

Learning to Be (Technologically) Literate



Iroquois CUSD#9 Kindergarten Student

Last fall, Iroquois Community School District #9 requested funding through the Robert K. Dunn Perpetual Charitable Trust Fund Grant to support students with learning through technology. In partnership with families and the community, Iroquois CUSD#9 is committed to educating and supporting children to become well-rounded individuals. Their mission is to inspire, educate, challenge, and support each student to reach their full potential.

Iroquois CUSD#9 asked for assistance to purchase technology devices that are user friendly for kindergarten students. MAP testing, which is an assessment tool used to determine math and reading levels to provide specific instruction, showed that their students were struggling to click and drag answers. Struggling to use the previously outdated devices posed learning challenges and anxiety in students when completing these assessments. Their scores were often lower, and not indicative of their ability.

Through the support of the Robert Dunn Grant, Iroquois CUSD#9 purchased 22 touch screen Chromebooks. The touchscreen Chromebooks have provided the opportunity for students to build a foundation of technology usage and learn math and reading skills as well. These have allowed them to learn through differentiated instruction and provided pathways of information that best meets their needs. As a result, this will help close the learning gap and put them on their way toward being technologically literate, equipped with communication, math, science, and critical thinking skills essential to prepare them for their best future.



Iroquois CUSD#9 Kindergarten Student

Overall, so far 62 students, 3 Kindergarten Teachers, and 2 Response to Intervention Teachers have benefited from the assistance of the Robert Dunn Grant. This will also continue to benefit teachers and students for years to come.

Community Foundation Capacity Building

Last September, the Community Foundation partnered with the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Ascension St. Mary, launched CEO Coffee Talks to local nonprofit CEOs. These coffee talks are meant to give nonprofit CEOs a safe place to network and collaborate with like-minded peers. CEOs can discuss topics related to staff, their board, programs and more. Visit our website www.cfkrv.org and sign up for the E-newsletter to find out when the next CEO coffee talk will be held.



Nonprofit CEOs gathered at the Bradley House for networking and collaboration



Lunch and learn featuring Fundraising Tips led by Dr. Jeff Williamson and Jenny Schoenwetter at KCC



Held quarterly, the Community Foundation has worked this year to bring educational seminars centered around capacity building topics of interest to the nonprofit community. This year, guest speakers have been invited to lead conversations on the topics of Grant Writing and Fundraising. On July 13, Dr. Jeff Williamson and Sarah Marion shared tips on Strategic Planning. By utilizing community experts, the Foundation is able to offer these seminars to the community free of charge. Visit us at www.cfkrv.org under the events tab to learn more about our capacity building events.

Does your organization need a speaker for an event?

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley would like to share our mission with you! Learn how we can continue growing together with the community in order to make a difference now, and for future generations.

If you would like us to speak at your event, please call us at 815-939-1611 or email info@cfkrv.org



New Grant Opportunities this Fall

In November of 2020, the Fine Arts Fund Campaign was launched to raise money for the Fund. With the generosity of matching funds donor, Norm Strasma, and donors throughout our community near and far, the Fine Arts Fund will begin taking grant applications this Fall.

Grants will be made in the areas of Music, Painting, Architecture, Sculpture, Literature, Performing Arts and Film. Grants are awarded to 501(c)3 organizations and quasi-governmental agencies serving Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

Also new to the Fall Grant Cycle will be the Community Stewardship Fund Grants, which award grants for ever-changing community needs.

The Grant guidelines and applications for the Fall Grant Cycle will be available on our website (www.cfkrv.org) in August.



To bring you these new opportunities, Community Foundation has implemented a new grants management platform. Similar to our Scholarship Portal, the Foundation will now be utilizing Foundant's Grant Lifecycle Manager Online Grants Portal to streamline the application process. Training seminars and materials will be available for organizations needing assistance on navigating the new platform.

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley provides you a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving. We offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals.

Each donor has a unique giving experience, tailored to suit his or her situation and goals. Monthly giving is an easy way to give long term to a fund of your choice, or even establish your own fund. You can set up reoccurring donations through your bank, through our website, or send a gift directly to the foundation. Visit www.cfkrv.org or contact info@cfkrv.org to set up your monthly giving plan.



FOR GOOD. FOREVER.

Welcome Aboard!

New to the Board of Directors this year is Angela Morrey. She is the Director of Marketing & Business Attraction for the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County. We are excited to have Angela join us in helping deliver our mission to our communities.

If you're interested in learning more about the role of a board member for the Community Foundation, please contact Nicole@cfkrv.org.



Meet Jessica!

Jessica is a cosmetology graduate from Regency Beauty Institute in Aurora, IL. She moved to Bourbonnais with her husband and two children in 2020.

Before joining the Community Foundation as the full time Administrative Assistant, she was a property manager at various low income housing projects in Illinois as well as a part time hairstylist. She has an extensive background in Family Housing, HUD, Section 8 Vouchers, LIHTC, Real Estate, and managing different functions and programs within the communities for which she was responsible.

In her free time, she enjoys volunteering for children and adults with special needs, being outdoors, and absolutely loves animals.

Causes important to her include: Mental Health, Animal Rights, and the organization, *Feed My Starving Children*.



Jessica Huebner, Administrative Assistant

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