DeKalb County Community Foundation, Inc.

Giving Matters

Volume 12 · Issue 1 · Winter 2012

New Gifts Support the Community

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Love for Animals Lives On

Mary Rench

Mary Rench adopted several pets from the DeKalb Animal Shelter. She shared her home with dogs; first Hazel, then Muffy. Her cat, Miss Kitty, accompanied her on a move to an assisted living center.
Mary's pets provided her with companionship and endless pleasure. She appreciated the animal shelter's role in matching homeless pets with loving owners. "She wanted to take care of them all," said her friend Eleanor Thomas.

When Mary died she left a gift to the community foundation to support the animal shelter's work. The **Mary O. Rench Fund for Animals** will provide an annual grant to the animal shelter, helping pets and owners find each other for many years to come.

Davis Family Legacy

Kelso and Margaret Davis came to DeKalb County as a young married couple, and from 1938 to 1998, operated the Davis Photography Studio in downtown Auburn. They loved their new community and were valuable members in it. Kelso was a 60-year member of the Auburn Rotary Club. He and Margaret were both active in their church.

Kelso and Margaret were a team in many ways. For starters, they raised three daughters together. Kelso took the photos, which in the early days were black and white. Margaret, who studied art in college, hand-tinted the photos, sometimes late at night at her kitchen table after the girls were in bed. Both Davises lived long, productive lives. Kelso died in 2000 at age 93, Margaret in 2010 at age 96.

In their parents' memory, the Davis daughters created an endowment fund, the **Kelso and Margaret Davis Community Fund**. The daughters will build the fund with gifts over a few years until it can begin making grants. They will provide suggestions for grants to support a variety of community projects.

Friends of Kelso and Margaret may honor their memory by making gifts to this permanent memorial fund.

The Davis Daughters
Sherri Sible, Diane Manon and Loraine Hartranft

You can help support and preserve our community's rich agricultural heritage with a gift to the Agriculture Education Fund for DeKalb County.

Agriculture Education Fund Grows

The Agriculture Education Fund for DeKalb County received a big boost thanks to an incentive that was the brainchild of community foundation board member, Todd Custer.

When local farmers made gifts to the fund during the fall harvest, Custer Grain, Garrett, and Bunge, Waterloo, matched the value of the gifts $1 for $1. Thanks to Todd's great idea, the **Agriculture Education Fund grew by nearly $6,000**. The community foundation is grateful to the individual donors and the grain elevators for their generosity.

The Agriculture Education fund was created not for scholarships but to support a variety of agriculture-related educational opportunities that benefit many. For example:

- Help a teacher introduce various agriculture careers to young people.
- Enroll an adult involved in agriculture in a community leadership program.
- Encourage agri-tourism in our region.

A group of people involved in local agriculture will assist the foundation's grant committee to make the awards.

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

Donors make gifts to the community foundation to honor or memorialize others who are important to them. Following is a list of honorary and memorial gifts received between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.

Honorary Gifts

Art and Karen Bartlett
Mayor Norman E. and Peggy J. Yoder

Fredrick L. Brown
Hefty Wealth Partners, Inc.

Imogene Mavis
Mayor Norman E. and Peggy J. Yoder

John and Barb Ober
Mayor Norman E. and Peggy J. Yoder

Rieke Corporation, a TriMas Company
James M. and Mary S. Durlacher

W. Erik Weber
Evelyn and William Weber
Tamera J. Weber

Annabelle Yoder
Mayor Norman E. and Peggy J. Yoder

Jerry and Paula Yoder
Mayor Norman E. and Peggy J. Yoder

Memorial Gifts

Janet C. Beaty
John W. and Esther G. Bower

Ethel V. (Schurr) Bohrer
Thomas E. and Tina M. Drzewiecki

Lester M. Campbell
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

Martha J. Custer
Gregory J. and Marcia K. Weller

Peggy Dircksen
Thomas R. Neeld

Julie A. Finn
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen
Jeffrey L. and Susan C. Turner

Mike Gorman
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

Roger D. Greaf
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

James L. Hefty
Dennis G. and Wendy J. Oberlin

Lorraine Hines
John W. and Esther G. Bower
Dennis G. and Wendy J. Oberlin

Ozzie, dog of John and Patricia Kluesing
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

Jack Denis Moats
Donald W. and Patricia A. Baidinger

Lisa Nickell
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

Betty Jane Oser
Sidney B. and Belva C. Meyer

Donald Ruegsegger
Shirley Ruegsegger

Louise Velma Schuman
Dr. Richard A. Dircksen

Frances Sechler
DeKalb County Community Foundation Board and Staff
Gloria Fink
P.E.O. - Chapter CA

John Martin and Barbara "Bobbie" Smith
Mefford, Weber and Blythe, PC
Glenn O. and Jackey Petersen

Dr. James L. Spink
Emma L. Spink
Dennis and Beverly Spink
Brandon L. and Elizabeth K. Wolf

Lawrence LeRoy Stockdale
Ronald W. and Constance S. Dicke

Gary Forrest Vick
Glenn O. and Jackey Petersen
John A. and Ruth E. Randinelli

Matt Bechdol is welcomed to the community foundation's board of directors by 2011 board president Randy Deetz.

Learning Link Considers Training Needs of Future Workers

"How will DeKalb County meet the present demands of the workforce?" DeKalb County employers have positions to fill; numerous people are looking for work. So what's the problem, you ask? Many of the people looking for work lack the required skills for the jobs. This was the conundrum discussed at a recent Adult Learning team meeting.

The important take-away from the meeting was that **we need an alignment of adult training and education with needs of the local workforce**. "Jobs and workers, who's to say which comes first . . . they need to work lock-step," stated Ken McCrory, DeKalb County's Economic Development Director.

Other insights from the meeting that met with consensus included:

- Meeting workforce needs isn't about degrees, but skill sets; certifications and two-year degrees are probably of more value than four-year degrees for DeKalb County workers.
- In demand, are workers with literacy (reading, writing and use of computers), ruler-reading and basic math skills, plus soft skills, including strong work ethics like showing up for work on time.
- Area colleges offer numerous learning opportunities for DeKalb County adults in various formats, i.e., online, on-site, accelerated, etc. Affordability is a separate issue.

Additionally, adult basic education and GED prep classes are offered in DeKalb County by Four County Vocational, (888) 349-0250. Freedom Academy offers hands-on job skills training and nationally recognized certification programs, (800) 200-6499. WorkOne, 936 W. 15th Street in Auburn, offers numerous workshops, including Resume Development, I've Got Skills, and Interviewing, available at no cost to the unemployed or under-employed.

For a brochure of learning opportunities for DeKalb County adults, go to www.DeKalbLearningLink.org.

Mark your calendars for community input meetings Monday evening, April 30 at Zion Lutheran Church in Garrett, and Monday evening, October 8 in Waterloo, location to be announced at a later date. Dinner is provided at no cost with an rsvp to (260) 925-0311 or email DWilson@DeKalbFoundation.org

Chris Straw, Brad McDaniel, Becky Pfeffer and Park Ginder discussed the value of community partnerships to high school students at the October community meeting.

"Complying with the standards is only one of the ways we assure donors that the foundation will use their gifts as they intend."
Wendy Oberlin

Foundation Meets Standards

DeKalb County Community foundation was recently reconfirmed as in compliance with Ethical and Operational Standards for Indiana Community Foundations. The foundation first met the standards in August 2006. Reconfirmation is required every five years.

The Indiana Grantmakers Alliance's Community Foundation Committee ensures the standards are relevant and rigorous based on these areas of the community foundation's work:

- Mission, structure and governance
- Resource development
- Stewardship and accountability
- Grantmaking and community leadership
- Donor relations
- Communications

Documenting the foundation's compliance was a 6-month process during which board members reviewed, and in some cases updated the foundation's policies and practices. Some updates were required by the IRS. Others came about as a result of **the foundation's efforts to continually improve its stewardship of community assets**. "The foundation's board takes very seriously its responsibility to be a good steward of the community's charitable gifts," said Wendy Oberlin, the foundation's executive director.

Thanks to an agreement between the Indiana Grantmakers Alliance and the Council on Foundations, DeKalb County Community Foundation is also considered in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

cf NATIONAL STANDARDS℠

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

DEKALB COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
For good. For ever.®

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Thank you, Phyllis

Phyllis Perry

Phyllis Perry recently retired from serving on the community foundation's board of directors after four years of service. **"It was an honor and a privilege to be on this board," she said.**

Phyllis spent five years on the foundation's Grant Committee, eventually serving as the committee's chair.

Phyllis said that while "there never seems to be enough grant money to meet all the needs," awarding grants is rewarding because the "community uses it in such good ways."

Learning Link's Success

Three years ago the community foundation formed an educational initiative, DeKalb County Learning Link, because we are convinced that education is the key to economic development, healthy cities and towns, and successful lives for individuals who live in our community.

This Fall, Learning Link director Judy Sorg participated in three conferences to share Learning Link's success. She provided statistics, served on a panel discussion or made a presentation for the Indiana Grantmakers Alliance Northeast Fall Forum, the 21st Century Talent Conference hosted by northeast Indiana mayors, and the Indiana School Board Association/Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents Fall Conference.

We are happy others recognize how Learning Link's work aligns with their goals and we are proud to have Judy Sorg represent the foundation.

Making Christmas Merry

The teenagers who participate in the community foundation's youth philanthropy group, DeKalb's VOICE, helped make Christmas bright for children whose families visit St. Martin's Community Kitchen in Garrett.

Kali Zolman

VOICE members budgeted $2,000 of their grant dollars for the project. Each child (115 of them!) received clothing and a toy.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Community Foundation is offering over 45 scholarship opportunities for post-high school education at a college or technical school. The scholarships are primarily available to 2012 graduates of area high schools.

Eligibility for the awards varies widely because requirements are based on the wishes of the donors who established the scholarship funds.

Details on scholarships are available on the DeKalb County Community Foundation website at www.DeKalbFoundation.org. The deadline to apply is March 5, 2012 for most scholarships.

2012 President

Marcia Weller

Marcia Weller will serve as president of the community foundation's board of directors in 2012. Weller served as the foundation's vice-president in 2010-2011 and has worked on the scholarship and asset development committees.

Lifelong DeKalb County resident, Marcia and her husband Greg own Green Acres Farm near Garrett.

If you prefer to receive this publication electronically, please email us at DWilson@DeKalbFoundation.org.
The foundation's 16-page annual report is available on our web site, www.DeKalbFoundation.org,
or request a printed copy at (260) 925-0311.