More than $100,000 Awarded through Competitive Grants to Area Not-for-Profits

Forty-two area not-for-profits received a record $108,927 through this year’s competitive grant program. The grants, awarded from 39 endowment funds, will support a wide range of local, charitable interests. The checks were awarded during a presentation on August 17 at Cheerful Home in Quincy, IL.

As of this year’s awards, the Community Foundation has made more than 2,500 grants totaling more than $4 million since 1999, providing local support for various programs and projects in the region.

“These grants are a testament to the generosity of people in this region, and watching the amount we’re able to distribute grow year after year demonstrates the power of endowment,” said Bill McCleery, Jr., Community Foundation Board of Directors Chair. “This year’s grants will touch individuals in every county in our service area, providing support not only for needs, but opportunities.”

The Community Foundation annually accepts competitive grant applications from not-for-profit organizations in 12 west central Illinois and northeast Missouri counties. A grant committee, comprised of volunteers and board members from the region, evaluates each application to determine awards. Grants are awarded for needs and opportunities in the areas of arts and culture, community betterment, education, health and human services.

For a list of this year’s competitive grant recipients, visit www.mycommunityfoundation.org.

Contact Info:

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Sarah Stephens, Executive Director of Horizons Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, accepts a Competitive Grant award from Community Foundation Board Secretary Lydia Ahrens.
Make a difference with your Charitable IRA

There are many ways to support the not-for-profit organizations close to your heart.

Do you know that if you are 70½ years of age or older, one of the easiest gifts to make is to have a portion of your required minimum distribution from your individual retirement account (IRA) gifted directly to the Community Foundation or other public charities – tax-free? Any amount, up to $100,000 from your IRA, qualifies for an IRA Charitable Distribution.

Your IRA gift transfer to the Community Foundation advances the core mission to connect people who care with causes that matter. You can choose to give to any of more than 150 existing, eligible funds. Our funds empower children, provide families access to nutritious food, prepare teens for successful adulthood, support our workforce, nurture art, music, and theater activities, and much more (see page 5 for a list of funds).

You can also use an IRA Charitable Distribution to establish a unique fund with the Community Foundation that accomplishes your financial and philanthropic goals.

Please contact us to discuss your goals and the best ways to reach them.

NOTE: 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.

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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.
Local Youth Gain More than Music Skills

By involving students in music, they not only find joy but also foster self-discipline, teamwork and problem solving skills. In 2016, grants from the Green-Humphrey Family Fund for Music, the Samantha Otte Youth Opportunity Fund, the Jayne & Leroy Boeckelman Fund for Young Musicians, and the Alan L. Stiegemeier and Mary Ellen Stiegemeier Charitable Fund allowed the Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association to reach more than 3,500 children through the Youth Orchestra, Youth Chorus, Young People’s Concerts and free admission to all concerts for students under 18.

The Quincy Symphony Orchestra’s free Young People’s Concerts bring music to students in area schools and are open to the public. In 2016, students from 35 schools attended, five more schools than the previous year. The orchestra performs music specifically chosen for young listeners so they can learn and enjoy the concerts. Apart from just listening to music, the students are invited to participate in hands-on demonstrations, where they can play instruments and meet the musicians.

For many members of the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, passing on their love of music to a new generation of musicians is an important part of their work. With help from the Community Foundation and its donors, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra is able to help inspire a new generation of young musicians.

Literacy Program Grants Available

Eleanor Rueter believed, “If you can’t read, you can’t do much of anything.” So, she set her mind to giving students the best chance to succeed.

The Raymond, Norbert and Eleanor Rueter Fund provides grants to schools to serve kindergarten through 12th grade students who have difficulty with reading and comprehension skills. Illinois schools, public or private, in the Community Foundation’s geographic service area are eligible to apply.

Funding requests must meet the fund’s goals and be submitted online through the Community Foundation’s website. Grants help cover tutoring or specialized education costs primarily for, but not limited to, improving reading and comprehension skills of students whose insufficient skills are a source of difficulty in their ability to make academic progress.

Grants are made on an ongoing basis, as funds are available, to schools or their foundations; grants are not made to individuals. Grants are made for a one-year period at the discretion of the Community Foundation’s Board of Directors. For more information, contact us or visit www.mycommunityfoundation.org and type ‘Rueter’ in the search option.
Three New Funds Serve Donors’ Charitable Passions

The Community Foundation recently welcomed three new endowments. These will ensure that nonprofits in our community benefit from each permanently endowed fund now and into the future.

Lowell and Vickie Glas Designated Fund: Lowell and Vickie Glas do not want the impact that their community and the organizations in it have had on their lives to go unrecognized.

Vickie spent her career at Moorman and ADM while Lowell made his career in sales and worked for more than 47 years at Modern Printing. Each has felt that because Quincy and the surrounding area have given so much to them, it was important to give back.

They decided to begin fulfilling their vision of giving back by creating the Lowell and Vickie Glas Designated Fund.

The fund will annually support organizations close to the Glas’ hearts, creating a legacy that will last generations.

Patricia M. Lawber Education Endowment Fund

During her 50-year career at Mercantile Bank, a lot changed for Pat Lawber. When she started as a bookkeeper in 1962, she had to look up each individual check by hand to verify dates, amounts and signatures.

While technology has changed, the importance of education has been a constant.

As a long-time mentor for third grade students at Dewey school, she has first-hand experience witnessing early education’s impact. She likes that third grade students are “willing to learn as much as possible.”

With this in mind, Pat began an Acorn Fund at the Community Foundation. An Acorn Fund is a seedling that in time will grow to become permanent.

She specifically wants to provide support for classroom curricula. Upon maturity, this fund will become endowed, continuing to help young students in Quincy for years to come.

United Way of Brown County:

The United Way of Brown County has been serving its communities since it was established in 1997 with a modest campaign goal of $2,500 and a handful of recipient organizations. Since then, the United Way has grown its campaign goal to $110,000 and more than 20 recipient organizations.

The United Way of Brown County focuses on providing a foundation for life for the people of the county, concentrating on education, financial stability and health. Because so many of its partner organizations depend on funding from United Way, it wanted to make sure to plan for the future by starting the United Way of Brown County Fund, an endowment, with the Community Foundation.

“United Way hopes that our investment with the Community Foundation will grow and be able to help our recipient organizations for years to come,” Tricia Baker, United Way of Brown County Board President said.
Fund Spotlight: Robert G. and Melva Campbell Riley Fund

After 51 years of marriage, Bob and Melva Riley were beginning to find choosing useful and meaningful gifts for each other more and more difficult. When Melva was hospitalized in the months before Christmas of 2006, she and Bob were unable to spend time shopping for appropriate presents.

“We decided it seemed an ideal means to provide gifts to each other and for the community we love,” said Bob.

The Riles started their fund as an Acorn, and it wasn’t long before the couple built it to an Unrestricted Endowment. Melva died in 2012 and Robert followed in 2015; however, their legacy and their gift of love continues to grow. Grants from their endowment support charitable needs and opportunities throughout the region.
Celebrate the Roaring 20th

The Community Foundation is turning 20 and will celebrate accordingly with the Roaring 20th Gala on November 4, 2017. Join us for an evening of Gatsby-style fun, including dinner, dancing with entertainment by the Matt McCallie Orchestra, and our inaugural VISION Awards honoring forward-thinking philanthropists.

You can find out more about the Roaring 20th Gala and ticketing by calling the Community Foundation at 217-222-1237 or emailing us at info@mycommunityfoundation.org.