

A Vision of “What Could Be” Inspires a Gift from the Heart

Written by Linda Schill

We have some truly incredible news to share with you! Recently, we received an anonymous gift that has us feeling extra grateful and inspired.

A local Wausau couple, whose identity you will never know, made a generous \$100,000 donation to establish the Visions of Growth Endowment Fund, designated to support garden enhancements and internship development at Monk Botanical Gardens. Just the thought of it fills our hearts with immense joy! While it's hard not to shout their names from the rooftop, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the wonderful friends who made this contribution.

The donors shared this sentiment, “We’ve been coming to the Gardens and volunteering here for many, many years. We find great enjoyment here, and each time we walk out of the gates of Monk Gardens we always feel better for having visited. It’s such a beautiful creation. Our hope is to help sustain the Gardens forever and to make it more visible for everybody to enjoy.”

The beauty of an endowment fund is that it relies on a long-term investment strategy to sustain not just the gardens spaces, but also the educational initiatives that make Monk Botanical Gardens an invaluable resource for our community. By investing in our future, we can continue to offer innovative programming, engage with schools, and provide a sanctuary for reflection, connection, and personal growth.

The donors went on to say, “Every single gift is important, every single dollar. There was a time that we couldn’t have given this much money, but we still gave what we could at the time. We’ve been blessed with enough. We’ve lived a comfortable life without extravagant things, we’ve raised our family, and now we believe it’s time to share a little more of what we have with the community and the places that have added beauty, comfort and peace to our lives over the years.”



These donors share our same appreciation of the many who’ve contributed in various ways to help the Gardens grow, year after year. Gifts of volunteer service, membership renewals, annual fund donations, gifts of shared expertise, and simply attendance at programs and events. It all adds up, and this work requires a variety of “seeds planted” to create a beautiful Garden for all to enjoy.

The donors also humbly added, “We have no idea how Monk Botanical Gardens might possibly change because of our decision to establish this endowment. But, we believe in the gardens vision for growth and want it to be a ‘forever happy place’ in our community for ALL people of ALL ages to enjoy. We hope by planting this financial gift now it will continue to grow into a gift for everyone, for generations to come.”

We couldn’t agree more! TOGETHER, we will continue to cultivate a vibrant and blooming sanctuary, a place where nature’s wonders inspire, educate, and bring joy to all who walk through our gates. Thank you for being a part of our journey and supporting Monk Botanical Gardens.

The Visions of Growth Endowment Fund will accept individual gifts and funds of various types, invest those gifts and funds for long-term growth, and distribute income from those investments to support garden enhancements and internship development - all in alignment and in furtherance of Monk Botanical Gardens’ mission.

If you would like to make a gift to the Visions of Growth Endowment Fund or start a conversation about planned giving to support the Gardens in a new and visionary way, please contact Linda Schill at 715-600-1166.