

Local Generosity Inspires Record-Setting Grant Potential

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Recently, a friend sent me an article from The New York Times reminding readers that generosity is a trait that nearly all of us share.

It outlined ways we can instill in children a love for philanthropy while giving back to the communities and causes that are closest to our hearts.

In my experience managing the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln's grant programs for the past eight years, it would appear as though most people in our community have not only read this article but passionately embraced its message.

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals, families and organizations, the Community Foundation broke its previous record for annual grantmaking and awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants and scholarships in 2016. And we're kicking off 2017 with two grant opportunities and a scholarship cycle that have the potential to set their own records for giving back.

The King's Daughters Organization Fund is led by local volunteers who serve the community through hands-on support and projects designed to aid the elderly in Sangamon County. Grant amounts will range between \$2,500 and \$25,000 each and must go toward programs that enhance the quality of life and address unmet needs of older residents of Sangamon County. Letters of inquiry are due before Feb. 3.

The Women's Fund is an endowment fund built by over 150 local women to increase awareness of and to address the needs of women and girls in Sangamon and surrounding counties, including Cass, Christian, Logan, Menard, Morgan and Montgomery. Up to \$40,000 is available - the most ever for a single year - and multiple awards may be granted, with special consideration being given to programs that are collaborative with other agencies, have measurable results and address the mental health and well-being of women and children. Letters of inquiry are due before Feb. 6.

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Stacy Reed, Vice President for Programs of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

In addition, the Community Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2017 scholarship program. Nearly \$115,000 is available from 29 different scholarship funds. While many scholarships are available to graduating seniors in Sangamon County, there are also scholarships available for returning students and graduating seniors from surrounding counties.

Two new scholarship funds have been established for this year.

The O'Brien Medical or Health Related Field of Study Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating high school student in Sangamon County pursuing a degree or certificate in a medical or health related field of study.

The Roland Machinery Scholarship is also a \$1,000 scholarship, and it is geared toward graduating seniors pursuing a degree or certificate in a profession related to construction, mechanical engineering or other related trades from the following counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery or Morgan.

The Community Foundation also administers the Student of the Year Scholarship Program. Sangamon County students can apply by invitation only and should contact their school guidance counselor for more information. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1.

Access to the online grant and scholarship applications and instructions on completing the proposals can be found on the Community Foundation's web site: CFLL.org.

- Stacy Reed is vice president for programs at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. For more information about grant programs or establishing a fund at the Community Foundation, visit CFLL.org or contact 789-4431 or info@CFLL.org.