

Freeport Community Foundation Awards Over \$75,000 in Spring Grants

Earlier this year the Freeport Community Foundation (FCF) Board of Directors awarded \$75,914.72 in grants from the organization's Matt Marvin Community Needs Unrestricted Fund and the Craig Wilson Trust. The funds support 15 grant projects proposed by 14 regional non-profit organizations and included programs to help different audiences obtain basic needs like food, shelter, and access to healthcare, educational projects, and community betterment.

The FCF is experiencing a consistent increase in grant requests for programs supporting basic human needs. Based on previous granting trends over the last few years, we knew this was already a serious issue in far northwestern Illinois, but many families and many nonprofits are at a crisis point," said FCF Board President Brad Stewart. "The Foundation is hopeful that, with the region's support, we will be able to make additional direct, positive impacts yet this year and moving into 2022."



Northern Illinois Food Bank

The Spring 2021 Community Needs recipients and projects include:

Cats Care - It's All About the Head (\$2,000). Program to help obtain optical exams and eye glasses and create family head lice kits for River Ridge CUSD students in need.

Davis Mental Health Group - Community Resource Guide (\$800). Creation and distribution of a comprehensive regional mental health resource guide.

Freeport Art Museum - Virtual Museum (\$5,150). Program to help multiple audiences leverage the virtual programming began during the height of the COVID-19 crisis to better serve our community and broaden FAM's reach.

Madonna Renewal Center - Education & Crisis Support (\$8,500). Projects provide a Spanish version of Earn While You Learn (EWYL) curriculum, plus COVID-19-related emergency operational support.

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises - Freeport Area Eats & Beats 2021 (\$6,890). Funding for targeted marketing support of event with an ultimate goal of increasing participation levels and funds generated for participating non-profit organizations.

Northern Illinois Food Bank - Stephenson County Take 50 (\$12,500). Funds from this grant will cover 50 percent of the shared maintenance fees for Stephenson County network member food pantries for the term of the grant.

NW HomeStart - Financial Services for Tenants (\$7,500). Part of a new rent program from Illinois Housing Development Authority, funding will help NW HomeStart equip eligible residents with lifelong budgeting tools.

RAMP - Access to Services (\$2,640.24). This grant helps increase access options for people with disabilities to utilize RAMP's Independent Living Services.

Senior Resource Center - Living History Series 2021 (\$700). Three entertaining and informative virtual presentations.

Senior Resource Center - Sr. Home Maintenance (\$5,000). This program provides funds to assist seniors with home maintenance, thereby keeping the homes well maintained and enabling them to live in them longer.

St. John's Lutheran Church - Grace Meals (\$4,000). Program providing a free monthly meal to anyone in need within Stephenson, Jo Daviess, and Carroll counties.

The Workshop Galena - Ceiling Fans (\$3,100). Project to install multiple ceiling fans on the center's industrial work floor.

Timber Lake Playhouse - Masterclass Workshops (\$12,000). TLP will work with professionals to provide regional students of all ages virtual theater-skill training, which translate across multiple educational categories.

United Way of Northwest Illinois - Born Learning Trail (\$4,000). Located on the King Campus and available to the general public, this outdoor learning experience contains 10 interactive signs with activities for adults to engage with young children.

Warren Township Public Library - 1000 Books before Kindergarten (\$1,134.48). Parents commit to read 1,000 books to their children before kindergarten. Participants receive a selection of books at the start and milestone incentives along the way.

An improved quality of life for everyone!



Dan Schmitt awarding \$300 to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC)

Leaving a Legacy for Northwest Illinois

Three northwest Illinois nonprofit organizations recently received grant awards from the Dan and Nancy Schmitt Family Endowment Fund, housed with the Freeport Community Foundation.

The Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County received \$345 toward the continuation of their arts programs offered in cooperation with the Freeport Art Museum. An additional \$300 was awarded to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC) for use with their food pantry programs. The Freeport Concert Band also received \$300.

The Dan and Nancy Schmitt Family Endowment Fund is one of eleven restricted-use funds currently housed with the Freeport Community Foundation. Endowment funds like these provide individuals and nonprofit organizations an opportunity to establish a lasting legacy while simultaneously providing philanthropic and positive financial impact in our region. Through the faith and generosity of investors like these, not to mention a plethora of annual donors, the Freeport Community Foundation has awarded \$3.4 million in grants since our inception in 1975.

To learn more about how your family or nonprofit can establish its own legacy to help northwest Illinois communities thrive, please contact FCF Executive Director Michelle DeHaven.

Seeking Nominations for Matthew A. Marvin Community Impact Award

The Freeport Community Foundation is currently seeking applications for the 2021 Matthew A. Marvin Community Impact Award. This award recognizes an individual who has selflessly served the community with vision, humility, dedication, and enthusiasm. Nomination forms are available through FCF Office Manager Cindy Carter (ofcmanager@freeportcommunityfoundation.org) with submissions due by Friday, September 24, 2021.

Andrew Stewart Joins FCF Board

Andrew Stewart, a member of the Lucas Group, recently joined the Freeport Community Foundation Board of Directors. Stewart brings a wealth of financial experience to the FCF Board. In his role at the Lucas Group, Stewart provides tax and accounting services to individuals and businesses. He holds a degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Rockford University.



Volunteer to Help Northwest Illinois Thrive

The Freeport Community Foundation is always looking for community members to serve on either our Community Needs Grants Review Committee or its Board of Directors. Time commitments vary from two-to-four hours/month for most Board roles and from 15-to-20 hours semi-annually for the Grants committee. Interested parties should possess a rudimentary understanding of nonprofit business operations as well as basic knowledge of the communities, businesses, and nonprofits encompassed within Stephenson, Jo Daviess, and Carroll counties. Please contact FCF Executive Director Michelle DeHaven to discuss your interest in further detail.

The mission of the Freeport Community Foundation

is to empower non-profits to develop solutions that help northwest Illinois communities thrive.