

# Foundation **FOCUS**

FALL 2021

**DON'T MISS:**

**New Record for Giving**



The Honorable Kenneth Moy Sr.

## **A Gift That Pays It Forward**

### **Contact us at:**

3000 Woodcreek Dr., Ste. 310  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630.665.5556  
[dupagefoundation.org](http://dupagefoundation.org)

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

# A Letter From the CEO



Five percent. It's a small amount. Generally, five percent does not call for a big celebration or promotion. However, an unprecedented transfer of generational wealth is coming in the next 10 to 20 years, where five percent can be huge. In DuPage County, if just five percent of an expected inheritance is devoted to a charitable endowment, it could mean a massive increase in future grantmaking to support the work of not-for-profits in our community.

While our most recent *Community Needs* grantmaking broke all previous records thanks to our generous and caring donors and supporters, we want to do even more in the future, as the needs of our most vulnerable residents—our neighbors—continue to escalate for health care, mental health care, housing, food, employment services and more. DuPage Foundation is your catalyst for coordinated impact to make a difference.

So consider five percent if you are preparing for estate and legacy planning—and everyone should be according to DuPage County Judge Robert G. Gibson and Generation Law, LTD, Founder Ben Neiburger, JD, CPA, as recorded in our recent webinar on *Smart Planning Strategies for Seniors*. Keep that and DuPage Foundation top of mind in order to SEE MORE IMPACT through your charitable contributions.

As a community, we are extremely grateful to people like Brooks McCormick, Joy Morton, Dan and Ada Rice, as well as others, for their gifts. Our “Leaders & Legacies” series published in partnership with the *Daily Herald* is telling their stories and bringing more attention to the concept of leaving a lasting legacy.

You can enjoy the benefits of a future legacy now by letting us know you've designated DuPage Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate, like Jim and Marie Drasal have done.

Or design your own legacy, like the Honorable Kenneth Moy Sr. DuPage Foundation will work with you to see your charitable goals are honored now and in perpetuity.

Learn more about these stories and more in this issue of *Foundation Focus*. And, thank you! We cannot thank you enough for your attention, support, time and treasure. Working together, we are **doing a world of good in our own backyard.**®

*Dave*

David M. McGowan, CFRE  
President & CEO  
DuPage Foundation



The next decade will see a massive transfer of generational wealth. Learn more at [dupagefoundation.org/ToW](https://dupagefoundation.org/ToW)

## 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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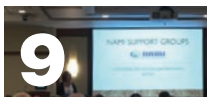
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## Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

Email Mindy Saban, director of communications, at:  
[mindy@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:mindy@dupagefoundation.org)

## New Funds Established

Through August 1, 2021

- DuPage Symphony Orchestra Agency Fund
- Martha J. Johnson Fund
- LOVE Christian Clearinghouse Endowment Fund
- Dale and Teresa Muir Charitable Fund
- SCARCE Endowment Fund
- David K. and Martha Reichert Scatterday Fund
- Utchen Fund for Persons with Disabilities



# Ted Utchen Had a Huge Heart

**T**heodore M. (Ted) Utchen was a man with a big heart and a passion on his sleeve. He cared deeply about DuPage County, its people and its organizations, belonging to many, including DuPage Foundation. Ted was a donor to the Foundation for more than 20 years and his legacy will live on in perpetuity with his bequest of \$120,000.

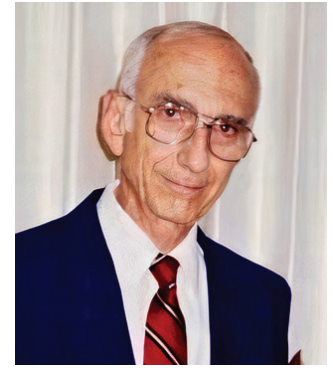
Passing on March 4, 2021, at 91, Ted's trust distribution included \$100,000 to DuPage Foundation for a field-of-interest fund for people with disabilities; \$10,000 for DuPage Foundation's *Warrenville Public Library Designated Fund*; and \$10,000 unrestricted for DuPage Foundation which will support the strategic plan implementation.

Ted's distributions totaled \$4 million to many national and local organizations including:

- College of DuPage Foundation
- Cosley Zoo Foundation
- DuPage Symphony Orchestra
- Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Glen Oaks Hospital Foundation
- Marianjoy Foundation
- Marklund Charities
- Morton Arboretum
- North Central College
- Philip J. Rock Center
- WDCB
- WDSRA
- Wheaton College
- Wheaton Public Library

Ted's professional life was also remarkable. For 22 years, he was with the Miami Corporation, DuPage Foundation co-founder Brooks McCormick's family office. In 1990, he retired as Vice President and General Counsel. Prior to that he had been with The Northern Trust and other organizations working in the legal profession, after serving as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict until 1955.

Ted was also known as "The Dictionary Man" because of his involvement with The Dictionary Project. He delighted in visiting third grade classrooms in the area and donating dictionaries to the students. Numerous newspaper articles have been published about this activity Ted deemed critical to the continuing development of every student. In a Facebook post, The Dictionary Project estimated over 16 years Ted had placed 23,100 dictionaries since 2002 into the hands of youngsters in DuPage County, paying for each copy himself.



**Ted Utchen**  
Photo Courtesy of Daily Herald

Ted was a careful reader and fearsome organizational watchdog. Over the years, he frequently communicated with Foundation staff about everything from the quality of the newsletter to the success of the annual benefit and other events. He once wrote, "I consider myself a meticulous Protector of the King's English, and I always read with red pen in hand."

Ted was well known to many in DuPage County who are involved with civic organizations. In addition to the support listed above, his bequest included funds to help the disabled, those with vision impairment or blindness, animals and organizations that support freedom of expression as well as history and the arts.

Most fittingly, Ted was a supporter of DuPage Foundation's Legacy Society. He wanted people in the community to know so "it might make them think about their estate plan and a possible gift to the Foundation," as he wrote to staff in 2000.

Fittingly, The Dictionary Man has the last word with a gift to be honored as he wished to continue the work he did for the good of his community. ■

# Transfer of Wealth Study Reveals Powerful Opportunity for Local Impact



Over the next 10 years, an unprecedented transfer of generational wealth is expected to occur according to a new study titled “Illinois Transfer of Wealth Opportunity,” published by LOCUS Impact Investing with support from Forefront, the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations and others. The report estimates nearly \$53 billion will pass through DuPage County estates between now and 2030.

matches passions and resources with needs and opportunities. People who wish to make a difference for our community and their favorite causes through DuPage Foundation will find a multitude of tools and resources at their disposal to create a program to accomplish their unique goals, now and in perpetuity.

## Imagine the Possibilities

Just five percent of that estimated wealth to be transferred could create \$2.65 billion in community endowments. As the endowments grow over time, by 2040 they could generate as much as \$151 million annually in vital grant support. Through community grantmaking, those funds could help alleviate some of DuPage County’s most pressing needs and support causes that enrich our local quality of life. Support could be directed toward area food banks and homeless shelters, mental health service providers, humane societies, arts and cultural groups, educational programs, environmental organizations, and scores of other worthwhile organizations and initiatives.

## How Can You Help?

We are so much more impactful when we combine our resources to meet the needs of our community. That’s what DuPage Foundation does best:



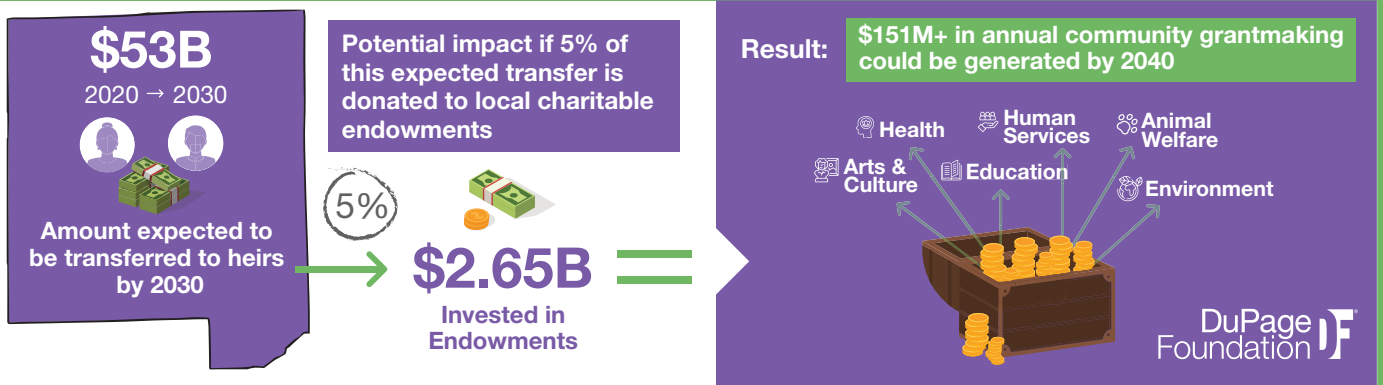
**“Giving back is absolutely something we must think of for those less fortunate.”**

- Dick Kuhn  
DuPage Foundation Trustee Emeritus, Donor-Advisor and Local Estate Planning Attorney, Kuhn, Heap & Monson

Local estate planning lawyer Dick Kuhn, a DuPage Foundation Trustee Emeritus and donor-advisor, eloquently explained how the process works in a video available on our website. Through the coordinated impact of committing just a small fraction of our estates, together we have the power to transform our community and raise the quality of life for area residents for generations to come. ■

To watch the video and learn more about the transfer of wealth study, visit [dupagefoundation.org/ToW](https://dupagefoundation.org/ToW)

## DUPAGE COUNTY TRANSFER OF WEALTH OPPORTUNITY





# What's Your Legacy?

## Invest in Your Community and Favorite Causes with a Gift from Your Estate

**D**uPage Foundation's Legacy Society provides people who share a love for our community an opportunity to come together to make a transformational change by making a charitable gift through their estate plan. Jim and Marie Drasal of Glen Ellyn recently contacted DuPage Foundation to let us know they named DuPage Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate.



**“DuPage Foundation became an easy choice as an agent to manage our charitable legacy.”**

*-Jim and Marie Drasal  
Legacy Society Members  
Glen Ellyn*

“There was a time in our journey down the road of life when we realized it is not an endless road. We began to think about the best way to leave a

financial legacy as a symbol of our many years of living in DuPage County. As long-time residents, we are aware of the many clubs, groups and organizations in the area that raise funds to do good work. Many people we know, who are actively involved in the community, have chosen to work with DuPage Foundation. Examining ways to gift funds and seeing what our respected neighbors and friends have done made DuPage Foundation an easy choice to serve as the agent to manage our charitable legacy.”

Consisting of more than 170 known members, the Legacy Society honors our generous and forward-thinking donors who have included DuPage Foundation in their estate plans. ■

*For assistance with your charitable planning or to learn more about our Legacy Society and other charitable giving strategies, please contact us at **630.665.5556** or reach out to Alice Wood, JD, director of gift planning, at [alice@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:alice@dupagefoundation.org).*

## Remember Us in Your Estate Plan

**W**hen making or updating your will, consider a gift to DuPage Foundation. Consult your estate planning attorney to assist in adding one of the following to your will:

“I hereby give and bequeath \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The DuPage Community Foundation d/b/a DuPage Foundation to be used (for its general purposes) (for {specific purpose}).”

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath (the residue) (\_\_\_% of the residue) of my estate to The DuPage Community Foundation d/b/a DuPage Foundation to be used (for its general purposes) (for {specific purpose}).”

If you are leaving proceeds of an insurance policy or IRA assets to the Foundation, be sure to indicate this on your insurance or beneficiary forms and not in your will. Insurance proceeds or IRA assets will be disposed of by the terms of the insurance policy or IRA document.



# Webinar Delivers Valuable Estate & Charitable Planning Strategies

FOCUS | FEATURES

**D**uPage Foundation hosted an informative webinar for seniors, their loved ones and professional advisors on effective estate and charitable planning strategies. In case you missed it, *Smart Planning Strategies for Seniors* can be viewed on DuPage Foundation's YouTube Channel at [dupagefoundation.org/Smart](https://dupagefoundation.org/Smart).

Following Ben's remarks, Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE, DuPage Foundation vice president for advancement, noted that drafting or updating an estate plan is the perfect opportunity to establish a charitable legacy in support of one's favorite causes—locally and beyond. ■

Moderated by Alice Wood, JD, DuPage Foundation director of gift planning, the webinar featured a panel of experts. The Honorable Robert G. Gibson of DuPage County's 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court spoke of the many issues people can face as they age and stressed the importance of proper estate planning and communication with loved ones and trusted advisors to avoid preventable problems. He also spoke of the potential danger of seniors being financially exploited and noted isolation as being a leading factor in their susceptibility to this risk. The key takeaways from Judge Gibson's presentation were:

- Have an estate plan
- Let a trusted person know where your documents are stored
- Avoid becoming isolated

Ben Neiburger, JD, CPA, founder of Generation Law, LTD, gave an overview of estate planning strategies. Ben delivered an entertaining and informative presentation that included fun props, humor and a light touch on a serious topic to inform and inspire participants on ways to effectively plan and protect themselves, their loved ones and clients. For his key takeaways, Ben stressed the importance of:

- Working with a qualified attorney to ensure estate planning goals are covered
- Titling assets correctly
- Ensuring the right beneficiary designations are in place

## Smart Planning Strategies for Seniors

Featuring:



**The Honorable  
Robert G. Gibson**  
Associate Judge  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court

**Ben A. Neiburger, JD, CPA**  
Founder  
Generation Law, LTD



With:



**Michael R. Sitrick, JD, CFRE**



**Alice Wood, JD**

See page five of this newsletter for ideas on how you can create a legacy to support the causes you love through DuPage Foundation's Legacy Society.

Watch the video at [dupagefoundation.org/Smart](https://dupagefoundation.org/Smart)



# Get to know the Honorable Kenneth Moy Sr.

## Judge Kenneth Moy's Giving Spans DuPage County, Supporting Students to Seniors

**D**uring the late 1930s, retired DuPage County Judge Kenneth Moy's family owned and operated a full-service laundry business and restaurant in downtown Elmhurst. When Moy graduated from York High School in 1951, he continued his pursuit of education, earning degrees from Elmhurst College and John Marshall Law School. With this education, he proceeded to shatter barriers, practicing law for decades and becoming the first Asian American elected to county government in the state of Illinois after winning a seat on the DuPage County Board in 1984, 1988 and 1994.

In 1996 he began service as a judge for the County, again a first. "My dad overcame unprecedented times and circumstances," said Ken Moy Jr. "The word 'no' really fueled his fire and encouraged him to succeed in order to provide for himself and his future family." And succeed he did.

In retirement since 2007, Moy continues his service to DuPage County by giving back to various areas of need. "I grew up during a time when prejudice was quite pervasive, so I'd like to help others however I can," said Moy. Seeing a need for quality healthcare for impoverished

elderly residents and remembering his own interest in science while growing up, provided the basis for Moy's primary giving.

In 2015, Moy enlisted DuPage Foundation as a partner for achieving part of his charitable goals. He established the *Kenneth Moy Scholarship Fund* to award annual scholarships in support of York High School graduates pursuing collegiate studies in the sciences. In spring of 2021, Moy expanded his giving to provide annual scholarships to students attending Hinsdale Central High School, his son's alma mater. "It means so much to me that my support can encourage young people to pursue an advanced education," said Moy.

Moy's giving also spans the health sector. Most recently, the DuPage Care Center, a 360-bed facility that offers long- and short-term rehabilitative services in Wheaton, received a \$2 million gift from Moy to expand services. It is now known as the Kenneth Moy DuPage Care Center.

Last year, Moy was named a Duke of Distinction by Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205. As an alumnus, Moy was recognized for his career accomplishments and contributions to the Elmhurst community, including the York High



School scholarships he set up through DuPage Foundation.

Moy's receipt of recognitions like the Duke of Distinction are no surprise to those who know him and have seen him use many means to give back to others, including his education, his wealth and his service as a judge. He is a prime example of the vast impact one person can have on a community.

"My dad has shown that all it takes is one person to care to make an impact," said Ken Jr. "You don't have to have millions. If you do a little bit here and there, we can all make a difference."

Moy and his family hope that sharing his charitable giving story will inspire others to give back, too. "Work hard. Be passionate about

whatever it is you do. Never, ever listen to the doubters," said Ken Jr. "And together, let's do what we can to make a difference. That is what my dad's legacy will be."

**"My dad has shown that all it takes is one person to care to make an impact."**

**-Ken Moy Jr.**

Those who know Ken can't help but wonder how people from all over DuPage County, from students to seniors, who have benefitted from his generosity, will pay it forward to others in their own lives. DuPage Foundation expects Moy's world of good to continue to grow, in his own backyard and beyond. ■

## The Stars are Aligned for our Annual Benefit: A Starry Night in DuPage

*Out of concern for the health and safety of our entire DuPage Foundation community, we have elected to shift this year's Benefit to a hybrid format.*

**J**oin **DuPage Foundation** friends and supporters virtually and in small gatherings on **Saturday, November 13**, to make **doing a world of good in our own backyard®** a reality as we celebrate our **2021 Annual Benefit: A**

**Starry Night in DuPage.** Though socially distant, we all remain connected to our mission on this celestial night, under the same starry sky that shines brightly over DuPage County.



Visit **[dupagefoundation.org/StarryNight](https://dupagefoundation.org/StarryNight)** for details on how to participate in the event. Bidders interested in the silent auction can also register on the website beginning October 30.



**DuPage Medical Group**  
WE CARE FOR YOU

Thank you to our Premier Sponsor, Northern Trust, and our Paddle Raise Matching Challenge Sponsors, DuPage Medical Group, Earl & Kay Harbaugh, and Joe & Amy Weidenbach. ■

For event information and auction donations, contact **Kait Balsewicz**, development officer, at **630.598.5292** or **[kait@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:kait@dupagefoundation.org)**.

# DuPage Foundation Sets New Record with Spring Grant Awards

**W**ith health and human services needs in DuPage County at an all-time high, DuPage Foundation announced a record \$702,860 in grants to 37 area not-for-profit organizations through its signature *Community Needs Grant Program* (*Community Needs* or CNGP). The program awards grants each spring to not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charities in DuPage County that apply and are working in the areas of health and human services.

Not only is the amount awarded a record, but the amount contributed to the program budget by individual donors through their DuPage Foundation relationships is also a record.

“Donors invested an additional \$307,388 increasing the *Community Needs* grant budget by 78 percent,” said DuPage Foundation Vice President for Programs Barb Szczepaniak. “The amount contributed by donors and donor-advisors through their DuPage Foundation funds was more than double the amount given in 2020. It allowed the Grant Committee to fund 76 percent of the applications received, compared to 66 percent in the past, and this is on top of increasing the maximum grant award allocation to \$25,000, a \$5,000 increase over past limits. We are so grateful and humbled by the community’s generosity and our donors’ concern for those in our community with the fewest resources.”

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**“We are grateful and humbled by the community’s generosity and our donors’ concern for those in our community with the fewest resources.”**

**-Barb Szczepaniak**  
**DuPage Foundation Vice President for Programs**

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Donor Earl Harbaugh, a long-time supporter of DuPage Foundation and one of the contributors who supported this grant cycle with additional funding, said, “With so much need in the

community right now, those with more resources can really make a difference through DuPage Foundation. Doing so through this grant cycle and outside the grant cycle is impactful as well.”

Martha J. Johnson was a first-time contributor to this grant cycle having recently set up her own donor-advised fund with the Foundation. She said, “I found an amazingly easy opportunity working with DuPage Foundation to help local not-for-profits make a positive impact in the lives of so many vulnerable neighbors. The Foundation identifies specific critical needs in the community and I feel confident in their advice and blessed to be able to support organizations most meaningful to me personally.”

Businesses also supported the grant cycle. Lisle-based Molex, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Joe Nelligan said, “We are thrilled to partner with DuPage Foundation in support of their mission to help those in need in our community. Through the *Community Needs Grant Program*, we’ll be able to provide critical services and resources to make a difference and improve people’s lives.”

Szczepaniak explained, “The overall budget for the grant program comes from income generated by unrestricted and field-of-interest endowments that donors have established with the Foundation over the past 35 years including the DuPage Forever Fund. That, coupled with the additional contributions from the Foundation’s donor-advisors, makes a bigger impact on the great need in our community for everything from housing and shelter to mental health services and more.”

Indeed, Geri Kerger, executive director of NAMI DuPage, a grantee that delivers mental health services to DuPage County residents said, “Mental health needs have skyrocketed as a result of the pandemic and there is no vaccine to prevent or reduce the impact of mental illness. Although cases of coronavirus are diminishing with time—anxiety, depression, and PTSD

brought on by the virus may continue for weeks, months, even years for some people. We are so thankful for DuPage Foundation's support of our Peer Counseling program, which is even more important now. Medical experts have found peers provide a unique role in breaking isolation and modeling recovery, particularly for those experiencing anxiety and depression related to the pandemic."

A volunteer Grant Committee comprised of DuPage County residents with deep knowledge of the not-for-profit community is charged with decision-making regarding grant recipients and amounts. Volunteer Megan Shebik, chair of the Committee, said, "Each member of the Committee spends the time necessary to read, analyze and discuss the grant applications. The quality of the applications demonstrates the great need in our community. We're pleased to see those with the greatest opportunity to impact lives get the funds they need. I'm appreciative of the Committee for all their dedication and hard work; they truly make a difference right where we live."

## Receiving DuPage Foundation Community Needs grants this cycle include:

360 Youth Services: \$25,000  
 Bridge Communities, Inc.: \$25,000  
 Care for Cars: \$15,000  
 Caring Network: \$9,300  
 Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet: \$25,000  
 DayOne PACT: \$22,000  
 Donka, Inc.: \$7,500  
 DuPage Health Coalition: \$25,000  
 DuPage Senior Citizens Council: \$19,000  
 DuPage Sponsors: \$25,000  
 Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network: \$12,000  
 Evangelical Child & Family Agency: \$15,000  
 Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities: \$15,000  
 Glen Ellyn Food Pantry: \$5,704  
 Hamdard Center for Health & Human Services: \$25,000  
 Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.: \$15,000  
 Little City Foundation: \$2,465  
 Loaves & Fishes Community Services: \$25,000  
 Metropolitan Family Services DuPage: \$25,000  
 National Alliance on Mental Illness DuPage: \$25,000  
 Neighborhood Food Pantries: \$25,000  
 Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services: \$25,000  
 Northern Illinois Food Bank: \$25,000  
 Outreach Community Ministries: \$25,000

People's Resource Center: \$21,456  
 Play for All Playground & Garden Foundation: \$15,000  
 Ray Graham Association: \$24,835  
 Riverwalk Adult Day Services: \$10,000  
 Sharing Connections: \$20,000  
 Spectrios Institute for Low Vision: \$6,100  
 Teen Parent Connection: \$20,000  
 United Cerebral Palsy Segin of Greater Chicago: \$25,000  
 Wellness House: \$2,500  
 West Suburban Community Pantry: \$25,000  
 World Relief Chicagoland: \$25,000  
 Youth Outlook: \$20,000  
 YWCA Metropolitan Chicago: \$25,000

*Support the Community Needs grant with a donation to the DuPage Forever Fund. Donate at [dupagefoundation.org/Donate](https://dupagefoundation.org/Donate)*



Peer counseling is a win, win, win. It is great for the counselor, the client and the community at large, said Geri Kerger, executive director, NAMI DuPage.

## COVID-19 Response Fund Closes Out with Two Grants to Support Health

DuPage Foundation launched its COVID-19 Response Fund to support not-for-profits in the DuPage area on the front lines of assisting people during the pandemic. The success of DuPage Foundation's initiative demonstrated its function as a community catalyst for coordinated impact. In six rounds of grantmaking totaling nearly \$1.8 million, the final grants were bestowed in June, 2021. Many thanks are due to those who donated to the fund and to the not-for-profits who are still working tirelessly to meet the needs of our community.

*DuPage Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund is now closed, however, direct gifts to your favorite charities are still needed and are strongly encouraged. We invite individuals, businesses and foundations to join us in giving to our Emergency Fund or the DuPage Forever Fund.*



# Proud to be Platinum: DuPage Foundation Earns GuideStar's 2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency

**D**uPage Foundation earned a 2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition from GuideStar, the world's leading source of not-for-profit data that helps connect donors and grantmakers to not-for-profit organizations. Obtaining a platinum seal confirms the Foundation's ongoing commitment to transparency, as requirements included reporting financial information, program metrics and a current strategic plan.

"By sharing metrics that track our progress and impact, we allow donors to get a more comprehensive view of the Foundation, which helps them evaluate how their charitable goals align with our mission," said Dave McGowan, Foundation president & CEO.

According to GuideStar, not-for-profit profiles that sport the gold or platinum seal get twice

the amount of views on their website and receive 53 percent more in contributions. In addition to the data GuideStar collects through the IRS, organizations update their profiles with other pertinent information, from sharing mission statements and historical timelines to listing board members and staff roles.



To reach platinum status, the Foundation added more extensive information to its GuideStar profile, including: audited financial statements for 2018 and 2019; annual reports for 2019 and 2020; the 2020-2024 strategic plan summary; equity strategies; metrics on the *Community Needs Grants Program* for the last three years; and demographics on leadership and senior staff. ■

# DuPage Foundation Re-Accredited by Community Foundations National Standards Board

**D**uPage Foundation successfully renewed its accreditation status with the Community Foundations National Standards Board. Since 2009, when the program was first developed through the Council on Foundations, DuPage Foundation has adhered to the operational guidelines set forth in The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations®.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Accreditation Program certifies U.S. community foundations that meet and exceed federal and state law requirements in practice and by policy. The accreditation process is rigorous and demonstrates a community foundation's commitment to accountability and excellence to its donors, its community and policymakers.

A peer-reviewed accreditation, certification demonstrates DuPage Foundation's adherence to the highest standards within its industry with regard to policies, procedures, operations and activities.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board, initially designed by community foundation leaders, governs the accreditation program to reinforce integrity, professionalism, and legal compliance by the charitable giving sector.

The Council on Foundations is a membership organization providing a wide variety of services primarily for endowed, grantmaking organizations throughout the world. ■



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

# The Arts & Science Unite: Using Creativity to Combat Vaccine Concerns



**T**he British author Neil Gaiman once said, “Choose Art. It matters.” And who could disagree?

As arts awareness continues to grow locally, residents are realizing the vital role the arts play. Not only do the arts provide entertainment and enrich physical environments, they also enliven communities, foster understanding, promote emotional wellbeing and boost regional economies. Arts Alliance Illinois (AAI) is throwing another benefit into the mix: the arts can inspire a resistant audience to protect themselves against COVID-19.

## Arts DuPage Tapped

AAI announced its statewide Arts and Vaccination Campaign in May and contacted arts leaders in 24 regions across Illinois to assist with the program. The goal is to channel the creative talent of local artists to send a “vax to get back” message to an unvaccinated population. This strategy will endeavor to instill a spirit of community action and provide much-needed grant funding for participating artists.

Arts DuPage was one of the first organizations identified to lead the program because, as AAI stated, Arts DuPage is “embedded in the target area and has intimate knowledge of the arts and culture landscape for the region.”

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**“Arts DuPage is embedded in the target area and has intimate knowledge of the arts and culture landscape for the region.”**

*-Arts Alliance Illinois*

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## Springing Into Action

Arts DuPage organizers were quick to recognize the value of the crusade: a positive vaccination rate is essential to the creative sector.



Many cultural venues face decreased revenue due to low attendee confidence levels. Using the arts to encourage vaccine-hesitant residents can help expedite the process and get audiences and communities safely back to in-person arts activities.

After an extensive search, four DuPage County artists meeting AAI’s requirements were vetted and recruited. They were George Berlin, Ryan Jolly, Nolan McCants and Fernando Ramirez. Each joined the campaign and will use his ingenuity and community connections to reach those who have not been reached through the media efforts by public health officials.

Naperville artist Nolan McCants is delighted to be included in the program. As an author, entrepreneur and pastor, McCants used his PR skills to craft a PSA with a punch. “My message was designed to resonate with a demographic reported to have a lower-than-average vaccination rate. Conveyed through a visual story, it shows a sharp contrast between where we are now and where we could be if everyone gets on board,” said McCants.

## For the Greater Good

All DuPage County Arts and Vaccination projects are available for viewing on Arts DuPage’s social media sites and at venues throughout the area. Additionally, AAI will highlight all of the 100+ Arts and Vaccination projects through its shared content site as well as local and national media outlets. ■

Read more on this program at [dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPage](https://dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPage)

# Investments in Early Childhood Education Paying Off

## Addison and Bensenville Have Enjoyed Benefits



In past issues of *Foundation Focus*, progress of the Bright & Early DuPage initiative

was documented with stories of the initiative's influence in the Glen Ellyn and Willowbrook areas. Both have active collaboratives, or "collabs" as they are known in the education world's parlance. We also shared stories of collabs in Addison and Bensenville (which recently added Elmhurst to its mix). These collabs are seeing positive outcomes in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the generous support of DuPage Foundation's donor community.

### Addison Early Childhood Collaborative

In Addison, where the median household income is under \$70,000 and multiple generations are often living under the same roof, the pandemic was a large threat to the wellbeing of the community. More residents of Addison actually died from COVID-19 than from any other DuPage County community according to Mary Haley, project director for the Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC). But Bright & Early DuPage's support made the collab a bright spot in the community by providing families with critical resources ensuring young children continued to thrive during an extremely difficult time.

Chuck Wartman, newly retired after a long career as Addison School District 4 assistant superintendent, has seen the impact in Addison first hand and called it "remarkable and transformative." Since retirement, he has joined the Bright & Early DuPage Advisory Committee to see the work continue from a Foundation governance role.



### Bensenville Early Learning Supporters

Bensenville is demographically similar to Addison. The collab, known as Bensenville Early Learning Supporters (BELS) not only thrived during the pandemic, it grew. The pandemic threw Bensenville School District 2 some curve balls, but the early learning center at Tioga school and its programs stayed mostly open, helping to shield these families from greater harm due to the pandemic last year.

According to BELS program coordinator Christy Poli, the group welcomed areas served by Elmhurst schools into their fold. They have brought even more underserved families the resources, services and support they need to blossom. During COVID, partnerships formed that delivered food, shelter, services and programs to the people who needed them the most, through the collaborative.

### Poised for Progress

Now that Illinois is opening up and more people are recognizing the critical role of early childhood education in the future of our civil society, both AECC and BELS are poised for greater success, as is Bright & Early DuPage. Former Trustee Denise Horne, a senior executive with McDonald's Corporation, recently praised the initiative for being ahead of the curve on the issue. In a congratulations note, Denise wrote, "Once again, DuPage Foundation is a front runner of change."

Read more about these collaboratives at [dupagefoundation.org/BrightandEarly](https://dupagefoundation.org/BrightandEarly)



## Grants Awarded Through DuPage Foundation's Bright & Early Initiative

DuPage Foundation's Bright & Early initiative focuses on ensuring children from birth to age five in DuPage County receive the comprehensive support critical in preparing them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Each year, the initiative provides grant funds for local community organizations to leverage resources and create formal early childhood collaboratives. By working together toward a common goal, these collaboratives are more successful at delivering the necessary early childhood care and education within their communities.

With the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, many of the early childhood collaboratives that are supported through the initiative were either completely shut down or had to move to virtual programming and subsequently lost funding.

Barb Szczepaniak, the Foundation's vice president for programs, said, "The financial hit to these programs over the last year was devastating. Supporting and educating families, particularly in underserved communities, is the

mission of the Bright & Early initiative. Because of the trusting relationships that were developed prior to the pandemic, these collaboratives were very effective in helping parents navigate the very complex issues of unemployment, food insecurity and remote education systems."

The following collaboratives have been awarded grants based on their most pressing needs, ranging from operational support to mental health case management:

- Addison Early Childhood Collaborative - \$20,000
- Bensenville Early Learning Supporters - \$20,000
- DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration - \$65,000
- Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative - \$50,000
- Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative Executive Function Project - \$7,500
- Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative - \$20,000
- Willowbrook Corner Coalition Parent Leadership Academy Project - \$10,000
- Willowbrook Corner Coalition (Funded by the Snodgrass Family Fund) - \$50,000 ■

*Learn more about the work of Bright & Early DuPage at [dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly](https://dupagefoundation.org/BrightAndEarly)*

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## Foundation Staff Updates



Mindy Saban

**M**indy Saban joined the Foundation in July as director of communications and reports to President & CEO Dave McGowan. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University and more than 15 years of experience in communications and marketing.

Mindy started her career in the not-for-profit realm, supporting communications and development teams while utilizing various marketing and public relations tactics to promote each organization's mission. From cultivating constituent and vendor relationships to being a direct point-of-contact for media relations, she has been the subject matter expert on building engagement and awareness in all of her previous roles. Throughout her career, Mindy has activated influential communications strategies aimed at education, retention and growth.

**M**eiXia Sindelar helped out the Foundation staff this summer as an intern working on data entry and other projects across departments. MeiXia is a college sophomore at Northeastern University in Boston and is the daughter of former Foundation Trustee, the late Nancy Sindelar. ■



MeiXia Sindelar



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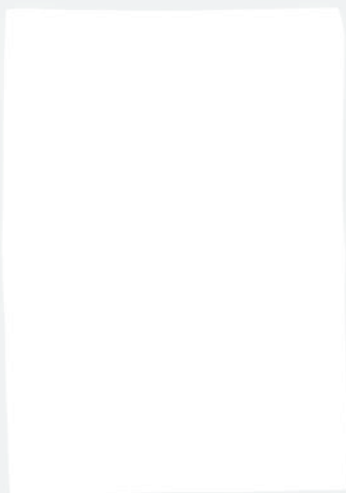
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## Leaders & Legacies

**C**heck out the “**Leaders & Legacies**” article series from DuPage Foundation in partnership with the . Learn about the legacies left for us to enjoy by those who came before us and how you can leave one for those who will come after us. Visit [dupagefoundation.org/Legacy](https://dupagefoundation.org/Legacy). ■

May 2021



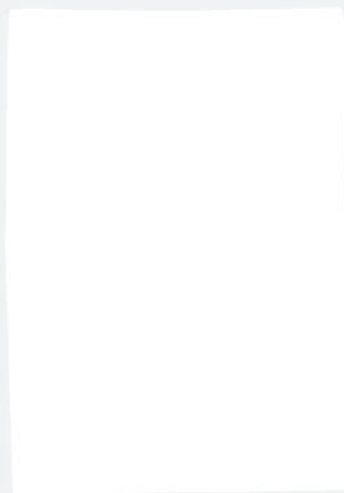
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St. James Farm

June 2021



**Joy Morton**  
Morton Arboretum

July 2021



**Dan & Ada Rice**  
Danada House

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