



THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
Focus

The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County • 125 North Water, Suite 200 • Decatur, Illinois 62523 • (217) 429-3000

Did you know?

If you create an endowment at The Community Foundation of Decatur/ Macon County worth \$25,000 today, in 20 years you will have given this community \$37,090 dollars in grants and your endowment will be valued at \$42,858.

The gift and grant values for this model assume an 8% return on investment and grants of 5% annually. Last year funds in The Community Foundation realized a return of 8.15%.

Are you affected by KETRA?

In the days after Hurricane Katrina, Congress provided a one-time incentive for gifts of cash to any charity. Until December 31, 2005 only, you may deduct cash gifts up to 100% of your adjusted gross income, rather than the usual limit of 50%. The purpose of KETRA, the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act, is to encourage charitable giving to all charities in the U.S., not just those providing emergency relief.

Who is affected by the suspension of the 50% limit provided by KETRA? The most recent IRS figures available show that for the tax year 2002 some 428,000 taxpayers carried forward charitable deductions that they could not use because of AGI limitations in prior years. These deductions totaled nearly \$38 billion. This amounts to fully 27% of all charitable deductions itemized that year.

For more information on KETRA, contact your financial advisor. A brochure on the subject called "A Window of Opportunity" is available through The Community Foundation office, 429-3000.

Illinois Raptor Center Endowment

By Marilyn Metzger



From the road you see a reconstructed field, which evolves into a prairie land crawling with snakes and small animals. In the background you see large, white cages, which are actually mews, housing endangered species of birds carefully locked in these clean, spacious dwellings. And at times, the surrounding blue skies overhead become alive with the fluttering of dozens of wings belonging to white pigeons, soaring through the air before they return on their own after a small taste of freedom and exercise. This is the Illinois Raptor Center, positioned on fifteen acres of land on the western edge of Decatur along the Sangamon River. The land includes wetland, a pond, and a forest habitat, all of which are typical to Illinois.

The Illinois Raptor Center, (IRC), formerly known as Wildlife CPR, was founded in 1989 by Jane Seitz. Jane, a lifelong resident of Decatur, started this project in her garage. With no rent payments and only a minimal overhead, food was the main expense.

Working alongside Jane to create IRC is Jacques Nuzzo, program director, who can relate to any age group, is personable, and entertaining. Both Jane and Jacques are trained falconers.

The IRC is home to many majestic,

Donations to funds like the Illinois Raptor Center Endowment offer a simple and efficient way to build income for a favorite nonprofit organization. Contributions are invested by The Community Foundation and distributions from the investment earnings are made to the designated organization.

unique, but permanently injured birds of prey. The IRC has rescued eagles, falcons, hawks, and the tiniest raptors, such as the Eastern screech owl with the

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