



FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

THE FARLEY CENTER'S **WORK IS A LEGACY**

> BY AMY CARLSON NBC 15 NEWS ANCHOR

"WHENEVER I HAVE A GROUP OF KIDS OUT, I WANT THEM TO HAVE FUN. I WANT THEM TO PRODUCE AND I WANT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ALL KINDS OF EXPERIENCES." -FARLEY CENTER DIRECTOR SHEDD FARLEY

ON A 43-ACRE SWATH of wooded and farm land outside of Verona sits the active legacy of two physicians and their family who dedicated their lives to furthering the work of peace, justice and environmental social action.

The Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, once the personal home of doctors Linda and Gene Farley, has been a gathering place for groups promoting that type of work since shortly after Linda Farley died in 2009, when the home was donated as the center's headquarters.

The sign on the center's front door still reads "Intentionally Welcoming," just as the Farleys would want their namesake to be. The two spent their lives as social activists, and often practiced family medicine in places other doctors avoided, such as the Navajo Reservation, rural areas and inner cities. Gene started the first Family Medicine practice at the University of Rochester in New York. It was a holistic approach-tying relationships to health. They raised four sons and fostered another in the Quaker tradition.

Today the center continues a wide variety of programs, including educating beginning farmers who don't have the resources to purchase their own land. Twelve farmers from seven countries grow crops at the Farley Center. They contribute to the equipment maintenance and their produce is sold through CSAs,

farmers' markets and to local restaurants. A portion of the produce also is donated to Badger Prairie Food Pantry and apples were donated to one Madison elementary school to celebrate the first day of school.

The center also operates the Grow Academy for youth in the correctional system to learn agriculturally oriented skills that will help them reintegrate in their communities.

The Farleys' son Shedd, who directs the center today, has a background in teaching and passionately shares his love of the land. Whether hosting a picnic for children of incarcerated parents or teaching Grow Academy students how to build wooden benches, his enthusiasm is contagious. "Whenever I have a group of kids out, I want them to have fun. I want them to produce and I want to provide them with all kinds of experiences," he says.

All programs are funded by selling space in the center's Natural Path Sanctuary, a burial ground allowing "green" burials. After Linda Farley passed away, her family wanted her to have a totally green burial on their land. It was such a rewarding experience that they decided to share the land with others who desired the same opportunity. Friends and family are invited to walk the wooded paths and enjoy the peace, tranquility and beauty of the nature preserve. For more information, visit farleycenter.org.

OCTOBER NONPROFIT EVENTS

1-24 | Times vary RAINBOW PROJECT TOY DRIVE

Help Steinhafels restock kids' play things at The Rainbow Project, a nonprofit counseling clinic for children and families in crisis. Steinhafels is among the companies helping the nonprofit get a remodeling makeover through Design for a Difference, Madison. You can help by donating a new or gently used toy, board game or child's costume for the center's refurbished playroom. Drop items at any of Steinhafels three Madison stores.

22 | 11 a m LINKS COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AND SCHOLARSHIP JAZZ BRUNCH

Join one of the oldest predominately African-American nonprofits in honoring five individuals and a corporation that are making a difference in our community. Enjoy music and brunch while raising scholarship money for local students. Madison Crowne Plaza, Madison. madisonlinksinc.org.

25 | 5 p.m. IMAGINE MADISON FUNDRAISING

Celebrate the incredible contributions of Madison-area women with a day of networking, fabulous dining and programming that highlights these truly inspirational champions. Monona Terrace, Madison. madisoncommunityfoundation.org.