

CommY Unity

GROWING TOGETHER

Winter 2022

701 S. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901 815-939-1611 www.cfkrv.org

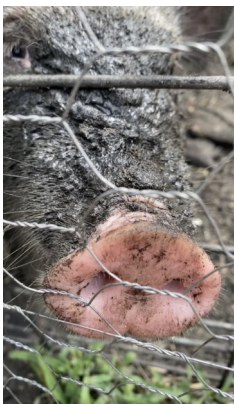
Run -A-Way Buckers: Summer Camp and More

Run-A-Buckers is a nonprofit organization which has much to offer. In 1999 Reginald and Brenda Stewart created the camp to provide an outlet for youth to escape the trials and tribulations of the inner-city. Located in Pembroke, organic crops are grown and livestock are raised to provide a range of educational experiences for those visiting the farm. Youth ages 4 to 12 are invited to their no-cost summer camp to learn about farming, agriculture, and other valuable life skills. The older adolescent, adult counselors and staff offer guidance, trusting relationships, and life skills to enhance youth development.



Reginald & Brenda Stewart with 3 of their children who help operate Run-A-Way Buckers receiving their Communityworks Grant presented by Board Chair Jeff Williamson and Executive Director Nicole Smolkovich

Run-A-Way Buckers has received multiple grants through the Community Foundation for their work to provide fresh produce and much needed e-learning assistance during the pandemic. The most recent grant received by their organization was the Communityworks grant for 2022. This grant was given to support their teen workforce and mentoring team. Run-A-Way Buckers will be collaborating with Kankakee Community College Workforce Services to provide a workforce labor team. The organization will be training up to five workers to provide education with hands on agricultural experience as well as resume building, CPR training, basic food safety, marketing and advertisement training. This program aims to educate and empower underserved and high-risk individuals to prepare for different careers in the agriculture industry.



Pictured Left:
Livestock raised on the farm
Pictured Right:
Greenhouse and irrigation system for farming



Kankakee County CEO

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley, partnered with the Kankakee County CEO Board, Midland Institute and dedicated community members have set the goal to launch the CEO program in 4 participating high schools in Kankakee County by August of 2023. Participating schools include Bishop McNamara, Momence High School, St. Anne High School, and Kankakee Trinity Academy.

The CEO Program is a revolutionary concept in entrepreneurship education as a community-driven model that brings schools and business leaders together to transform high school students into the community's business and thought leaders of tomorrow. Investors across Kankakee and Iroquois County have chosen to support this program as investors, mentors, host sites, site visits, and guest speakers. Participating 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.



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

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. If you're interested in becoming an investor for Kankakee CEO or would like to volunteer your time to the program, please email Nicole@cfkrv.org.

2022 Fall Grants

Community Stewardship Fund

Kiwanis Club of Kankakee: Winter Shoe Project -\$2,000

Farmworker & Landscape Advocacy Project: Community Outreach - \$2,000

Clove Alliance: Case Management -\$2,500

Fine Arts Fund

Acting Out Theatre Company: Cinderella Orchestra Pit Musicians -\$1,500

Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra: Music in the Park -\$1,000

Robert K. Dunn Perpetual Trust Fund

Farmworker & Landscape Advocacy Project: Community Outreach -\$10,000

Northern Illinois Food Bank: School Based Food Pantry -\$5,000

Blessings in a Backpack: Weekend food Backpacks-\$1,000

Kiwanis Club of Kankakee: Winter Warmth Project -\$1,500

Nexus Family Healing: Sensory Room -\$1,500

Child Network: Children's Advocacy Center -\$5,000

Bourbonnais Township Park District: A Special Night for Special Needs -\$927

Kankakee Jaycee Little League: Jaycees Revamp Project -\$9,000

Spirit of the Sol: Winter & Summer Reading Programs -\$2,000

CFKRV 40th Birthday Event

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*, the 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 grant this Fall.

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!



Pictured Left to Right: Nick Allen, Jeff Williamson, Jake Lee, Mia Hansen, Nicole Smolkovich, Kerstin Rust, Jessica Huebner, Angela Morrey, Michael Pueschell



Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley provides 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.

Happy Holiday's from the Community Foundation!

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.





Pictured: CFKRV Administrative Team and Project SUN Staff– (Back) Nicole Smolkovich, Rhonda Showers, Shemara Fontes, Mia Hansen, Karla Duran, Debra Baron (Front) Cheme Williams-Brooks, Sarah Winkel


Board of Directors

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



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Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™



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