

# FOUNDATION Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2020

Dear Foundation Friends,

Early in March, it became apparent that we would have to immediately respond to the worsening Coronavirus pandemic. In collaboration with United Way of Champaign County, our organizations each contributed \$50,000 to establish the Champaign County COVID-19 Relief Fund.

While we all hoped this would be short-term work, the needs have persisted. Thanks to the generosity of our area and state funders, the Champaign County COVID-19 Relief Fund attracted a significant amount of donations and grants. By late October, the Fund had distributed \$1.2 million to 67 nonprofit organizations serving east central Illinois.

These grants were life-savers, often bridging the gap for our nonprofit partners until other funding became available. Neither the Community Foundation nor United Way took any fees from these donations—all the money raised went directly to these nonprofits and the people they serve.

In addition to the monetary support we provided, our staff also provided nearly 300 hours of support to area nonprofit leaders through our Building Better Boards program, Executive Director Support Groups, our Community Solutions Incubator initiative and through direct contact with nonprofits to assess and address community needs. We were also proud to serve as the fiscal agent for CU Sings, which lifted spirits and benefited Promise Healthcare and the Champaign County Health Care Consumers.

Another challenge was determining how our nearly 50-year organization should respond to calls for more diversity, equity and inclusion, as this summer, we were all called to address the sub-text of systemic racism and inequity throughout our society. We paused and we are now focusing on new ways the Foundation can help “raise all boats.” We take some pride in our intentional focus on the many organizations addressing the needs of our neighbors of color, the economically impoverished, immigrants and medically under-served. And we are also very proud of the increasing diversity of our Board of Trustees. But we know there is more work to be done.

Regrettably, we had to do all of this challenging work without the wisdom of our dear friend, Tom Costello, who passed away in April. Tom was one of only two Trustees to serve six years on our board—two separate times! He also served as our board chair and he and his wife Rose have an endowment with us named in memory of one of their sons, the Patrick Thomas Costello Endowment. We appreciate the many ways Tom served our community and we especially appreciate the wit and insight he brought to the Foundation.

And, because of the structure of the Community Foundation, the financial impact of the pandemic has been minimal. We have been able to keep our employees fully employed. We have been able to maintain our regular distributions and we have been able to manage and mobilize our financial resources to address local needs immediately. That is what it means to be here “For good. 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 and more diverse community. Your generosity makes it possible for us to raise the quality of life as we look toward brighter days.

**Stay safe. Stay well. Stay masked.**

Joan



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## Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

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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](http://www.cfeci.org).

# Community Impact Powered by YOUR Philanthropy

As the size of our available granting dollars has grown, our distribution 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 and scholarships we offer serve as tools that will yield measurable and lasting impact results from our investment. This year, we were able to increase the funds available for our annual Community Commitment Grants to \$100,000. After listening to the needs of our local nonprofit partners, we also made some changes to the parameters of our granting guidelines.

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 Community Foundation to make more than \$1 million in distributions annually for several years. This year, the Community Foundation was also able to award nearly \$53,000 in scholarships to area students.

## Community Commitment Grants are funded by endowed funds.

Boys and Girls Club of Danville, Channing-Murray Foundation, Community Resource and Counseling Center, Cunningham Children's Home, Dwelling Place of Vermilion County, Family Service of Champaign County, FirstFollowers Reentry Program, Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County, Homestead Corporation, Hoopeston Multi Agency Services, Mahomet Area Youth Club, Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program, The Salvation Army of Vermilion County, Sola Gratia Farm, Survivor Resource Center, Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center, Urbana Parks Foundation, Wesley Food Pantry, Willow Tree Missions and Women in Need Recovery.



*"With this grant, we were able to purchase a box truck used to deliver fresh veggies to our customers at farmers' markets, restaurants and to our CSA members. The truck has also helped us bring our veggies for donation and distribution to free markets in partnership with CUPHD and Carle/CU City Farms."* — Sola Gratia Farms

## Scholarships are funded by endowed scholarship funds.

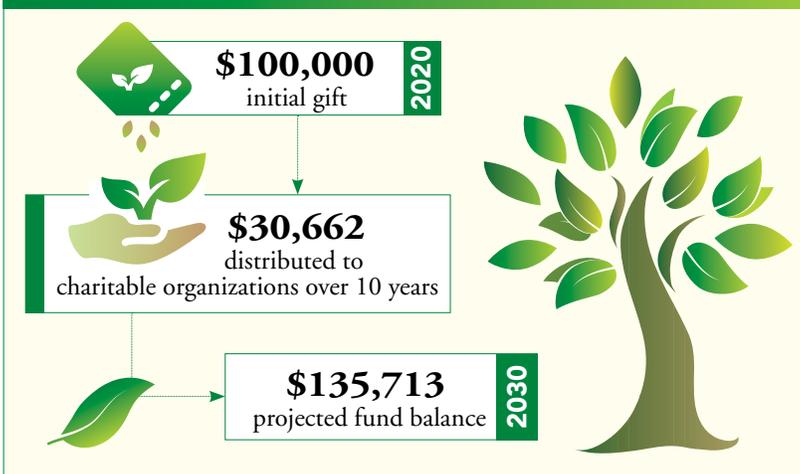
**Ayers Family:** Alexis Jones, **Tom Tracy Memorial Farm Credit Illinois Family:** Cassidi Collins, Britni Gortner, Sidney Hood, Cody Johnston, Noah Lintker, Natalie Mitchell, Abigail Repking, Andrew Rhode, David Rhode, Alexander Waldinger, Delaney Wheeler, Lauryn Wright, **Charlie Due Baseball:** Connor Milton, **Ida Hack:** Mara Pletcher, Andrea Penrose, Charles Moore, **Kathy Murphy:** Sophia Urban, Kyle Kinnamon, **Christine & Lucien Nesbitt:** Kia Southerland, Angela Xu, **James Sisk:** Liara Aber, Andrew Diep, **Clif Rocks!:** Angela Xu, Virginia Kirby, **Kenneth Freeland:** Kaitlyn Fink, **Dana Buerkett:** Samantha Drollinger, Jennifer Lim



*"These funds have substantially reduced my debt and associated stress as I continue along my career path. Fortunately, I will (finally) move on to paid work next year. I feel truly blessed that my dad is fortunate enough to work at a place that treats its employees and their families so well!"*

—David Rhode, a 4th-year medical student at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, recipient of the Tom Tracy Memorial Farm Credit Illinois Family Scholarship.

## Actual Growth of an Endowed Fund



## Leaving a Legacy for the Future

### How Your Endowment Fund Grows

Endowment funds offer donors the ability to create their charitable legacy. By establishing an endowed fund with our Community Foundation today, you will support our community for generations.

The power of an endowment is in its continuity. Your gift is preserved in perpetuity, with the funds pooled for maximum benefit and invested to achieve long-term growth. The principal of your fund is invested and protected while a portion of its earnings is distributed annually according to your wishes—continuing your tradition of charitable giving forever. After ten years, a \$100,000 gift will distribute more than \$30,662 to charitable organizations while its balance continues to grow to \$135,713, increasing the amount available for distributions each year.

Your gift can be large or small, outright or planned. Please let us help you with your charitable giving. We know our local community. We share your interests. We can help you achieve superior tax benefits and we will make set-up and administration of your fund easy.

#### Angie Hatfield Marker, VP of Development

*Please consider defining your legacy by establishing an endowed fund with our Community Foundation. For more information or to start an endowed fund with the Community Foundation, call us at (217) 359-0125.*



# Legacy Society

Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

## 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 that 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.



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 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.



of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

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Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

## OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **450** Nonprofit Organizations and Causes Served
- **\$19 million** Distributed to Nonprofits in East Central Illinois
- **\$27 million** in Total Assets

## One-Stop Giving

### The Convenience and Simplicity of Donor-Advised Funds

*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, call us at (217) 359-0125.

