

Why Partner with WCCF



By Mohra Gavankar, *Editor*

History has proven that financial crisis, although a major challenge, hides the great opportunity to reevaluate possibilities, seek new resources and alter attitudes for the better.

Donors have not stopped giving. Individuals may adjust their requirements and demand their funds benefit more, but they are still optimistic that their funds encompass a message of change and aspiration.

“Will County residents who partner with the WCCF are diverse,” said President Ed Dollinger. “They have individual charitable interests, unique family situations, and specific financial circumstances. However, they share one characteristic. They all want their giving to make an impact and contribute to the betterment of Will County and its people for years to come.”

The WCCF understands that each philanthropic agenda is unique and that the needs of the county are broad and evolving. In its grant making, the Foundation prioritizes basic human needs, education, and health. Our donor partners share these interests as well as many others, and we remain flexible to address a variety of evolving community needs.

The WCCF ensures that the simple act of giving does not become a complex one. The WCCF’s objective is to make giving a rewarding experience for both the donor and the recipients

The WCCF invites you to partner with them to address community needs and help grow opportunities in Will County. There are numerous options to consider as you work with us in defining your own giving program:

Donor Advised Funds: These funds, endowed or expendable over a period of years, allow you to be actively engaged in the grant making process. They are attractive alternatives to private family foundations because of their tax advantages and reporting. You benefit from all of the resources of WCCF in establishing such funds as well as recommending the causes and organizations supported.

Unrestricted Funds: These funds enable the WCCF to continue to respond to evolving community needs and to develop new areas of support.

Restricted Funds: You may establish funds that are directed toward an area of interest or specify a charitable organization as the perpetual recipient of support. These funds may be established with endowed or expendable resources.

Field of Interest Funds: These funds allow donors to establish broad parameters for the use of resources, such as education, the arts, or people with disabilities. You may contribute to an existing field of interest fund or create one of your own.

The kinds of resources that may be used to establish—and increase—funds through the WCCF are as varied as the funds themselves. Commitments of cash, securities, and other property are the most traditional forms of fund support. Bequests often allow Foundation partners to launch or build funds with commitments not feasible otherwise. Beyond bequests, there are many other estate planning options to help you fulfill your charitable intentions. Just a few of these include:

Charitable Remainder Trust: This trust makes payments of a fixed percentage of its assets to you, a family member, or another loved one either simultaneously or consecutively for a period of time. At the end of this period, the remainder of the trust is paid to the WCCF for charitable purposes.

Charitable Lead Trust: This is the reverse situation from a charitable remainder trust. The WCCF receives returns from your trust for a specified period. At the end of the “lead” period, as specified by the donor, the remainder of the trust is paid to designated family members or others.

Charitable Gift Annuity: This is an arrangement through which the Foundation agrees to pay a fixed sum periodically to you or other recipients for the term of one or two lifetimes. Upon the death of the last annuitant, assets used to establish the annuity agreement immediately become assets of the WCCF to be used for charitable purposes.

WCCF clients are encouraged to explore the individualized combinations of funding and philanthropic options that are right for them. You might want to designate some funds as totally unrestricted, and other funds as donor advised. You might want to establish a fund with cash or securities and make an estate planning arrangement to increase that fund. Foundation staff are ready to work with you and your financial advisors to develop the strategy that addresses your capacities and interests. Best of all, you know that your charitable intentions will be carried out by the WCCF—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Philanthropy does not have to be complicated. Nor does it require great wealth.

For information on submitting a grant or whether your organization could be a candidate for a WCCF grant, contact Executive Director Sandor Brattstrom at 815-744-9223.

THE Will County
Community FOUNDATION
An affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust

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735 Essington Road Suite 103 Joliet, IL 60435



Front Row seated (L – R): Michelle Cottrell, George Werden Buck Boys & Girls Club; Funya Burford, Warren Sharp Center; Patricia McGee, Warren Sharp Center; Helen Helms, Harvey Brooks Center; Karen Nall, Child Care Resource & Referral Center; Monica Vazquez, Spanish Community Center; Dr. Doris Langon, Fairmont Partnership; Sandor Brattstrom, Will County Community Foundation.

Back Row: Dennis Smith, Northern Illinois Food Bank; Elizabeth Castillo, Spanish Community Center; Marge Franchini, Spanish Community Center; Tempie Bates, Harvey Brooks Foundation; Bishop Sanders, Harvey Brooks Foundation; Debbie Green, Joliet Park District; Steve Corrao, George Werden Buck Boys & Girls Club; Tamara Notter, Child Care Resource & Referral Center; Andy Mihelich, Spanish Community Center; Chris Bzdon, Child Care Resource & Referral Center; Deborah Carter-Hinton, School District 86; Beth Garrow, Provena St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation; Phyllis Wilson, School District 86; Rhonda Sykes, Lambs Fold Women's Center; Hester Bury, Northern Illinois Food Bank; Andrea Lutz, Northern Illinois Food Bank; Christina O'Donnell, Fairmont Partnership; Sharon Schultz, Fairmont Partnership; Ed Dollinger, Will County Community Foundation.

“It is the mission of the Will County Community Foundation to engage donors in the charitable endeavors that matter to them for the good of our community.”

For information on how you can be a part of the Will County Community Foundation, please contact Executive Director Sandor Brattstrom by phone at 815-744-9223 or by e-mail at sandor@willcountycf.org.



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Brent and Jean Wadsworth Contribute to Community Through Family Fund

Brent Wadsworth calls himself a ‘simple person.’ Yet there is nothing simple about his accomplishments.

A highly successful businessman, Brent states, “I try to live my life by putting God first, my fellow man second and myself third.”

He also stays close to basic ABCD.

“A - arise early. It gives you get a jump on the whole world,” he explained. “B - be well informed on all current issues - weather, politics, sports, the economy and world affairs. This allows an opportunity to address any subject with knowledge and to serve people in a better manner.”

“C - care for everyone you meet. Everyone is trying to find his or her way in life. You can help them along the way and, in course, help yourself. And D - do what is decent and thank everyone who helps you.”

Brent arrived in Joliet, with his parents, just three weeks after he was born in Buffalo, New York. His father, an eye doctor, had accepted a partnership with a local doctor.

“Joliet is the town I grew up in and grew to love,” he said. “I attribute my well being to attending Farragut grade school and Joliet Central and being raised with a diverse population during my younger years.”

He said by the time he was a teen he believed that Joliet was the best place in the world.

“Remember the slogan, ‘City of Champions?’ I believed that,” he said. “As a teen I looked up to a diverse set of successful older people. They all appeared champions to me.”

Later having realized, though his father made him trim bushes and clear weeds, that he enjoyed the outdoors, Brent hoped for a career doing what he loved. He went on to study Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois and



Brent and Jean Wadsworth

subsequently met his wife Jean.

“I thought she was worthy of a gift,” he said of his successful courtship. “So I gave her a little chick which I bought from a chicken nursery on Ottawa Street. That gesture opened a lasting relationship. . . .”

After spending two years of his service in Washington D.C., where Brent was assigned to the National Security Agency, Brent and Jean married there and returned to Joliet. After all, he felt Joliet was the cherished location to begin his business life.

“I became understanding of different nationalities and groups of people who for one reason or other settled in Joliet. It was very important for me to see everyone succeed.”

After some very tough years, in 1958 he founded Wadsworth Golf Construction Company, a firm specializing in golf course construction.

WADSWORTH, CONTINUED FROM COVER

“I was fortunate to enter a growing industry. Originally I designed courses, but there wasn’t much of a market, so I decided to get into construction and remained in that field.”

Today he has offices in five states and leads the largest golf construction firm in the U.S. His company has built over 800 golf courses, some seen regularly on TV, and remodeled many including the Augusta National Golf Club and the Greenbriar.

“I’m persistent and a very exacting person and like things to be the best that they can be,” he explains.

The Wadsworths were among the first to establish a fund with the Will County Community Foundation. The Wadsworth Family Fund will benefit both Lewis University and the Will County Community Foundation.

Brent credits his parents for teaching him strong values. “They were kind, generous and compassionate. I picked that up from them. My father always tipped well and my mother told me never take anything away from anyone.”

“I love our community,” he states for the reason he established the fund. “Joliet gave me so much and I wanted to give back. It was a way to acknowledge my feelings toward the area where I grew up.”

He said his partnership with the WCCF is an effective way to allow the community to flourish through the arts and education.

“Arts and education go hand in hand. I would like to lift up

the value of life for a community in which I have enormous pride. Basically I would like to promote the idea of decent respect for people and in that process develop education, entertainment and promote peace.”

He respects WCCF’s goals in following the principles for the betterment of community life. He admits that the WCCF has challenges ahead to keep providing opportunities, but he has full faith in its mission and its leadership.

“It is one of the best organizations our community has going as far as a philanthropic opportunity. We don’t need a few wealthy people, we need a lot of average people who believe in the future of our great area. Together we can build our society in the best manner possible.”

He said all he hopes for our community’s future is life at the highest level achievable in our country.

“The word patriotic comes to mind. Believe in our country. Support our citizens. As long as we are free and keep developing human opportunity, we will be on top.”

Although semi-retired, Brent said he tries to fill his days with “good activity and producing something of high quality.”

“I’ve never sought to be a special person. It is more important to keep yourself in balance, live simply, be thankful, be a good friend and practice the ABCD.”

The Professional Advisory Committee

The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Will County Community Foundation hosted its inaugural event with a breakfast meeting May 19th featuring Andrew Friedman, senior partner of the highly acclaimed Washington, D.C. law firm, Covington & Burling, as guest speaker. Andy is one of the nation’s most sought-after speakers on political and legislative developments and their likely effect on the government’s tax, fiscal, and retirement policies.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the Community Foundation and to inform advisors as to the policies of the Obama administration and its effects on financial planning and charitable giving. Mr. Friedman presented to an audience of 40 professional advisors from Will County on topics covering the status of the economic recovery, the revamping of regulations in the financial services industry, alternative energy program proposals, social security and health care reform and

education. Foundation executive director Sandy Brattstrom said, “We were very pleased with the turn-out to hear Mr. Friedman discuss the status of these important issues relative to the financial services industry and the affects they will have on individuals’ financial planning and charitable giving.”

The members of the P.A.C. are;

Kristi Dean, W.A., Harris Bank

Tony Devassy, CFP, Devassy Asset Advisors

Robert Filotto, CVA, CPA, Filotto Professional Services

Michael Hansen, P.C., Attorney

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John Power, CPA, CFP, Marquette Bank

Tyler Qualio, JD, CFP, The Reynolds Group

Ray Slattery, CPA, Slattery, Noonan & Company, LLC

The WCCF works directly with individuals, families, corporations and not-for-profit organizations to develop high-impact giving programs. Due to its unique mission in Will County, no charitable organization is more qualified to make sure that donors resources have such an impact on our community.

The WCCF partners with Northern Illinois Food Bank

Due to the sudden downturn of the economy, the Will County Community Foundation, (WCCF) an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, and its donors are addressing the serious issue of hunger in the community.

The WCCF announced its support with the largest ever grant of \$60,000, to Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) in collaboration with the Joliet Public Schools District 86 and the University of St. Francis to feed hungry children on the weekends.

This 'BackPack' program, new to Will County, provides a food filled backpack that provides three meals a day over the weekend for 2.5 children, per family, thereby also benefiting siblings in the family.



Children at Joliet's Parks Academy line up to pick up food bags.

“The scope of the grant gives us a unique opportunity to serve the whole school community in an area of high need. The collaboration with the University's Department of Education to conduct an evaluation will help us understand the impact of this program on the children's

performance in the early part of the week,” says Hester Bury, grants manager for the NIFB.

According to the U.S. Census there are 12,094 children in Will County living in poverty. Over 7,000 children in the Joliet School District are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. The grant from the Foundation allows NIFB to implement this program to children at risk of chronic hunger or low nutrition on weekends when they do not have access to other food assistance programs. This program will specifically benefit Parks Cultural Academy where 95% of children are eligible for free/reduced lunches. All 350 children at the school whose parents give permission will receive a backpack filled with child-friendly, easy to prepare, non-perishable food.

“The Board of Directors of the WCCF is proud to be part of a significant effort to collaborate with organizations to ensure that food, shelter and assistance is available in a time of need,” said Sandy Brattstrom, executive director of the WCCF.



An example of food that children take home each week.

Reasons to Donate to WCCF



By Ed Dollinger, President

It's hard to believe it's been two years since we launched the Will County Community Foundation. As the Will County area's charitable endowment, we help individuals and families preserve their legacy in the place they call home. We are the only organization in the county that enables them to pool their resources to affect change. Since 2007 we have provided over \$300,000 in grants to 15 organizations that provide services to thousands of residents of Will County.

Aristotle said, “To give away money is an easy matter and under anyone's power. But to decide to whom to give it and how much and when, for what purpose and how, is neither in everyone's power, nor an easy matter.”

We especially thank all the current donors of the WCCF who entrusted us with helping realize their philanthropic dreams. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how you may want to realize your dreams and leave a lasting legacy.

Some of the most important reasons why people choose to give through the WCCF include:

- We are a local organization deeply rooted in the community.
- We build endowment funds that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.
- We are a community leader, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.
- We provide highly personalized service tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.
- We accept a wide variety of assets, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.
- We partner with professional advisors to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.
- We offer maximum tax advantage for most gifts under federal law.
- We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.
- We can help you realize your philanthropic goals and establish and protect your charitable legacy now and in the future with a process that is easy and enjoyable.
- We can help you simplify and leverage your charitable giving and assist you in identifying strong and vibrant not-for-profits and worthwhile causes that match your interests.

Who Gives to Community Foundations?

A community foundation's assets are developed through a variety of sources. Gifts, grants, and other kinds of funds are built with the help of many entities. Together they build and comprise a diverse asset base of various funds that serve the charitable goals. The scope of givers include:

- a. Families and individual donors who bring with them varying giving practices, such as presenting large gifts over time or large or small one-time gifts, and families who have a private foundations but also want to make bequests or set up a donor-advised fund,
- b. Charitable organizations that place their own endowment funds with the community foundation for management and investment,
- c. Businesses that give through pledges or funds related to or of interest to the industry,
- d. Private foundations that match other gifts, make challenge gifts, make grants to private foundations that match other gifts, make community foundations endowment and/or operations, or join with the community foundation to fund projects of mutual interest.
- e. Government entities that set up funds or make grants to the foundation in order to meet a civic need.

Why Do Donors Give to a Community Foundation?

Giving to a community foundation helps a diverse group of donors achieve their charitable and financial goals by providing tools and resources that make giving easy, flexible and effective.

All grant-making organizations are required legally to provide due diligence and a reasonable amount of oversight to assure that grants are being used appropriately. Community foundations excel in this area. Part of the mission of a community foundation includes doing what is best for the community, even if it requires solutions beyond simply providing funding.

Most have staff and resources dedicated to investigating broad and creative solutions to community problems.

Because of these resources, community foundations offer donors and grant seekers more options for addressing community problems.

Community foundations provide:

- a. *Local expertise*, with an in-depth understanding of the community's challenges and the groups and individuals addressing them,
- b. *Community leadership*, playing a key role in addressing community needs, now and in the future.
- c. *Personalized service*, helping individual, families and businesses and non-profit agencies achieve their charitable and financial goals by providing tools and resources that make giving rewarding for all involved.

Why The Will County Community Foundation?



By Sandor Brattstrom, *Executive Director*

In today's state of economic change, one thing still remains the same—the need to help those less fortunate. With many options where you could donate resources to help, a decision regarding your donation can sometimes become challenging. So the question is: Why the Will County Community Foundation?

The WCCF, a local organization, has deep roots in the community. It has an independent governing body, a volunteer board of directors that has ears to the ground on issues facing our community and eyes on agencies operating within it. They enjoy widespread trust and confidence; provide accountability to the citizens of the community and work to ensure all segments of the community have equal access to the Foundation.

To continue meeting and addressing the needs of the community, the WCCF provides a simple and powerful yet

highly personal approach to giving. Here's how: Individuals and families can make a gift of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate or any other asset to the WCCF. These are invested in permanent endowment funds directly benefiting the community. Invested wisely, the Endowment is a permanent body of funds that generates interest income.

Gifts to the Endowment can be designated for a specific program or charity of your choice or undesignated and the Foundation chooses how and when to grant the interest funds to better serve the community. Gifts to the Endowment support charitable program needs in perpetuity. By establishing a newly endowed fund, you can permanently sustain the Foundation's mission, honor deserving individuals or organizations and invest in the cause you care most about.

Consider a gift to the Will County Community Foundation because you care about your community. Give for greater impact: Create your personal legacy and help us build the community endowment fund that will benefit Will County, now and forever!