



FROM THE CEO's DESK: New Pathways to Address Northwest Illinois Needs

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Recorded in autumn of 1963 and released in February 1964, Bob Dylan's song "The Times They Are A-Changin'" was instantly inspirational. Of this now iconic piece, Dylan was quoted by Cameron Crowe in the album *Biograph* liner notes: "This is definitely a song with a purpose."

Purpose indeed. It rapidly became an anthem for the 1960s and continues to resonate today. I first became aware of the song while in college in the late 1980s. The lyrical prose of the final verse has always been my favorite part—I mean, Dylan truly is, first and foremost, a poet.

*The line, it is drawn, the curse, it is cast
The slow one now will later be fast
As the present now will later be past
The order is rapidly fading
And the first one will later be last
For the times, they are a-changin'.*

To me, these lyrics aren't speaking about one transition in time, from old guard to new, senior generation to junior, experience to youth. To me it speaks to the ever-changing patterns of life. Our lives, our worlds are constantly changing, evolving, day by day, month by month, year by year.

Since the Foundation's inception in 1975, the investments of our neighbors throughout the northwest Illinois region have enabled generations of our leadership to provide nearly FOUR MILLION dollars in grants toward a myriad

of programs and projects throughout our service area of Stephenson, Jo Daviess, and Carroll counties.

Through the COVID-19 Pandemic years and into last, we have seen needs continue to increase, along with awareness of the Foundation, applications for grants, as well as recognition of our history and place within the ecosystem of northwest Illinois. To support the Foundation's capacity to meet these growing needs, our Board started the year by expanding our staff from two part-time employees to two full-time professional positions: Chief Executive Officer and Community Relations Director. And most recently, we also announced the launch of the Northwest Illinois Nonprofit Alliance, a membership-based initiative offering complimentary mentoring, professional training, and resources to nonprofits throughout northwest Illinois.

These evolutionary steps are putting the Foundation on the path for the next verse in our song. And, with the continued support of donors and community partners, like you, the Foundation's impact throughout our region will only continue to grow, enabling our nonprofits and our neighbors to build a stronger, ever-evolving, vibrant northwest Illinois, because, to paraphrase Dylan, ... the times are always changing.



The Foundation for Northwest Illinois

Bridges the the Future Awards Gala: August 3

The Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2023 Matthew Marvin Community Impact Award and the Craig Wilson Ecological Stewardship Award. These awards will be presented at the Bridges to the Future Awards Gala on August 3rd at The Muse on Cedar Creek. Forms are available online at freeportcf.org/gala and due by June 1.

Award Nominations Due June 1



Business Partners Support Mission

The Freeport Community Foundation is driven to improve lives in Northwest Illinois. Through the generosity of our community and Corporate Partners, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$4 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in our region since 1975.

We work with local organizations to ensure that in the communities we serve we are uplifting the well-being of the causes that they serve. So, we are grateful to those who continue to support our mission, helping us to deliver promising solutions to many of our region's most pressing concerns. Our Corporate Partners are our allies in this mission—now and into the future.

To learn more about our Corporate Partner program, visit our website at freeportcf.org/corps/ or contact us directly. All Corporate Partners enjoy a host of benefits including acknowledgment in print, digital and live events.

In addition to community support, corporate generosity is vital to continuing to advance the efforts of the Foundation. Strong nonprofits really do strengthen communities and your support allows them to continue to address area needs. We hope you will join us in these efforts.



Foundation Launches NINA to Strengthen Regional Nonprofit Business Sector

The Freeport Community Foundation has launched a new initiative, the Northwest Illinois Nonprofit Alliance (NINA). The Nonprofit Alliance is a project that exists to strengthen nonprofit organizations throughout Stephenson, Jo Daviess, & Carroll counties. Through a variety of opportunities and resources, NINA members find support to grow, sustain, and fulfill the mission of their respective organizations.

In tandem with the mission of the Freeport Community Foundation, NINA seeks to empower nonprofits to develop solutions that help northwest Illinois communities thrive. Through the Foundation, NINA's primary purpose is to provide a space for networking, learning and partnership within the nonprofit sector.

"We believe that strong nonprofits strengthen communities" stated Michelle DeHaven-Quast, CEO of the Freeport Community Foundation. "In addition to fundraising, studies show that nonprofits sometimes need assistance in areas that include marketing and communications, program evaluation, technology, Board development, and strategic planning. While the Foundation will continue to disperse grants to nonprofit organizations in perpetuity, we are developing a wide range of resources as a capacity building service that will benefit nonprofits throughout Northwest Illinois."

Membership to NINA is free to nonprofit organizations. Individuals and students also interested in learning more about serving in the nonprofit sector are invited to join at no charge. Members benefit from a variety of resources including networking events, learning labs, online resources, conferences and more.



NORTHWEST
ILLINOIS
NONPROFIT
ALLIANCE

Upcoming NINA events include our morning Coffee Connections networking gatherings, lunchtime Learning Labs, online resources, conference room access, and more.

To join or learn more about NINA and upcoming events, contact Sarah Flashing-Clow, Community Relations Director, at pr@freeportcf.org. You may also visit the NINA website at www.ninastrong.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 23 | NINA Learning Lab
June 28 | Bridges to the Future Grants Reception
August 3 | Bridges to the Future Gala



FREEPORT
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THE FOUNDATION FOR NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

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For a stronger Northwest Illinois

