

PHILANTHROPY SPEAKS

The Newsletter of the Southern Illinois Community Foundation, 4th Quarter 2019

Emil & Edith Spees Honored with First Legacy Award

It's no secret that we have had a power couple in our midst for many years.

On November 7, 2019 at the beginning of the festive and informative Philanthropy Speaks event at The Varsity in Carbondale, a hand-forged trophy was presented to Emil and Edith Spees in honor of their longstanding philanthropic activities in Southern Illinois.



Maggie Flanagan, Edith & Emil Spees and Byram Fager after the presentation of the first annual Legacy Award to the Spees's at Philanthropy Speaks, November 7, 2019. Award trophy forged by John Medwedeff.

Emil and Edith created endowment funds for the benefit of the African American Museum of Southern Illinois, the Rosiclare United Methodist Church, and The Science Center. They also established the Southern Illinois Mental Health Fund. Their contributions to these and many other organizations in our region make us proud to call them neighbors and friends of Southern Illinois.



Presenters Eric Weinheimer, Mike Absher, Michael W. Frerichs, and Joan Dixon on stage at Philanthropy Speaks, A Southern Illinois Community Foundation initiative. Executive Director Byram Fager is in the center.

Two Successful Community Development Events!

Both the Philanthropy Speaks event at The Varsity Center on November 7 and the Forefront Community Development Breakfast at SIH on November 8 were well attended and fostered many new relationships and ideas for SICF and the organizations we serve. These events kicked off what promises to be an insightful new Development Series for 2020. The first in the series will be Grant Research & Writing, February 19, 2020 at John A. Logan College.



Sarah Tapscott from Forefront presenting to Southern Illinoisans from several counties and organizations at the Forefront Breakfast event of Philanthropy Speaks.

A Letter to Friends of Southern Illinois from the Executive Director

This is the season for giving! This year we began the celebrations and preparations for the Southern Illinois Community Foundation's 20-year anniversary. We have been blessed to experience solid and steady growth over this twenty-year period and this growth has brought us to the halfway point in our \$4-million-dollar Capitol Campaign we began in 2018. We have also hired a Program Associate and completed setting up our new office at 1800 W. Boulevard in Marion to better serve you.

There is so much at stake and we are hard at work trying to improve the quality of life in the 17 southernmost counties of Illinois. If you have established a fund with us we thank you. If you have donated to one or more of our charitable funds in 2019 please accept our gratitude and thanks. If you would like to establish a new fund, for purposes ranging from college scholarships to city beautification or in support of another institution in Southern Illinois, we welcome your fresh ideas and generosity.

The work of community foundations spans beyond the practice of giving. There is a tangible impact that can be seen in the lives of the selfless organizations we serve. Examples include the CEO programs in four counties promoting entrepreneurship and economic development in high schools, disaster relief in several area communities, The Science Center in Carbondale, and the John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, and many others. We are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions for some of our most challenging social problems and advance the most promising of opportunities to benefit Southern Illinois.

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits and represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Whether we do so quietly, say it out loud, or post it on-line, our giving has something to say. Our Philanthropy Speaks!

Happy Holidays from the Board and staff of the Southern Illinois Community Foundation. We exist *For Good, Forever, For Southern Illinois*.

Yours Sincerely,

Byram Fager

The mission of SICF is to engage the people of Southern Illinois in building a tradition of philanthropy. The Southern Illinois Community Foundation is committed to creating an opportunity for donors to participate in local community development efforts to address the changing needs of our community through charitable giving. This will be accomplished by building a regional endowment, designated funds, field of interest funds, donor-advised funds and undesignated funds in order to enhance the quality of life throughout our region.

“Community foundations play a key role in identifying and solving community problems. In 2017, they gave an estimated \$5.48 billion to a variety of nonprofit activities in fields that included the arts and education, health and human services, the environment, and disaster relief.”

~ Council on Foundations

Year End Tax Deductions

There is still time to make a tax-deductible contribution to an SICF fund! Go to SICF.org and click on the DONATE button in the upper right. To research which fund you want to donate to, see the drop down menu under GIVE and choose Our Funds.

SICF is accredited by the National Standards Board for Community Foundations, a national professional organization serving the interests of family, corporate, and community foundations worldwide.

Scenes from Philanthropy Speaks, an SICF Initiative

“Be purposeful with the scope of your giving. As Southern Illinoisans let’s not forget our primary responsibility is to the people who live here.”

~ Mayor Mike Absher



Marion, IL Mayor Mike Absher giving his presentation at Philanthropy Speaks at The Varsity Center.



CEO/Executive Director of SICF Byram Fager addresses Philanthropy Speaks attendees.

“Whether we do so quietly, say it out loud, or post it online, our giving has something to say. Our Philanthropy Speaks.”

~ SICF Executive Director Byram Fager

What's Your Legacy?



State of Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs presenting at Philanthropy Speaks. November 7, 2019.

“I know, as the chief investment officer in Illinois, when we invest in our people, when we invest in our communities and they invest in themselves, that we all benefit by this. I dare you to dream about the Southern Illinois Community the way you want it to be and ask you to take steps to make it happen.”

~ Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs

Pay It Forward SI

The Pay It Forward SI Fund is a new donor advised fund created by Lukasz and Kristina Dabrowski of Herrin, Illinois. Since it's inception the fund has provided grants to Williamson County Education Services for a Carterville pre-K field trip, United Way of Southern Illinois for a Tri-County Preschool class, and the Women's Center of Carbondale.

The Census: Illinois Count Me In 2020

In the U.S. Constitution, the 14th amendment states that every person should be counted in the census, whether or not they are a U.S. citizen. This happens every ten years and Illinois is gearing up to count each and every person. What's at stake? The census count helps determine how much money states get from the government. Without a fair and accurate count, many programs like Medicaid, Medicare, the Rural Health Clinic Program, Head Start, as well as construction projects like road and bridge work could be affected.

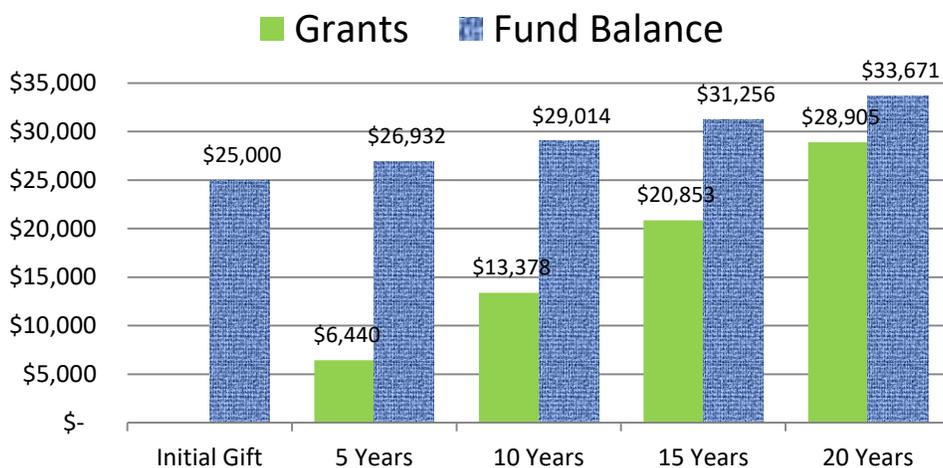
If we don't have a full count, even more is at risk in 2020: Illinois could lose a 2nd Congressional seat. If everyone isn't counted, the practice of gerrymandering could be even worse in all levels of government in Illinois. And an estimated \$1400 will be lost for every person who does not fill out the census. An undercount anywhere in Illinois hurts Illinoisans everywhere.

Illinoisans will be able to fill out the Census online in March, 2020. In the coming months you will be hearing more from SICF about the importance of participating in the 2020 Census.

www.sicf.org

Why is Endowment So Powerful?

For Good, Forever is the hallmark of SICF and all community foundations across the country. An endowment gives donors the perfect way to make a lasting difference in the community *forever*. The chart below shows the growth of a \$25,000 endowment over a 20-year period. In this example the fund grows 8% each year, disburses grants at 5% per year and pays administrative fees of 1.5%. The initial \$25,000 donation will have provided grants of \$28,905 to local charities and will have grown to over \$33,600. The fund will continue to make more grants to the community each year. This was achieved with no additional contributions from the donor. Imagine how much faster the fund would grow if regular contributions are made each year! Are you ready to make a lasting charge with an endowment?



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SICF serves the 17 southernmost counties in Illinois including: Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, Williamson and White.



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If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the SICF Board of Directors, please contact Byram Fager at blfager@sicf.org or call 618-997-3700.