

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



*Tyler Qualio,
Jan Viano, and
Scott Reynolds
Honorees*

701 Essington Road, Suite 103
Joliet, IL 60435
Phone: 815.744.9223
Fax: 815.744.9225
www.cfwill.org

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DONORS LEAVE PRINTS ON COMMUNITY

The people of Will County are always helping their neighbor in ways that are as unique as their fingerprint. No two philanthropic visions are exactly the same. At The Community Foundation of Will County's Annual Donor Recognition and Celebration of Philanthropy we heard from honorees that shared their visions.

Board Chair, Br. James Gaffney, FSC welcomed guests and introduced Janet Viano. Jan is a lifelong resident of the Will County community. During that lifetime, she has shown a dedication to her professional work in banking, and personally, to improving the quality of life in her community. With forty years as a banking professional, it is no surprise that she has spent the last 30 with a strong community-focused bank, First Midwest Bank, where she is now Executive Vice President, Director of Channel Sales and Retail Banking Administration.

Her volunteer work has taken her in directions that could be defined either as philanthropy, or an interest in developing women's leadership into the next generation. She has been a part of the Zonta Club of Joliet; a Past President of the Will County chapter of the National Association of Bank Women; a charter member of the New Lenox Rotary Club; and founding Director of First Midwest Charitable Foundation.

Jan became an early Board member of The Community Foundation of Will County in 2007, and has served as Treasurer of the Foundation for the past several years. During her time on the Board, she took advantage of an opportunity to blend both her driving interests – philanthropy and women's leadership. A little over a year ago Jan had a vision to create a Fund that would provide resources to support the issues of importance to women leaders

today, and to inspire generations to come. With a quick outreach to her colleagues at First Midwest Bank, who matched her gift within an hour, the Women's Leadership Fund was born, and is now nearing \$20,000.

"The Foundation gave me the platform to give back in a more global way," noted Viano. "Together with my colleagues we worked as a united group to support women's leadership. We hope this Fund is a catalyst for collaboration to build talent as women continue to be leaders in their families, businesses, and communities." Jan recognized her parents for instilling in her a philanthropic mindset by modeling the behavior throughout their lives, whether it was baking bread for a friend in need, supporting the local fire department, or helping out at the Men's Club in Homer Township.

Executive Director, Michael Trench introduced Sentinus, LLC represented by Scott Reynolds and Tyler Qualio by sharing some of the company's history. "Lieutenant Commander Richard Reynolds returned to Joliet after serving as a ship commander in both the Pacific and Atlantic in

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Grants in Action



Mobile food pantry in Wilmington helps our neighbors at Kuzma Care Cottage

Kuzma Care Cottage serves 28% of the residents (over 1,600 individuals) in the rural community of Wilmington. Clients can visit once a month and this Mobile Pantry helped bring more food to this community. This Mobile Pantry was funded by a CFWC grant.



Expressive Arts Program helps clients process their cancer experience.

The Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center’s Expressive Arts Programs challenges participants to explore their feelings and express themselves in creative ways. The initial launch of this program was supported by a grant from the Wadsworth Family – Will County Community Cultural Arts Endowment Fund.

Foundation Welcomes New Funds

(Funds Established since September 2014)

- Fred and Carolyn Martens Charitable Fund**
- Matthew Booty Charitable Fund**
- Rick & KB Sleckman Charitable Fund**
- Frances Brotz Di Tusa Charitable Fund**
- Michael F. Rittof Fund**
- Sentinus Charitable Grant Fund**
- The Spesia & Ayers Charitable Grant Fund**

Welcome to our family of donors!

WWII. And, once again, he charted new waters, forming an Estate, Business Planning and Insurance Firm, Reynolds & Associates, long before the idea of a comprehensive planning firm came into vogue,” said Trench.

Living out his message of business succession and exit strategies for successful entrepreneurs, he later turned over operations of the firm to his son, Scott Reynolds, who with his son-in-law Tyler Qualio and son, Britton Reynolds, run the successor firms of Sentinus for the advisory and wealth management piece; and Premise Capital as an asset management company. “Dick’s death in 2013 didn’t end what he started, but allowed his vision to continue through the legacy of his family,” said Trench.

When introduced, Scott Reynolds explained that, “Back in 2001 after 9/11, we had a discussion at the end of the year about NOT sending out our usual gifts to clients, but rather making a donation to the victims of 9/11. We sent a letter to our clients and shared our decision and we received tremendous support. Some of our clients followed suit and gave to the 9/11 victims as well, while others chose to give to local charities that they cared about. “

“Over the years we continued to make year-end donations to local charities. We realized that sometimes when the end of the year came around we were in a crunch and didn’t always know the most urgent needs of the community,” noted Scott. Tyler had joined The Community Foundation on the Professional Advisory Council. “Tyler suggested a Donor Advised Fund at The Community Foundation. We could put the funds into the account and disburse them throughout the next year or when the needs arose,” said Reynolds.

Over time Scott and his wife Deb; Tyler and his wife Stephanie; and Sentinus, LLC all established Donor Advised Funds at The Community Foundation. As they learned more about the Foundation and DAF’s they realized that DAF’s could be beneficial to their clients as well. Discussions lead to a new financial partnership between The Community Foundation and Sentinus, LLC where Sentinus can offer their clients Donor Advised Funds that operate on The Community Foundation platform for grantmaking, while Sentinus retains management of those funds on behalf of clients. Tyler is now on the Board of The Community Foundation and Chairs the Professional Advisory Council. At Sentinus, one charitable thought has grown into philanthropic opportunities for many.

FOUNDATION AWARDED \$43,050 IN GRANTS TO SIX AREA NONPROFITS



2014 Grant Award Recipients representing the Inclusion Health Coalition – Debra Condotti, President, Easter Seals Joliet Region, Pam Heavens, Executive Director, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living, Edna Brass, Board Member, Easter Seals Joliet Region, celebrating the evening with Br. James Gaffney, FSC, CFWC Board Chair and President, Lewis University, and Michael Trench, Executive Director, CFWC.

Nonprofit organizations from around Will County apply for grants through our annual competitive grant program. In 2014, with more than \$207,000 of funding requests received from 20 organizations, the Board of Directors had difficult decisions to make.

At our fall reception, the Foundation awarded and presented \$38,050 in grants to local nonprofit organizations working in the Foundation's priority areas of health, human services and education. "This is the second year we were able to include the arts with a \$5,000 grant from the Wadsworth Family – Will County Community Cultural Arts Endowment Fund." noted Grant Committee Chairman, Larry Lorimor. The grants which ranged in value from \$3,500-\$13,500 totaled \$43,050 in all.

The following is a list of the 2014 grant recipients and projects they will be implementing:

Daybreak Center - Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet - Ensuring

Optimal Meal Services to Daybreak Center Clients through Capital Improvements - \$3,700 to replace Shepherd's Table dining room industrial dishwasher that is more than 25 years old and requires constant repairs. This dishwasher helps volunteers and staff provide meals for 200 people a day.

Center for Correctional Concerns - *Computers to support new requirements for GED* - \$13,500 to provide updated computers to be used to teach testing skills for online GED test. In 2013 CCC received a Community Foundation of Will County grant to implement a computer testing lab which enabled CCC to continue offering the GED test to detainees when the paper test was eliminated. Inside the Will County Adult Detention Center, classrooms are located within the "pods" where detainees stay. Because detainees cannot be moved outside of their pod for classes, classrooms within 16 pods need to be supported with updated computers to prepare detainees for the new online GED test.

Inclusion Health Coalition – *Will County Inclusion Health* - \$10,000 to

implement two identified areas to promote inclusive health for people with disabilities in Will County: 1) training of frontline health care workers (nursing students at University of St. Francis, Lewis University, and Joliet Junior College); 2) implementation of media messaging and photo voice toolkit. Easter Seals Joliet Region is acting as the lead partner in the Inclusion Health Coalition for the Will County area. The CORE partners for the coalition include: YMCA, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living, Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Will County Health Department MAPP, and Easter Seals Joliet Region. This project is being implemented by the Inclusion Health Coalition.

Heart Haven Outreach – *Snack Track and Tutor Tablets* - \$3,500 to provide computer tablets to be used in new "Snack Attack and Tutor" program as well as new "Mentoring" program allowing the tutors and mentors flexibility while working with the high school student in Bolingbrook and Romeoville to advance their math and reading skills.

Northern Illinois Food Bank – *Capacity Building for Network Partners* - \$7,300 to purchase various refrigeration and equipment to increase capacity and distribution of more nutritious food to Will County resident through the following network partners: New Song-Seeds of Hope Food Pantry (*Bolingbrook*), Pilgrimage Protestant Food Pantry (*University Park*), Plainfield Area Interfaith Food Pantry (*Plainfield*).

Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park, Inc. – *Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park Youth Drama Programs* - \$5,000 – to provide support for Youth Drama Classes that are designed to give every child a chance to succeed, including children with special needs. *This grant was funded by the Wadsworth Family – Will County Community Cultural Arts Endowment Fund.*

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Michael Trench the Executive Director of The Community Foundation of Will County can be reached at e-mail mtrench@cfwill.org or by phone at 815.744.9223.

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“CO-INVESTMENT”

Every community faces issues that are bigger than any single organization. Addressing them takes resources bigger than, we, as a single organization hold. As part of the solution, we are moving in a direction that will partner our resources with those of our 30+ Donor Advised Fund advisors. They will be offered an opportunity to “co-invest” with us in addressing critical issues impacting the quality of life for so many Will County residents.

Our focus will not be about any particular school, but about improving education. We won't just look at a single organization providing medical treatment or services – but on the quality of health. Our support will not center on a particular shelter or food pantry – but on issues like homelessness and hunger that fall under basic human services.

Those who have established Donor Advised Funds with us have already shown themselves to be charitably inclined and interested in their community. Even if you don't have the resources to set up you own Donor Advised fund, gifts of any size to our Community Grant Endowment democratizes philanthropy, and allows anyone to become a “co-investor.”

We believe that in working together we can address those core and critical issues that affect the quality of life for so many of our Will County neighbors. Moving toward greater “co-investment” will also move us toward greater impact on improving the education, health, and human services in our community.

Please join us on the “Pathway...” to expanding our Community Partner Grants as a permanent resource for our community.

SPRING 2015



Michael Trench
Executive Director
**The Community Foundation
of Will County**
701 Essington Road, Suite 103,
Joliet, IL 60435,
mtrench@cfwill.org
815.744.9223.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE, TO CAUSES THAT MATTER!