Alzheimer’s Association Honors Bette J. Starnes’ Legacy

By 2025, experts estimate that the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer’s disease will increase by nearly 35 percent to 7.1 million. The Alzheimer’s Association is dedicated to heightening the conversation throughout the region by raising awareness, reducing the stigma, promoting early detection, and providing caregiver support programs.

A 2015 bequest from the Bette J. Starnes Trust established the Alzheimer’s Association Endowment, a designated fund, with the Community Foundation to ensure there will always financial support for these efforts in West Central Illinois. In December 2016, the Alzheimer’s Association received its first annual grant resulting from that endowment.

Throughout 2017, the Quincy office of the Alzheimer’s Association used those dollars to help provide programs and services for more than 1,100 individuals. These programs made strides towards the Alzheimer’s Association’s mission:

- 516 people living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer’s increased their knowledge of the disease and gained caregiving skills.
- 2 special programs were held for veterans.
- 47 callers were counseled through the office’s 24/7 helpline.
- 10 support groups were held, reaching 60 individuals.
- 1,436 participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in September.

In addition to the Alzheimer’s Association, Starnes’ bequest to the Community Foundation supports the Bette J. Starnes Fund for the Quincy Humane Society and competitive grantmaking through the Bette J. Starnes Endowment Fund.

Because of her vision, her permanent legacy is supporting the causes that mattered to her for generations to come – right here in the region she called home.
Competitive Grant Applications due June 1

Spring has sprung, and with it the Community Foundation’s annual competitive grant program. Not-for-profit organizations in the Community Foundation’s 12-county service area are invited to apply online for a grant by the program’s June 1 deadline.

Applications are accepted from organizations classified as IRS 501(c)(3) or units of government located in Adams, Brown, Hancock and Pike Counties in Illinois and Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls and Shelby Counties in Missouri.

Grants are awarded from Unrestricted Endowment Funds, which serve arts and culture, community betterment, education, health and human services; Field of Interest Endowment Funds, which serve a specific interest or geographic area; and County Endowment Funds, which benefit a specific county. County Endowment Funds include Brown, Hancock and Pike in Illinois and Lewis and Marion in Missouri.

Grant awards will be presented mid-August.

To learn more and access the online application, visit www.mycommunityfoundation.org.
New Funds Endow Education

If there’s one lesson the donors who established two new endowment funds have learned, it’s that strong educational roots can grow into a prosperous future. Because of their generosity and vision, students in Griggsville-Perry and Palmyra will benefit now and for years to come.

Betty Logan Fund

Betty Logan knew the importance of education and was no stranger to hard work and perseverance.

She graduated from Perry (IL) High School at age 15. In 1942, at age 17, she graduated from Western Illinois State Teachers College with a two-year teaching certificate. In the fall of 1942, her father took her to meet the Pike County Regional School Superintendent regarding a teaching position in a one-room schoolhouse near her home northeast of Perry. Teachers at the time were required to be 18 years of age, but the superintendent was impressed by Betty and told her “17-1/2 is 18” in his book. She eventually earned her bachelor’s degree from Quincy College and master’s degree from Western Illinois University, and enjoyed a 38-year teaching career in Pike County, retiring in 1981.

To honor Betty and her lifelong passion for learning, her son Edward Logan, daughter-in-law Ronda Logan, and granddaughter Dani Davis established the Betty Logan Fund – a designated fund benefitting Griggsville-Perry Community Unit School District #4. The Betty Logan Fund will make an annual grant to the school district for educational purposes including educational equipment, field trips or special projects, instructional materials, and learning development tools leaving a legacy of learning in her memory for generations to come.

Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Endowment Fund

The Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Preschool Program in Palmyra, MO strives to meet the needs of the whole child in an environment that also nurtures the spiritual growth of the child.

When its longtime director retired in 2017, the preschool saw the perfect opportunity to honor her and to help secure the future of the program.

“Our Board of Education realized the need for a stable, predictable source of income for our organization,” said Regina Boyer, Chairman of the preschool’s board of education. “We began by asking our members to make a donation to honor Mrs. Luella Powell, who retired after 45 years of service to our preschool. Our members responded wonderfully. Their support will grow the endowment and ensure Christ-centered, early childhood education is available in our community.”

The Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Endowment will provide long-term, permanent support for Zion’s preschool, allowing the organization to focus on its mission and the students it serves.
New Officers, Board Members Elected, Two ‘Retire’

The Community Foundation elected officers and four new members to its Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

Philip Krupps, of Mt. Sterling, was elected board chair. He is president & CEO at Brown County State Bank in Mt. Sterling, IL. Krupps previously served as a board member from 2005-2009 and as board chair in 2010 and 2011. “It is a humbling pleasure to have the opportunity to serve not only the Community Foundation, but our community. The Community Foundation has become a pure reflection of the ideals and commitment of community to positively impact our neighbors well beyond our own individual efforts,” said Krupps.

Lydia Ahrens, of Hannibal, was elected vice chair. Ahrens is a community volunteer and previously served as secretary of the Board. She has served on the Board of Directors since 2013.

Laura McReynolds, of Quincy, was elected secretary. McReynolds is a partner at Adams & McReynolds, LLC and has served on the Board of Directors since 2015.

Erin Wharton, of Quincy, was re-elected treasurer. Erin has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. She is a partner at Gray Hunter Stenn LLP.

New Board Members

Mandar Dighe, of Quincy, James Hansen, of Quincy, Lynn House, of Payson, and Debbie Niederhauser, of Quincy, join the Community Foundation as board members.

The Board of Directors also recognized and thanked two retiring board members for their service. William McCleery, Jr. of Quincy, IL retired after 8 years of service, including two years as board chair in 2016 and 2017. McCleery is a partner with Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu & Mitchell. Julie Bowen of Quincy, IL retired after serving on the board since 2013. Bowen is senior vice president & director of marketing at Mercantile Bank. Although no longer on the board, the two are remaining active through service on committees.

Performing Arts Grant Opportunities Available

As a young child, the late Mary Ridder Cherny showed signs of talent in music which her parents greatly encouraged. Piano was her first love and she started taking private lessons. She blossomed into an accomplished violinist and also learned to play the oboe and cornet. She graduated college with a music education degree. Throughout her life, she never abandoned her love of music.

The Mary Ridder Cherny Fund honors her commitment to her family, vocation and students. The Fund provides financial support to Quincy public and parochial schools primarily for 6-8th grade students who want to participate in the performing arts. Grants from the fund may be used to provide funding for student talent or merit awards, to help deserving students cover costs of lessons, workshops, and rental or for purchase of instruments, music, scripts or related items.

Requests for funding may be submitted online at www.mycommunityfoundation.org by June 1.
Although both have passed way, their foresight to in establishing a fund involvement and as a gift to the area which is their family’s home.
Tax Law & Your Charitable Giving

Have you spoken to your tax advisor about how the new tax laws may or may not have an effect on your charitable giving? There may be an advantage to “bunching” your charitable contributions in one year rather than contributions on an annual basis to maximize deductions.

No matter your strategy, the Community Foundation Serving West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri will work with you and your professional advisors to find the best way to support what matters most to you.