Pavilion, Bill Costas Family Plaza and Indiana Beverage Activity Center. These new facilities provide year round activities downtown, including events and festivals during the summer months and ice skating during the winter months.

In this community there is always another great opportunity or initiative in the pipeline! The city has already broken ground on a new pathway

for Vale Park Road west. We are studying options for a potential dog park and new skate park, and the Master Plan update has begun which will identify and define the needs and priorities of the Parks over the next 5 years based on community engagement and feedback.



Jeff Lewis

Our projects could not be completed without the active support of volunteers and leaders. We would like to thank our outgoing board members Dan Marchetti, Martin Sonnenberg and Julie Douglas for their hard work and dedication as we welcome new board members Jim Cunningham, Jacki Stutzman, Erin Urschel and Matt Vessely. We look forward to the great things to come, and greatly appreciate the remarkable support from the Valparaiso community.

GET INVOLVED

Attend an event, join a committee or volunteer

Contact Us:

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Director of Development
dhannah@valpo.us

Barbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant
bjohnson@valpo.us

Gifts to the Valparaiso Parks Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



2015 Board of Directors

Jeff Lewis

Foundation Board President
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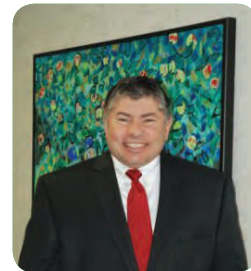
John Seibert

Valpo Parks
Foundation Executive Director

A Warm Welcome in 2016...

Jim Cunningham, Jacki Stutzman, Erin Urschel and Matthew D. Vessely are the newest board members with the Valpo Parks Foundation.

Cunningham is chief financial officer of Task Force Tips, Inc. He has been a resident of Valparaiso since May 1996. Cunningham has volunteered in various organizations over the years, including the Valparaiso Rotary Club where he served as treasurer for six years, a board member for the Valparaiso University Credit Union (now First Trust Credit Union), and a board member for Whispering Pines Nursing Home. Additionally, he served as a volunteer coach for several years in baseball and soccer programs in Valparaiso and in Oak Lawn, Ill., prior to moving to Indiana.



Jim Cunningham

Stutzman is a board member at the Valparaiso Family YMCA, the Porter County Community Foundation, Lakeshore PAWS and the Memorial Opera House Foundation where she currently serves as president. Stutzman and her four rescue dogs live in south Porter County.



Jacki Stutzman

Urschel lives in Valparaiso with her husband Rick and two daughters. She serves on the Valparaiso Art Advisory Committee, Housing Opportunities Due Diligence Committee and is a member of Tri Kappa's Iota Chapter serving as publicity co-chair.

Vessely of 1st Source Bank returns to the area with more than 25 years of diverse banking and management experience; including senior vice president level roles in business banking, commercial banking and product management.



Matthew D. Vessely

Officer elections took place for the Parks Foundation board in 2015. **Jon Schmaltz** of Burke Costanza Carberry will serve a two-year term as president of the 20-member board, with **Jamie Sulcer** of Chicago Title Group being elected vice president and **Tim VerSchure** of Lakeside Wealth Management Group returning as treasurer.



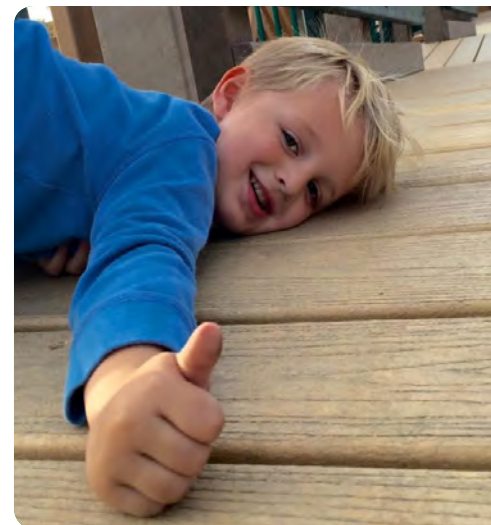
Erin Urschel

Special Thanks...

Seibert and Lewis recently thanked **Julie Douglas, Dan Marchetti, and Martin Sonnenberg** for their generous and consistent support of the Foundation as they completed their term limits this year. We hope to keep them involved as continued advocates of the organization.

Schmaltz and Seibert also recognized and thanked Lewis for his work as president during the two significant years of projects in the parks system during his tenure.

The Valparaiso Parks Foundation provides opportunities for the community to support the continuing legacy of high quality experiences provided by Valpo Parks. It is because of the generous and tireless work of these individuals that help us achieve our mission.



Great job!

2015 Foundation Partners & Sponsors

\$100,000 and Above

Costas Family
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Indiana Beverage
Urschel Laboratories

\$50,000 to \$99,999

AM Stabilizers

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Here's how I got involved...



"After the loss of our niece, Emma, our family thought of ways to remember her and teach our young daughters about her. Right away we knew having a memorial for her at a local park would be perfect! Valpo has the most beautiful parks in the state and we were excited to be able to dedicate a bench at Butterfly Meadows in her honor. As our children grow, it warms our heart knowing they will not only be able to learn about Emma, but that it's like a piece of her is playing at the park beside them. It makes our time at the Valpo parks even more beautiful and special."

Tom and Sara Kowalisyn

Supporting More Than Parks

"There is so much good to say about our Valpo Parks and there are as many reasons to support the Parks through the Valpo Parks Foundation. With our donations to the Foundation, we are investing in our community and join others in supporting the parks department in offering Valparaiso's diverse community outdoor spaces, where one can jump, walk, run, enjoy playing in the water, hear laughter, or hear the calls of ball players and the applause of the bystanders.

We are proud to support a parks department, which not only preserves open space, maintains neighborhood parks and playing fields, but has such great vision to design a sweet spot downtown for multipurpose activities. We are so fortunate to have a 'park for all seasons' in the heart of our downtown with the development of Central Park Plaza and the William E. Urschel Pavilion.

We are privileged to have parks in neighborhoods, recreational facilities for all ages and a city that realizes parks are more than spaces left undeveloped. The Valpo Parks embraces the urban park design concept 'that a park is an artifact conceived and deliberated as carefully as public buildings, with both physical shape and social usage taken into account.' This vision also defines our community values. Thank you for helping to ensure this legacy for the next generation."

Carol and Jack Ronneau

*Longtime Valpo Parks
Foundation Donors*





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SHARE YOUR passion, time and money.

We depend on you today and tomorrow.

BECOME A 2016 FOUNDATION PARTNER

Contact Donna Hannah at dhannah@valpo.us.

Go to valpoparksfoundation.org/partners
to see who has already joined.

Mark Your Calendars for 2 Great Events!

All events benefit the
mission of the Valpo Parks
Foundation. Questions?
Contact Barbie Johnson
at 219.462.5144.



Creekside Classic

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Creekside Golf Course
8 AM – Kids Golf Skills Contest
11 AM – 12-hole Scramble



Party in the Park

Saturday, November 12, 2016

William E. Urschel Pavilion
5 – 8 PM

Stay in Touch...



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ValpoParks.org



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