



205 South Fifth Street, Suite 530
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Phone: 217.789.4431
Fax: 217.789.4635
www.CFLL.org

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Contact: Stacy Reed
217-789-4431
reed@cfl.org

Recognizing the Impact of Community Foundations November 12-18, 2018

*Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Participates in National Effort
to Highlight Local Impact of Philanthropy*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – During the week of November 12-18, 2018, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln will join more than 795 community foundations across America celebrating *Community Foundation Week*. For 29 years, the effort has raised awareness about the increasingly important role of these philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

Springfield has seen first-hand the impact that a community foundation can have in the lives of residents and the overall health of the region.

When Illinois communities were still reeling from the Great Recession several years ago and hungry for transformational positive change, the Community Foundation stepped up to strengthen our community's capacity for driving economic growth. The Community Foundation launched Innovate Springfield in the heart of downtown with the intention to become a major part of the ongoing revitalization efforts in the city's core. In August, Innovate Springfield was acquired by the University of Illinois and became the first hub of the Illinois Innovation Network to accelerate job creation and economic development.

"The Springfield area is a unique place for innovation – through our growing healthcare and local food systems, to the cultural and education resources we have available," said Community Foundation President and CEO John Stremsterfer. "We work to capitalize on our community's strengths; and because we get to work daily with philanthropists who care deeply about all kinds of issues, from education and historic preservation to animal care and health and wellness, we have a unique vantage point for identifying local needs and brokering partnerships."

The Community Foundation has served as a visionary funder that has convened people and directed millions of charitable dollars – nearly \$2 million this year alone – to address critical issues over the past 16 years. Hundreds of generous individuals, families and businesses who love the community have made this work possible.

"The Community Foundation is one of the easiest ways to plug in to the causes that are most important to you and make a positive difference," said Stremsterfer.

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Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. They represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation — large and small, urban and rural — working to advance solutions on a wide range of social issues.

The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln serves eight counties in central Illinois: Sangamon, Cass, Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Menard, Morgan, and Montgomery.

Community Foundation Week, created in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush, recognizes the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with public, private and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

The [*Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln*](#) is a resource for charities and donors in central Illinois with a mission to “connect people who care with causes that matter.” To learn more visit www.CFLL.org.

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