

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

NEWS ON PHILANTHROPY, GRANT-MAKING AND OUR NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY

THE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF WILL COUNTY

AN AFFILIATE OF  
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST



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*Fall 2015*

## FOUNDATION HONORS JOLIET CHAMBER'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Community Foundation of Will County celebrated with donors, Board members and attendees at the Annual Donor Recognition & Celebration of "community" Philanthropy held on July 21, 2015 and hosted by Lewis University.

As part of the Celebration of Philanthropy, The Community Foundation annually honors exceptional donors who use philanthropy in a way that provides an example and a model for others. This year The Community Foundation honored the Education Committee and members of The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their collaborative efforts to provide incentive scholarships for college to 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the

Joliet region. Several years ago, Dr. Charles Coleman, Superintendent of Joliet School District 86, had a vision to offer the promise of a scholarship to young kids in the community as an incentive to pursue their education.

Dr. Coleman shared his vision with Russ Slinkard of The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a variety of options were considered. Russ reached out to Michael Trench, Executive Director of The Community Foundation and said, "I've got a problem; maybe you can answer some of my questions." There were a number of ways that they could have implemented the scholarship program in order to provide a "charitable deduction" for donors, achieve some investment

growth on those funds, and minimize the cost or additional work on the part of the Chamber staff. "I was familiar with community foundations, and when they suggested partnering with The Community Foundation of Will County, I thought this is a great option," said Joe Langenderfer, Education Committee member and Executive Director of the Catholic Education Foundation.

Today, thanks to the leadership of the Education Committee and the members of The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, the Joliet Region Education Scholarship Fund at The Community Foundation of Will County has over \$65,000. That came from people working together, and represents the collective donations of seventeen individuals and twenty-six businesses. Now eighty young people in the Joliet region have hope for college.

Join us on:



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## FOUNDATION AWARDS \$84,930 IN GRANTS TO EIGHT AREA NONPROFITS

At our fall reception, The Community Foundation of Will County awarded Community Partner Grants in the priority areas of health, education, human services and the arts. “We have always felt the need outweighed what we can fund. So it was exciting for the first time this year, to share the grant requests with the individuals who have donor advised funds with us. Through their generosity we are able to increase our total impact by over 50%, adding \$29,930 of their support to our \$55,000, for total grants awarded of \$84,930.” noted Grant Committee Chair, Kathy Cawley. The grants ranged in value from \$2,000-\$15,000.

Nonprofit organizations serving Will County apply for grants through the Foundation’s annual Community Partner Grant program. In 2015, with more than \$337,000 of funding requests received from 31 organizations, the Board of Directors had difficult decisions to make.

Community Leaders, Foundation donors, Trustees and other friends joined representatives from the recipient organizations at the reception on Wednesday, October 7th 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. Lewis University and Br. James Gaffney, FSC, Community Foundation Board member and President of Lewis University, graciously sponsored and hosted the event.

The following is a list of the 2015 grant recipients and projects they will be implementing:

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet - Homework Help Center at Daybreak Center** - \$5,430 to provide a dedicated homework space for



*The Voyager Group Fund of The Community Foundation of Will County fully funded the Homework Help Center project at Catholic Charities Daybreak Center.*

children living at the shelter. The center is a quiet place for homework including laptops, printer, educational resources and assistance from University of St. Francis students serving as volunteer tutors. *(Fully funded by the Voyager Group Fund)*

**MorningStar Mission - Beth’s Garden** - \$15,000 to support a collaborative project between MorningStar Mission and Joliet Junior College’s interior design department to build a vegetable and flower garden, install playground equipment, and plant trees in the backyard of the B.E.T.H. House --a home for young women and girls who are pregnant and need a place to live, and support while striving to become self-sufficient. *(Funded in part by the Joliet Woman’s Club and an anonymous donor)*

**Northern Illinois Food Bank – Network Partner Capacity Building** - \$14,000 to purchase refrigeration and

freezer storage to increase capacity and distribution of more nutritious food to Will County residents through the following network partners: Kuzma Care Cottage (*Wilmington*), St. Patrick’s Food Pantry (*Joliet*), Helping Hands (*Peotone*), Lift Him Up Ministries (*Joliet*), St. George Coptic Church Food Pantry (*Monee*). *(Funded in part by the Fred and Maria Schaffer Charitable Fund)*

**Power Connection – Forklift Certification Training Expansion** - \$10,000 to purchase a stand-up forklift truck to expand their job certification training program and improve opportunities for employment for graduates. Currently there are over 500 job openings for forklift operators in Will County.

**Rockdale Elementary School District #84 – Rockdale Green STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) and Wind Project** - \$8,000 to provide a wind turbine that will gather energy data and provide a unique lab experience for STEM education within the curriculum,

including research using data collected from green energy sources; and to increase the number of STEM projects like solar race cars, wind turbines, video projects, and solar cooking that are built and tested at the middle school level.

**Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project** - *Mariachi Matters: Community Music Program* - \$5,000 to involve Latino-immigrant youth in a competitive music education program that enhances the talents of local youth while strengthening cultural traditions and identities through community performing. (Fully funded by the *Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment*)

**United Way of Will County - Strategic Plan**- \$15,000 to develop a new strategic plan to improve results amidst many changes in the corporate and funding sectors of Will County.

**Warren-Sharpe Community Center** - *South Side Urban Farm* - \$12,500 for the expansion of the South Side Urban Farm to support and facilitate youth entrepreneurship; and increase outdoor classroom experiences by providing for year-round microgreen and baby greens production, using a 14' x 18' greenhouse and the cultivation of native Illinois fruit trees. (Fully funded by the *Joliet Woman's Club*)

## Foundation Welcomes New Funds

Center for Economic Development Education Grant Fund

Joliet Rotary Endowment Fund

*Welcome to our family of donors!*

## 2014 Grants in Action



### Will County Inclusion Health

**Coalition's** grant project has succeeded in the development and implementation of front-line health care worker training on disability etiquette in the health care setting. The coalition has agreements in place for training nursing students from both University of St. Frances and Lewis University. More than 60 students have been trained on the developed curriculum.



**Heart Haven Outreach** kicked off "Connect For Success: Snack, Track, & Tutor" program this month and have been helping high school students in the Valley View School District get caught up in their classes, understand the material better, and have more confidence in themselves as a student. "Awesome relationships are being built during this program. We meet every Tuesday at Heart Haven Outreach from 2:30-4pm. We currently have 9 trained tutors comprised of Lewis University students, retired teachers, and substitute teachers. With the grant we received from the Community Foundation of Will County we were able to purchase tablets to help students get connected with online resources that will help them understand subject matter better," noted Ryan Lawrence, H2O Executive Director.



The Joliet Woman's Club fully funded the South Side Urban Farm project at The Warren-Sharpe Community Center.



The Fred and Maria Schaffer Charitable Fund partially funded the Network Partner Capacity Building project at the Northern Illinois Food Bank

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration

## Save the Date May 4, 2016

*Each year we gather to celebrate philanthropy in our community. Next year we will gather to celebrate 10 years of collective impact!*

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### MAKING CONNECTIONS

#### The Legacy Society

Unless your name is Kellogg, Ford, Rockefeller, Gates or Buffett, you might assume you can't leave a legacy. However, you don't have to be a millionaire to leave something that will make a difference for generations to come right here in your community. The Community Foundation of Will County provides a way for donors from all walks of life to give back to people in Will County and beyond. You have worked hard, saved wisely, invested well. Using the power of endowments, the assets you leave to the community can continue to grow, supporting good works for generations.

While a legacy gift may take different forms—bequests, insurance, or trust—the result is the same—providing for the future needs and opportunities of the community. Members of **The Legacy Society** share one thing in common—a commitment to support the future of their community through the final gift of their lifetime.

You can create a lasting legacy through many qualified estate vehicles, and The Community Foundation of Will County's role is to receive, administer and provide ongoing stewardship of your estate gift to ensure that a donors' intent is honored.

Working with you and your professional advisors we can work together to design a legacy that supports your values and your community. To learn more about **The Legacy Society** contact me at (815) 744-9223 or [mtrench@cfwill.org](mailto:mtrench@cfwill.org).

FALL 2015



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*CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE, TO CAUSES THAT MATTER!*