## **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Ashland Rotary Club - Leadership Grant Announcement**

Since the fall of 2014, the Ashland Rotary Club has been awarding grants designed to expose students to leadership opportunities.

Given area educators are in direct access with students, our club actively partners with educators from Bayfield, Washburn, Our Lady of the Lake, and Ashland schools. We are not only providing financial support but time, energy and connection to Rotary.

Grants have been awarded in support of students traveling to Lake Baikal, student lead school festivals, creating a Jr. Ski Patrol at Mt. Ashwabay, supporting students at leadership camps, building bird houses, supporting music, arts, beach clean-up projects, Lego League.... And more. The variety of awarded grants has been amazing. To date, the Ashland Rotary Club has provided financial support of over \$21,000.

Funds are raised primarily through the ENCORES concert in which area business offer donations for a free concert. ENCORES artists are alumni of the region who return to share their talents with the Chequamegon Bay. Ashland Rotary has just completed the fifth ENCORES concert amassing almost \$24,000 in funds raised.

"Our goal is have zero, nothing in our account... If we have an empty checkbook, this means we have given away all of the funds raised in support of leadership grants," stated Mike Sherry, Leadership Grant chair. "Our club does a great job of fund-raising and we are working tirelessly to connect those funds directly to area students through Leadership grants. We came very close to awarding grants to match funds raised."

Effective May 1, 2018, Ashland Rotary club will NOT be taking any further applications for this year. Starting in the fall of 2018, applications deadlines will be connected to the start of both the first and second semesters of the academic year. Watch for a press release regarding application deadlines as we continue to grow student leadership in the Chequamegon Bay.

Ashland Rotary Club <u>www.ashlandwirotary.org</u> Mike Sherry – Leadership Grant Chair - 715-682-9393