

Foundation **FOCUS**

FALL 2023

**Don't Miss:
Celebration of Volunteers!**



DuPage Community Transformation Partnership

Another \$1.3 Million in Grants Awarded to Social Service Not-for-Profits

A Message from Our President & CEO

Dear Foundation Friends:

As we embrace the changing seasons, it's our pleasure to share this latest edition of *Foundation Focus* to provide you with some important updates on the leadership and impact of your community foundation.

This past September, we welcomed new Trustee Patricia Atuesta of Hinsdale to our Board and recognized the contributions of several longtime Foundation volunteer leaders. These included Denice Gierach, Del Koch, Dick Kuhn, Charlie McKenna, Ernie Mrozek, and Joe Weidenbach, who were all honored during our recent "Celebration of Volunteers" reception. I can't say enough about the phenomenal leadership and support these individuals have provided to us, and how they continue to help grow and focus our impact. We are fortunate to have them as friends, advocates, and community champions.

Prior to that, in July, the *DuPage Community Transformation Partnership* (DCTP)—our five-year, \$10 million grant program with the DuPage County Board—awarded its latest round of impact, distributing nearly \$1.3 million to 18 area social service not-for-profits through our second round of Immediate Intervention grants. The DCTP also recently earned national recognition from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for being an innovative, effective county government program that strengthens services for residents. We are extremely proud of the impact this partnership is having and hope it inspires similar transformational partnerships for other communities throughout the nation.

Our *Bright & Early DuPage* (B&ED) Initiative also recently awarded nearly \$275,000 to eight local early childhood education collaboratives. Investing in these systems for our area children is critical to their development and long-term success. We are proud to be a leader in this effort.

We're also pleased to share a bit about some exciting community programs and events we've recently hosted, sponsored, or have coming up to help engage and educate our residents about local needs and opportunities to make a difference.

And lastly, we're delighted to feature some inspiring stories of impact and savvy strategies for how you can personally support your favorite causes, efficiently and effectively, while maximizing your benefits as we enter the "season of giving."



Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We appreciate your ongoing confidence and trust and look forward to continuing to work together to keep **doing a world of good in our own backyard®**.

Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE
President & CEO

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DuPage County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

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Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

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Who's on the cover?

The DuPage County Board and the Foundation awarded nearly \$1.3 million in grants to representatives of 18 social service not-for-profits on July 18.

Spotlight corner cover image:

Left to right: Foundation Board Chair Nate Wasson, Trustee Emeritus Joe Weidenbach, and President & CEO Mike Sitrick.

New Funds Established

Since July 2023

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Fund (created by The Inland Real Estate Group, LLC)
- Itasca Bank & Trust Co. Hunger Action Fund
- Little Friends Agency Fund



Another \$1.3 Million in Grants Awarded to Social Service Not-for-Profits

On July 18, the DuPage County Board and representatives from the Foundation welcomed grant recipients that were awarded nearly \$1.3 million through the second round of Immediate Intervention grants of the *DuPage Community Transformation Partnership* (DCTP). The grants help fund the work of 18 social service not-for-profit organizations serving DuPage County residents in the areas of food insecurity, housing instability, mental health, and substance use disorder.

The following organizations were selected to receive funding:

Food Insecurity Grants:	\$207,200
■ Hope's Front Door	\$20,000
■ Humanitarian Service Project	\$70,000
■ Loaves & Fishes Community Services	\$85,000
■ People's Resource Center	\$32,200
Housing Instability Grants:	\$434,700
■ Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	\$163,700
■ Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans^	\$50,000
■ Senior Home Sharing, Inc.	\$51,000
■ Sharing Connections	\$25,000
■ The Salvation Army Oakbrook Terrace	\$25,000
■ World Relief Chicagoland	\$120,000

^Funding provided by *Paula K. Portipilo Fund*.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Grants:	\$639,416
■ Alive Center*	\$60,000
■ DuPagePads	\$166,416
■ Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley	\$50,000
■ Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center**	\$50,000
■ Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.	\$78,000
■ Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services	\$120,000
■ SamaraCare*	\$65,000
■ WeGo Together for Kids*	\$50,000

*Partial funding provided by *JCS Arts, Health & Education Fund*.

**Full funding provided by *JCS Arts, Health & Education Fund*.

Total DCTP Immediate Intervention Grant Distribution: \$1,281,316

"We are thrilled to award these funds to the selected organizations and are confident they'll each make a profound impact through their work in DuPage County," said DuPage County Board Chair Deborah Conroy. "I'm very proud of this partnership between the DuPage County Board and DuPage Foundation. This collaboration allows us to effectively assess some of our community's most pressing needs and provide immediate assistance."

DCTP Immediate Intervention grants provide financial resources that enable recipient organizations to respond to the immediate needs of their clients. Funds also allow them to quickly increase their organizational capacity to deliver efficient services and resources within the target service areas.

“We are incredibly proud of the impact this partnership is having on our community,” said Mike Sitrick, Foundation president & CEO. “Despite being a county of tremendous resources, the needs in DuPage remain significant and urgent. We are honored to be leading with DuPage County in addressing them on behalf of our residents. The DCTP is an outstanding example of the power of coordinated impact.”

“

We are incredibly proud of the impact this partnership is having on our community...”

- Mike Sitrick, DuPage Foundation president & CEO

Established in 2022, the DCTP is a five-year, \$10 million grant program between DuPage County and DuPage Foundation to support social service not-for-profit organizations helping DuPage County residents in the areas of food insecurity, housing instability, mental health, and substance abuse.

A committee comprised of DuPage County and DuPage Foundation staff, Board members, and volunteers review applications and select the DCTP grantees.

To date, more than \$6.2 million has been awarded in grants. Through the DCTP grant program, organizations can apply for Immediate Intervention and Transformational grants. Additional grant opportunities will be offered in 2024. For more information, please visit dupagefoundation.org/DCTP. ■

The Impact of the DCTP



DCTP Immediate Intervention grantee DuPagePads provides hope for those with little or no support while experiencing homelessness. The organization's Empowerment Center offers its Education & Employment Solutions (EES) program that facilitates education and employment readiness for those in need.

This program had a tremendous impact on Kevin (client name has been changed to protect confidentiality), a second grader residing with his mother and three siblings at a DuPagePads Interim Housing Center (IHC).

When Kevin first arrived with his family, he was achieving behind his grade level because he could not read and frequently expressed defeat in completing homework. Through EES, he was quickly connected to a team of tutors who serve as teachers within the local school district. He received tutoring once a week at the Empowerment Center.

Today, Kevin is reading books by himself and continues to make tremendous academic strides with his siblings. His self-esteem has soared and case management staff have reported that he is better able to express his emotions, manage feelings of frustration, and communicate his thoughts since first coming to the IHC.

Celebration of Volunteers

We were thrilled to celebrate a number of our volunteer leaders during a special reception held on Thursday, September 21, at Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook. Approximately 100 Foundation friends attended.

Among those honored were retiring Trustee Del Koch; new Trustee Patricia Atuesta; and recently named Trustees Emeriti Denice Gierach, Dick Kuhn, Charlie McKenna (who also retired from the Board this September), Ernie Mrozek, and Joe Weidenbach.



Pictured left to right: Foundation Board Chair Nate Wasson with Honorees Dick Kuhn, Joe Weidenbach, Charlie McKenna, Del Koch, and Denice Gierach, and President & CEO Mike Sitrick.

Special thanks are due to the evening's generous sponsors, Trustee Emeritus Norm Beles, and Bill and Sue Kamm.

Our gratitude also goes out to each and every one of our Trustees, committee members, and other volunteer leaders for their service to the Foundation and for all that they do to help us raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County. ■



Pictured from left to right: Bill and Sue Kamm, Kathy and Charlie McKenna, Peggy Jones, and Norm Beles.

Patricia Atuesta Joins Board of Trustees



Patricia Atuesta

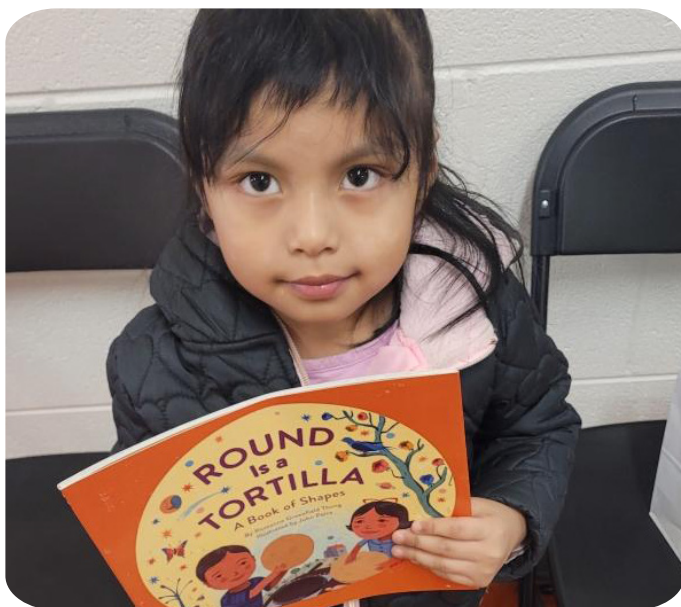
We are proud to welcome Patricia Atuesta to our Board of Trustees. Patricia is a bilingual professional in finance and international affairs with more than 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in Latin America and the United States, primarily with BP.

Patricia develops commercial initiatives and projects in challenging environments, leading collaborative, top-performing teams in different countries by aligning diverse perspectives, developing clear structures, and prioritizing business objectives. Her broad experience includes change management, external/internal corporate relationships and coordination, project management, commercial optimization, commercial negotiations, JV management, and supply operations.

Patricia studied at Universidad Externado de Colombia concentrating in finance and international affairs, and volunteers with Care for Friends and Feed My Starving Children. In addition to her role as a Foundation Trustee, Patricia will serve on our Grant and Strategic Planning Committees. She resides in Hinsdale with her husband, Gustavo Aguirre, and their two children. ■

Nearly \$275K Awarded to Early Childhood Collaboratives

Our *Bright & Early DuPage* (B&ED) Initiative recently awarded \$273,600 in grants to support eight DuPage early childhood collaboratives. The collaboratives consist of people and organizations who have united to share knowledge and resources to promote the growth and development of young children, with the ultimate goal of preparing them to be successful in school.



Addison Partners for Play, Learning & Education (APPLE) supplies books and resources during developmental screening events.

This year, local collaboratives were invited to apply for grants up to \$50,000 to support clearly outlined programs in the areas of System Capacity Building and Parent Engagement.

“Engaging parents and providing them with educational opportunities and connections to resources is one of the key aspects of early childhood collaborations,” said Barb Szczepaniak, Foundation vice president for programs. “During the pandemic, area collaboratives became vitally important and many brought parent advocates on staff to better reach families. Parents trust advocates and form strong relationships with them because of shared experiences.”

“

Engaging parents and providing them with educational opportunities and connections to resources is one of the key aspects of early childhood collaborations...”

- Barb Szczepaniak, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs

The following collaborations received B&ED grants:

■ Addison Partners for Play, Learning & Education (APPLE)	\$50,000
■ Bensenville Early Learners Supporters (BELS)	\$30,000
■ Birth to Five Coalition (Bloomingtondale, Carol Stream, and Hanover Park)	\$30,000
■ Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative (GECC)	\$30,000
■ Villa Park Area Early Childhood Collaborative	\$30,000
■ WeGo Together for Kids	\$13,600
■ Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative	\$40,000
■ Willowbrook Corner Coalition*	\$50,000

*Funding provided by the *Snodgrass Family Fund*.

Learn more at
dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly. ■

Arts DuPage Month



Arts DuPage invites you to explore the world of arts and entertainment right here in DuPage County. Arts DuPage has partnered with regional artists and arts organizations to create Arts DuPage Month (ADM), a 31-day celebration of local arts and culture, which takes place each October throughout our community. All ADM events are enhanced with special twists and incentives to give attendees high-quality, unique, and fun-filled experiences.

BrightSide Theatre, Darien Arts Council, Drury Lane, DuPage Symphony, Elmhurst Art Museum, McAninch Arts Center, Naperville Winds, Paramount Theatre, Sonny Acres Farm, Village Theatre Guild, and Wheaton Public Library are just a few examples of the many groups participating this year.

Mayors, managers, and other municipal leaders throughout the county are joining in the celebration by signing proclamations supporting Arts DuPage Month and all of the vibrancy the arts bring to our community.



Individual artists and organizations gathered at the McAninch Arts Center on September 26 to learn about Arts DuPage, what each organization is doing this season, and how to get engaged with Arts DuPage Month.

Stay on top of the scheduled arts events and activities by visiting artsdupage.org for up-to-the-minute details. ■

NGI Fall Social



On September 28, the Next Generation Initiative (NGI) hosted its annual Fall Social at Blackberry Market in Glen Ellyn. Highlighting the pressing need of food insecurity, the event featured Humanitarian Service Project (HSP).

HSP's mission is to alleviate the pain and suffering that poverty brings to seniors and children without discrimination or exclusion for any reason. Kristin Senne, HSP's executive director, highlighted the organization's impact for attendees and the fact that one in four DuPage households struggles to meet basic needs.



Pictured from left to right: Samantha Hollis, Foundation staff; Hannah Helinsky, Duly Health and Care Intern; Heather Lehmann, Assured Partners; Kait Balsewicz, Foundation staff; Henry Kaskov, newly named NGI Steering Committee Chair; Kristin Senne, executive director of HSP; and Floyd Kettering, co-founder of HSP.

Thanks to all of the generous donations from attendees, NGI members, and a \$2,500 matching challenge from the *Mulholland Family Fund of DuPage Foundation*, the *Next Generation Initiative Fund* awarded a \$5,400 grant to HSP.

Special thanks to the evening's Event Partners, Assured Partners; Fates, Bodily & Parker; and Kaskov Valuations, Inc.; and NGI's 2023 Silver Annual Corporate Partner, Duly Health and Care.

To learn more or to become a member, visit dupagefoundation.org/NGI. ■

Mastering Year-End Giving: Maximize Your Impact and Benefits

Charitable deductions aren't what they used to be. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act overhauled the federal tax code and raised the standard deduction. Now, fewer than 10% of filing households are eligible to itemize. This means that for most people, charitable giving is not about the tax benefits but their passion for helping others, supporting their community, and benefiting their favorite causes.

But old habits die hard, and the majority of charitable giving still happens at year end, even without a tax benefit. It's a good reminder about the deep reasons people give, and that they continue to do so in the season of giving.

Regardless of whether you itemize or take the standard deduction, here are some tax-savvy strategies to consider with your advisors as you plan your year-end giving:

- 1. Give Appreciated Assets like Stock.** With market gains this year, you may have more appreciated securities like stocks and mutual funds. Gifting such assets to charity not only allows for a potential deduction of up to 30% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the year if you are itemizing, but also eliminates incurring capital gains when given directly to an eligible 501(c)(3) public charity like the Foundation to support local impact or create a Fund to benefit one or more causes or organizations you love.
- 2. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).** If you are 70½ or older with a traditional IRA, you and your spouse can each make direct, tax-free gifts from your accounts to eligible 501(c)(3) public charities like the Foundation for up to \$100,000 each year as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). If you are 73 or older, such QCDs can be utilized to satisfy all or a portion of your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), while lowering your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). QCDs can be made to any type of Foundation fund, except for donor-advised funds, or to support other 501(c)(3) public charities of importance to you.



Michael Trench, Foundation vice president for advancement.

- 3. “Gift Bundling” and Donor-Advised Funds.** In estimating your taxes for the year, are you close to being eligible to itemize? If so, consider giving a little more to charity to get yourself over the hump. And if you're not certain about where to give or would like to “front-load” your philanthropy for a number of years to build up some charitable capital to utilize in future lower earnings years, an excellent strategy is to create a donor-advised fund (DAF) here at the Foundation. You can seed the fund in year one with a large enough gift to make yourself eligible to itemize deductions this year and then make subsequent contributions in future years when it makes sense to do so again from a tax standpoint. In the interim, you can claim the standard deduction in future non-giving years while recommending grants from your DAF to your favorite causes with previously contributed assets.

At DuPage Foundation, we're here to be your charitable advisor, working hand-in-hand with you and your team of other professional advisors to help you achieve your personal charitable goals as efficiently and effectively as possible. Please give us a call at **630.665.5556** to explore these ideas more or request a meeting. ■

The content provided above is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as or relied upon as legal or tax advice. DuPage Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice and recommends that you consult with your tax attorney and other members of your professional advisor team before making a significant charitable gift.

Create Your Legacy



Our 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. Ensure that your legacy will have a transformational impact on our community for generations to come by naming DuPage Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in your estate plan. The Foundation will receive, administer, and provide ongoing stewardship of your planned gift to make certain your intentions are honored.

To learn more about how you can create your own charitable legacy and join this special circle of Foundation friends who are investing in the future of our community, please contact Yashica Weeks, CFRE, CAP®, director of gift planning, at yashica@dupagefoundation.org or 630.598.5288. ■



Carolyn and Frank Hudetz,
Foundation Legacy Society members.

Legacy Society Member Spotlight: *Frank and Carolyn Hudetz*

For former DuPage Foundation Board Chair Frank Hudetz and his wife, Carolyn, including the Foundation in their estate plan is all about honoring the care they have always shown one another and ensuring they are sharing it with our community in a way that supports their passions.

"DuPage Foundation has enabled us to extend our daily mantra of 'sharing is caring' into an everlasting legacy honoring our love of the arts and desire to help ensure the welfare of all of God's creatures," said Frank Hudetz, Legacy Society member.

We are grateful to the Hudetz family and to all of our Legacy Society members for creating a legacy designed to address the greatest needs in our community. To view our list of Legacy Society members, visit dupagefoundation.org/LegacySociety. ■

Under the Sea Benefit

Unveil the mysteries of the deep blue where ocean secrets come to life, live music evokes a world of underwater marvels, and an enchanting venue transports you beneath the water's surface without having to come up for air.

As DuPage Foundation's premier event, our annual Benefit raises critical funding to help us address the most pressing needs for our community and beyond. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit dupagefoundation.org/UndertheSea. ■



Foundation and Bar Association Partner on Program and Reception for Advisors

On August 17, our Professional Advisor Committee was pleased to partner with the DuPage County Bar Association's (DCBA's) Estate Planning and Probate Law Section to host a joint seminar at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton as a part of the Foundation's Continuing Education Series for Professional Advisors, followed by the DCBA's monthly *Unwind* networking event.



John Sleeting, executive partner at Clearwater Capital Partners, with Yashica Weeks, DuPage Foundation director of planned giving.

John Sleeting, executive partner at Clearwater Capital Partners, shared an insightful presentation on *Philanthropic Strategies: When Heart and Head Intersect*, addressing the objectives of families as they create their desired legacies.

We were honored to partner with the DCBA in presenting opportunities for clients to make an impact, locally and beyond, through effective charitable planning. ■

Hunger Action Luncheon Shines a Light on Food Insecurity

The Foundation was proud to join presenting sponsor Itasca Bank & Trust Co., along with co-sponsors Duly Health and Care, and Edward-Elmhurst Health, together with 13 area chambers of commerce in hosting a *Multi-Chamber Hunger Action Luncheon* in Glen Ellyn on August 29, attended by 275 people.

Steve Dolinsky, television, radio, print, and podcast food and travel reporter, and "The Food Guy" on NBC-TV Channel 5 in Chicago, delivered the Luncheon's keynote address.



Speakers pictured, left to right: David Dungan, MD, Duly Health and Care; Barb Szczepaniak, DuPage Foundation; Elizabeth Engler, Naperville School District 203; Nicki Anderson, Loaves & Fishes, advancement committee chair (moderator); and Steve Dolinsky, NBC-5 (keynote).

A panel discussion moderated by Nicki Anderson, advancement committee chair for Loaves & Fishes Community Services, featured David Dungan, MD, an internal medicine and pediatric physician with Duly Health & Care; Elizabeth "Beth" Engler, community outreach coordinator for Naperville School District 203; and Barb Szczepaniak, vice president for programs at DuPage Foundation. It focused on the impact of hunger and food scarcity within our community and how local residents and institutions are working together to address these issues.

During the event, Itasca Bank & Trust Co. announced the creation of the *Itasca Bank & Trust Co. Hunger Action Fund of DuPage Foundation* in honor of its 75th Anniversary. This permanently-endowed community fund will generate annual support for area not-for-profits working to address hunger and food insecurity throughout DuPage County. Our thanks to all who attended the event and made it possible! To contribute to the Fund visit dupagefoundation.org/HungerActionFund. ■



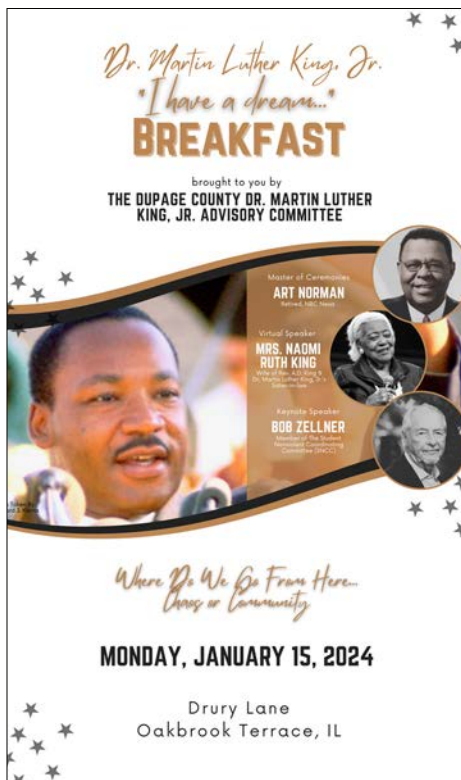
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Save the Date: DuPage County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast set for January 15

An Advisory Committee of more than 200 community members has united to plan the return of the *DuPage County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast* on Mon., Jan. 15, 2024, at Drury Lane in Oak Brook Terrace.

In celebration of the Breakfast, The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc. has created the *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Fund of DuPage Foundation*, a permanently-endowed community fund, which will generate annual income for grants to DuPage County not-for-profits that prioritize serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and deliver equitable services in the areas of health, human services, and education.

Save the date and visit dupagefoundation.org/MLKDay to purchase a sponsorship or tickets. All net proceeds will be contributed to the *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Fund of DuPage Foundation*. ■