



# PAUL MELOTIK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 22<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Honoring a Hometown Hero: Representative Paul Melotik Presented Tom “Mel” Stanton with the Wisconsin State Assembly Hometown Hero Award**

On April 22, 2025, Representative Paul Melotik proudly presented the Wisconsin State Assembly Hometown Hero Award to Tom “Mel” Stanton, founder of Mel’s Charities in Cedarburg, in recognition of his exceptional service, leadership, and impact across Ozaukee County.

What began in 1999 as a \$350 pig roast has grown into one of the region’s most impactful nonprofits. Guided by the motto “Having Fun, Impacting Lives,” Mel’s Charities has raised nearly \$3 million, all staying local to support individuals with disabilities, youth, veterans, and mental health programs in Ozaukee County.

Driven by his energy, humor, and compassion, Tom “Mel” Stanton has turned a grassroots idea into a powerful movement of inclusion, generosity, and community spirit.

*“What started as a small, heartfelt gesture has grown into a powerful community institution,” said Representative Paul Melotik. “Mel’s ability to bring people together with joy, purpose, and compassion is what makes the organization so impactful. Whether it’s supporting individuals with disabilities, helping veterans, or uniting neighbors through community events, he continues to lead with heart and vision. Mel’s Village is a bold and exciting step forward, and it’s just one more example of how Tom ‘Mel’ Stanton is changing lives right here in our community. I’m proud to recognize him as our Hometown Hero.”*

One of the most ambitious projects Mel’s Charities is leading is Mel’s Village at Gateway, a transformative 35-acre development in Saukville that will serve as a model for inclusive, community-focused living. The project will offer market-rate housing, with 25% of units dedicated to adults with disabilities, alongside job opportunities, retail spaces, a sports academy, and a variety of public amenities including a botanical garden, splash pad, concert bandshell, and hotel. Managed in partnership with Balance, Inc., Mel’s Village is designed to be a place where people of all abilities can live, work, and thrive together.

Mel’s Charities is also known for its dynamic and joyful approach to fundraising. Signature events such as Mel’s Pig Roast, River Run, Shamrock Shenanigans, Pig Scramble, and Melapalooza bring thousands together each year in celebration and support of their mission, proving that fun and generosity can go hand-in-hand.

From its grassroots beginnings to its county-wide impact, Mel’s Charities exemplifies the power of community-led change. Tom “Mel” Stanton’s unwavering dedication has not only raised vital funds but also built lasting connections, inspired hope, and made Ozaukee County a better, more inclusive place for all. Congratulations to Mel and the entire Mel’s Charities team.

Continued: See Photo below



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*Proudly representing Ozaukee and Washington counties, covering the communities of Grafton (Town and Village), Cedarburg (Town and City), Port Washington (Town and City), as well as portions of Germantown and Mequon.*