

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



Back Row; CFWC Board Chairman, Br. James Gaffney, FSC, George Valaika, Beth Spesia, Frank Spesia, Meredith Spesia, John Spesia, Tracy Spesia, Tim Spesia, Michael Trench, CFWC Executive Director; Front Row; Sarah (Spesia) Valaika, Chris Spesia, Lori Spesia, Father Philip Mbeta and David Spesia at The CFWC's 2013 Donor Recognition Celebration.

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

Winter 2013

PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS HONORED AT DONOR EVENT

Each year we take time to recognize our donors and celebrate philanthropy in our community. At this event we also honor those who have provided philanthropic leadership for the benefit of the community and beyond. This year we recognized the Spesia Family and Kathy and Tom Cawley.

Lori and Doug Spesia instilled the spirit of philanthropy in their children—John, Chris, David and Sarah—through their strong Catholic faith and daily example. Doug Spesia was a founding Trustee of The Community Foundation of Will County. He and Lori set up one of the Foundation's first Donor Advised Funds. Their sons, John and Chris, along with their wives followed in their footsteps by establishing their own Funds. When Doug passed away three years ago, their son Chris took Doug's place on the Board and has grown into his own valuable role. But the Spesia

family has done more than just help the Foundation. Their philanthropic spirit, financial resources, time and talent have been shared widely and have touched organizations that they value like Daybreak Center and Catholic Charities, Joliet Montessori School, The George Werden Buck Boys & Girls Club, local parishes, a Benedictine Monastery, and local Catholic education institutions.

Lori Spesia spoke on behalf of the family and shared how she was able to use their Fund to achieve what her son Chris said, "Was a dream she didn't know she had yet." Lori and Doug were moved when they visited Malawi Africa on a mission trip and eventually met what Lori likes to refer to as "her fifth Spesia child," Father Philip Mbeta, a Catholic priest from Malawi. As their friendship grew with Father Philip, they became interested in helping him

with his work. When Doug passed, memorial gifts were made to their Fund at the Foundation. Lori felt that Doug would want to use these gifts to support Father Philip's work. Because a Community Foundation cannot make donations outside of the United States, Lori was able to make grants to a local parish that, in turn, directed the funds to help build a Montessori school in a village in Malawi in Doug's honor. The adult Spesia children initiated their own projects to help the local people as well. John spearheaded a fresh water initiative and, with the help of local Rotary Clubs, built drinking wells close to the village. The Spesia children and grandchildren have been taking turns going to Malawi with Lori as they continue to support Father Philip and his work.

Tom and Kathy Cawley both began their careers in education. With a shift to the financial advising field, they established The Voyager Group in 1999, which resides in a restored 1840's farmhouse near Essington and Division in Joliet. The physical setting says a lot about the values that drive them. Serving clients from a

Follow Along:

If you would like to begin receiving newsletters and other mailings electronically

join our e-mail list from our website at www.cfwill.org
or e-mail mmcsteen@cfwill.org.

Grants in Action



Seniors keep dancing in hot weather thanks to new air conditioners

The Senior Services Center of Will County, a cooling center for seniors in hot summer months, kept seniors dancing this summer with new air conditioning units purchased with a grant from The Community Foundation of Will County.



Technology Education Academic Models (TEAM) Project

Lewis University's initiative to enhance literacy instruction by giving teachers the tools to integrate technology into reading and writing lessons increases the impact of the CFWC grant by instructing teachers, who in turn train additional teachers.

*Tom and Kathy Cawley
Honored at 2013
Donor Recognition &
Celebration of
Philanthropy*



historic building reminiscent of a time when communities grew strength from coming together and neighbors helped neighbors. "We like to think of our clients as family because we have worked with them for so long," said Kathy.

Kathy and Tom had been looking for a way to give back locally and they felt that the Foundation was a place where they could impact community needs. Kathy came onto the Foundation's Board and sits on the Grants Committee. When Tom and Kathy started a Fund at the Foundation, they did it in the name of their business. And it wasn't just a good financial decision for them to organize their charitable giving, but it reflected the spirit of their values, and again true to their spirit, it became an opportunity to educate. They set up an advisory council of clients with similar values, to explore together issues of concern in the community, discuss solutions and use The Voyager Group Fund to address them. This advisory council has come together around the issue of wanting to improve the quality of life for young people in the community. "We are just getting started, but even small contributions to the Fund over a long period of time will add up," said Kathy.

IRA Charitable Rollover

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!
Congress extended legislation through December 31, 2013 that allows donors age 70-1/2 and older to gift up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charity.**

- Your gift can be any amount up to \$100,000.
- Your gift can count toward your minimum distribution.
- You must be age 70-1/2 or older.
- You must make a direct rollover, not a personal distribution.

It's easy to make a gift by directing your custodian to transfer a portion of your required minimum distribution directly to charity. The gift is not counted as part of your taxable income, so it is tax-free! Talk to your professional advisors to learn more or have them contact Michael Trench, Executive Director at mtrench@cfwill.org or (815) 744-9223.

FOUNDATION AWARDED \$54,500 IN GRANTS TO EIGHT AREA NONPROFITS

Grant making is one of the roles of The Community Foundation. Each year we invite nonprofits serving Will County to participate in our competitive grant cycle. This year we had 31 organizations requesting more than \$370,000 in funding. With \$54,500 available, our grants committee, which is made of board volunteers, reviewed applications and made decisions based on community needs working in the Foundation's priority areas of health, human services and education. "This year we were pleased to include a grant for the arts made from the Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment at The Community Foundation of Will County," noted Grant Committee Chairman, Larry Lorimor.

"As the Foundation continues to connect donors to community needs, the nonprofit community is benefiting. During this year's competitive grant program a \$6,000 grant was matched by an anonymous grant from one of our Donor Advised Funds. Also, a Foundation board member directed additional funding towards another project, together directing \$8,500 in additional funding to our grantees this year," said Executive Director, Michael Trench.

The following is a list of the 2013 grant recipients:

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc. - \$2,100 to establish a Reading for Life Corner to encourage literacy enhancement. This project was done in collaboration with the Joliet Chapter of the National Hook-Up of Black Women and will be located at Aunt Martha's new Joliet Community Health Center on the old Silver Cross Hospital property.
CASA of Will County - \$5,000 to purchase computers and related technology to better serve their

volunteer base, which is critical to CASA's work and requires high levels of training and reporting.

Center for Correctional Concerns - \$6,000 to purchase computers to allow inmates to continue to take the GED test in 2014 and beyond, when the paper version of the test is eliminated. Passing the GED helps inmates reintegrate into society with a more productive life and avoid reoffending.

Guardian Angel Community Services - \$4,000 to create digital stories told by clients as a means to raise awareness, start conversations, and share resources for help for victims of domestic violence. The videos will include special outreach to the growing Latino population in Will County.

Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center - \$4,500 to pilot the Expressive Arts Program in Will County. This program provides a medium for expression to help people of all ages, process their cancer experience. This grant was funded by the Wadsworth Family Cultural Arts Endowment at The Community Foundation of Will County.

Northern Illinois Food Bank - \$14,600 to purchase various refrigeration and storage equipment for the following network partners: Good Shepherd Food Pantry (Romeoville), St. John Lutheran Food Pantry (Joliet), Morning Star Mission Soup Kitchen (Joliet), Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen (Joliet), Life Line Food Pantry (Joliet), Family Outreach Program, Inc. (Crest Hill). In addition, provide two Mobile Pantry distributions at Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington and Second Place Pantry in Monee.

Power Connection - \$11,000 to purchase a refrigerated box truck with a lift gate to pick up and deliver food donations from local merchants to the warehouse. Power Connection is



2013 Grant Award Recipient Organizations are represented by the following: (Front, from Left)-Franca Liburdi, Professional Development Coordinator, Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc.; Lisa Schneider, Clinical Program Director, Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center; Donna Fedosenko, Executive Director, Center for Correctional Concerns; (Back, from Left) Rita Facchina, Executive Director, CASA of Will County; Deborah Summers, President, National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.; Sue Knaperek, Director of School Services, United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois Prairieland; Jerry Basel, Executive Director, Power Connection; Julie Yurko, Vice President of Philanthropy & Communication, Northern Illinois Food Bank; April Balzhiser, Chief Operating Officer, Guardian Angel Community Services.

located in Bolingbrook and serves the "working poor" with education, training and assistance that includes a very busy food pantry.

United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois Prairieland - \$7,300 to purchase a Youth Symmetry and a 51" Supine Stander. These standers will be used during classes to physically help students improve bone growth and digestive health. In addition, they prevent soft tissue contractures and bone deformities. Socially, they improve student communication and interaction with fellow classmates and teaching personnel.



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WILL COUNTY

AN AFFILIATE OF
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

Over the past year, we have been building the roadmap for the future of the Foundation. As a part of this process, we refined our mission to reflect a clearer definition of our role in the community as we direct our effort toward “PROMOTING philanthropy, CONNECTING donors to community needs, and BUILDING partnerships to improve the quality of life in our region.” In addition, we changed our name to “The Community Foundation of Will County” to help the community and nonprofits understand that we are “The Community Foundation” serving Will County residents as opposed to a government entity, which we are commonly mistaken for. We are your Community Foundation and we have come to understand that Will County residents take pride in the area where they live and call “My Community.” So we will be working with communities within Will County to help improve the quality of life where you live, however you define your community. We know that your requirements may look different in Bolingbrook/Romeoville, Lincoln-Way, Plainfield, Lockport, Crete, Joliet, etc. But that is the beauty of a Community Foundation—we can reflect your community’s philanthropic spirit however and wherever that is defined. We are looking forward to the next five years as we come to understand your philanthropic dreams and build endowments that will be here to serve community residents for generations to come.



Michael Trench
Executive Director

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

- Br. James Gaffney, FSC— Chairman
- Michael Rittof – Vice-Chairman
- Christian Spesia, JD - Secretary
- Janet Viano – Treasurer

Directors

- Jay Bergman Larry Lorimor
- Kathy Cawley Dr. Elaine Maimon
- Edward Dollinger Karl Maurer
- Brian Forsythe Tyler Qualio, JD
- John Greuling Jim Rink
- Cyril (Bill) Habiger Rodney Tonelli
- Michael Trench-Executive Director
- Marilyn McSteen-Project Consultant



Chairman Br. James Gaffney, FSC, thanks Dennis Tonelli, Past Chairman, for his years of dedicated service to The Foundation.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following board members for their years of dedicated service to The Community Foundation:

Michael Hennessy- (Joliet) President & CEO of United Way of Will County, was a founding board member and instrumental in identifying the need for a Community Foundation in Will County.

Dennis Tonelli- (Plainfield) Retired President of Ruetttiger, Tonelli & Associates, was a founding board member and provided leadership and guidance during his tenure as Board Chairman from 2009-2012.

John Weitendorf, Jr.-(Wilmington) President, Weitendorf Enterprises, was also a founding Director and served as Board Secretary.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome the following board members:

Tyler Qualio, JD – (Shorewood) Partner at Sentinus, L.L.C., an advisory and wealth management firm, was a member of our Professional Advisory Council before joining our Board.

Jim Rink- (Naperville) Manager of Global Manufacturing Engineering at Caterpillar, has been a member of their team since 1988. He brings years of community leadership experience to our Board.

Rodney Tonelli- (Shorewood) President of Ruetttiger, Tonelli & Associates, Inc., has been very actively involved in many community organizations and brings his professional and community leadership skills to our Board.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE, TO CAUSES THAT MATTER!