

Media Release

Contact: **Marilyn McSteen**
Program Director
815.370.8421

October 10, 2016

Foundation Awards \$90,221 in Grants to Eleven Area Nonprofits

WILL COUNTY, IL - The Community Foundation of Will County awarded Community Partner Grants in the priority areas of health, education, human services and the arts at the fall reception. "For the second year, we invited those who have Donor Advised Funds with us to help fund grants. Through their generosity we are able to increase our total impact by over 65%, adding over \$35,000 of their support to our \$55,000, for total grants awarded of \$90,221." noted Grant Committee Chair, Kathy Cawley." And for the first time, we are excited to have the DuPage Medical Group as a community partner even though they don't have a fund with us, but with our sister Foundation in DuPage County."

Nonprofit organizations serving Will County apply for grants through the Foundation's annual Community Partner Grant program. In 2016, with more than \$264,000 of funding requests received from 26 organizations, and with exciting work happening in our community, the Board of Directors had difficult decisions to make.



-more-

Community Leaders, Foundation donors, Trustees and other friends joined representatives from the recipient organizations at the reception on Wednesday, October 5th to celebrate the distribution of the grants and learn more about how they will be used to support the projects and initiatives of the various recipient organizations.

The following is a list of the 2016 grant recipients and projects they will be implementing:

Camp Fire Illinois Prairie - *Campsite Renovations* - \$7,300 to improve the use of their primary program site in Bolingbrook through bathroom renovations and roof repairs to facilitate educational programming and prepare for move of offices to this site in Will County.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet –*Ombudsman Program*-\$5,579 to purchase computer equipment and software to conduct the Ombudsman Program services offering advocacy and assistance to 960 seniors at 49 long-term care facilities in our region. (*Co-investor: The Sharing Blessings Fund*)

Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project –*Community Legal Education and Outreach for Immigrants, Migrant and Seasonal Workers in Will County* - \$3,500 to educate local low-income immigrant, migrant, and seasonal workers about their rights at work and provide pro bono counsel to laborers with legitimate workplace claims. (*Co-Investor: The Sharing Blessings Fund*)

-more-

George Werden Buck Boys & Girls Club- Future Stars Transitional Success

Program -\$7,000 to purchase software to launch this new vocational education and training program for club members 10-18 years of age, conducted in a new computer center. *(With partial support from The Spesia & Ayers Charitable Grant Fund, The Sentinus Charitable Grant Fund, The Center for Economic Development Education Grant Fund, and Co-Investor: The Mark and Judy Inserra Charitable Fund)*

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra- 2016 Opening Night Concert -*\$5,000 to fund a Guest Artist (Serbian-Italian virtuoso violinist, Stefan Milenkovich) for their Opening Night Concert that will be held at Governors State University on October 15th. (Funded by the Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment and Co-Investor: The Danny and Tricia Simpson Family Fund)*

Northern Illinois Food Bank- South Suburban Center-*\$15,000 to purchase two pallet jacks for use in new center located in Will County and opening in 2017 to enhance access to food for network partner members. (With partial support from the Michael F. Rittof Fund and Co-Investor: The Fred and Maria Schaffer Charitable Fund)*

One Hope United –Joliet Early Learning Center- *\$9,842 to purchase education and assessment materials including Creative Curriculum Studies and Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales to add classrooms and increase the number of*

-more-

children served. *(Co-investors: The Voyager Group Fund and The Christian and Meredith Spesia Charitable Fund).*

Senior Services Center of Will County Inc.- Safe@Home -\$7,000 for tools and supplies to launch their new program to provide minor home repairs to over 60 Seniors to ensure their well-being in their own home. *(Co-investor: The Fred and Maria Shaffer Charitable Fund)*

The Cancer Support Center –*The Cancer Support Center Programs offered at Aunt Martha’s Joliet East*- \$10,000 to provide psychosocial and wellness oncology support services to Will County residents at the Aunt Martha’s Joliet East facility. *(Co-investor: The DuPage Medical Group Charitable Fund)*

Trinity Services, Inc.- Assistive Technology and Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities-\$15,000 to purchase technology to support the learning and communications needs of adults who have developmental disabilities or a dual diagnosis(developmental disability and mental illness). *(With partial support from the Rink Family Grant Fund)*

Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park Inc.- Summer Camp for All-\$5,000 to provide the summer camp program that encourages children/teens to embrace the diversity of abilities within each of their fellow campers.*(Funded by the Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment and Co-investor: The Christian and Meredith Spesia Charitable Fund)*

-more-

Since its inception in 2006, the Foundation has built its assets to over \$3.2 million and awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants to nonprofit agencies serving the residents of Will County and beyond.

Community Foundation of Will County:

The Community Foundation of Will County seeks to improve the quality of life throughout Will County communities by PROMOTING philanthropy, CONNECTING donors to community needs and BUILDING partnerships.

The Community Foundation of Will County was founded as a geographic Affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust by local residents in 2006 to serve as a local resource for donors and professional advisors in the implementation of charitable strategies through donor advised funds and other planning vehicles, to build endowments in special areas of interest that fund a competitive grant program annually, and to hold various nonprofit agency/organization endowment funds. Since its inception, the Foundation has grown to over \$3.2 million in assets and award over \$1.6 million in grants to nonprofit agencies serving the residents of Will County and beyond.

For more information about the Foundation, or to arrange future media opportunities, please contact Marilyn McSteen, program director, at (815)744-9223, or mmcsteen@cfwill.org.



Caption: The DuPage Medical Group Charitable Fund presented a grant to The Cancer Support Center at Wednesday's Grant Awards Reception. Pictured (l.to r.) Michael Trench, Foundation, Executive Director; Dr. Waheed, Joliet based oncologist, DuPage Medical Group; Peri Todd, Director of Clinical Research/Charitable Fund, DuPage Medical Group; Kathy Cawley, Foundation Trustee and Grant Committee Chair; Amy Chmura, Director of Development, The Cancer Support Center; Michael Rittof, The Community Foundation of Will County Board Chair.