

# MEMORANDUM

FALL/WINTER 2015 • VOL. XXXVII

## CHARITABLE FUNDS CREATED



Sandy Erxleben

**The Sandy Erxleben Memorial Scholarship Fund** was created to assist graduates of West Aurora High School who are majoring in English at a two-year college or a four-year college or university. Sandy Erxleben was gifted with the ability to communicate with clarity and great passion. Whether teaching 7th grade, high school or presenting to school administration, her passion for Language Arts, especially English, was apparent and of benefit to her audiences. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Sandy graduated with a teaching degree from the University of Missouri—Kansas City and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Aurora University. She taught English at Coultrap Middle School in Geneva, Illinois, Plainwell High School in Plainwell, Michigan, and Jewel Middle School in Aurora, Illinois. She also was the chair of the English Department at Jewel. Before retiring from Jewel, Sandy was diagnosed with brain cancer. She passed away on September 20, 2014. Many have said, “To know Sandy was to love her.” Sandy had a profound influence on the students whose lives she touched, and on the teachers and administrators who called her “friend.”



Scout Cantrell

**The For Scout Foundation** has been created by the Cantrell Family of St. Charles, Illinois to honor the life and legacy of their beloved daughter and sister, Scout Cantrell (2004-2014). This fund has been established to provide financial support to organizations that carry on the legacy of Scout Cantrell. Scout was born on November 29, 2004. She was a beautiful, caring, smart, athletic nine-year-old student at Wasco Elementary, where her creativity and thirst for learning were limitless. Scout was an extremely gifted athlete, but perhaps she was most gifted at her favorite sport—swimming. She was a competitive swimmer on the St. Charles Swim Team and proud member of their Regional Swim Team. She loved her schoolmates, teammates, and each and every one of her friends. And, they all loved her back immensely. But most of all, she loved her family. On October 29, 2014 Scout passed away from complications from an asthma attack. The Cantrells have established the For Scout Foundation to help the community Scout loved. The For Scout Foundation has proudly been established to honor the life and legacy of an amazing little girl.



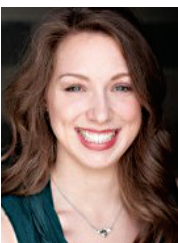
Mary Calkins Barbee

**The Mary Calkins Barbee Memorial Fund** was created as a memorial to Mary Calkins Barbee who passed away January 14, 2015. Mary was born in Richmond, Wisconsin on New Year’s Eve in 1922. After graduating from Wisconsin State University in Whitewater, she established herself in Aurora where she taught 38 years, all but one at Bardwell Elementary School. She was a member of First Methodist Church for many years. Later, she joined Westminster Presbyterian Church in Aurora where she devoted much time serving in positions of Deacon and Elder. Mary was happiest when she was busy. In addition to volunteering at church, she was active in many organizations: PEO, AAUW, Aurora Woman’s Club, Jennings Terrace Auxiliary Board, Child Welfare and Illinois Retired Teachers.



Edward and Frances Fauth

**The Edward and Frances Fauth Endowment Fund** provides income for the Community Foundation’s discretionary grantmaking program. Edward Fauth (1922-2009) was born in Aurora, Illinois. After graduating from East Aurora High School, he began working for the Barber-Greene Company. He then served in the United States Army during World War II. After the war, Mr. Fauth returned to Barber-Greene and continued his employment with the company for thirty-one years. He then became Dean of Community Services with Waubensee Community College until retiring in 1987. Frances Fauth (1925-2012) was born in Aurora, Illinois. She was a graduate of East Aurora High School and earned her Registered Nursing Degree from St. Luke’s Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. Mrs. Fauth worked as a nurse for Dr. Charles Wunsch for many years, then as an assistant for her son in his dental practice until her retirement. Between them, Mr. and Mrs. Fauth served on the boards of directors for many organizations, including the Aurora YMCA and YWCA, Hesed House, United Way and the Rotary Club of Aurora.



Mandy Modic

**The Mandy Modic Endowment Fund** was created by the McGee Foundation of Dallas, Texas to provide annual grants to the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, Illinois for the theatre’s Broadway Series. The fund pays tribute to Mandy Modic, a professional actress who has appeared in several musical productions at the Paramount. Mandy was born in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She has performed throughout the country and overseas, appearing in numerous musicals including Hairspray, Spamalot, Anything Goes, Pirates of Penzance, Carousel, Les Miserables and A Chorus Line. For the 2015-2016 Season, Mandy is starring in the National Tour of 42nd Street. At the Paramount Theatre, Mandy appeared in The Who’s Tommy, 42nd Street, and Annie. She also had the opportunity to appear on NBC and developed a love for film and television. More information about Mandy and her professional career can be found at [www.mandymodic.com](http://www.mandymodic.com).



Mayor Albert D. and Mary Ann McCoy

**The Mayor Albert D. & Mary Ann McCoy Advisory Endowment Fund** was created by the McCoy’s to support their philanthropic objectives. Established in 2005, it became an endowment fund in 2015. Al McCoy is a lifelong resident of Aurora. He graduated from Marmion Academy and attended Aurora University and the University of Montana. He is a combat veteran of World War II, serving on the aircraft carrier USS Monterey in the South Pacific. Mr. McCoy was Mayor of Aurora from 1965 to 1977. He is past president of the Community Foundation and was a member of the board of directors for twenty-seven years. Mary Ann McCoy (1931-2008) was born in Huron, South Dakota. She graduated from Plano High School and attended Northern Illinois University. Mrs. McCoy was a member of New England Congregational Church and sang in the church choir for forty-one years. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy were married for fifty-three years and were active in numerous civic and charitable organizations.

**Memorandum** is published by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley.

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111 West Downer Place, Suite 312  
Aurora, Illinois 60506  
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Geneva, Illinois 60134  
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[www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org](http://www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org)

**The Community Foundation** is a non-profit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization that administers individual charitable funds from which grants and scholarships are distributed to benefit the citizens of the Greater Aurora Area, the Tri-Cities, and Kendall County, Illinois.

**Officers**

Mark E. Truemper, Chairman  
Sharon Stredde, President & CEO  
John Diederich, Vice-Chairman  
Sharon Stredde,\* Corporate Secretary  
William B. Skoglund, Treasurer

**Directors**

Duncan Alexander  
Cristina S.T. Anderson  
Hon. F. Keith Brown (Ret.)  
Austin M. Dempsey  
John Diederich \*  
Patricia Fabian  
Rick Guzman  
Jane W. Harris  
Hedy K. Lindgren \*  
Katherine Navota \*  
Robert J. O’Connor \*  
Timothy J. Reuland  
Edward H. Schmitt, Jr.  
William B. Skoglund \*  
Mark E. Truemper \*  
Scott Voris  
Kyle D. Witt  
\* Executive Committee



**Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley**  
111 West Downer Place, Suite 312  
Aurora, Illinois 60506-6106  
**Change Service Requested**

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE—EXACTLY AS YOU INTEND

The above charitable funds were created recently within the Community Foundation. Grants from these funds will be directed to charitable purposes designated by the donors. If you are seeking a meaningful way to provide ongoing support for a charitable organization or purpose close to your heart, please consider the benefits of creating your own named fund within the Community Foundation. We welcome the opportunity to help you custom-design a charitable fund that will make a difference for the future—exactly as you intend.

[www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org](http://www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org)  
Foundation Funds—See All Funds

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## OUR PRESIDENT RETIRES

(1985-2015)

**Sharon Stredde**, our president & chief executive officer, is retiring on December 31, 2015 after serving the Community Foundation for thirty years. During her tenure, the Foundation grew by more than **\$70 million**, received gifts of **\$77 million** and awarded nearly **\$51 million** in grants and scholarships.

Since 1990, the number of non-profit organizations maintaining endowment funds within the Community Foundation grew to forty-six. This was the result of a challenge grant program that Stredde launched in 1990 and again in 2014.

In 2015, the Foundation expanded its outreach through the opening of a second office in Geneva. This has greatly increased the visibility of the Foundation in the TriCities area.

Finally, it was Sharon Stredde who envisioned the project to produce videos on the lives of our endowment fund donors and on the history of community organizations. Under her direction, twenty-four videos have been produced. In her retirement, she will continue to research, write scripts and oversee the production of new videos for the Foundation.

Mark Truemper, chairman of the board, paid tribute to Stredde after a recent reception held in her honor. "Sharon's talent and dedication to the Foundation have been unsurpassed. She has taken us in new directions and has overseen our dramatic growth in ways we never thought possible. She truly will be missed."



Sharon Stredde

## A NEW ERA BEGINS

**Jeffrey Hartman** of Yorkville was named the Community Foundation's new president & CEO. He will assume his duties on December 1, 2015. Hartman has been with our Foundation since February 2013, first as director of development and currently as executive vice-president.

From 2009-2013 Hartman was the director of development at the DuPage Community Foundation. Since he joined our Foundation, he has significantly raised the visibility of our organization throughout our service area by focusing on increasing the Foundation's relationship with local professional advisors. "I am grateful for the opportunity," said Hartman. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the tireless efforts of our local not-for-profit organizations, I am excited for what lies ahead."

Hartman was born and raised in Naperville, Illinois and attended Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. He currently lives in Yorkville with his wife, Erin, and their two daughters, Alyssa and Rebecca.

Mark Truemper, chairman of the board, made the following comments in announcing Hartman's appointment. "We are so pleased to have Jeff with us. Over the past two and a half years, he has proven to be a successful and effective leader. We look forward to expanding our presence under his direction."



Jeffrey Hartman

## NEW SCHOLARSHIPS HELPING AREA STUDENTS



**The Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board Scholarship Fund** was created to assist college bound students of Hispanic American descent who reside in Aurora. The organization works to educate the public about the history of Hispanics who helped to shape the City of Aurora. Their goal is to instill pride in Aurora's Hispanic youth regarding their heritage by honoring the many Hispanics who have made a difference in the community. A celebratory breakfast is held each January to pay tribute to those students receiving scholarships from the fund.

**The INC Board Latino Master of Social Work Scholarship Fund** provides scholarships to students of Latino descent with bilingual and bicultural proficiency. This scholarship is designed to assist students in their final year of study required to obtain a Master of Social Work degree. In the awarding of this scholarship, students should be involved with or be able to demonstrate strong interest in organizations that provide social services within the Fox River Valley, especially within southern Kane County. Scholarship recipients must agree to seek and accept bona fide offers of employment from a nonprofit human services agency located in or serving residents of southern Kane County.



**The AEEF Scholarship Fund** was created by the Aurora East Educational Foundation. These awards are available to students graduating from or who have graduated from East Aurora High School. Eligibility is limited to students who are pursuing undergraduate studies within the field of education at an accredited institution of higher learning on a full-time basis. The Aurora East Educational Foundation was founded in 1993 to fund educational programs in East Aurora School District 131. During its history, the foundation has funded scores of programs that have touched the lives of thousands of students throughout the East Aurora School District.

## KEITH BROWN JOINS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Community Foundation is proud to announce its newest board member, Honorable F. Keith Brown (Ret.). Brown's career in law spans over thirty years. He also is the former Chief Judge of Kane County. Judge Brown's experience includes cases in personal injury, worker's compensation, and other civil matters. "Keith Brown is a great addition to our Board," said Mark Truemper, Community Foundation chairman. "He is well known and highly respected in our communities. With the opening of our Geneva office, and a concentrated effort to expand our presence in the northern portion of our service area, having Keith join the Community Foundation board will be a great asset moving forward."



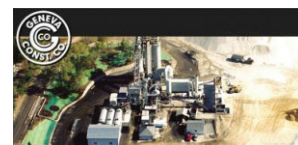
F. Keith Brown

## FUNDS ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



**The Geneva Community Chest Endowment Fund** was established in 2015. The Geneva Community Chest has been helping social service organizations that assist the people of Geneva for nearly forty years. The role of the Community Chest is to review requests for funds from organizations that provide a wide variety of services to citizens of Geneva and the surrounding area. The all-volunteer board, consisting of community and business leaders, allocates the proceeds from its annual fundraising goal to many deserving charities.

**The Geneva Construction Company Endowment Fund**, created in 1961, became an endowment in 2015. The fund provides income for the Community Foundation's discretionary grantmaking program. Geneva Construction Company was founded in 1926 in Geneva, Illinois by the McCarthy Improvement Co. of Davenport, Iowa which at the time was building many of the early residential streets in the Fox Valley. Since its inception, Geneva Construction Company has produced and laid over 10 million tons of asphalt which equates to over 9,000 miles of two lane roadways.



**The West Aurora Art Heritage & Education Fund** was created in 2015 to restore the mural entitled "The History of Writing and the Alphabet." This dazzling mural is a significant American art work given as the class gift by the West Aurora High School Class of 1933. Created by muralist Paul Stoddard through the Depression-era Works Progress Administration program, it records the greatest intellectual achievement of humankind—written language. Before the 1905 high school building was demolished in 2015, the mural was saved and is now the only significant artifact remaining from its 110 year history. With the support of School District 129, a citizens committee (led by Mary Clark Ormond and arts leaders Wendell Minor and Nancy Hopp) has created a charitable fund to help defray the expense of restoring the mural so it can inspire and instruct new generations of Aurorans.

**The River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles** supports and advocates for projects that will enhance the downtown riverfront environment as a destination for cultural, educational, and economic opportunities that are accessible to all. St. Charles' heritage, commerce, beauty and community pride are deeply rooted in the Fox River. The river is the community's most recognizable and important natural asset. Considering the importance of maintaining this asset, the all-volunteer River Corridor Foundation has developed a master plan and is working to identify funding resources from public agencies and community organizations. For more information on the River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles, please visit [stcrivercorridor.org](http://stcrivercorridor.org).



## WELCOME STAFF MEMBERS!



Sarah Herring

**Sarah Herring** joined the Foundation staff on August 3. As executive assistant, Sarah manages the day-to-day operations of the Geneva office. She also assists the president with administrative duties, social media communications, and interactions with current and prospective donors. For the last eight years, Sarah worked as a special education paraprofessional in Indian Prairie School District 204. Sarah is a lifelong resident of Aurora and an alumna of West Aurora High School, Waubesa Community College and Northern Illinois University. "Having Sarah join the Community Foundation was an important piece of our strategic plan going forward," said Sharon Stredde, Community Foundation president. "We look forward to the role she will play in our development."



Julie Christman

**Julie Christman** joined the Foundation on October 1 as director of community involvement and partnerships. Julie is a seasoned corporate and foundation relations manager with over twelve years of grant writing experience. Julie spent the past five years at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) managing their corporate and foundation relations, and writing grants for their STEM based program. Julie's twenty years of experience in working with social service agencies brings a great deal of insight into her current role at the Foundation. She received her Bachelor's in Social Work from Saint Louis University and Masters in Social Work from Washington University. Julie currently teaches part time at Aurora University.



# HONORING OUR GRANTEES

We have initiated a new project to honor our non-profit grantees by displaying photographs of their activities in our Aurora and Geneva offices. The purpose of this project is to showcase organizations that have utilized our grants to enrich the lives of local citizens. All of our non-profit partners who wish to be so honored are encouraged to send photographs to Sarah Herring at [Sherring@CommunityFoundationFRV.org](mailto:Sherring@CommunityFoundationFRV.org).



HorsePower



Kendall County Food Pantry



A+ Foundation



Plum Landing

# IN MEMORIAM

The following supporters of the Community Foundation passed away since the last printing of the Memorandum. Memorials continue to be received for placement in the charitable funds listed below. We truly are honored to pay tribute to their lives.



Mildred "Milly" Anliker  
August 6, 2015  
Mel Anliker-Dave Zierke  
Family Advisory Fund



Mary Calkins Barbee  
January 14, 2015  
Mary Calkins Barbee  
Memorial Fund



Sandy L. Erxleben  
September 20, 2014  
Sandy Erxleben Memorial  
Scholarship Fund



Marjory M. Greene  
September 23, 2014  
William Alexander &  
Marjory Mather Greene  
Endowment Fund



John E. Hutchings  
November 16, 2014  
John E. & Rosemary  
Hutchings Scholarship Fund



William J. "Bill" Knara  
July 27, 2015  
Community Foundation  
Memorial Endowment Fund



Arnold E. Lies  
February 14, 2015  
Arnold E. and Donna Lies  
Family Endowment Fund



Gwen H. McKee  
October 26, 2014  
New England  
Congregational Church  
Endowment Fund



Gerald B. Morrow  
December 22, 2014  
Gerald & Barbara Morrow  
Family Endowment Fund



Robert L. Nelson  
July 14, 2015  
Robert L. & Marjory J. Nelson  
Memorial Scholarship  
Endowment Fund



Dr. Gerald "Jerry" J. Poliks  
August 13, 2015  
Jerry Hart Memorial Scholarship  
Endowment Fund



Joan S. Ruddy  
October 15, 2014  
Community Foundation  
Memorial Endowment Fund



Jacques H. Toussaint  
June 4, 2015  
Jacques & Charlotte Toussaint  
Endowment Fund



Louis N. Vago  
April 24, 2015  
Louis Vago Advisory  
Endowment Fund



Ruth A. Wagner  
June 26, 2015  
Armbruster-Dieterich-Wagner  
Family Scholarship  
Endowment Fund



Doris M. Whitt  
August 20, 2015  
Lewis E. & Doris M. Whitt  
Memorial Endowment Fund



Carole J. Wyatt  
August 4, 2015  
Richard & Carole Wyatt  
Endowment Fund

More information about these individuals and funds can be found on our website.

[www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org](http://www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org)

Foundation Funds—See All Funds

# NEW FUND BENEFITS TEEN WILDERNESS PROGRAM



Family Services

TriCity Family Services Wilderness Challenge Program (WCP) created an endowment fund with the Foundation in 2015. WCP is an annual eight-day canoeing and camping experience for up to thirty teens to prepare them for high school life. The participation of teens selected for the program is made possible through scholarships subsidized primarily by donations from corporations, foundations and community organizations. Modeled after the internationally renowned Outward Bound Program, the physical, mental and emotional challenges of the remote wilderness experience provide participants with character-building experiences. These experiences also enhance the participants' self-esteem, teach invaluable lessons about working within groups and encourage the development of inner resources needed to accomplish goals. The majority of WCP graduates report that they have improved relationships with others, are more motivated to achieve in the school setting, and are experiencing greater self-esteem.



# OUR LATEST VIDEO HISTORY

Through a generous grant from the Dunham Fund, we have produced twenty-four videos for the community over the past four years. This is a service available to all who maintain endowment funds within our organization. The latest edition to our Video History Series is the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club of Aurora was organized in 1916, the 21st club chartered in the world. The club is responsive to community projects that help to make Aurora an excellent community in which to live. Kiwanis sponsors youth service clubs at local middle schools, high schools and Aurora University. Funding is also provided for a special needs camp, learn to swim programs, and youth baseball and softball. Kiwanis marches in local parades, assists the Salvation Army kettle drive, presents an annual God and Fellowman Award and undertakes a special project each year through its President's Project. The underlying purpose of this fund, established in 2006, is to continue support of the philanthropic purposes of the club. The Kiwanis' video and all video histories are available to view on our website, [www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org](http://www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org).



Edward Finch  
First President



# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEBSITE

## Our Donors

On our website, we now include recognitions of our donors who contribute to one or more of our charitable funds. These lists appear on a quarterly basis so that we can be timelier in acknowledging our many faithful supporters. Our sincere thanks to all of you who continue to remember the Community Foundation.

## Local Obituaries

As a service to our readers, our communications page includes a link to the obituary pages of all local newspapers and funeral homes. Having these media resources available on one page has proven helpful to professionals in their research and to citizens who wish to access this information on a daily basis.



## LEGACY SOCIETY

We gratefully recognize the following individuals who remembered the Foundation with a bequest from their estate or who have indicated that the Foundation has been named as a future beneficiary of their estate. These special community benefactors have enriched the lives of others through their concern for the charitable needs of our community. If you have included the Foundation in your estate plan, please consider becoming a member of our Legacy Society. We would sincerely appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to your thoughtfulness.

Patricia Abell	Marion L. Harmon	Dortha Pooley
Alice E. Allen	Eileen R. Hart	Alma A. Price
Stephen J. Andras	Jean C. Hart	Ralph C. Putnam, Jr.
Nanci Sue Anfinson	Lawrence P. Hartlaub	Evelyn E. Rackmyer
Identa M. Austin	Donald A. Heinz	Irene M. Raymond
Alma L. Bachert	Ronald M. & Janet S. Hem	Janet Irene Raymond
Dr. William J. & Doris M. Ball	Barbara H. Henning	Lydia B. Raymond
Dr. Carl H.H. & Anne M. Baumann	William P. & Ruth E. Hilgen	Gary A. & Mary Ruth Roberts
Mary Hogan Bencini	Dave & Sandy Hipp	Edna M. Rollins
William W. Boden	Ella M. Hoffman	Allan L. Schoeberlein
Mary J. Boland	W. Charlie & Shirley L. Hooper	Fred W. Schussler
Helen A. Brackney	Mary Virginia Hughes	Lillian R. Schwarz
John A. Brennecke	Eleanor C. Hungar	Robert G. Schweitzer
Margaret Brennecke	Shirley Miller Hurd	Mildred E. Shambo
Alicemae Brown	Justus L. & Grace Hobbs Johnson	Elizabeth Knell Shepard
Lorraine B. Bryant	Malcolm L. & Lydia J. Jones	Katharyn Simons
Sherry L. Bryant	Darrell L. & Nancy S. Jordan	Beverly R. & Ruth H. Skaggs
Jeffrey A. & Patricia E. Butler	Edward & Genevieve Jungels	Lewis B. & Jeanette A. Spilman
Charles & Josiedell Carnes	Betty M. Kahle	Paul Francis & Marian Goodwin Stare
Mary R. Chapman	Phyllis G. Kramer	Margaret Mercer Stewart
Howard E. Charles, Sr.	Wanda H. Kuhn	Joseph & Carolyn Stoffel
Glenn D. & Leola M. Commons	Louise G. Lane	Austin E. Stoll
James S. Copley	Marie T. Leifheit	Edward & Sharon Stredde
Roy E. Davis	Herbert L. Lester	Carl R. Swanson
Herman A. Dicks	Frederick W. Lindblad	Henry & Lauralyn Theodore
James Dorion	Mary M. Luther	Lucius A. Thomas
John S. Dunham	Gary L. & Judy C. McCann	Francis D. Tighe
Howard C. Eagle	Albert D. McCoy	Barbara Tinker
Barbara K. Engelbracht	Mary Ann Court McGray	Jacques & Charlotte Toussaint
Viola Erlenborn	John F. & Gwen H. McKee	Paul R. Underwood
Tish Evers	Albert W. Medernach	Louis N. Vago
Edward H. & Frances M. Fauth	Audrey V. Mellott	Fred Vargason & Kay Curtis-Vargason
James H. & Ione P. Fitzgerald	William F. Messenger	Frank & Frances Voris
Francis A. Geib	Frank R. & Marianne Miller	Robert & Shirley Waldo
Dr. & Mrs. Howard E. Gillette	Robert G. Mukensturm	George E. & Cora L. Webster
Colonel Sidney Ginsberg	James & Katherine Navota	Sol Weisman
Margaret F. Glenn	Alan A. Nelson	Bertha Weissman
H. Linton & Sue Graham	Marie E. Oberweis	Dorothy E. White
William B. Greene	Merrill E. & Frances C. Olson	Marian Winteringham
Kenneth G. Grueter	Paul A. Ormond	Jack Desha Witt
Vernon H. Haase	June Z. Orr	Harry & Viola Worland
Ruth N. Hamper	Louis R. Pauly	Louise C. Zilly
Josephine M. Hancock	Martha W. Peffers	
	Dorothy L. Perkins	
	David B. Perry	

## THE FOUNDATION OPENS DOORS TO NEW OFFICE

The Community Foundation now maintains two locations to better serve the public. Our office in Geneva opened in April with the goal of increasing our presence in the Tri-Cities. This new location gives us the opportunity to work more closely with the donors, organizations and other constituents in the northern portion of our service area. The Foundation will also continue to operate out of its Aurora office.



111 West Downer Place  
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## Why I Chose To Be A Community Foundation Director

As a lifelong resident of the Fox Valley and a firm believer in the power each of us has to enact positive change in the world, I was thrilled to join the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. I appreciate the Foundation's perspective of giving back over \$50 million in grants and scholarships to the local communities over its history. To be part of an organization that has enriched the community and has such an extensive scholarship program is something I am really proud of.



Austin Dempsey

## \$25,000 CHALLENGE GRANTS

Challenge grants of \$25,000 were awarded to sixteen agencies that maintain endowment funds within the Community Foundation. As the challenges are met, the result will be an additional \$50,000 in each agency's fund. These funds then will yield increased levels of needed income for programs and special projects. Congratulations to the following organizations that have met the challenge as of October 1, 2015 or have made significant progress in meeting the challenge.

* A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools	Equine Dreams
* Association for Individual Development	Fine Line Creative Arts Center
* Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry	Fox Valley Orchestra
Aurora East Educational Foundation	Hesed House
* Aurora Historical Society	TriCity Family Services
Aurora Public Library Foundation	* Wayside Cross Ministries
* Aurora University	* YWCA Aurora
* CASA Kane County	Water Street Studios

\* Have met challenge

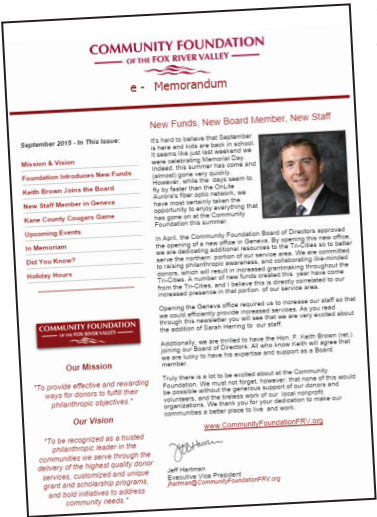
## SOUND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Careful estate planning is important to our family and to the charities we support. It is possible to provide for charity while protecting our hard-earned dollars for the future benefit of loved ones. We sincerely hope that the following gift planning techniques will prove helpful to you.

- **Appreciated Assets:** If circumstances permit, individuals should donate appreciated assets when making charitable donations. The donor of such assets can deduct the full fair market value of the gift and avoid a capital gains tax on the appreciated amount of the securities.
- **Highly Taxed Assets:** When preparing an estate plan, it is preferable that charitable distributions be made from IRAs or other assets on which income tax will be due upon death. Distributions of such assets to charity are not taxed. These same assets bequeathed to heirs will incur income tax. When leaving a bequest to charity, consider distributions from highly taxed assets.
- **Gifts of Real Estate:** There are advantages to gifting one's home to charity while reserving the right to live in the home until death. As with all estate planning, the rules are complicated and require the assistance of qualified legal advisors.
- **Life Insurance:** A contribution of life insurance to the Community Foundation is a cost-effective way to ensure the future establishment of a charitable fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in the name of a non-profit organization. By contributing an existing policy, which is no longer needed, or through the purchase of a new policy, which designates the Foundation as owner, you will be assured a permanent place in the philanthropic history of our community..
- **Funding Charitable Remainder Trusts:** If an individual has substantial funds in an IRA, he or she may wish to contribute a portion of the funds to create a charitable remainder trust. The charitable deduction helps to cover a portion of the income tax due, removes the asset from the estate and generates income in retirement. Upon death, the CRT would create a named fund for the donor and his or her family.
- **IRA Charitable Rollover:** Prior to December 31, 2013, donors who were 70 ½ or older were able to contribute up to \$100,000 to charity from their IRAs and avoid paying income tax on the gifted assets. We remain hopeful that this opportunity will be offered in the future and we will include a notice on our website should the privilege be reinstated.

## OUR eMEMORANDUMS

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, we are now publishing newsletters in an electronic format. These e-Memorandums, published monthly for both professionals and donors, include timely information and Foundation updates. In addition, we now include the list of funds and the names of the donors to those funds on our website, similar to our former paper mailings. We would like all of our constituents to receive these monthly e-Memorandums and ask that you forward your email address to [SHerring@CommunityFoundationFRV.org](mailto:SHerring@CommunityFoundationFRV.org).



Please note that our Annual Report with its extensive donor biographies will continue to be published by paper and will appear on our website under "Communications."

## CFFRV

111 West Downer Place, Suite 312 • Aurora, Illinois 60506  
127 South First Street, Suite 215 • Geneva, Illinois 60134  
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Building An Endowment For The Community  
By Serving Charitable Donors