Our Philanthropy Speaks Grant Research & Writing Workshop was a Success!

February 19, 2020 at John A. Logan College the Philanthropy Speaks Non-Profit Professional Development Series began with a Grant Research and Writing workshop. The next workshop is Donor Engagement & Digital Marketing on April 15, 2020. To register, go to PhilanthropySpeaks.org and follow the links. The next event is half a day and costs $30 for members of Forefront and $40 for non-members. Forefront has a special offer for non-profit organizations in Southern Illinois: a free one-year membership. Stop by our offices for an application or go to the Forefront website to download the application. Call SICF at 618-997-3700 if you need more information about this and other events planned for 2020 in Southern Illinois. We look forward to seeing you at John A. Logan College on April 15 for the next workshop: Donor Engagement & Digital Marketing.

Above: Forefront Manager of Knowledge Services and librarian Zoe Magierek teaching the seminar on Grant Research & Writing. Left: SICF CEO Byram Fager elaborating on the Forefront Presentation, making it more relevant locally.

Recent Grants Awarded

Immanuel Lutheran School received a grant of $2,500 for a single parent sending their children to Immanuel from the J. Gilbert Family Fund. This fund was set up to honor the late James Gilbert, whose mother was a single mom who struggled to send her two boys to Immanuel.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School received $500 and Gum Drops of Carterville received $250 from the Pay It Forward Fund. The Murphysboro School District received a $1,068 grant from the Mickey Jackson Fund.

Above: Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Murphysboro, Illinois. Below: Our Lady of Mount Carmel School located in Herrin, IL.
Choose the Type of Fund that Works for You!

Donor Advised
for any charitable endeavor. Donor Advised Funds are straight forward, cost-effective and flexible ways for donor’s and their families to become active in the art of grantmaking. Grants are awarded based on the donor advisor’s (or successor advisor’s) annual recommendations. Foundation staff maintains grant records, monitors distributions and ensures that grants achieve their intended purposes.

Field of Interest
for a specified charitable purpose, i.e. cancer research, historic preservation, the arts, the eradication of poverty, a specified geographic region. Grants from Field of Interest Funds go to varied nonprofits. Specific organizations supported by this type of fund may vary from year to year, but the fund remains focused, in perpetuity, on the “field of interest” stated at the time the fund was established.

Designated
for a specific public charity, i.e. ABC Museum, XYZ Hospital, etc. The foundation monitors grant recipients to ensure they remain focused on their intended purpose. If the designated charity no longer exists or veers from providing the needed services, the board of directors may select an alternative organization with similar purposes that are in line with the donor’s original gift and intent.

Unrestricted/Discretionary
for general unspecified charitable purposes. Donors are encouraged to donate to SICF’s discretionary grantmaking fund. Donors who give to the unrestricted/discretionary fund trust the board of directors to direct these grants to the most pressing community needs. Grants from Discretionary Funds are made as part of the Foundation’s discretionary grants program, which is overseen by the board.

Scholarship
for educational expenses. Donor may specify the field of study, the institution a student attended/will attend, but not the recipient(s).

Supporting Organization or Foundation
A growing number of donors, attracted by the flexibility of donor advised funds, establish a Supporting Organization/Foundation within SICF. Supporting Organizations are independent but affiliated legal entities with their own boards, grantmaking programs and investment structures. While they typically require substantial charitable assets to start, they benefit from the community foundation’s public charity status and avoid much of the regulation, complexity and cost associated with a private foundation. Supporting Organizations/Foundations also have access to SICF’s record keeping, accounting, grants management and consultative services.

New Funds Approved by the Board
At the Thursday, February 3rd 2020 meeting of the SICF Board of Directors approved the creation of the following funds was approved: Carbondale Spring – Food Autonomy Fund, One Shawnee Fund, and the Bald Knob Cross of Peace Fund.

Please note that funds can be held as endowments or as non-endowed. Endowments create a permanent source for funding for an individual donor advised fund, field of interest or a donor designated fund for a specifically identified organization. As always, all funds allow donor anonymity, and all donations are acknowledged with an IRS charitable gift receipt allowing maximum tax deductibility.

“Giving is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service and from solitude to kinship with all mankind.”
~ Unknown
The Unity Community Fund

The Unity Community Fund was initiated by Dr. Hope Hui Rising on January 1, 2020 to receive tax-exempt donations of land, goods, services, and cash to help establish, maintain, operate, and expand Unity Community, Inc., a non-profit corporation in Golconda, Illinois.

Unity Community, Inc. aims to create self-sufficient permaculture co-housing communities with mindfulness practices as the foundation upon which living unity is realized in a diverse collective of people from different backgrounds.

~ Hope Rising, Director

In addition to mindfulness practices, these communities seek to be where people from all walks of life can live, work, play, study, and research while being supported by various rehabilitation and job training programs as part of a structured curriculum in a residential campus setting. The Unity Community Fund will help make these opportunities more affordable and available for veterans who have dropped out of college, homeless veterans, as well as homeless women and children experiencing violence, abuse, and neglect.

Show your support by making your tax deductible donation to SICF. Use the orange “Donate Now” on the Unity Community Fund page of www.sicf.org or mail your check to: SICF, PO Box 1772, Marion, IL 62959.

What’s Your Legacy?

“When you die you have three choices: You can give it to Congress, give it to your children, or give it to charity . . . One of the things that we suggest it that you leave 5% to your community foundation as a legacy.”

~ Joan Dixon, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

Recent Scholarships Awarded

From the Miss Illinois Scholarship Organization:

- Anna Madura, Miss Heartland’s Outstanding Teen, $100 to attend Missouri State University
- Isha Jog, Miss Mississippi Crown, Miss Windy City, $2500 to attend Loyola University Chicago
- Ann Kamps, Miss Prairie State, $250 to attend Illinois State University
- Madison Cunningham, Miss Metropolis, $350 to attend Murray State University
- Annika Strolle, Miss Heartland, $2250 to attend Dominican University
- Alexa Eastburg, Miss World Festival, $250 to attend Coe College
- Breana Bagley, Miss Kankakee County, $5179.95 to attend Southern Illinois University
- Charlotte Roberts, Miss Northern Suburbs, $1750 to attend the University of Illinois
- Ariel Beverly, Miss Illinois and Miss East Central, $7500 to attend Illinois State University

From the Massac County Academic Award Scholarship

- Benjamin Bowlin, $1400 to attend West Kentucky Community and Technical College
- Katie Pugh, $2200 to attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Joan Dixon, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois at Philanthropy Speaks at The Varsity Center.
“There are opportunities in all of the change that is happening. Illinois is a very philanthropic state. We have over 5200 grant-making foundations both public and private with assets of 44 billion dollars.”

~ Eric Weinheimer, CEO of Forefront

“Our growth has been slow, it’s been very solid, and it’s been steady. Our mission is to serve our region through philanthropy.

~ SICF Board President Maggie Flanagan

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.