IN GRATEFUL TRIBUTE

Charlotte Reid Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students entering the field of music. Charlotte Reid (1913-2007) was born in Kankakee, Illinois. She attended Illinois College in Jacksonville and studied music with Louise Gilbert of Chicago. Later, she was a featured vocalist on the nationally syndicated radio program on NBC, The McNeil Breakfast Club. When her husband Frank Reid died after winning the Republican Primary for the United States Congress in 1962, Mrs. Reid was chosen to run in his place. She won and was re-elected four more times. In the middle of her fifth term, she was appointed to the FCC. Mrs. Reid addressed the National Republican Convention in 1964 and 1968. She is survived by two daughters, Patricia Lindner and Susan Lewis, and by her son, Frank.

Dustin Villarreal Family Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the parents of Dustin Villarreal (1991-2006) as a tribute to this young athlete’s life. Dustin was a freshman at Geneva High School pursuing his dream to win a state championship and play college football. He loved to compete in sports and had an outstanding work ethic on his teams. One of the Geneva football coaches stated, “As good a football player as he was, he was a better kid. He just really epitomized what we look for out of a Viking.” Dustin’s friends characterized him as ‘a great kid who was always looking out for others, who was always smiling.’ Dustin passed away unexpectedly from an undetected heart ailment. He is survived by his parents, Dave and Jena, and his brother David. Scholarships from this fund are awarded to Geneva High School students graduating from West Aurora High School. Scholarship Endowment Fund was created by the parents of Dustin Villarreal (1991-2006) as a tribute to this young athlete’s life. Dustin was a freshman at Geneva High School.

The Howard R. Forte Music Scholarship Fund was created by his family to honor his thirty-seven years of service as a music educator. Louis Forte (1925-2006) taught at Simmons Junior High School and East Aurora High School. Upon retirement, he continued to teach part-time at Holy Angels Catholic School and also in the West Aurora School District at Jefferson, Washington, Jewel and Herget Schools for a total of eighteen additional years. Mr. Forte received his undergraduate degree in music from Vandercook College of Music in Chicago and his master’s degree in music education from Northwestern University. Scholarships from this fund are awarded to students from East or West Aurora High Schools who are pursuing a degree in music at the college level of study. Mr. Forte’s commitment to bringing out the very best talent in each student is the basis for the awarding of these scholarships.

The Richard H. Rokop, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to residents of the City of Aurora, the Village of North Aurora and Aurora Township who are enrolled at the undergraduate level of study at a college or university. Richard Rokop (1941-2006) was born in Aurora. After graduation from East Aurora High School, he began a thirty-year career at Northern Illinois Gas Company. Mr. Rokop was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church, the Lions Club and the Phoenix Club. He served as a Kane County Republican Treasurer and was a member of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Board of Trustees. In honor of his long time commitment to coaching, Mr. Rokop was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Jeannine, and three sons, Richard Jr., Michael and Daniel.

The Kiwanis Club of Aurora, Illinois Endowment Fund supports the philanthropic purposes of the Kiwanis Club of Aurora. The local club was organized in 1916, the 21st Kiwanis Club to be chartered in the world. Kiwanis is a coined word meaning “stand tall” derived from the Sioux Indian language. The club is responsive to community projects that are worthwhile and help to make Aurora an excellent community in which to live. Kiwanis sponsors youth service clubs at local middle schools, high schools and Aurora University. Funding also is provided for a special needs camp, learn to swim programs, and youth baseball and softball. Kiwanis matches in local parades, assists the Salvation Army kettle drive, presents an annual God and Fellowman Award and undertakes a special project each year through its President’s Project.

The above charitable funds were created recently within the Community Foundation. Grants from these funds will be directed to charitable purposes designated by the donors. If you are seeking a meaningful way to provide ongoing support for a charitable organization or purpose close to your heart, please consider the benefits of creating your own named fund within the Community Foundation. We welcome the opportunity to help you custom-design a charitable fund that will make a difference for the future — exactly as you intend.
We are deeply grateful to the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their commitment to the charitable needs of the community.

Those listed below have contributed to one or more of the Foundation’s funds since the last issue of the Memorandum.

Gifts received after May 1, 2007 will be acknowledged in a future edition of this publication.

At the Community Foundation’s annual meeting in March, five community leader were elected as new directors of the board. Patricia Fabian, Katherine Navota, Robert O’Connor, Thomas Russe and Edward Schmidt Jr. will serve three-year terms. They replace outgoing directors Greta Bieber, Bruce Goldsmith, Calvin Myers, Mark Traepner and Peter Whinfrey. Also, Holly Lindgren was re-elected to the board. In addition, Frank Miller was elected as a new director in the summer of 2006 to fill the term of the late Dr. William H. Donovan.

Robert O’Connor is an attorney with the firm Jordan, Kohn & O’Hearn. He has practiced law in Aurora since 1969. Mr. O’Connor is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Notre Dame Law School. He is currently an alderman for the City of Aurora, member and past chairman of the State of Illinois Council on Aging, board member of the Aurora Police Foundation and the Visiting Nurse Association. Mr. O’Connor has served on the Community Foundation Scholarship Committee for over 20 years.

Robert Hubbard was elected vice chairman of the board. He has been a director of the Foundation since 1999. Mr. Hubbard received his undergraduate degree from Western Illinois College. He is the president of Hubbard’s Ethan Allen and Hubbard’s Business Interests in Batavia. He currently is a member of the board of the Living Well Cancer Resource Center in Geneva. He has served as a director of the Gary-Wheaton Bank of Batavia, Batavia Community Chest, Tri-City Services and the Batavia Rotary Club.

Robert Hubbard of Batavia was elected vice chairman of the board. He has been a director of the Foundation since 1999. Mr. Hubbard received his undergraduate degree from Wartburg College. He is the president of Hubbard’s Ethan Allen and Hubbard’s Business Interests in Batavia. He currently is a member of the board of the Living Well Cancer Resource Center in Geneva. He has served as a director of the Gary-Wheaton Bank of Batavia, Batavia Community Chest, Tri-City Services and the Batavia Rotary Club.

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Dustin Villereal Family Memorial Scholarship Fund (The following gifts are in memory of Dustin William) John & Carol Slayter

Matthew D. & Kathleen Gilmore

Chris & Sally Schoeneman

Lawrence J. & Karen Galle

Robert J. Koepsel

Donna M. & Bruce Brown

Pamela H. & Stephen G. Schmidt

Robert & Margaret O'Malley

University of Illinois

Kant 

University of Illinois

Television 

Sameer & Navya Kumar

John & Carol Foster

Chris & Rachel W.thompson