

FOUNDATION FOCUS

YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER / DECEMBER 2021

Dear Friends,

As we enter this giving season, we share in the hope and optimism expressed by many of our friends and neighbors. It has been a difficult two years—a global pandemic, an economic crisis and a renewed awareness of the impact of systemic racism and inequity have converged to create unprecedented challenges for many in our community. But these challenges have also offered opportunities for our Community Foundation to make a lasting local impact.

So far this year, our Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to more than 140 local organizations working to create healthy communities, strong youth, accessible recreation, beautiful environments, support for the arts, safe seniors, effective nonprofits and an engaged and more diverse east central Illinois.

Our team has also provided hundreds of hours of non-monetary support to area nonprofit organizations through our Center for Nonprofit Excellence. The training, support and resources we offer through our Building Better Boards program, Board Bootcamps, Executive Director Leadership Network meetings and Community Solutions Incubator initiative has strengthened our local nonprofit sector—and our community as a whole.

Our generous donors make this funding and support possible. And we are grateful.

This giving season, please consider donating to our Foundation. Your generosity helps us raise the quality of life throughout east central Illinois, as we all look toward brighter days.

Thank you,



Angie Hatfield Marker
President & CEO

We celebrated Joan Dixon's retirement this past July. We are grateful to Joan for her nearly-20 years of leadership. Our Foundation has a long history of promoting philanthropy in an impartial, unbiased, ethical way, with a commitment to inclusiveness. Our team looks forward to working with our Board of Trustees, our loyal donors and our dedicated nonprofit partners to identify and address present and emerging community needs while expanding our impact in east central Illinois.

Pictured Left to Right: Grants and Scholarship Manager Kristen Duesdieker, President & CEO Angie Hatfield Marker, Retired President & CEO Joan Dixon, Center for Nonprofit Excellence Director Genevieve Kirk





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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.

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, making sustainable differences in each of the nine counties we serve.

Since 1972, our Community Foundation's total assets have grown from \$1,300 to nearly \$31 million. This growth in well-managed endowed funds and other assets has allowed our Foundation to make more than \$1.2 million in distributions annually for several years. This year, our Foundation was also able to award nearly \$53,000 in scholarships to area students.

Community Commitment Grants are funded by endowed funds.

4 Osprey, Champaign County Environmental Stewards, Champaign County Health Care Consumers, Channing-Murray Foundation, Community Resource & Counseling Center, Crisis Nursery, Cunningham Children's Home, Developmental Services Center, Fair Hope Children's Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Piatt County Mental Health Center, Promise Healthcare, Real Life Families, Sola Gratia Farm, Survivor Resource Network, The Land Connection, The Salvation Army of Champaign County, The Well Experience, WEFT Community Radio and Willow Tree Missions.

We remain grateful to our donors whose endowed funds provide perpetual support through our Community Commitment Grants. We are happy to support the Urbana Neighborhood Connection Center and its mission with funding to purchase sewing machines for their Fab Lab. "Whether making masks, pillows or special gifts for others, local seamstresses worked with youth to explore sewing and instill a productive sense of self-esteem and self-determination—all while promoting the importance of "giving back!"
— Executive Director Janice Mitchell

UNCC's Sewing and Believing Project has blossomed into a fully functioning sewing lab thanks to funding from our Foundation, ending 3+ years of transporting four sewing machines and materials to and from the center. UNCC's Fab Lab now has more than ten sewing machines and plenty of accessories for students. This creates a sustainable path for youth to regularly engage in personal and career development activities. Traditionally focused on middle and high school youth, the Sewing and Believing Project will now expand to include 4th and 5th grade youth as an intervention designed to promote positive youth development.



Scholarships are funded by endowed scholarship funds.

Ayers Family: Victoria Vandivier; **Tom Tracy Memorial Farm Credit Family:** Cassidi Collins, Brayden Freeman, Conner McKinney, Natalie Mitchell, Maclaren Ranstead, Katie Reid, Brooke Sobkoviak, Mackenzie Snow, Madison Snow, Kali Walker, Delaney Wheeler, Lauryn Wright; **Charlie Due Baseball:** Nathaniel Allen; **Ida Haack Memorial:** Kylie Fuoss, Payton Mannin, Megan Devine; **Kathy Murphy Memorial:** Emma Beddow, Emily Fuentes; **Christine & Lucien Nesbitt:** Benidel Bakubile-Ntumba, Nathaniel Allen; **James Sisk Memorial:** Michelle Stilger, Margaret Prom; **Pearl Sisk Memorial:** Aaron Hoewing; **Clif Rocks!:** Charles Hong, Niki Rangin; **Kenneth Freeland Memorial:** Cerra Thompson; **Dana Buerkett Memorial:** Esther Iluyomade, Najjah Tinsley.

Thank you to these community members who served on our grants and scholarship committees this year. Your time is a gift to our Foundation. Kelly Bryant, Whitney Hartman, Carol Hatfield, Debra Hirschi, Jacob Kuebler, Terrica Miller, Terra Mullins, Mark Palmer, Kandace Turner, Tami McKane Verbin and Joan Zernich.



LOCAL GIVING. ON YOUR TERMS.

Five Ways our Community Foundation Can Help Boost Your Holiday Joy

1. Connect with Family through Philanthropy

Charitable giving is a great way to bring families together. This year, consider browsing your favorite charity’s website to read more about their mission, programs and services. Print a page or two to share with your family at your holiday gathering—and invite your family to do the same. You may be surprised to see just how much each generation enjoys learning about the ways philanthropy is helping improve lives. Your family might even be inspired to make a joint gift to a charity you choose together. *Many of our Donor-Advised funds are “family funds”—and the entire family discusses and decides which organizations will receive annual charitable distributions.*



2. Use Tax-Savvy Tools to Donate Appreciated Stock and Optimize Your Deductions

Year-end is the time to look at your potential income tax liabilities, especially as you plan your charitable gifts. If you own appreciated stock, consider working with our Foundation to establish a Donor-Advised fund. Contribute the stock, receive a charitable income tax deduction for fair market value at the time of your gift, and make your year-end donations to several charities with ease. *Appreciated stock can be sold in your Donor-Advised fund for 100 cents on the dollar—with no capital gains tax. As a result, you will have more money available to support your favorite charities from your Donor-Advised fund than if you had sold the stock yourself.* If you are over 70 ½, you can also reduce your tax liability by transferring all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution from your Individual Retirement Account to our Foundation, in amounts up to \$100,000 per year.

3. Support Your Community’s Most Pressing Needs

Our Foundation is dedicated to promoting philanthropy in an impartial, unbiased, ethical way, with a commitment to inclusiveness. We bring together people and resources to identify and address present and emerging community needs. Our mission rings especially true during the holidays when so many in our community need help. Work with our team to learn how your year-end charitable dollars can make the biggest impact. We can help you select charities that align with your passions and interests—access to recreation, accessible housing, arts and culture, community development, education, environment, food insecurity, healthcare, immigrant assistance, faith-based, senior care—to name just a few! *We work with 180 different nonprofit organizations helping to raise the quality of life in east central Illinois. Let us connect you!*



4. Connect the Dots to Your Workplace Giving Program

Thanks to the growing culture of social responsibility and social impact—work, life, community and wellness have converged. Charitable giving is important to your employer and your colleagues. According to Double the Donation, 65% of Fortune 500 companies offer matching gifts programs to employees—thousands of small and mid-sized businesses do as well. *This holiday season, ask us for expert advice about making the most of your workplace giving program through a Corporate Fund.*

5. Give the Gift of Giving

Many of us want to support a child, grandchild, niece or nephew’s favorite charity as a gift during the holiday season. Work with our Foundation to pre-establish an Endowment Fund or Donor-Advised fund in the name of your loved one. You can even fund it with your appreciated stock or cash. Then work with our Foundation to sign the paperwork. We will help you wrap it all up in a bow for a heartwarming presentation! *There is no better way to boost holiday joy than by giving the gift of giving—especially when it is a fund that keeps on giving.*





of EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

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Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **450** Nonprofit Organizations and Causes Served
- **\$21 million** Distributed to Nonprofits in East Central Illinois
- **\$31 million** in Total Assets

Community Foundation Founding Board Member **In Grateful Memory of Kyle Robeson** **1929-2021**

In 1972 Kyle Robeson was one of seven community leaders dedicated to establishing a Community Foundation that would “develop a better county in which to live now as well as to leave a better community for future generations.”

With roots in our area that span generations, Kyle understood the importance of caring for each other now...and forever. The generosity of Kyle, Phyllis and their children will continue weaving the cloth of our community, perpetually. Their family—with Kyle at the helm—has shown us how to devote our time, talent and treasure to enhance and enrich the lives of our friends and neighbors.

We were honored to establish the Kyle & Phyllis Robeson Philanthropy Award, recognizing the many ways its recipients have given back to our area.

We remain guided by the vision of Kyle and our other founders to continue our work, raising the quality of life for those living in east central Illinois. Kyle was a great personality and a great community member—and he will be deeply missed by our community and our Community Foundation.

