

Chuck Spargo's passion for helping low-income and underserved individuals began nearly 30 years ago, shortly after leaving his job at a private utilities firm in Minneapolis, for a small member-run cooperative in Friendship, WI – and that passion has only grown since.

Chuck first joined the Foundation for Rural Housing Board in 2003. He was the acting COO at Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative when he was nominated to the Board, and it was then that his commitment to cooperative principles intersected with his commitment to rural housing and poverty.

As a Board Member, Chuck's organizational, operational and financial guidance proved invaluable. He was also a staunch advocate within the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperatives; and promoted key Rural Housing programming and funding of FRH with the Youth Federation Scholarship. His involvement on the Board was instrumental in the raising over \$50,000 in unrestricted dollars for FRH.

Chuck has also served on the Mid-State Technical College Board of Directors, was the Village President of his local township, and has held numerous other civic positions during his career that promoted the well-being his fellow neighbors and the community in which he lived.

Chuck helped Char Thompson make the connections with local banks and zoning staff to get the first Senior Cooperative Homes in Adams-Friendship. This is a cooperatively owned senior housing program controlled by the seniors themselves.

But Chuck's efforts don't stop there; recently, when FRH went through a major transition in leadership, he made multiple trips to the Madison office to assist with interviews, consult on finances, even work the phones – a real crash course in what a typical day can look like in community programs—and he didn't miss a beat. Whenever the new Director needed him, Chuck was onsite, taking his road trips in stride, listening, offering advice, and sharing important historical information about the organization.

And, just as he was about to retire Chuck found a way to connect the right people and have one last hurrah at the Electrical Cooperatives Manager's meeting, which he proudly attended in order to talk about WRH. This single meeting has already generated over \$7,000 in unrestricted revenue, and its impact has been immeasurable.

When asked by his son why he was first interested in volunteering for organizations committed to helping those less fortunate, Chuck simply replied, "I've never really asked myself why, it's always felt like the right thing to do. If there's someone in need and I have the capacity to help them, I will – no questions asked."