

# Foundation **FOCUS**

WINTER 2022

**DON'T MISS:**

**Fall Grants Top \$430,000**

Sharon & Jim Huck

## **A Commitment to Giving in DuPage**

### **Contact us at:**

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

**DuPage**  
**Foundation** **DF**<sup>®</sup>  
Doing a world of good in our own backyard<sup>®</sup>

# A Letter From the CEO

We began a busy fall season and year-end by welcoming our new Board Chair, **Nate Wasson**, while thanking our outgoing Chair, **Joe Weidenbach**, for his leadership and guidance the last few years. Also retiring from the Board were **Betsy Brosnan**, **Mary Kay Kluge** and **Joyce Webb**, who dedicated their individual talents to help advance the work of the Foundation.

Three new Trustees were elected to the Board: **Tim Elliott**, **Andy Johnson** and **Sahira Sadiq**. Like all of our Trustees, we are privileged to have their expertise to guide the Foundation toward accomplishing the goals set in our strategic plan.



*Board Chair Nate Wasson (left) accepts the gavel from outgoing Board Chair Joe Weidenbach (right) during the changing of the guard on September 16, 2021.*



**Timothy D. Elliott**  
Glen Ellyn



**Andrew O. Johnson**  
Warrenville



**Sahira P. Sadiq**  
Oak Brook

In November, we held our second virtual **Annual Benefit: A Starry Night in DuPage**, which became the most successful Benefit to date, grossing more than \$535,000 for Foundation operations and programs. Special thanks to Development Officer **Kait Balsewicz** for her outstanding vision, and all of the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event memorable.

We released our fiscal year 2021 annual report and a final impact report on the Foundation's *COVID-19 Response Fund*, which raised and granted nearly \$1.8 million to area not-for-profit organizations since its inception on March 19, 2020. In the first four rounds of funding, which totaled \$1.4 million, an estimated 168,000 people were served through these grants. The full report is available for download at [dupagefoundation.org/COVID](https://dupagefoundation.org/COVID).

As we embark into 2022, we know we will face new challenges and opportunities to enact our mission. With the ongoing support of our donors and not-for-profit partners, DuPage Foundation is poised to increase our community impact and remain the county's philanthropic leader. Thank you for your partnership in **doing a world of good in our own backyard.**®



*David*

**David M. McGowan, CFRE**  
President & CEO  
DuPage Foundation

## Our Vision

To raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County.

## Our Mission

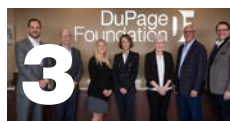
To foster philanthropy, connect donors to area needs and build community partnerships.



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Email Mindy Saban, director of communications, at:  
[mindy@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mindy@dupagefoundation.org)

## New Funds Established

Since November, 2021

- Betty Bradshaw Scholarship Fund
- Jerry Bradshaw Scholarship Fund
- Paul N. Burgess Fund
- Dare Family Fund
- Arnold A. DeLuca & Karen E. Barlow Fund
- DuPage Symphony Orchestra Reserve Fund
- Donald & Diane Field Charitable Fund
- Fissinger Family Fund
- Junior League of Kane and DuPage Counties Agency Fund
- Kamm Family Fund
- LAMP Fund
- Levin Family Fund
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services Agency Fund
- Lombard Area AAUW Dickson/Mosillo Scholarship Fund
- Luginbill Family Fund
- Nagle Family Fund
- Neighborhood Food Pantries Agency Fund
- Robinwood Legacy Fund
- Tellabs Foundation Fund
- Variety of Illinois Agency Fund
- Welgat Family Fund
- Wheaton Public Library – Theodore M. Utchen Agency Fund

Visit [dupagefoundation.org/MyFunds](https://dupagefoundation.org/MyFunds) to learn more about establishing your own fund.

# Tellabs Foundation Cements its Legacy With Transfer to DuPage Foundation

**L**ast Summer, Tellabs Foundation partnered with DuPage Foundation to create a permanently-endowed field-of-interest fund that would cement its legacy of local impact while significantly bolstering the annual grantmaking strength of DuPage Foundation's *Community Needs Grant Program*. This past fall, Tellabs Foundation concluded its official dissolution and transferred its residual of more than \$3.3 million to DuPage Foundation for the new fund.

Tellabs Foundation was formed in 1997 by Tellabs, Inc., a global telecommunications equipment provider formerly based in Naperville. Its original mission was to advance specific, strategic endeavors in communities where Tellabs employees lived and worked while building the capacity of not-for-profit organizations to develop sustainable initiatives, primarily in the areas of education, health, and the environment. In late 2013, Tellabs, Inc. was sold. Tellabs Foundation has continued to operate independently, having made more than \$50 million in grants since its inception in 1997.



*Last summer, DuPage Foundation and Tellabs Foundation solidified a new partnership to bolster the grantmaking impact of both organizations. Pictured left to right: DuPage Foundation Executive Vice President for Advancement Mike Sitrick and President & CEO Dave McGowan with Tellabs Foundation board members Denise Callarman, Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, Carol Coghlan Gavin (executive director & president), and Christopher Birck with DuPage Foundation Board Chair Nate Wasson.*

“Our partnership with Tellabs Foundation embodies one of DuPage Foundation’s core goals—to serve as DuPage County’s catalyst for coordinated impact,” said **Dave McGowan**, DuPage Foundation president & CEO. “The Tellabs Foundation Fund will provide a welcome boost to our Community Needs Grant Program helping our Board of Trustees and Grant Committee close the funding gap we battle each year —particularly now with effects of the pandemic continuing to linger.”

“We are pleased to have selected DuPage Foundation as the home to carry on Tellabs Foundation’s legacy,” said **Carol Coghlan Gavin**, former executive director and president of Tellabs Foundation. “After making the decision to wind up our activities, it was important to our board to find a successor public charity well equipped to carry on grantmaking in Tellabs Foundation’s traditional areas of education, health, and the environment, while overseeing the expansion of its support to address new areas of high community need, including food insecurity, housing, and social justice disparities.”

“I couldn’t be more pleased with the creation of this partnership,” said **Christopher Birck** of Naperville, Illinois, a former Tellabs Foundation board member and son of the late Tellabs, Inc. Co-founder and Chairman **Michael J. Birck**. “As a DuPage County resident, it’s important to me that our community has charitable resources at its disposal to address emerging and changing needs. DuPage Foundation has demonstrated exceptional expertise in identifying local needs and quickly marshaling resources to address them efficiently and effectively. We are proud to entrust the Tellabs Foundation legacy to such a worthy steward that will ensure its impact will continue for generations to come.” ■

Donations to the *Tellabs Foundation Fund* can be made online at [dupagefoundation.org/Donate](https://dupagefoundation.org/Donate).

# DuPage Foundation's Annual Benefit Raises More Than \$535,000

FOCUS | FEATURES

A virtual celebration of philanthropy was held on Saturday, November 13, as DuPage Foundation's **2021 Annual Benefit: A Starry Night in DuPage**, welcomed an estimated 400 participants tuning in to the evening's program. With stellar support from generous donors, community partners and sponsors, the Benefit grossed more than \$535,000 to fuel Foundation operations and activities.

"I am humbled by the unwavering generosity the Foundation received in support of the Benefit," said DuPage Foundation President & CEO **Dave McGowan**. "From our Premier Sponsor, Northern Trust, to all of our sponsors and donors, we thank you for the pivotal role you play in advancing the work of the Foundation and helping us make a difference in our community. Thank you for believing in the power of your community foundation and the opportunity to see more impact through our mission."

Nearly \$115,000 was raised during the Foundation's virtual paddle raise thanks to a \$25,000 lead matching challenge gift from **DuPage Medical Group** (now known as **Duly Health and Care**) and \$25,000 in matching gifts from **Earl and Kay Harbaugh** and **Joe and Amy Weidenbach**.

Vocalist Angel Spiccia and her accompanying jazz combo opened and closed the show with beautiful renditions of the classics, "Fly Me To The Moon," "Dream A Little Dream Of Me," and "Stardust."

Prior to the event, attendees were invited to enter a drawing to recommend their favorite DuPage County not-for-profit organization to receive one of two \$2,500 grants from the Foundation. The two organizations drawn at random during the program were **DuPage Symphony Orchestra** and **Mayslake Village**. ■

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## A Commitment to Giving in DuPage

### Sharon & Jim Huck Are Leaving a Lasting Legacy Through DuPage Foundation

**B**efore they became world travelers, **Jim and Sharon Huck** were regulars at DuPage Foundation's Annual Benefit, including its inaugural event in 1993 that started as a small dinner party hosted by their good friend, Cleve Carney.

"We had two very good friends who were instrumental in starting the Foundation: Cleve Carney and Jerry Bradshaw," said Jim. "They would talk to us about the Foundation and we thought it was a good idea. I was really attracted to DuPage Foundation because its charitable interests were on a local level."

After Jim and Sharon were married in 1961, they were neighbors to the Bradshaw and Carney families in Wheaton. Jerry was a founder of DuPage Foundation and his wife, Betty, also served on the Board and enjoyed volunteering for events and committee roles. Cleve served the Foundation as Board Chair from 1993 – 2001.

Jim started his career at Rathje Woodward LLC in Wheaton and eventually became a partner. He left the firm after 16 years to start a new venture with a friend, which lasted for five years. In 1988, Jim connected with Ralph Bouma and the two joined their practices and formed the partnership still known today as Huck Bouma, PC. Under their leadership, the practice blossomed, and is now one of the largest firms in DuPage County with more than 50 attorneys on staff.

Over the years, the Hucks have been involved with several local not-for-profit organizations. Jim was chairman of the board for The Conservation Foundation for three years, and served on the board a total of 15 years. Sharon, a retired teacher of English as a second language, served on the board of the Wheaton Public Library for 19 years. Together, the Hucks are members of the Foundation's Legacy Society and have designated part of their estate for the Foundation and its *Wheaton Public Library Endowment Fund*.

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**"When putting together our estate plan, I wanted to give as much to charity as I give to any one son. They each get a quarter and the other quarter is to be distributed through my IRA to various charities, including DuPage Foundation."**

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**-Jim Huck**

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Since retirement, Jim and Sharon have enjoyed traveling around the globe and visited several continents before the pandemic shut down many of their planned trips. They vacationed in Australia, Southeast Asia, New Zealand and went to Europe more than 30 times. Last year, they moved into their new home at Wyndemere in Wheaton and are within a 20-minute radius to their three sons, Brian, Kevin and Andrew.

"When putting together our estate plan, I wanted to give as much to charity as I give to any one son, so the estate is spilt up into quarters," said Jim. "They each get a quarter and the other quarter is to be distributed through my IRA to various charities, including DuPage Foundation."

Jim said he continues to give to the Foundation because of its support of local charitable organizations that he is passionate about, and some about which he knows nothing.

"Folks at the Foundation have access to a lot of information about these various charities," said Jim. "They do their homework, which I like because it's hard to keep track of all of them. The Foundation has distributed funds to some of the charities we've always been involved with, so it has been a nice match for us."

During his tenure at Huck Bouma, Jim was more focused on corporate law over estate planning, but recalled sporadically working with wealthy clients and encouraging them to have a charitable component weaved into their estate plans. Though he is retired from practicing law, Jim said he would "absolutely" recommend the Foundation as a resource to estate planning attorneys and their clients.

"There's only so much money you can spend in your lifetime, so it's good to spread it around a little bit," said Jim. "And that's what I like about DuPage Foundation. While they are the recipient of a donation, they spread it out to the community." ■

## Open a Donor-Advised Fund Through DuPage Foundation

### Opening a Donor-Advised Fund



STEP 1 Connect with the Foundation

STEP 2 Determine Your Goals and Desired Advisors

STEP 3 Open Your Fund with a Simple Agreement and Initial Contribution

STEP 4 Recommend Grants on Your Time Frame

**A** Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a highly flexible charitable tool, which may be of help to you and your family or business. Think of DAFs like charitable investment accounts. They allow donors to contribute tax-deductible gifts of cash or appreciated assets (securities, real estate, etc.) to a fund created and housed at DuPage Foundation. The assets in the fund are then invested and stewarded by the Foundation to grow over time. The donors (or other advisors who they appoint) then recommend grants on their timetable to their favorite causes and charities, locally or nationally. DAFs often make an excellent alternative to a private foundation which can be burdensome and expensive to manage and can make succession planning for them a struggle. Their grants and officers are also public record. In contrast, a DAF can preserve anonymity for donors (as desired), provides higher potential charitable deductions on contributions, eliminates the burdens of tax filings and investment management and lets donors and their loved ones focus on supporting their favorite causes and charities. ■



Questions about opening a DAF through DuPage Foundation? Contact Executive Vice President for Advancement **Michael R. Sitrick, JD, CFRE**, at [mike@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mike@dupagefoundation.org) or **630.598.5285**.

# Fall Community Needs Grants

## Deploy \$432,193 to 31 Not-for-Profits

**D**uring the fall, 2021, cycle of its *Community Needs Grant Program (Community Needs)*, DuPage Foundation granted \$432,193 to 31 DuPage County not-for-profit organizations working in the areas of education, arts & culture, the environment, and animal welfare.

Applications for the *Community Needs Grant Program* are accepted twice per year and are reviewed by the Foundation's volunteer Grant Committee. Thanks to additional donations from DuPage Foundation's donors and donor-advisors, the Foundation was able to grant \$179,393 above its regular *Community Needs* grant budget this cycle.

"We are proud to deploy these much-needed grants to the not-for-profit organizations that work tirelessly to serve our community, especially as the lingering effects of the pandemic have forced many to reimagine and rebuild their operations and programs," said **Barb Szczepaniak**, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs.

Recipients of the fall, 2021, grants include:

### Education

• Alive Center:	\$15,000
• Career & Networking Center:	12,500
• Child's Voice:	2,500
• CREO DuPage:	10,000
• DuPage Children's Museum:	18,000
• DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform:	20,000
• Exodus World Service:	15,000
• Giant Steps:	15,000
• Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center:	25,000
• H.O.M.E. DuPage, Inc.:	25,000
• KidsMatter:	25,000
• Literacy DuPage:	20,000
• Resilient, NFP:	15,000
• The Community House:	15,000
• Turning Pointe Autism Foundation:	7,693
• Your Children's Bookshelf:	8,000

### Arts & Culture

• b.unity:	\$12,500
• BrightSide Theatre:	20,000
• Buffalo Theatre Ensemble:	20,000
• DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation:	2,500

• DuPage Symphony Orchestra:	15,000
• Elmhurst Art Museum:	20,000
• Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra:	2,500
• Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale:	3,000
• Immigrant Solidarity DuPage:	14,000

### Environment

• Morton Arboretum:	\$15,000
• SCARCE:	25,000
• Three Fires Council, Boy Scouts of America:	5,000

### Animal Welfare

• Feral Fixers:	\$7,000
• Fetching Tails Foundation:	12,000
• West Suburban Humane Society:	10,000



Dr. Tim Brandes of Partners and Paws Veterinary Services and West Suburban Humane Society Animal Care Assistant Lexi Vitale examine a patient.

**"At West Suburban Humane Society, we believe homeless animals deserve the same quality of veterinary care as our own pets. DuPage Foundation generously granted \$10,000 to the West Suburban Humane Society during its fall, 2021, grant cycle which paid our veterinary vendors. This grant helped us continue our high standard of care for our dogs and cats until we can match them with new families. We are so grateful to have a community foundation that cares about the well-being of animals."**

**-Carolyn Mossberger, executive director  
West Suburban Humane Society**

Learn more about DuPage Foundation's grant programs at [dupagefoundation.org/Grants](https://dupagefoundation.org/Grants). ■



# DuPage Foundation Grants \$20,000 to West Suburban Community Pantry for Displaced Woodridge Families

In December, 2021, DuPage Foundation granted \$20,000 to West Suburban Community Pantry (WSCP) to help families from the Woodridge Country Club complex who were displaced on December 9 due to uninhabitable conditions from lingering tornado damage. The funds were granted from DuPage Foundation's *Emergency Fund* to support a case manager and budget consultant to determine and manage the needs of the affected families.

working with WSCP to provide case management for victims of the tornado, and needed additional help as the Country Club complex crisis unfolded.

WSCP was able to find an available case manager to provide short-term assistance and a budget consultant to work with the families from a local practice in Downers Grove.

**"The long-term recovery from a tornado can take months, even years. Our neighbors in Woodridge continue to experience setbacks that are detrimental to their ability to rebuild their lives. We are so grateful to the DuPage Foundation for their support, enabling crucial case management for these families. With this generous gift, we will be better able to connect families in need with the resources available in the community."**

**-Laura Coyle, executive director  
West Suburban Community Pantry**



After an EF-3 tornado ripped through the Village of Woodridge and surrounding areas on the evening of June 20, 2021, the 56-unit Country Club complex suffered extensive damage and nearly half of the residents instantly lost their homes. Other condo owners and renters who had minimal or no damage were able to stay in their homes. When a pipe burst in the building on December 9, all remaining residents were asked to leave the premises immediately and were relocated to a nearby hotel.

Seeking emergency assistance, the Village of Woodridge reached out to DuPage Foundation to inquire if there were resources available for the displaced families through the Foundation's *Emergency Fund*. The Village was already

"By supporting the costs of engaging a temporary case manager and budget consultant through this grant, we are providing more than just immediate, short-term relief for these families," said **Megan Shebik**, chair of the Foundation's Grant Committee. "These are victims of a natural disaster that are going to need help and assistance over the next few months as they find new housing and their new normal. DuPage Foundation's *Emergency Fund* is a vital resource that ensures we can continue to answer the call for help when members of our community are facing a life-altering crisis." ■

*Donations to DuPage Foundation's Emergency Fund can be made online at [dupagefoundation.org/EmergencyFund](https://dupagefoundation.org/EmergencyFund) or by sending a check to: DuPage Foundation, c/o Emergency Fund, 3000 Woodcreek Dr., Ste. 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515.*

# Bright & Early DuPage Releases Early Childhood Assessment



**B**right & Early DuPage (B&ED) released

a comprehensive assessment on the

status of early childhood systems in DuPage County and what progress has been made since the previous report was completed in 2016.

“We wanted to get a clear picture on how the Foundation’s investment in local collaboratives has helped early childhood systems succeed and where improvements need to be made,” said **Barb Szczepaniak**, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs.

**Deborah du Vair**, chair of the B&ED Committee, said the report shows that, while the amount of preschool capacity has dramatically increased by nearly 50 percent, the pandemic has presented challenges.

“Early childhood screenings are down, similar to other health screening trends that we have observed during COVID,” said du Vair. “We can see that families’ behaviors have changed. A lot of our families are looking for online resources, including the option of virtual screenings and a central hub of information on social media. We will be working with our local collaboratives to support their outreach efforts and continue to help families find the early childhood resources they need.”

The report was prepared by DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform using quantitative and qualitative data from government and community entities, as well as research through five focus groups of 29 local children and their parents. ■

View the DuPage Early Childhood Community Profile at [dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly](http://dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly).

# Arts DuPage Launches ChARTer Membership Program



**I**n September, 2021, Arts DuPage launched its ChARTer membership program, built for DuPage County arts

organizations, artists and arts supporters. The program offers member-only benefits and helps Arts DuPage support, promote and advocate for the arts.

ChARTer members of Arts DuPage:

- Get access to exclusive tours of local arts venues and exhibits
- Can list their events on [artsdupage.org](http://artsdupage.org)
- Are featured in a monthly newsletter sent to 1,600 Arts DuPage supporters
- Are included in Arts DuPage month ads
- Are promoted to a list of 1,600 art partners and 16,000 Facebook followers
- Receive a monthly newsletter and useful information for individuals and organizations



*On January 27, Arts DuPage ChARTer members were invited to a free tour of the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Oak Brook.*

To support Arts DuPage as a member, sponsor or supporter of its ChARTer membership program, please visit [dupagefoundation.org/ArtsMembership](http://dupagefoundation.org/ArtsMembership). ■

*For questions about the ChARTer membership program, please contact **Debbie Venezia** at [debbie@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:debbie@dupagefoundation.org) or 630.598.5299.*

# Foundation Staff Updates

## Laura R. Ernst Promoted to Program Officer



Laura joined the Foundation as a program associate in July, 2016, and was promoted to program officer in August, 2021. She manages multiple grant programs and oversees specific aspects of the grantmaking process

between applicants and the Foundation. Laura is responsible for program research, proposal evaluation, grant activity tracking, post-grant evaluation, and facilitates the selection and award process for the Foundation's scholarship funds.

## Michael R. Sitrick, JD, CFRE Promoted to Executive Vice President for Advancement

In September, 2021, Mike was promoted to executive vice president for advancement. He first worked at the Foundation from 2003 to 2010 when he left to complete his law degree and practice in the field. Mike returned to the Foundation in 2013 as director of development and was promoted to vice



president for advancement in 2016. He helps individuals, families, businesses, and their advisors accomplish their unique charitable goals.

## Samantha Keck Joins the Foundation as Communications Associate



In January, 2022, **Samantha Keck** joined the Foundation as communications associate. In her role, she supports the communications department with a broad range of activities to drive engagement and awareness of the Foundation

through various media channels.

Samantha started her career as a graphic designer and content writer in the real estate industry, assisting in marketing multi-million dollar commercial listings. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked for a Chicago retailer where she managed social media and advertising campaigns to facilitate revenue through customer outreach.

Samantha graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising and marketing in 2017 and received a digital marketing strategy certificate from DePaul University in 2018. She grew up in Elmhurst and graduated from York Community High School in 2013.

## Debbie Venezia and Dave McGowan Featured on NCTV's Spotlight



In October, 2021, **Debbie Venezia**, director of Arts DuPage, and **Dave McGowan**, DuPage

Foundation president & CEO, were featured guests on *Spotlight*, a Naperville Community Television (NCTV) program that invites representatives from local not-for-profit organizations to talk about their mission and the programs

and services they offer the community. While Debbie talked about the latest Arts DuPage activity, Dave



spoke about the Foundation's impact through its 35-year history, including the *COVID-19 Response Fund*. Both videos are posted on the Foundation's YouTube channel.





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## DuPage Foundation Receives Honors From the Community

### Charity Navigator *Four-Star Rating*

DuPage Foundation was rated a *Four-Star Charity* by Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator that helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health, accountability and transparency of America's largest charities.

### Chamber630 *Inspirational Not-For-Profit*

Chamber630 recognized DuPage Foundation as the 2021 *Inspirational Not-for-Profit* as part of its "Best of 630" annual awards in September, 2021. The Foundation was selected for the award for its commitment to raising the quality of life throughout DuPage County.

### Neighborhood Food Pantries *Neighborhood Servant Award*



*Neighborhood Food Pantries Executive Director Kate Monteleone presents the award to DuPage Foundation President & CEO Dave McGowan in December, 2021.*

DuPage Foundation and the Snodgrass family were honored with the 2021 *Neighborhood Servant Award* by Neighborhood Food Pantries (NFP). Both the Foundation and the *Snodgrass Family Fund* have supported NFP with several grants funding cargo vans and refrigeration projects.