

A silver anniversary of color

Red Wing celebrates 25 years of flower baskets this spring, but did you know the baskets started as boxes? The community experimented with metal flower boxes – a few of them remain at the corner of Plum and Third streets – as a beautification project in 1989. The idea was to add living color as part of a major improvement project downtown.

But the concept quickly changed after Kiwanian and professional photographer Phil Revoir returned from a trip to the famous Victoria Gardens in British Columbia where he could see in his mind's eye large baskets adorning Red Wing's new light poles. His enthusiasm fired director Henry Sorenson's imagination, and the Public Works Department leader turned to Bob Lewis of Sargent's Nursery, who designed the first of what became Red Wing's signature moss baskets.

City crews hung 24 baskets in the La Grange Park area the spring of 1990. The response was overwhelming and demand for baskets spread. There were 202 baskets for 1991, and Hallstrom's Greenhouse and Sargent's have shared in the planting ever since.

Noontime Kiwanis was the sponsor and fiscal agent from the start, with a 50-50 percent financial partnership with the City of Red Wing until 2004. Today, no tax dollars go toward flower basket expenses; Kiwanians have full responsibility for raising funds for everything from the seeds to the fertilizer and the summer city interns who water the baskets.

No one living in Red Wing or visiting our beautiful city can imagine the downtown without flower baskets – which will number 238 this year. We are using the 25th anniversary to grow the flower basket fund and invite you to keep the tradition blooming for another 25 years.

Sincerely,

Noontime Kiwanis



City of Red Wing



You may mail your tax-deductible donation to:

Red Wing Kiwanis Foundation – Flower Baskets Trust
P.O. Box 271
Red Wing, MN 55066

We also have two convenient drop-off locations this year:

Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce Red Wing Public Works
319 W. Third St. (downtown) 229 Tyler Road N. (Behind Target and near Red Wing Mall)

Yes, I want to support the Red Wing Flower Baskets!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please note my gift is in **memory** or **honor** (circle one) of:

Enclosed is my donation:

2 baskets, \$280

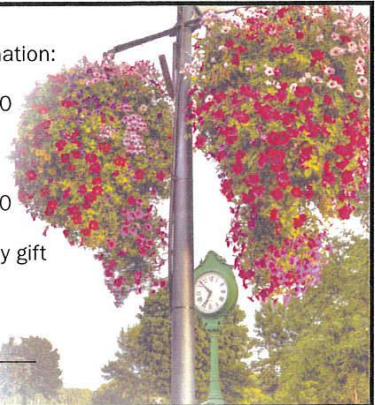
1 basket, \$140

1/2 basket, \$70

\$25 anniversary gift

Other \$ _____

Total gift: _____



Red Wing Kiwanis Foundation - Flower Baskets Trust, Box 271, Red Wing, MN 55066, is a 501(c) 3