



HIGHLIGHTS

WE'RE HIRING!

Are you interested in joining a wonderful team? The Community Foundation is growing! We're currently looking to fill two positions on our Program staff: a Senior Program Officer, Education, and a Program Associate. You can find all the details at www.cfsjc.org.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Work continues to progress on the beautiful Community Learning Center, the new addition to the downtown Main Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library. We can't wait until this autumn, when we'll be moving into our new offices on the third floor of the space. Recently, several staff members were able to take a "hard hat" tour—it's going to be amazing!

ROBIJO BURZYNSKI REJOINS FOUNDATION STAFF

We're thrilled to welcome back one of the Community Foundation's very first employees: Robijo Burzynski. After leaving the Foundation to start her own business and, later, work for Kruggel Lawton, Robijo has rejoined the staff in the newly created role of Director of Accounting and Reporting. She'll be responsible for much of the Foundation's day-to-day financial work, as well as reporting on grants the Foundation has received.



Robijo Burzynski



Amaani Lee, one of the Community Foundation's Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship interns, works with students at the Boys & Girls Clubs during summer programming in 2020.

Grants Support Expanded, Enhanced Summer Programming for Local Kids

Community Foundation grants are helping local kids recover academically and emotionally from the impacts of COVID-19 through summer programming.

The past year has been hard on all of us, but there's extra reason to be concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on children. As many schools switched to virtual learning platforms because of safety concerns, a significant number of students struggled to keep up due to slow, inconsistent Wi-Fi access. Children who were already at risk for food insecurity were left without regular access to subsidized school meals. And the pandemic dramatically increased the number of young people suffering from depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges.

As we begin to see our community's

infection rates go down, many local social service organizations have plans to help students regain lost ground this summer. About half of the \$305,000 in Special Project Grants that the Community Foundation awarded during our spring grants cycle will support enhanced and expanded summer programming for St. Joseph County children.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS A \$100,000 Special Project grant will support the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County's "No Screen" summer programming in multiple Clubs in South Bend and Mishawaka, reaching more than 500 students.

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The Robinson Community Learning Center is among the grantees that will be scaling up summer programming.

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“We’ve asked a lot of kids this year, and I continue to be impressed by the resilience and positivity they’ve shown,” says Jacqueline Kronk, CEO of the Clubs. “Now we want to give kids a chance to be kids.”

“No Screen” summer programming gets kids off their devices and outside as much as possible, with sports, games, visual and performing arts, science projects, and yoga. Children

who participate will receive free breakfast and lunch daily.

FIVE STAR LIFE A nonprofit that incorporates a social and emotional learning curriculum in its work with at-risk children, Five Star Life will use a \$30,000 Special Project grant to enroll more St. Joseph County students from kindergarten through 12th grade in its summer programs at Summit, its 300-acre camp in Union, MI. At Summit, students get to participate in archery and hatchet throwing, nature education, sports, horseback riding, team-building, and leadership development.

ROBINSON COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER The Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) will use a \$20,000 Special Project grant to scale up its existing summer programming. The RCLC will increase the ages of children that it serves, incorporating preschoolers for the first time. It will also extend its weeks of operation, and offer

morning and afternoon sessions. RCLC staff will work with children to address learning loss in reading and math, and will include the “Take Ten” curriculum, which focuses on teaching children skills to handle conflict in a peaceful way.

Many local social service organizations have plans to help students regain lost ground during the summer.

We’re glad that our Special Project grant funding will help hundreds of local children begin to recover from the challenges and losses of the past year as they enjoy the kind of fun, learning-filled summers they deserve.

You can support the Community Foundation’s grant work by making an unrestricted donation to our endowment. Give securely online at cfsjc.org/give.



21st Century Scholar Success Initiative Update

The pandemic has had a crushing effect on higher education: Fewer students are completing the FAFSA, and college and university enrollment numbers are down. That’s why we and our 40+ partners are working to ensure that eligible St. Joseph County students enroll in and successfully complete the 21st Century Scholars program, which provides free tuition to any Indiana college or university.

With the support of a generous \$4.1 million grant provided by Lilly Endowment Inc., we’ve begun putting a number of building blocks in place that will help, including the following:

- A new **Quick Start Competitive Grant program** which awards grants of up to \$2,500 to St. Joseph County middle schools, high schools, and other nonprofit youth-serving organizations to support new, creative efforts to enroll and retain 21st Century Scholars.
- New **21st Century Success Fellowships** which provide \$5,000 stipends to current 21st Century Scholars—high school seniors or college students who reside in St. Joseph County and are enrolled in a St. Joseph County-based school—to participate in a program aimed at

personal leadership development, career preparation, and degree completion.

- Financial support for **additional staff capacity** at IUSB and Ivy Tech South Bend, allowing these schools to provide increased supports and services to college Scholars as they complete their degrees.

Together with our partners, we’re committed to dramatically increasing 21st Century Scholar enrollment and completion in St. Joseph County.

You can learn more about our work on the 21st Century Scholar Success Initiative at www.cfsjc.org/21stCentury.



The beautiful Chris Wilson Pavilion in South Bend's Potawatomi Park

Performing Arts Series Returns

Mark your calendar: After a year's hiatus due to COVID-19, the Community Foundation Performing Arts Series at the Chris Wilson Pavilion is back! Meet us in Potawatomi Park on Saturday nights in August, starting at 7 p.m., to

enjoy free, professionally amplified performances from Southold Dance Theatre, Vesper Chorale, South Bend Civic Theatre, and the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. We can't wait to celebrate the arts with you again!

Scholarship Winners Named

We've just announced the winners of two of our most popular scholarships: the Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship and the Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship.

These scholarships support students on two levels. First, they provide \$5,000 of annual tuition support. Scholars also get to give back to their community through \$2,500 paid summer internships, served with some of St. Joseph County's best nonprofits.

This year's Laidig Service Scholars are Kylie Blake, Mishawaka High School, who will attend Butler University; Adreyana Bryan, Washington High School, who will attend Purdue

University; Ta'Nyi Reed, Washington High School, who will attend Purdue University; and Brianna Woods, Adams High School, who will attend Indiana University Bloomington.

The winner of our Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship is Kayla Mkandawire, St. Joseph High School. She'll attend Loyola University Chicago to study neuroscience. Congratulations to all of these exceptional young people!

You can support local students with a gift to a scholarship fund. Learn how at cfsjc.org/scholarships.



From left: Kylie Blake, Adreyana Bryan, Ta'Nyi Reed, Brianna Woods, and Kayla Mkandawire

Own an IRA? RMDs Are Back for 2021

RMDs are back for 2021—and while these mandatory annual withdrawals are an irritant for many IRA owners, they present an efficient, effective opportunity for charitable giving.

When IRA owners reach age 72, they must begin taking an annual withdrawal from their IRA, known as the required minimum distribution (RMD). The amount varies based on the owner's age and the IRA's balance.

IRA owners saw two COVID-related changes in 2020: The SECURE Act changed the age at which RMDs must begin from 70½ to 72, and the CARES Act waived RMDs for the year. But the RMD waiver was not renewed for 2021, which means anyone 72 or older must take their RMD by the end of the year to avoid tax penalties.

Luckily, there's a tax-savvy alternative: the IRA charitable rollover, a gift made from an IRA directly to a charity.

Luckily, there's a tax-savvy alternative: the IRA charitable rollover, a gift made from an IRA directly to a charity. The IRA charitable rollover allows IRA owners to support their favorite causes with pre-tax assets. (Some limitations apply: For example, IRA rollovers cannot be made to a donor-advised fund.) With a rollover gift, the money that goes to the charity is not subject to tax—a very efficient way to give!

Interested in making an IRA rollover gift to the Community Foundation? Call Rose Meissner, president, at (574) 232-0041.



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Photo by Jacquelyn Hofflander

Imagination Library

Since inception, we've registered more than 15,000 children for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library here in St. Joseph County. It costs the Community Foundation about \$30 a year for each local child who participates. That \$30 means that each of those children receives a beautiful, age-appropriate new book in the mail every month until he or she turns five. Will you help us continue this wonderful program?

Visit cfsjc.org/give to make a gift to support the Imagination Library here in St. Joseph County.

Natural Playscape at St. Pat's Park

A \$75,000 Community Foundation Special Project grant helped create this beautiful new space.

It's time to welcome summer—finally!—and St. Patrick's County Park has just opened a new play area that's sure to become a favorite of local families. The River Ramble Natural Playscape is a recreational and educational amenity that covers 1.5 acres of open space and woods at St. Pat's. Close to the St. Joseph

River, it offers multiple stations utilizing rocks, logs, and water that encourage children to climb, dig, and crawl as they interact with nature. These nontraditional elements build creativity and problem-solving—and give children and their families a great reason to get outside and enjoy some time together.

For a full list of recipients of recent Special Project grants from the Foundation, visit cfsjc.org/news.



River Ramble Natural Playscape at St. Patrick's County Park