

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Image: The Muse on Cedar Creek

Building Bridges TO THE Future



FREEPORT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

www.freeportcf.org

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

In 2021, coming out of the COVID crisis, it became apparent to the Freeport Community Foundation's Board of Directors that the Foundation needed to play a more proactive role in addressing our region's fight against food insecurity. On a state-wide level, food insecurity impacts 8.3% of Illinois residents, yet the average is exceeded in our region. The numbers speak for themselves: Carroll County – 10.2%, Jo Daviess County, 10.1 % and Stephenson County – 11.6%.

Based on these numbers and because such a significant amount of the FCF's annual granting goes toward supporting basic human needs, the FCF decided to dive deeper into our region's food insecurity issue, not only supporting area Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) and their work, but also convening conversations as to how collectively we might be able to better approach this growing crisis. In 2021, the FCF Board of Directors dedicated \$100,000 toward food security initiatives including programs through Northern Illinois Food Bank and River Bend Food Pantry, direct support of various regional pantries and programs, plus the FCF made an on-going commitment to working with regional partners to better approach and address this growing, regional issue.

Food insecurity overlaps with a myriad of other base issues – quality and access to housing, jobs, medical care, education, among others. That is why, all total in 2021, the FCF contributed over \$230,000 to fund grants supporting services and programs benefiting our neighbors throughout northwest Illinois. Of all these needs, however, the Foundation believes food insecurity is one of the most critical issues facing our region today. It is the FCF's hope that by addressing this one problematic area, we can eventually build bridges along a path that link to solutions in all the problematic areas.

But building bridges into the future is not a stand alone effort of the Freeport Community Foundation, it involves the entire region. As part of the FCF's mission, we are tasked with connecting donors and nonprofits, working with both parties in identifying need of all kinds, and empowering the respective parties to develop solutions that help northwest Illinois communities thrive. By working together, we are collectively building bridges to the future.

*to
Build Bridges*

Together

Image: Northern Illinois Food Bank

GRANTS TO AREA NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: \$232,345.97

SPRING 2021

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

Cats Care

It's All About the Head

Davis Mental Health Group
Community Resource Guide

Freeport Art Museum
Virtual Museum

Madonna Renewal
Education & Crisis Support

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises
Eats & Beats 2021

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Stephenson County Take 50

NW HomeStart
Financial Services for Tenants

RAMP
Access to Services

Senior Resource Center
Living History Series 2021

Senior Resource Center
Sr. Home Maintenance

St. John's Lutheran Church
Grace Meal

The Workshop
Ceiling Fans

Timber Lake Playhouse
Masterclass Workshops

United Way
Born Learning Trail

Warren Township Public Library
1000 Books before Kindergarten

FALL 2021

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

Amity Society of Freeport
Door Safety

CONTACT of Northern Illinois
CONTACT'S Crisis Helpline

Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy
Vaccination for Latinx

Freeport Art Museum
smArt After School

JDLF Gives
Veggie Vouchers

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
Youth & Family Programming

RAMP
Access to Services

Riverview Center
Empowering Survivor Activities

Senior Resource Center
Healthcare Transit Project

Timber Lake Playhouse
TLP ED Program Fall 2021

United Way of Northwest Illinois
Warren Illinois Senior Academy

VOICES of Stephenson County
Spinning a New VOICES Website

Food Insecurity Grants

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Food Insecurity Initiative

River Bend Food Bank
Food Insecurity Initiative

Dan & Nancy Schmitt Family Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Freeport &
Stephenson County
FAM Project

Freeport Concert Band
Operational Support

Freeport Area Church Cooperative
Food Pantry

Jeannette Lloyd Memorial Scholarship Fund

Freeport High School Theater
Department scholarships: Jacob Redmore, Colton Thies, Veronica Homan, Brooke Parkinson, Sydney Pedersen, Graham Atz, Katelyn Schiffman

John M. Drogosz Youth Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Memorial Fund

*The Rosecrance Foundation
Therapeutic Recreation*

Luthin Family Endowment Fund

Freeport Fire Department
*Lucas Device
Prairie Enthusiasts Inc.
NIPE Equipment*

Matthew A. Marvin Community Impact Awards

Melinda Hartman: donated her \$1000.00 award to the Public Health Foundation of NW IL

Bindy Lillge: donated her award to Joseph's Food Pantry.

Dr. Michael Perry: split his award between Joseph's Food Pantry and the Freeport Health Care Foundation.

Donations of Support

Aquin Catholic Schools
Children's Hands On Museum of NW IL
United Way of Northwest Illinois
Freeport Art Museum
Hearts That Care Inc.
Tyler's Justice Center
VOICES of Stephenson County

In-Kind Donations of Time, Talent & Expertise:

FCF Board of Directors & Staff
Kirstin Hinds, Linda Le, Matt Moyer, Melissa Wolfe, Uinta LLC.

Memorial Gifts

Susannah A. Smith Bryant
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Patrick Wilson

Patricia Willging
Carl & Shirley Zulke

In Honor of

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Ryan & Beth Gehlsen

Marjorie Phillips
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The Salvation Army
Cal Wescott

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Hughes Resources
McPherson Law Offices
Network For Good
Reed's Auto Repair Inc.
Ted Frits Insurance Agency Inc.
The Morse Group, Inc.
Union Savings Bank

Your Generosity Makes a Difference!

Giving to the Freeport Community Foundation is easy and doesn't require great wealth, only a desire to help improve the quality of life for everyone in northwest Illinois. By supporting our Matt Marvin Community Needs Unrestricted Fund or any of our twelve restricted funds (listed on our website at www.freeportcf.org) you are creating a charitable legacy and building toward a better future for all. We are a 501(c)(3) public charity (EIN #30-0080762) that is powered by donors, like you, and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. For more substantial gifts and planned giving, we encourage our donors to work with their financial advisors, estate planners, and tax advisors to determine which path is best for you. For conversations on this subject, please reach out to us at either info@freeportcf.org or by calling (815) 801-3035.

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