



C O F O K O R O V

"THE ONE WHERE THEY PIVOT"

2021 Annual Report



I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

When the rain starts to pour

Building and preserving the funds of many individuals and institutions.
Creating and supporting vital and caring communities through philanthropy.
Awarding grants to non-profit organizations that serve members who reside in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

Like I've been there before

Through leadership, stewardship, and grants, Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley enhances quality of life throughout Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

'Cause you're there for me too.

Connecting people who care with causes that matter in our community.

Friends images captured by Bill Jurevich of Image Group Photography. Thank you to our community members who helped bring our vision to life: Mayor Chris Curtis (*Kankakee*), Staci Wilken (*KCCVB*), Tocarra Eldridge, Aaron Robinson (*Still I Rise*), & Kristin Jackson (*Child Network*).



Nicole Smolkovich
Executive Director



Mia Hansen
Director of Programs and Communications

CAST

2021-2022 Board of Directors

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DEAR F•R•I•E•N•D•S,

This year's theme seemed so fitting for 2021. If there was one word we used regularly it was the word "Pivot". On the show "Friends", the character, Ross, used the word in an episode where he and his friends were moving a couch up a staircase with a landing. The twisting and turning of trying to get the couch around that landing was a difficult one. Most of us have had to try and move a large piece of furniture through a tight space and we know how difficult it can be. Frustrations can run high, just as Ross' did in that episode. **That was 2021 for us in a nutshell.**

As we continued to navigate through the restrictions and CDC guidelines of COVID, we were constantly being forced to **pivot**. Planned luncheons were turned into Zoom meetings, meeting with donors took place in outdoor spaces, and board and committee meetings were now hybrid so everyone attending could feel comfortable. Looking back, some of these pivots weren't so bad. It was an opportunity to try something new. An opportunity to make something better for everyone involved. **And that is really what we have been doing all along to improve the quality of life in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.** We have been pivoting. It just took a pandemic for us to acknowledge it.

I'm proud of the accomplishments our community has made in this past year. We learned that we could overcome obstacles and learn, grow, and move on to do great things for the betterment of our community. Our local area nonprofits have been working tirelessly to bring programs to our community that help clothe, feed the hungry, and improve the quality of life for all of us. **They too have been pivoting** this last year and I know they will continue to do so if it means a better way of life for those they serve.

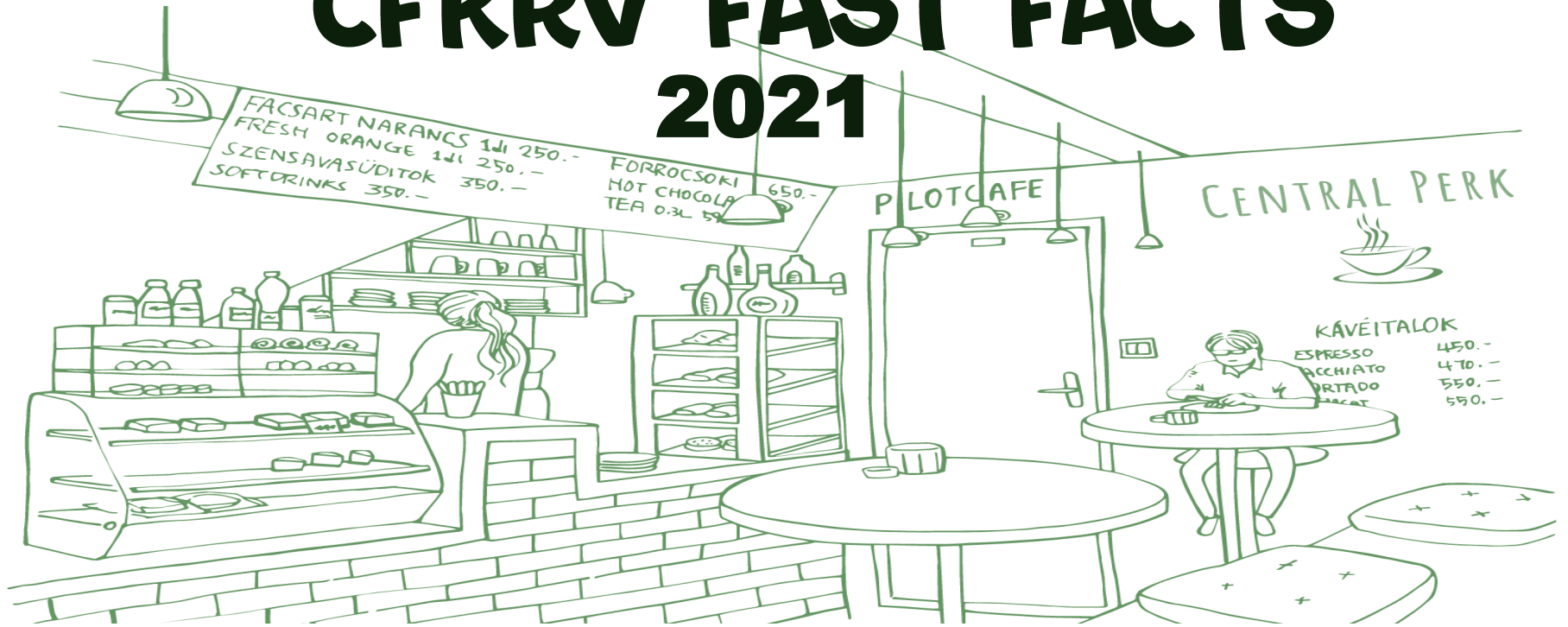
Lastly, none of this pivoting would be possible without YOU, our donors, and supporters. YOU stepped up during one of the most trying times in our recent history and we thank you. Please enjoy this year's annual report, the one where we **pivot**.



Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director



CFKRV FAST FACTS 2021



Funds held at
the Foundation



5 year average
return on
investments



Scholarships
Awarded



Grants
Distributed
(\$374,773)



Organizations
Supported



Assets under
management

DRESS LIKE R.A.C.H.E.L

Each year the Kiwanis Club of Kankakee hosts the Shoe Project where students in need from local schools are brought to shop for a pair of shoes. This year, with the help of a grant from the Community Stewardship Fund at the Community Foundation, over 200 kids were connected with new shoes and socks for the winter season!

Partnered with the local Kohls and Shoe Carnival, volunteers helped students find the perfect fit.



GIVE LIKE R.O.S.S

In November of 2020, the Foundation announced the matching funds challenge for the Fine Arts Fund put forth by former executive director Norm Strasma in memory of his wife, Janice, who passed in 2018. Mr. Strasma generously chose to match donations up to \$50,000. This will allow the fund to grant up to \$5,000 each year to support programs in the areas of literature, music, architecture, sculpture, painting, performing arts, and film.

The Christmas with the Arts event was held last December as an interactive fundraiser incorporating all areas of the Arts. The fund is now over \$62,000, including matching funds earned so far, bringing us over halfway to our goal. With this achievement, the Foundation plans to launch the Fine Arts grant cycle this fall.

LIVE LIKE P.H.O.E.B.E

Pledge for Life Partnership (Pfl) has been a pioneer in promoting the health and well-being of children and their families by utilizing the Life Education Center programs to promote healthy lifestyles throughout schools in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

Pfl project “Keep Moving Forward: Body + Mind + Heart” enables their organization to enrich prevention education efforts with students to improve their physical and mental health by participating in mini-lessons which builds skills to learn how to balance screen time, deal with conflict, healthy friendships, handle emotions, think positive and persevere. This project positively impacted approximately 5,000 kindergarteners through 3rd grade students in 31 different schools throughout the counties.



EAT LIKE J.O.E.Y

Grant funding from the Robert K. Dunn fund supported Northern Illinois Food Bank with their Summer Family Markets in Kankakee County. This program provides a selection of fresh food, including protein, dairy and produce, shelf stable groceries and sometimes household supplies. Summer Family Markets are planned in coordination with local organizations with connections to families who are facing increased hunger risk during the summer school break.

In 2021, Northern IL Food bank partnered with Bradley Public Library and Pembroke Fellowship Church to reach local families and provided space for the Food Bank’s Mobile Pantry truck to park and distribute food to families in need.



PLAY LIKE C.H.A.N.D.L.E.R

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School's Robotics Team, Team Ironclad, began in April 2014. BBCHS Ironclad has been a recipient of the Communityworks grant, assisting students in the area of workforce development, for the past several years. The intended purpose of this program is to advance high school students' skill sets in science, technology, engineering, and math as well as art (STEAM).

Mentors volunteer their time and talents to guide the students during the build season for evenings and weekends of side-by-side work. Last year 45 students participated on the Ironclad Robotics team, taking home three 2nd place wins in their competition season.



COOK LIKE M.O.N.I.C.A



Since 2018, LoveALatte has traveled Kankakee County to bring their pop-up coffee shop to events. Their organization provides job training opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Kankakee County. Their interns receive hands on training in customer service, money management, food and beverage preparation, and soft skills. After a successful internship with their organization, LoveALatte assists them with finding long-term employment and provides a letter of recommendation based on individual strengths. Over the years, the Communityworks grant has helped them grow from a small tent to a mobile trailer dedicated to their shop.

As their nonprofit has grown, they have worked to provide an authentic coffee shop environment for their interns and customers. With the 2021 Communityworks grant, LoveALatte purchased a commercial espresso machine and commercial grade blender for their coffee shop. This has allowed them to teach their interns how to make lattes that are similar to those served at popular coffee shop chains and expand their menu.

WE WERE ON A B•R•E•A•K!

Even throughout 2021 our communities were dealing with the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While most of the world was still at a halt, nonprofits in our communities worked diligently to meet the needs of our communities. The Community Response Fund continued awarding COVID-19 Community Response Grants throughout the year to assist nonprofit organizations with serving community members in need.

The Fund awarded \$79,789 throughout 6 different organizations enabling access to emergency food and basic supplies; interim housing and shelter; primary health care services; utility and financial assistance; nonprofit safety and operations assistance; and supports for children and other populations vulnerable to COVID-19.

Metrics Summary

Households assisted with
Emergency Food and Supplies: 12,087

Meals Served: 91,982

Households provided with
Healthcare services: 165

House Holds assisted with
Schooling Resources: 280

Households provided with
Direct Financial Assistance: 212



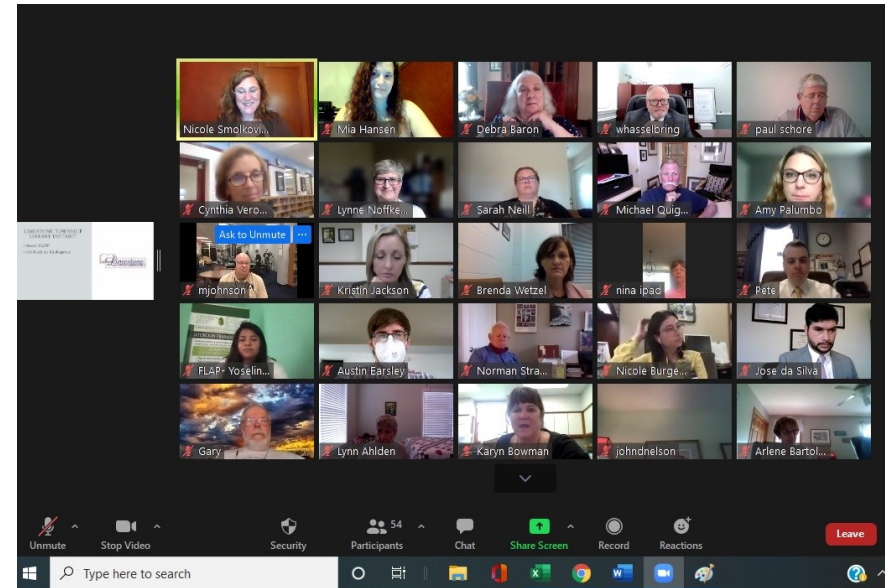
Pictured Above: *Agape Community Outreach Mission* provided food weekly for families in need as well as household items, diapers, and clothes

Pictured Left: *Run A Way Buckers* provided jobs for local residents to plant and cultivate seeds which provided produce for their produce boxes to feed the community

THE ONE WHERE THEY P.I.V.O.T

The year 2020 will forever be remembered as the year the world shut down. With that, 2021 became “The one where they pivot.” We longed for things to return as they once were, and the community was hopeful. It seemed just as everyone thought things were back to “normal”, the plan had to be changed. Each time the plan changed, we all were forced to pivot!

As a nonprofit operating during a global shutdown to assist in providing services to the most vulnerable populations, pivoting was a priority. We had to pivot beyond just working from home and zoom meetings, but progressing to holding virtual events, workshops and presentations. Our mission statement is *Connecting People who Care with Causes that Matter*, yet the pandemic was fighting to keep us disconnected.



2021 Annual Meeting held via Zoom



Community partners Staci Wilkin, Mayor Chris Curtis, Toccara Eldridge, Aaron Robinson, and Kristin Jackson as *Friends*

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

We anticipated holding our Annual Luncheon last year, but within weeks, we pivoted to hosting a virtual event. With students returning to school, how often did you find out one of your kids was on “quarantine” for the week? At a moments notice we would be pivoting to work from home. Also, due to the pandemic, our operating budget was reduced for the year. We pivoted to find unique ways to deliver our mission without missing a beat.

We weren’t the only ones who had to pivot. Our community pivoted as homes were being refinanced, residents were navigating reentering the workforce and children pivoted to hybrid learning. Our nonprofit partners pivoted to provide continued services with the challenge of social distancing.

2021 was full of hope, but 2022 is full of opportunity! We are excited to be hosting our Annual Luncheon in person again and looking forward to many donor engagement and nonprofit capacity building events. Through it all just know, even when the rain starts to pour, we’ll be there for you!

PROJECT S • U • N

Project SUN Launches First Phase of Equity Initiative

Addressing equity is paramount to establishing a children's mental health system of care that meets the needs of all youth and their families. Project SUN strives to take into account different languages, cultures, races, genders, and economic situations, as well as different needs in the urban, rural, and suburban areas of the county. For these reasons, during 2021, Project SUN launched an initiative to understand our different experiences and promote action towards equity and access to children's mental health services in Kankakee County.

The first phase of this undertaking is a multi-level approach to better understand the different experiences Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and White members of the community have had regarding racial discrimination. Future undertakings will address the needs of other marginalized groups, including members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The initial activity was to conduct a Racial Equity Assessment Community Survey by recruiting participants at several events during the summer months and through Project SUN communication channels. Over 250 Kankakee County residents responded. This provided much rich data for Olivet Nazarene Senior Social Work students to analyze. In addition to looking at the survey results, the students also researched strategies that have been successful in eliminating structural racism in other communities. In December, they presented their results to representatives of Project SUN's Executive and Community Planning Teams.

Pictured Below: My Piece in the Puzzle participants engage with facilitators Shannon Swilley and Rev. Robert Bushey.



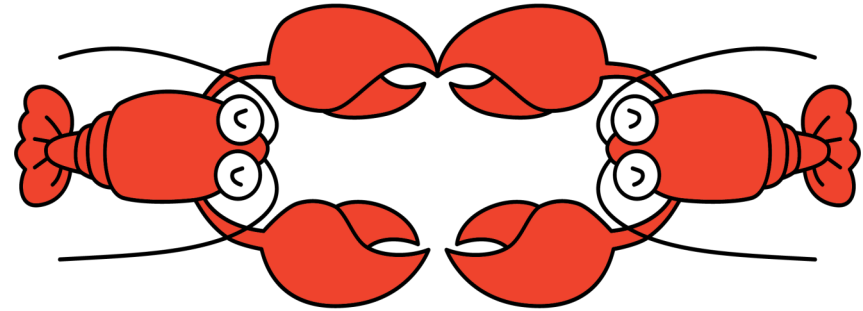
Lenora Noble won the raffle at the Juneteenth Celebration for those who completed the Racial Equity Assessment Community Survey. Pictured with Project SUN's Dr. Deb Baron, Augustina Rios, and Dr. Cynthia Taylor (left to right).

The next component was to host the first round of "My Piece in the Puzzle," a four-session program intended to prepare individuals to engage in difficult conversations related to race. Approximately 30 individuals participated in these sessions preparing them to take next steps to promote healthy dialogue. Those interested in continuing to work with Project SUN will have the opportunity to be trained as Racial Healing Ambassadors who will facilitate additional discussions throughout the community based on the "My Piece in the Puzzle" model.

Establishing a fund in the name of, or donating to the Community Foundation, is a special way to honor a loved one and ensure their legacy lives on to better the community for years to come. In 2021 the following donations were made in memory/honor of the following:

in honor of David Paulissen
in honor of Sarah Ann
in honor of Scott Dunbar
in memory of Erica Lynn Paulissen
in memory of Janice Strasma
in memory of Kenneth Allers
in memory of Lorena Panozzo
in memory of Mary Jo Johnston
in memory of Patricia Schatz
in memory of Rebecca Schatz
in memory of Rose Panozzo
in memory of Tony Panozzo

SHE IS HIS



L.O.B.S.T.E.R



Pictured: Gaines Hall, Mia Hansen, Sharron Hall & Linda Bohlmann at the 2021 Legacy Society Reception

Members of the Legacy Society are dedicated to enriching Kankakee and Iroquois Counties by pledging \$5,000 or more over a five-year period to Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley. They also introduce friends and colleagues to CFKRV, its mission, and its programs. To learn more about becoming a member of the Legacy Society, call **(815) 939-1611**.

"I support the Community Foundation and especially the Rosie Fund for many reasons. The Foundation because I believe in community and know that I may not have a lot to donate however when many of us donate, the funds grow and do much good in our community. I donate to the Rosie Fund for several reasons as well. I was a "founding member" of the committee that started this fund. I also love that Rosie Fund grants go to organizations in our community that serve women and children. It truly takes a village to make the community and its citizens stronger."

- Mary Thomson, Legacy Society Member

HOW WE D.O.I.N'?

Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
ASSETS:		
Current Assets		
Cash and Certificates of Deposit	378,740	561,680
Investments	<u>10,384,757</u>	<u>9,564,569</u>
Total Current Assets	\$10,763,497	\$10,126,249
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture and Equipment	19,926	19,926
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(19,926)</u>	<u>(19,926)</u>
Net Fixed Assets	—	—
OTHER ASSETS		
Property	<u>278,047</u>	<u>278,047</u>
Total Assets	\$11,041,544	\$10,404,296
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable/Accrued Liabilities	<u>6,425</u>	<u>17,654</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,425	\$17,654
NET ASSETS		
Temporarily Restricted Funds	4,112,151	3,479,904
Permanently Restricted Funds	<u>6,922,968</u>	<u>6,906,738</u>
Total Net Assets	\$11,035,119	\$10,386,642
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$11,041,544	\$10,404,296





Statement of Revenue and Expense

<i>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</i>	2021	2020
Contributions	127,811	264,687
Grants	229,048	854,321
Investment Income	348,613	179,497
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments	729,191	43,216
Unrealized Gain on Investments	139,116	490,637
Administrative Fees Collected	<u>71,659</u>	<u>61,568</u>
Total Revenue and Support	\$1,645,438	\$1,890,926
 <i>EXPENSES</i>		
Operating Expenses	569,172	490,581
Charitable Disbursements (Grants)	<u>351,323</u>	<u>1,194,299</u>
	\$920,495	\$1,684,880
 <i>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</i>		
Net Assets– Beginning of Year	10,386,642	10,180,596
Net Assets– End of Year	<u>\$11,111,585</u>	<u>\$10,386,642</u>

CREDITS

Bonfield EUMC Pass Through Fund

Bonfield EUMC

Communityworks Endowment Fund

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet

Central Citizens' Library District

Child Network

Coalition for Hope

Excellence Education Fund

Community Development Corp PHP

Harbor House

Herscher CUSD #2

Iowa Jobs For America's Graduates

Ironclad - BBCHS Robotics

Iroquois County Youth Center

Kankakee River Valley

Forest Preserve

Kankakee School District 111

Limestone Township Public Library

LoveALatte Coffee

Treats and Sweet Eats

Pledge For Life Partnership

Riverfront Trail Fund

South Pointe Youth for Christ

Success by Six Fund-Iroquois

Success by Six Fund-Kankakee

Community Stewardship Fund

Riverside Healthcare Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Kankakee

Emergency Response Fund

Agape Community Outreach Mission

Farmworker and Landscaper

Advocacy Project

Iroquois County Youth Center

Limestone Community Church

2021 Community Foundation Grants

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Run A Way Buckers Club, Inc

Florence B. McMullen Fund

Kankakee Community College Foundation

Hospice Special Wish Fund

Uplifted Care - Hospice of

Kankakee Valley

Kankakee Development Fund

Kankakee Development Corporation

Project SUN Fund

Easterseals - Joliet Region

Garden Of Prayer Youth Center

Harbor House

Peoples Church

Pledge For Life Partnership

The Helen Wheeler Center

River Conservation Fund

Riverfront Trail Fund

Rosie Fund Grants

Harbor House

The Salvation Army of

Kankakee County

Zonta Fund

Harbor House

Dennis and Georgia Hess Fund

Boy Scouts of America

Good Shepherd Manor Foundation

Harbor House

Kankakee Area YMCA

Kankakee Community

College Foundation

Kankakee County Training

Center for the Disabled, Inc.

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Marco Lutheran Church

Olivet Nazarene University

Prairieview Lutheran Foundation

Riverside Healthcare Foundation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

United Way of Kankakee &

Iroquois Counties

Uplifted Care - Hospice of

Kankakee Valley

Wright In Kankakee

Rebecca Schatz Memorial Fund

Arc of Iroquois County

Clifton Community Food Pantry

Clove Alliance

Robert K. Dunn Charitable Trust Fund

Blessings in a Backpack

Child Network

Easterseals - Joliet Region

Iroquois CUSD #9

Kankakee Jaycees Little

League Organization

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Spirit of the Sol Inc NFP

Donor Advised Funds

Bridgewater Family Charitable Fund

Brookside Church

Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center

Global Training Network

South Pointe Youth for Christ

Uplifted Care - Hospice of

Kankakee Valley

CREDITS

2021 Scholarships

Albert A. and Elizabeth Wheeler Mau Memorial Scholarship

Lydia Miller

African American Civic Leaders Scholarship

LoRyelle Robinson, Micah Thomas, Jazmine Watson, &
Marleisa Walker

Bob and Thelma Webber Scholarship

Sean Contreras

Caitlin Poppie Memorial Scholarship

Josie Mendell

Do It Stevie's Way Foundation Scholarship

Alexis Torres, Harrison Giese, Hollist Daniels Jr., Jazmine
Watson, & Jose Aguilar

Dr. Lawrence T. Jacobson Leadership Memorial Scholarship

Austin Joyce

Erica Lynn Paulissen Memorial Scholarship

Graham Johnson & Ava Haase

Herscher High School Alumni Scholarship

Ava Haase & Austin Joyce

Herscher Athletic Booster Club Award

Kamden Lockwood & Haley Wagner

Herscher FFA Alumni Foundation Scholarship

Bryce Overacker & Adam Schott

Herscher High School Music Department Scholarship

Lydia Miller & Cameron Potter

Herscher High School Sports Fan Scholarship

Dakota Johnson, Kamden Lockwood, Josie Mendell,
& Adam Schott

Herscher Lions Club Scholarship

Jace Martin & Lydia Miller

Herscher Senior of the Month Scholarship

Emily Allen, Delaney Feller, Ava Haase, Dakota Jackson, Austin
Joyce, Jace Martin, Josie Mendell, Olivia Mendell,
& Peyton Mullin

John Locke Memorial Scholarship

Madison Bylak, Madeline Lacer, Rylee Panozzo,
Dyln Regnier-Jamnik, & Brooks Schoon

Kent Weakley Creative Scholarship

Drew Tobey

Marlow Zehr Scholarship

Conner Joffe

Patricia A. Long Memorial Scholarship

Ava Haase

Randy Lehnus Vocational Scholarship

Daven Arseneau & Kamden Nelson

Rich Jensen Award

Camden Berns

Stacy & Chris Skarstad Memorial Scholarship

Emily Allen & Josie Mendell

The Riley Family Vocational Scholarship

Reilly Muniz & Haley Wagner

Tim Orwig Memorial Scholarship

Austin Joyce & Natalie Rink

U2CT Unit 2 Teachers & Staff Scholarship

Ava Haase, Kamden Lockwood, Josie Mendell,
Madison Offerman, Andrew Schmidt & Adam Schott

Village of Herscher Police Department Scholarship

Ben Elzinga

Women in Networking Scholarship

Jessica Kinnersley, Kerri Lanum, & Katelynn Ohrt

Scholarship funds at the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley have been established by individuals and organizations wanting to assist students in obtaining a college or vocational education and each have their own set of specific criteria. We are honored to congratulate 63 students from Kankakee and Iroquois Counties who received various awards to further their education. A total of \$48,550 was award to graduating seniors, qualifying college students, and women returning to higher education.



Connecting people who care with causes that matter in our community since 1982.



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