



Thank You for a Remarkable Year

This article appeared in The State Journal-Register on January 5, 2020.

By John Stremsterfer

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, a big thank you to the hundreds of donors, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and civic leaders who partner with us to do some pretty remarkable things for this community that we call home.

Thank you for establishing and supporting more than 230 charitable funds that speak to the causes you most care about. This past year alone, your philanthropy helped expand programming for senior citizens and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's; launch a kindergarten readiness class for children with no preschool experience; establish a helpline for deaf victims of domestic violence; secure food and prescription assistance for those in need; preserve historic structures; and provide surgeries for animals.



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And that's just scratching the surface of all the important causes you reached.

In 2019 grant making through the Community Foundation topped \$2.7 million and total assets topped \$40 million – a record-breaking year for our organization.

What is especially remarkable about these figures is that none of you had to donate your resources. You voluntarily chose to do it because you care about your community and want to see it better during your lifetime.

About this time last year, Jane Ford and Ken Sommer – two individuals who didn't know each other – had been closely following the news about Springfield's growing population of unhoused residents. They each had established donor-advised funds at the Community Foundation and called us within days of each other to discuss how grants from their funds could be strategically directed to make the biggest impact.

Jane and Ken's phone calls sparked conversations that ultimately led to the Community Foundation being identified by the *SJ-R* as one of the "best thumbs up" stories of 2019 for our work to improve the coordination of services for unhoused populations in Springfield. This would not have occurred had it not been for two citizens speaking up about a cause they care about.

Resident-led change is powerful fuel for transforming a community, and we are honored to be your conduit for making a difference.

Looking ahead, we resolve to expand on our motto that the community is “Better Together.” This motto has long guided the work of the Community Foundation, and it will continue to guide us as we enter a new decade that is ripe with potential and opportunity.

John Stremsterfer is president and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. For more information about the Community Foundation, visit www.CFLL.org, call 217/789-4431 or email info@CFLL.org.