



Grants Awarded

The community foundation recently awarded nearly \$50,000 in grants that will support the work of fourteen nonprofit organizations that serve DeKalb County. The organizations will use the grant funds to help feed the hungry, support participation in Special Olympics, offer dual high school and college credit courses to local students, train early childhood professionals, repair a building and provide childhood abuse and neglect awareness programs. Representatives of the nonprofit organizations that received grants gathered in December at the Rieke Park Lodge to celebrate their awards.

Newsletter Going Green

This new format for the foundation's newsletter uses less paper and adapts better to delivery via the Internet. We're doing our best to protect the planet and to use our financial resources wisely. We have a lot of news to share with you so it's not easy for us to be brief! We always love to talk to you when you have questions about our activities so don't hesitate to call us.

Some of you received the newsletter via email and others received a printed copy. Please let us know which you prefer and we will do our best to keep in touch with you the best way possible. Call us at (260) 925-0311 or email dwilson@dekalbfoundation.org.

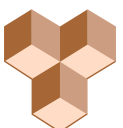


Shirley Johnson at the Community Center of Caring Food Pantry. You can provide permanent support for the food pantry by making a gift to the community foundation for Beka's Bread Brigade.



For good. For ever.®
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DEKALB COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Giving Matters



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Our Mission

DeKalb County Community Foundation promotes *community philanthropy* by offering local citizens the opportunity to *leave a charitable legacy that will sustain and improve life* in our county.



Melanie A. Yarian Memorial Fund

Melanie Yarian loved music and the theater. A dancer and musician, Melanie was also interested in science. She was fascinated with whales and dolphins which she used as inspiration for art and science projects.

Melanie died at age 17 after a brave six-year battle with cancer. Her family honored her memory by establishing a community foundation fund that will provide educational support for students who exhibit some of Melanie's best traits. Grants from the fund will be awarded to DeKalb High School students beginning in 2010, the year that Melanie would have graduated. The community foundation welcomes new gifts to the fund.

TerraFirma Transitions to DeKalb County Learning Link *Submitted by Judy Sorg*

In August 2008, TerraFirma and the Community Foundation began working with a Community Vision Committee in developing a shared vision for DeKalb County. A draft of this vision, based on people of all ages succeeding through continued learning, was put to the test at a public meeting on November 13 at Bridgewater Golf Club. More than 100 community leaders attended to offer their input.

In December, the Vision Committee regrouped to consider the community's input and revised the vision to read: *Working together through continuous learning to improve the quality of life for all in DeKalb County.*

Next steps are set to begin in February. Wendy Oberlin states, "while children's literacy will always be close to our hearts, after several years the time had come to revisit our county's most compelling needs. It's important that as a community foundation, we follow the community's lead. It's an exciting opportunity, *not* to create new programs but to continue building on all we accomplished with TerraFirma, while connecting the resources already existing in DeKalb County."



Janelle Graber and Abby Millett attended the TerraFirma celebration.

Gifts to Honor and Memorialize

During the fourth quarter of 2008, gifts were received to honor:

Kathie Kock Dr. and Mrs. Roger Sanger Harold Spiess Carol Sprunger

Gifts were received in memory of:

Brian Atz	Dennis G. Cutler	Kenny Heitz	Jack Stark
Mr. & Mrs. De Mar Beber	Oscar M. Deetz	Allen Hollinger	Phillip W. Strahm
Georgia Bowes	Tom A. Dunn	Gene and Thelma Leas	Lloyd Wilson
Maxine L. Brechbill	Owen D. Eckert	Harley Mutzfeld	Melanie Ann Yarian
Bernard R. Brennan	Stephen A. Friend	Janet M. Olenyik	Martha Yoder
Travis Christlieb	John R. Hall	Terry G. Park	
Earl E. Creager	Paul V. Hathaway, Jr.	Willie Mae Perry	Chrissy, pet of
Robert "Gene" Custer	Ronald D. Hege	Donald Rueggeger	Dale and Diane Wilson