CEO Program Takes Root in Adams and Brown Counties

For many of us, it’s no secret that our region provides a wealth of opportunity to plant roots, find success, and invest in the community. The Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program aims to ensure that high school students also embrace this potential.

Already established in Hancock and Pike Counties, IL, the CEO program is now taking root in Adams and Brown/Schuyler Counties, IL with the Community Foundation serving as fiscal sponsor.

The year-long program, planned to launch for the 2020-2021 school year, will provide hands-on, real-world experiences in local communities for high school seniors. Local businesses partner with the program to create project-based experiences for students, including visiting local businesses, learning from guest speakers, participating in a business class, and starting and operating their own business.

In Adams County, students from Adams County high schools, including Central, Liberty, Payson, Quincy Christian, Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy Public, and Unity High Schools will be selected to participate. In Brown and Schuyler Counties, participating students will be from Brown County and Rushville Industry High Schools.

In 2016, the Community Foundation invested in the startup of Hancock County CEO through a grant from the Carthage Community Development Fund. Students who participated in the initial year provided positive feedback on the program, including “Every day I become more motivated for my own personal business,” and “The class has taught me how to work with new people and brainstorm. I know this will help me in a business setting later.”

For more information, visit www.adamscountyceo.com and www.brownschuylerceo.com.

Search for Adams or Brown/Schuyler CEO on Facebook to stay up-to-date.
New Funds Enhance Education opportunities throughout Region

Funds at the Community Foundation are as diverse as its donors, supporting the arts to animal welfare and everything in between. Advancing education holds a special place in many hearts, including that of those who established three new funds benefitting educational opportunities throughout our region. Although all three will have a positive impact on youth through access to education and extracurricular activities, each has its own distinct goals and focus area.

The **Ben & Helen Bumbry Educational Assistance Endowment**, an Acorn Fund, was established by the Jackson-Lincoln Swimming Complex in honor of the late Ben Bumbry and his wife, Helen. Once matured, the fund will provide opportunity for educational programs within the boundaries of the Quincy Public School District, with a preference for programs that provide under-served youth with musical and performing arts education.

The **Lincoln Colored School Endowment**, an Acorn Fund, honors the legacy of those who attended the Lincoln Colored School in Canton, MO by providing assistance to African-American students in the Canton R-V School District. Once matured, the fund will permanently provide students with the support needed to break financial barriers and reach their educational and extracurricular goals.

The **Bud & Mary Scranton Endowment** benefits Payson-Seymour High School’s athletic department, including equipment, uniforms, and other uses that will support students as they pursue high school athletics. As a designated endowment, it will distribute an annual grant to Payson-Seymour High School in perpetuity to fulfill the Scrantons’ charitable goals.

To view all of our funds or to help any of them grow, please visit www.mycommunityfoundation.org.

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**Chief Financial Officer**
Jon O’Neal

**Chief Community Officer**
Heath Richmond

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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.
Legacy Theater Provides More than Entertainment

Although the line-up reads like that of a stage in Branson or Chicago, our region’s residents can take in the sights and sounds of The Bee Gees, Johnny Cash, and Willie Nelson in their own backyard. The Legacy Theater in Carthage, IL hosts a variety of nationally-performing tribute bands, musicians, magicians, ballet, and more. But, it’s not just providing big-city entertainment that makes The Legacy Theater a jewel in West Central Illinois.

According to Joy Swearingen, Legacy Theater board member, it’s an economic and educational boon. “Our Carthage restaurants show a noticeable increase in customers on show days. For the local folks, it is a great part of developing ‘quality of life’ for this rural area. Educationally, our schools, dance studios and music teachers have a wonderful place for their students to perform as well as become inspired by the arts through shows they see.”

The Legacy Theater received a 2019 Community Foundation competitive grant that will be leveraged through a current matching campaign to raise money for professional-quality light and sound equipment. Every dollar that is raised during the campaign will be matched by a group of local donors, up to $50,000. Currently, the theater rents the equipment. By purchasing it, the theater will see a savings for each show and add to its continued improvement efforts.

“Looking back from where we have come in just three years, the future is very exciting,” says Swearingen. “Most of all, we want to keep featuring the kind of live performers that draw people to the area. We want the theater and the area to grow as a destination for bus groups and tourists.”

Upcoming holiday attractions at The Legacy Theater include The Prophecy Show: A Trans Siberian Orchestra Tribute on November 30 and The Minnesota Ballet performing The Nutcracker on December 5, 6, and 7. More information and tickets can be found at www.thelegacytheater.com.

A Gift that Keeps Giving: IRA Charitable Distribution

If you’ve considered establishing or contributing to a fund at the Community Foundation, consider this: individuals age 70 ½ and older can transfer IRA assets directly to a public charity, including the Community Foundation, tax-free. It’s one of the easiest ways to give a gift that keeps giving.

A fund with the Community Foundation is a simple way to meet your charitable goals – broad or specific – and make a positive impact on the community or communities you call “home” for generations. Current funds empower youth, support arts and culture, improve specific communities or counties, and so much more. Contact us to discuss your charitable goals and how to best reach them.

Please confirm with your tax or financial advisors on how this opportunity affects you. The IRS does not permit gifts from IRAs to Donor Advised Funds.
We apologize if we have made an error in your name or address. Please notify us with corrections.