

communityWORKS challenge underway

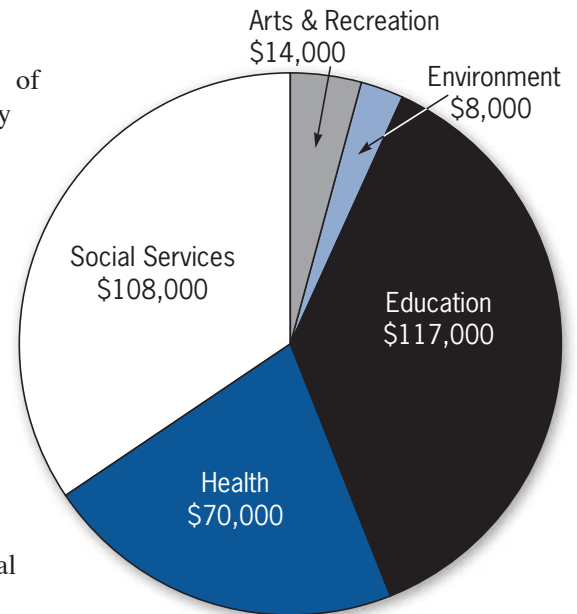
Representatives of 17 community foundations gathered in Decatur in March to focus efforts on future grantmaking in the areas of child care, workforce development, and land use and protection. Participating in a five-year initiative of the Grand Victoria Foundation, Illinois community foundations can receive up to \$250,000 in matching funds when they raise local dollars dedicated to making improvements in these three areas. The Community Foundation in Decatur launched the Darrell Beck Communityworks Endowment last year with a \$25,000 gift from the Beck Charitable Fund.

Decatur Communityworks Advisory Committee Chairman Bruce Nims said steps recommended at the March 16 meeting to devise a grant-making program were to scan the community's environment and determine its needs, set priorities among those needs, develop strategies for meeting the needs, design a grant-making program with those needs in mind, setup an evaluation process and implement the program.

To learn more about the Communityworks Fund, please contact Lucy Murphy at The Community Foundation, 429-3000.

Foundation Grants Top Half Million

The purpose of The Community Foundation is to develop a permanent charitable trust fund for Decatur and Macon County. Donations are invested and earnings are distributed annually to local groups.



The Foundation has distributed over one-half million dollars in the last four years. In 2004, \$317,000 was distributed from earnings of the permanent trust fund and from outright gifts.

The distributions made in 2004 came from donor-advised funds and agency endowments. When donors establish their own charitable, donor-advised funds, they recommend grants to nonprofits they want to support, and the grants are made in their name.



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

of Decatur/Macon County

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