

# Foundation **FOCUS**

SUMMER 2024



**Don't Miss: Community  
Impact Spring Grantees**



## **Record Grants Fuel Ground-Breaking Projects**

**Nearly \$1 Million Awarded to 52 Local Agencies**



# A Message from Our President & CEO



Dear Foundation Friends:

I hope your summer is off to a wonderful start!

Since our last writing, your community foundation has been hard at work delivering impact on behalf of our community and partners.

This past spring, we were pleased to award nearly \$1 million to 52 area health and human services not-for-profits delivering critical assistance to our county's most vulnerable residents. This figure was made possible thanks to a record infusion of \$480,000 in additional funding from our generous donors and donor-advised fund representatives, which enabled us to fulfill 83 percent of eligible requests received.

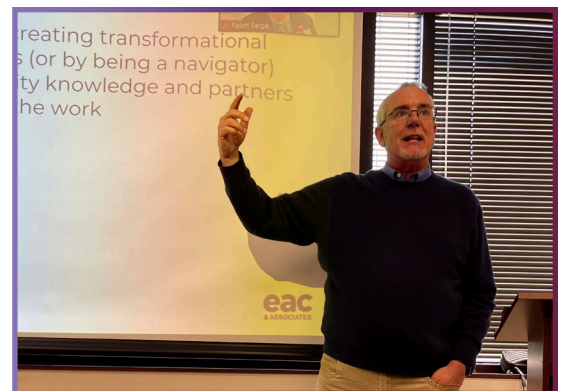
We also hosted an organizational retreat to kick off the creation of our next strategic plan. Guided by community foundation consultants from Ekstrom Alley Clontz & Associates, members of our Board, staff, and other volunteer leaders gathered for a full-day session in May to chart our vision for how we can best serve our community and constituents in the coming years. We look forward to keeping you updated on this exciting process and to sharing our completed plan this fall.

In continuing our focus of championing greater coordinated impact, this spring we hosted a convening of more than 20 area funders to share our respective knowledge and understanding of critical issues affecting our community and to discuss how we can work more cooperatively to address them. The group committed to meeting annually while also dividing into subgroups to go deeper on various topics of interest throughout the year. We are thrilled by the engagement of so many partners who share our desire to work together in furtherance of county-wide, strategic philanthropy to address local challenges and opportunities more effectively.

Lastly, we are delighted to welcome two new staff members: Nicki Anderson of Naperville as our director of strategic partnerships, and Clarice Swanson of Downers Grove as our advancement associate. You can read more about their respective backgrounds and new roles on page 11, but I am deeply inspired by their passion for our mission and confident they will do much to help advance our efforts to raise the quality of life throughout our community.

Enjoy the updates that follow. We remain deeply grateful for your continued friendship and partnership. Together, we'll keep **doing a world of good in our own backyard**®.

**Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE**  
President & CEO



*Consultant Steve Alley of Ekstrom Alley Clontz & Associates (above) addresses Foundation Board and staff members during our May 15 organizational retreat. Pictured below from left to right are Vice Chair Bill Blum, Trustee Julie Curran, and Vice President for Finance David Weisz.*



## 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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Save the Date: DuPage Foundation's Annual Benefit

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## Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

Email Samantha Hollis, communications associate, at: [samantha@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:samantha@dupagefoundation.org).

## Who's on the cover?

Little Friends, Inc. empowers people of all ages experiencing autism, intellectual, and emotional disabilities and their families to live, learn, work, and thrive in their communities. They received a grant of \$15,000 to support the Connecting Adults with Communities program, which bridges the gap between post-secondary neuro-diverse adults and competitive employment.

## Spotlight cover image:

NAMI DuPage improves the quality of life of individuals with mental illnesses and their families. They received a grant of \$25,000 to provide one to one peer counseling, support groups, and community education for individuals and families affected by mental illness.



# Nearly \$1 Million Granted to 52 Local Not-for-Profit Organizations

During the spring 2024 cycle of our *Community Impact* grant program (formerly *Community Needs*), we granted \$938,077 to 52 essential health & human services organizations across DuPage County. The following is a list of not-for-profits that received grants:

## Health and Human Services (52) \$ 938,077

■ 360 Youth Services	25,000
■ AbilityLinks	5,000
■ Assistance League Chicagoland West	18,000
■ Bridge Communities, Inc.	25,000
■ CASA of DuPage County, Inc.	25,000
■ Chicago Dental Society Foundation	25,000
■ DuPagePads	25,000
■ DuPage Senior Citizens Council	12,000
■ Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley	25,000
■ Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry	11,000
■ Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network	12,000
■ Evangelical Child & Family Agency	10,000
■ Family Focus	20,000
■ Glen House Food Pantry	8,234
■ Hamdard Health Alliance	25,000
■ HCS Family Services	25,000
■ Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.	25,000
■ Hope's Front Door	10,000
■ Little Friends, Inc.	15,000
■ LOVE Christian Clearinghouse	12,000
■ Marklund	5,000
■ Mayslake Village	3,000
■ Metropolitan Asian Family Services	15,000
■ Metropolitan Family Services DuPage	25,000
■ NAMI DuPage	25,000

■ Naperville Elderly Homes	15,000
■ Neighborhood Food Pantries	25,000
■ Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services	25,000
■ Northern Illinois Food Bank	25,000
■ OLI Gardens	10,000
■ Outreach	25,000
■ Path To Recovery Foundation	10,000
■ Peoples Community Church	5,000
■ Ray Graham Association	25,000
■ Reclaim13	23,250
■ Repeat Boutique Center	25,000
■ Ride Assist Naperville	7,500
■ SamaraCare	25,000
■ Sharing Connections	25,000
■ Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference	4,500
■ Special Kids Day	6,000
■ Teen Parent Connection	25,000
■ The GardenWorks Project	18,000
■ The Outreach House	15,593
■ United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago	23,000
■ VNA Health Care	25,000
■ Warm Coats for Cool Kids	22,000
■ West Suburban Community Pantry	25,000
■ Western DuPage Special Recreation Association	10,000
■ World Relief Chicagoland	25,000
■ Xilin Association	12,000
■ YWCA Metropolitan Chicago	25,000

To view the full detail of the above grant awards, visit [dupagefoundation.org/SpringGrantRecipients](https://dupagefoundation.org/SpringGrantRecipients).

Applications for our *Community Impact* grant program are accepted twice per year and are reviewed by our Grant Committee, consisting of Foundation trustees and volunteers from throughout DuPage County. The Committee then makes grant recommendations to our Board of Trustees for approval.

Our fall cycle of *Community Impact* supports programs that improve and enrich the quality of life for DuPage County residents in the areas of education, environment, and animal welfare. Grants are also awarded to area arts and culture organizations through our *Arts DuPage* initiative. For grant guidelines and more information, please visit [dupagefoundation.org/CIGP](https://dupagefoundation.org/CIGP).



*Mayslake Village received a \$3,000 grant to provide low-income residents with financial assistance for medical expenses not covered by Medicare. Photo courtesy of Mayslake Village.*



*Repeat Boutique received a \$25,000 grant for operating expenses to provide low-income residents with free clothing and household goods. Photo courtesy of Repeat Boutique.*

## Our Grant Impact Grows Thanks to Local Donors

Additional contributions from local donors and grant recommendations from DuPage Foundation donor-advised fund representatives helped increase our spring 2024 *Community Impact* grant budget by \$480,000 and fund 83 percent of eligible requests. Our heartfelt thanks to the following partners for their support in furthering our mission:

- Anonymous
- Betty M. Bock Fund
- Dare Family Fund
- Darnall Family DuPage Fund
- Harbaugh Family Fund
- Martha L. Johnson Fund
- Robert and Laurie McMahon Family Fund
- Molex – Pass-Through Gift
- Kaelan Mondragon Memorial Fund
- Joan Morrissey – Pass-Through Gift
- Pane e Pesci Fund
- Paula K. Partipilo Fund
- Mark and Kim Putbresi Charitable Fund
- Snodgrass Family Fund
- Sullivan Taylor Family Fund

## Making a Difference: *Meet the Darnalls*

DuPage Foundation donors Matt and Jennifer Darnall of Glen Ellyn are walking the walk when it comes to supporting their community.

They recently opened the *Darnall Family DuPage Fund*, a donor-advised fund. To support our spring *Community Impact* grant program, they immediately jumped in and recommended grants from their fund to support four local organizations that applied for funding:

- CASA DuPage County
- DuPagePads
- NAMI DuPage
- Sharing Connections

“While we have always been philanthropic, as we have gotten older our desires to direct that philanthropy locally, where we can tangibly see the impact, has grown,” said Matt Darnall. “We want to invest alongside our friends and neighbors to support our community. The Foundation has deep knowledge of the most critical needs in our community and provided us with a direct line to the causes that are important to us. We know our support is going where it is needed most and that is the goal of our family’s philanthropy.”

Our thanks to the Darnall family for their enthusiastic support of our *Community Impact* grant program. To learn more about donating to or through DuPage Foundation, visit [dupagefoundation.org](http://dupagefoundation.org) or call **630.665.5556**. ■





# DuPage Community Transformation Partnership: Empowering Local Not-for-Profits

The *DuPage Community Transformation Partnership* (DCTP) is a powerful collaboration between DuPage County and DuPage Foundation. This five-year, \$10 million grant program is making a difference in the lives of DuPage County residents by supporting social service not-for-profits that address critical issues in the areas of food insecurity, housing instability, mental health, and substance use disorder. To date, nearly \$6.2 million has been awarded to not-for-profits on the front lines of tackling some of our community's biggest challenges.

But the DCTP goes above and beyond funding. It provides access to a consultant who helps our grantees, fostering a collaborative environment where they can connect, share successes, and discuss challenges. In fact, recent grantee meetings held this past April led to an invaluable connection between two organizations in which one group facing hurdles was linked with other DCTP grant recipients, creating a powerful support network. The following are highlights of the impact and outcomes from just two of the grantees.

## SamaraCare Counseling Expands Access to Affordable Mental Health Services

Thanks to a DCTP grant, SamaraCare Counseling has expanded access to lower-cost psychiatric services by adding a psychiatric nurse practitioner to its team.

"This was a new venture for SamaraCare," said Deborah du Vair, DCTP consultant. "Finding the right person took time and effort, but they implemented various recruitment strategies and secured an outstanding candidate in October 2023."

This addition has had a significant impact. SamaraCare can now accept insurance plans with lower psychiatric service reimbursement rates, opening doors for clients facing financial hardship.

It's a critical step, considering that nearly 56% of adults with mental illness struggle to access treatment due to cost or inadequate insurance coverage.

"The DCTP grant is a game-changer," said Dr. Scott Mitchell, president and CEO of SamaraCare. "It allows us to not only implement innovative ideas like offering psychiatric care, but also to find cost-effective ways to deliver those services."

The DCTP fosters collaboration through grantee meetings that facilitate connections like the one that helped SamaraCare find the perfect candidate.

## Ray Graham Association Empowers People with Disabilities Through Mental Health Support

Thanks to a DCTP grant, Ray Graham Association is making a world of difference for people with disabilities and their families. Its grant allowed it to hire a dedicated mental health professional for its on-site Emerge clinic, specifically designed to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities who also have mental health diagnoses.

For these clients, familiar surroundings are crucial for successful treatment. While finding the perfect candidate with the right understanding of intellectual disabilities proved challenging, Ray Graham persevered and hired a full-time mental health professional in July 2023.

The impact of the Emerge program has been remarkable. Clients are experiencing increased self-confidence, greater autonomy in decision-making, and a newfound interest in activities. The program's success has even inspired Ray Graham to expand its team with additional mental health professionals.



### Ray Graham Association

*Empowering people with disabilities to reach, grow, and achieve.*

DuPage County's not-for-profits, empowered by the DCTP, are leading the charge for change. To learn more about DCTP grantees and opportunities, visit [dupagefoundation.org/DCTP](https://dupagefoundation.org/DCTP). ■



## SamaraCare

# Bright & Early DuPage: Collaboration at Work



**O**n April 11, we brought together leaders and family outreach teams from eight of the early childhood collaboratives that receive funding through our *Bright and Early DuPage* (B&ED) initiative. Guest speakers shared their expertise about resources available to help team members better support children and families in their respective communities.

Jean Davis, Illinois co-ambassador at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) "Learn the Signs. Act Early.", highlighted the prevalence of developmental disabilities (DD) among children from low-income households, with one in five experiencing a DD. She also shared multilingual resources to help parents monitor their children's development and communication concerns.

Kara Murphy, president of DuPage Health Coalition, offered information on ACCESS DuPage, a program that helps uninsured and underinsured families access affordable healthcare. She discussed eligibility and how the collaborative teams can help families enroll in the program.

Kaneshia Walker Amaro, site supervisor for Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services, rounded out the day with activities and tools to promote mental wellness and address burnout among the collaborative team members who play a vital role in supporting families.

The group also brainstormed solutions to tackle transportation barriers. With limited DuPage County public transportation options available, families who do not have a personal, reliable vehicle cannot access quality care and education for their young children.

## Collaboration Makes a Difference

Collaboration proves its worth when someone is in need. Sarah O'Donnell, president & CEO of Tri-Town YMCA and coordinator of the Villa Park Early Childhood Collaborative, shared a powerful example of teamwork's impact.



*Thanks to community initiatives like free school book programs, library card access, and reading programs, a Tri-Town YMCA survey shows that more area kids now have better access to books at home and elsewhere. Photo courtesy of Tri-Town YMCA.*

A YMCA Villa Park team member, Patty, was assisting a family using childcare for their older child. The mother, a recent Addison resident with a newborn, was distressed. She had run out of diapers and couldn't afford more until her next paycheck.

Patty contacted Rosie from Addison Partners for Play, Learning, & Education, as well as The Outreach House nearby. Together, they secured diapers, additional support, and resources for the mother that same day.

"The key to collaborative work is being nimble and responsive together as a network," said O'Donnell. "I hope you know that DuPage Foundation has created that! It is providing us with the resources, education, and connectivity to be there for families when they need us most so that their children can have the chance at a healthy start."



*Despite different economic backgrounds and family dynamics, these children share a common trait: they are the recipients of quality early childhood care and education. Bright & Early DuPage collaboratives make this possible. Photo courtesy of Tri-Town YMCA.*



# Arts DuPage in the Community

## Member Tour at McAninch Arts Center

On April 10, *Arts DuPage* members were treated to a Member Tour titled “The Maestro Shares: What it Takes to Prepare for A Symphony Concert,” presented by Kirk Muspratt, acclaimed conductor and artistic director of the New Philharmonic Orchestra, McAninch Arts Center. The afternoon featured a special performance by Soloist Wael Farouk, and a candid discussion about what it’s like to be a conductor, followed by a question and answer session.



*From left to right: the New Philharmonic Orchestra’s Kirk Muspratt, conductor and artistic director; Wael Farouk, soloist; and Paula Cebula, general manager.*

Learn more about becoming an *Arts DuPage* member, and all of the perks it provides by visiting [dupagefoundation.org/artsmembership](https://dupagefoundation.org/artsmembership).

## Writing Winning Grant Proposals Panel Discussion



*From left to right: Debbie Venezia, director of Arts DuPage and program moderator; Christine Kickels, librarian for College of DuPage Library’s philanthropy collection; Roger McDougal, CPWA®, DuPage Foundation trustee and senior vice president, senior managing director – wealth management for Northern Trust; Barb Szczepaniak, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs; Laura Ernst, DuPage Foundation program officer; and Jonathan VanderBrug, MNA, not-for-profit leader.*

On May 16, nearly 40 artists and arts leaders attended *Arts DuPage*’s “Arts Speak: Insider Advice on Writing Winning Grant Proposals” at DuPage Foundation.

Our insightful panelists helped participants gain valuable tips to strengthen their proposals and secure funding. Key program takeaways included:

- Write clearly and avoid jargon
- Involve your constituents
- Proofread meticulously before submitting
- Collaborate with your financial team

Our thanks to all of the wonderful panelists who shared advice on writing winning grant proposals.

## Drury Lane Guys & Dolls

On May 22, a group of DuPage Foundation arts enthusiasts joined members of our staff for “An Afternoon of Theatre” at Drury Lane Theatre, where they enjoyed lunch and a production of the hit Broadway classic, *Guys and Dolls*.

Co-hosted by *Arts DuPage*, the production was met with overwhelming applause and amplified the message that world-class arts offerings are readily available in venues throughout DuPage County.



*From left to right: DuPage Foundation Trustee Emerita Janet Hodge and President & CEO Mike Sitrick with Darlene VanMeir.*

## Member Tour: Inside the Costume Shop



*From left to right: Diana Martinez, DuPage Foundation trustee and director of the McAninch Arts Center; Matt Guthier, costume director of the Paramount Theatre; and Debbie Venezia, director of Arts DuPage.*

On June 3, more than 30 *Arts DuPage* members got an insider’s look at the magic that transpires behind the scenes of a theatrical production. Led by Matt Guthier, costume director at the Paramount Theatre, the group toured the inside of the Costume Shop, a two-story treasure trove filled with racks of clothing, hand-tied wigs, multiple sizes of mannequins, spools of thread, bolts of fabric, and a lot of imagination. It is a home where the designers, builders, drapers, and stitchers come together to create a look that transforms the actors into their characters. It’s hard to imagine the amount of work that goes into each and every detail. Still, Matt and his staff described the painstaking process, inspiring admiration from the attendees for the intricate work and the people who bring the characters to life.



# Next Generation Initiative (NGI) Spring and Summer Socials

Our thanks to everyone who joined us for NGI's Spring and Summer Socials.

## Spring Social

On May 2, the NGI spring social at Alter Brewing Company radiated with generosity and enthusiasm, raising more than \$6,000 for our featured charity, The GardenWorks Project, all to support a greener future.

NGI's grant, which includes a generous \$3,000 match from the *Mulholland Family Fund* of DuPage Foundation, will empower, educate, and support local food growers nourishing families and neighbors in need.

Thank you to our sponsors:

**Catering Sponsor:** BusyButternut

**Venue Sponsor:** Alter Brewing Company

**Event Partners:** Black Diamond Planners and Kuhn, Heap & Monson



From left to right: Event sponsors, John Duckworth, CFP® and Joel Riley, CFP®, principals at Black Diamond Planners.

Another thank you to our Silver Annual Partner, **Duly Health and Care**, and Bronze Annual Partners, **Crowe**, and **Kaskov Valuations, Inc.** Visit [dupagefoundation.org/NGI](https://dupagefoundation.org/NGI) to learn more.

## Create Your Legacy through DuPage Foundation

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 **Michael Trench**, vice president for advancement, at [michael@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:michael@dupagefoundation.org) or **630.665.5570**.

## Summer Social



From left to right: Anna Johnson, meeting planner at Captive Resources, LLC; Sophia Luo, director of community engagement at Xilin Association; McKenzie Kuhn, attorney at Kuhn, Heap & Monson; Megan Kapala, private wealth advisor at BMO Bank; and Kait Balsewicz, director of donor services at DuPage Foundation.

On June 27, NGI featured The Conservation Foundation at its summer social at McDonald Farm. Attendees were met with inspiring speakers and contributed to a \$6,000 grant. This will help fund the opportunity for The Conservation Foundation to teach about its mission — to improve the health of our communities by preserving and restoring open space and natural lands in northeastern Illinois.

NGI's grant, which includes a generous \$3,000 match from *The LeFort-Martin Family Donor-Advised Fund* and the *Next Generation Initiative Fund* of DuPage Foundation, will help protect our environment.

Thank you to our sponsors:

**Catering Partner:** My Chef Catering

**Event Partner:** AssuredPartners

## New Funds Established

Since April 2024

- Darnall Family DuPage Fund
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Bridge Communities Inc. Fund II
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity Fund
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Fund II
- Martin and Patricia Jahn Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan Fund
- Janene Edgerley Spratt Visual Arts Scholarship Fund

# Charitable Minute: The Importance of Operational Funds

By Michael Trench



A charity's mission matters, but we often misunderstand key costs to deliver that mission: "overhead." Operational costs vary, with some charities being salary-heavy, while others must maintain land and property.

When reviewing an organization's IRS Form 990, "management," "general," and "fundraising/marketing," usually comprise "overhead." We want charities to be good stewards, but need to dig deeper into how they fund programs so we can evaluate their effectiveness beyond these categories.

The relationship between programs people like, and overhead that they don't, isn't always clear. Maintaining physical space for the unhoused is as important as providing mental health case management support services. Lights in a food pantry help differentiate canned goods and wouldn't be possible without an electric bill. In mental health programs, the cost of staffing for one-on-one counseling, differs from group therapy, begging the question, which is most needed and critical? Overhead and programs work hand-in-hand.

Higher overhead isn't necessarily indicative of a charity's inefficiency. Services provided can impact overhead needs. Focusing solely on low overhead can be misleading in the proper evaluation of a charity's impact.

Here are five reasons why investing in a charity's overhead can be powerful:

**1. Infrastructure and Operations:** Essential infrastructure, utilities, technology, and salaries provide vital resources enabling a charity to deliver on its mission efficiently and effectively.

**2. Innovation and Adaptation:** Corporations invest in research and development. Shouldn't we expect that charities also invest in innovation to improve their efficiency and adapt to changing circumstances? Overhead supports pursuits to find the next great solution.

**3. Capacity Building:** Staff training, program evaluation, strategic planning, and fundraising all contribute to enhancing a charity's ability to achieve its long-term goals and require investments in overhead.

**4. Long-Term Sustainability:** It's important that charities minimize unnecessary overhead, but underinvesting in essential infrastructure can jeopardize their long-term success and viability. Adequate overhead ensures they can weather challenges, attract and retain talented staff, and continue to make effective impact for years to come.

**5. Transparency and Accountability:** Tracking, reporting, and communicating in a transparent way to donors requires overhead. Poorly delivering on these functions can erode donor trust and a charity's credibility. It takes overhead to ensure that all organizational resources are invested and deployed effectively and that their impact is communicated in a timely manner to stakeholders.

Contrary to the misconception that overhead is wasteful, wisely investing in it can improve charities' effectiveness. Providing them with sufficient resources, support systems, and quality staffing enables them to optimize operations, reduce employee stress, and allows space for innovation.

Donors may initially balk at a portion of their donations going to overhead instead of directly supporting programs and clients. But it's clear these funds are vital to charities' health and sustainability, enabling them to fully deliver on the promise of their missions for the communities and people they serve.

We hope you'll take time to learn more about the role of overhead in the charities you support, and see that it isn't just about ratios or categories on a Form 990. Explore more deeply how your donations to overhead are leveraged for meaningful impact.

To learn more about how you can join us in helping secure our community's future through the power of endowment, please contact **Michael Trench**, vice president for advancement, at **630.665.5570** or **michael@dupagefoundation.org**.



# Staff Updates

## Welcome New Staff Members Nicki Anderson and Clarice Swanson

We are thrilled to welcome two additions to our team: Nicki Anderson, director of strategic partnerships, and Clarice Swanson, advancement associate. Please join us in wishing Nicki and Clarice well in their new roles!



Nicki Anderson started on July 9. As director of strategic partnerships, she will lead in engaging local businesses, government and community leaders, private foundations, and others in our mission. Nicki will focus on education, outreach, and the launch of a countywide giving circle to broaden support for our *Community Impact* grant program, which is seeing increasing requests as needs grow within our community. A portion of Nicki's position is being generously underwritten for three years by an anonymous funding partner.

An active community leader, Nicki recently served as the creator and director of Benedictine University's L.E.A.D.S. Women's Undergraduate Leadership Program. Before that, she was president & CEO of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce where she led an organizational restructuring and successful capital campaign. Nicki was formerly owner and CEO of Reality Fitness, a columnist for the *Chicago Tribune* and *Daily Herald*, and a member of the Naperville City Council. She has authored books, won community awards, and currently serves as a Loaves & Fishes Community Services board member, and as an Alive Center advisory member.

Clarice Swanson started on May 20. As our advancement associate, she will focus on data management, research, event support, gift processing, donor cultivation, and stewardship. She will also play a lead role in planning our Annual Benefit.

Clarice has a background in fundraising, events, project management, and community engagement. She earned her bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Arts with a minor in Music from the University of St. Francis, and possesses a strong passion for community and the arts. Clarice has worked in event planning at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, coordinated programming at New Lenox Public Library, and most recently served as special events coordinator at her high school alma mater, Loyola Academy.



## Kaitlyn Miller Balsewicz Promoted



Congratulations to Kaitlyn Miller Balsewicz, CFRE, CAP® on her promotion to director of donor services/philanthropic advisor. Kait was hired in 2018 as a development officer. Since then, she has taken on increased responsibilities and distinguished herself as an invaluable team member.

In her new role, Kait will expand her work helping build discretionary community endowments and supporting individuals, families, and their professional advisors in achieving their personal charitable goals. Kait will also continue to assist area not-for-profits in creating endowments and reserve funds while overseeing our Annual Benefit, Glen Ellyn Fund Initiative, and Next Generation Initiative. Additionally, she will remain an integral part of our stewardship efforts. Our thanks to Kait for her outstanding work and dedicated service!

## Matt Wilson Celebrates Five Years on Staff

We're delighted to celebrate Matt Wilson's five-year anniversary on staff. As our finance officer, he is reliable, efficient, trustworthy, and possesses a quick wit that keeps the team on their toes and laughing.

Matt's contributions have made him an incredible asset. He established and oversees an investment treasury account for a major Foundation program, was instrumental in a successful RFP process for our investment advisor, ensures that timely fund reports are published monthly for our stakeholders, and serves as the "keeper" of our online portal for fund representatives. Matt also excels at fostering relationships, tackling complex research, and solving problems. We are fortunate to have him and are grateful for his hard work and dedication!





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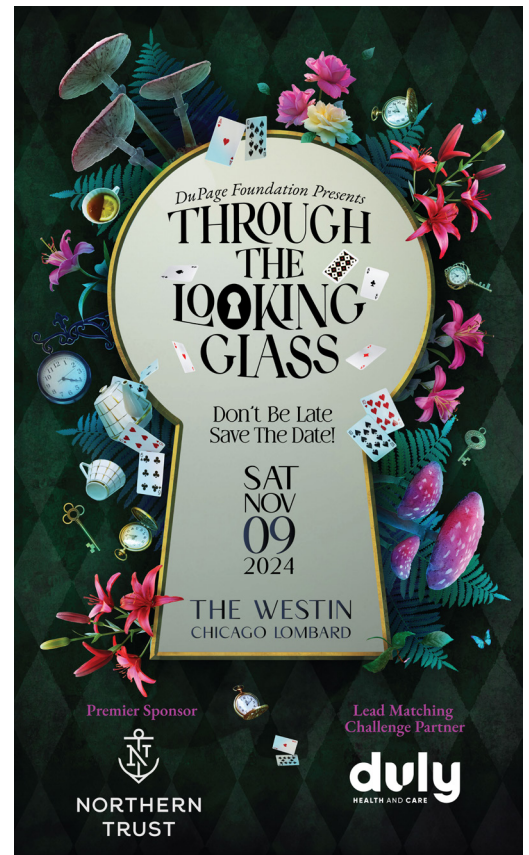
## DuPage Foundation Annual Benefit: *Save the Date for Saturday, November 9!*

**S**tep into a world of wonder and enchantment at our Annual Benefit: *Through the Looking Glass*, on Saturday, November 9, at The Westin Chicago Lombard.

We're planning an evening of whimsy and wonder as we celebrate the magic of giving back. Don't be late for this important date! Mark your calendars and prepare to be transported to a world where every gift makes a difference.

For event and ticket information or sponsorship opportunities, please visit [dupagefoundation.org/LookingGlass](http://dupagefoundation.org/LookingGlass) or contact **Kaitlyn Miller Balsewicz, CFRE, CAP®**, director of donor services, at **630.598.5292** or [kait@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:kait@dupagefoundation.org).

Stay tuned for more details and get ready to dive down the rabbit hole with us!



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