

Foundation **FOCUS**

WINTER 2021

DON'T MISS:

**DuPage Foundation Supports
Record Census Count**



Gerald and Tiffany Lewis

Community Foundation Power Couple

Contact us at:

3000 Woodcreek Dr., Suite 310
Downers Grove, IL 60515-5408
630.665.5556
dupagefoundation.org

DuPage 
Foundation
Doing a world of good in our own backyard™

A Letter From the CEO

The Foundation has been working to achieve our mission during this unprecedented period. We've done this by raising and granting \$1.7 million in *COVID-19 Response Fund* donations to 97 local not-for-profits that work within our community to help our vision become reality and to alleviate hardships due to the pandemic. We also granted \$363,192 through our signature *Community Needs Grant Program* to 36 organizations in the areas of education, arts & culture, environment and animal welfare. In addition to our grantmaking, we welcomed four new Trustees to our Board. They are:



Julius W. (Wes) Becton III
Elmhurst



Betsy Goltermann
Elmhurst



Gerald E. Lewis Jr.
Naperville



James G. (Jim) Myers
Glen Ellyn

Read more about their service and outstanding career paths at dupagefoundation.org/NewTrustees.

Leaving the Board, but not their service to the Foundation, are:



Denise A. Gierach
Aurora



Denise A. Horne
Naperville



Ernest J. Mrozek
Hinsdale

We thank them for their years of support and counsel.

In other news, we've freshened our website, released our FY20 annual report and hired new staff. Our Arts DuPage and Bright & Early DuPage initiatives are making great strides as you will see on the following pages.

All of this work couldn't be done without your support in time, treasure and talent. Thank you for helping us in **doing a world of good in our own backyard™**.

David M. McGowan, CFRE

President & CEO
DuPage Foundation

Also, new leaders have been confirmed to our committees:

Karen Fleming
Next Generation Initiative (NGI)
Steering Committee chair
Naperville

Brandy Harrington
Professional Advisor Committee vice chair
Lombard

Henry Kaskov
NGI Steering Committee vice chair
Geneva

Megan Shebik
Bylaws Committee vice chair
Wheaton

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



FEATURES



**Spotlight Ball Raises
More Than \$460,000**



**DuPage Foundation
Supports Record
Census Count**

NEWS



**Record Grantmaking in
Fall 2020**



**PROFILE: The McMahons:
Charitable Giving For the
Next Generation**



**Next Generation Initiative
Virtual Trivia Night is Coming
February 24**



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• **Arts DuPage**
• **Bright & Early DuPage**
• **Foundation Staff & More**

ON THE BACK

Volunteer News - Matt Booth


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

New Funds Established

through January 2021

- Crompton Family Fund
- Hyett Family Fund
- Capt. Bernardo Iorgulescu
USMC Memorial Fund
- Charlie and Kathy McKenna
Family Fund
- Mental Health Fund
- Rothermel Family Fund
- Thomas R. and Shirley A.
Scott Fund



Spotlight Ball Raises More Than \$460,000

From left: Dave McGowan, Dr. Supriya Jasuja, Greg Dellinger.

Nearly 200 households representing some of DuPage County's most dedicated philanthropists, business executives, civic leaders and community-minded residents came together on Saturday, November 14, for a virtual celebration in support of DuPage Foundation. Broadcast via YouTube from NCTV17 studios in Naperville, the Spotlight Ball was a night to remember, grossing more than \$460,000 for Foundation operations.

Virtual Program and DuPage Delights

Event participants enjoyed a Zoom Happy Hour and Post-Party, a program co-hosted by Emcee Greg Dellinger and Foundation President & CEO Dave McGowan that highlighted stories from a sampling of Foundation grantees, donors, and volunteer leaders, and an online silent auction and paddle raise. Many participants also opted to enjoy an enhanced experience that included a DuPage Delights box delivered to their homes containing several treats purchased from local businesses.

Special Guests Featured

Kara Murphy, president of DuPage Health Coalition, talked about how her organization has benefited from the Foundation's support and offered colorful commentary and insights on short videos featuring the work of Bridge Communities, HCS Family Services and The Gardenworks Project.

Dr. Supriya Jasuja, an infectious disease specialist, offered thoughts on being a donor and volunteer for DuPage Foundation and commentary on a video featuring former Foundation Trustee and donor-advisor Dick Kuhn, a partner with Kuhn, Heap & Monson, a DuPage County law firm that refers clients to the Foundation.

The program also featured music from the Academy Award-winning composer John Williams, performed by the New Philharmonic Orchestra during a recent virtual concert at the McAninch Arts Center (The Mac) in Glen Ellyn. The concert excerpt was donated by DuPage Foundation Trustee Diana Martinez, director of The Mac.

Paddle Raise Topped Its Goal

More than \$90,000 was generated through the virtual, live paddle raise, thanks in part to a generous \$25,000 matching challenge from Earl and Kay Harbaugh & Joe and Amy Weidenbach.

Sponsors Made a Big Contribution

The Spotlight Ball marked Northern Trust's ninth year as the event's leading sponsor. Success would not have been possible without its partnership and the support of our many other sponsors.

"Northern Trust values the work and impact DuPage Foundation delivers," said Greg Jordan, Northern Trust's senior vice president and senior managing director. "Without DuPage Foundation's efforts in DuPage County, especially this year, things would be much more bleak."

The Foundation was able to spring into action when COVID-19 hit and it nimbly funneled much needed funds to where they could be used to alleviate suffering the most. By supporting DuPage Foundation, we are supporting the people of DuPage County."

View the Program and Enjoy Highlights

If you missed the program, you can still watch it at dupagefoundation.org/Gala2020. You can also view highlights of the evening's festivities by following the hashtag #DFSspotlight on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Thanks again to all of our event sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers—especially the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Benefit Committee—for helping us achieve such outstanding results during a year of unprecedented challenges and local need. Your partnership is what fuels our ability to continue **doing a world of good in our own backyard™**. ■



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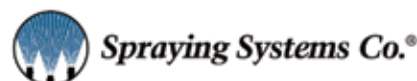


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**Dorothy O'Reilly
Ted & Dianne Saul**

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Meet the Lewises

Community foundation power couple.

That's what comes to mind when thinking of husband/wife team Gerald Lewis and Tiffany McQueen Lewis: Naperville residents, devoted parents to three young children and active community leaders.

Tiffany and Gerald smile at the power couple reference but agree the impact community foundations can bring to specific geographic areas is significant. "Community foundations are the center of the wheel—the conduit, the bridge—to matching dollars from donors with areas of need they're passionate about," said Gerald, Market President with BMO Harris Bank and 2020 addition to the DuPage Foundation Board of Trustees. "The sustainability of our local not-for-profits and the people they are helping depend on these contributions."

How They Got Into the Community Foundation World

It is this passion for coordinated, local impact that led both Gerald and Tiffany to the community foundation world, a sector that connects people who care with causes that matter. "Community foundations touch multiple organizations across various areas of need, ranging from education

to the environment to the arts," said Tiffany, Grants Director for DeKalb County Community Foundation.

In her current grantmaking role, Tiffany sees the impact that a grant can have on a not-for-profit and the people the organization supports as a ripple effect. "When you invest in a not-for-profit, you raise its ability to serve, and you see that scale," said Tiffany. "The number of people they can reach grows and the quality of services they provide improves. It's inspiring."

A prior wealth management role broadened Gerald's experiences with charitable giving and local philanthropy. He facilitated conversations with clients who had the passion, and the means, to give and connected them with not-for-profits of their choosing. In order to expand his knowledge of area needs, Gerald joined the DuPage Foundation Grant Committee in 2017, where he saw firsthand the Foundation's resourcefulness and ability to direct funds to vetted organizations.

"I applaud the Foundation for its stewardship of funds and its understanding of what the local needs are," said Gerald. "For DuPage County residents who may be in a position to give back, wondering where their dollars should go, or what

the best fit is for their support, I would always recommend DuPage Foundation as a resource.”

Big Move Meant New Friends

Tiffany was at first skeptical of her relocation to the suburbs. “I thought the suburbs would make me feel isolated, like I’d be missing social opportunities and opportunities to connect and build community with others,” said Tiffany. “But the greater DuPage area feels like a city. We eat in Downtown Naperville, enjoy paddle boat rides, walk along the river, meet with diverse, progressive-minded neighbors, see the quality education our children are receiving and enjoy top-notch park district offerings.”

Gerald added, “Everything is accessible, so it’s a great place to raise a family.”

Among family and friends, the Lewises’ philanthropic aspirations are a welcome addition to their conversations. “As we gain access and exposure to local needs, it’s definitely a topic we’d like to continue to explore with those around us,” said Tiffany.

Getting the Kids Involved

For example, during this year’s Giving DuPage Days, Tiffany and Gerald included their children by giving each \$5 to donate to a not-for-profit. “I learned more about my kids’ passions based on the organizations they selected,” said Tiffany. “We hope this family philanthropy opportunity becomes an annual tradition.”



Gerald and Tiffany with their three children, Paityn (4), Kaden (8) and Parker (4).



Gerald and Tiffany with Tom Ricketts, owner of the Chicago Cubs and keynote speaker at the Chicago Scholars Annual Onsite Luncheon. Gerald, who sits on the Chicago Scholars Board of Directors and serves as Development Chair, helped organize the speaking engagement, a moment that avid Cubs fan Tiffany thoroughly enjoyed!

Finding Areas of Passion For Giving

Giving of their time and talents is another passion of the Lewises. Both are actively involved in building career relationships, connecting with nearby families and serving in multiple capacities for area not-for-profits, including Chicago Scholars, Giving DuPage, the West Suburban Chicago Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and Storycatchers Theatre, among others.

“I’ve always had a passion for minority youth mentorship, giving people second chances and making sure everyone has resources to build themselves up,” said Gerald.

In addition to education, youth support, mental health and wellness, Tiffany’s focus areas include supporting organizations that serve, and are led by, high populations of people of color. “While serving diverse and disadvantaged populations is critical to creating equity and access, it’s also important to have diverse voices at the table in the form of staff and board leadership,” she said.

Coming Full Circle

Through DuPage Foundation’s continued work to strategically invest and effectively coordinate donors’ gifts in order to maximize impact for area needs, the Foundation is committed to ensuring this impact is seen. The Lewises are confident that intentional support of not-for-profits and transparent communication to donors is vital to the Foundation’s success in this endeavor. “Community foundations are uniquely poised to show donors their dollars in action, so they know exactly who their support is touching,” said Tiffany. “Now, more than ever, it feels good to be in this space.” ■

DuPage Foundation Supports Record Census Count

This is a story about community connections and demonstrates how DuPage Foundation continually carries out its mission to foster philanthropy, connect donors to area needs and build community partnerships.

It all started when DuPage County kicked off its local census effort. The County formed a Complete Count committee, designating DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform (the Federation) as the agency to lead the count among “hard-to-count” populations. These cohorts include those in the categories of low income, minority, non-citizen, homeless and other similarly marginalized populations.



“You cannot understate the importance of these numbers”

– Jordan Durrett, Federation Research Analyst

The decision was made to fund the Federation’s work because, for every person counted, thousands of federal dollars flow back to the region. By responding to the census, communities get their fair share of the more

than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. For this reason, a \$16,500 grant was meant to assist in reaching the “hard-to-count” populations of our area for the 2020 Census.

The Federation reported local self-response efforts beat not only the national average (66.3%), but also outpaced Illinois’ rate (70.7%). The 2020 Census self-response rate in DuPage County was 80.6%, compared with the final self-response rate of 77.3% for the 2010 Census.

DuPage was ranked 31 out of 3,000 counties in the country, according to Jordan Durrett, a Federation research analyst with expertise on using Census numbers for the benefit of the community.

In addition, according to minutes of the June, 2020, Complete Count Committee meeting, Naperville ranked first in the nation for its effort in the category of “cities with a population of 140,000 or more.” Naperville’s effort began in September, 2019, and ultimately involved recruiting and communicating with more than 100 Naperville-area organizations to get the message out to its residents on the importance of being counted.

Why DuPage Foundation Is Involved in the U.S. Census Count Here

DuPage Foundation got involved with the Census count effort because of its long relationship with the Federation and an awareness of the need. Foundation VP for Programs Barb Szczepaniak learned about the Census issues at a Federation forum meeting.

Szczepaniak said, “I learned of the barriers and challenges to counting various populations in our community and how important it was to get out the right types of messages. The Federation needed assistance to craft specific messages to each type of population, so the Foundation made the opportunity available to our donor-advisor community. Along with DuPage Foundation fund holders who stepped up (see sidebar), DuPage Foundation’s own DuPage Forever Fund, which is fueled by general contributions from donors, contributed funds to meet the need.”

The funds also helped the Federation continue its work in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an example, typically there would be more in-person meetings and hand delivery of information, but with the pandemic, those efforts were shifted to

virtual meetings and electronic delivery of information through any means possible including websites and social media.



EVERY PERSON
COUNTS

Federation was formed in 1995 by a governor’s office initiative as one of five ‘learning laboratories’ whose role was to demonstrate a new approach to collaboration between government and community in the implementation of welfare reform. Since that time, the role has evolved far beyond those origins. Today, the Federation is a non-profit planning and change management organization that has been intimately involved in the development of the health care safety net and has helped expand the health and human service system to better meet the needs of the area’s changing population.

DuPage Foundation’s grant to the Federation was supported by the following DuPage Foundation funds:

- **Companions’ Fund**
- **Daley Family Fund**
- **DuPage Forever Fund**
- **Robert and Laurie McMahon Family Fund**

Census Success Translates to More Federal Funding for Human Service Needs in the Future

Durrett credited the Foundation for being so flexible with the grant. “Had (the grant) been more rigid, I don’t think we would have been able to adapt it to the pandemic which was a huge curve-ball in the process. We rapidly changed our plans to adjust to the rapidly changing situation. I really do credit the Foundation for that flexibility. The Federation and the Foundation have worked together on many projects and the relationship, the administration of the grant and the communication between our two organizations made that flexibility possible. The ROI on this investment is going to be amazing over the years,” said Durrett. ■

ABOUT THE FEDERATION

DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform is a collaboration of government and key community organizations that identify ways a local community can address its human services needs using its own resources and resourcefulness. The Federation’s mission is to generate cross-sector solutions that leverage expertise to address the human service needs of the DuPage region. The

Fall Community Needs Grantmaking Hits \$363,192



DuPage Foundation President & CEO Dave McGowan (pictured second from right) presents a check to Naper Settlement to commemorate the *Community Needs* grant provided by DuPage Foundation to Naper Settlement with L to R: Julie Nelligan, director of development, Naper Settlement; John Koranda, immediate past chair, Naperville Heritage Society board; Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, president & CEO, Naper Settlement.

DuPage Foundation's volunteer Grant Committee Chair, Megan Shebik, donated countless hours last fall as she led not one, but two, committees to review and make DuPage Foundation grants. Through its signature *Community Needs Grant Program*, the Foundation bestowed grants on 36 not-for-profit organizations that serve the residents of DuPage County for a total of \$363,192.

grant programs have separate qualifications and application cycles, but happened to coincide along the same schedule to meet the community's needs *and* alleviate hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Needs Grant Program Stayed the Course

The *Community Needs Grant Program* is administered twice each year, in the spring and fall. Each fall, the program supports not-for-profits in the areas of education, arts & culture, environment and animal welfare. The spring grants are focused on health & human services. Applications for the 2021 spring grant cycle are due Friday, March 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Central. ■

For more information about DuPage Foundation's Community Needs Grant Program and its most recent recipients, please see dupagefoundation.org/CNGP



"The pain people are experiencing during this pandemic has really ramped up the need in our community."

- Megan Shebik, Chair
DuPage Foundation Grant Committee

Even as she was conducting this effort, Shebik also chaired a committee that was reviewing grants through the Foundation's *COVID-19 Response Fund* program, as detailed on page 10. The two



For more information about DuPage Foundation's grant programs, contact Barb Szczepaniak, vice president for programs, barb@dupagefoundation.org or call 630.598.5280.

COVID-19 Response Fund Grants Continue to Provide Relief

Since last April, \$1.7 million has been awarded from the Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund through five rounds of funding.

During the fall and early winter, DuPage Foundation distributed \$700,000 in COVID-19 Response Fund grants to provide relief to local not-for-profit organizations greatly affected by the pandemic. Through a fourth round of grant funding in November, 44 organizations received \$400,000. A fifth round of grants totaling \$300,000 was distributed in December to 24 arts organizations.

Retired, former president of College of DuPage, Dr. Sunil Chand, said, "DuPage Foundation has always come across to me as something that's very close to its community. Stuck at home, we couldn't go out and volunteer, so where could we give our money to help? DuPage Foundation immediately launched its COVID-19 Response Fund and that was a godsend."



"If we didn't have a community foundation ... we would be lost. It's been everything our community has needed at this moment in time, and this moment of crisis."

– Sarah O'Donnell, CEO
Tri-Town YMCA

Grant Committee Chair Megan Shebik led the COVID-19 Response Fund grant committee volunteers as they read and double-checked every grant request. Since the start of the pandemic, the committee reviewed 205 COVID-19 Response Fund grant applications.

The organizations that received grants were in great need of financial support as their expenses and efforts to help people in need have increased



See more about the work of DuPage Foundation's Arts DuPage initiative to secure \$300,000 in emergency grant funding for our area's arts-related businesses and programs on page 13.

at the same time their volunteer base and revenue streams have dwindled. Confirming this, Sarah O'Donnell, CEO, Tri-Town YMCA, has seen the need for her organization's services multiply exponentially.

Vice President for Programs Barb Szczepaniak said, "When reading grant applications, I am always amazed by the incredible work of our local not-for-profits, but this year their efforts were beyond impressive considering the many challenges they have encountered. A big thank you to the staff and volunteers of those organizations who have courageously worked on the front line helping those most in need in DuPage County. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 made the grant review process even more difficult this year because the need is so vast but the financial resources are limited. I want to thank our committee members for their tireless support and the countless hours they spent over the past several months reviewing applications and making difficult decisions regarding grants." ■

For more information about this program and its grant recipients, please see dupagefoundation.org/COVID

All In the Family: Charitable Giving For the Next Generation

Philanthropy translates from its Greek origins as “love of human kind.” There are many ways to be philanthropic in our society. Joining DuPage Foundation’s Next Generation Initiative (NGI) is one way to learn more about how philanthropy works and who can benefit from your philanthropic intentions. It’s also an exciting way for current philanthropists to engage their adult children with DuPage Foundation.

Multi-Generational Philanthropy (or “Getting the Kids Involved”)

Laurie McMahon, of Hinsdale, is one person who has found joy in the experience of giving back while encouraging her children to get involved. “It’s not easy to get your adult children involved with charities you care about,” said McMahon.



From left, son-in-law John Mastandona, son Andrew, Laurie McMahon, son Daniel, daughter Caroline.

“They’re busy, have busy lives and, just because you care about a cause, service or program, doesn’t mean they will. NGI, however,

covers a lot of bases and is a fun way for younger people, or people new to organized philanthropy to not only learn more, but also have fun doing it,” she said.

NGI is one way to ease young adult philanthropists into a bigger role without a lot of stress or a huge learning curve. “I love to see my children giving back,” said McMahon.

Raising the Quality of Life for Others

NGI also brings families and donors of different ages together. “While NGI was originally contemplated as a means to engage younger community leaders and donors, we’ve found that constituents of all ages enjoy participating in NGI and connecting with each other,” said Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE, DuPage Foundation’s vice

president for advancement. “Many of our established fundholders enjoy learning about featured charities they haven’t heard of before and others often step up to provide matching funds to help NGI grant dollars go further. Having a diverse mix of ages involved is incredibly fun, and it’s inspiring to see cross-generational relationships being built and strengthened through collaborative philanthropy.”

Often, There’s a Personal Connection

McMahon’s own introduction to philanthropy came about when her son Daniel was enrolled in Child’s Voice, a school for young children with hearing impairments.

Daniel got involved with Child’s Voice, first as an event participant, then as an event keynote speaker and is now helping the agency organize its fundraising events. McMahon said, “The school helped him at a critical point in his life and now he’s able to give back. That’s very gratifying for me as a parent.” ■

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The Next Generation Initiative (NGI) is a group of community-minded individuals working to effect a positive impact within DuPage by engaging and empowering our county’s next generation of philanthropic leaders and volunteers and providing them with opportunities to connect, learn and give back.

What Is NGI?

NGI offers opportunities for like-minded community leaders of all ages to join together to learn about philanthropy, participate in the giving process, volunteer and help raise the quality of life for the residents of DuPage County.

Next Generation Initiative Makes an Impact



For nearly 15 years, DuPage Foundation's Next Generation Initiative (NGI) has been a catalyst for helping young professionals and community members cultivate and explore their philanthropic passions. Consisting of more than 80 individual members and families and overseen by a steering committee of dedicated volunteer leaders, NGI has featured more than 30 local not-for-profits at its quarterly events and granted out nearly \$100,000 since its founding.

By shining a spotlight on these agencies, NGI gives a voice to organizations—large and small—that are making a difference for our community while providing a forum for new and seasoned philanthropists to connect, learn and give back.

Members and sponsors provide the fuel for NGI grants and activities. Members donate annually at a variety of levels beginning at \$100, while sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 to help underwrite an event to as high as \$7,500 for a top-tier season sponsor at the Gold level. These contributions and other donations are then pooled into a permanent charitable endowment fund designed to grow and provide impactful grants to local not-for-profits. ■

Partner with us as a 2021 member or sponsor to connect, learn and give back alongside other community leaders and philanthropists! For more information visit dupagefoundation.org/NGI or contact Kait Balsewicz, CFRE, Foundation development officer, at [630.598.5292](tel:630.598.5292) or kait@dupagefoundation.org.

NGI Charity Trivia

NGI's flagship event, Charity Trivia, is back for its fourth year! This event usually sells out quickly but, because it is virtual this year, everyone can join in on the fun. Teams of up to eight people, gathered virtually or with their households, will compete for bragging rights—including their team's name on the Charity Trivia trophy—and the opportunity to recommend a grant to their favorite DuPage not-for-profit! Register now for this not-to-be-missed fundraiser on **Wednesday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m.**



Thank you to our
Event Patron:



The Center for Financial Literacy at North Central College was thrilled to be selected as the winning team's charity of choice in 2020," said Dr. Ryan Decker, the Center's director. "Through this grant, we were able to expand our financial education programs at local DuPage high schools and other community organizations. We are grateful for NGI's support as we seek to improve the financial literacy of our community."

Team registrations for up to eight people (gathering virtually) are \$180 and tickets for individuals (to be placed on a virtual team) are \$30. ■

To register for Charity Trivia or join NGI as a 2021 member, visit NGITrivia2021.givesmart.com.

Financial Relief Is Music to Local Arts Organizations' Ears



While struggling arts organizations across DuPage County tested their creative financing skills, DuPage

Foundation's Arts DuPage initiative worked on its own challenge: to unearth critical relief for local arts entities plagued with economic hardships caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

In partnership with DuPage County Board member Sheila Rutledge, Arts DuPage secured \$300,000 in December through the County's *Federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act* funds for local arts organizations.



Fast Turnaround

Facing a window of only three weeks, Arts DuPage and DuPage Foundation moved at warp speed to collect grant applications from organizations in the creative sector. Foundation volunteers thoroughly and expeditiously reviewed all submissions, with a focus on specific criteria required for CARES Act funds. Grant checks were deployed to 24 local arts organizations by December 30 to navigate the adversities ahead until in-person gathering restrictions can be lifted.

Explore local arts offerings for much-needed creativity, joy and inspiration at artsdupage.org.

“Our board is VERY grateful to have received this grant. It has a huge impact on a small organization such as ours as we try to keep our staff on board during this extended pandemic. We’ve pinched about every penny we can so we can avoid impacting our staff.”



- Dave Mueller, Naperville Men's Glee Club

Arts DuPage Month Was a Smash Hit!

Arts DuPage Month is an annual celebration of the arts in DuPage County. Each October, local arts organizations offer unique programs and special discounts to stimulate awareness of and engagement in the vast artistic and cultural activities in the region. Arts DuPage was determined to maintain this tradition and initiated a safe alternative to COVID restrictions with the #ArtsDuPageMonthChallenge.

Daily social media posts throughout the month featured artists and arts organizations and kept virtual arts offerings in the forefront. Those featured were asked to challenge others to post their arts passions with the hashtag #ArtsDuPageMonthChallenge to expand the visibility of the arts in DuPage County.

The results showed a 643% increase in traffic to artsdupage.org, demonstrating the general public's interest in arts offerings and area artists' connection with the Arts DuPage initiative. ■

Read more about the #ArtsDuPageMonthChallenge at dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPageMonthChallenge.

Bright & Early DuPage Sponsors “Community Begins at Home” Event



forced through fear and intimidation to keep the secret. Since 2004, however, Erin has traveled

For six years of her childhood, Erin Merryn was sexually abused and advocate and activist. Through the Bright & Early DuPage (B&ED) initiative, DuPage Foundation provided key sponsorship for this event, which was organized by Project HELP, an initiative that serves parents and families in DuPage County through home-based mentoring and parent education training to help them stay resilient, connected and supported on their parenting journey.

advocate and activist.

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Erin Merryn, Child Abuse Survivor



Today, Erin is an author, childhood sexual assault survivor, child abuse prevention

A major component of B&ED is to provide support and education for parents and this event highlighted the long-term impact of childhood trauma and the importance of connecting families with the resources that are focused on preventing it. ■

In case you missed it, you can still watch Erin's talk during last fall's "Community Begins at Home" event
dupagefoundation.org/ProjectHelp

New Foundation Staff

DuPage Foundation welcomed Yusra Javed Chaudhry in October, 2020, as graphic designer. She earned her master's degree in graphic design & visual experience from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2019. She then earned a certificate in social media marketing in 2020 from DePaul University in Chicago. Prior to her graduate studies, Yusra worked with a variety of design and advertising agencies in India. She is passionate about volunteerism and community engagement and has worked to support a number of local not-for-profit organizations in the Chicago area since moving here in 2016.



Yusra Javed Chaudhry

Yusra resides in Oak Brook with her husband and travels to India annually to visit her family. As a true nature lover, she enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. ■



Yusra kayaking in Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton.

Learn more about Yusra at dupagefoundation.org/Staff



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Matt Booth, Longest-Tenured DuPage Foundation Volunteer



Matt Booth recently retired as partner at PwC where he was recognized for his expertise in both internal and external audit after nearly 30 years. His longevity also extends to his involvement as a DuPage Foundation volunteer with a continuous record of service since 1998.

At that time, he was working on an audit for Nalco Chemical (now part of Ecolab) in Naperville where he was recruited by Foundation Trustee, Finance Committee chair and Nalco SVP Dave Bertran, as well as Committee member and Nalco director of treasury operations Terry Taylor who, with his wife, Maureen Sullivan Taylor, would later establish a donor-advised fund at DuPage Foundation. Matt was a member of the Finance Committee until it split into the Audit, Financial Operations and Investment committees in 2005. He then served as chair of the Audit Committee from 2005-2008. He has been on the Financial Operations Committee since 2009.

"Matt's commitment and loyalty to the Foundation over all these years is commendable but it's his knowledge, intuition and deep understanding of the Foundation and its operations that make him such a valued committee member. Plus, he is a prince of a guy and we all really enjoy working with him," said Foundation President & CEO Dave McGowan. ■

Read more about Matt's career at dupagefoundation.org/Booth.

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