



Community Foundation Seeds Innovation

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If there's one thing you can count on, it's that things will always change.

No one can predict what the Springfield area will need or want 100 years from now. But the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln has firmly established itself as a forever source of critical support for causes and issues that matter to the people who live here.

The Community Foundation is a visionary funder for the Springfield area 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 our community have made this success possible.



Bruce Thompson

When our state and community 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.

Realizing that Springfield is a unique place for innovation – through its growing healthcare and local food systems as well as its cultural and education resources – 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.

This accomplishment, along with countless others, demonstrates the importance of community foundations both locally and across the country to improve their regions through innovate solutions and powerful partnerships.

From November 12 to 18, we celebrate Community Foundation Week, a time when we can share and reflect on the stories of impact over the past year. Even if you do not yet know the Community Foundation, you've likely felt its impact.

As we enter the giving season, people from all backgrounds will be looking to give back to their communities that have supported and inspired them. They'll also look to ensure that their heartfelt giving will have the most impact. That's why so many choose to give to and through the Community Foundation.

I often say that the Community Foundation is “here for good.” We don’t think about the next election or business cycle. We think about the next generation and the generations after that. It can seem like a daunting task, but it’s one that community foundations across the country share and embrace.

During Community Foundation Week, I hope you’ll join us in recognizing our collective impact and the difference we can make together.

Bruce Thompson serves as chairperson of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln’s board of directors and is a tax partner at Sikich LLP. Learn more about the Community Foundation at CFL.org.