



HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

In our fall cycle of **Special Project grant** funding, the Community Foundation awarded \$680,000 to support local nonprofits. Special Project grants fund efforts in health and human services, community development and urban affairs, youth and education, and parks, recreation, and environment. Find all the details at cfsjc.org/special-project.

DON'T FORGET: SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES MARCH 1

Do you know any bright, hardworking students who could use some help paying for college? The Community Foundation has dozens of scholarship funds, including our popular **Laidig Community Service Scholarship** and the **Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship**. The deadline for these two scholarships—which include paid summer internships—is March 1. By applying for these scholarships, students may be eligible for additional scholarship awards.

ARTS CALENDAR COLLABORATION

The Community Foundation is partnering with Visit South Bend Mishawaka and local arts venues to promote **EventsAroundTheBend.com**. This calendaring site, created by the tourism arm of the South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce, provides a free, comprehensive list of area arts and culture events provided by local organizations. Take a look, and plan your next evening out!

If it's happening,
you'll find it here!

EVENTS
AROUND THE BEND
.com



In the early learning program in the United Way's new Southeast Neighborhood Center, Head Start teacher Guadalupe Gomez works on a Play-Doh project with Evelyn, one of the preschoolers.

United Way Opens Southeast Neighborhood Center

With support including a \$100,000 Community Foundation Special Project grant, the 1Roof concept offers a range of services in one place.

Laura Jensen, president and CEO of the United Way of St. Joseph County, knew that she was tackling a big project.

South Bend's Southeast Neighborhood—Sample St. to the north, Miami St. to the east, Ewing Ave. to the south, and S. Michigan St. to the west—is home to some 2,700 people. The neighborhood has higher poverty rates, lower educational attainment, and younger population than the city as a whole. Due to its lack of community services, the neighborhood has been designated by the Center for American Progress as a "childcare desert" and a Health Professional Shortage Area.

Guided by the United Way's focus on the importance of education and health, Jensen saw an opportunity to make a difference. In 2019, with donated

land from 466 Works and the City of South Bend, United Way of St. Joseph County began raising funds to build a community center on the corner of Fellows and Dubail, near Riley High School, that could address many of the neighborhood's challenges.

"Our goal is to meet these families where they are," says Laura Jensen, president and CEO of United Way of SJC.

And then COVID happened. By necessity, the United Way pivoted to emergency response fundraising, focusing on immediate needs in the community. The construction landscape changed dramatically, too, with increased costs and lengthy supply chain delays. Ultimately, the costs for the project came in at \$7.2 million, nearly double the initial estimated cost.

Now, after three long years, the new Southeast Neighborhood Center (SENC) is up and running—and it's amazing.

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UNITED WAY continued from p. 1

Early Learning Program The SENC is anchored by a high-quality early learning program which uses the child-focused, research-based HighScope curriculum. Part of the Elkhart and St. Joseph County Head Start Consortium, the program serves 102 children ranging from six weeks to six years. At present, it's open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., but will include second- and third-shift hours in the future.

Onsite healthcare, pharmacy Working with Jada Bush, pharmacist and owner of Healthy U RX Pharmacy, the SENC includes a full-service pharmacy. Because it operates on a sliding scale, the pharmacy can work with community members who may struggle to pay for medicine. After the first of the year, the building will include additional health service partners.

A hub for social services As the "1Roof" name suggests, the SENC will serve as a hub for a wide range of social services—a concept that has been used in other parts of the country, but

not locally. Two full-time Community Navigators—Jim Baxter and Charrise Gray—are on staff at the SENC. They're dedicated to helping residents learn about and connect with services.

"We call it 'radical hospitality,'" Baxter says, with a smile.

That could range from setting up meetings with representatives of partner organizations housed at the SENC—which include Family & Children's Center, REAL Services, the Bowen Center, which provides mental health services, and others—to helping community members with applications for state or federal assistance programs.

"Our goal is to meet these families where they are," says Jensen.

Youth programming Working with the Boys & Girls Clubs, one of United Way's cornerstone partners, the SENC staff can refer neighborhood young people to the Clubs location a few blocks north for after-school events. The St. Joseph County Public Library, another partner, has donated an



Community Navigator Jim Baxter and United Way President and CEO Laura Jensen in the main lobby of the new Southeast Neighborhood Center

extensive in-house book collection and plans to host programming as well.

Model for future centers The United Way plans to develop three more neighborhood centers like the SENC. The next will be on the city's northwest side, near LaSalle Intermediate Academy; additional centers are planned in Mishawaka and Walkerton. That means more fundraising for Jensen and her team, but she's excited about the new model and its potential for changing lives.

"What I've loved most," says Jensen, "is seeing all of our partners come together around the common goal of helping families."

Learn more about projects the Community Foundation supports with grant funding at www.cfsjc.org/grants.

LOGAN, UWSJC partner to help preschoolers

At the Community Foundation, we love to see partnerships develop among our local nonprofit organizations. When charities collaborate in their efforts to serve clients, everyone benefits.

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An example is the partnership between the United Way of St. Joseph County and LOGAN, a local organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A \$60,000 Community Foundation Special Project grant is making it possible for LOGAN to provide a full-time licensed Speech and Language Pathologist

(SLP) and a part-time Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to work with children in the Head Start program at the United Way's new Southeast Neighborhood Center.

Children diagnosed with speech, language, or behavioral disabilities can be bullied or ostracized by others. By offering support services at the SENC, LOGAN can help these vulnerable children get critical early intervention from licensed therapists in a comfortable, familiar environment before they enroll in kindergarten.

Down the road, LOGAN plans to provide similar staffing support for all four of the United Way's planned neighborhood centers.

Smart Year-End Giving Strategies

Community Foundation
President Rose Meissner
offers suggestions for smart,
effective year-end giving.

The end of the calendar year is a great time to give to the charities we care about. While most people give cash using a check or credit card, here are a useful few tips to consider as you plan your charitable giving.

Gift directly from IRAs to charity

If you're over 70½, you can make gifts directly from your IRA to the Community Foundation or other favorite public charities. These gifts count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and you won't pay income tax on the amount transferred. (*Donor-advised funds are excluded*).

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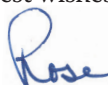
Gift appreciated stock Instead of cash, gift appreciated stock you've owned more than one year. This avoids

capital gains tax. Even if you like the stock and expect the share price to continue to rise, it can be smart to gift the stock to charity and use the cash you were going to donate to buy more stock, saving capital gains tax down the road.

Bunch your annual giving Thanks to higher standard deductions (\$12,950 for single filers; \$25,900 for joint) many taxpayers are finding it harder to itemize. Creating a Community Foundation donor-advised pass-through fund allows you to "bunch" your giving into one tax year to make itemizing worthwhile. Then you can distribute your giving to charities over two or more years. (*The minimum donation for a new donor-advised pass-through or endowed fund is \$10,000*). Here again, using appreciated stock rather than cash can extend tax savings even further.

Stretch the value of your gift with matching opportunities Gifts to the La Casa de Amistad Fund and the 21st Century Success Fellowship Fund will be matched (*see sidebar*).

Please call me at (574) 232-0041 if I can be of help. Best wishes for a happy holiday season!



Current gift matching opportunities

LEIGHTON AWARD WINNER

La Casa de Amistad was the winner of the 2021 Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence. All gifts to La Casa's endowed fund at the Community Foundation will be matched up to \$150,000.

21ST CENTURY SUCCESS FELLOWSHIP FUND

This \$5,000 fellowship, awarded to low-income 21st Century Scholars attending college in our region, provides professional development and leadership opportunities. Fellows serve as role models, inspiring their younger peers to earn college degrees. All gifts will be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to the generosity of the Leep Family Foundation and Lilly Endowment Inc.

You can make a credit card gift at cfsjc.org/give or mail a check to P.O. Box 837, South Bend, IN, 46624. In the memo line, note the opportunity you wish to support.

Enhanced relationship with professional advisors

The Community Foundation has always worked closely with our local community of professional advisors—attorneys, estate planners, financial advisors, and CPAs. Because we specialize in charitable giving, we're able to help advisors provide options for their clients who value philanthropy.

In the past, we've hosted continuing education opportunities and offered one-on-one support to advisors. Now, we're strengthening this relationship even more: Starting in 2023, the

Michiana Estate Planning Council will be administered by the Community Foundation.

"It's a perfect fit," says Community Foundation President Rose Meissner. "Our local professional advisors do invaluable work. We're happy to give them additional support through this mutually beneficial partnership."

You can learn more about the support we offer to professional advisors at cfsjc.org/advisors.



The Community Foundation hosted an educational event for professional advisors in October featuring speaker Bryan K. Clontz.

charitable estate tax deduction without irrevocably giving the assets to charity

Now, two children and four grandchildren are on also on the family foundation's board – one grandchild married outside of faith and upset her brother

She feels ostracized and can't make grants to new church

Family foundation had not met 5% pa requirement and also wanted to grant environmental charity but application excluded environmental groups



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21st Century Scholars makes major strides

Work continues on our **21st Century Scholars Success Initiative**, and we're seeing solid gains in both program enrollment numbers and in the number of required steps completed by current Scholars. Members of our staff are visiting local high schools to work one-on-one with Scholars, and our 21st Century Success Fellows have also been busy with outreach through events such as our free 21st Century Scholar Success Fest. Through these efforts, more local students will receive tuition support through Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program, earn college degrees, and land great jobs here in St. Joseph County. That's a win for the entire community!



The Foundation's 21st Century Scholar Success Fest, held twice a year, helps students register for the program and complete required steps.



The new Harriet Tubman sculpture in Howard Park with Alfred Guillaume, who, along with his wife Melanie Smith-Guillaume and Bob and Pat Kill, were instrumental in bringing this work to South Bend.

African American Community Fund Work

The African American Community Fund (AACF) initiative at the Community Foundation consists of more than 20 individual funds, all of which work together to improve the quality of life for African Americans in St. Joseph County. Established in 1999, the AACF is one of a few endowed funds in the U.S. where the dollars that seeded the fund came directly from the African American community.

Members of the AACF Committee proactively identify and support projects and initiatives of importance

to the local African American community in education, arts and culture, and community building.

This fall, an AACF grant helped to support the installation of a beautiful, life-sized sculpture of American abolitionist Harriet Tubman in South Bend's Howard Park (*above*). Other recent AACF grants have fueled the Imagination Library, scholarships, and diversity programming in the arts. You can read about other projects that have received a boost from this collection of funds at cfsjc.org/AACF.