

# FOUNDATION Community Foundation of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

# FOCUS



A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2015

## Confucius must be smiling on us all— because times have indeed been most interesting in 2015.



### State Budget Impasse Hits Home

The state budget impasse has significantly impacted the social service organizations that have contracts with the state, and the low-income populations they serve. Some of those have not received state money since July 1. They have been forced to deplete their cash reserves, borrow, eliminate positions or lay-off workers, as well as to reduce services to their clients.

The Community Foundation was able to help four organizations through our Program Related Investment (PRI) fund—one-percent loans up to \$15,000 intended to bridge the lag between state payments and real-time operating expense. We were especially glad to be able to extend help this year.

The long-term effects on the nonprofit community and their clients won't be known for several months as actual budget numbers are established, contracts for services are written and methods for dispersal of funds are agreed upon. In the interim, the Community Foundation is finding new ways to assist them.

### New Grant Strategy Launched

We were excited to launch our new Building Better Boards and Collective Impact grants. The on-going meetings with the directors and their boards are targeted at issues that will strengthen the organizations and the boards. Each of the three groups brings unique issues to the table and discussions are interesting and lively.

The Collective Impact project promises to help seniors whose homes desperately need repairs, weatherproofing and accessibility improvements. It will also provide meaningful skill-building for high school students and the personal satisfaction of knowing their work has made a difference. And, it will help move Champaign County Habitat ahead in its goal to provide more affordable, safe and decent housing for seniors. (See inside for details.)

### Our Own Home

We are very excited to announce that we are buying the building we're in at 307 W. University before the end of the year!

We learned this summer that owners of Research Survey Service Jan Kiley and Dick Adams were closing their offices at the end of July. We thought about what might happen if the building was sold. As we checked other available properties, we realized more and more that this is the perfect location for our permanent home. I asked Bob Devine if he would consider selling to the Foundation, and he said he would. Board members Jeff Davis and Tom Brown helped us value the property and prepare a proposal for purchase.

Because of many years of great stewardship by our boards, we will purchase the building outright and avoid the expenses related to a mortgage. We are studying various ways that we could use the second floor space. We have discussed renting it out, but the idea of starting a nonprofit "incubator" space to bring various groups together to develop and start new collaborations is the favored use right now.

We are excited to have a permanent home that emphasizes that we will be here for a long time and continue to do what we can for good in our communities—forever.

### Looking Ahead

We're proud of the work we have done this year. As always, we will continue to look ahead to future opportunities to grow our visibility and our assets. As this year comes to a close, I wish you all the best during the holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Joan Dixon  
President & CEO



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All donations are tax deductible  
to the full extent of the law.

## \$80,802 in Annual Community Commitment Grants Awarded to 25 Nonprofits

The Annual Community Commitment Grant Committee received 53 grant applications, requesting nearly \$213,000. Members discussed and ranked proposals, visited with a number of applicants, then decided on the list below to recommend to the Board of Trustees. The list was approved by the board at its November 18 meeting.

### Congratulations to the following organizations:

**40 North / 88 West:** PA system—\$1,500

**Boys & Girls Club of Danville:** Lunch room tables with attached benches—\$4,591

**Bridgewater Sullivan Community Life Center:** Keyboards, a portable workstation and an ultrabook—\$4,200

**Champaign County CASA:** Office furniture—\$3,700

**Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation:** Sensory input items—\$2,388

**Children's Advocacy Center:** Nature photographs—\$1,660

**Community Center for the Arts:** Music stands, a storage cart and a photocopier—\$5,268

**Community Elements:** Washing machine—\$2,265

**Community Resource & Counseling Center:** Conference room chairs—\$4,589

**Courage Connection:** Audio/visual equipment—\$5,550

**Danville Family YMCA:** Automated external defibrillators & emergency oxygen units with cabinet—\$4,968

**Developmental Services Center (DSC):** Lockers for consumer use—\$5,417

**Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club:** Equipment Improvement Project and bleacher seating—\$6,640

**Family Advocacy in Champaign County:** Materials for anger management & marriage counseling groups and mats—\$530

**Family Service of Champaign County:** Installed safety handrail—\$1,823

**Forest Preserve Friends Foundation:** Construct an accessible pathway—\$1,610

**Kirby Medical Center:** Fitness equipment for teens—\$5,000

**Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program:** Thermal delivery bags, kitchen safety mats, cart and rolling mixing bowl—\$1,600

**Piatt County Mental Health Center:** Curriculum workbooks and "Project Toward No Drug Abuse" curriculum—\$500

**Promise Healthcare:** Equipment to upgrade and expand the vaccine program—\$5,010

**Prosperity Gardens, Inc.:** Initial development of one-acre urban farm in Beardsley Park—\$3,000

**The Chorale:** Music for "Mass of the Children"—\$1,000

**The Little Theatre On The Square, Inc.:** New speakers for the theatre sound system—\$5,000

**Vermilion County Rape Crisis Center:** Play therapy supplies and DVD's—\$2,050

**Wesley Food Pantry:** Recycled wood pallets and poly box trucks with lids—\$943

Annual Community Commitment grants are funded by Endowment funds. Guidelines offer grants for durable goods or capital items not typically covered by other granting bodies.



Children of migrant workers in a summer program in Rantoul enjoy buying books on a trip sponsored by Altrusa funded by a 2014 Foundation grant.

## Collective Impact Grant Partners

A concept paper to collaboratively develop a model that would improve energy-efficiency and safety for low-income seniors was submitted by **Hope Meadows**, **Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County** and **Rantoul Township High School**. Their proposal was selected as the Foundation's first Collective Impact Grant project.

### The Broad-Based Problem

Many economically vulnerable seniors live in older homes that have poor insulation, inadequate security and accessibility issues. Without the means to pay for needed repairs, many face the real possibility of having to choose between paying high heating and cooling costs and buying sufficient food. Food insecurity is a significant problem among low-income seniors.

### The Proposed Solution

Each of the three partners will share in both the work and rewards:

- **Hope Meadows** is a multi-generational 22-acre community of homes built on the former Chanute Air Force Base grounds. Many of the homes are senior-occupied built 50 to 60 years ago. The homes are poorly insulated, resulting in high utility bills for its economically vulnerable population.
- **Rantoul Township High School**, with 740 total students, offers construction/repair, woodworking, electrical and other vocational classes that prepare students for building and construction related work. The students will work with Habitat for Humanity staff to go into the homes to do the agreed upon work.
- **Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County** works with all willing partners to improve the lives of families needing safe, affordable, decent housing. Habitat staff is highly experienced and skilled in evaluation, materials acquisition and construction and will supervise and instruct students.

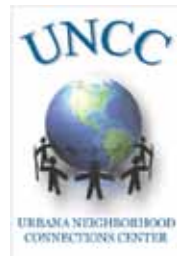
The project is a win, win, win for the Hope Meadows seniors whose homes are enhanced and the students who will learn and work on real projects that will offer them the satisfaction of knowing that their work has helped the seniors in whose homes they worked. Habitat will have made another step toward its mission of improving the lives of families needing safe, affordable and decent housing.

This project, we believe, can be replicated in other areas throughout our region by working with organizations or municipalities and with any high schools that offer construction programs.

Collective Impact Grants are intended to combine community resources efficiently and serve as models for nonprofits working together to create greater value and good for the community. The Community Foundation's W. Barclay and Frederick C. Brasch Endowment will provide \$150,000.



*Hope Meadows*



## Three Organizations in Building Better Boards Grant Process

**Courage Connection, Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center, and Hope Meadows in Rantoul** (the first Generations of Hope Community) are the recipients of the Community Foundation's first Building Better Boards grants.

These organizations have signed on to an intensive three-phase process of education and training estimated to take one to two years. The incentives are both to learn best practices to guide stronger governance and fundraising in their organizations, as well as the financial reward of \$10,000 in unrestricted funds from the Foundation upon successful completion of the first two phases.

In Phase Three, the organizations will raise money for their own endowment which the Foundation will match up to \$5,000. This will give each organization the opportunity to complete the process by creating a \$10,000 endowment with the Foundation.

## we start with DONORS

The Community Foundation team can work with you to establish a fund that provides support to the organizations, causes or areas of interest most important to you.



### Types of Community Foundation Funds

- |              |   |                   |
|--------------|---|-------------------|
| DESIGNATED   | ■ | DONOR ADVISED     |
| ENDOWMENT    | ■ | FIELD OF INTEREST |
| SCHOLARSHIPS | ■ | UNRESTRICTED      |

Call us at (217) 359-0125  
to get more information or  
to talk about your wishes for a fund.



## CFECI “Building” for the Future

### Leisters’ Endowment to Reflect Their Values



Bud and Sandy Leister have been giving to community organizations and causes throughout their marriage. They have supported many excellent organizations doing good work through serving on boards and committees and making primarily undesignated donations. A couple of years ago, they decided to establish the Bud and Sandy Leister Endowment with the Community Foundation.

Bud was on the Community Foundation Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2004, serving as Vice President in 2002 and President in 2003. “I learned a great deal about the impact the Community Foundation has on organizations that receive grants, the recipients of needed services and the resulting enhanced quality of life of the entire community,” he said.

“We have approached establishing our endowment as a three-stage process: getting started with our contributions, building the fund and then making the final decisions about what we want to fund,” said Bud. Sandy explained, “When we decided to start a named fund, we knew we wanted our support to stay local, but it is also important to us to thoughtfully decide to support those organizations and purposes that best reflect our personal values and interests. We are concluding the second stage and are finalizing our thoughts on where we want the funding to go.”

The Community Foundation thanks Bud and Sandy for their generosity.