



The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County • 125 North Water, Suite 200 • Decatur, Illinois 62523

Working with The Foundation



Frank Tyrolt is participating in a research project organized to help area community foundations improve the quality of their outreach. He is the retired CEO of Tyrolt, Inc. of Decatur.

By Frank Tyrolt

I don't know how I first heard about The Community Foundation, it was either in the newspaper or in something in the mail. I went to a meeting to learn about it and it seemed like a great idea, but I didn't know anything then about what it was going to turn out to be.

At first, I liked the idea of making a single contribution to a self directed fund at year end tax time and having the money in place for disbursement as needs or campaigns were identified. The Foundation handles the transactions for very low fees and with very little effort on my part.

After a couple of years of making donations that were eventually distributed, I became interested in the idea of a permanent fund when the ADM match came along. I took advantage of the maximum match that was offered and have not yet decided where the earnings from that fund will go. I still use the self directed fund for current gifting, but my intention is to grow the permanent fund that will be assisting Decatur philanthropy for years and years to come. The Foundation makes leaving a permanent legacy to Decatur meaningful for me because it is uncomplicated and inexpensive.

When I have gifted appreciated stock to the Foundation, the appreciation passes on without the gain being taxed. All of the funds earnings accumulate without being taxed. The Foundation magnifies my giving.

Schmalz family launches Theatre 7 Endowment

Doug and Peg Schmalz of Decatur established the Theatre 7 Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation in December. They also provided a matching fund, challenging Theatre 7 supporters to double the endowment this year.

Theatre 7 board President Jerry Johnson stated, "The enormous generosity of these kind donors means so much to us. We will have a permanent source of income to pay our fixed costs, so our efforts can all go into making our season's productions the very best they can be."

Within The Community Foundation the Schmalz family has created similar endowments for Boys and Girls Club of Decatur, United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois, and the Mt. Zion Schools Foundation. Their actions demonstrate commitment to building the community's charitable trust fund, which is the purpose of The Community Foundation.



Theatre 7 readied the Civic Center stage for its April production of "Everybody Loves Opal".