

# 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



Foundation Board members past and present celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Summer 2016

## FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Community Foundation of Will County celebrated with donors, Board members and nonprofit leaders at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Philanthropy held on May 4, 2016 and hosted by Lewis University.

Ten years ago visionaries from the community started a unique nonprofit from scratch...with nothing. A partnership with The Chicago Community Trust, one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, was an important block on which to build The Community Foundation of Will County. "By nature we are designed to be an endowment building foundation, where we want growth in assets, and then use the earnings off them to improve the quality of life for people throughout Will County...and, like building resources to retire, that takes time," said Michael Trench, Executive Director of The Community Foundation of Will County.

Since the beginning, The Chicago Community Trust has provided \$2.3 million in support for local use, which was especially important in the early years. This was used for grantmaking when other funds didn't exist yet, and to cover operations so that The Community Foundation was not competing with the nonprofits the Foundation is designed to serve. That support gave this new organization time, and opportunity, to do a different kind of fundraising and work on building its own endowments to be used for grantmaking and covering operations.

Beyond the \$2.3 million from the Chicago Community Trust, another \$3.7 million has been raised locally. Now at over \$3.1 million in assets held in 60 different Funds, The Community Foundation has come a long way in 10 years. Sixteen percent of those dollars support operations; twenty-one

percent support grantmaking; six percent are designated or restricted by donors for specific purposes; seven percent are in funds for agencies; and the largest portion, over fifty percent at \$1.7 million, are in Donor Advised Funds created by charitably inclined people of this community to support the causes that they value and cherish, most of which are right here in Will County. The Community Foundation also knows of nearly \$15 million in assets that donors have indicated will be left to the Foundation through their estates, making The Community Foundation custodian of their charitable legacy. The Community Foundation of Will County has a good future on the horizon.

Over the past ten years, the Foundation has been partnering with local nonprofits to improve the quality of life for residents. Since the beginning, the Foundation has awarded over \$1 million in local grants through its annual Community Partner Grant program, and individual donors have recommended another \$600,000 in grants from their funds - for \$1.6 million in charitable impact in our community. Donor advised grants have exceeded The Foundation's own for a couple years.

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If you would like to begin receiving newsletters and other mailings electronically join our e-mail list from our website at [www.cfwill.org](http://www.cfwill.org) or e-mail [mmcsteen@cfwill.org](mailto:mmcsteen@cfwill.org).

## FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (CONTINUED)

Last year many donors helped increase Community Partner Grantmaking by over fifty percent with grants from their own funds. All this reflects success in the mission of “advancing philanthropy” in Will County.

The Community Foundation of Will County has been built by many individuals who want to work together to improve their communities. “The Community Foundation of Will County has come a long way, but we still have a long way to go,” noted Ed Dollinger, founding Board Chair of The Community Foundation of Will County. Terry Mazany, CEO & President of The Chicago Community Trust asked guests to think about how they would like to be a part of the future of Will County. “What is important to you and how would you like to participate?” asked Mazany. Mazany also emphasized the importance of local financial support from the community as the way to become part of The Foundation’s work to benefit the community.



*Terry Mazany, CEO & President of The Chicago Community Trust, Ed Dollinger, founding Board Chair, The Community Foundation of Will County, Michael Rittof, current Board Chair, Br. James Gaffney, FSC, immediate past Board Chair, Dennis Tonelli, past Board Chair, and Michael Trench, Executive Director*

## on the table

Your voice matters.



*Above: Community members gather for breakfast in Romeoville to discuss community needs.*

*Right: Neighbors gather to talk about hunger in Will County. CFWC Board Chair, Michael Rittof, welcomed guests. Far Right: Box lunch served at Northern Illinois Food Bank conversation on hunger.*

On May 10<sup>th</sup> over 200 community members gathered around various tables to share breakfast, lunch or dinner conversations in Will County. Topics included talent recruitment, mental health, hunger and more. The Rotary Club of Bolingbrook included students in their conversation at a dinner honoring the top 10% of graduating seniors. The Northern Illinois Food Bank hosted a lunch to talk about hunger in the County. They served the same lunch that 973 hungry children receive at the 22 Child Nutrition sites in Will, Kankakee, and Kendall counties. The Community Foundation of Will County hosted a breakfast and invited community organizations in Romeoville to talk about the needs of their community. On The Table is an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust that has been engaging thousands of community members throughout the region since 2014.







**Women's Leadership FUND**  
 INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY  
Endowment of The Community Foundation of Will County

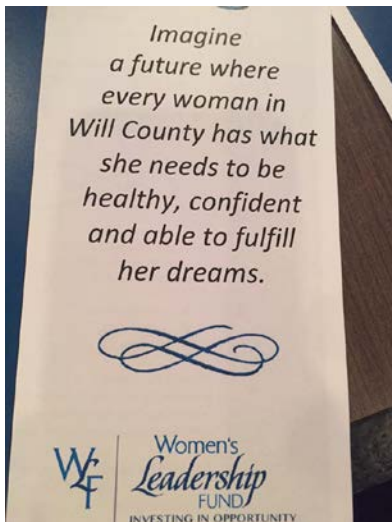
The Women's Leadership Fund is building resources to make a difference in the lives of women in Will County. The goal is to invite:

- ❖ 1,000 Founders
- ❖ Contributing \$1,000
- ❖ To build a \$1 million endowment

Through the power of collective giving, this fund aims to improve the potential of women in Will County by supporting economic self sufficiency,



education, health, and safety. Although the needs of women in Will County will change, an endowed fund is a permanent resource to meet those challenges. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, some founding women gathered to learn more about the fund and to build this much needed resource.



## 2015 Grants in Action



**South Suburban Immigrant Project – Mariachi Matters Program-** Mariachi Matters recognized 36 students in their annual end of the year celebration, for completing 30 weeks of consistent participation in the program. All 36 students put on a final spring musical showcase for friends and family at the Romeoville Recreation Center, a community partner.

This Community Partner Grant was fully funded by the Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment.



**Catholic Charities – Homework Help Center -** Completed in spring 2016 with the official ribbon cutting ceremony held in June. It is located in a separate room just off the family shelter area at Daybreak Shelter and serves children residing in the shelter with a quiet space in which they can work without interruption and complete homework assignments; have access to free websites and databases that have been identified to help with math, reading, science, social science, language arts and history, and receive help, support and encouragement from retired educators and school staff as volunteer tutors.

With generous funding from The Voyager Group Fund at The Community Foundation of Will County, the Center has been equipped with two laptop computers (with wireless access to the internet), a printer, six-unit study carrel with chairs, and other educational supplies.

*The Voyager Group Fund, established by Kathy and Tom Cawley, has a council that works together to make decisions about how to allocate their grants. As a group of educators, both retired and working, they were excited to fully fund the Homework Help Center 2015 Community Partner Grant and look forward to volunteering and helping the students at the center. Voyager Group Council members attended the ribbon cutting ceremony in June.*



## Foundation Welcomes

### New Funds

Jean A. Helt Fund

The Sharing Blessings Fund

David and Joan Allemeier  
Charitable Fund

The Gunst Family  
Charitable Giving Fund

Families in Need Fund

Danny and Tricia Simpson  
Family Fund

*Welcome to our family of donors!*

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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](mailto:mtrench@cfwill.org) or by phone at 815.744.9223.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

### The Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



**Dr. Nadia Carpanzano**  
Owner, Maplebrook Chiropractic  
Bolingbrook Resident

The Board of Directors welcomed two new Board Members. **Dr. Nadia Carpanzano** is the owner of Maplebrook Chiropractic located in Naperville. She is a passionate small business owner focused on chiropractic, massage therapy, nutrition, detoxification, and diet modification. She is the past Committee Chair for the Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce's "Young Professionals Association" and volunteers with many nonprofits in the Bolingbrook area. She lives in Bolingbrook with her husband, Michael.

**Kay Bolden** is CEO & Accidental Farmer at the Warren-Sharpe Community Center in Joliet, author of two books, and active member of the Community and Law Enforcement Partnership. Under Kay's stewardship, the Center has grown into a full-service community resource. With 78% of the Center's clients living in food-insecure households, Kay became committed to moving beyond emergency food relief and working toward food security. The Center is expanding into urban farming on vacant neighborhood lots; teaching families how to grow (and cook) their own healthy food; and reconnecting children with the earth. Kay lives in Crest Hill and is the proud mother of Karyn Bolden Stovall (28), and Cameron Bolden (17).



**Kay Bolden**  
Executive Director,  
Warren-Sharpe Community Center  
Crest Hill Resident

### The Legacy Society

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 Michael Trench, Executive Director, **The Community Foundation of Will County**, [mtrench@cfwill.org](mailto:mtrench@cfwill.org), 815.744.9223.

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