COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of the Fox River Valley

FALL/WINTER 2006 • VOL. XXVIII, NO. 2

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We are pleased to inform you that the Aurora Foundation has adopted a new name.

As the Fox Valley Area continues to experience extraordinary growth, we hope to become a valuable resource for the future health and vitality of the entire area.

For a period of time, you will see the following statement on our mailings and in our literature—“Serving charitable donors in the proud tradition of The Aurora Foundation.”

We are proud indeed of our Aurora heritage and energized to build upon its solid foundation for the benefit of all Fox Valley citizens.

We trust that you will join with us in celebrating our new name and our promising future.

Please see the article below that honors the civic leaders from our past whose vision and determination have brought us to this day.

These are the leaders who formed a new corporation—a community foundation—to serve the City of Aurora and its environs.

These are the leaders who provided for our expansion by drawing a map circumscribing the geographic areas of Aurora proper and beyond.

As we look to the future, we pause to remember each of these gentlemen for their wisdom in creating a charitable resource designed to serve the Fox River Valley for their future and ours.

On June 7, 1948, a community foundation was established in Aurora, Illinois, by forward-thinking business and civic leaders.

The name given to this new organization was The Aurora Foundation.

The first annual meeting of the Foundation was held on November 23, 1948. At that meeting, eighteen members developed a formal structure to govern the future of their new organization.

Since 1948, the Foundation has grown from 1 charitable fund with assets of $5,000 to 330 charitable funds with assets of nearly $40 million.

Members attending the first annual meeting of The Aurora Foundation included the following civic leaders. Seated (from left) Judge Walter O’Valley, Charles Wright, Charles Hoffer, Arthur Podolak, William Greene, Frank Reid, Jr., Justus Johnson and James Milroy. Standing (from left) W.L. “Les” McCullough, Frank Main, Mayor Henry Rauscher, Carl Schmitz, Ray Hanson, Clarence Ruddy, Emery Fowler, Elmer Hermes, Donald DeFrates and John Thill.

Our Proud History

Serving charitable donors in the proud tradition of The Aurora Foundation.

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The Mary S. Bertolini Hope Fund was created by her family to celebrate the life of this extraordinary woman. Mary (Guernieri) Bertolini (1905-2005) of Arlington Heights was born and raised on the northwest side of Chicago. She was the fifth of six children. Mary was soft-spoken, caring, honest and intelligent. She was the consummate volunteer, willingly assisting anyone and everyone who needed help. In 2004, Mary was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. According to her sister Grace McKnight, “Through her ordeal, she was quick to put on a brave face and never complained.” Even in her most trying hours, Mary showed all of us how we should live and how we should die. Mary’s life was all about hope. “The word ‘hope’ is an integral part of the fund name because ‘hope’ was an integral part of Mary’s life. Contributions received in her memory will be directed to awareness efforts, research for early detection and a cure for ovarian cancer. Mary is survived by her husband Kenneth, son Anthony and daughter Sarah.

The Norman E. Dietz Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students graduating from Batavia High School or West Aurora High School who are entering the field of elementary education. Norman Dietz (1930-2005) was born in Chicago. He was a graduate of Batavia High School. He then served in the United States Air Force for four years. Upon graduation from Aurora College in 1960, Mr. Dietz began his teaching career in the West Aurora School System. He taught at both Freeman and Schneider Elementary Schools. In 1968, he moved to Boca Raton, Florida to teach sixth grade at the J.C. Mitchell Elementary School. Mr. Dietz loved the profession of teaching and was always willing to share with his students the knowledge he gained through his extensive travels. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Benson) Dietz, who also was a teacher in the West Aurora School System.

The Eleanor C. Hungar Scholarship Endowment Fund was established to administer a bequest from the estate of Eleanor C. Hungar (1909-1985) of Batavia, Illinois. Miss Hungar attended Greenman Grammar School. She was a graduate of West Aurora High School and Illinois State University at Normal. In 1929, she married Howard E. Charles, Sr. who was a graduate of Marmion Military Academy. He was a World War II veteran and a member of the 40/8 (40 men or 8 horses) boxcar company. (Voitures) had the capacity to transport only forty men or eight horses. The 40/8 designation was stenciled on the boxcars and remains a symbol to this day of the extraordinary sacrifice and commitment of our servicemen. The local society provides charitable support to community projects.

The Frank and Marianne Miller Endowment Fund was created to provide annual grants to local educational and charitable organizations. Frank Miller is a 1951 graduate of Marmion Military Academy. In 2002, he received the school’s prestigious Citation Award for long-time public and community service. He earned a degree from Aurora College in 1961 and serves as a member of the board of trustees. He worked for Bell/Americom from 1952 until his retirement in 1990. Mr. Miller was a member of the Kane County Board for more than twenty years, eight as chairman. In 2004, the Orchard Road underpass was named the Frank B. Miller Transportation Plaza to honor his commitment to transportation and the citizens of Kane County. He serves or has served on a number of boards and commissions including The Aurora Foundation, Rosary High School, Senior Services Associates, Fox Valley Park District Foundation, NIPC, the RTP and RTA Pension Board as chairman. Marianne Miller is a graduate of Madonna High School. She is a long-time active member of the Child Welfare Society and has served as a Kane County election judge for thirty-three years.

The Eleanor Hungar authored several stories, including “We Study Space” published in the yearbook of Todd and Freeman Schools. Before retiring in 1970, Miss Hungar transferred to the West Aurora School System. She is a member of Holy Angels Church and the church’s St. Anne’s Society. She is a longtime active member of the Child Welfare Society and has served as a Kane County election judge for thirty-three years.

The Michael David McGrath Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Michael David McGrath (1977-2005). Michael was a graduate of Downers Grove North High School and made his living repairing and refurbishing computers. He was an intelligent and inquisitive young man of unlimited potential. As an encouragement to future generations, this scholarship is intended for students who possess both the ability and desire to increase their knowledge in a chosen field of study. This scholarship also is designed to provide opportunities for students with limited financial resources to enhance their skills and affirm their self-worth. Michael was a multi-talented young man who frequently benefited from the kindness of others. The scholarship is offered to recognize and perpetuate those qualities.

The Michael E. Miller Endowment Fund was established to honor the life of Michael E. Miller (1937-2005) of Batavia, Illinois. He was a graduate of Marmion Military Academy. In 1959, he began his teaching career in the West Aurora School System where he served as an elementary teacher at Todd and Freeman Schools. Before retiring in 1976, Miss Hungar authored several stories, including “We Study Space” and “Christmas and the Nutcracker Suite.” Miss Hungar was a devoted member of the community. She was a member of the local chapter of the American Legion, the local chapter of the American Legionnaires as an honor society for those veterans who demonstrated exemplary service. All members are veterans of a conflict, war or peace time, recognized by the U.S. government. In 2004, the Orchard Road underpass was named the Frank B. Miller Transportation Plaza to honor his commitment to transportation and the citizens of Kane County. He serves or has served on a number of boards and commissions including The Aurora Foundation, Rosary High School, Senior Services Associates, Fox Valley Park District Foundation, NIPC, the RTP and RTA Pension Board as chairman. Marianne Miller is a graduate of Madonna High School. She is a long-time active member of the Child Welfare Society and has served as a Kane County election judge for thirty-three years.

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NEW CHARITABLE FUNDS CREATED

The Honoring Our Benefactors During the past year, the Foundation received bequests from the estates of the following individuals. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness of these generous community benefactors. (A bequest received from the estate of Howard E. Charles, Sr was made in memory of his son, Howard E. Charles, Jr, who is pictured here.)

Your Own Family Fund Did you know that you can now transfer up to $100,000 tax free to charity from your IRA? In 2006 and 2007, holders of traditional and Roth IRAs, who are at least 70 1/2 years old, can make direct transfers to charity without having to pay tax on the transfers. This is a wonderful way to establish your own family fund within the Community Foundation. Please contact our office and we will review this opportunity with you.
CONGRATULATIONS TO 2006 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Student Charitable Fund
Jasmin M. Allario Mohler Juntti Rogers Memorial Scholarship
Jessa A. Arco Exchange Club of Aurora Scholarship
Julie A. Baudis Todd C. Bryant Memorial Scholarship
Camelie M. Austin Phyllis Keamer Scholarship
Jordan C. Ayton Robert G. Schwartzweger Scholarship
Joanna D. Bebeneck Wesley F. Parker Memorial Scholarship
Phyllis A. Becker Dugan Family Scholarship
Sarah B. Bell Louis-Vago Scholarship
Amanda J. Bernes Simmons-Minkler Scholarship
Amber M. Boccaettis Alcoare Brown Scholarship in Memory of Natalie Ann Brown
Heather A. Boscoettis Aurora Foundation Scholarship
Daniel S. Br Nina & W. Ebert Charity Scholarship
Benjamin P. Brooks Robert G. Schwartzweger Scholarship
Ashley N. Bush Nicor Gas Scholarship
Lucaile M. Carson Aurora Kiwanis Club Scholarship—Wabconner CC Graduates
Raymond R. Clark Ruth & B.B. Skaggs Scholarship
Laura A. Conard Thorium Action Group/Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Scholarship
Daniel Contreiras Olson Roofing Company Inc. Scholarship
Alfonso Cortes, Jr. Aurora East Educational Foundation Scholarship
Jessica A. Crawford Thorium Action Group/Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Scholarship
Tara M. Corpel J. Robert & Marion E. Winn Scholarship
Brian M. Davids Danny McCue Memorial/Aurora Firefighters Scholarship
Jennifer A. Davids Simmons-Minkler Scholarship
Andrew J. Deters Nicor Gas Scholarship
Noel J. Ealey Walter M. Pennington London Po Scholarship
Erla A. Earnest Zotta Club of the Aurora Area Scholarship
William G. Egeger Ruthian-Marian Mutual Aid Society of Aurora, Illinois Scholarship
Chrysler K. Engel Robert H. & Shelly N. Waldoscholarship
Mayra L. Espino J. Paul & Wanda H. Batton Scholarship
Patrick J. Fad Aurora Rotary Little League Scholarship
Jennifer L. Furst Alexander Family Scholarship
Heather L. Fugate Nicor Gas Scholarship
Laura J. Furgason Meitn & Irene Goldman Scholarship
Frederick L. Gandy Earl K. & Suile B. Warren Memorial Scholarship
Juan J. Garcia Aurora Foundation Scholarship
Enca Gonzalez Valley Industrial Association Scholarship
Natalie Gonzalez Irene & Marie Oberwieser Nursing Scholarship
Jessica Grant Dorothy Mae Bonner Memorial Scholarship
Aaron M. Gray Lee W. & Missy Rogers Scholarship
Carol A. Hamilton Alexander Family Scholarship
Zachary A. Hedges Aurora Kiwanis Club—Dr. Harry G. Yeeley Memorial Scholarship
Stephanie E. Hartmann White House & Shanye Hunter Long Scholarship
Imad M. Hassan Thorium Action Group/Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Scholarship
Reginald Heinon, Jr. Suncor & Haltz Families Scholarship
Beathen A. Herwaltt Clarence J. Buckley Memorial Scholarship
Aimer L. Hooper Robert G. Schwartzweger Scholarship
Adam J. Hodge Simmons-Minkler Scholarship
Lisa R. Humble Baby M. Frank Scholarship
Kathrin E. Huse Aurora Township Youth Foundation Scholarship
Daniel A. Jones Simmons-Minkler Scholarship
Hannah E. Joy Aurora Township Youth Foundation Scholarship
Dana T. Kateris Nicor Gas Scholarship
Katheryn B. Klam Pb Schol Scholarship
Linsey M. Konser Nicor Gas Scholarship
Elise E. Knuefenko Winteringham Family Scholarship
David F. Lam Thorium Action Group/Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Scholarship
Claudia Lanes West Aurora Freshman Academy Scholarship
Claudia Lanneb West Aurora High School Class of 1990 Scholarship
Joseph D. Lang Nicor Gas Scholarship
Ryan G. Leffel William M. Healy Memorial Scholarship
Matthew A. Lee Colonel Sidney Ginsberg Scholarship
Lori A. Libby Thorium Action Group/Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Scholarship

2006 GRANTS

Organization Authorized Purpose
American Red Cross $5,000 Ham Radio System
Aurora Community Study Circles 4,945 Computer Equipment
Aurora Public Schools $75,000 Peaceful Schools Program
Carpenters’ Place Aurora 1,600 Computer Equipment
CASA Kane County 4,700 Computer Equipment
Fox Valley Festival Choir 3,000 Keyboard & Sound System
Rainbows 3,500 Curriculum Materials
REDS Ministry 5,000 Computer Equipment
Riverwoods Christian Center 10,000 Van
Bush Copley Foundation 29,000 Medical Equipment
SCORE 3,000 Computer Equipment
Sunymere 10,000 Security System
Telbry Family Services 10,000 Computer System
Wayide Cross Ministries 10,000 Truck

Grants & Scholarship Application Information

Grant Application Deadlines
The Community Foundation has set two deadlines for receipt of grant applications during the coming year—January 2, 2007 and August 1, 2007.SenderId organizations are invited to contact the Foundation office for further information regarding the Grantmaking Program.

Scholarship Application Deadlines
The Community Foundation’s Scholarship Program will begin on January 1, 2007. Deadline dates for receipt of applications vary according to the schools students attend. Detailed information is available by calling the Foundation office.

Celebrating Marie Wilkinson
The Community Foundation recently renamed its Thanksgiving Endowment Fund in honor of Marie Wilkinson. The Marie Wilkinson Endowment Fund is a discretionary fund that will provide grants to local non-profit organizations. Marie Wilkinson devoted her life to causes that advance the dignity of all people in the City of Aurora. She established the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and later the Marie Wilkinson Child Care Center. She was responsible for the formation of the Aurora Human Relations Commission in 1964, an organization she chaired for over thirty years. Her influence was so farreaching that a park was named in her honor. Mrs. Wilkinson was born in the French Quarter of New Orleans and educated at Straight University (now Dillard University). She moved to Aurora in her early 20s. Her husband, Charles Wilkinson, was a successful businessman who provided support needed untiling to his wife. He died in 1995. The couple had two children. The legacy of Mrs. Wilkinson is profound in its simplicity. She shared everything she had with others, expecting nothing in return. Marie Wilkinson has lived the Golden Rule.
We are deeply grateful to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support to the charitable needs of the community.

The following funders have contributed to one or more of the Foundation's funds through any of the following sources:

Gifts received after October 1, 2026 will be acknowledged in a future edition of this publication.

The income from this fund supports the administrative expenses of the Foundation.

This fund is a reserve fund that helps to support the Foundation's grantmaking & scholarship activity.

The income from this fund is allocated at grant dollars with the charitable needs of non-profit organizations.

The funding to these various areas was contributed as a result of this fund's recognition in the Foundation's Memorandum of Understanding with the program partners providing services.

Scholarship Funds provide assistance to area students furthering their education beyond the high school level.

The income from this fund is allocated at granting dollars with the charitable needs of non-profit organizations.

Please help share the responsibility for recycling.