

Foundation **FOCUS**

SPRING 2022

DON'T MISS!

Remembering
Mary Eleanor Wall



DuPage County and DuPage Foundation Solidify

A Transformative Grantmaking Partnership

Contact us at:

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

A Letter From the CEO

When I announced my plan to retire by the end of the year, I received an overwhelming number of congratulatory messages. These heartwarming notes have reminded me what an honor it has been to lead the organization through incredible achievements and times of adversity.

When the Board, led by Cleve Carney, hired me as executive director in 1998, I had no expectation for where this journey would take me, or how it would impact my life. At the time, DuPage Foundation’s assets totaled nearly \$4 million and its cumulative grantmaking was just under \$1 million.

Throughout my time as chief staff officer, DuPage Foundation has experienced immense growth, established new initiatives, received countless accolades and deployed millions of dollars in grants. Today, the Foundation’s assets exceed more than \$130 million and its cumulative grantmaking totals \$65 million.

These significant milestones would not have been possible without the valiant support from all of our community partners over the years. The Foundation’s staff is a dedicated group of talented individuals who are committed to advancing our mission. The Board of Trustees and all of our volunteer leaders provide invaluable guidance that frames our strategic plans. All of the donors who contribute to the Foundation make our work come to life. And finally, our founders – Jerry Bradshaw, Brooks McCormick, and Mary Eleanor Wall – inspired all of us with their vision of raising the quality of life throughout DuPage County. Together, we have taken that vision and created a very special and unique culture of community giving reflective of who we are as an organization.

Working at DuPage Foundation has truly been a labor of love. To say I am proud of what we have accomplished is an understatement. But it’s time for me to find other ways to have impact in our community and for a new leader to bring fresh ideas to the table.

I am looking forward to the next chapter of my life, and spending more time with my wife, Mary, and our children and grandchildren. It will be fun to watch DuPage Foundation continue to grow and succeed in **doing a world of good in our own backyard.**[®]



Dave

David M. McGowan, CFRE
President & CEO
DuPage Foundation

Dave and Mary McGowan have named DuPage Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate to create the **Dave and Mary McGowan Fund** for their children and their families to recommend grants benefitting DuPage organizations. Donations to the fund can be made at dupagefoundation.org/McGowanFund.

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

New Funds Established

Since January 2022

- DuPage Community Transformation Partnership Fund
- DuPage Community Transformation Partnership Operating Fund
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Fund of Bridge Communities, Inc.
- LOVE Christian Clearing House Agency Fund
- Dave and Mary McGowan Fund

Visit dupagefoundation.org/MyFunds
to learn more about establishing your
own fund.

The Legacy of Mary Eleanor Wall



Mary Eleanor Wall passed away on February 21, 2022, leaving behind a celebrated legacy and lifelong commitment to community.

A visionary in community and civic affairs, **Mary Eleanor Wall** was an influential voice who helped bring DuPage Foundation to life in 1986 with the late Jerry Bradshaw and Brooks McCormick. She recognized the need for a local charitable organization which would raise the quality of life for the residents of DuPage County. Today, her vision remains as the Foundation surpassed \$65 million in cumulative grants and operates under the same guiding principles created more than 35 years ago.

Mary Eleanor’s leadership within the community started when she moved to Elmhurst in 1959 with her husband, Jim, and their three young sons. She served on several local school committees and joined the Elmhurst branch of the American Association of University Women, serving as its president from 1965 to 1967.

In 1971, Mary Eleanor founded the DuPage County Democratic Women’s Caucus and, in 1974, became one of the first Democratic women

to be elected to the DuPage County Board. She also served as a Forest Preserve Commissioner and DuPage County Regional Planning Commissioner in the late 70s.

In 1975, Mary Eleanor helped organize the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, which led her to start Senior Home Sharing. An active Democrat, she received two presidential appointments from President Jimmy Carter starting in 1977 when she was appointed to a commission to make recommendations to the President for a new director of the FBI. In 1980 she was appointed to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.



From left to right: Jim Wall, son Richard Wall, Mary Eleanor and President Jimmy Carter at the Wall’s home in Elmhurst in 1978.

Envisioning DuPage Foundation

In 1985, Brooks McCormick became a member of the DuPage County Planning Commission. At the time, he was also chairman of the executive committee for The Chicago Community Trust. Working together, Mary Eleanor and Brooks saw the extraordinary population growth in DuPage and believed in the power of establishing a local philanthropic resource to meet the County’s growing needs. Jerry Bradshaw, a prominent Wheaton banker, was asked to join the effort and The DuPage Community Foundation was established.

Six other community leaders were recruited for their special areas of expertise to guide the Foundation’s structure and scope of grantmaking.

The first advisory committee included: Jerry Bradshaw, Elizabeth Eben, Jody Ellyne, John Horton, Brooks McCormick, Carleton Nadelhoffer, Hartman Stime, Charlie Thurston, and Mary Eleanor Wall.

Once the Foundation began making grants and became a permanent fixture of the community, the momentum for community giving drew others to the cause.

“Mary Eleanor Wall was a driving force behind DuPage Foundation and one of the most celebrated leaders of our 35-year history,” said DuPage Foundation President & CEO **Dave McGowan**. “She was a special person with a unique vision and strong ambition to make DuPage County a better place.”

Mary Eleanor served as the Foundation’s first Board Chair from 1986 to 1991 and was designated a Trustee Emerita upon her retirement from the Board. She also served on several Foundation committees, including the Grant Committee from 1988 – 2006; the Bylaws Committee from 1988 – 2017; and the McCormick Endowment Match Committee from 2000 – 2004.

When the Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2011, Mary Eleanor reflected on the Foundation’s growth and was not surprised. She said, “We knew the potential was there. We fully expected it to work. We worked hard to bring together the right people and to create the right mission.” ■

Create a Lasting Legacy Through DuPage Foundation



Shirley and Tom Scott

Last year, Dr. Thomas R. Scott became a member of DuPage Foundation’s Legacy Society, naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of his estate to support the causes he loves most in perpetuity. Tom, and his late wife, Shirley, shared a love of education and service and became unexpected philanthropists.

“We started out with nothing and now I want to benefit the community in the best way I can.”

-Tom Scott

DuPage Foundation's Legacy Society

honors the generous, forward-thinking donors who have made a commitment to secure DuPage County’s future by including the Foundation in their estate plans. These donors' planned gifts can do something truly transformative in the community and for the causes they love most.



You can create a lasting legacy by utilizing a will, living trust, charitable remainder trust, charitable gift annuity, insurance policy or qualified retirement plan. DuPage Foundation's role is to receive, administer, and provide ongoing stewardship of your planned gift to ensure your intentions are honored. ■

*If you wish to be added to this special circle of Foundation friends who are investing in the future of our community, please contact Director of Gift Planning **Yashica Weeks, MS, CFRE**, at yashica@dupagefoundation.org or **630.598.5288**.*



A Transformative Grantmaking Partnership

On February 22, 2022, DuPage County presented a \$10.6 million check to DuPage Foundation to mark the launch of a strategic grantmaking partnership known as the DuPage Community Transformation Partnership. From left to right: Vice Chair Bill Blum, President & CEO Dave McGowan, Trustee Charlie McKenna, Trustee Wes Becton, Trustee Diana Martinez, Trustee Megan Shebik, DuPage County Board Member Julie Renehan and DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin.

A collaboration between DuPage County and DuPage Foundation, the DuPage Community Transformation Partnership (Partnership) was established to support social service not-for-profit organizations helping DuPage County residents most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the next five years, the Partnership will implement a \$10 million grant program focused on providing assistance for food insecurity, housing instability, mental health and substance use disorder.

On January 25, the DuPage County Board voted to execute an agreement to allocate \$10.6 million to DuPage Foundation in federal funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the grant program. The Foundation received \$600,000 to administer the program and disburse the ARPA funds on behalf of the County. The Foundation’s Board of Trustees approved the final agreement on January 13.

“We are thrilled the County selected us as a partner to administer a grant program of this magnitude,” said DuPage Foundation President & CEO **Dave McGowan**. “We appreciate the trust in the Foundation as these funds will significantly increase our impact so we can more aptly meet the needs of our community still reeling from the debilitating effects of the pandemic. Raising the quality of life throughout DuPage County has been our vision since the Foundation’s inception in 1986. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide transformative change for our community and we are proud to share our expertise in grantmaking through this partnership.”

ARPA was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to continue the nation’s efforts in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the relief package, DuPage County was awarded a total of \$179,266,585. Under ARPA statutes, the funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31,

2026, to respond to the broader health impacts of COVID-19.

As part of its community recovery plan, the County sought a strategic partner in DuPage Foundation to augment its efforts to support the not-for-profits working in social services through a grant program.

“Together, the County Board, DuPage Foundation and our non-profit organizations will make a positive, lasting difference to those workers and families in DuPage County who have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis,” said DuPage County Board Chairman **Dan Cronin**. “This partnership fosters a sustainable, whole-community approach to supporting those in need.”

Grant Categories

The Partnership designed two grant categories to address immediate and long-term needs in the community in response to the COVID-19 health emergency:

- **Immediate Intervention** grants are intended to provide financial resources to enable organizations to respond to the immediate needs of their clients and/or to quickly increase capacity of the organization to deliver efficient services. These grants will be distributed annually in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- **Transformational** grants are intended to support evidence-based programs focused on long-term solutions to build capacity, improve efficiency and ensure efficacy of programs that support DuPage County residents. The overall objective is to eliminate food insecurity, promote housing stability, and provide effective mental health and substance use disorder treatment or prevention programs. Relative to the scope of the program and the financial needs, applicants may apply for a one-year or two-year grant. These grants will be distributed in 2022 and 2024.

Grant Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a grant through the Partnership, an organization must be a 501(c)(3) social service not-for-profit providing assistance in the areas of food insecurity, housing instability, mental health, or substance use disorder that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Have more than 50 percent of its total clients be DuPage County residents; or
- Provide services in facilities physically located in DuPage County; or
- Have a DuPage County advisory board. ■

Visit dupagefoundation.org/DCTP for grant guidelines and more information.

The Foundation’s capacity to work with DuPage County has grown throughout its history:

- In 2007, the Foundation received a \$75,000 grant from the County mainly to fund its **Communityworks** initiative that granted funds to area not-for-profits working in early childhood, land use and protection, and workforce development.
- In 2020, the Foundation received \$431,000 in Federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds from the County. Through **Arts DuPage**, a DuPage Foundation initiative, the Foundation granted \$300,000 to 24 local arts organizations. The other \$131,000 was granted to human services not-for-profits working on the front lines of the pandemic.

DuPage Foundation Grants \$75,000 to Support Youth Mental Health Programs

DuPage Foundation recently awarded \$75,000 in grants to six DuPage County not-for-profit organizations that provide mental health services and programs to children and teenagers. The grant opportunity developed after the Foundation received a \$75,000 gift last year from a donor who wished to remain anonymous and requested the funds be granted to support mental health services in DuPage County.

The following organizations were selected to receive a grant:

ALIVE Center - \$25,000

To expand the teen drop-in hours and peer mentoring program in Naperville and to support the launch of their new center in Hanover Park.

The Community House - \$15,000

To expand group and individual therapy for 30 teens in Willowbrook Corner.

KidsMatter - \$10,000

To support an in-person and live-streamed parent forum and a resource fair.

Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services - \$8,500

To expand the reach of mental health counseling for youth who have been referred based on the results of their Signs of Suicide survey.

Teen Parent Connection - \$6,500

To expand group-based parenting and therapeutic counseling services for young families with the addition of monthly in-person self-care social groups.

World Relief Chicagoland - \$10,000

To launch an after-school club for immigrant and refugee middle school teens in DuPage County.

After receiving the gift, DuPage Foundation created a working group and held several roundtable discussions with not-for-profit

organizations that provide mental health services to determine the needs among the community and strategies to yield the greatest impact through the grant funds.

“Though many pressing issues were discussed in the first roundtable, supporting mental health services and programs for children and teens rose to the top,” said **Barb Szczepaniak**, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs.

The working group hosted another roundtable with not-for-profit organizations that specifically provide youth programs to learn how they support mental health.

“Through these discussions we learned an alarming number of middle and high school teens are struggling with depression and anxiety and many are having a difficult time re-socializing after experiencing isolation and loneliness during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Szczepaniak. “We also learned that there are not enough qualified mental health providers to meet the growing demand.”



Teen Parent Connection started hosting art therapy and other self-care social groups at its facility in Glen Ellyn.

From one of the group’s participants: “This group really helped me take some time for myself and utilize some self-care that I haven’t done since before I was even pregnant! I hope we do things like this again; it has truly been such a good experience.” ■

JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund Visual Arts and Music Mini-Grants

The mission of the **JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of DuPage Foundation (JCS Fund)** is to support instrumental music, cultural, health, educational, artistic and other charitable organizations serving the needs of residents of DuPage County. Six times a year, the *JCS Fund* offers visual arts and music mini-grants for not-for-profit arts organizations and governmental agencies that develop programs to enrich the creative landscape in DuPage County.

Grants of up to \$2,500 are awarded for projects that support:

- Visual arts projects related to drawing or painting in any medium or related art activities including exhibitions, public art, pop-up galleries, community murals, master classes, arts projects created by or for seniors, and cultural heritage projects.
- General music programs that benefit preschool and elementary school-aged children.
- Instrumental music programs that benefit senior citizens.

The following organizations recently received a mini-grant:

b.unity

To support NAACP DuPage County ACT-SO students with materials for the Elmhurst Art Museum exhibition, Diversity of Thought.

Doodlebug Workshop Vocational Training Center, Inc.

To support workshops for adults with disabilities to create one-of-a-kind artistic products using resin and wood.

grit2

To support students and staff at Downers Grove South High School through the My Red Said mental health awareness initiative.

Lewis University

To support the Girls Create Music summer camp for DuPage County girls to learn about the music industry.

Lisle Library District

To support a LiteZilla installation for community members to express art individually and collaboratively. ■



DoodleBug Workshop participants created a console table with a river of blue resin in the center.

“The funds we have received from the JCS Fund are making a big impact on our program. We teach people 16 years and older with disabilities how to use tools to create beautiful products from wood and other materials. We have been developing different ways to combine colored resins with wood, but the materials are expensive. The JCS Fund dollars arrived just in time to help with this initiative.”

- Sarah Starke, executive director, DoodleBug Workshop

The next mini-grant application deadline is June 30. Visit dupagefoundation.org/JCSfund to learn more.

Next Generation Initiative Grants More Than \$4,000 to West Suburban Humane Society

On April 21, DuPage Foundation's Next Generation Initiative (NGI) hosted NGI members, friends and guests at Mesón Sabika in Naperville for Tapas & Tails, a social event benefitting **West Suburban Humane Society (WSHS)**. The event raised more than \$4,000 which was granted to WSHS through the *Next Generation initiative Fund*.



From left to right: Nathan Ronchetti, Jeff Balsewicz, Nicole Decker, NGI Steering Committee Member Mitha Rao, and Virag Dandekar.

Mark Motuelle, a WSHS board member, made a brief presentation about the organization and its mission to help homeless pets find safe,

permanent and compatible homes. Special thanks to the **Kuhn Family Fund of DuPage Foundation** for generously matching \$2,000 in contributions for the WSHS grant.

Thank you to the following sponsors for supporting NGI:

Event Partner

Kuhn, Heap & Monson

Venue Sponsor

Mesón Sabika

Silver Annual Corporate Partner

Duly Health and Care

Bronze Annual Corporate Partner

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SAVE THE DATE: NGI's summer social will be held at Pinstripes in Oak Brook on Thursday, June 16, benefitting **Poised for Success**. ■

Since its inception, NGI has granted more than \$115,000 to local not-for-profit organizations. For more information on membership and sponsorship opportunities, please visit dupagefoundation.org/NGI.

Save the Date for DuPage Foundation's 2022 Annual Benefit: Bonjour DuPage

Say "au revoir" to your sofa and escape to a Parisian wonderland reminiscent of classic French cabarets at **DuPage Foundation's 2022 Annual Benefit: Bonjour DuPage** on **Saturday, November 5**, at The Westin Chicago Lombard. Experience the grandeur of French flair through music, cuisine and entertainment at a soirée everyone can-can enjoy.

Join us to kick-off the giving season and celebrate carte blanche with friends new and old. ■



For sponsorship opportunities or event inquiries, please contact Assistant Director of Donor Services **Kait Balsewicz**, CFRE, at kait@dupagefoundation.org or 630.598.5292.

Alebrijes Exhibit Tour and Wine Walk at Cantigny Park



This summer, Arts DuPage will host an exclusive ChARTer member tour of **Alebrijes: Creatures**

of a Dream World on display at Cantigny Park. Sponsored by the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, the outdoor art installation features 48 vibrant mythical animals masterfully crafted by artisans with decades of experience in this traditional Mexican art form. Participants will learn the story behind the creatures while strolling through the gardens of Cantigny with a glass of wine! ■



Visit artsdupage.org to join the Arts DuPage email list to get notified when registration opens for the Alebrijes tour.

Foundation Staff Updates



Kaitlyn M. Balsewicz, CFRE, Promoted to Assistant Director of Donor Services

Kait joined the Foundation as development officer in March 2018, and was promoted to assistant director of donor services in March 2022. In her new role, Kait will focus on helping donors and organizations plan and achieve their charitable goals while managing the Foundation's core cultivation and stewardship functions, running point on the annual Benefit, and serving as the staff liaison for the Foundation's Next Generation Initiative.



Yashica Weeks, MS, CFRE, Joins the Foundation as Director of Gift Planning

Yashica joined DuPage Foundation as director of gift planning in April 2022. She works closely with individuals, families, businesses and their advisors to help them plan and accomplish their unique charitable goals and learn about opportunities for making an impact locally.

Yashica has several years of experience in donor cultivation and planned giving in DuPage County, previously serving as major gifts manager for Elmhurst Memorial Hospital and assistant director of development for College of DuPage Foundation. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Chicago Chapter, where she also serves as a course facilitator and mentor. Prior to moving to Naperville, Yashica worked as a performing arts fundraiser at Clayton State University's Spivey Hall in Atlanta, GA.

Yashica received a bachelor's degree in public affairs and entrepreneurship from Columbia College of South Carolina and a master's degree in higher education administration, with a concentration in institutional advancement, from Bay Path University. ■

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Professional Advisor Webinar Available on YouTube



Dr. Russell James

On April 27, DuPage Foundation hosted “**The Top 10 Charitable Planning Strategies for Advisors**,” a continuing education webinar for professional advisors. As a charitable giving and financial planning expert, Professor Russell James, JD, PhD, CFP® presented the top strategies to help clients accomplish their goals and maximize their benefits through savvy, tax-wise giving. ■

Watch the recording on DuPage Foundation's YouTube channel, or visit dupagefoundation.org/Advisors.

Follow Bright & Early DuPage on Facebook!



Facebook.com/BrightAndEarlyDuPage



Please like and follow the **Bright & Early DuPage** Facebook page! The Foundation will be using this platform to deliver awareness of the initiative and the collaboratives we work with while providing early childhood resources for parents and families. ■

For more information about the initiative, please visit dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly.