

Community Foundation

Kankakee River Valley

Annual
Report
2022

FROM *kitchen* TO YOURS



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY

Vision

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

Mission

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

We fulfill our mission by:



Building and preserving the funds of many individuals and institutions.



Creating and supporting vital and caring communities through philanthropy.



Awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that serve members who reside in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.



For Good. For Ever.



Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director

Nicole has been part of the Community Foundation's growth and development since 2009. Her recipe for success has been learning the community foundation world from the ground up starting as an office manager, then program coordinator, and ultimately the Executive Director in 2014. Her top five strengths according to CliftonStrengths are Developer, Belief, Responsibility, Restorative, and Empathy. She considers ways to better acknowledge the contributions, talents, skills and successes of others. She enjoys raising funds for worthy causes, is committed to the values of honesty and loyalty, is always looking for ways to do something better, and can comprehend the needs, feelings, hopes or problems of others.



Mia Hansen, Programs & Communications

Mia started planting roots at the Community Foundation in March of 2020. Her recipe for success has been her desire to learn and continuously improve upon the skills she has developed. Mia's top five strengths are Developer, Learner, Restorative, Empathy and Relator. She notices the small improvements in herself and others, and has the desire to learn about our grantees. She excels at problem solving, can sense other people's feelings by imagining herself in others' lives or situations, and she finds deep satisfaction in working hard with others to achieve a goal.



Cheme Williams-Brooks, Administrative Assistant

Cheme recently joined the Community Foundation in November 2022. Her recipe for success is building connections to further expand her passion of helping others grow and develop by utilizing community resources. Cheme's top five strengths are Ideation, Positivity, Input, Futuristic, and Strategic. She looks at the world from different perspectives, is easygoing and doesn't let problems make her anxious. She seeks information, is inspired by what the future could be, and is an agile decision-maker.



Letter from the Director



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful year 2022 was for all of us here at the Community Foundation. While the stock market couldn't decide whether to be up or down and inflation was on the rise like a loaf of sour dough, the Community Foundation measured its success in other ways.

Through the number of funds opened, grants given, and the programs we offered nonprofits to connect and collaborate with one another, we've mixed all the right ingredients to further our goal of creating a happy and healthy community. To top it off, celebrating 40 years of service with our Masquerade Ball/Murder Mystery Birthday event last October was the icing on the cake for a meaningful and impactful year! I want to thank our Board and Committee members for all they do to support the work of the Community Foundation. Our supportive team is always excited for a taste of our next big idea. Some of them even brushed up on their acting skills to be part of our birthday celebration and when we asked them to join us in a photoshoot for this report they were more than happy to participate!

As we continue to increase our grant giving and scholarships, our staff has been willing to learn new software to make those processes more efficient. This allows us to spend more time with those who help us pour into the community, our donors, and grantees. Our donors are the secret sauce to our success at the Community Foundation, and we couldn't be more grateful. With our grantees rolling up their sleeves to deliver much needed programs and services, we will continue to measure the impact and tell the great stories of what a community can accomplish with the right ingredients in a recipe for success.

I'm so appreciative of each one of you reading this report. The support and love you have shown the Foundation by being present in the community gives me hope for an even brighter future. I hope you enjoy reading about our recipe for success and how we poured into the community through grant-making, stewardship and leadership.

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Smolkovich".

Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director



Acknowledgments



Let's Get Cooking with the Community Foundation images captured by Cherie Smolkovich and staged by Staci Wilken of Experience Edit.

Our deepest appreciation to Uplifted Care who let us utilize their beautiful kitchen at the Grief Center to set the scene for our Annual Report.

Thank you to participating Board and Committee members who helped bring our vision to life: Beverly Hood, Angela Morrey, Nick Bufford, Alice Argyelan, Hollice Clark, Karin Sailor, and Nick Allen.

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Recipe for Success

CFKRV Fast Facts



Ingredients:

Funds Held at the Foundation



51

Assets Under Management



\$9.2 Mil

5 Year Average
return on Investments



3.63%

Organizations Supported



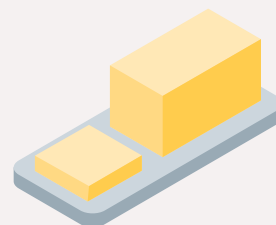
56

Scholarships Awarded



67

Grants Distributed (\$469,027)



69

Directions:



Combine Ingredients



Mix Well



Bake to Perfection



Enjoy & Share with Others

Today's Specials



New Funds Established in 2022

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society
Donna J. Seggebruch Scholarship
Eric J. Hopkins Engineering Scholarship
First Responder's Scholarship
Herscher Memorial Vocational Scholarship
Kankakee County CEO
Kankakee Forgives
Village of Bourbonnais Pass Through Fund

Donna J. Seggebruch Scholarship



In July of 2022, Stephen Seggebruch established the Donna J. Seggebruch Scholarship Fund in memory of his late wife, Donna. The Fund will provide up to two scholarships totaling \$5,000 to graduating senior(s) from Momence Community High School.

Donna J. (Stein) Seggebruch was born in Kankakee on August 25, 1955 and grew up in Momence, graduating from Momence Community High School in 1973.

"Donna's fond memories growing up in Momence, the many friends she made in school as well as the positive impact on her life that her education gave her, is the reason for establishing the scholarship fund in her memory," said Stephen Seggebruch, her husband of 44 years.

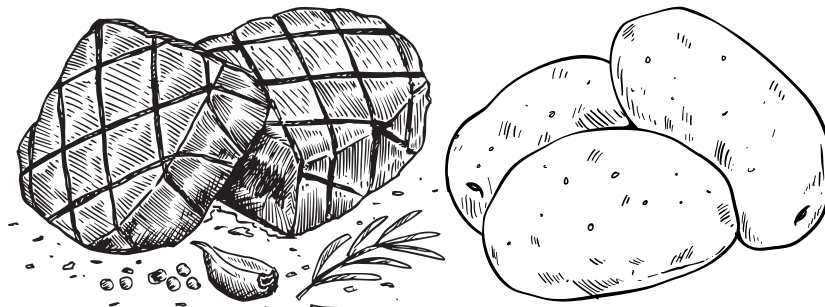
During her time in high school, Donna was a member of the marching band, playing clarinet, and graduated as a member of the National Honor Society. After high school, Donna attended both Kankakee Community College and Governor's State University. She passed away in January 2022.

Stephen joined Momence High School in honoring the scholarship fund's first round of recipients for the 2022-2023 school year. Britta Lindgren and Lacey Jones both were honored to receive \$2,500 towards furthering their education.

"What is really important is not what each of us take from our youth and education, but what we in turn choose to give back to those things that helped mold us into the persons we become," stated Stephen at the Momence Senior Honors Presentation.

When asked how receiving this scholarship would impact their lives, Britta wrote, **"Donna J Seggebruch Scholarship would be a huge blessing. Getting a college education will better equip and prepare me to make a difference in others' lives as well as lead them to the God who has blessed me so much."** The Fund anticipates to award \$5,000 each year with the intention of growing a lasting legacy in honor of Donna.





Meat & Potatoes



Financials



Statement of Financial Position

| ASSETS | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and Certificates of Deposit | 295,562 | 378,740 |
| Investments | 8,703,146 | 10,384,757 |
| Total Current Assets | \$ 8,998,710 | \$ 10,763,497 |
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Furniture and Equipment | 19,926 | 19,926 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (19,926) | (19,926) |
| Net Fixed Assets | - | - |
| OTHER ASSETS | | |
| Property | 278,047 | 278,047 |
| Total Assets | \$ 9,276,757 | \$ 11,041,544 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable/Accrued Liabilities | 8,465 | 6,425 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$ 8,465 | \$ 6,425 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Temporarily Restricted Funds | 2,324,146 | 4,112,151 |
| Permanently Restricted Funds | 6,944,146 | 6,922,968 |
| Total Net Assets | 9,268,291 | 11,035,119 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 9,276,757 | \$ 11,041,544 |

Statement of Revenue and Expense

| REVENUE AND SUPPORT | 2022 | 2021 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Contributions | 174,580 | 127,811 |
| Grants | 619,021 | 229,048 |
| Investment Income | 206,976 | 348,613 |
| Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments | 149,247 | 729,191 |
| Unrealized Gain on Investments | -1,787,719 | 139,116 |
| Administrative Fees Collected | 64,509 | 71,659 |
| Total Revenue and Support | \$ -573,386 | \$ 1,645,438 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Operating Expenses | 724,113 | 569,172 |
| Charitable Disbursements (Grants) | 469,027 | 351,323 |
| | \$ 1,193,140 | \$ 920,495 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | -1,843,294 | 724,943 |
| Net Assets- Beginning of Year | 11,111,585 | 10,386,642 |
| Net Assets- End of Year | \$ 9,268,291 | \$ 11,111,585 |

Full Audited Financial Statements available in the Foundation Office



Sweet & Savory



Grant Stories

Iroquois CUSD #9

Let Little's Play addresses the discussion of standards base curriculum versus play curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten programs. Much research shows there are key benefits of play in the PreK classroom setting which range from problem solving, relationship development, and academic skill development, as well as learning and practicing responsible and appropriate behavior with others. Within PreK classrooms, there is a need for play pieces, especially those which encourage learning behaviors such as counting, prewriting, fine motor development and sensory toys. At this age, children playing in groups facilitates the opportunity to develop leadership skills, problem solving, and moral skills. Play time also allows young students to freely explore what things they are passionate about and build interests later in life. The goal of Let Littles Play is to provide a foundation in education that allows little ones to develop into the best person they can be by having fun while building key developmental skills in the process.

Some items that were purchased through this Communityworks Grant include, prewriting magnetic boards, Montessori learning toys for lacing, color sorting and counting items, large wooden puzzles, stacking toys, interactive learning books and much more. PreK students learned to share, play



together, manage emotions, make friends, develop fine motor skills, and learn who they are by finding activities that make them happy. Students in the general education PreK setting as well as Early Childhood Special education students were able to benefit from this program. Purchased items and toys helped to achieve both academic as well as functional goals listed in some the students Individualized Education Plans. It also helped to meet the accommodations of students with disabilities by providing sensory input.

Some great measurable outcomes include students improving their tripod grasp with the magnetic prewriting practice board, and increased understanding of the value of numbers by being able to sequence numbers with visuals in the nuts and bolts numbering activity. As well STEM growth, fine motor, problem solving, creativity, group collaboration, and socialization showed improvement.

“As an educator, it brings such joy to see students interacting and learning together. These new learning and play items provide these opportunities to happen. So many of our children come from unstable homes and do not have the chance to play with others or with learning toys such as these purchased through the grant funds”, says Carolyn Short of Iroquois CUSD#9.

Kankakee County Health Department



The **Child Passenger Safety Program** implements evidence-based strategies striving to reduce the risk of motor vehicle related injury and death to children through education, child safety seat inspections and car seat distribution. This program increased the proper and safe use of car seats throughout the Kankakee River Valley Area. Motor crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 14 and under in the United States. 38% of those children who died in motor vehicle crashes were not buckled or in proper car seat restraints. The Kankakee County Health Department worked to improve the strategies to address proper car seat restraints through the combination of distribution and educational programs that allow parents and caregivers to obtain new, unused seats as well as learn to properly install them.

Kankakee County Health Department held several car seat drives for residents. At these events, parents or caregivers were able to have their seat assessed to see if it is the proper restraint for the child, if it is installed correctly, and even get a new seat if the technicians believed one was needed. The car seat technicians not only make sure your seat is installed properly per its manual, they make sure each parent or caregiver is able to properly install it themselves.

Additionally, residents are able to visit the health department at any time to receive a car seat assessment and/or a free seat for a child in need.

When visiting the car seat drive, or at any time to receive a new seat, the technicians will address multiple areas of children's health and safety, and provide helpful resources.

Grant Park Foundation



Beat the Blahs is an educational summer program where children learn about the environment and enjoy a natural play area. The Grant Park Foundation partners with other local organizations such as Destination Yoga and the Grant Park Fire Department to host weekly activities for kids of all ages. Beat the Blahs has been an entry point for many students interested in becoming a gPark Ranger.

The gPark Rangers is a work program for students 12 and older. The young people who work for the Grant Park Foundation maintain the Heldt Park Pollinator gardens as well as other gardens within the Village. They learn to work efficiently and carefully to identify the plants and tend to their health. This is a paid position for students where they learn what it means to be a responsible employee. Additionally, gardens in the parks host native plants to encourage natural pollinators. The goal of lessening the use of pesticides is put into practice in the gPark Ranger Program.

This past summer the Beat the Blahs summer program was a success, with children learning through play and nature. The Grant Park Foundation employed nine teens as gPark Rangers to perform gardening and park maintenance for the Village of Grant Park working on their employment skills, as well as protecting and maintaining the native plants. The entire community can benefit from this effort as residents and visitors to the Village of Grant Park were treated to lovely and well-kept areas in the parks and public gardens. Of course, the students who participated had earned wages and could take pride in their ability to work for it. Youth also developed a strong work ethic and positive reputation, allowing them to be more employable in the future.

Still I Rise

Still I Rise's mission is dedicated to educating, empowering, and inspiring youth and young adults to have self-sufficiency and confidence to make a positive difference in society. The **Stepping Ladders Workforce Project** aims to provide training and facilitate employment opportunities to a wide range of young adults, including at risk, impoverished, and underprivileged male and females in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. This project offers GED preparation, job readiness, and career exploration services to out-of-school disconnected youth who are not engaged in employment.

Unemployment has significantly increased competition for the jobs that lower skilled workers have traditionally filled. The Stepping Ladders Workforce Project works to assist youth to overcome and reduce barriers to employment by providing training skills and competencies needed to sustain employment. This is done by engaging youth in a wide range of productive classes, workshops and activities.

The primary goal of the project is to provide hands on work experience that benefits both the youth and the community. The project coincides with the Still I Rise mission as it provides youth with the tools and resources needed through constructive training and to maximize strengths in hopes to create a positive and healthy change in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

The project enabled participants to interact and network with personnel from a variety of public and corporate sector organizations which enhanced their knowledge and professional skills. Ultimately, the project helped young adults gain the skills and knowledge they need to find meaningful and sustainable employment.

“Still I Rise served as a catalyst to empower me to redirect my path toward a brighter future. By participating in their programs, I acquired the knowledge of financial literacy, interpersonal development, conflict resolution, etc. When partaking in Still I Rise projects, numerous individuals benefited from receiving resources to encourage education, unity, and self-sufficiency.” – Program Participant.



Project SUN

Project **SUN** is a **strong** and **unified network** that is family-driven and youth-guided. It is dedicated to strengthening the children's behavioral health system of care in Kankakee County through a coordinated network of services and supports that address the needs of the whole child. In 2022, the "Just for the fun of it!" campaign was launched to promote simple, inexpensive fun activities families can do that will foster healthy communication skills, while building trusting relationships. These activities are part of Project SUN's efforts to promote strong attachments between children and the important adults in their lives, using research-based strategies developed by The Theraplay Institute. The "Play to Connect" program was created for parents to learn how to reinforce Theraplay principles at home. A grant was given to the Exploration Station...a Children's Museum to create a permanent exhibit that reinforces these strategies. Theraplay Foundational Group training was offered in the fall to approximately 20 adults who will be leading "Sunshine Circles" and other groups incorporating Theraplay's foundational relationship message: Stick together, no hurts, and have fun! Leadership of the Theraplay County Planning Committee transferred from Kankakee School District to Project SUN.



The Cultural Competency Workgroup hosted another round of "My Piece in the Puzzle" to prepare community members to engage in conversations aimed at racial healing.



An Affiliate Application was submitted to NAMI IL (National Alliance on Mental Illness Illinois).



Staff worked with the Pledge for Life Partnership Youth Advisory Council to involve high school students from various schools throughout Kankakee County in efforts to promote mental wellness.



Caregiver craft classes experienced more participants joining in for fun nights of relaxation and creativity.



A community survey was distributed to identify how to best provide increased support to the LGBTQ+ youth in our community.

Made with Love



Tribute Donations

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 2022 donations were made in memory/honor of the following:

Janice Strasma
Donna J Seggebruch
Erica Lynn Paulissen

Food for thought. A recipe to share.

1 Part Funding
2 Parts Hard work
Pour into the Community
Sprinkle with Love

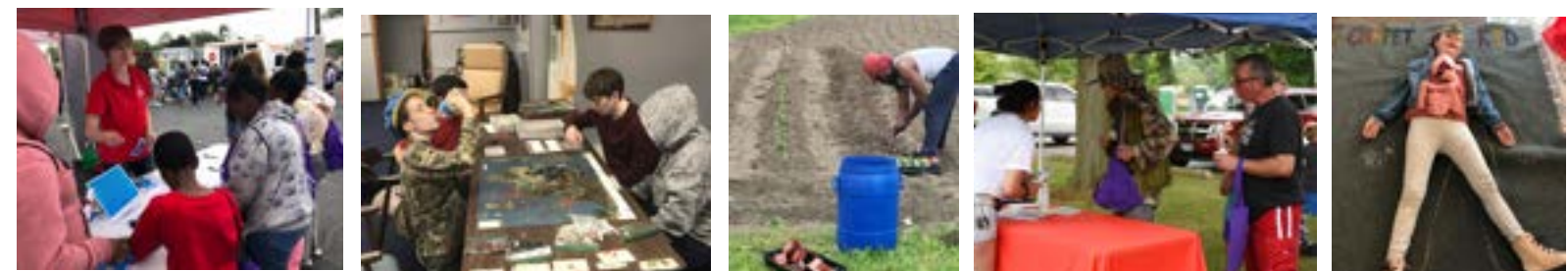


1 Part Funding

Our donors are the secret sauce to success at the Community Foundation. Donations can be made in many forms to the fund of your choice. A vital component to the growth of the Foundation are those donors who are members of the Legacy Society. These donors are dedicated to enriching Kankakee and Iroquois Counties by pledging \$5,000 or more over a five-year period. They also introduce friends and colleagues to CFKRV, its mission, and its programs. To learn more about becoming a member of the Legacy Society, or to discuss a personalized giving plan, call (815) 939-1611.

2 Parts Hard Work

The Community Foundation hosts two grants cycles, one in the Spring and one in the Fall, for qualifying organizations to apply for funding. Through these grant awards, nonprofits across Kankakee and Iroquois counties are able to provide programs and services to a wide range of residents. These programs provide educational support for youth and families, workforce training for at risk or in need individuals, meet the needs of those underserved, and much more.



Pour into the Community

"I have always felt that our community is only as strong as those who build it, and the partnerships that we foster. Being a part of the Community Foundation has allowed me to see the work being done to establish, nurture and grow many critical and positive aspects of Kankakee County. From health and wellness at the physical, emotional and mental levels, to education assistance for youth through adulthood, to community activism and involvement - the generosity of our community, and the willingness to support and work together is awe-inspiring." - **Angela Morrey, Board Member**

Sprinkle with Love

"I am proud to serve on the Community Foundation board and continue the good work that is making a difference here," says Angela Morrey.



Angela Czako Morrey
Director, Marketing & Business Attraction
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County

Serving Up



Grants 2022

2022 Grants Awarded

Communityworks Endowment Fund

Bradley Public Library District
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
Central Citizens' Library District
Child Network
Coalition for Hope Excellence Education Fund
Grant Park Foundation
Harbor House
Herscher CUSD #2
Iowa Jobs For America's Graduates (JAG)
Iroquois County Youth Center
Iroquois CUSD #9
Kankakee Area YMCA
Kankakee County Health Department
Kankakee County Youth Intervention Agency
Kankakee Riverfront Society
Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve
Pledge For Life Partnership
Riverside Healthcare Foundation
Riverfront Trail Fund
Run A Way Buckers Club, Inc
State's Attorney's Foundation
Still I Rise
Success by Six Fund-Kankakee
Success by Six Fund-Iroquois

Community Stewardship Fund

Clove Alliance
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
Kiwanis Club of Kankakee

Fine Arts Fund

Acting Out Theatre Co.
Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra

Kankakee Development Fund

Kankakee Development Corporation

Project SUN Fund

Bourbonnais Township Park District

Rosie Fund

Clove Alliance
Harbor House
Kankakee Community College Foundation
The Salvation Army of Kankakee County

River Conservation Fund

Riverfront Trail Fund

Zonta Endowment Fund

Harbor House

Donor Advised Funds

Bridgewater Family Charitable Fund

Fine Arts Fund
South Pointe Youth for Christ

Dave King Memorial Fund

Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School

Dennis & Georgia Hess Fund

Boy Scouts of America
Good Shepherd Manor
Kankakee Community College Foundation
Kankakee Area YMCA
Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled.
Harbor House
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Marco Lutheran Church
Olivet Nazarene University
Riverside Healthcare Foundation
St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Uplifted Care - Hospice of Kankakee Valley
Wright In Kankakee

Florence B. McMullen Fund

Kankakee Community College Foundation

Rebecca Schatz Memorial Fund

Arc of Iroquois County
Clifton Community Food Pantry

Robert K. Dunn Charitable Trust Fund

Blessings in a Backpack
Bourbonnais Township Park District
Child Network
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
Kankakee Jaycees Little League Organization
Kiwanis Club of Kankakee
Nexus Family Healing
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Spirit of the Sol Inc NFP



Dishing out



Scholarships 2022

Foundation Scholarships

African American Civic Leader's Scholarship

Nickolos Hall, Tomele Staples

Do It Stevie's Way Foundation Scholarship

Aaliyah Fulton, Jalen Turner, Kylie Patnaude, Madison Guimond. Matthew Derkacy, Terry Prude

Erica Lynn Paulissen Memorial Scholarship

Halie Marie Kohl, Litty Dummer

John Locke Memorial Scholarship

Travis Fick, Ava Haase, Emilie Lindgren, Clayton McKinstry, Jessica Vickery, Madeleine Willis



Madeleine Willis, Journalism & Mass Communications

at Iowa Sate University. Maddie writes for her school newspaper, *The Daily Iowan* and is a student ambassador for the School of Journalism. She is a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority as the chapter's recoding secretary and member of a contributor writing program where she is published in ZTA's national magazine, *Themis*. During her time on campus, she has worked as a news reporter and digital producer. This summer she will complete her first internship as a production assistant at Iowa Public Radio. **"Receiving the John Locke Scholarship was much appreciated and was a great help alleviating some of my financial burdens. Being recognized in the community was an honor and has been extremely motivating as I pursue my career goals,"** says Maddie. If you're interested in reading some of her bylines, you can find Maddie published locally in the Manteno Vedette.

Herscher High School Scholarships

Albert A. and Elizabeth Wheeler Mau Scholarship

Landon Schultz

Alumni Association Scholarship

George Hoffman, Jalynn Miner

Athletic Booster Club Award

Mia Ruder, Trey Schwarzkopf

Caitlin Poppie Memorial Scholarship Fund

Gracyn Cordes, Emma Mendell

Dr. Lawrence T. Jacobson Leadership Memorial Scholarship

Jaxon Miller

FFA Alumni Foundation Scholarship

Adam Schott, Bryce Overacker, Carson Splear, George Hoffman, Halie Kohl, Landon Schultz

Herscher Lions Club Scholarship

Gavin Markoff, Lacy Grigas

Kent Weakley Creative Scholarship

Lee Jackson

Music Boosters Scholarship

Abigail Snyder, Gunnar Tejes, Kaiyah Johnson

Patricia A. Long Memorial Scholarship

Rylie Hartman

Randy Lehnus Vocational Scholarship

Cody Lunsford, George Hoffman, Sophie Wepprecht

Rich Jensen Scholarship

Joseph Holohan

Riley Family Vocational Scholarship

Elliana Eileen Tibbetts, Landon William Schultz

Robert & Thelma Webber Scholarship

Carson Edward Splear

Senior of the Month Scholarship

Allyson Meyer, Emily Denault, Gavin Markoff, Gunnar Tejes, Halie Kohl, Madison Dundas, Madison Guimond, Trey Schwarzkopf

Sports Fan Scholarship

Allison Huizenga, Carson Splear, Lacy Grigas, Tyler Murray

Stacy & Chris Skarstad Memorial Scholarship

Alysandra Residori, Faith Ward

Tim Orwig Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Rogers, Rylie Hartman

U2CT Scholarship

Allyson Meyer, George Hoffman, Lance Johnston, Luke Welsh, Tyler Murray, Rylie Hartman

Cheers to 40 Years!



40th Birthday Celebration

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley celebrated 40 years of service this past October with a Masquerade Ball held at La Villetta at The Elks in St. Anne, IL. Dressed to kill, board members with help of Executive Director Nicole Smolkovich as “Officer Smolkovich”, performed a murder mystery skit as entertainment for the evening. Fun was had by all as the audience guessed who was guilty of killing former administrative assistant Jessica Huebner and why. The plot thickened as the guests learned of her goal to avenge her father who attended college with Board Chair, Jeff Williamson. Ruling in self defense, Jeff was taken into custody after defending himself against a brutal attack by Jessica, resulting in her death. Along with dinner, drinks, and entertainment, a 50/50 raffle was held to benefit the Fine Arts Matching Funds Challenge. In total, the Fine Arts Fund has raised \$32,000 and awarded its first round of grants in the Fall of 2022 to recipients Acting Out Theatre Co. and Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra.

“What a great evening celebrating 40 years of improving the quality of life in our communities,” Nicole Smolkovich said, **“We had a blast trying to figure out who was behind the creative masks that our attendees wore. People were ready to have a good time and showed up in great fashion!”** Community members, donors, and grantees joined in celebration of 40 years of service. **“My personal “why” for supporting the Community Foundation is that the Foundation seeks diverse and worthwhile recipients of the funds in its purview. The Foundation provides an excellent opportunity for local individuals to assist current and future endeavors of our neighbors,”** stated Lynn Ahlden, a long time Community Foundation supporter.

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley looks forward to carrying out the mission of Connecting people who care with causes that matter in our community for years to come. Thank you for celebrating with us!

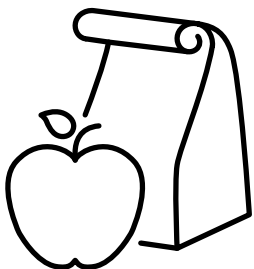


Pouring into the community



CFKRV Programs

Each year we add to the menu new ways to serve the community.



Lunch and Learn



Nonprofit Coffee Talk



Kankakee County CEO

Lunch & Learn

In efforts to support nonprofit partners, the Community Foundation set the goal of bringing free to low cost education to nonprofits centered around capacity building topics. Based on a nonprofit survey given gauging interest and need, the Foundation launched their series of Lunch and Learns in 2022. This past year, local experts presented on the topics of grant writing, fundraising, and strategic planning. All seminars were free to attend, with just minimal cost for those ordering lunch. This program has been beneficial to nonprofits small and large, to increase their capacity building.



Nonprofit Coffee Talk

Partnered with Kankakee Chamber of Commerce and presenting sponsor Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, Nonprofit Coffee Talks were held quarterly for nonprofit leaders to network, connect and collaborate. Numerous partnerships have formed through connecting at these events and we look forward to bringing our community partners together through these simple yet effective meetings. Sign up on our website for our E-newsletter and never miss a meeting!

Kankakee County CEO

Supporting the vision of enhancing the quality of life in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, the Community Foundation aimed to bring the **Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO)** program to the community. Led by John Keigher and Nicole Smolkovich, the steering committee was formed to bring this vision to life. Through the support of the Communityworks Fund and direction from its Board of Directors, **Kankakee County CEO** was formed. Partnered with Midland Institute and community members, the Kankakee County CEO program will launch in four Kankakee County high schools in August of 2023. This program is a revolutionary concept in entrepreneurship education as a community-driven model bringing schools and businesses together to transform students into the community's business and thought leaders of tomorrow. Investors across Kankakee County have chosen to support this program. Students will spend the first hour of their school day traveling to local businesses, learning the business model and creating their own microbusiness. With their proceeds, they will then individually start their own businesses to sell products or services to the community at the CEO Trade Show. As a community, we can empower the next generation, develop the future workforce, build more businesses and experience ongoing economic development here in our hometowns.





Board of Directors

Jeff Williamson, *Chair*
Jake Lee, *Chair Elect*
Nick Bufford, *Secretary*
Beverly Hood, *Treasurer*
Nick Allen
Alice Argyelan
Arlene Bartolini
Nina Epstein
Walter “Chip” Hasselbring III
Rende Langlois Jr
Angela Morrey
Michael Pueschell
Kerstin Rust
Karin Sailor



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www.cfkrv.org



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™



Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.