

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Little Rapids Corporation and The Egan Family Foundation Joins Forces with the Shawano Area Fire Department to Enhance Firefighter Safety



Photo shows donation being awarded to SAFD. From left to right – Alysia Pilsbury (LRC), Mike Bogenschutz (LRC), William Mott (SAFD), Scott Flaig (SAFD), Bradley Keuschel (LRC/SAFD)

Shawano, WI — August 21, 2023 — In a proactive step towards bolstering the safety and preparedness of Shawano's emergency response teams, the Shawano Area Fire Department has received a generous donation of \$15,000 from Little Rapids Corp/ Egan Family Foundation. The funds will be utilized to acquire essential tactical gear aimed at safeguarding the lives of firefighters and emergency response personnel during potentially hazardous active shooter situations.

The presentation of the donation took place on Friday, August 18th, 2023, marking an important milestone in the ongoing commitment of both Little Rapids Corp/ Egan Family Foundation and the Shawano Area Fire Department to ensure the well-being of their community.

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the capabilities of their emergency response teams, the Shawano Area Fire Department has recently participated in active shooter training. The department has been designated as a key component of the emergency response teams tasked with treating and extracting victims during potential active shooter incidents. Given the unique circumstances of the region, where full-time fire and EMS services are not as readily available

as in larger cities, the role of the volunteer fire department becomes even more critical to provide adequate manpower and support.

One of the challenges identified in these situations is the need for specialized tactical gear, including body armor and other safety equipment, that would allow firefighters and emergency personnel to enter the scene before it is fully secured, potentially exposing them to active threats. Due to the extraordinary nature of this requirement, these items are not included in the department's regular operating budget. The timely donation from Little Rapids Corp/ Egan Family Foundation will enable the swift acquisition of this essential gear, ensuring that the fire department is fully equipped to respond effectively and protect the lives of both emergency personnel and victims.

SAFD Chief Shawn Borlace stated "Thanks to your donation, our fire department will be able to purchase personal protective equipment, which will be worn during critical incidents. The PPE being purchased will not only increase safety for the firefighters but our community as well." Bradley Keuschel, an LRC associate and member of the Shawano Area Fire Department, couldn't be more thankful. "I would like to give a big THANK YOU to the Egan Family Foundation. When the training for these active shooter scenarios came to be there was a lot of new information given to us as a department, and new gear that we would need to get that is outside of our day to day firefighting equipment. As with anything we were not sure how or where we would be able to work these into our budget. I know that the Egan Family Foundation is a strong supporter in our community and have helped many organizations out without receiving the recognition that they deserved. It is great to have a company and family that sees the value in protecting our first responders as well as their employees and community outside of the work environment."

Little Rapids Corp/ Egan Family Foundation is renowned for its dedication to community welfare and safety. The foundation's contribution to the Shawano Area Fire Department exemplifies their ongoing efforts to create lasting positive impacts on the lives of those they serve.

For more information about how the Egan Family Foundation and Little Rapids Corporation can help, please see www.littlerapids.com/charitable-giving

About Little Rapids Corporation – Egan Family Foundation:

Little Rapids Corporation provides customer solutions through their three Green Bay area locations. In recognition of the company's family ownership structure, and in alignment with its commitment to community involvement, our charitable giving and philanthropic efforts are administered by the Little Rapids Corporation – Egan Family Foundation. It is a private foundation established by the Egan family in 1986 with the mission to fund charities in

communities where Little Rapids Corporation has facilities. Little Rapids Corporation is committed to being a positive force for change as a responsible member in the communities in which our associates live and work.

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