

The Will County Community Foundation honors community leaders at Annual Donor Celebration

JOLIET, IL –(August 2012) During The Will County Community Foundation’s Annual Donor Recognition and Celebration of Philanthropy donors and guests gathered at the Barber & Oberwornmann Horticulture Center to recognize Ed & Gloria Dollinger and Lewis University and Br. James Gaffney, FSC for their commitment to the Foundation and to celebrate the spirit of giving in Will County.

Board Chairman, Dennis Tonelli introduced the honorees noting that Ed Dollinger’s knowledge of and commitment to the local community have been cornerstones for building The Will County Community Foundation. He was the founding Chairman, instrumental in building our Professional Advisor Council and will be assuming the role of Vice-Chairman in 2013. Ed and Gloria have supported many area nonprofits, and recognize the need for Will County to be served by its own community foundation. They illustrated this belief by establishing a fund to support a scholarship at Lewis University and their own family Donor Advised Fund. Both Ed and Gloria mentioned their shared value of charitable giving. They recognize the importance of modeling it for their children, and appreciate the fact that the Donor Advised Fund would allow them to engage in the process with their children.



Lewis University and Br. James Gaffney, FSC have provided ongoing support of the Foundation as well. Br. James was a founding director, served as Vice-Chairman, headed the Governance/Nominating Committee and will be assuming the role of Chairman in 2013. Lewis University has provided generous and invaluable support through hosting events, Board meeting and other in-kind donations. Br. James shared how a spirit of association, which fosters community in all teaching, learning and service, is fundamental to Lewis University’s mission. Supporting an organization like The Will County Community Foundation is in keeping with their values as an organization.

Michael updated the guests with a “State of the Foundation” presentation that illustrated the Foundation’s role as the community savings account for charitable giving. “The Foundation is here to help individuals and organizations meet their charitable goals and to help them leave charitable legacies,” said Trench. He also discussed the Foundation’s role in grant making in the community.

Kathy Cawley, President of The Voyager Group, took a few moments to share her philanthropic journey with the guests. She and her husband Tom recently started The Voyager Group Donor Advised Fund. They believe in giving back to the community and the Fund will help them meet their personal and professional charitable goals. In addition, they would like to share the process

with their clients and have initiated an advisory committee that will provide input into the grant making decisions for the Fund.

Chairman Tonelli recognized, Wayne Klasing and Steve Randich, for their six years of service on the board, as they will be stepping down this September. Executive Director, Michael Trench also took a moment to thank Dennis Tonelli for his dedicated service as Chairman for the past three years. He will be stepping down in September as well. Michael invited guest to share in coffee and desserts.

The Will County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Chicago Community Trust, but is governed by a local board of directors that includes: Jay Bergman of Joliet; Kathy Cawley of Joliet; Edward J. Dollinger of Joliet; Brian Forsythe of Minooka; Br. James Gaffney, FSC of Romeoville; John Greuling of New Lenox; Bill Habiger of Joliet; Michael Hennessy of Joliet; Wayne Klasing of New Lenox, Larry Lorimor of Plainfield; Dr. Elaine Maimon of Crete; Karl Maurer of New Lenox; Steve Randich of Joliet; Mike Rittof of Channahon; Christian Spesia of Joliet; Dennis Tonelli of Plainfield; Janet Viano of Joliet; and John H. Weitendorf, Jr. of Wilmington. For more information regarding The Will County Community Foundation visit www.willcountycf.org or reach Michael Trench, the Executive Director at (815) 744-9223.

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If you would like more information contact Marilyn McSteen at (815) 370-8421 or e-mail Marilyn at mmcsteen@willcountycf.org. Photo Included in e-mail

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Photo Caption: Executive Director, Michael Trench, Honorees Br. James Gaffney, FSC, Ed & Gloria Dollinger and Chairman Dennis Tonelli at The Will County Community Foundation's Annual Donor Recognition Celebration.