Kathy and Tom Cawley started an independent financial services company, The Voyager Group, as a registered branch office of Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc., in Joliet in 1999. Their company’s principles are ‘responsibility, reliability, and responsiveness to our clients.’ Just like in the days when neighbors helped neighbors, when families stayed in the communities for years on end, The Voyager Group is a landmark of community focused strength and leadership.

As part of their company goals, Tom and Kathy are committed to giving back to the community. Over the years, Tom and Kathy have made donations to non-profit organizations in the name of their clients when an individual or loved one passed away.

In 2011, Tom and Kathy attended the WCCF Grant Awards Reception, and saw how the Foundation supports non-profit organizations throughout the county. After talking with Executive Director, Michael Trench, they learned about the Donor Advised Fund and decided to establish The Voyager Group Fund in the name of their business, integrating their personal beliefs with the mission of their professional practice. In addition to valuing charitable giving, Tom and Kathy liked the idea of sharing their philanthropic experience with clients and associates. They decided that they would contribute to the fund in honor of individuals and loved ones and establish an advisory committee made up of employees and clients, who would participate in advising which organizations they would support through grants from the fund. “The Fund is working out just the way we had hoped it would. Giving back to the community is part of neighbors helping neighbors and the Foundation we know will help Will County families for generations. It is a good partnership,” said Kathy.
Making Connections

Grants in Action

Mobile food pantries help Will County families

The Northern Illinois Food Bank funded two mobile food pantries in Will County with a grant from The Will County Community Foundation. The first took place in University Park distributing 7,800 pounds of food to over 700 individuals. The WCCF Board of Directors and families volunteered and staffed this mobile pantry. The second mobile pantry took place in Wilmington and provided over 8,000 pounds of food to more than 150 families. That’s the equivalent of about 40 meals per family!

Boys & Girls beat the heat with grant from The Will County Community Foundation

The pool pump at the George Werden Buck Boys & Girls Club gave out last summer. With a grant from The Will County Community Foundation and support from their board, the pool was ready to be the safe place for 350-400 kids a day to stay cool this summer!

“I’ve done what I am here to talk about,” said Marshall.

Marshall Field V shares experience with the Donor Advised Endowment Fund

In late April, Marshall Field V, the great-great grandson of merchandising king, Marshall Field, was the guest speaker at our Professional Advisory Council luncheon. After meeting Marshall at an event at The Chicago Community Trust, Ed Dollinger knew that Marshall could share his personal experience with The Will County Community Foundation’s advisor community and educate them about Donor Advised Funds that are unique to community foundations.

“I’ve done what I am here to talk about,” said Marshall. Donors who endow their gifts can make a difference in their community during their lifetime and, at the same time, provide a gift that lasts forever.

Marshall and his wife Jamee had their own private foundation. But a Donor Advised “Endowment” Fund enabled them to reach their charitable goals more cost effectively, with less hassle and protection of their family legacy, so they decided to transfer their funds and establish a Donor Advised Endowment Fund at The Chicago Community Trust. “I want a product that will allow me and the next generation to give away the interest, but not the principal.” Being able to continue to give to the causes that are important to them during their lifetime and keeping the funds in Chicago as a legacy were both important charitable goals. The Donor Advised Endowment Fund provided the product to meet them both.

As advisors to the fund during their
Each year we take time to recognize individuals who have dedicated themselves to the vision of The Will County Community Foundation. Lewis University & Brother James Gaffney, FSC, and Gloria & Ed Dollinger are leaders that facilitate charitable giving in our community and provide direction for effective community investing.

Br. James’ leadership in the non-profit sector has been recognized beyond Will County. As President of Lewis University in Romeoville, Brother James Gaffney, FSC has provided vision and leadership. He has been committed to The Will County Community Foundation from the beginning as a founding trustee and has served as Vice-Chairman, head of Governance/Nominating committee and will be assuming the role of Chairman in 2013.

Ed and Gloria Dollinger have supported many non-profits in Will County. They are committed to building a stronger community and recognize the role of The Will County Community Foundation today and for generations to come. Ed was the founding Chairman, was instrumental in building our Professional Advisor Council and will be assuming the role of Vice-Chairman in 2013.

Words alone cannot express our gratitude for your dedication and leadership!

Brother James Gaffney Scholarship Fund

Established by Ed and Gloria Dollinger to honor Brother James for his “incredible leadership in our community and for all he has done for Lewis University”. This fund will help students attend Lewis University now and forever.

The Brother James Gaffney Scholarship Fund is open and may receive contributions from anyone at any time. Individuals can make contributions to the fund online at our website at www.willcountyef.org or download a donation form from the website and mail your contribution to The Will County Community Foundation at 701 Essington Road, Suite 103, Joliet, IL 60435.

Lifetime they will continue to make decisions about how to allocate the grants to non-profits that they cherish. Their children and grandchildren will also be able to participate in the philanthropic decisions. Ultimately, the principal will remain in Chicago as a legacy from the Field family who played a role in building Chicago into the great city it is today. The Chicago Community Trust will continue to insure that their legacy is fulfilled for generations to come.

Many families have contributed to the development of the Will County Community and would like to play a part in maintaining this great community today and for generations to come. The good news is that it doesn’t require millions to establish a charitable legacy. A Donor Advised Fund could provide a solution for many. With a minimum donation of $10,000 a Donor Advised Fund can be opened in your or your family’s name. After opening the Fund, additional contributions can be made. Grants would be made from the fund and you, as the fund advisor, would determine where to allocate your charitable wishes. The Will County Community Foundation will ensure that the principal of the fund would remain in Will County servicing the community for generations to come.
The Will County Community Foundation was founded in 2006 by local residents to build and steward endowed funds that will be available for generations to come and will impact a variety of charitable needs in the region. As one of the last geographic areas in Northern Illinois to establish its own community endowment foundation, Will County is in a position of great opportunity and growth.

Michael Trench joined The Will County Community Foundation in January of 2011. He brings over 25 years of diverse and varied experience in the non-profit sector, including work as a parish pastor, financial service sales, and higher education. As we serve donors seeking to establish a legacy, Michael’s strong background in philanthropy, planned giving, and understanding of the needs in our non-profit organizations will help match our donor’s intentions to the areas of greatest need in Will County.

Trench served as Director of Planned Giving at National-Lewis University and most recently as Chief Development Officer at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in History, Master’s Degree in Theology/Church History.

Michael Trench the Executive Director of The Will County Community Foundation can be reached at our New Office at 701 Essington Road, Suite 103, Joliet, IL 60435, e-mail mtrench@willcountycf.org or by phone at 815.744.9223.

THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following board members for their years of dedicated service to The Will County Community Foundation:

Andrew Dystrup - IN MEMORIAM-In April we lost Andy, a dedicated board member whose energy and commitment to our mission was an example to those who served with him.

Wayne Klasing- Retired executive of Klasing Industries, Inc., was a founding board member and has shared his leadership over the past six years as well.

Steve Randich –President of First Community Bank of Joliet, was also a founding board member and has shared his financial expertise as Treasurer over the past six years.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome the following board members to The Will County Community Foundation:

Kathy Cawley -President of The Voyager Group, Ltd., joined us after attending our 2011 Grant Awards Reception and being inspired by the Foundation’s role in supporting the community.

Brian Forsythe- Senior Project Manager at Pepper Construction Company, is the son-in-law of the late Andrew Dystrup and has committed himself to continuing the Dystrup spirit that has been a part of the Foundation since its origin.

BOARD MEMBERS

Officers
Dennis Tonelli – Chairman
Br. James Gaffney, FSC – Vice-Chairman
John H. Weitendorf, Jr.- Secretary
Steve Randich – Treasurer

Directors
Jay Bergman Wayne Klasing
Kathy Cawley Larry Lorimor
Edward Dollinger Dr. Elaine Maimon
Brian Forsythe Karl Maurer
John Greuling Michael Rittof
Michael Hennessey Christian Spesia, JD
Cyril (Bill) Habiger Janet Viano
Michael Trench-Executive Director
Marilyn McSteen-Marketing Consultant

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE, TO CAUSES THAT MATTER!