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Walworth County Rising Opens Nominations for Inaugural 40 Under 40 Awards, Announces Celebration at Geneva Tap House

New recognition program seeks outstanding young professionals who live and work in Walworth County; November 19 celebration will benefit The Bridge.

WALWORTH COUNTY, Wis. — Walworth County Rising – 40 Under 40 is accepting nominations for its inaugural Class of 2026, recognizing 40 exceptional individuals age 40 and under who are making a meaningful impact on the communities where they live and work.

The new countywide initiative celebrates the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, volunteers, and changemakers who are helping shape Walworth County's future.

The inaugural awards celebration will take place **Thursday, November 19, 2026, at the Geneva Tap House**, bringing together honorees, local businesses, community leaders, and supporters for an evening of recognition, connection, and celebration. Tickets are a \$10 donation to benefit The Bridge, formerly the Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank.

"Walworth County is home to so many talented, passionate young people who are making a difference every day, often without recognition," said organizers Alethea Salgado and Alicia Boemi of Walworth County Rising. "We created 40 Under 40 to celebrate those individuals, share their stories, and demonstrate the incredible leadership and community spirit that exists right here in our county."

Recognizing Walworth County's Rising Leaders

Nominations are open to individuals age 40 and under who reside and/or work in Walworth County, Wisconsin. Nominees may represent any industry or profession, including business, education, healthcare, nonprofit organizations, hospitality, public service, the arts, and more.

Community members are encouraged to nominate deserving colleagues, neighbors, business owners, and volunteers, or to submit a self-nomination.

From the nominations received, 40 individuals will be selected for the inaugural Class of 2026. Three honorees will also receive special distinctions:

- **Community Volunteer of the Year** – Recognizing an individual whose dedication to service and volunteerism has made a lasting difference in Walworth County.
- **Business Owner of the Year** – Honoring an entrepreneur whose leadership, innovation, and commitment to the community have contributed to the county's economic vitality.
- **Rising Star of WalCo** – Celebrating an emerging leader whose accomplishments, ambition, and potential represent a bright future for Walworth County.

The 40 honorees and special award recipients will be selected by the Board of Directors of The Bridge.

"Whether someone is building a business, mentoring young people, supporting local families, or finding creative ways to improve our communities, we want to recognize the people who are helping Walworth County thrive," organizers added.

An Evening of Celebration at Geneva Tap House - Lake Geneva

The inaugural Walworth County Rising – 40 Under 40 awards celebration will be hosted at Geneva Tap House on Thursday, November 19, 2026.