



HIGHLIGHTS

ARTSEVERYWHERE GRANTS

The Community Foundation's ArtsEverywhere Grants Committee awarded close to \$200,000 in our most recent cycle of **ArtsEverywhere** grants, supporting the work of seven wonderful local nonprofit arts organizations. Find the details on our website: www.cfsjc.org/news.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS

The month of March is when the Community Foundation's **scholarship processes** get rolling in earnest. March 1 is the deadline for the majority of our scholarships, including the Laidig, Charles Martin, and Boorda scholarships. Those flagship scholarships received close to 70 applications from 15 different schools this year. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

FELLOWS IN THE COMMUNITY

Our **21st Century Success Fellows** have been busy this year. They're mentoring younger students in local middle schools and high schools, learning personal and professional development skills, and doing community service projects together—such as a recent visit to box meals at Cultivate Food Rescue. We're very impressed with these focused, diligent young leaders!



Success Fellow Chloe Clayborn volunteers at Cultivate Food Rescue



Music Director Robert Boardman conducts the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2020.

Major Grant Supports Summer Music Camps Collaboration

SBYSO, Fischhoff, and Saint Mary's unite to create new opportunities for young musicians in our community.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic turned operations upside down for many of our community's arts education organizations, exciting new opportunities for growth and collaboration are beginning to emerge.

SOUTH BEND YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS During COVID, "Our organization lost so much," says Diane Economakis, executive director of the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestras (SBYSO). "We couldn't rehearse together, we couldn't take our annual trip to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra together... Our enrollment numbers had dropped significantly."

Music director Robert Boardman was concerned about the SBYSO's students, who range from sixth grade through twelfth grade. He reached out to their

families, hoping to find a way to help.

"While I was talking to parents and music teachers, I kept hearing the same refrain: Kids were depressed, they were lonely, and they'd stopped playing their instruments," Boardman says. "We wanted to get them playing their instruments again, of course, but we knew we also needed to create ways for them to socialize."

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In the summer of 2022, the SBYSO decided to test a possible solution: a week-long day camp focused on video-game music, which had surged in popularity during the pandemic. Incorporating the SBYSO's core components—sectionals, orchestral rehearsals, and performance—the camp took place in Century Center's

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MUSIC CAMP continued from p. 1



Fischoff's Geena Kam, Chamber Music Academy Director, works with a student in the Keyboard Lab at Saint Mary's College.

Bendix Arena and gave students the chance to practice and perform new music, learn from guest speakers, and play video games together. A big success, it helped grow the SBYSO's fall enrollment beyond pre-COVID levels, but the logistical work was a heavy lift for the organization's small staff.

THE FISCHOFF The need for a summer music experience for local students had been on the mind of Geena Kam, Chamber Music Academy Director for the Fischoff National Chamber Music Association, for years.

"We have so much talent in this community," says Kam, "but there really aren't many options here for young musicians in the summer."

While some students attend regional residential arts camps like Interlochen or Blue Lake, she notes, distance and price are barriers for many families.

Although best known for its annual chamber music competition, the Fischoff also offers robust educational programming during the school year,

reaching some 4,000 students through multiple programs. Its Chamber Music Academy regularly includes SBYSO ensembles, and the two organizations share a close relationship. Together, Kam, Boardman and Economakis began talking about building on the SBYSO's 2022 "test run" to create an annual summer music camp. They knew they could create and deliver meaningful, engaging content, but they needed a reliable location and operational support. SBYSO Board member Gabriella Maxwell offered a suggestion: What about her employer, Saint Mary's College?

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE Since the 1970s, Saint Mary's has offered summer experiences for young people, including its popular Fine Arts Camp. The College has expanded its slate of camps in recent years, building on its available space and experienced staff. As a member of the music faculty at Saint Mary's since 2011, Kam realized the campus could be a perfect fit.

Kam hopes that eventually the program can grow into a full residential experience, drawing young musicians from throughout the region.

The conversations that resulted grew into the Fischoff Chamber Music Summer Intensive and the SBYSO Summer Camp, back-to-back one-week experiences that will be held on the Saint's Mary's campus this June. While both camps offer similar opportunities for intermediate and advanced young musicians—coaching sessions with professional musicians, group rehearsals, and an end-of-week public performance—Fischoff's week will focus on chamber music while the SBYSO will provide a more traditional orchestral experience. Both sessions include plenty of time for building new friendships and enjoying campus.

"It's a dream come true," Kam says,

Fischoff Chamber Music Summer Intensive

June 12–16, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

An intensive chamber music program for intermediate to advanced music students in grades 6–12.

South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra Summer Camp

June 19–23, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

An orchestral program for intermediate to advanced students ages 12–22.

Cost per session: \$395; financial aid is available. Register by April 11, 2023.

For more information, visit www.saintmarys.edu/camps and choose "Music Programs."

enthusiastically. She hopes that the program can grow into a full residential experience, drawing young musicians from throughout the region.

The Community Foundation has provided a three-year, \$150,000 Major Venture grant from its ArtsEverywhere Fund to support this effort.

"From a grantmaking perspective, this is the kind of collaboration that our ArtsEverywhere Committee loves to see—partners with complementary experience and expertise uniting to address a recognized need in our community," said Rose Meissner, president of the Foundation.

Expect these three partners to make beautiful music together this summer and beyond.

Make a gift to support the Community Foundation's work in the arts at www.cfsjc.org/givenow.

SECURE 2.0 Act Creates New IRA-to-Annuity Rollover

If you'd like to give more to charity but need the retirement income, you should know about this newly created opportunity.

Passed by Congress in December 2022, the SECURE 2.0 Act provides numerous new retirement provisions, including an exciting way to make a charitable gift using your existing retirement assets.

If you're an IRA owner age 70-1/2 or older, you can choose to make a one-time, tax-free distribution of up to \$50,000 per spouse from your IRA to create a new **charitable gift annuity**. This unique version of a qualified charitable deduction (QCD) counts toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. In exchange for your charitable gift, we pay you a fixed income for your lifetime (and your spouse's, if applicable). Upon death, the remaining principal is used to support your favorite local charities.

RISING ANNUITY RATES

Earlier this year, the American Council on Gift Annuities provided a gift of its own in the form of higher gift annuity rates, which began January 1, 2023.

Sample one-life annuity rates, effective Jan. 1, 2023

AGE	70	75	80	85	90
RATE	5.9%	6.6%	7.6%	8.7%	9.7%

Rates are subject to change.

These increased rates (*see sample rates at the bottom of the page*) present the opportunity to lock in higher fixed income lifetime payments for yourself and, if applicable, your spouse.

HOW AN IRA-TO-ANNUITY ROLLOVER WORKS

1. Contact Rose Meissner for a personalized illustration of how an IRA rollover to a charitable gift annuity with the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County might work for you.
2. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a one-time qualified charitable distribution of up to \$50,000 per spouse from your IRA to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County.
3. We will use your IRA gift to fund your regular, guaranteed gift annuity payments for your lifetime (and your spouse's, if applicable).
4. Please note that IRA gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
5. Upon death, the remaining principal will be used to support your favorite local charities. If you wish, you may designate a specific organization or cause to be the beneficiary of this future gift.

For more information about establishing a charitable gift annuity, contact Rose Meissner at **(574) 232-0041** or rose@cfsjc.org.

Imagination Library Contest Receives ~200 Sweet Photos

Our annual Imagination Library Photo Contest wrapped up this month, with families from throughout St. Joseph County submitting photos of enrolled children enjoying their beautiful Imagination Library books. Congratulations to parents Brandie Swanson, Michael Voll, Breanne Blankenship, Sonam Raut, Albertina Estrada Martinez, Hayley Moore, Aliyah Turner, Cassandra Grove, Laurie Sommer, Maya Williams, Paris Thomas, and Zuleiva Nunez! You can see all the photos at www.cfsjc.org/news.

More than 500,000 free, new books have been mailed to St. Joseph County preschoolers since we launched the program, and now two out of every three eligible children are enrolled.

A gift of \$360 sponsors a child for a full year. Will you help support this program? Visit cfsjc.org/givenow.



Daddy reading to Ivanna, submitted by Zuleiva Nunez

21st Century Scholar Success Fest: March 25

We're continuing our work to encourage local students to enroll in and complete Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program. On Saturday, March 25, we're hosting our third 21st Century Success Fest, designed to provide one-on-one support for these hard-working, deserving students.

This free event is designed for:

- 7th and 8th grade students and parents who want to learn more about the program and/or enroll
- High school students who are enrolled in 21st Century Scholars and need to complete steps to earn their 21st Century Scholarships

The event will include opportunities to register and complete required program (SSP) steps, FAFSA support, a college fair, virtual college visits, program representatives and current Scholars to answer questions, ScholarTrack account help, and more.

For full details, visit
www.cfsjc.org/successfest.



Breaking ground for the Dream Center; AACF Board Chair Marion Fulce is second from right

MLK Dream Center Breaks Ground

A grant from the African American Community Fund is helping support this important new project.

Earlier this year, the City of South Bend broke ground on the Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Center, which is being constructed on the site of the beloved former Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center on Linden Avenue.

The African American Community Fund at the Community Foundation has made a \$150,000 grant to support this work, which will offer

new programming and resources for community members. When completed, the renovated and expanded West Side anchor will include an indoor track and fitness center, computer labs, a rooftop deck, and an indoor playground and basketball courts, as well as outdoor playgrounds, athletic fields, and a splash pad.

The Dream Center will be three times the size of the original building, and the largest building within the City's department of Venues, Parks & Arts. The City expects to celebrate the grand opening of the new Dream Center in the summer of 2024.