



Good News



Bringing donors and local needs together. For good. For ever.

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Musings from Myra

We're trying something new this quarter. Rather than my writing a separate letter to go to fundholders with your quarterly statements, we've started a "column" for me in the newsletter. Some quarters, as we all know, it's a lot easier not to talk about returns on investments. And while all of us probably want our funds at the Community Foundation to do well, we also want them to do good.

My job is so exciting because I get to see the "good" that you are doing day in and day out. You should be pleased that the amount of giving done by the funds of IPCF went up 85% in fiscal 2007! I wish you could be with me when I meet with someone from an agency that has received a Stafford Grant or when I represent you in our work on the Partners in Nursing Grant. The response I get is so very rewarding.

I want to thank you again for your support of our Fell Fund Match Campaign. You came through for us, enabling us to simplify our fee structure and move ahead on building our Foundation.

I would like to ask you to take another step to

build IPCF for the long term...make a contribution to our **IPCF Administrative Endowment Fund**. Once we grow that fund so that it makes a significant contribution to our administrative expenses each year, we will be able to focus much more clearly on helping other community organizations grow their own endowed funds here at the foundation. We need to set an example of how beautifully endowment works.

I've recently learned more about how endowment works, and what I've learned has truly excited me. Endowing an organization means securing its long-term future. Think about the charities that are so important to you. Wouldn't it be great to know that you have provided for them long after you are gone? I'd be happy to talk to you about endowments...for the Community Foundation and for the other causes you support.

Thank you for being involved with your Community Foundation.

Myra

Myra Gordon selected as Foundation Executive Director

The Board of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation named Myra Gordon as the permanent Executive Director of the Foundation late in 2007. Myra had been the Acting Executive Director since August, 2007. Myra previously retired from State Farm, where she was a Writer-Developer and an Organizational Development Analyst. Before State Farm, she served as the Executive Director of Operation Recycle and did environmental work around the state of Illinois for the Central States Education Center.

Myra says that while she originally intended to just fill in as Executive Director during the search,



Myra Gordon

"I enjoy the work so much, and I love the challenge of developing the Community Foundation to our full potential. I am delighted to have been selected."

Darrell Hartweg, President of the Foundation, noted that Myra has demonstrated her leadership skills from the

beginning, organizing a successful luncheon for local financial professionals and helping the Foundation meet the Fell Fund Challenge.

Community Foundation meets Fell Fund Challenge Grant

Thank you to the many donors who stepped up and supported the Illinois Prairie Founders Fund Challenge Grant from the Fell Fund. The Foundation announced in mid-December that it had successfully raised the \$25,000 of new money, which will be matched by the Fell Fund. This successful fund raising campaign provides money for our administrative expenses enabling us to focus fund raising efforts on meeting community needs.

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the Fell Challenge Grant match since our last newsletter:

James and Mary Anderson
The Diversity Project
The Funk Foundation

George and Myra Gordon
Darrell and Donna Hartweg
Eugene and Diane Jontry
Gregg McElroy
Nancy Ridenour
David and Natasha Rutledge
Bob and Marilyn Sutherland
Richard and Charline Watts
David and Kay Williams
Barry and Crystal Weer

The Fell Fund Challenge has been met but the Foundation always welcomes your support for the Founders Fund which covers much of our administrative expense.

Fund Feature

Susan Hoblit love Atlanta!

Susan Hoblit loves Atlanta...Atlanta, Illinois that is, and she often uses her donor advised fund to make gifts to her town. She says she had two goals when she first set up her fund in 2003, after talking to her financial planner, who explained the advantages of a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation. Her goals were to encourage philanthropy in her children and to encourage the citizens of Atlanta to support and invest in their community.

Susan set up her fund so that each year her children can give up to \$1000 to the charities of their choice. "This", Susan says "promotes their awareness of worthwhile causes and stimulates their involvement through charitable giving. They have given to churches, church outreach, and humane/animal rescue causes. Their giving is strictly at their discretion. I want them to experience for themselves the joy of making a difference in the lives of others."

The second goal takes form by encouraging and enabling citizens of Atlanta who strive to make the community better. Susan grew up in Atlanta and has wonderful stories of her childhood in which she "grew up feeling so safe and being surrounded by good people." Susan uses her giving to Atlanta causes to get others in Atlanta to think "about what they can do to improve quality of life in Atlanta." Some of the things she has given gifts to through her donor advised fund include the Atlanta Fire Department, the Atlanta Public Swimming Pool, The Atlanta Rescue Squad and the Atlanta Library Centennial Campaign.

Susan has made contributions to other organizations outside of Atlanta too, but gifts to Atlanta charitable causes are of key importance to her. As Susan says, "I take great pleasure in giving back to my home community of Atlanta, Illinois. This remains a wonderful town and good place to live. Small towns are having hard times in this age of urbanization. I know small towns have much to offer children and families. I believe they are the best place you can be. Life is good in a small community. How can we help make it better?"

Foundation Receives Half a Million in Year-end Donations

Thanks to our many donors who made year-end contributions to the Community Foundation, we received over a half million in contributions between Thanksgiving and the first week of January. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our communities and our Community Foundation.

Welcome New Funds

Ruth Cary Education Fund

The Illinois Prairie Community Foundation has received a \$125,000 gift from the estate of the late Ruth Cary to be used for education. Cary, whose family owned land in rural McLean County, passed away in May of 2006. The foundation is extremely grateful for Ruth Cary's gift which will create an endowed education fund.

New Donor Advised Funds

The Community Foundation welcomed several new donor advised funds in the last couple of months of 2007. These new funds are:

Joe and Gretchen Monti Fund

Terry and Mary Ramah Kuper

Donor Advised Fund

Merlin and Helen Lage Donor Advised Fund

The Tom and Jane Luscombe

Donor Advised Fund

The Marilyn Townley Donor Advised Fund

Donor Advised Funds offer donors an excellent way to simplify your charitable giving and, in some cases, reduce your taxes while they help to grow the Community Foundation...a win-win opportunity. Myra will be happy to talk to anyone interested in creating a new Donor Advised Fund.

Reminder: Donor Advised Fund gifts must be at least \$100

We are happy to make gifts from your Donor Advised Fund to charitable organizations, but please remember that gifts you recommend to us must be at least \$100. You can make up to 25 gifts per year; above that number, a processing fee will be charged for each additional gift.

Audit shows IPCF Growth

The recently-completed audit of the Foundation

showed that in fiscal year 2007, the Foundation and its donors made \$484,841 in charitable gifts and grants. This represents a \$222,571 (46%) increase over those made in fiscal year 2006.

The net assets of the foundation grew close to a million dollars to \$5,279,376 in fiscal 2007, thanks to your contributions and to investment returns. The audit is available for review in our office by appointment.

Web Site Updated

We are pleased to let you know that our IPCF website has recently undergone some updating and the dates shown for the Stafford Grant Program are current. Please go to www.ilprairiecf.org. You can view recent editions of the Illinois Prairie Good News and find information about how to view our recent audit and IRS 990. The Links section now contains links to printable versions of "Planning your Fund" and the form to use when you want to make a gift from a donor advised fund. We plan to add some additional resources to the site for your use and we welcome your suggestions.

Stafford Grant Begins Final Round

The foundation's Marion McDowell Stafford Grant program is seeking Letters of Intent by February 12 from interested organizations. Stafford Grants will be awarded in June, 2008 after the Foundation's Grants Committee selects the grant recipients. Stafford Grants are awarded for projects focused on children, youth, families, and education or those that fight disease or infirmities.

Signs point the Way to New Office

We have moved to our new office and you can easily find us thanks to good signage. Thank you to **First State Bank**, which donated the signs for the Foundation on its large sign in front of the building and on the sign on the first floor. Thanks to **State Representative Dan Brady** who donated the signs on the second floor. We've noted an increase in drop-in traffic since we moved across from Dan Brady's office.

Thank you

- Carole Ringer for hard work helping us prepare our National Standards materials
- Dave Templeton for providing design work for our publications
- First State Bank for providing us free office space

Come for Coffee and Doughnuts

We'd like to get acquainted with more of you and get a chance to talk with you. So we're going to try a monthly "Coffee and Doughnuts" session for small groups of donors right in our office. We'll plan the event to take about an hour, and we want to keep it all pretty informal. We'll send out invitations to about a dozen of you at a time. We hope you will come and hear about our goals and dreams at the Foundation, and we look forward to hearing yours too.

Help Wanted

Website developer The Foundation needs a volunteer website developer. This person would help us do a general overhaul of the website, add new materials, and keep the website updated on an ongoing basis. Hours are flexible. Please let us know if you or someone you know can do this work.

Committee Volunteers Learn more about your Community Foundation by becoming one of our volunteers. The Marketing-Asset Development Committee can use a few volunteers to help us get our message out through a variety of sources and to help plan fun(d) raising and informational events. Call the Foundation at 662-4477.

IPCF Uses Professional Investment Management

How do investments work at your Community Foundation? IPCF investments are professionally managed by First Busey Trust and Investment Co. Gregg McElroy, our investment manager, works with the Foundation's Investment Committee to assure a mix of equities and other investments. Busey began managing the Foundation's portfolio in late 2006.

The investments in the endowed and non-endowed portions of the Foundation's holdings are invested somewhat differently, due to the longer time window for the endowed funds. More information about the investment manager and fees may be made available upon request.

990 available for Review

Each year, charitable organizations must complete a 990 form for the IRS and make the report available to our donors for review. The Illinois Prairie Community Foundation has recently completed our 990. Those interested in reviewing this document may do so by appointment at the Foundation office.