



701 S. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901

815-939-1611

[www.cfkrv.org](http://www.cfkrv.org)

Spring 2021

## *Communityworks Grant Helping Grieving Children*

Uplifted Care, founded as Hospice of Kankakee Valley, was a Communityworks grant recipient for 2020. Uplifted Care's mission to provide compassionate, physical, emotional, spiritual, and social support to individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. The children's programs at their grief center address these needs for children in the community who are experiencing grief related to loss. Through individual, group, and family counseling, along with therapeutic programs targeted towards their needs, children can better feel connected with their families and each other to help them feel less alone in their grief journey.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed new problems for their organization to deliver their mission, in a time where grieving children needed it most. The Communityworks grant helped Uplifted Care transition their service delivery methods to families to meet their needs while following state enforced guidelines.



Puppet Therapy Stage used for play therapy

Through telehealth treatment and other socially distanced methods, this organization was able to help 17 children with bereavement counseling services. Funds were utilized to provide software needed to enable virtual support services for clients, supplies which were delivered to each child, and the adaptation of their Virtual Puppet Therapy. Puppet Therapy is an application of play therapy which is used to help children freely express their grief.

Uplifted Care Greif Center is a permanent part of the community and will continue to provide children and family grieving services, along with other programs of care, at no charge to the community as long as there is a need.



## *Double Down*

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce 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. When the challenge began in mid November, the Fine Arts fund held just over \$7,000 in the fund which only allowed the Community Foundation to grant around \$350 per year. Not much to make an impact. Mr. Strasma will be matching up to \$50,000 in donations through December 31, 2021. Once the goal is met, the fund will have grown enough to allow grants up to \$5,000 per year. Grants will be made in the areas of literature, music, architecture, sculpture, painting, performing arts, and film.

Please consider taking part in this challenge by making a donation or let us know that you plan to make a gift by year-end. You can donate online through our secure website, [www.cfkrv.org](http://www.cfkrv.org), or send your donation to Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley, 701 S. Harrison Ave, Kankakee, IL 60901. Any questions, please contact Nicole at 815-939-1611 or [nicole@cfkrv.org](mailto:nicole@cfkrv.org).



Norm and Janice Strasma

## *How your dollars can make a difference*



Create beautiful murals and artwork that can be interactive and attract visitors to our community.



Support programs for children to learn about Architecture and the local architectural history.



Support the literacy field by bringing authors to speak at local libraries.

# Continuous Community Impact

So far this year the COVID-19 Community Response Fund has distributed 2 rounds of funding totaling \$79,789 to 6 nonprofit organizations. These organizations have been awarded funds to assist with emergency food and supplies, rent and utility assistance, youth tutoring and enrichment, and sustainable agriculture systems for families in Kankakee and Iroquois counties.

Nonprofit grantee organization Iroquois County Youth Center had been greatly impacted by the increased cost of running their youth center due to lack of funding from donors in the community also impacted by the pandemic. Iroquois County Youth Center's mission is to provide a safe space for youth in the community to gather, while offering tutoring, life skill training, and STEM projects to enhance their lives. Their goal is to train the youth in their community to be the leaders for tomorrow.



Funding through the COVID-19 Community Response Fund helped provide the Youth Center with PPE to safely remain open and technology needed to run socially distanced programs. Over 250 students were able to benefit from this opportunity. One student in particular was able to make new friends, bring up his grades, and work towards healthy goals to overall improve his lifestyle. [Andrew] is a perfect example of how the Iroquois County Youth Center is changing lives through youth enrichment.

## Upcoming Grant Cycles

### August 2020: Robert K. Dunn Perpetual Charitable Trust Fund Grants

The DPCTF co-trustees believe that it is necessary to invest its limited funds where they will have the greatest impact on youth. Priority will be given to projects and programs directed at youth that:

- Promote participation and racial integration of at-risk or vulnerable youth in team sports
- Assist youth who are abused, neglected, delinquent, or mentally, physically, or emotionally challenged; or
- Reduce violence perpetrated in the community



# You're Invited!



Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley

## 2021 Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2021  
12:00 pm

### Join us to learn how we are growing together with our communities!

This year's annual meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. At the meeting we will highlight the impact your donations and the work of the Community Foundation, along with partner nonprofits, have made this past year. At this time the 2021 Communityworks and Rosie Fund recipients will be announced. A special video will be presented to learn more about the Fine Arts Matching Fund Challenge and why Fine Arts are important for our community.

RSVP to [info@cfkrv.org](mailto:info@cfkrv.org) by Friday, May 14 to receive your event link.

### Newsletters now Online and in you Inbox!

You can now view our quarterly Newsletters and Annual Reports online at [www.cfkrv.org](http://www.cfkrv.org) under the About Us tab. You can also sign up for our monthly Newsletter E-blasts at the bottom of our homepage.

If you would like to continue receiving paper copies of our Quarterly Newsletters, call us at 815-939-1611 or email [info@cfkrv.org](mailto:info@cfkrv.org) to be added to our mailing list!

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