

## *Success by 6 Family Support Bus Partnership*

In June, the Healthy Beginnings action team launched the Family Support Bus partnership with help of Bourbonnais School District 53 and Easterseals. The Bourbonnais School District offered their family support bus as a mobile site to host developmental screenings for children ages 0-5. The Easterseals staff have been a huge support in providing the screeners for the program along with Aunt Martha's and First Taste programs. The goal is for the bus to visit various libraires, community centers, and events throughout Kankakee and Iroquois Counties to bring developmental screenings to more families across both counties.

This aligns with Success by Six's strategic plan to "Increase the number of children who are screened for developmental delays and refer children with delays to specialized services."



[Photo shared with parental permission]

The bus made its first appearance at the Kankakee Farmers' Market on June 10 at the Success by 6 Early Childhood Fair. At that event, 23 children were screened. We followed up with another June date in Iroquois County at the Central Citizens Library in Clifton.

The bus features an open layout which allows for the screening to take place comfortably and discreetly on the bus. After the screening is performed, it is reviewed with the parents and recommendations can be made if further intervention is required. The program took off with another July date at Edward Chipman Library in Momence, and multiple events in August. So far, the bus has visited 9 locations and screened over 80 children. The bus is scheduled to appear next at "Halloween Downtown" at the Kankakee Farmers' Market, Sunday, October 15th from 10am – 4pm.

## *It's (always) a Great Time to Review Your Estate*

August marked *National Make a Will Month*. Even if your estate planning documents are already in place, this is still a good time to review your will, trust, and beneficiary designations to ensure that they still capture your financial and family situation, as well as your intentions.

Remember, your fund at the Community Foundation can be an ideal recipient of estate gifts through a will or trust, or through a beneficiary designation on a qualified retirement plan or life insurance policy. Bequests of qualified retirement plans—such as your IRA—can be extremely tax-efficient. This is because charitable organizations such as the Community Foundation are tax-exempt. This means the funds flowing directly to a fund at the Community Foundation from a retirement plan after your death will not be reduced by income tax. This also means the assets will not be subject to estate tax.



The Community Foundation makes it easy for your attorney to draft bequest terms in legal documents, including beneficiary designations of retirement plans and life insurance policies. Please contact our team for the exact language that will ensure alignment with your intentions.

Keep in mind that even after you have executed estate planning documents or beneficiary designations, in many cases you can update the terms of the fund at the Community Foundation designated to receive the bequest upon your death. You will love the ease and flexibility. We look forward to hearing from you and your advisors as you update your estate plan to ensure that your community legacy is intact!



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### *National Standards Accreditation*

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley is pleased to announce that we have recently received re-accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations®. This accreditation, signified by the Seal shown here, indicates that our Foundation meets the highest standards for philanthropic excellence. National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® establishes legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere.

"This is a significant accomplishment," said Jake Lee, Board Chair. "When people trust Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley with a charitable bequest, to establish a fund, or set up an annuity, they do it knowing that we have met rigorous standards for donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration."

"The National Standards accreditation says this house is in order" said Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director. "It is excellent validation of the work we do on behalf of our donors and our community."

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley was first accredited with National Standards in 2008. With your help, they have become a more effective partner for impacting the causes you care about.



# *Kankakee County CEO Launch*



As a new school year begins, Kankakee County CEO launches its first class. Five inquisitive students from participating High Schools in Kankakee County started their semester dressed to impress and eager to learn. In it's first week, students heard from business professionals in the community about their experiences in their industries,. These students have begun to make

valuable connections which will assist them with navigating through the program and future endeavors. "The unifying idea behind our 'life lessons' [so far] is that you must hold yourself to a higher standard. I believe that adhering to that idea and truly putting my best foot forward in all I do will make me a better person," shared one CEO student.

Students in the CEO program are guided by class facilitator, Katie Bretzlaff. Katie has over two decades of teaching experience at the high school, college, and elementary levels. An artist, designer, and photographer, she is also the owner of Hedgeapple Arts Studio and Gallery in downtown Kankakee, which offers studio art classes and creative experiences for people of all ages. In addition to being a small business owner, Katie has experience in communications, marketing, and design through her experience working for local nonprofit organizations and from her time serving as a high school yearbook adviser. Born and raised in Kankakee County, she has chosen to call Kankakee home and is dedicated to enriching the culture of our community.

"So far the CEO program is genuinely one of my favorite classes of my entire school journey," said another student.

Participants are already hard at work brainstorming their first microbusiness. Together, the class will create microbusinesses to generate revenue which will seed the start up of their individual businesses which will be



created during the school year. You can follow their journey by subscribing to their newsletter at [www.kankakeecountyceo.com](http://www.kankakeecountyceo.com) and finding them on Facebook: Kankakee County CEO.

The Kankakee County CEO students would love to tour your facility and hear your story. Are you interested in participating? Contact: [facilitator@kankakeecountyceo.com](mailto:facilitator@kankakeecountyceo.com).

## Planting New Roots



The Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley has called the Bradley House “home” for the past 13 years. The Foundation assisted Wright in Kankakee with establishing their nonprofit and helping them open the Bradley House to the public for all the enjoy. The Community Foundation set up offices on the second floor, giving the house a daily presence and income for sustainability. With the mortgage now paid off, the Community Foundation has moved on to plant new roots.

“Being able to give our support to Wright in Kankakee and the Bradley House was a great privilege. We will fondly remember the many events and meetings we hosted in this grand space,” said Nicole Smolkovich, Executive Director of CFKRV.

The offices are now located in the PNC Bank building, next to the Executive Center. Visit the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley at: 1 Dearborn Square, Suite 500, Kankakee, IL 60901.

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