

Editorial: Nienhaus' gift continues stunning generosity

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(Photo: Dan Powers/Post-Crescent Media)

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Even in an unusually giving community like ours, Mary Beth Nienhaus' generosity is rare.

Nienhaus, who owns Winagamie Golf Course and is a former Appleton West High School teacher and coach, has donated Winagamie to the Appleton Education Foundation.

Yes, the whole Town of Clayton golf course, estimated to be worth more than \$2.5 million, will go to the foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money for Appleton public schools.

Under the new ownership, profits will first go to a fund for capital improvements at the course and will eventually go to the AEF. But there's more to the arrangement than money. The golf course will also become an educational tool, with students getting hands-on experience in areas like business, agronomy and marketing in a partnership with Fox Valley Technical College.

It's a wonderful opportunity for the foundation and the school district, all because of Nienhaus' gift.

It's not the first one she's given, either. In fact, she donated \$200,000 in 1996 to establish the Appleton Education Foundation. That money, in turn, was used to revamp the old Goodland Field into the Nienhaus Sports Complex, West's home for boys' soccer, baseball and softball. In 2012, she donated \$100,000 in 2012 as part of a matching grant for other donations toward West's field project on school grounds.

Nienhaus has been invaluable as both an educator and a benefactor for not only the Appleton West community but the entire community.

Her latest gift is nothing short of stunning.