While the “new normal” may still seem out-of-focus, what’s crystal clear is that our communities’ collective actions will determine what the future of our nonprofit sector will look like.

The past seven months have been an all-in effort to provide resources to nonprofits in a timely fashion so that they can continue to serve our communities, as many have had to lay off staff, cancel fundraisers, and even close their doors for a period of time.

Your Community Foundation is humbled to be able to provide financial relief through grants totaling more than $400,000 to nonprofits in all 12 counties of our service area. This total includes grants from our own COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Fund, which was established using unrestricted endowment funds and community contributions, and in partnership with the Illinois COVID-19 Relief Fund and the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund. The COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Fund was established in March and its first grants were distributed in early April in response to the stay-at-home order. In the months following, several more rounds of grants were distributed to nonprofits assisting those with food and financial insecurity, child care, health and mental health needs, and emergency shelter.

“Donors to unrestricted funds entrust us to impact the region’s most pressing needs and opportunities,” says Catherine Bocke Meckes, Community Foundation CEO. “This year, without a doubt, that need is relief from the challenges COVID-19 has presented.”

These grants are possible because of the generosity and foresight of generous donors. Whether that’s through the establishment of an unrestricted endowment fund to support needs and opportunities we may not foresee – like the COVID-19 pandemic – or through gifts to strengthen the impact of these funds, our work is possible because of donors like you.

At a time when people were asked to physically stay apart, our communities came together to make a difference when, where, and how it was needed most.
Patients Hesitant to Seek Care Offered Curbside Nurse Visits

Anxiety and uncertainty are two words to describe the feeling in the healthcare industry when COVID-19 cases began increasing. Local hospitals and clinics prepared for the worst and were unsure what to expect. In preparation, Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois sought ways to both keep patients safe from the impending virus and reduce barriers for those accessing care for other illnesses.

“Learning to treat clients in the transition was necessary to provide safe care for our clients who were immunocompromised or at greater risk for complications,” said Mary Jane Clark, Director of the West Central Illinois Area Health Education Center.

In an effort to serve all patients in a safe and healthy way, Clark applied for and received a grant from the Community Foundation's COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Fund to assist with these efforts.

“The grant funding allowed the Memorial Medical Clinic to rent a tent for outside of our building for immediate lab draws when fears and anxieties were highest as the pandemic restrictions began to impact these critical services,” said Clark.

The funding also allowed for a wireless access point so clinic staff could access and verify patient information from inside the tent.

“Things are not back to normal,” explained Clark. “However, the separation of patients using the Illness Clinic allowed for the clinic to move patients back into the building at the end of the initial tent rental.”

And although it may have looked different than the traditional healthcare setting, it proved to be the perfect solution to create peace-of-mind for both patients and providers.

Village of the Blue Rose Rising to Challenges after Pandemic Halts Operations

A blue rose is described by many as a beautiful and rare occurrence; but only with special care, attention, and patience does a blue rose grow to its fullest potential. That is much like the residents at Village of the Blue Rose in Clarksville, Missouri as it provides a living and working community for adults with developmental disabilities.

Nestled along the picturesque Mississippi River, the Village provides 60 acres of safe-space for seven young adults to live, learn, and work in a loving family-type environment as the residents not only live onsite, but also work at an onsite restaurant, flea market, antique shop, and B&B rooms in the lodge.

In March, operations at the Village were turned upside-down as COVID-19 caused the closure of the restaurant, B&B rooms, as well as the shops where the residents work.

“As with many others, we were shocked that a tiny virus could close down all of our operations,” said Acting Executive Director Mary Grenfell. “Our residents were shocked too as they suddenly lost their daily routine and income.”

With income dropping close to zero, Grenfell applied for and received a grant from the Community Foundation's COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Fund.

“Every little bit helps us continue to provide the home-work environment that many of our residents have known for almost twenty years,” said Grenfell.

Today, operations remain changed and limited, but organizers have re-opened the restaurant and B&B rooms which allows for a dose of normalcy around the Village. However, things are far from being how they were before. Grenfell says funding solely depends on the generosity and philanthropy of those in the community.

“We were happy to discover that the foundation exists and hope it can continue to support nonprofits for many years to come,” added Grenfell.
**2020 Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lydia Ahrens</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Hannibal, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Grady</td>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Mt. Sterling, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Wharton</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Benson</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Costigan</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandar Dighe</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Durall</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Pittsfield, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Fox</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Carthage, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hansen</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hetzler</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Ipson</td>
<td>Chief Community Officer</td>
<td>Hannibal, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura McReynolds</td>
<td>Chief Development Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Moon</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Nation</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Barry, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Niederhauser</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyle Paben</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Bowen, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Spear</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff:**
- **Chief Executive Officer** Catherine Bocke Meckes
- **Chief Financial Officer** Jon O’Neal
- **Chief Community Officer** Heath Richmond
- **Development Officer** Kaylee McFarland
- **Administrative Officer** Krista Pfeiffer

Are you looking for a simple way to make a planned gift? Designate your Community Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA, insurance policy, 401K or other retirement plan.

---

**All in For the Arts!**

While most nonprofit organizations have been impacted by the pandemic, arts organizations have been especially challenged. Canceled seasons, lost ticket sales, shuttered exhibits, and postponed fundraisers have caused a devastating impact within the arts world. In Illinois, assessed organizational losses through April alone exceed $84 million, impacting nearly 17,000 full and part-time jobs.

Community donors answered the call throughout the month of July as the Community Foundation took part in a matching grant challenge issued by the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, based in Chicago. The initiative was in an effort to direct more funds to downstate arts organizations impacted by the pandemic. To do so, the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund partnered with Community Foundations throughout the state. All dollars raised by the July 30th deadline were matched by 50% from the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund.

In total, $25,000 was raised to support local arts organizations experiencing challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One hundred percent of the funds generated were used for unrestricted operating support grants for two local arts organizations; Quincy Community Theatre and Arts Quincy, which were selected through an application process administered through the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had, and continues to have, a devastating impact on the creative community. While the future is still unclear, one thing is certain, we are all in for the arts!

“**You’re helping to support arts access throughout all of Quincy and Adams County at a time when the arts are bringing peace and comfort to those who need it most.**”

—Arts Quincy Executive Director Laura Sievert

“**Just as a ‘ghost light’ fills and energizes an empty stage, this community continues to be a light for QCT while our theatre is dark.**”

— Quincy Community Theatre Executive Director Sara Reuschel

---

**To learn more about The Community Foundation’s COVID-19 response efforts, visit**

www.mycommunityfoundation.org
While no one could have predicted the impact of COVID-19, thoughtful planning can provide resources to support unpredictable needs and opportunities. This year, donations were combined with unrestricted endowment funds to establish the COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Fund.

One of those unrestricted endowment funds was the James R. & Katherine H. Williams Fund, which was established by the late Katherine Williams through a bequest. The fund is close to the hearts of James and Katherine’s son, Jim, and his wife, Margie.

“We have so many families that have been here in this community for such a long time. I would encourage families that this would be a way that, even when you’re not here, your family can still impact quality of life and make a difference,” said Margie Williams.

Giving back has a different meaning for each of us. No matter how you give back, the Community Foundation can help meet your needs and preferences with a variety of opportunities for giving at all levels.