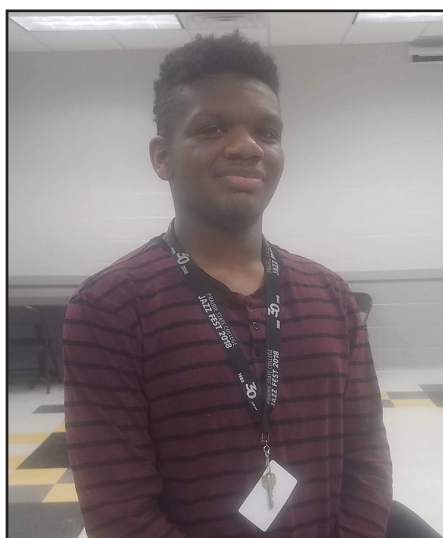


Hi-ho, Hi-ho! It's Off to Work We Go!



Mo-urios McGee, 15: "I learned tips on how to get a job and build my resume."

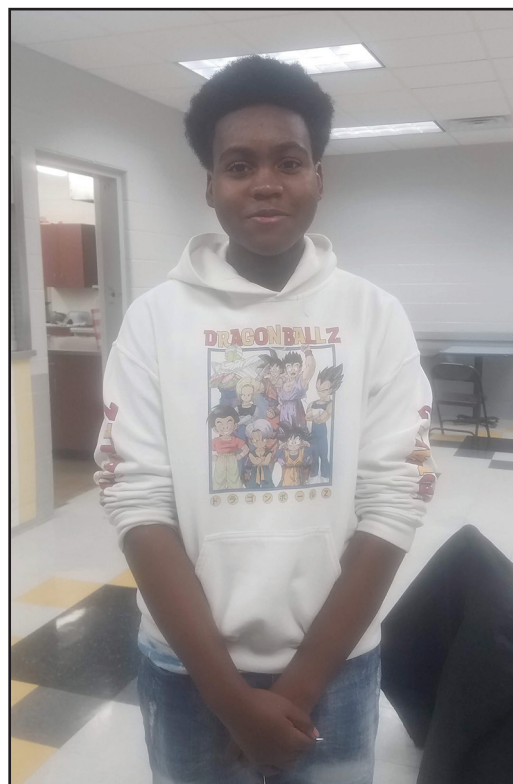
With a grant from CFKRV, the Kankakee Area YMCA hosted a monthly Youth Employment Services (Y.E.S.) program for more than 100 students, ages 14 to 19. Each meeting focused on "different job and life skills needed to acquire employment and be successful in life," notes Penny Greenlee, senior program director. Topics included writing resumes, interviewing, budgeting, and role-playing practice sessions.

Here are some insightful comments from participants.

"A program like this – to understand the 'real world' – is not provided at school."

"I learned how to handle my money and save in a better way."

"It (the program) made me want to look for other jobs – not just fast food."



Aaron Woodard, 17: "I learned how to make a good impression in interviews and how to answer the harder application questions."



Teens learned important interview skills from Kimberly Schott, coordinator career services, Kankakee Community College.

The WOW Continues!

WOW! That's the only way to describe the success stories and achievements from 2019.



Last year, the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley increased giving thanks to the Robert Dunn Charitable Trust Fund, distributing \$30,000 to five local non-profit organizations. I'm looking forward to sharing the impact of this gift with you later this year.

Also in 2019 and after a very rigorous process, we once again were awarded recertification for National Standards for Community Foundations. We are proud to be recognized for achieving the highest standards for philanthropic excellence.

Your generosity made success stories like these possible, and I haven't even mentioned how other funds were used in 2019 to help students build robots, to empower survivors of domestic violence, and to aid teachers reaching out to teens in crisis.

2019 was truly a year of WOW! So, how do we top those kinds of success stories in 2020? With initiatives, continuing programs, and fresh ideas that will knock your socks off!

Look for the CFKRV to connect with **YOU**, our donors, in even more personal and meaningful ways. We'll offer professional advisors the tools they need to help clients achieve their charitable goals. And, of course, we'll continue to steward your generosity to projects that enrich our environment, that provide even more educational opportunities at all levels, and that bring safety and security to those in harm's way.

Without doubt, **YOU** and our community are the very heart of all the success stories that CFKRV has the honor to set in motion. With passion and purpose, we enrich lives and the world around us, and I am proud to be part of this holistic mission. So, let's go knock some socks off!

Nicole Smolkovich
Executive Director



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Proof Positive

Our recent accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® affirms CFKRV's continued commitment to our donors, grantees and community. In other words, CFKRV meets the highest standards for philanthropic excellence and is a proven place to give.

"Accreditation is a significant accomplishment," said Chip Hasselbring, board chair, CFKRV. "When donors trust CFKRV with a charitable bequest, establishment of a fund, or an annuity, they do it knowing that we have met rigorous standards for donor services, investment management, grants, and administration."

He continues, "Accreditation ensures that we have policies in place for financial stability and longevity, affirming our continued commitment to our donors, grantees, and Kankakee and Iroquois Counties."

Nicole Smolkovich, executive director, CFKRV, agrees. "The National Standards accreditation is excellent validation of the work we do on behalf of our donors and our communities and the causes that are meaningful to them. It is proof positive that our house is in order."

Documentation for accreditation was reviewed by the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

NEW Our Mission

*Connecting people who care with causes
that matter in our community*

Groundwork in Pembroke Township

For the past 20 summers, there has been quite a bit of excitement for youth in Pembroke Township, thanks to an awesome program developed and coordinated by Brenda and Reginald Stewart. "Basically, our Young Growers camps teach boys and girls how to farm, grow their own food, and have fun doing it," explain the Stewarts.

Not only is it a hands-on approach to agriculture, it helps instill character development as the students learn the values of hard work, teamwork, responsibility, accountability, self-sufficiency, and resiliency.

In conjunction with the Kankakee County Health Department, CFKRV provided a grant to purchase plants, garden hoses, paint, shovels, and a rototiller. "With agriculture and the right tools, our youth learn how to sustain and thrive in our community," the Stewarts enthuse.



Brenda and Reginald Stewart



Campers planting

Braveheart

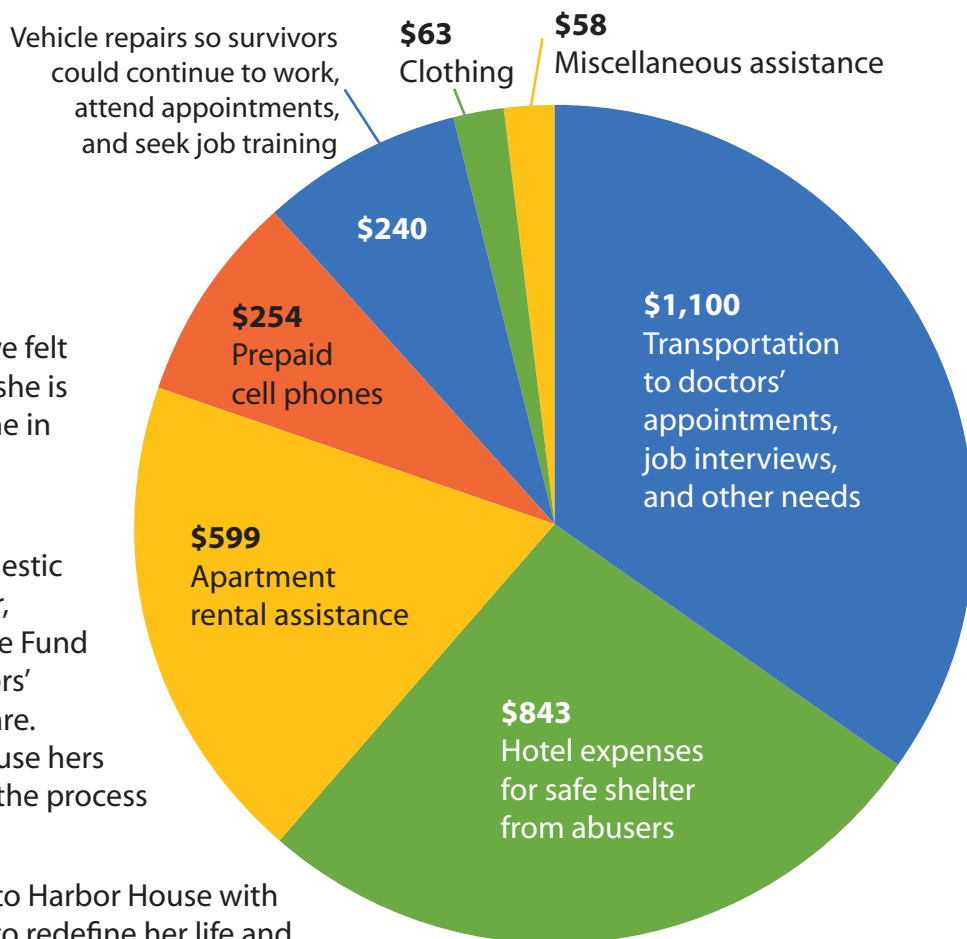
Because Kaneesha didn't know help was available, she grew deeper and deeper in a world of isolation, control, feelings of uselessness, and physical violence from her boyfriend/father of her three children. That is, until a friend told her about Harbor House.

"When we came to the Harbor House emergency shelter, it was the first time we felt safe and protected," she explains. Today, she is free from abuse and has a job and a home in another state.

Jenny Schoenwetter, executive director, Kankakee County Coalition Against Domestic Violence/Harbor House, noted, "In shelter, Kaneesha used bus tokens from the Rosie Fund for transportation to her children's doctors' appointments, job interviews, and day care. She also received a new cell phone because hers had been destroyed by her boyfriend in the process of her escape."

Today, Kaneesha continues to reach out to Harbor House with gratitude for the assistance she needed to redefine her life and her legacy. "Without the Rosie Fund grant, we could not have helped Kaneesha in her journey," notes Schoenwetter.

How the Rosie Fund Grant Assisted 95 Survivors in 2019



Board of Directors for 2019

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

Grants Committee

Hollice Clark
Arlene Bartolini
Jeff Williamson
Yolanda Rahman
Lindsay Parkhurst

Investment Committee

Jimmy Joines
Elizabeth Kubal
Dennis Hess
Scott Franco
Nick Bufford

FOR GOOD. FOREVER.

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



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



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

