

FOUNDATION Community Foundation of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

FOCUS



A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2014

100th Anniversary of Community Foundations & Philanthropy Celebrated



Special anniversaries always make me want to reflect. This year marked the 100th Anniversary of Community Foundations in the United States. Fred Goff's idea in 1914 to pool donor funds into one large fund to create an endowment for the "betterment of the community" seems to have had legs. There are currently over 700 US Community Foundations—22 staffed Commu-

nity Foundation in Illinois alone with assets over \$3.5 billion, giving over \$200 million in grants each year.

We started in 1972 with \$1,300. Now, considering all we know about, our assets are about \$24 million. We have distributed nearly \$13 million since then, including approximately \$1 million in each of the last two years. As words from our founding board members remind us, we must never assume our help is no longer needed.

Celebrating Philanthropy

The Community Foundation's mission to be a leader and major catalyst for philanthropy in east central Illinois. At our Hearts of Gold Gala, we were very excited to acknowledge and recognize a number of people who have been exemplary for giving their time, talent and treasure to help the nonprofit organizations that make real differences in people's lives, as well as those who go above and beyond in their healthcare roles to ensure that individuals and families left vulnerable from healthcare issues are treated with both technical expertise and compassion.

We were very pleased to establish the Kyle & Phyllis Robeson Philanthropy Award, named in honor of Kyle and Phyllis for the exemplary commitment to community service and philanthropy they have demonstrated throughout their 50 year marriage. We look forward to selecting future recipients who have shown that same commitment to making life better in our communities.

Your Generosity Made a Difference in Gifford

It was great to see area residents accept and meet the \$25,000 challenge grant from the Marajen Stevick Foundation last November after tornadoes swept through Gifford. I was proud to present a \$50,000 check on your behalf to pay the insurance deductible needed for the community's water tower. Thanks to all who made this happen.

Looking Forward to 2015

In addition to building our funds and distributing grants, the Community Foundation is very involved in helping nonprofits to follow best practices so that our donors continue to have faith their dollars are being well used. Our board is finalizing a new grant program that focuses on building better nonprofit boards by engaging a few nonprofits in a multi-year developmental program. This opportunity will be offered early next year.

We continue to work to raise the visibility and understanding of the Foundation to a broader audience. I appreciate your support and hope that you continue to help us spread the word among your friends and family.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Joan Dixon
President & CEO



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**Kyle & Phyllis Robeson
Philanthropy Award**

Kyle and Phyllis Robeson are the first recipients of the Kyle & Phyllis Robeson Philanthropy Award, established in their honor to recognize their decades of exemplary community service and generosity to civic and nonprofit organizations.



The impact of the Robeson's generosity for more than fifty years is amazing. The Foundation established this award in their honor to recognize that their vision, leadership and generosity have left an indelible imprint on our region. Kyle & Phyllis have been exemplary contributors to nearly every sector of the Champaign-Urbana community and beyond. They have significantly impacted community development through their economic and real estate development, land use and re-use and downtown resurgence efforts.



Eric Robeson, Kyle & Phyllis Robeson and Kim Robeson Schwenk share a family moment celebrating the philanthropy award.

The Robesons have served the nonprofit community through volunteering hundreds of hours on boards, committees, capital campaigns and generous donations. They have spread their generosity across health & human services, youth development, the arts, education and environmental stewardship. Their gifts—both large and small—have benefitted thousands of families served by the nonprofits they support.

Future recipients of the Kyle & Phyllis Robeson Philanthropy Award will recognize and celebrate the meaning of the award—philanthropy in east central Illinois at its best.

For more information about award recipients and see the event photo gallery, go to www.cfeci.org and open the Community Impact tab.



Nathaniel Banks and the Mo' Better Music Ensemble, of the Banks Bridgewater Lewis (BBL) Fine Arts Academy, provided lively entertainment before dinner.

Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is

Our area nonprofits rely heavily on the support of donors to enable them to meet their mission of improving the quality of life for all residents. The Community Foundation offers donors flexible options in both the types of gifts we accept and the types of funds we offer. We work with you to make it easy for you to put your money where your heart is. For more information, contact Joan Dixon at 217-359-0125.

Hearts of Gold Awards

Giving time, talent and treasure to improve others' quality of life.

Marie DesChamps, RN, MSN was the recipient of a Never-Retired Nurse with a Heart of Gold Award for her decades of commitment and service to advancing the nursing profession and her contributions and compassion as a Parish Nurse volunteer for St. Matthew's since 1997, along with her 30 years volunteering with the American Cancer Society.

Peggy Gates-Wieneke, has accumulated more than 2,000 hours of volunteer time in twenty years as a childcare volunteer, board member, fundraiser and program committee chair for the Crisis Nursery. Because her "specialty" is soothing little ones in crisis, Gates-Wienke was presented the Rockin' Volunteer with a Heart of Gold.

Retired facilities director at Carle Clinic, **Walt Manske** was named Facilities Genius with a Heart of Gold for volunteering his facilities knowledge, skills and expertise to Cunningham Children's Home, University YMCA, Frances Nelson Health Center and McKinley Health Center. All credit Manske with guiding their organizations through short-term and long-term facility planning, major design and building projects, renovations and repairs.

Bonnie Specchio was recognized as a Community Advocate with a Heart of Gold for over 20 years of volunteer service aimed at improving the lives of children and the elderly in the Rantoul area. Her long-term commitments include coordinating the Back to School program that supplies new school supplies and services to help all families get ready for school, and the Heavenly Tree Christmas party that provides over 200 children with toys, socks and underwear.

David & Jennifer Woodrow, were recipients of a Community Spirited Educators with Hearts of Gold Award for using their passion and skill in the arts to make significant contributions to youth development and philanthropic productions to benefit nonprofit organizations in Vermilion County. The Woodrows have co-produced and directed the *Page to Stage* fundraiser for the Danville Library Foundation, with the 2013 production winning a national American Library Association award for outstanding local library fundraising.

Pam Guess and Adrienne Robertson Chosen for Gloria Valenti Compassionate Care Awards

Consistently demonstrating both exemplary performance and compassion to their patients, families and coworkers.

Pam Guess, RN has 34 years of nursing and nurse management experience with 11 years as the nurse coordinator for Developmental Service Center. In her nomination, she was praised for her passion for the DSC mission to enhance the lives of individuals by providing services and supports which enable them to live, learn, work and participate in their communities. Being a voice for DSC's clients who cannot advocate for themselves when it comes to their own medical needs was stressed as one of her strongest skills and assets.

Adrienne Robertson, CNA has spent her entire 25 year career at Meadowbrook Health Center working with many residents with memory, cognitive and physical degenerative conditions. Nominations from family members consistently praised her for going above and beyond to find comfortable solutions for her residents and their families and becoming like a family member because of her outgoing personality, always positive attitude and her dedication to helping family members.



Marie DesChamps & Gina Hieser, daughter/nominator

Peggy Gates-Wieneke & Kristen Bosch, Crisis Nursery



Walt Manske & Joan Zernich, nominator

Bonnie Specchio & Diane Michaels, nominator



David & Jennifer Woodrow with Cathy Reardon, nominator/Danville Library Foundation

Pam Guess, RN (unable to attend event)



Adrienne Robertson, CNA & Betsy Wong, nominator



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2014 Community Commitment Grants Committee Awards \$80,032 to 21 Regional Nonprofits

The Foundation's fall grant cycle is funded primarily by the proceeds from our unrestricted endowments. Nonprofits submit applications for durable goods and capital items, things not covered under many other kinds of grants. Applications were due in August, and the Foundation received 62 grant applications requesting \$166,933.

The Grants Committee, comprised of both Foundation Board of Trustee members and community volunteers, conducted a lively and engaged review of the applications and visits with organizations under consideration.

This year, the committee recommended that the Foundation Board of Trustees approve awarding \$80,032 to 21 regional nonprofit agencies that serve a broad range of community needs, including the arts, community beautification, education, environment, health & human services and and youth. Grants ranged from \$624 to \$9,400. Congratulations to the following organizations on their awards:

First Presbyterian Church of Tolono – Two Navien tankless water boilers and high velocity air conditioning units (\$9,400)

Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL, Inc. – Books for children of migrant workers (\$1,300.00)

CASA of Champaign County – Three computer desk workstations (\$1,800)

Champaign County Nursing Home – Items for a Snoozelen multi-sensory room (\$4,965)

Champaign Urbana Special Recreation – A variety of gross motor sensory input items (\$2,028)

The Chorale – 75 copies of score of John Rutter's "Magnificat" (\$1,022)

Community Resource & Counseling Center, Inc. – Guest chairs for waiting room (\$5,670)

Crisis Nursery – Automated External Defibrillator (\$1,475)

Developmental Services Center (DSC) – Paving a patio area (\$6,000)

Eastern Illinois Foodbank – Replacement battery for a Forklift (\$6,172)

Family Service of Champaign County – Computer, Smartboard, remote and electrical service for training area (\$2,080)

Greater Champaign County AMBUCS – Ten AmTrykes and accessories (\$7,500)

Hoopeston Multi Agency Service Center, Inc. – Remodel bathrooms and building entrance (\$5,000)

Little Theatre On The Square – Twenty microphones (\$5,000)

Prairie Center – 4th and 5th grade curriculum materials (\$624)

Promise Healthcare – Mobile dental hygiene unit (\$4,339.00)

Prosperity Gardens, Inc. – Shade awning for bus, signage and frame (\$3,957)

Salt & Light – Shelving (\$6,389)

SBL Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program – Utensils, pans and cleaning equipment (\$971)

Urbana Pops Orchestra – Orchestral scores (\$1,500)

Vermilion County Rape Crisis Center – Sand, art and play therapy materials and books (\$2,840)