

The Essential Piece

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



January 2019

A Piece from Nicole



Dear friends,

By the time you read this note, the holidays will be a mere blur and long gone. The pieces that made the season complete – the lights, the pageantry, and, yes, even the shopping – will be tucked away for another 11 months ... until it begins all over again!

If you're not quite ready to let go of the holiday spirit, here's a great way to truly wrap up the season – a gift

to the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley. It's a wonderful way to enrich the heart and soul of the community you and your family love.

Your generosity brings to life the ideas, initiatives, and programs that enable CFKRV to protect our gorgeous natural environment, to provide educational opportunities, and to assist those in need. **YOU are The Essential Piece** for wellness and well-being in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

As 2019 takes off, I am encouraged and motivated by the thoughtful approach to our work and deep dedication that the Foundation's staff and board bring to our mission and to our community. And, I am ever grateful to **YOU ... The Essential Piece** of the CFKRV puzzle.

Nicole Smolkovich

Nicole Smolkovich
Executive Director

The 2019 Competition Is On!

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley awards grants to not-for-profit organizations in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties to establish or enhance programs and efforts in three areas: **Early Childhood Education, Land Use & Protection, and Workforce Development.**

Grantseeker's Workshop *Mandatory Meeting*

for Prospective Applicants

Thursday, February 7, 2019

1:00 p.m. **or** 5:30 p.m.

Frank Lloyd Wright Bradley House
701 S. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per grant. Potential applicants are encouraged to review the grant guidelines and to access the application on CFKRV's website, www.cfkrv.org.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 8, 2019.



Get the Most from the New Tax Law

Two years ago, the federal government passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, essentially lowering taxes for almost every taxpayer *and* nearly doubling the standard deduction.

These changes include revised giving strategies that can provide significant tax and non-tax benefits. Here are some ways to make the most of the new tax law.

1. Make an outright gift of appreciated assets.

Giving appreciated assets that you have held for a year or longer can provide savings on both income *and* capital gains taxes while allowing you to support meaningful causes that are important to you. For example, you can make a gift to support an existing Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley fund or to start a new one.

Gifts of stock and mutual funds are the most common appreciated assets, but all types of securities and donations of real estate, life insurance, and closely-held business interests should be considered, too.

2. Create or add to a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).

A Donor-Advised Fund or DAF enables you to recommend grants at any time throughout the year to qualified nonprofit organizations, such as CFKRV. This strategy can help generate tax savings and efficiently focus and simplify your charitable giving.

If your estimated income tax deductions aren't large enough to warrant itemizing, consider increasing your charitable gifts by directing them to a DAF to reach the threshold. By doing so, you can itemize and receive a tax deduction this year *and* recommend grants to nonprofits like CFKRV over a period of years.

A DAF can also help minimize or avoid capital gains on long-term appreciated assets (held for a year or more), such as securities and real estate. Not only will you receive a deduction equal to the assets' fair market value, your contribution can be deducted up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, with an excess carried forward up to five years.

3. 70½ or older? Make an IRA rollover gift.

You can gift up to \$100,000 (per spouse) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to qualified nonprofits like CFKRV. These contributions count toward your annual required minimum distribution (RMD), and you won't have to pay taxes on the withdrawals.

Please contact your financial advisor regarding the transfer of your IRA funds. (Note: IRA gifts cannot be contributed to a DAF.)



Want to learn more
about achieving
your gift-giving goals?

Call Nicole at CFKRV,
815-939-1611.

The information provided in this article is for personal education only. Policies and laws governing charitable gifts are subject to change. Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley recommends that you consult with your tax accountant, attorney, or financial advisor to determine your giving plans.

All Children Shall Have Shoes ... Especially at Christmas

Toys? Vacations? Cars? Two front teeth? No way. Items like those didn't even make the wish lists for 172 young students from Kankakee, Bradley, and Bourbonnais schools last holiday season. Tops on their lists? A new pair of shoes!

Now in its third year, Kiwanis Club of Kankakee and Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley partnered with Kohl's to provide new shoes and boots to local students in need (grades K-5). The program, *All Children Shall Have Shoes*, bused students to the store over a few days where volunteers from Kiwanis, CFKRV, and Kohl's measured lots of little feet and helped the kids pick out their shoes.

The stories and smiles were heartwarming and abundant. One student was overjoyed to get his first pair of new shoes ever. Normally, he gets his shoes as hand-me-downs from his brothers.

From the minute she stepped into the store, it was clear that another student was destined to be a real "shoe girl." She tried on every shoe and boot that had even a hint of glitter and settled on a new pair of "sparkly sparkle boots."

And, another student told everyone again and again that he "could run around the world so fast in his new shoes."

The first day of shoe fest was so successful that the manager of Kohl's had to jump into her Santa-mobile and visit surrounding stores to restock for the next day's pitter-patter of little feet.

To top off the adventure, Women of the Kankakee Moose donated new pairs of socks to each student, and a special donor, Tom O'Connor, made sure that each visitor left with a candy bar as well.

This story is just one of the many ways that shows how CFKRV "shoes-es" to make a meaningful difference where it matters most – in the lives (and on the feet!) of children in our community.

Telecom Pioneers founded the All Children Shall Have Shoes Project in 1971. The project has transitioned to Kiwanis Club of Kankakee.



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48%

In the United States, 48 percent of the population will develop a mental disorder at some point in their lifetimes, with 75 percent having the onset before the end of adolescence (age 24).

This public health issue is aggravated by the fact that many communities have insufficient resources or strategies to address this threat to the healthy development of children.

The most effective mean of impacting the lives of children and families is to support the system of care at the community level.



Project SUN to Shine On

Last December, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation invited Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley and four other grantees to share their strategies for improving the health and wellness of children in their counties, primarily in the area of mental health.

The Children's Mental Health Initiative, Building Systems of Care, Community by Community was designed to enable five organizations in Illinois find local solutions to the critical challenges of children's mental health.

Deb Baron, project director of **Project SUN (Strengthening and Unifying Our Network)**, presented the community plan for Kankakee County. Here are some of her highlights of Project SUN.

- A youth- and family-driven system of care offering all Kankakee County individuals (ages 0-21) and their families multiple access points to a comprehensive, integrated mental health network aimed at meeting the needs of the whole child
- An infrastructure to integrate services in multiple community-based systems, such as schools, faith-based and civic organizations, and courts
- Multiple points of access to the system
- Training and development for professional personnel
- Education that promotes wellness and how to access the system of care



Full STEAM Ahead

Bradley Public Library used a grant from Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley to launch Preschool STEAM, a learning opportunity in **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math** for preschoolers and their caregivers. In each class, STEAM provides hands-on stations to help children learn important skills to prepare them to enter school.

One eager beaver, Bhodi, attended all of the classes with his grandmother. For them, each station was a leapfrog to learn, problem-solve, play, socialize with peers, and bond.

On average, 15 children and their caregivers attended each Preschool STEAM class. There was no charge to participate.





New and Unique Funding Ideas to Keep Our History Alive

The Herscher Area Historical Society started a designated fund with Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley to support the village's museum and its treasured gem, the Anderson House (161 W. Myrtle Street). Funds will be utilized to preserve the Anderson House as well as to support museum activities.

Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church created a "pass-through" fund with CFKRV to accept gifts of stock that are then converted to cash and returned to the church. The funds are used to support the needs of the parish.



Essential Pieces...



Memorial Gifts

Memorials

Robert Dunn
Dave King
Rebecca Schatz
Janice Strasma

Honorariums

David and Jule Belan
William and Patricia Schatz
Norm Strasma
Bob Worth



Working Hard, Rosie Fund!

The Rosie Fund Grant assists survivors of domestic violence with means and support to break away from abusers and their spheres of influence. By providing assistance with basic necessities, the grant builds personal security, empowerment, and independence.

Here is how the Rose Fund Grant benefitted 101 clients in 2018.

\$546

17 minute-use cell phones to replace ones kept or broken by abusers

\$480

Bus tokens for transportation to court, job interviews, work, and appointments

\$218

Vehicle repairs and new locks and keys so clients could continue to work, attend appointments, and seek job training

\$191

New and clean clothing

\$109

Replacement of locks and keys for clients' homes

\$43

Transportation to appointments outside of local area

Community Foundation Week: It Was a Celebration!

To laud this special week, Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley held the Legacy Society Reception on November 14, 2018.

The event was held at the Kankakee YWCA, the new official location of **Project SUN (Strengthening and Unifying Our Network)**.

The Village of Bourbonnais and the City of Watseka were recognized as recipients of Quality of Life grants, each receiving \$5,000. Bourbonnais will use the funds to upgrade its youth skate park, and Watseka will continue its *Witseka Rocks* project to beautify the downtown area.

And, it was the official launch of the Navigator Society, which recognizes professional advisors who assist individuals with philanthropic gifts to CFKRV.



(left to right) Elizabeth Kubal, Board Chair of CFKRV; Rhonda Pence and Juanita Mueller, Watseka Rocks

Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter.

Board of Directors for 2019

Nick Allen
Arlene Bartolini
Tiffany DeRocco
Nina Epstein
Dale Gerretse
Chip Hasselbring
Beverly Hood
Elizabeth Kubal, *Chair*
Jake Lee
Larry Mahoney
Kari Nugent
Lindsay Parkhurst
James Tungate
Jeff Williamson
Lisa Wogan

FOR GOOD. FOREVER.

Please consider including CFKRV in your will and estate planning. It is a wonderful way to continue your legacy and to ensure ours. For information, call Nicole at 815-939-1611.



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Kankakee, IL 60901

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Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

