

## Spring Grant Cycle Awards More Than \$520,000 to DuPage Health & Human Service Agencies

For nearly 33 years, the Foundation's **Community Needs** grant program has supported programs and projects that enrich the quality of life for DuPage County residents. That trend continued this past spring with **\$523,880** awarded to 38 local not-for-profits doing impactful work in the area of **Health and Human Services**. Grants were distributed and grantees were celebrated at our June 12 **Spring Grant Open House**.

"Community Needs is our flagship grant program through which we support the great work of local organizations that are directly helping those in need," said **Barb Szczepaniak**, Foundation vice president for programs. The grant process also serves as a research and development tool for the Foundation, as we learn about and track the effectiveness of the services offered in various issue areas. "This ultimately helps us connect local donors, who seek our guidance, to the organizations doing work that aligns with their interests and passions," Szczepaniak said.

As DuPage County's leader in connecting donors with causes that matter most to them, the Foundation engages individual donors to supplement the annual Community Needs budget. This cycle, their support helped boost our grant awards by **\$153,980**.

A 2018 **Impact DuPage** assessment identified the most pressing issues currently affecting the health of DuPage County as drug abuse, mental health, technology use, affordable housing, healthcare access, and obesity, among others. It was through this needs-based lens that the Grant Committee reviewed applications. Approximately 58% of the grants funded in the spring grant cycle align directly with the top health concerns identified by Impact DuPage. "The Foundation is committed to creating positive change in our community," said **Megan Shebik**, Grant Committee vice chair. "A data-driven understanding of what the most prevalent issues are helps ensure our funds are supporting impactful community programs."

See all grant recipients on page 3, and visit [dupagefoundation.org/grants/community-needs.html](http://dupagefoundation.org/grants/community-needs.html) to read about their funded projects.



*Foundation Trustee Joan Morrissey (center) presents a \$20,000 grant to Bill Peterson (left) and Scott Mitchell (right) of SamaraCare to provide fee-subsidized mental health counseling for individuals and families in crisis who are unemployed, low-income, or otherwise unable to afford the services they need.*

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# Resident's Love of Animals Lives On; Nearly \$120,000 Granted to Animal Welfare Agencies

In June 2018, the Foundation facilitated a convening of DuPage area animal welfare agency leaders. The most critical needs identified within the county were:

1. A central resource to coordinate intake, resources, and communication among multiple organizations
2. Transportation and vehicles
3. Veterinary services, including spay and neuter
4. Revenue for capital projects to expand facilities

It was around this same time that, through a generous estate gift, long-time Glen Ellyn resident **Ron Bork** established a fund at the Foundation wholly-focused on animal welfare projects. The nearly **\$1 million** gift is being distributed over five years with 50% of annual grants supporting **Willowbrook Wildlife Center** and 50% benefiting other local agencies.

The first grant cycle focused on transportation-related projects, awarding a total of **\$94,750** to support the purchase of vehicles and maintenance expenses for the following agencies:

- **Hinsdale Humane Society - \$40,000**
- **Naperville Area Humane Society - \$10,000**
- **Second City Canine Rescue - \$14,750**
- **St. Sophia's Forgotten Felines - \$30,000**

"Relinquished cats and dogs will now have a better chance of being adopted into a loving family," said **Barb Szczepaniak**, Foundation vice president for programs. "Agencies will be able to transport animals to local adoption events and can rescue animals from other parts of Illinois, where an adoption is less likely."

During the application period, the Grant Committee's eyes were also opened to a unique, county-wide opportunity. **Hinsdale Humane Society (HHS)** was in the process of establishing a communal database that would connect multiple animal welfare agencies. The timeliness of the project and the opportunity to address another critical need identified in 2018 were too good to pass up—the Foundation awarded an additional **\$25,000** to enable HHS to launch this central resource.

"By funding the technology required for shelters to collaborate on a real-time basis, we'll be able to ensure our animals are in the right place to meet their new family," said **Tom Van Winkle**, executive director of HHS. "This will be an industry changing platform, and the Foundation made it a reality."



*Grant Committee members (left to right) Pat deRosset, Megan Shebik, Barb Szczepaniak (Foundation vice president for programs), Laurie McMahon, and Ruth Carlson surprised Tom Van Winkle (center) with a \$25,000 grant to support Hinsdale Humane Society's communal animal welfare database.*

## What Is Your Legacy?

Estate gift commitments are an impactful—and easy—way to support future generations. But if they make you wonder "What about my loved ones?" we can help. It's possible to leave a legacy for causes you care about and provide for loved ones after you're gone. Consider these options:

- Include a percentage in your will or trust to ensure that your gift remains proportionate to your estate size, no matter how it fluctuates over the years.
- Name DuPage Foundation as a contingent beneficiary of your will or trust so that we'll receive your gift only if your other beneficiaries are no longer living.
- Leave highly-taxed assets, such as those from your retirement plan, to the DuPage Foundation. We'll receive these gifts tax-free. Leave other less tax-burdened assets, such as real estate, cash, or life insurance, to your loved ones.
- Stipulate that your gift to the DuPage Foundation be given in honor of someone you care about, leaving an "inheritance" that gives in perpetuity.

It's never too early to plan for your legacy. We're happy to work with you and your advisors to arrange a tax-wise gift that's right for you.

For more information on charitable giving opportunities available through the Foundation, contact **Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE** at **630.598.5285** or [mike@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mike@dupagefoundation.org).



# More Than \$520,000 in Spring Grants Awarded

(continued from page 1)

Congratulations to the 38 not-for-profits working in the area of **Health and Human Services** who received grants from our spring Community Needs cycle. We applaud their service and are proud to support their work!

**Total funding awarded: \$523,880**  
*\*Designates grants awarded through specific donor-advised funds or gifts from donors.*

- 360 Youth Services\*
- Bridge Communities\*
- Care for Cars\*
- CASA of DuPage County\*
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet\*
- Chicago Dental Society Foundation
- Community Adult Day Center\*
- Donka
- DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform
- DuPage Health Coalition
- DuPagePads
- DuPage Senior Citizens Council
- DuPage Sponsors
- Easter Seals DuPage & Fox Valley
- Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network
- Evangelical Child & Family Agency
- Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities
- HCS Family Services\*
- Healthcare Alternative Systems
- H.O.M.E. DuPage\*
- Hope's Front Door
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services
- Mayslake Village\*
- Metropolitan Family Services DuPage
- Neighborhood Food Pantries\*
- Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services
- Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Riverwalk Adult Day Services
- SamaraCare
- Serenity House Counseling Services
- Sharing Connections\*
- Special Kids Day\*
- Teen Parent Connection\*
- Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Service
- World Relief DuPage
- Youth Outlook
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

## Thank You, Donors!

Our sincere thanks to the donors and donor-advised fund representatives who donated or recommended grants totaling **\$153,980** to support our spring **Community Needs** grant program.

Betty M. Bock Fund  
 Edward & Minnie Ceragioli Fund  
 Robert & Laurie McMahon Family Fund  
 The McWethy Family Foundation  
 Betty W. Smykal  
 Snodgrass Family Fund  
 Andi Stelzner Fund

**The fall Community Needs grant cycle (Animal Welfare, Arts and Culture, Education, and Environment) application deadline is Friday, September 6, 2019.**



Grant Committee member Dianne Engram (right) presents a \$7,500 grant to Sam Moore (left) and Ann Byrne (center) of Donka, Inc. to purchase assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.

## New Funds Established

through June 1, 2019

- Mental Health Awareness Fund of Central DuPage
- Pastoral Counseling Center
- Jim Tyree Excellence in Coaching Scholarship Fund

To establish your fund, contact us at 630.665.5556.  
 For a complete listing of current funds, visit [dupagefoundation.org](http://dupagefoundation.org).

# Artsdupage.org—Your Guide to Summer Fun!

Looking for fun things to do around town this summer? DuPage County has it all. For exciting arts and cultural activities, turn to [artsdupage.org](http://artsdupage.org), an expansive public listing of upcoming exhibits, concerts, festivals, workshops, and more. Whether you're looking for a sophisticated evening show or a family-friendly excursion, there's no need to travel far to find your next arts adventure—it's right here!

Arts  
DuPage

ART HAPPENS HERE

## Event Highlight

### 1. Summer Concert Series

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., through August 20  
Fishel Park, Downers Grove  
Food vendors and free, live music including pop, country, and fan-favorite cover bands.

### 2. Sheldon Peck: Footsteps of His Life

June 3 - August 31  
Sheldon Peck Homestead, Lombard  
Original paintings by the noted folk art painter on display in his 1839 home.

### 3. Henry V

July 10 - August 18  
Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook  
Shakespeare's most rousing adventure on First Folio's outdoor mainstage.

### 4. Nature Connects: Art with LEGO Bricks

May 24 - September 15  
Morton Arboretum, Lisle  
The fan-favorite exhibition by Sean Kenney returns.

### 5. Frida Fest

September 8, 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
McAninch Arts Center, Glen Ellyn  
Performances, activities, and food celebrating the artist Frida Kahlo. The Foundation is a proud sponsor!

See art events of all kinds, for all ages,  
at [artsdupage.org](http://artsdupage.org).





# Financial Literacy Program Gains Participants

We know the benefits of being physically fit, but what about financial fitness? Financial literacy is crucial to keeping a household afloat, and for **167,000** low-income DuPage residents, achieving financial stability is an even greater challenge.

The Foundation recognized the magnitude of this issue after convening a roundtable in 2012. “We discussed gaps in services and unaddressed client needs,” said **Barb Szczepaniak**, vice president for programs. “Together we identified financial literacy education, particularly for individuals and families with limited resources, as a critical need that was not being met.”

**H.O.M.E. DuPage’s (HOME)** reputation for financial literacy made them a natural fit to deliver this type of programming. With initial funding from a passionate Foundation donor, and ongoing Foundation support since then, HOME created the **Financial Fitness Program (FFIT)**, a series of workshops focused on budgeting, debt management, developing savings, and basic banking coupled with continued, individualized coaching sessions.

Demand for this program continues to grow as the number of DuPage residents facing poverty increases annually. Two years ago, four not-for-profits partnered with HOME to support their clients’ financial needs.



*Loaves & Fishes Cares Car Program clients are required to participate in three H.O.M.E. DuPage FFIT counseling sessions before earning their car.*

Today, clients from 22 not-for-profits participate in FFIT. “The beauty of this program is that not-for-profits can save their resources by engaging HOME’s financial counselors to provide this service,” said Szczepaniak. “Financial literacy has become one of HOME’s go-to services.”

“We meet clients where they’re at, whether it’s buying a car, owning their home, or sending a child to college,” said **Anne O’Dell**, executive director of HOME. “We help people fulfill their dreams, whatever their dreams may be.”

# Daley Family Fund Honors Veterans Through Military Service Memorial Grant

Through a local Daily Herald newspaper article, **Paul and Lisa Daley** of Carol Stream learned that **\$11,500** was all that was needed to complete the construction of a military service memorial in their hometown. They responded immediately by recommending a **\$15,000 grant** from the **Daley Family Fund**, their donor-advised fund at the Foundation.

“We feel it’s important to recognize the sacrifice and commitment made by the members of our military,” the Daleys said. “We’ve been fortunate enough to have had a number of family members serve with distinction. That the memorial is in our hometown made the connection even stronger.”

When **Jim Benzin**, commander of the local VFW and an active member of the task force working to build the memorial, heard about the grant, he was thrilled. He exclaimed, “Finally, no more pancake breakfasts or selling stuff!” The task force had raised **\$188,500** over the past three years, and the grant from the Daley Family Fund of the DuPage Foundation enabled them to complete this project.

The memorial, created to honor those who have served and their families, was dedicated on Memorial Day in Carol Stream’s Ross Ferraro Town Center.

To learn how the Foundation can help you support impactful community projects, contact **Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **630.598.5285** or [mike@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mike@dupagefoundation.org).



*The memorial is a project of the Veterans Memorial Plaza Task Force, Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino, Village of Carol Stream, and Carol Stream Park District.*

## Welcome New Staff!

### Matt Wilson Accounting Associate

Wilson supports the finance department and is responsible for day-to-day accounting functions, including reconciling accounts and preparing financial reports.

"This new position is crucial to supporting the continued growth of the Foundation," said **David Weisz**, vice president for finance. "Matt's attention to detail and commitment to accuracy are vital skills that will contribute to his success in this role." Wilson joined the Foundation in May 2019.

Wilson's previous experience includes a **Wintrust** internship where he performed bond transactions and processed loans. "I'm excited to learn from an exceptional group of people," Wilson said of his new role. "I'm happy to join the team at an exciting time and look forward to helping the Foundation meet its ambitious goals."

Wilson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from **Elmhurst College**. He lives in Westchester and enjoys spending time with his dog, Lucky.



### Matti Oshin Marketing Intern

Oshin designs advertisements, assists with the annual benefit, and populates arts and culture events for **artsdupage.org**, ensuring the site offers a variety of dynamic local events.

"Matti is eager to learn and happily takes on new tasks," said **Melissa Fischer**, marketing manager. "She brings a unique perspective to our team, incorporating fresh designs into our current messages." Oshin joined the Foundation in January 2019 and will continue through the fall.

Oshin is studying Communication Arts at **Benedictine University**. After graduating in 2020, she hopes to obtain an advertising copywriter position to further her career goal of becoming a creative director at an advertising firm. "This internship offers a sampling of everything I want to do in my future career, my favorite being ad design," Matti said. "It's a great opportunity to build my portfolio."

Oshin lives in Addison with her mother and enjoys DIY crafts, listening to music, and cooking.



## Next Generation Initiative's Green Thumbs Support The GardenWorks Project

**Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** members put their green thumbs to work while building garden plots with **The GardenWorks Project** on May 18. A group of 18 NGI volunteers built garden frames and planted seedlings that will soon produce food for local families.

The GardenWorks Project empowers, educates, and supports all food growers in their efforts to nourish families and neighbors in need. NGI Steering Committee member **Amber Drew** confirmed the value of NGI dollars and time going toward GardenWorks' mission. "GardenWorks educates recipients on the importance of fresh food and healthy lifestyles, and provides ongoing support long after the garden build is complete."

NGI engages and empowers our county's next generation of philanthropic leaders by providing them with opportunities to connect, learn, and give back. Quarterly social events are offered to members and guests, followed by volunteer opportunities supporting featured charities. NGI's spring event held at **D.O.C Wine Bar** in Lombard, encouraged attendees to give monetarily to The GardenWorks Project, resulting in a **\$2,500** grant. But that wasn't the only way to give. "NGI's volunteer opportunities introduce members to local organizations they might not know about," said **Kait Balsewicz**, development officer. "It's especially fun when families get to participate together, like we saw at the garden build," she added.

"I'm so grateful to the Foundation," said **Jeannie Iseman**, The GardenWorks Project's executive director. "You are our greatest advocates, and my heart is full when I think about the opportunities you've opened up for our organization."

Thank you to **Giving DuPage**, our **Volunteer Opportunities Partner**, as well as our **2019 Corporate Sponsors** and all individual event partners who help offset the cost of our activities throughout the year.

Interested in sponsoring the Next Generation Initiative? Contact **Kait Balsewicz**, development officer, at **630.598.5292** or [kait@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:kait@dupagefoundation.org).





NGI members and volunteers rolled up their sleeves for a GardenWorks build on May 18.

# NGI Corporate Support Grows

Our **Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** offers sponsorship opportunities for companies and organizations that want to gain valuable exposure and reach community-minded audiences. It is because of these sponsorships, in addition to membership contributions, that our grantmaking ability for area not-for-profits is substantially increased. "Sponsorship dollars offset Foundation event costs, which bring together philanthropic individuals," said **Kait Balsewicz**, development officer. "We've been gaining momentum in corporate sponsorships, which pave the way for NGI to raise the profile of, and award grants to, not-for-profits in our community."

We are proud to recognize our **2019 Corporate Sponsors**:

## Aon

Aon is a leading global professional services firm that provides a broad range of risk, retirement, and health solutions. "At the heart of Aon's work is a mission to empower economic and human possibility," said **Don Ortelge**, resident managing director of Aon Chicago Commercial Risk & Health Solutions. The 'why' of what Aon does matters to their clients, colleagues, and communities where they live and work. "By enabling organizations to take risks and protect their people, we create positive social impact every day—driving innovation and economic growth, and helping millions of people recover and thrive in the face of adversity," said Ortelge. "Like NGI, we're positively impacting the DuPage community."



## DuPage Medical Group Charitable Fund

The DuPage Medical Group (DMG) Charitable Fund was developed as a means for DMG physicians and employees to give time, talents, and financial assistance to those in need. "We provide grants to agencies that feed the hungry, promote health and wellness in the community, and provide affordable housing and supportive services," said **Diane Lillwitz**, fund manager. "We value our partnership with the Foundation and appreciate its guidance and stewardship of our fund. We are also proud to support NGI—an initiative that nurtures our county's future philanthropists, people who, like our physicians and employees, believe in giving back."



## Heritage Professional Associates, LTD.

**Heritage Professional Associates, (HPA)** is an interdisciplinary group of behavioral health professionals that provides individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy, education and wellness programs, and comprehensive psychological assessments to assist in achieving one's goals. "We're proud to partner with the Foundation's NGI in a shared mission to enhance the lives of every resident of DuPage County and promote human flourishing in the communities that we serve," said **Danielle Mazur**, office administrator. "Our goal is to collaborate with community leaders in creating new and innovative ways of meeting people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs."



# DuPage Foundation

3000 Woodcreek Dr., Suite 310  
Downers Grove, IL 60515-5408  
630.665.5556  
[dupagefoundation.org](http://dupagefoundation.org)

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## Foundation Staff

**David M. McGowan, CFRE**  
President and CEO  
[dave@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:dave@dupagefoundation.org)

**Kaitlyn M. Balsewicz, CFRE**  
Development Officer  
[kait@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:kait@dupagefoundation.org)

**Laura R. Ernst**  
Program Associate  
[laura@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:laura@dupagefoundation.org)

**Melissa C. Fischer**  
Marketing Manager  
[melissa@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:melissa@dupagefoundation.org)

**Matti F.D. Oshin**  
Marketing Intern  
[volunteer@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@dupagefoundation.org)

**Matt S. Wilson**  
Accounting Associate  
[matt@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:matt@dupagefoundation.org)

**Michael R. Sitrick, JD, CFRE**  
Vice President for Advancement  
[mike@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mike@dupagefoundation.org)

**Barbara S. Szczepaniak**  
Vice President for Programs  
[barb@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:barb@dupagefoundation.org)

**Deborah L. Venezia**  
Director of Arts DuPage  
[debbie@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:debbie@dupagefoundation.org)

**Karen L. Vicary**  
Office Manager  
[karen@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:karen@dupagefoundation.org)

**David A. Weisz**  
Vice President for Finance  
[david@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:david@dupagefoundation.org)

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## Save the Date!

DUPAGE FOUNDATION  
*Masquerade*

Saturday, November 16 DoubleTree Oak Brook