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DECEMBER 2023

Foundation Focus

Celebrating Together: A Year of Impact and Gratitude

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits.

What a year it has been! We wrapped up our 50th-anniversary celebrations, navigated a leadership transition, and continued to raise the quality of life throughout east central Illinois. Our continued success is a testament to the unwavering commitment and generosity of our community—and our hardworking team.

Before we delve into the exciting accomplishments and milestones we've achieved, I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to you, our friends and supporters. Your steadfast belief in our mission and your ongoing generosity have been the driving force behind our success. Together, we are truly making a lasting impact.

Now, let's reflect on some of the highlights from the past year:

Empowering Youth: Through your generous contributions, we have provided scholarships to aspiring students, opening doors to brighter futures and ensuring that education remains a beacon of hope in our community.

Supporting Vital Services: In partnership with our nonprofit partners, we have continued to provide funding for essential services to those in need. Your contributions have meant food on the table, shelter for the homeless, support for seniors, and a lifeline for vulnerable members of our community.

Investing in Arts and Culture: Our commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of our community has never been stronger. Thanks to your support, we've sponsored art exhibitions, music festivals, and theater performances, bringing joy and inspiration to our lives.

Environmental Stewardship: We've taken steps to protect and preserve our environment, supporting initiatives that promote sustainability and ensure a healthier planet for generations to come.

Building Bridges: Our Foundation has continued to foster connections, collaboration, and inclusivity within our community. Your support has helped bridge divides and create a stronger, more united community.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we also look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. Our work is far from over, and with your continued support, we can make an even bigger impact in the future.

We kindly invite you to consider making a gift to the Community Foundation. Your contribution, no matter the size, plays a vital role in shaping the future of our community. Together, we can build a brighter, more equitable, and prosperous tomorrow for all.

To make your annual gift or learn more about our initiatives, please visit our website at www.cfeci.org or reach out to our dedicated team at (217) 359-0125.

Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Thank you,



Mark C. Palmer
Board Chair



Community Impact Powered By YOUR Philanthropy

We've distributed another \$1.6 million in annual support through grants and scholarships.

As a result of this support, more than 200 charitable organizations were able to improve, expand or enhance the vital services they provide in our area.

2023 Community Commitment Grant Recipients

Allerton Park & Retreat Center	DREAAM	R.A.C.E.S.
Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana	East Central IL Refugee Mutual Assistance Center	Real Life Families
Boys & Girls Club of Danville	Eastern Illinois Foodbank	RISE Behavioral Health and Wellness
Campus Middle School for Girls	Fair Hope Children's Ministry	Sola Gratia Farm
Champaign Co Design & Conservation	Family Service	Survivor Resource Center
Champaign County Environmental Stewards	Feeding Our Kids	The Family Room
Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation	FirstFollowers	The Land Connection
Coles Co Council on Aging	First Presbyterian Church	The Rosecrance Foundation
Community Resource & Counseling Center	Forest Preserve Friends Foundation	The UP Center of Champaign County
Country Theatre Workshop	Girl Scouts	Twin City Theatre Company
CRIS Healthy Aging	Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County	Urbana Band Boosters
Crisis Nursery of Champaign Co	Hope Meadows	Urbana Pops Orchestra
Crosspoint Human Services	Hoopeston Multi Agency Service Center	Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center
CU at Home	Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana	USRC
Cunningham Children's Home	Piatt County Mental Health Center	Willow Tree Missions
Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club	Promise Healthcare	X-Time



"The Community Foundation has been a valued partner of the foodbank for more than 20 years. Their grants have provided several key pieces of equipment, including forklift batteries, an automatic wrap machine, storage totes, a can- tester and a pallet jack.

Through recent years of unprecedented need in east central Illinois, they have remained committed to championing local organizations who keep our community strong. Their unwavering support allows us to operate efficiently and feed more of our neighbors."

-Kelly Daly, President & CEO, Eastern Illinois Foodbank

As the size of our available granting dollars grows, 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. 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 these community members who served on our grants and scholarship committees this year: Lee Cleary, Holly Clemons, John Cotner, Donna Davis, Joan Dixon, Tamsyn Gilbert, Carol Hatfield, Austin Hill, Wes Hunter, Jacob Kuebler, Joe Murphy, Diane Pritchard, Jaclyn Ridge, Todd Salen, Dena Slade, Kimberly Smith, Rod Stoll, John Stuff, and Tami McKane Verbin. **Your time is a gift to our Foundation.**

We Help Nonprofits Do Good Work, Better.

This year we have taken additional measurable steps to expand the offerings of our Center for Nonprofit Excellence to strengthen our local nonprofit sector.
Your ongoing support helps us help the helpers. And we're grateful.

STRENGTHENING PERFORMANCE THROUGH OUR TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS AND BOARD BOOTCAMPS

"Thank you for the presentation of Board Roles & Responsibilities! You did a great job of setting the tone and the ground rules for the board this year, and our Board Chair turned her enthusiasm to motivating the board members to do what they need to do. I think we are off to a great start!"

- Andrea Rundell
Executive Director, YWCA Champaign County



PROMOTING COLLABORATION THROUGH PEER CIRCLES AND INFORMATION SHARING

"The Introduction to Capital Campaigns session was really a pleasure, well-organized and I learned so much from each of you. I feel recharged and excited for our next steps!"

- Traci Barkley
Director, Sola Gratia Farm



SUPPORTING EMERGING VENTURES THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS INCUBATOR

"Thank you for the opportunity to learn how to develop further and sustain my nonprofit organization. When I think about the women and foster youth lives I will impact, I get excited about rolling up my sleeves and getting in the trenches!"

- Sharva Hampton-Campbell, EdD, MSW
Founder, Women on the Move Network Global



Interested in attending an upcoming training or workshop?
Visit www.cfeci.org for more information or
e-mail cne@cfeci.org for our current offerings.



Follow us on social media for timely updates.



50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 700 Charitable Organizations and Causes Served
- \$24 Million Distributed to Nonprofits in East Central Illinois
- \$33 Million in Total Assets



As we look to the next 50 years, we're building momentum for an even more exciting future of community philanthropy—making a real difference in east central Illinois. Please join us.

If you don't have a fund with us, consider establishing one to support your favorite charities now and forever. The arts. The environment. Your Alma Mater. Your place of worship. Current and future community needs. You can support ALL the organizations that are important to you, perpetually.

With your help, we can continue to build upon our rich history, expand and enhance our current initiatives and inspire life-changing philanthropy for the next 50 years—and beyond.

