What the Community Foundation Means to Us

Dear Foundation Friends,

Earlier this year we asked our Board of Trustees and staff to briefly describe our Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. We loved their responses and wanted to share them with all of you, our donors and friends.

We believe our Community Foundation is all of this—and more.

**We are unique. We know our community. We share your interests. We care about the future.**

Whether your wishes are to support your special interests perpetually through an endowed fund, or to support all your favorite charities with one donation through a Donor-Advised fund, we help our donors “put their money where their heart is.”

We are excited about two new Community Foundation initiatives. Our Aspiring Philanthropists Giving Circle is engaging younger donors and allowing them to address the needs of our community with a collective impact. We will share more about this new initiative in our Annual Report. Our Legacy Society recognizes all who have included the Community Foundation in their planned giving. You can read more about the Legacy Society on page three of this newsletter.

With all the changes in the new tax law, you still have time to maximize your charitable giving and your tax deduction. We can help you establish a Donor-Advised fund as late as December 31 (yes, we’ll be here). For more information, please look at page four of this newsletter or give us a call.

We appreciate you trusting us with your gifts. With your support, we will continue creating healthy communities, strong youth, accessible recreation, beautiful environments, support for the arts, safe seniors, effective nonprofits and an engaged community. Your generosity makes it possible for us to raise the quality of life throughout east central Illinois. Thank you.

**For good. Forever.**

[Signature]

P.S. Enjoy this annual newsletter. After you read it, please share it with a friend who might like to learn more about the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.
Community Impact Powered by Philanthropy

Since its inception in 1972, the Community Foundation’s total assets have grown from $1,300 to nearly $27 million. This growth in well-managed endowed funds and other assets, along with administering grant dollars on behalf of the Marajen Stevick Foundation and in cooperation with the Lumpkin Foundation, has allowed us to make more than $1 million in distributions annually for several years to nonprofit organizations in east central Illinois.

Champaign County Crime Stoppers, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Grand Prairie Friends and the University YMCA all received funding for their staff and board members to use toward professional development through our Capacity-Building Microgrants.

Clark-Lindsey Village, Family Service Senior Resource Center, Forest Preserve Friends Foundation and Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center all received funding through our Community Foundation Marajen Stevick Foundation Grants. These organizations will use this funding to provide services to enhance the lives of seniors, beautify Champaign-Urbana and surrounding areas and promote excellence in reading and writing.

Altrusa Club, Boys & Girls Club of Danville, CASA of Vermilion & Edgar Co, Champaign Co CASA, Champaign Co Children’s Advocacy Center, Champaign Urbana Public Health Department, The Chordae, Community Center for the Arts, Community Choices, Community Resource & Counseling Center, Crisis Nursery, DLO Musical Theatre, Eastern IL Foodbank, Family Advocacy, Girl Scouts of Central IL, Grace Lutheran Church, Grand Prairie Friends, Greater Champaign Co AMBUCS, Hoopeston Multi-Agency Service Center, Peer Court, Piatt Co Mental Health, RACES, SBL Peace Meal, Sistering CU, Sola Gratia Farm, Urbana Neighborhood Connections, Vermilion Co Rape Crisis Center and Wesley Food Pantry all received funding through our Community Commitment Grants.

As the size of our available granting dollars has grown, our granting strategy has evolved to reflect our commitment to using our donors’ dollars wisely to make sustainable differences in our area. We believe the combination of grants we offer serve as tools that will yield measurable and lasting impact results from our investment.
Community Solutions Incubator Members
Changing the World One Achievement at a Time

**DREAMM:**
- Received a state grant to fully expand services to 6th grade
- Won NAACP Award for Youth Advancement

**Household Hazardous Waste:**
- Developed RPC proposal to establish the Champaign County Municipal Joint Action Agency (MJAA) to carry out efficient and environmentally sound collection, reuse, or disposition of “problem” municipal waste, namely household hazardous waste and unwanted consumer electronics, including all types of televisions
- Currently drafting the non-profit application

**MakerGirl:**
- Hosted a pilot session at Harvard
- Appeared in Forbes Magazine

**Prairie Dragon Paddlers:**
- Successful First Fundraiser “Sing for the Health of It” raised $22,000.00
- Provided an inaugural gift of $11,000 to the Cancer Center at the University of Illinois from the proceeds from the fundraiser

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**Community Solutions Incubator**

Community Solutions Incubator offers networking opportunities, workshops and seminars to create an innovative environment for the next generation of community nonprofit leaders and organizations to emerge, not only strengthening our local community but potentially producing replicable programs across the nation. Have an idea for a nonprofit organization? Want to join our Incubator? Visit www.cfeci.org for more information.

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**Community Foundation of East Central Illinois Legacy Society**

The Legacy Society recognizes all who have notified us that they have included the Community Foundation in their estate documents or other deferred giving plan. This society represents the perpetual support these individuals will provide for east central Illinois through the Community Foundation.

**We invite all community members to consider leaving a legacy gift through the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.**

Joining our Legacy Society is easy—it requires just two steps.

1. Include the Community Foundation in your estate plan through your will or trust, or make a contribution via a charitable gift annuity, life insurance, retirement fund assets or a charitable remainder or lead trust.
2. Inform us that you have made these arrangements and let us know if you’d like your name included in future listings of the Legacy Society, or if you’d like to be included in future meetings or gatherings. You can do this by simply checking the “Please contact me about including the Foundation in my Estate Plan” box on the enclosed remit. We are happy to respect your wishes if you would like to participate anonymously.

As a beneficiary of your deferred gift, the Community Foundation is charged with the legal and fiduciary responsibility of carrying out your wishes. Our Community Foundation of East Central Illinois is committed to recognizing and addressing community needs and identifying high-impact funding opportunities. Our permanence, flexibility and expertise allow us to help you “put your money where your heart is,” perpetually.
What if you could support all your favorite charities with just one donation? That is the power of a Donor-Advised fund.

A Donor-Advised fund is a charitable investment account, used as a vehicle to support charitable organizations you care about. And they are fast-becoming one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to give to charity.

How It Works:
- Open a Donor-Advised fund with a written agreement at the Community Foundation. The Foundation requires a $5,000 minimum donation to start a fund (additional future contributions may be less).
- Receive an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction for your total contribution.
- Continue contributing to your fund at any time. Your contributions are invested by our investment partners and we provide quarterly stewardship reports.
- Make the recommendations for various amounts to be distributed to charitable organizations of your choice on your schedule and over time.

We make the process simple and satisfying. We accept a wide-range of assets including cash and non-cash donations. For more information or to start a Donor-Advised fund with the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, call us at (217) 359-0125 or check the “Please contact me about establishing a Personal Fund in the Foundation” box on the enclosed remit.