

## Community foundations join to form state alliance



*Newly elected officers of the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations are front left to right: Lucy Murphy, Secretary, Executive Director of the Decatur/Macon County Community Foundation; Gloria Lundin, President, President of the Northern Illinois Community Foundation in Rockford; back left to right: Jerry Smith, Treasurer, Executive Director of the Dekalb County Community Foundation; Jim Sullivan, Vice-President, Executive Director of the Central Illinois Community Foundation in Peoria.*

Community foundations throughout the state of Illinois are establishing an alliance to raise their visibility statewide and assist in their growth and professional development.

The Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations was formalized Aug. 5, at a meeting of 25 community foundations in Rockford, where Gloria Lundin, president of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois based in Rockford, was elected alliance president and other officers were chosen.

In addition to The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County, foundations from Carbondale, Springfield, Aurora, Champaign, Evanston and Freeport and other Illinois cities joined to establish the group.

“More and more, people have a desire to enhance philanthropy in their communities,” Lundin said. “As a network, we can rely on each other to share ideas, training and our professional experience to help each other grow.”

The various foundations have been meeting informally for years, Decatur Foundation Director Lucy Murphy said, and as community foundations in the state increase in number, the time is right for an official alliance. “There is a sense of urgency to help with information to provide the best professional services, promote philanthropy statewide, and offer more established community foundations the opportunity to share their knowledge,” she stated.

With bylaws and membership criteria as first orders of business for the next meeting scheduled Nov. 4, the group also created committees for marketing and for legislative affairs. There are about 50 community foundations in Illinois, Murphy said. The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County was established in 1998, and has awarded more than \$750,000 in grants. Murphy attributes the growing popularity of community foundations to their convenience. “We’ve become a one-stop shop for philanthropy and giving,” Murphy said. “We make it easy for people to give back to their community.”

For more information, call 217 429-3000 or visit [www.endowdecatur.org](http://www.endowdecatur.org).

More information about Illinois community foundations also is available at <http://www.communityfoundations.net>

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