

FOUNDATION FOCUS

 Community
Foundation
of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2019

Dear Foundation Friends,

Our Community Foundation has had another busy year. Through our newest initiative, the Aspiring Philanthropists Giving Circle, 25 younger (and younger at heart!) members of our community experienced the entire granting process. They identified community needs, toured local nonprofits and awarded their own grants funded through their collective donations. We were excited to meet with our second class of Aspiring Philanthropists last month, who are just as eager as the first class to make an impact in our community.

Our Center for Nonprofit Excellence continues its work with local nonprofits and their boards through our Building Better Boards program. This unique program helps board members understand the significant role they play in their nonprofit organization's success. We are also happy to report that the members of our Community Solutions Incubator continue to make great strides in their evolutions into fully operating nonprofits, thanks to the support they receive from our Incubator team. It is great to see them attacking some of the environmental, educational and health-related challenges in our community.

Our first "Board Bootcamp" was a great success. More than 100 board members, executive directors and staff members attended a two-hour educational session that covered the areas of board engagement, successful board-executive director collaborations, fundraising and financial reports and audits. We plan to offer these educational sessions regularly in the coming year, focusing on various aspects of nonprofit management.

As we look to the end of 2019, more research is available about the effect of the new tax laws on charitable giving. Sources report \$50 billion less in itemized charitable gifts which reflects an estimated \$30 billion less in support of nonprofits, religious and educational organizations. This is obviously a huge impact and will be felt locally in our nonprofit sector.

Our Community Foundation offers different ways to help you make charitable donations and maximize your tax benefits. Whether it is with a Donor-Advised Fund as Mary McGrath discusses on page 3 of this newsletter or through gifts to the Foundation from your IRA or your Required Minimum Distribution, there are many ways to provide critical support to local nonprofits that are important to you, now and forever.

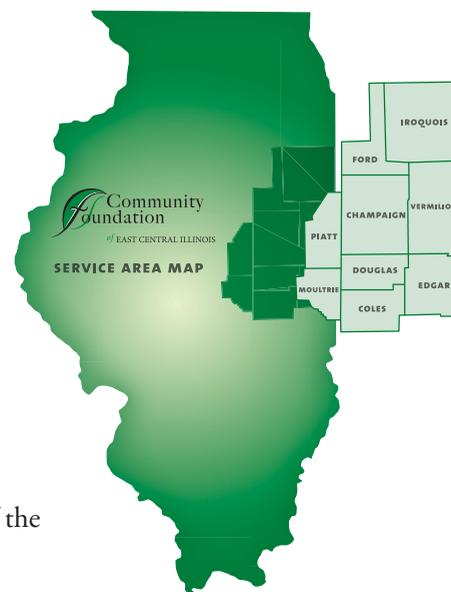
We appreciate you trusting us with your gifts. With your support, we will continue creating healthy communities, strong youth, accessible recreation, beautiful environments, support for the arts, safe seniors, effective nonprofits and an engaged community. Your generosity makes it possible for us to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



For good. Forever.


Joan

P.S. Enjoy this annual newsletter. We loved sharing it with you. After you read it, please pass it along to a friend who might like to learn more about the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.





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**Community Foundation
of East Central Illinois**
307 W. University Ave.
Champaign, IL 61820
217-359-0125
info@cfeci.org
www.cfeci.org

The CFECI is a 501(c) (3) organization.
All donations are tax deductible
to the full extent of the law.

The Community Foundation also
publishes bi-monthly e-newsletters
throughout the year.
To receive our e-newsletters, please
subscribe at www.cfeci.org.

Community Impact Powered by YOUR Philanthropy

Since 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 has allowed the Foundation to make more than \$1 million in distributions annually for several years to nonprofit organizations in east central Illinois.

Champaign County Crime Stoppers, Mahomet Area Youth Club, Promise Healthcare, The Land Connection and The Refugee Center all received funding for their staff and board members to use toward professional development through our **Capacity-Building Microgrants**.

Banks, Bridgewater, Lewis Fine Arts Academy, Boys & Girls Club of Danville, Champaign County Farm Bureau, Champaign County Health Care Consumers, Champaign County History Museum, Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation, Church Women United Clothing Center, Community Resource & Counseling Center, Crisis Nursery, CU Fair, Cunningham Children’s Home, Danville Family YMCA, Developmental Services Center, Dove, Inc., Dwelling Place of Vermilion County, Education Justice Project, FirstFollowers Reentry Program, Forest Preserve Friends Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County, Homestead Corporation, Hoopston Multi Agency Service Center, Land Connection, Peer Court, Inc., Piatt County Mental Health, Prairie Air Inc/WEFT, Salvation Army of Champaign County, Sarah Bush Lincoln Peace Meal, Sola Gratia Farm and Survivor Resource Center all received funding through our **Community Commitment Grants**. Funded by endowed funds, our guidelines offer these grants to nonprofit organizations for durable goods or capital items not typically covered by other granting bodies.

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 each of the nine counties we serve. We believe the combination of grants we offer serve as tools that will yield measurable and lasting impact results from our investment.

Thank you to the **Marajen Stevick Foundation** and the employees of News-Gazette Media for all the support they provided to the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois and the nonprofit organizations in our area for the past 28 years.

Through the Community Foundation **33 area nonprofit organizations** were beneficiaries of **Marajen Stevick Foundation Grants** and other program-related investments, receiving nearly **\$800,000** to support their work enhancing the lives of seniors, promoting beautification and encouraging excellence in reading and writing.



We appreciate the generosity of Mrs. Marajen Stevick Chinigo and the News-Gazette Media’s stewardship of her vision.

One-Stop Giving: The Convenience and Simplicity of Donor-Advised Funds



Mary McGrath, a Cozad Executive Vice President and Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner, has been providing sound financial advice for more than two decades. Her primary focus is estate and retirement planning for clients of high net worth or high income. Her professional affiliations include membership in the Estate Planning Council, the Executive Club of Champaign County, the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Financial Planning Association.

Mary is a dedicated community volunteer, serving as board chair, board member and volunteer at many local nonprofits organizations. She served as a board trustee for the Community Foundation from 1992-1995, serving as Treasurer in 1995. She lives in Champaign with her husband, Dennis Lewis, and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Many believe in keeping things simple as well as tax efficient. The Community Foundation's Donor-Advised Funds accomplish both of these things.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 changed the tax landscape for charitable giving. Fewer and fewer taxpayers are itemizing deductions and most are using the standard deduction, which for a 2019 joint tax return is \$24,400.

For many, this change meant a loss of tax advantages of charitable donations. But that's where the Donor-Advised Funds can help. It allows you to "front load" your charitable deductions.

Let's look at an example. Instead of donating \$10,000 per year to various charities and receiving nothing in tax savings, you could donate \$50,000 to a Community Foundation Donor-Advised Fund and use these dollars to fund your donations for the next five years. This also creates tax savings since you can deduct the entire \$50,000 in the year of the gift made to the Community Foundations Donor-Advised Fund since the amount is greater than the standard deduction.

It works even better if you use appreciated securities instead of cash since you can then avoid the capital gain tax by using it for the donation. Let's say rather than writing a check for \$50,000, you donate \$50,000 of McDonald stock you bought years ago for \$20,000. Now you not only get to deduct the \$50,000 charitable gift, but you also escape tax on the \$30,000 gain from the stock.

The Community Foundation can work with you to establish a Donor-Advised Fund. Whenever you want to donate to a charitable organization, send a request to the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation's board of trustees approves the donation at its next meeting and the funds are sent to the charity. You will also receive quarterly statements showing exactly how much is available in your Charitable Fund.

For more information or to start a Donor-Advised Fund with the Community Foundation, 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.**



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of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

307 West University Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820

www.cfeci.org

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Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **450** Nonprofit Organizations and Causes Served
- **\$18 million** Distributed to Nonprofits in East Central Illinois
- **\$27 million** in Total Assets

The Community Foundation Legacy Society. Perpetual Support for your Community.

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 you have made these arrangements and let us know if you would like your name included in future listings of the Legacy Society, or if you would like to be included in future meetings and gatherings. We are happy to respect your wishes if you would like to participate anonymously.



Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

For more information or to join our Legacy Society, 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.**



As a beneficiary of your deferred gift, the Community Foundation is charged with the legal and fiduciary responsibility of carrying out your wishes. The 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.