



Annual Report



2025

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY

Annual Report

RULES OF PLAY

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.
- Awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that serve members who reside in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.
- Creating and supporting vital and caring communities through philanthropy.



Categories are color - coded:

BlueKankakee County	Purple ...Community Impact
PinkIroquois County	GreenEducation & Youth
YellowCFKRV	OrangePhilanthropy

Board

Nick Bufford, Chair	Elizabeth Kubal
Jake Lee, Past Chair	Nina Epstein
Michael Pueschell, Secretary	Rende Langlois, Jr
Beverly Hood, Treasurer	Marsha Lloyd
Alice Argyelan	Angela Morrey
Allison Beasley	Braden Wepprecht
Ashley Fink	

Committees

Grants

Alice Argyelan
Arlene Bartolini
Allison Beasley
Hollice Clark

Marketing

Alice Argyelan
Ashley Fink
Michelle Langlois
Angela Morrey
Cherie Smolkovich

Investment

Adam Elroy
Chip Hasselbring III
Dennis Hess
Jimmy Joines
Elizabeth Kubal

Audit

Jimmy Joines
Jake Lee

Special Events

Allison Beasley
Ashley Fink

Overview

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All-in Support Pg. 5	Scholarships Pg. 14



DISCOVERING THE ANSWERS



Reflections from our Executive Director

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley, where this year's theme invites us all to think a little differently about philanthropy through the lens of Trivial Pursuit.

At first glance, trivia is about knowing the right answers, but in our communities, the most meaningful answers are not found on a game card, they are found in the generosity of people who care deeply about their neighbors, their hometowns, and the future we are building together.

This past year reminded us that every act of giving tells a story. Some stories begin with a scholarship that helps a student pursue a dream. Others begin with support for the arts, mental health initiatives, nonprofit programming, or emergency community needs. These moments may seem small on their own, but collectively they create something extraordinary: stronger communities across Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

As you move through this report, you will discover trivia-inspired moments that celebrate not only facts and milestones, but also the people behind them. That is our donors, nonprofit partners, volunteers, fund holders, and community champions.

You are the real "answers" to so many of the challenges our region faces. Because of your generosity in 2025, the Community Foundation was able to support students pursuing higher education, strengthen nonprofit organizations serving our most vulnerable neighbors, invest in arts and culture initiatives, and respond to evolving community needs with compassion and purpose. Every gift, whether large or small, played a role in creating opportunities and improving quality of life throughout our region.

In many ways, philanthropy resembles a game of Trivial Pursuit. Progress is not made with a single move, but through steady commitment, thoughtful strategy, and people working together toward a common goal. Each donor, volunteer, nonprofit partner, and advocate helps complete the board and move our communities forward.

As we look ahead, we know there is still important work to do. The needs within Kankakee and Iroquois Counties continue to evolve, but so does the generosity and determination of the people who call this region home. We remain committed to connecting caring individuals with meaningful opportunities to make a lasting impact for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in the power of local philanthropy and for trusting the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley to help steward your generosity. Your support is more than a contribution, it is an investment in stronger families, thriving organizations, vibrant communities, and a brighter future for all.

We invite you to continue building community together with us, one act of generosity, one partnership, and one meaningful answer at a time.

With appreciation,

Nicole Smolkovich
Executive Director



Nicole Smolkovich
Executive Director

Experts in Every Category

You've got questions, we've got answers



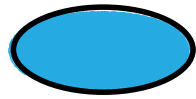
Mia Hansen
Programs & Communications



Maureen Powell
Accounting Assistant



Fast Facts 2025



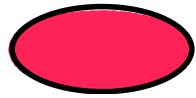
How many funds are held at the Community Foundation?



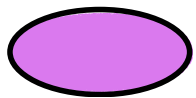
What is the total dollar amount in assets under management?



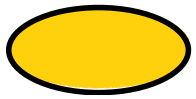
How much was awarded in scholarships in 2025?



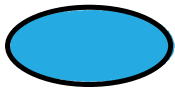
What was the total amount in grants distributed in 2025?



How many nonprofit organizations were supported last year through grants from the Community Foundation?



What was the 5-year return on investments as of 2025?



The Community Foundation holds 64 funds.



A total of \$12,496,659 assets are under management as of 2025.



Last year, \$103,125 was awarded in scholarship funds.



\$437,543 in grants were distributed to nonprofits across Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.



Last year, 50 nonprofit organizations were supported through CFKRV grants.



The 5-year return on investments as of 2025 was 7.90%.



ALL-IN SUPPORT



Did the Dolly Parton Imagination Library first launch countywide in Kankakee or Iroquois County?

Connecting community through every category

Behind every strong community is a network of people and organizations working together to make a difference. The Community Foundation's mission is to connect people who care with causes that matter. While grants and charitable funds are often the most visible part of the work, partnerships, nonprofit support, and community connections are just as important.

The Community Foundation supports nonprofits and local leaders throughout Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. In partnership with the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce, quarterly Nonprofit CEO Coffee Talks are now in their fifth year, giving nonprofit executives a place to share ideas, discuss challenges, and build relationships. The Foundation also partners with United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties to host Board Bootcamp, a training series that prepares community members for nonprofit board service. In the last year, 24 individuals completed the program and are now prepared to take on leadership roles in the community.

The Foundation also supports grassroots efforts through fiscal sponsorship and capacity building assistance. Programs such as Renville Cares, Watseka Community Renewal, Kankakee County CEO, and Project SUN have received administrative support that helps strengthen their work and expand their reach. As one example of this growth, Project SUN has now become its own 501(c)(3) organization and will operate independently in the upcoming year.

These partnerships have supported neighborhoods, expanded youth leadership opportunities, and increased access to mental health and community services. The Community Foundation is proud to support the organizations and individuals working to improve the quality of life across the region and remains committed to helping local ideas grow into lasting impact.

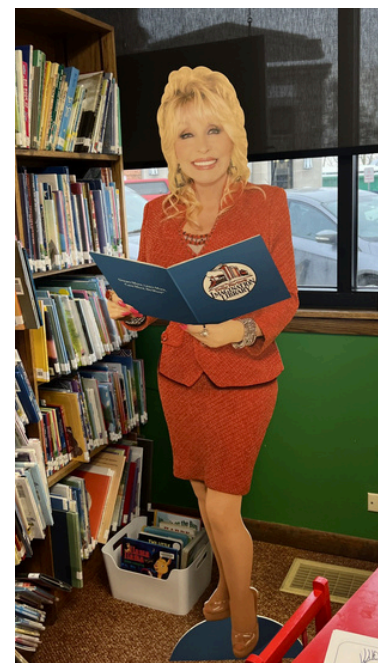


The Community Foundation continues to partner with United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties on impactful community initiatives, including Success By 6, which helped launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across both counties in 2025.

The power of a child's imagination often begins with something simple as a book. Over the past year, families across Kankakee and Iroquois Counties have opened their mailboxes to find new stories, colorful illustrations, and opportunities for learning thanks to the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program began countywide in Iroquois County in January, followed by a countywide launch in Kankakee County in July. Through the initiative, children from birth to age five receive free, age-appropriate books mailed directly to their homes each month, helping build early literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading.

In 2025, approximately 1,300 local children enrolled in the program, creating meaningful opportunities for families to read and learn together while supporting kindergarten readiness and long term academic success.

Research consistently shows that children who are exposed to books and reading early in life develop stronger language skills, improved school readiness, and greater academic confidence. Programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library help close literacy gaps before children even enter a classroom, all of which are main priorities of the Success by 6 mission.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library first launched countywide in Iroquois county.

A LEGACY THAT LASTS

For Good. For Ever.



What donation amount is needed to become a Legacy Society Member?

Legacy is not measured only by what we build in our lifetime, but by what continues long after we are gone. Through endowments, generosity becomes lasting. It transforms a single act of giving into a permanent source of support and impact for the community.

About 10 years ago, the Junior League established an endowed fund at the Community Foundation to house their fundraising efforts of \$100,000. When the Junior League later dissolved, its remaining funds were entrusted to the Community Foundation with the direction that the Foundation steward the resources where they could do the greatest good. The funds were placed into the Communityworks Fund, where they were further strengthened through matching support from the Grand Victoria Foundation, allowing the original gift to grow in impact over time and support the areas of Early Childhood Education, Land Use and Protection, and Workforce Development.



Years later, a past donor posed an important question: What became of the Junior League funds? More importantly, how could those funds be used to continue to honor the original intent of the donors. That question inspired deeper research into the history of the gift and the original fundraising efforts. In doing so, the Foundation rediscovered the Junior League's intention to utilize those funds to preserve and maintain the Stone Barn for future generations. In 2025, under the direction of the Community Foundation Board of Directors, the decision was made to establish a dedicated Stone Barn Fund for the benefit of the Kankakee County Historical Society and the future maintenance of the barn itself. Over time, the original funds had continued to grow through investment earnings. After careful review and sustainable spending calculations, the Foundation determined while still preserving the original \$100,000

donation into the Stone Barn endowment, it could also make an initial distribution of \$97,914. This aligned perfectly, as the Kankakee County Historical Society was currently fundraising to repair the cupola of the Stone Barn.

In September, during the Legacy Society Reception held inside the Stone Barn, the story of that legacy came full circle. Surrounded by donors, supporters, and community leaders, the Foundation shared the history of the Junior League's gift and presented the Kankakee County Museum with both the news of the newly established Stone Barn Fund and the first distribution supporting the barn's continued care.

The evening also highlighted another kind of legacy, one carried forward through education and opportunity. Special guest Maddie Willis, a Manteno graduate and former John Locke Memorial Scholarship recipient, shared how scholarship support helped shape her college experience and future path. Her story served as a powerful reminder that endowed gifts serve a tangible purpose, but also invest in people whose futures will strengthen the community for years to come.

Together, these stories reflect the true purpose of endowed giving: honoring the intentions of donors while creating impact that extends far beyond a single generation. Legacy is not simply what we leave behind, it is what continues to grow, serve, and inspire long into the future. That is the power of giving for good, for ever.



Start your legacy by making a commitment that extends beyond today. Members of the Legacy Society do this through pledges of \$5,000 or more over five years, while also helping share its mission with friends and colleagues. Legacy can be a deeply personal tribute, honoring a loved one by establishing a fund or making a gift in their memory, ensuring their values and impact live on.

In the past year, donations made an impact in memory and honor of the following:

In Memory of Donna J. Seggebruch, Janice Strasma, Erica Paulissen, Myrna Paulissen, Patricia Schatz, Rebecca Schatz, William Schatz, Reverend William H. Copeland Jr., Tony, Rose, Lorena, Marie, and Patricia Panozzo.

In Honor of Chasity Wells-Armstrong.

The following funds were established in 2025:

Lorena Panozzo Fund for Harbor House
 Marie Panozzo Fund for Social Services
 Patty & Alex Panozzo Fund for Cultural Enrichment
 Stone Barn Endowment Fund
 The Wilking Five: One Legacy Scholarship



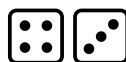
 Total donations of \$5,000 over a 5 year span qualify you as a Legacy Society member.

WE HAD A BALL!

2025 Annual Luncheon

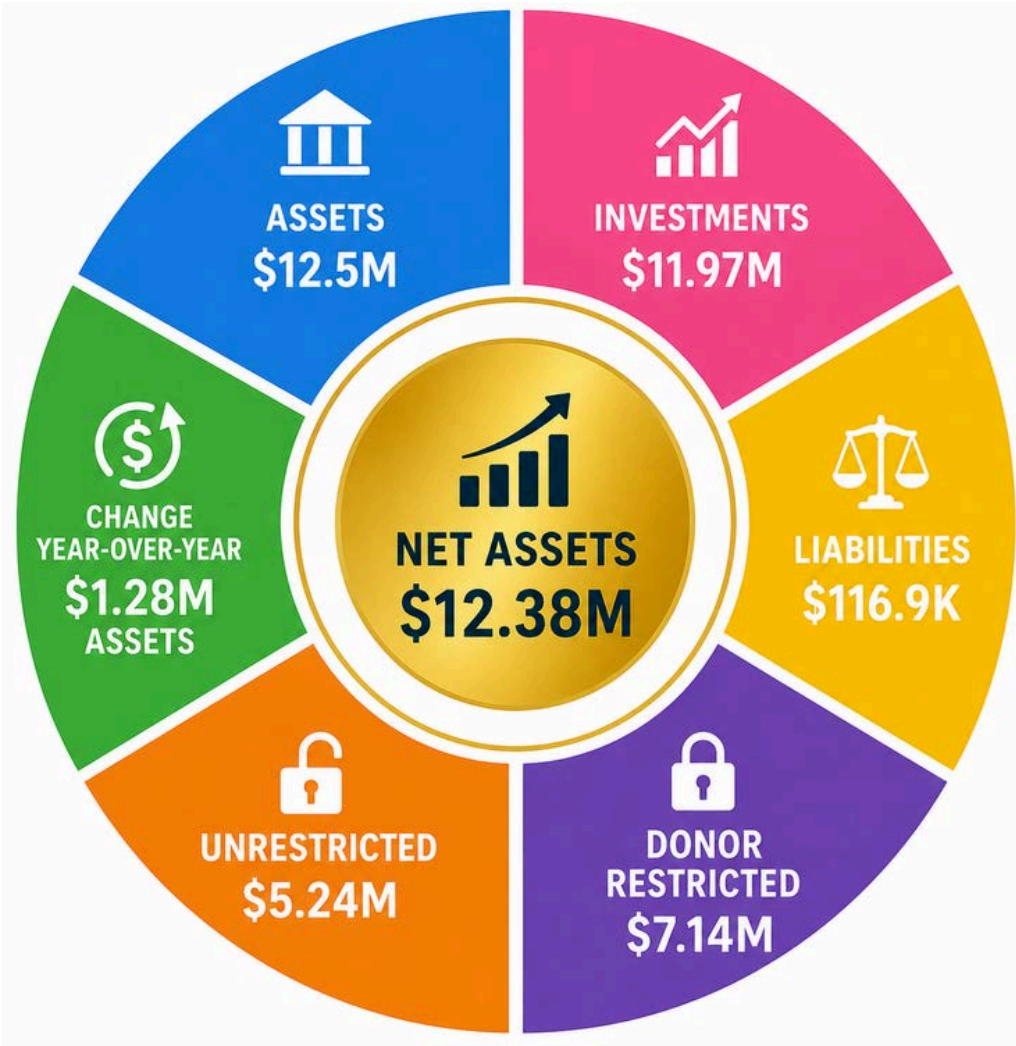
Last year's annual luncheon was held at Adventure Commons and brought together donors, partners, and community members in a relaxed, interactive setting. The event featured games and activities that reflected a light, engaging atmosphere while still highlighting the meaningful work happening across the region. It provided a welcoming space to connect, celebrate impact, and share in the energy of philanthropy in action.

A special highlight of the afternoon was honoring the spring grantees and scholarship award recipients. Having students in attendance added a vibrant, youthful energy to the room, as they were able to meet and mingle with donors and members of the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley community. Their presence served as a powerful reminder of the direct impact of giving and the bright future being supported through scholarships and grants.



EVERY WEDGE TELLS A STORY

2025 Financial Report



What portion of assets are invested for long-term growth?

Nearly **96%** of total assets are held in investments to support future impact.

What amount of assets are donor-directed?

More than **\$7.1M** is committed to donor-designated purposes including scholarships, mental health initiatives, and the arts.

How strong is the CFKRV's financial position?

Net assets increased by more than **\$1.2M** in one year, reflecting continued financial strength and sustainability.

Net Asset Growth

+10.8%



Checking & Cash

\$204,975

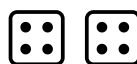


Other Assets - Real Estate

\$278,047



Full Audited Financial Statements available upon request.



PIECING TOGETHER COMMUNITY IMPACT

2025 Grants Distributed



How many nonprofit organizations received grants in 2025?

Through grantmaking, the Community Foundation helps strengthen local nonprofits while connecting donors to the causes they care about most. Each grant awarded represents an investment in programs, services, and organizations that help our communities grow stronger. By connecting donors with meaningful opportunities to give, the Community Foundation helps turn generosity into lasting impact across the region. Last year alone, the Community Foundation awarded \$437,543 in grants to 50 organizations across the region.

Whether through Donor Advised Funds that allow donors to directly support the causes closest to their hearts, Agency Funds that provide long-term stability for nonprofit organizations, or Field of Interest Funds that broaden support across a range of community needs, every fund plays a role in building a stronger future. Together, these charitable partnerships ensure local organizations have the resources they need to continue serving our communities, now and for the future.



Campus Fund

Wright in Kankakee

Community Stewardship Fund

Agape Community Outreach Mission

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project

Watseka Area Food Pantry

Communityworks Endowment Fund

A More Excellent Way Ministries

Blessings in a Backpack

Catholic Charities - Diocese of Joliet

Central Citizens' Library District

Clove Alliance

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project

Harbor House

Herscher CUSD 2

Kankakee Area YMCA

Kankakee Community College Baby Talk Program

Kankakee County Health Department

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission

Kankakee Riverfront Society, Inc.

Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District

Let's Ketchup

LoveALatte Coffee

Morning Star Church

Pledge for Life Partnership

Riverside Healthcare Foundation

Stone Barn Endowment Fund

Sweet Darren's Foundation

The Salvation Army of Kankakee County

Woody Williams Foundation, Inc.

Dave King Memorial Fund

Kankakee Event Partnership



50 nonprofit organizations received grants from the Community Foundation in 2025.



Dennis and Georgia Hess Fund

Boy Scouts of America
Good Shepherd Manor
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
Tunnels to Towers Foundation
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Uplifted Care - Hospice of Kankakee Valley
Wright In Kankakee

Robert K. Dunn Perpetual Trust Fund

Dream Catcher Farms Rescue Corp
Easterseals Joliet Region
Kankakee Area YMCA
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Sweet Darren's Foundation

Rosie Fund

Agape Community Outreach Mission
Clove Alliance
Harbor House

Stone Barn Endowment

Kankakee County Historical Society
Tony & Rose Panozzo Family Fund
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Joliet
Northern Illinois Food Bank

River Valley Special Recreation Association
Uplifted Care - Hospice of Kankakee Valley
St. John Paul II Parish

United Way of Iroquois County Fund

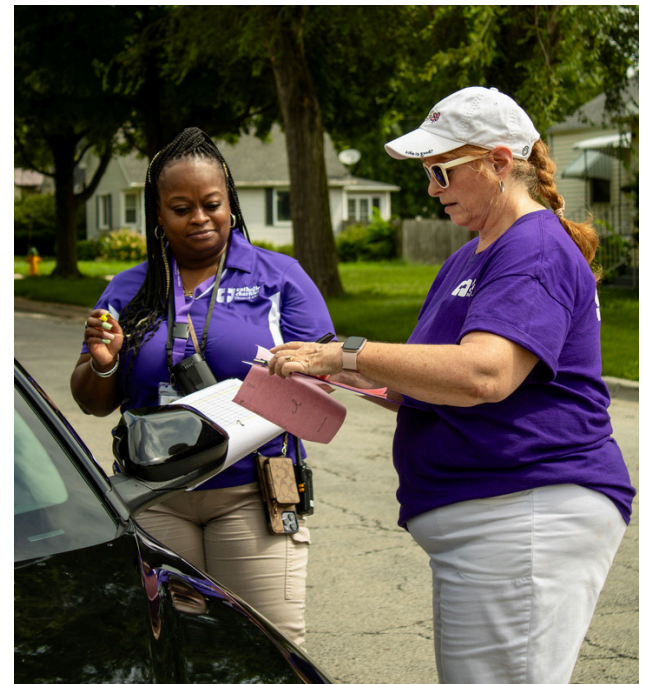
United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

United Way of Kankakee Fund

United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties



Pictured: Love A Latte



Pictured: Catholic Charities

Fine Arts Fund

Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra
Kankakee Valley Theatre Association
River Valley Special Recreation Association
Shielded Glory

River Conservation Fund

Riverfront Trail Fund

Wilking - Schatz Memorial Fund

Arc of Iroquois County
Clifton Community Food Pantry
Zion Lutheran Church
The Wilking Five: One Legacy Scholarship Fund





Which nonprofit bakery in Bradley, IL expands opportunities for individuals with disabilities through their weekly work programs offered to area high schools?

SWEET DARREN'S BAKERY

Communityworks & Robert K. Dunn



Sweet Darren's Bakery is creating new opportunities for individuals with disabilities across the region. Supported through both Communityworks and Robert K. Dunn Charitable Trust grants, the bakery's weekly work program is helping high school students with special needs gain essential life and employment skills in an encouraging, hands-on environment. Focused on workforce development, the program partners with local area high schools providing job training experiences for approximately 40 students each week.

Participants learn practical workplace skills including math, reading, communication, customer service, and workplace behavior while working in a real business setting. Students practice adding and subtracting through daily bakery tasks, interact with customers, and build confidence through routine responsibilities and teamwork. Beyond job training, the program has become a powerful source of social connection. Students now have opportunities to bond with peers in the program, engage with staff members, and interact with customers. For many participants, these regular social exchanges represent meaningful progress in communication and relationship building. Staff members have witnessed remarkable growth among students involved in the program. Participants who were once hesitant to engage socially are now recognizing repeat customers and confidently interacting with them. According to school social workers, students have shown increased confidence levels and appear more connected to their schools and communities as a result of their involvement.

At the heart of the organization is Darren, whose journey inspired the creation of Sweet Darren's Bakery. Although Darren lives with multiple disabilities, including significant speech and language impairments, his life and perseverance became the foundation for a mission centered on inclusion, dignity, and opportunity. Founder Jolene shared this deeply personal inspiration behind the organization, "I used to fear what Darren's life would be like. My grief was driven from his inabilities." Sweet Darren's transformed not only her outlook on Darren's future, but launched a nonprofit around shaping the future of other peers just like him. Today, Sweet Darren's Bakery continues to serve as more than a bakery. It's a place where confidence is built, relationships are formed, and individuals with disabilities are empowered to discover their strengths and potential.



Sweet Darren's Bakery provides job training experiences for approximately 40 students with disabilities each week through their weekly work program.

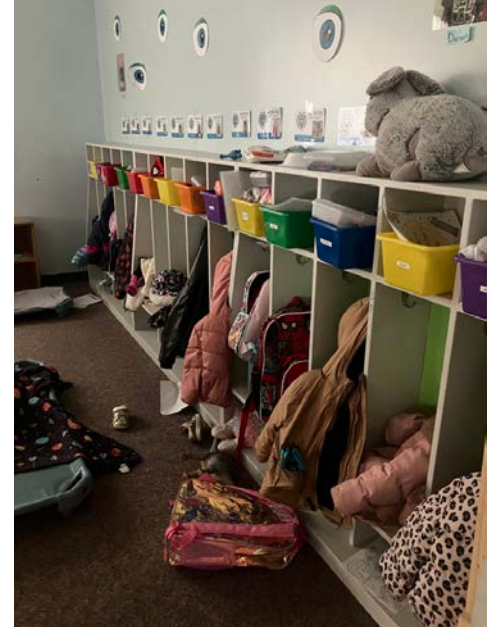
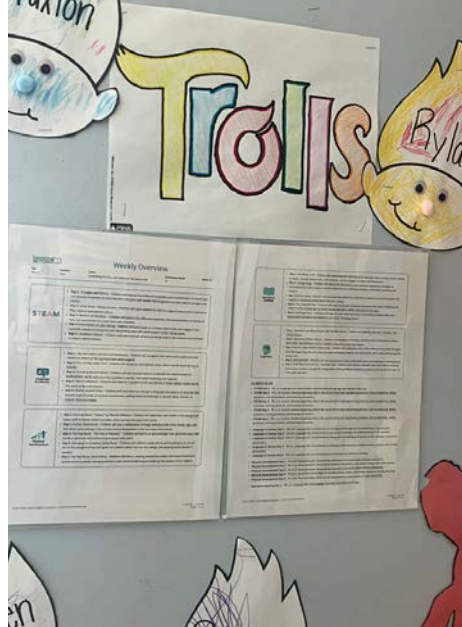
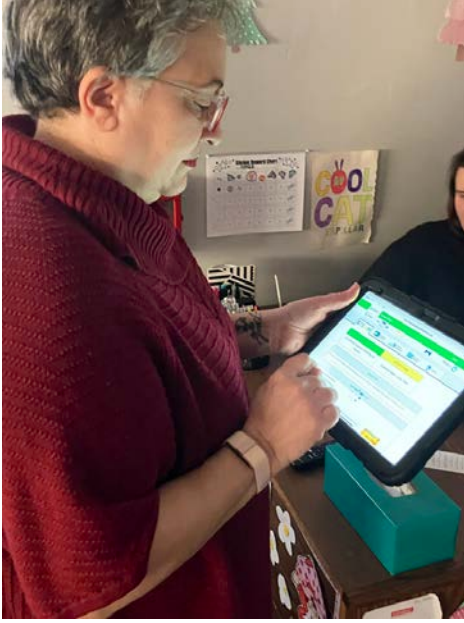




What new play-based curriculum, funded through the Communityworks Fund, is helping the Kankakee Area YMCA enhance early childhood education for infants through Pre-K students?

KANKAKEE AREA YMCA

Communityworks



For 130 years, the Kankakee Area YMCA has remained committed to strengthening the community through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. Three years ago, the YMCA expanded that mission by opening its Childcare Center, creating an environment where children can grow, learn, and thrive. The preschool program serves infants through Pre-K students. As the center continues to grow, so does its commitment to providing the highest-quality educational experiences. The Kankakee Area YMCA recently received funding from the Communityworks Fund to implement the Learning Beyond Paper curriculum within its preschool and childcare center. This investment has provided comprehensive, play-based learning system designed specifically for infants through Pre-K students. The curriculum includes 52 weeks of digital lesson plans, more than 4,000 daily activities, integrated teacher training opportunities, developmental assessment tools, and classroom resources that align with Illinois Early Learning Standards and Excellerate Illinois expectations.

The Learning Beyond Paper curriculum represents a major advancement for the YMCA Childcare Center as it continues to grow and strengthen the quality of care and education it provides to local families. Previously, the center relied on a curriculum originally designed only for preschool-aged children, requiring infant, toddler, and two-year-old teachers to adapt lessons for younger age groups. The new curriculum provides age-appropriate materials and learning experiences for each of the YMCA's six classrooms, allowing teachers to better meet the developmental needs of every child. The grant also provides Essential Kits for each classroom, including books, posters, manipulatives, and teacher resource cards that support high-quality interactions and engaging daily activities.

Through the support of the Communityworks Fund, the Kankakee Area YMCA is enhancing the educational experience for children, empowering teachers with modern resources, and strengthening connections between families and their child's learning journey.



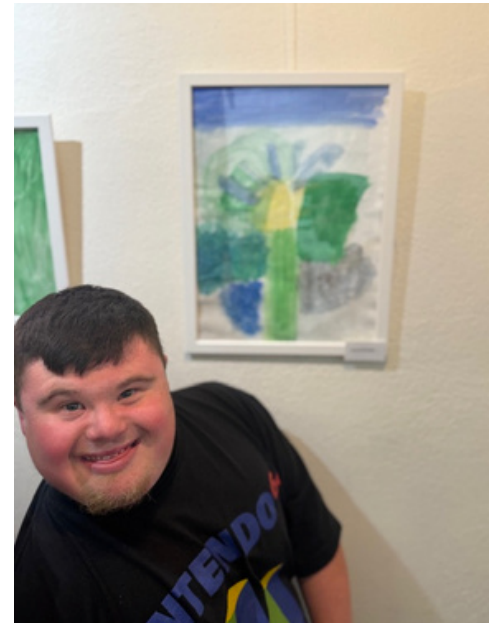
The Learning Beyond Paper curriculum is the new play-based learning system helping the Kankakee Area YMCA enhance early childhood education for infants through Pre-K students.





Which local business partnered with the River Valley Special Recreation Association to bring the Therapeutic Arts for All program to life?

RIVER VALLEY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION Fine Arts



The Fine Arts Fund grant awarded to the River Valley Special Recreation Association (RVSRA) helped bring not only creativity, but confidence, and meaningful self-expression to adults with special needs through the Therapeutic Arts for All program. In partnership with Hedgeapple Art Studio, participants in RVSRA's Adult Day Program attended weekly painting, ceramics, and photography lessons in a professional creative environment, gaining hands-on instruction and opportunities to explore new artistic skills.

The program strongly reflected the Fine Arts Fund's mission of building a happy and healthy community through creativity while making the arts accessible for all. Approximately 25 participants developed artistic abilities while also strengthening communication, social interaction, focus, and confidence. The classes provided a welcoming and inclusive space where participants could connect with peers, express themselves creatively, and experience a sense of accomplishment through their work.

A portion of the grant also supported a gallery exhibit that professionally showcased participants' artwork for friends, family members, and community supporters. Framed pieces were displayed in a formal exhibit setting, giving participants the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and take their artwork home following the event. For many individuals, this was their first time participating in an art gallery exhibition, with many feeling empowered to achieve this milestone. Through Therapeutic Arts for All, the Fine Arts Fund helped ensure that individuals of all abilities could experience the joy and benefits of the arts while creating opportunities for personal growth, inclusion, and community connection.



Hedgeapple Art Studio partnered with the River Valley Special Recreation Association (RVSRA) to provide opportunities for participants to engage in painting, ceramics, and photography, and to showcase their work in a gallery exhibit.



PURSuing BRIGHT FUTURES

2025 Scholarship Recipients



What two school districts partner with the Community Foundation to streamline their district scholarship programs?

From mastering difficult subjects to navigating the path toward higher education, scholarship recipients have proved they are ready to take on life's next round of challenges. Through the Foundation's commitment to Youth & Education, scholarships continue to empower students who stay curious, pursue knowledge, and earn achievements that will shape their futures. Just like advancing around the Trivial Pursuit board, every student's journey requires determination, preparation, and confidence to keep moving forward. CFKRV is proud to help students gain momentum through meaningful scholarship opportunities.

By partnering with local school districts, CFKRV has streamlined the scholarship process for donors, applicants, and schools through our online scholarship platform and universal application system.



Josie Newberry, Momence High School

Josie Newberry, a graduate of Momence High School and recipient of the Donna J. Seggebruch Scholarship, ranked first in her class and attending Illinois State University in the fall of 2025 to pursue accounting. With dreams of one day opening her own accounting firm, Josie credits her success to hard work, leadership opportunities, and the support she received throughout high school.

As valedictorian, Josie shared that her achievement reflects the responsibility and determination that continue to motivate her future goals. She plans to earn her master's degree in accounting and says the experiences and opportunities provided through Momence High School helped build the confidence and skills needed to succeed academically and professionally.

We are able to connect donors to the cause that matters to them centered around pursuing higher education and supporting vocational training through Foundation scholarship funds. The Community Foundation currently partners with both Herscher High School and Manteno High School to streamline their district scholarship programs. In the last scholarship cycle, over \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded to recipients across Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Every award represents more than financial support, but an investment in students who are mastering the Youth & Education category through academic achievement.

Foundation Scholarships

Do It Stevie's Way Foundation Scholarship

Mikayla Ryan, Addison Peterson, Nelson Middlebrook, Elsie Hoffman, Layla Keen, Brigitte Cueva, Matthew Ball, Lucy Guimond, Kaylee Boudreau, Makenna Gavin, Jacob Ball, Oliva Beatty, Gabriella Cantwell, Sarah Parsons, Ella Smith

Donna J. Seggebruch Scholarship

Josie Newberry, Jayla Joseph

Erica Lynn Paulissen Memorial Scholarship

Brayden Heldt, Madison Smith

John Locke Memorial Scholarship

Mady MacGilvray, Dominic Panozzo, Tyson Clodi, Brayden Heldt, Jayla Joseph

Renville Cares Scholarship

Nathaniel Miller



The Community Foundation partners with Herscher High School and Manteno High School to streamline their district scholarship programs.





HERSCHER CUSD NO. 2

A Just Better Foundation Tiger Scholarship

Mylee Coffman

Albert A. & Elizabeth Wheeler Mau Memorial Scholarship

Ginger Bertrand

Caitlin Poppie Memorial Scholarship

Lillian Wepprecht

Dr. Lawrence T. Jacobson Leadership Memorial Scholarship

Molly Huizenga

Evelyn Mau Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Benoit, Ezekeil Houberg, Lauren Ferry

Herschler Athletic Booster Club Award

Payten Young, RyLyn Adams

Herschler FFA Alumni Foundation Scholarship

Elsie Hoffman, Ginger Bertrand, Alena LeGesse

Avery Wright, Alyssa Velazquez, Tate White

Herschler High School Alumni Association Scholarship

Riley Webber, Tate White

Herschler High School Music Boosters Scholarship

Mylee Coffman, Addison Telschow, Abigail White

Herschler High School Sports Fan Scholarship

RyLyn Adams, Isabella Mendell, Bryce Arseneau

Brennen Gessner

Herschler Lions Club Scholarship

Alya Summers, Bryce Arseneau

Herschler Senior of the Month Scholarship

Brittany Wietting, Mylee Coffman, Riya Patel,

Madison MacGilray, Brayden Shepard, Gabrielle Tholen,

Ginger Bertrand, Aniston Hackley, Madison Smith

Kent Weakley Creative Scholarship Fund

Mackenzie Hendrix

Patricia A. Long Memorial Scholarship

Isabella Mendell

Randy Lehnus Vocational Scholarship

Lillian Wepprecht, Kaleb Gordon, Wyatt Gosse

Rich Jensen Scholarship

Logan Morrow

Robert & Thelma Webber Scholarship

Brandon Joyce

Stacy & Chris Skarstad Memorial Scholarship

Bryce Arseneau, Lauren Ferry, Aniston Hackley

The Riley Family Vocational Scholarship

Gracie Carson, Ezekeil Houberg

Tim Orwig Memorial Scholarship

Brayden Shepard, Molly Huizenga

U2CT Scholarship

Addison Telschow, Ayla Summers, Brigitte Cueva,

Elsie Hoffman, Johnathan Garrett, Madison Smith,

Molly Huizenga, Mylee Coffman, Brittany Wietting

Zayla Mitsdarffer Memorial Scholarship

Ginger Bertrand



MANTENO

Community Unit
School District No. 5

Coach Corey Blanchette Commitment to Character Scholarship

Ava Peterson

Joseph Williams Scholarship

Katherine Rogers

Live LaMore Foundation Scholarship

Brandon Kropp, Macy Iwanus

The Fred Johnson Scholarship

Nolan Canfield, Kaylee Boudreau

Manteno Chamber Young Leaders Scholarship

Brandon Kropp, McKenna Gavin

Manteno Education Association Scholarship

Matthew Ball, Caitlin Meaney

Manteno PTO Scholarship

Aeryn Breazeale, Julie Ott

Manteno Wildcats College Scholarship

Makenna Gavin, Matthew Ball

Manteno Women's Club Scholarship

Brandon Kropp, Aeryn Braezeale

MYBSL College Scholarship

Kohen Lubben, Macy Iwanus

Nexus - Indian Oaks Family Healing Cornerston Scholarship

Ava Derrico

The Master Sergeant (Ret) Josh Carlile Scholarship

Brandon Kropp, Benjamin Milton



Annual Report

2025

Connecting people who care with causes that matter since 1982.
For Good. For Ever.

Do you know the difference your generosity made this year?

From early childhood literacy programs and creative arts experiences for individuals with special needs to expanded childcare education and community wide partnerships across Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, this past year reflected the power of connection, learning, and philanthropy in action.

Turn the pages and inspire yourself with stories that shaped our communities. Each question reveals a deeper look at the people, partnerships, and purpose behind the impact, all made possible through generous donors, dedicated nonprofits, and a shared commitment to building stronger communities together.

Play along. Learn something new. Discover how giving changes everything.

P.O. Box 72, Kankakee, IL 60901

815-939-1611

info@cfkrv.org

www.cfkrv.org

