

Foundation

Summer 2025

FOCUS

The Sound of Support, The Strength of Community

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS CREATING MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN DUPAGE

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

Don't Miss
GEORGE AND MARILYN
SEAGRAVES ON BUILDING
A LOMBARD LEGACY



Dear Foundation Friends:

As summer unfolds, I'm reminded of the many ways this season brings us together. From family vacations and cookouts with friends, to enjoying a local festival or a lazy afternoon outdoors, summer is a time for connection.

At DuPage Foundation, we see the same spirit of connection reflected in the incredible generosity of our community and are heartened to witness the many ways in which our residents continue to help each other grow, thrive, and create lasting impact.

In this issue, we're excited to highlight some inspiring stories of local philanthropy in support of our *All In DuPage* endowment-building campaign and *Legacy Society*. These passionate neighbors are investing in our shared future through thoughtful giving and legacy planning. Their purposeful generosity is helping create a foundation for lasting local transformation—ensuring that their giving not only makes an immediate difference today, but creates a ripple effect that will multiply and keep growing its impact for our community each year.

We're also delighted to report on our latest grantees from our Spring *Community Impact* grant cycle. Thanks to the partnership of generous donors and donor-advised fund representatives, we more than doubled our available budget, awarding nearly \$1 million in grants to 57 local nonprofits. These funds are truly making a difference in the areas of health and human services across DuPage County, supporting 76% of eligible applications!

As we continue on our journey of community building and impact, we remain deeply grateful for your steadfast partnership and support. Enjoy the pages that follow and have a wonderful rest of the summer!



Mike

Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE
President & CEO



FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

Trustee Jim Mark is Showing the Community “What Giving Back Looks Like”

Jim Mark is turning passion into progress for DuPage County—and inspiring future leaders along the way. In May, Jim received the Outstanding Service in Leadership award from Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs during the 2025 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration.

Jim serves as managing director of private markets and chief strategy officer at Wight & Company, based in Darien. As a member of our Board of Trustees, he co-chairs the *Community Impact Investors' Circle* and strives to bring new voices to the table. “I want to show the next generation what giving back looks like,” he said.

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BACK COVER

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Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

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maureen@dupagefoundation.org.

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.



Supporting Our Neighbors in Need

Nearly \$1 Million Awarded to Local Charities

This spring, we awarded 57 grants to local health and human service organizations through our signature *Community Impact* grant program—totaling \$964,295. These grants impacted everything from mental health services to programs for kids and seniors, food and housing, and more.

SUSTAIN GRANTS (53)

\$947,795

360 Youth Services	25,000	People's Resource Center	25,000
Access Sports	5,000	Prairie State Legal Services	25,000
AKA-Lade Foundation	5,000	Ray Graham Association	15,000
Assistance League Chicagoland West	24,000	Repeat Boutique Center	25,000
Bridge Communities, Inc.	25,000	Ride Assist Naperville	10,000
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	10,000	SamaraCare	25,000
Center for Advancing Domestic Peace	5,000	Senior Home Sharing, Inc.	25,000
DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform	10,000	Sharing Connections	18,000
DuPage Health Coalition	25,000	Special Kids Day	6,500
DuPage Senior Citizens Council	10,000	Special Olympics Illinois	10,000
DuPagePads	25,000	Teen Parent Connection	25,000
Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network	18,000	The GardenWorks Project	18,000
Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry	25,000	The Rosecrance Foundation	5,000
Evangelical Child & Family Agency	12,000	The Salvation Army Oakbrook Terrace	25,000
Fellowship Housing Corporation	22,000	United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago	25,000
Glen House Food Pantry	24,500	VNA Health Care	25,000
H.O.M.E. DuPage, Inc.	25,000	Warm Coats for Cool Kids	23,000
HCS Family Services	10,000	Western DuPage Special Recreation Association	15,000
HOPE Fair Housing Center	12,000	World Relief Chicagoland	25,000
Hope's Front Door	13,500	Xilin Association	5,000
Little City Foundation	5,000	Youth Outlook	20,000
Loaves & Fishes Community Services	25,000	YWCA Metropolitan Chicago	25,000
Marklund	7,695		
Metropolitan Asian Family Services	25,000		
Metropolitan Family Services DuPage	15,000		
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Inc.	25,000		
NAMI DuPage	25,000		
Naperville Elderly Homes	17,500		
Neighborhood Food Pantries	19,600		
Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services	25,000		
Peoples Community Church	6,500		

SEED GRANTS (4)

\$16,500

Grow Wellness Foundation	5,000
Josiah's House & Esters Throne	5,000
Kits 4 Kids	1,500
Light of Hope Wellness and Counseling	5,000

Planting Potential with Community Impact Seed Grants

GIVING NEW NONPROFITS A STRONG START

At DuPage Foundation, we're growing alongside our nonprofit community. That's why we have introduced a new model for our *Community Impact* grantmaking: Seed, Sustain, Strengthen. By expanding the breadth of our *Community Impact* grant program, we can better meet organizations where they are, from just starting out to scaling up for effective long-term impact.

WHAT IS A SEED GRANT?

Seed grants are designed for young nonprofits—organizations that have operated as 501(c)(3) public charities for less than three years. These groups often bring fresh energy and big ideas, but many funders hesitate to invest in them because they don't yet have a proven track record. Our Seed grants help fund the most promising new nonprofits, so they can start making a difference sooner.

Each Seed grant offers up to \$5,000 in matching funds. Recipient organizations (see the inaugural Seed grantees to the left) must raise an equal amount before receiving their grant—building not just financial support, but valuable fundraising skills.

"If you work together and have the resources, you can make a big impact," said Barb Szczepaniak, our vice president for programs. "You can literally change the trajectory of an organization and the benefit it provides to the community."

WHY THIS NEW APPROACH?

Because we heard the need. Frequently, new, local nonprofits are turning to us for support in the early stages of their journey and, until recently, we were not able to provide them with this essential funding. With the Seed program, we have created a lane of support tailored just for them.

From first steps to full stride, our Seed, Sustain, Strengthen grantmaking model is helping great ideas take root in DuPage County.

Visit dupagefoundation.org/communityimpact to learn more about our *Community Impact* grantees's funded programs and upcoming opportunities.

Generosity in Action: Community Impact Partners Step Up

Thank you to our donor-advised and local funding partners who provided an additional \$505,595 in funding—more than doubling our grantmaking budget this cycle.

"Making grants through the *Community Impact* grant program is like having our own fully-staffed philanthropic organization. DuPage Foundation does all the outreach, research, and manages the grantmaking processes, and we can select specifically defined programs that fit our goals. By giving through the Foundation, we know we are making an impact in DuPage."

— Joan and Pete Vilim



DONOR-ADVISED FUND PARTNERS

- Anonymous
- Betty M. Bock Fund
- Harbaugh Family Fund
- Martha J. Johnson Fund
- Pane e Pesci Fund
- Paula K. Partipilo Fund
- Robinwood Legacy Fund
- Shebik Family Fund for Basic Human Needs

PASS-THROUGH GIFT PARTNERS

- Andrew C. Langert Foundation
- The McWethy Foundation
- Joan Morrissey



ESSE Strikes a Chord with Music Therapy

An *Arts DuPage* grant is helping adults with memory loss reconnect, engage, and thrive.

ESSE's music therapy in action.

Once a week at ESSE's adult day care centers, something remarkable happens. Music begins to play and, suddenly, those who often struggle to speak or remember names start to sing. Some smile. Others tap their feet. More get up and dance. For a moment, the fog of memory loss clears—and music reaches their hearts.

Thanks to a grant from the *Martha J. Johnson Fund* of DuPage Foundation through our *Arts DuPage* grant program, ESSE is bringing the power of music to its participants.

"By incorporating music, we bring enjoyment to our seniors," said Cathy Davit, executive director of ESSE. "The benefits of music are phenomenal."

ESSE—short for Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly—has been part of the DuPage County community since 1982. What began as a program at the Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn has grown to three locations serving older adults with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other cognitive and physical challenges in Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Aurora. Participants come for the day, receiving care, companionship, and activities while their family caregivers get a much-needed break.

MEMORY, MOVEMENT, AND MELODIES

ESSE used its *Arts DuPage* grant to hire a certified music therapist who visits each center weekly. The sessions include singing, instruments, piano music, and more.

"For those seniors who have difficulty expressing their thoughts, they easily recall all the words to their favorite songs," said Davit. "They're up dancing, and they engage in music in a special way. It makes quite a difference."

For some families, music day has become the highlight of the week. Some even plan their schedules around it because of how much joy it brings to their loved ones.

"It's a form of sensory stimulation," Davit said. "Some (of the participants) have a hard time remembering their personal relationships, but they sit there and sing songs."

With support from more than 30 local churches, ESSE offers a full day of activities, including breakfast, newspaper discussions, socialization, exercises, crafts, games, and hot lunch. But music holds a special place.

"Music seems to be an effective cue for our seniors, bringing back positive memories from their lives," Davit said. "It engages the brain in a way that's different from anything else. It's amazing to see the enjoyment on their faces, the smiles. That is why music is so special."



Visit dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPage to learn more about *Arts DuPage* grants.

George and Marilyn Seagraves: Building a Legacy Made to Last



George and Marilyn on their wedding day in 1973.



When George and Marilyn Seagraves moved to Lombard from Kansas 40 years ago, they were taking a leap into the unknown. Little did they know that over the years to come, they would make this community their home—and, more than that, they'd help shape it.

George, known to his friends by his middle name, Ed, is a lifelong public servant. He became Lombard's youngest fire chief at age 34. He's spent 38 years as a member of the Lombard Rotary Club, volunteers weekly with the local food pantry, and has been president of the Lombard Historical Society for four years. Marilyn, a Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®) and advisor since 1979, quickly got involved with local organizations and made community service a central part of their family's life.

"Giving back is woven into the fabric of our lives," Marilyn said.

Now, the Seagraves are making sure that spirit of giving lives on in DuPage's future.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY TODAY & TOMORROW

After seeing the Rotary Club and some of its other members create funds with us, the Seagraves were struck by both the immediate and long-term impact. They saw how these investments were directly helping the Rotary Club and the greater community at large.

"I saw that [the Foundation] is here for charitably-minded people who want to give back to the community as part of their financial plan," Marilyn said. "The Foundation can help meet their needs."

In addition to giving during their lifetime, the Seagraves have named DuPage Foundation in their estate plan and have become members of our Legacy Society. Their goal is to provide long-term support to benefit the people and organizations that they cherish the most.

One of their hopes is to make sure initiatives like the Rotary Club's annual Warm Coats Project keep going strong. Each year, this coat drive supplies local grade

school students with winter outerwear. The Seagraves match donations made by Rotary members to keep the program growing and meeting the local need.

The family also cares about preserving local history and strengthening community roots, and part of their fund will support the Lombard Historical Society.

"We see history as being something that is active today, and that allows us to stand on the shoulders of the people who went before us," Marilyn said. "If they did it, we can do things that make a difference, too."

Finally, they see that the needs of DuPage will continue to evolve over time, so part of their commitment will support a community grantmaking endowment for housing, hunger, and clothing—ensuring DuPage residents' basic needs continue to be met through their family's legacy.

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Our Legacy Society honors the generous, forward-thinking donors who have included us in their estate plans. By naming our organization as a charitable beneficiary, you can ensure your generosity will have a transformational impact for generations to come. We will receive, administer, and provide ongoing stewardship of your planned gift to ensure your intentions are honored.

To learn more about joining this special circle of community friends, please contact: **Michael Trench**, vice president for advancement, at michael@dupagefoundation.org or **630.665.5570**.



Marilyn and George (center) with their kids and grandkids.

Charitable Minute: What's a Community Endowment?

In the charitable world, what do you call a permanent fund that provides ongoing support for local causes? We call it a community endowment.

Think of an endowment like a charitable investment account. It offers reliable funding for the needs of today—and tomorrow. Endowments are a great way for generous people to support the causes they care about and make a lasting impact that will grow over time.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENDOWMENTS

Endowments can come in many forms. Here are a few of our most popular:

Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Funds

Our *DuPage Forever Fund* is a perfect example. Fueling our *Community Impact* grant program, this endowment pools gifts from caring community members to enable us to respond effectively to changing needs across DuPage County every year, ensuring our grantmaking is strategic and focused.

Field-of-Interest Community Grantmaking Funds

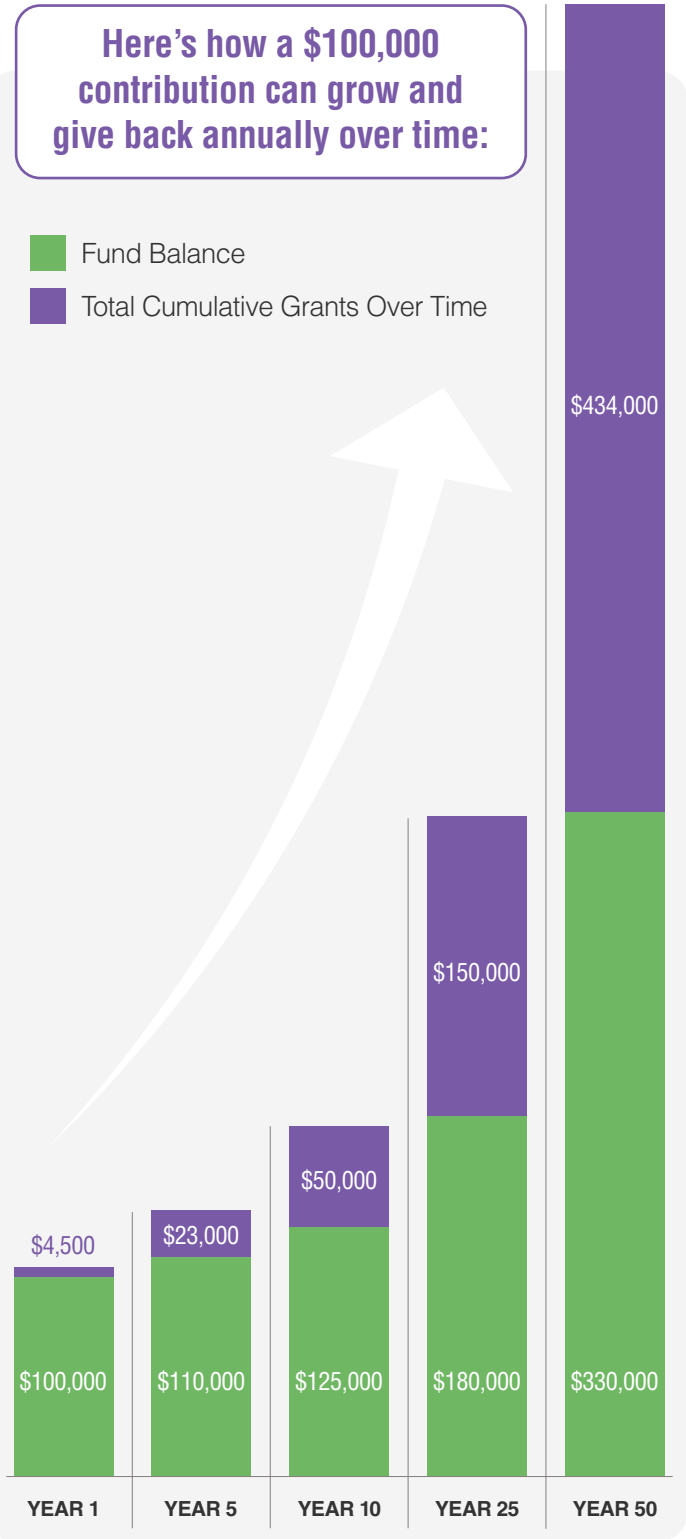
These funds address specific issues like hunger, housing, youth education, mental health, workforce development, the arts, the environment, and more. Each year, they provide targeted support in a chosen field to local charities addressing certain needs in DuPage.

Designated Funds

These are set up by donors to benefit a specific nonprofit. Designated funds provide a steady stream of income to that organization—year after year—in support of its mission. They can also be restricted to a specific purpose within the nonprofit, such as for a particular service, program, or need.

HOW DOES AN ENDOWMENT WORK?

An endowment is a pool of assets invested by the Foundation. The original contribution—called the principal—stays intact. Only a portion of the endowment's income is granted each year to support community needs. This way, the fund grows over time and gives more every year.



WHO DECIDES WHERE THE MONEY GOES?

For grants from unrestricted and field-of-interest funds, our Grant Committee, Board of Trustees, and programs team use their knowledge and expertise to select applications from local charities to fund opportunities that have significant local impact. We award these grants through our grantmaking programs including *Community Impact*, *Arts DuPage*, and *Capacity-Building*.

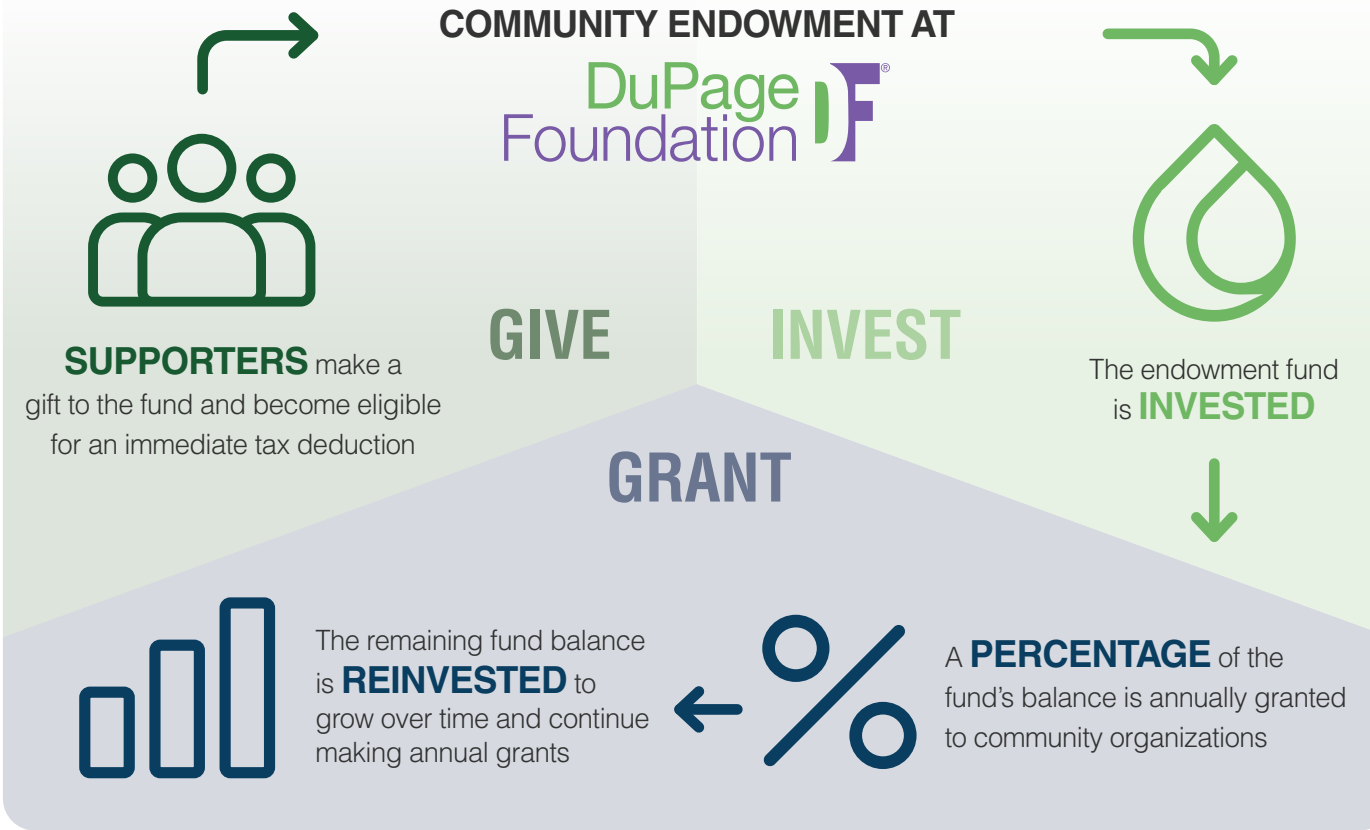
For designated funds, we work with the donor when the fund is set up to identify the beneficiary charity. Each year, we make sure the gift supports the nonprofit exactly as the donor intended. Designated funds essentially turn a donor's annual gift into a perennial gift for their favorite nonprofit.

HOW DO ENDOWMENTS CONNECT TO OUR ALL IN DUPAGE CAMPAIGN?

Our *All In DuPage* campaign aims to raise \$35 million to grow our endowment resources and strengthen our impact through two main goals:

- 1 Raise \$25 million in new endowed funds to increase the impact of our community grant programs, doubling our annual giving power.
- 2 Grow our *Operating Endowment* by \$10 million to ensure we have the capacity to continue expanding the scope of our work on behalf of our community and nonprofits.

HOW ENDOWMENT FUNDS GROW



READY TO GO ALL IN FOR DUPAGE?

Learn more about how you can support our community's future by contacting **Michael Trench**, vice president for advancement, at michael@dupagefoundation.org or 630.665.5570.

Candace McCarthy King Is *All In* for DuPage's Future

When Candace McCarthy King talks about DuPage County, you can hear the pride in her voice. She's been working to make our community stronger for the 30 years she's lived here: building programs, forging partnerships, and pushing for change where it's needed most.

Today, even in retirement, Candace is making a difference. Through her support of our *All In DuPage* community endowment-building campaign, she's helping ensure that the good work continues—now and for generations to come.

"There will always be a need here in DuPage County," Candace said. "And the Foundation is the expert at what those needs are and what changes are affecting the county."



Candace and her husband, Philip W. King.

**ALL IN
DUPAGE**

GOING ALL IN FOR DUPAGE

All In DuPage is our bold effort to build our community's capacity for robust, sustained, collective impact where it matters most. By growing endowed resources for our community, *All In DuPage* is designed to double our annual local discretionary grants, fuel transformational projects, and support nonprofits addressing DuPage's most pressing challenges—from health and human services to early childhood education, workforce development, and more.

That vision resonates with Candace. Before she retired, she served as the executive director of the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform, and spent her career identifying issues for DuPage's most at-risk residents and working collaboratively to improve those conditions. She co-led the team that founded Access DuPage, connecting thousands of uninsured and low-income residents to affordable health care, and helped spearhead the Language Access Resource Center to improve accessibility for the county's non-English speakers. She also worked to bring nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers to the county, providing an essential health care resource for low-income people.

"My expertise is looking at what the data tells us: What do we know? What does it mean? And what should we do about it? Those are the questions I think we should ask, and DuPage Foundation has the resources to ask and answer those big questions," Candace said.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BEYOND LEGACY

In retirement, Candace's commitment continues through volunteering on the Advisory Committee for our *Bright & Early DuPage* initiative, expanding local early childhood education and support services, and serving on our *DuPage Community Transformation Partnership (DCTP)* grant review workgroup. She also volunteers with the Executive Service Corps of Chicago to provide management consulting for nonprofit organizations.

Candace has pledged her support to *All In DuPage* by establishing a permanently-endowed fund at the Foundation to support annual health and human service grants—impacting areas like food insecurity, housing instability, mental health, and more.

"As my husband and I reviewed our annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution, we realized we could make a gift to the Foundation as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), and I'm hoping to do so every year," Candace said. "People don't think our neighbors in DuPage County need our help, but more than one in four households are struggling to meet basic needs."

"For me," Candace said, "it's all about leaving my community a better place than I found it."

Are you ready to go *All In* for DuPage? Learn more about how you can support our community's future by contacting **Michael Trench**, vice president for advancement, at michael@dupagefoundation.org or **630.665.5570**.

9 New Funds Established Since April 2025

- David P. Eller Charitable Fund
- ELM Charitable Fund
- Scott and Teresa Harbaugh Family Fund
- Inside Out Club All In Agency Fund
- Inside Out Club Reserve Fund
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Workforce Development Fund
- Zac and Kristin Larson Youth and Family Services Fund
- George and Marilyn Seagraves Fund for Lombard Historical Society
- Edward and Karen Sepke Veterans Support Fund



Grantee pictured: Bridge Communities, Inc.

Welcome, Kelly Fallon-Wilson, Our New Marketing Project Coordinator



We're excited to welcome Kelly Fallon-Wilson to the team as our new Marketing Project Coordinator!

A Downers Grove resident, Kelly brings a wealth of experience in communications, content strategy, and project management. With a professional background that spans the nonprofit, start-up, and corporate sectors, she's known for her ability to bring stories to life, manage complex projects with care, and keep things running smoothly from start to finish.

Before joining us, Kelly served as a communications consultant and content manager, where she crafted everything from blog features to global corporate communications. She also held key HR project management roles at Ryerson and Grubhub, and helped lead growth and strategic planning in several emerging companies.

Please join us in giving Kelly a warm welcome!



DuPage Foundation

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**WHEN I
GIVE HERE,
IT HITS HOME.**

The right mentor in the right place at the right time can turn around a kid's life. That's collective impact at its best.

Gerald Lewis
Naperville, IL
Youth Mentorship Supporter

Make your impact at
dupagefoundation.org/impact