

Foundation **FOCUS**

FALL 2020

DON'T MISS:

**COVID-19
The Pivot:
Pandemic**



Lifelong Commitment to the Arts Ensures Legacy of Giving

Contact us at:

3000 Woodcreek Dr., Suite 310
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DuPage 
Foundation
Doing a world of good in our own backyard™

Continuing to deliver resources in unprecedented times.

A Letter From the CEO



Since March of this year, our world has shifted dramatically. An invisible enemy has caused us all to learn new words and concepts: PPE, social distancing, curve flattening, quarantine, cancel culture. Like all businesses and organizations, the Foundation made a hard pivot to protect the safety of our staff and address new community concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our events, now virtual. Our strategic plans, paused temporarily, but now back on track. Energies, focused on raising and distributing \$1 million in two months to help with COVID. Read about these activities and more on the following pages.

Sixty organizations received grants in three rounds of funding to date. Those organizations were positioned to provide support to families in crisis, having an immediate impact.

Some of the people making a big impact include Vince and Sue Furman. You'll learn why they have chosen to join the Legacy Society of DuPage Foundation. They believe in making the world better through music and in helping their fellow DuPage County residents in the future by supporting their community foundation.

We have staff news too. We are pleased to introduce new staff members Ginger Wheeler and Alice Wood, and we're celebrating that Kait Balsewicz has won an exciting award as a Rising Star. This issue of Focus highlights this news as well as more from DuPage Foundation's initiatives: Arts DuPage, Bright & Early DuPage and Next Generation Initiative.

Although things in the world may seem dire, rest assured your community foundation is working hard to deliver resources and support to DuPage residents with your support. Thank you. With your help, we're **doing a world of good in our own backyard™**.

David M. McGowan, CFRE

President & CEO
DuPage Foundation

Our Vision

To raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County.

Our Mission

To foster philanthropy, connect donors to area needs, and build community partnerships.



ON THE COVER

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FEATURES



The Fun In Fundraising Continues



The Pivot: COVID-19 Pandemic

NEWS



Bright & Early DuPage Featured in *Glen Ellyn Living Magazine*



October is Arts DuPage Month



New Foundation Staff

ON THE BACK

Did You See Our New Ads?

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Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

Email Ginger Wheeler, director of communications, at:
ginger@dupagefoundation.org

New Funds Established

through August 2020

- Amber's Fund for Bridge Communities, Inc.
- COVID-19 Response Fund
- Educational Assistance, LTD. Designated Fund
- The Conservation Foundation Unrestricted Endowment Fund



The Fun in Fundraising Continues

2020 Spotlight Ball to Be Virtual

CCOVID-19 has taken much fun from our lives these past few months, but it hasn't taken the "fun" out of "fun"draising. In fact, the 2020 DuPage Foundation benefit—themed: the **Spotlight Ball**—is going to be even more fun as the spotlight shines on YOU, DuPage Foundation's treasured supporters and donors. Although participants will be celebrating from private homes via the first-ever virtual DuPage Foundation benefit event, the togetherness of supporting DuPage County's leading philanthropic institution simultaneously with others promises a night to remember.

What You Can Expect

Scheduled for Saturday, November 14, eyes across DuPage County will be tuned to the Spotlight Ball at 7:30 p.m. Central broadcasting from NCTV17, a local station in Naperville, Illinois. All are welcome to watch the brief and impactful program while bidding on amazing auction items.

Sponsorships and Tickets

Gala goers have several ticket levels from which to choose to support the Foundation and enjoy

the evening together. A "Virtual Attendee" ticket is \$100 with 100 percent of the proceeds supporting the Foundation. Virtual Attendees can access the program and Zoom happy hour. At the \$500 level, participants will enjoy a DuPage Delights box delivered to their home.

For those wanting to host a small group, either in their home or virtually, the "Watch Party Sponsor" level, at \$5,000, includes catered appetizers, dessert, and wine for up to 10 people, or the option to send a DuPage Delights box to up to five households. Sponsorships \$7,500 and up, beginning at the "Box Office" level, include a three-course catered meal and wine for up to 10 people, or the option to send a DuPage Delights box to up to five households.*

DuPage Delights Boxes

Curated from small businesses throughout DuPage County, the Spotlight Ball's DuPage Delights boxes will include wine, an assortment of treats, and a few surprises to be enjoyed by one to two people while watching the program.

**DuPage Delights box deliveries must be located in or near DuPage County.*



DuPage Foundation presents **Spotlight Ball** SPONSORS

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Ernie & Diane Mrozek

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The Shebik Family



BOX OFFICE SPONSORS



THE DRISKILL FOUNDATION

The McMahon Family

Charlie & Kathy McKenna

WATCH PARTY SPONSORS



College of DuPage FOUNDATION

The Myers Family

**Pete & Betsy Brosnan
Bill & Jen Blum**

**Dorothy O'Reilly
Ted & Dianne Saul**

SPECIALTY SPONSORS



A Brief Program Spotighting YOU

The brief program will highlight the work of DuPage Foundation's donors and supporters over the past year, as well as the work of the hundreds of not-for-profits (NFPs) DuPage Foundation's grants have supported. Hosted by a professional emcee and featuring Foundation President & CEO Dave McGowan, along with donors and NFP grantees, the program will be memorable and educational as well as emotional. You will have a story to share with others that won't soon be forgotten as you learn about the year's unprecedented challenges which have been met with creativity and flexibility everyone can be proud to support.

Tickets on Sale Now

Reserve your spot(light)s any time at dupage2020.givesmart.com or download the sponsorship options. ■

To discuss your Spotlight Ball experience, contact Kait Balsewicz, DuPage Foundation development officer, at 630.598.5292 or kait@dupagefoundation.org

More at dupagefoundation.org/Gala2020

DuPage Foundation

Lifelong Commitment to the Arts Ensures Legacy of Giving

Why We Give: Sue & Vince Furman

Sue and Vince Furman have spent their lives performing music. Married for 40 years, they first met at DePaul University's School of Music and have shared their passions for vocal and instrumental music ever since. Career opportunities, family ties, and affordable housing led them to DuPage County in 1983. Since then, the Furmans have been thrilled to see the growth of the arts in the area.

That includes growth personally orchestrated by the Furmans themselves, such as the American Wind Band, an adult community band based in Downers Grove. "As new residents move to DuPage, they bring their culture and ideas," said Sue. "We've been fortunate to be part of the genesis and growth of a professional arts community within our community."

Their desire to learn grounds the Furmans' passion for the arts. "Sitting in Naperville, we were transported to India to experience another culture firsthand," said Sue, reminiscing about a Chicago Sinfonietta's Diwali performance at North Central College. During the COVID-19 shut down, they have been streaming concerts and filling their home with music.

"That's what's cool about the arts: During that performance our world grew, our understanding grew, our tolerance grew," said Vince.

After a recent health scare, the Furmans decided to finalize estate plans with their advisors. During their planning, they realized they could create a lasting legacy—a legacy to positively impact local artists' abilities to deliver quality programs and community members' opportunities to enjoy

them—and that their estate could be used to expand people’s minds through art.

“Our friend Mimi Rose introduced us to the Foundation’s Community Needs grant program five years ago,” said Sue. “After the American Wind Band received its first grant from the Foundation, we started showing up, attending events, using artsdupage.org, meeting people and making connections.”

From their first interaction with the Foundation, the Furmans knew they were in good hands. “I kept coming back to feeling seen and recognized by this rock-solid, responsive group” said Sue. “What we’ve experienced so far informs us of what the future of the Foundation will be and we’re confident in that future.”

When selecting a partner to carry out their charitable goals, the Furmans looked for flexibility as well as a staff connection. They discovered a fund through the Foundation offers exactly that. They selected a field-of-interest fund that provides support for the arts in perpetuity, specifically for music education and performance opportunities.

“We don’t know what the future will hold, or what needs will be here, but we do know this fund will support the causes we care about long into the future,” said Vince.

A portion of their estate contribution to the Foundation will also support scholarships through the American Wind Band. As a retired school band director, Vince has seen firsthand how music education can translate to better overall

learning skills. “Kids who otherwise weren’t applying themselves wanted to play, and playing improved their whole level of education,” said Vince. “The greatest scientists in our history had musical backgrounds, so we’re happy to support students.”

“No matter your circumstances or your passions, you can leave a legacy, too.”

– *Vince Furman*

As a retired librarian with a love for research, Sue found her interest in philanthropy grow while volunteering for local not-for-profits. “There are so many needs in the world and so many people who are interested in helping,” said Sue. “It’s ‘see a need, fill a need,’ for us.”

In addition to giving financially and volunteering time with the Foundation, the Furmans are compelled to share their giving story with others. “Never in our wildest dreams did we think we’d be able to leave a legacy to impact other people,” said Sue.

Vince added, “We’re proud of our decision and want to encourage others to think in the same way.” He concluded, “No matter your circumstances or your passions, you can leave a legacy, too.” ■



The American Wind Band



The Pivot: COVID-19 Pandemic

\$1 Million in Grants to 60 Local Not-For-Profits Makes an Impact

DuPage Foundation raised and distributed a total of \$1 million in grants from its emergency pass-through COVID-19 Response Fund to not-for-profit (NFP) service providers in the DuPage County region from April through May, 2020. The grants supported 60 DuPage County NFPs providing food and emergency assistance, technology to support virtual health and education, access to healthcare, housing, and mental health services to support the community.

“Reaching this \$1 million milestone has been a true testament to the power of the DuPage philanthropic community and how much they care about the County’s residents and its not-for-profit service providers,” said Dave McGowan, Foundation president & CEO. “The needs have been extraordinary but our community has stepped up in an extraordinary manner. However, there is more to do. DuPage Foundation is uniquely positioned to meet community needs thanks to those who support the Foundation with their time, treasure and talent.”

The COVID-19 Response Fund will make another round of grants later this year, according to Foundation VP for Programs Barb Szczepaniak. She said, “We believe the reverberations of the COVID economic impact are still unfolding and are going to get worse before they get better.” Donations are still being accepted.

DuPage Foundation has raised more than \$1.3 million for its COVID-19 Response Fund. An

enormous amount of thanks and gratitude goes to the lead partners in establishing this pass-through fund including the Birck Family, Doris K. Christopher and Family, the Hyett Family, two area private foundations wishing to remain anonymous, the Shebik Family, as well as the Gustafson Family Foundation, and Snodgrass Family funds of DuPage Foundation, and the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund, along with scores of contributions from other individuals, businesses, and foundations. The Foundation encourages donors to continue giving directly

“This grant means some of the most in-need DuPage residents are going to receive help.”

– *Alexandra Sossa, Executive Director, Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project*

to their favorite charities and, for those who are interested and able, to continue to donate to the DuPage Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Fund to contribute to a powerful, collaborative response to help people and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

For more information and to see the whole list of grant recipients, go to dupagefoundation.org/grants/covid-19-response-fund.html

Bright & Early DuPage Featured in *Glen Ellyn Living Magazine*



Bright & Early DuPage (B&E) is one of those DuPage

Foundation initiatives that is doing amazing work in the communities it serves, yet is hard to explain. The goal is for all DuPage County children to be ready for kindergarten. It sounds so simple, but readying every child in DuPage County for kindergarten is a complex undertaking.

The *Glen Ellyn Living* article painted a picture of how the program works in Glen Ellyn, just one of the eight collaboratives—or collabs—in DuPage County. It tells the story of how one family in Glen Ellyn, a refugee family from Myanmar (formerly Burma), benefited. The parents found friendship and resources to help their preschool-aged children prepare for kindergarten in District 41 schools in Glen Ellyn. It took a complex collaboration from many different organizations to make this happen.

There are currently eight Bright & Early DuPage collaboratives:

- Addison Early Childhood Collaborative
- Bensenville Early Learning Supporters
- Birth to 5 Community Coalition (Carol Stream)
- DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration (DECC)
- Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative (Glen Ellyn/Glendale Heights/Lombard)
- Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative
- We Go Together for Kids (Not Funded Through Bright & Early DuPage)
- Willowbrook Corner Coalition

B&E organizers find it challenging to document their impact, especially now due to COVID-19. In the past, B&E's success was often counted by the number of "seats" that were filled in preschools. But now, many preschools are not operating. So new metrics are being considered to measure the impact.



During group meetings with parents and children, GECC educators practice singing, "Hello, everybody! We're going to have some fun," in multiple languages. More than 80 languages are spoken by students in Glen Ellyn schools.

In the case of the Glen Ellyn refugee family, the collaborative provided education, transportation, technology and a friendly face to these young parents who found themselves in a strange land where they didn't speak the language well. The outcome was extremely positive according to Jeanine Woltman, who is the coordinator for the Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative. Because of B&E, Woltman said, "We're connecting people who don't have anybody else to rely on. We do a lot more than that, but Bright & Early is meeting a lot of needs. We're supporting the families in all kinds of things—extra activities or if they're running out of food and don't know where to go to get support."

“We’re connecting people who don’t have anybody else to rely on.”

– Jeanine Woltman, Coordinator, Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative

Every family has unique issues to solve. Every community and collaborative has so many stories to tell. The *Glen Ellyn Living* article focused on just one of thousands. ■

Read the whole article at dupagefoundation.org/BrightandEarly

October is Arts DuPage Month



CCOVID-19 has wielded a devastating blow to the arts sector. With theaters shuttered, galleries closed and performances canceled, artists and arts leaders find themselves facing financial ruin. Arts DuPage has been quick to respond. By pivoting its attention to the immediate needs of the arts community, Arts DuPage has become a pipeline of information, delivering essential communications to help offset the destructive forces of the pandemic. Grant applications, funding sources, and advocacy alerts are among the calls-to-action that have recently garnered active responses from area artists, many of whom have been rewarded with economic relief and helpful solutions.

Arts DuPage is closely monitoring the latest COVID-19 developments and maintains its position as a significant resource for the arts sector as it is navigating the unknown. We are entering autumn with cautious optimism for a vaccine and an end to social distancing. When that happens, Arts DuPage will be ready to share the news and revitalize the County and its residents.

In the meantime, Arts DuPage is celebrating the many testimonials received due to its work helping and connecting area arts organizations and applauding loudly when they achieve success. Two summer virtual happy hours provided a soothing balm to allow both the performing arts and the visual arts communities to connect, commiserate and ultimately collaborate on ideas and solutions for the current situation. ■

“[Arts DuPage] is...unique in its ability to show kindness, respect and give hope to those of us who strive daily to bring the realism and beauty of the world to life through our work.”

– Bernard J. Kleina

Read the letters and find out how we're celebrating Arts DuPage Month at dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPage

DuPage Foundation Friends Earn Accolades at 2020 West Suburban Philanthropic Network (WSPN) Awards



Les & Mary Wiberg

DuPage Foundation was pleased to sponsor the West Suburban Philanthropic Network (WSPN) Annual Philanthropy Awards. Held on August 27, the event honors area philanthropists, volunteers, organizations and not-for-profit professionals who have made a difference for our community this past year.

During the program Foundation friends Les and Mary Wiberg of Wheaton were recognized as Philanthropic Leaders of the Year. It's a well-deserved honor for the couple who have given so much of themselves and their resources to support their community and other causes dear to them through DuPage Foundation. The Wibergs currently have a \$100,000 matching grant challenge open to the community to generate support for our Arts DuPage Endowment Fund through 2020.

Kait Balsewicz, Foundation development officer, was honored as WSPN's 2020 Nonprofit Professional Rising Star of the Year. Kait was selected by her peers as the winner of this category.



Kait Balsewicz

Staff and Foundation friends gathered virtually with Kait and the Wibergs to watch the program and celebrate their recognition. Congratulations to them and to all of this year's honorees! ■

To watch the program visit dupagefoundation.org/WSPN2020

Next Generation Initiative Stays Connected Virtually



While COVID-19 forced Next Generation Initiative (NGI) gatherings to go virtual, it hasn't dampened the spirit of the group. The summer Zoom call benefited the COVID-19 Response Fund and the fall call benefited the Career & Networking Center. NGI members and non-members are invited to attend the next call in 2021. ■

Register at dupagefoundation.org/NGI

New Foundation Staff

DuPage Foundation welcomed two new staff members this summer as part of its continued strategic plan rollout.



Ginger Wheeler

Ginger Wheeler started in May as director of communications for the Foundation. Wheeler is a Glen Ellyn resident with a long background in a variety of marketing communications including copywriting, website development, public relations and marketing communications administration. She reports to President & CEO Dave McGowan.

Ginger has an extensive background in marketing communications spanning 20 years, including leadership and supporting roles with a variety of non-profit and for profit organizations.



Since 2014, Wheeler has been advocating for construction of the East Branch DuPage River Trail.

In addition to her family and yoga, Ginger's biggest passion is the development of the East Branch DuPage River Trail which has been planned to enhance DuPage County's already fantastic hike and bike trail network by adding 30 more miles of pathway in the central part of the County.



Alice Wood

Alice Wood started as director of gift planning on August 10. Wood brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation. She is an estate planning attorney, entrepreneur, author and financial literacy instructor. Most recently, Wood ran her own law practice and served as director of business development/estate planning with Ameriprise–NorthStar Wealth Group in Woodridge, IL. Wood will report to VP for Advancement Mike Sitrick.

Wood's charitable nature is in her DNA. Her grandfather, the Honorable Win G. Knoch who was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals by President Eisenhower in the 1950s was instrumental in several philanthropic endeavors. Knoch Park and Knoch Knolls Nature Center are named for him, the latter for which he donated the land. His image is depicted on the Century Walk mural along Chicago Avenue in downtown Naperville. ■



Wood with her grandfather's portrait in downtown Naperville

Learn more about Alice and Ginger at dupagefoundation.org/Staff



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Did You See Our Ads in the *Daily Herald*?

To help grantees tell their stories of impact and thank donors who stepped up to meet the COVID-19 crisis in DuPage County, DuPage Foundation recently ran a series of three full-page ads in the region’s local newspaper. The ads provided the double duty of launching a new look and a new message: **See More Impact.**

Check out the ads:

- **Ad 1 communicates the power of connecting donors to not-for-profits**
- **Ad 2 references collaboration as a means to achieve many goals**
- **Ad 3 features donor Dr. Sunil Chand, former president of College of DuPage, on why he supports DuPage Foundation**

The ads documented how \$1 million in help was disbursed and how not-for-profits put those funds to use. It may seem like a lot, but there is much more to do. The need for more funding for not-for-profits conducting vital work in our community is great. ■



More grants should be awarded in the near future as donations increase. Watch for announcements at dupagefoundation.org and on our social media pages.

