

# The Community Foundation focus

Fall 2014

The  
Community Foundation  
OF MACON COUNTY

Serving Donors. Leading Change.

## Smiles at Every Stop . . . A Trolley Ride to Remember



Among those was The Weekend Buddy Packs Program, an outreach between GT Church and its “adoptee,” South Shores Elementary School. Initiated several years ago, the program’s goal was to ensure that students’ basic needs were met. Throughout the 2013-2014 school year, the program was funded exclusively through GT Church members, and provided buddy packs of food for 60 teacher-referred students per week, for forty weeks. Receiving the \$5,000 means the program can add 25 students to its ranks.

“Teachers tell me that they know exactly which students have eaten over the weekend, and which haven’t,” says GT Church Outreach Pastor Beth Soares. “It’s hard to learn when you’re lethargic and hungry.”

\$5,000 grants also supported these initiatives: **Parsons Elementary School**, backpack weekend food supplement program; **The Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation’s (DMCOC) Senior Nutrition program**, expansion of home-delivered meals to include weekends; **Dennis Lab School**, “Try It Tuesdays,” featuring samples of new and healthy foods; **Northeast Community Fund**, children’s food boxes; **Eisenhower High School**, addition of a student support counselor to mentor African-American students enrolled in its Operation Calculus program; **Boys and Girls Club of Decatur**, “Triple Play: A Game Plan for Mind, Body, and Soul;” **Stephen Decatur Middle School**, expansion of the school’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century after-school enrichment program; **Girl Scouts**, development of a 500-square foot green activity space designed for healthy living lessons and physical activity; and **The Decatur Family YMCA**, expansion of its Early Learning Readiness program.

“Giving away \$50,000 was simply the best way to spend a day,” says YPGC member and DPS Director of Community Engagement Kendall Briscoe, of the trolley “sweepstakes” adventure.

“I wish we could go around town and do this everyday!”

When they saw the bright green and yellow trolley car pull into South Shores Elementary School’s parking lot on Thursday, September 25, many students had clues as to the “who, what, and why.” The same wasn’t true across town at Parsons Elementary School, though, where Principal Jonathan Downing was completely baffled by the trolley’s arrival.

But regardless of the surprise factor, trolley riders — about twelve members of Decatur’s Young Philanthropists Giving Circle (YPGC) — were greeted by big smiles and even bigger cheers at every one of their ten Decatur stops.

YPGC’s “sweepstakes style” giveaway awarded ten, \$5,000 checks to programs and organizations that serve children and address hunger. The awards were thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, and honored Buffett’s areas of focus.

A 10-member YPGC grant selection committee reviewed eighteen qualified proposals, and selected ten for funding. “All were very well thought out and organized, and many tugged at our heartstrings,” says committee member Becky Stubblefield.



# “Do Something Great” Award Recipients Share Community Pride and Commitment

Their passions ranged from education and the arts to conservation and healthcare. Yet the local philanthropists honored at this year’s Decatur Legacy “Do Something Great” awards luncheon were united by generosity, commitment, and community pride.

Sponsored by Russell Investments and held on Thursday, August 19, at Bizou, the annual summer luncheon included awards in two categories — donors and professional advisors.

“Everyone in this room deserves applause for all the great work you do in our community that supports Decatur Legacy, promotes philanthropy, and encourages people to consider a legacy gift,” said The Community Foundation President Wegi Stewart in her welcoming remarks.

Nominated by St. Teresa High School, the first 2014 “Do Something Great”

award was received by Bob and Kathy Wiesemann, long time supporters of the high school through generous financial support to special projects and events, annual giving, and capital campaigns.

Known for his love of nature, Ed Kaufman received a “Do Something Great” award for his donation of land on



*Ed Kaufman*

Lake Decatur to the Macon County Conservation Foundation. Kaufman’s donation of his family’s property — along with funding to restore the site’s prairie grass and create a friendly habitat for wildlife — ensures that this special area will be enjoyed by future generations. Kaufman was nominated for the award by the Macon County Conservation Foundation.

Surrounded by many family members and nominated by St. Mary’s Hospital, longtime resident, local philanthropist, and the retired founder of Dunn Company, Frank Tyrolt received a “Do Something Great” award in recognition of

his personal and financial generosity to St. Mary’s. “There’s always a need for support, and not just monetary,” said

Tyrolt. “Giving your skills or lending a hand to improve the city is also very important.” Tyrolt has served on the St. Mary’s Board of Directors and, for twenty years, has been a key part of the hospital’s Perpetual Adoration group. Frank Tyrolt also “did something great” by providing for a legacy gift to St. Mary’s in his estate plans.

Nominated by Millikin University, alumni T. Stephen and Juanita Ballance received a “Do Something Great” award for an estate plan that funded the TS and Juanita Ballance Foundation, which supports scholarships for students who are working their way through school.

Also nominated by Millikin University for the category of professional advisor was Jim Livasy, branch manager for the Decatur office of Stifel Nicholas and Company. Livasy created a charitable remainder trust for a generous client to leverage highly appreciated assets to create a life income for heirs and also benefit the donor’s favorite charities, including Millikin University.

The final 2014 “Do Something Great” award also marked the annual event’s first “repeat.” Nominated in 2005 by the Boys and Girls Club of Decatur, Doug and Peg Schmalz were again honored for their generosity to the Decatur Area Arts Council. When the DAAC announced a fundraising campaign to mark the Madden Arts Center’s tenth anniversary, Doug and Peg stepped up to offer a \$100,000 matching gift.



*Debbie Seitz and awardee Frank Tyrolt*



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## Decatur Legacy professional members include

Benjamin F. Edwards and Co. BKD, LLP Brechnitz Group of Raymond James Bussey Wealth Management Consociate Dansig Erickson, Davis, Murphy, Johnson & Walsh, Ltd. First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust Foster Financial Services, Inc. Hickory Point Bank and Trust J.L. Hubbard Insurance and Bonds May Cocagne & King PC	McGuire, Yubas, Huffman & Buckley, P.C. Midland States Bank Wealth Management Reiss Financial Group, L.L.C. Roberts Law Office Samuels, Miller, Schroeder, Jackson & Sly Siskich Soy Capital Bank and Trust Stifel Nicolaus
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## Decatur Legacy member organizations include

American Red Cross Baby TALK, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois Boys and Girls Club of Decatur Catholic Charities, Inc. Children's Museum of Illinois Community Foundation of Macon County Community Health Improvement Center Decatur Area Arts Council Decatur Christian School Decatur Day Care Center Decatur Family YMCA Decatur Memorial Foundation Decatur Parks Foundation Decatur Public Library Decatur Public Schools Foundation Decatur SCORE Chapter #296 DMCOC Dove, Inc. Education Coalition of Macon County Friends of St. Mary's Hospital Futures Unlimited Girl Scouts of Central Illinois God's Shelter of Love, Inc.	Good Samaritan Inn Governor Oglesby Mansion, Inc. Heritage Behavioral Health Center Independence Pointe James Millikin Homestead Lincoln Trails Boy Scout Council Lutheran School Association Macon County CASA Macon County Conservation Foundation Macon Resources, Inc. Millikin University Northeast Community Fund Partners In Education of Decatur & Macon County Project Read Richland Community College Foundation Rock Springs Endowment Fund St. Teresa Educational Foundation Theatre 7 United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois Webster Cantrell Hall
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For more information  
call 217.429.3000



Decatur Legacy

# EdCo Initiatives Focus on Collaboration and Outreach



The Education Coalition (EdCo) of Macon County's mission to improve our community through education took many forms this summer, with initiatives ranging from transportation to camp and distribution of activity-based curriculum sheets, to hosting a forum that shared information about a possible new formula for funding Illinois' public schools.

## The Wheels on the Bus . . .

. . . went "round and round" for six weeks this summer, as youngsters from pre-school to junior high hopped aboard for rides to Camp Connections, a program presented by Decatur Public Schools and the Decatur Park District that focuses on connecting creativity and learning.

"EdCo's role with Camp Connections was to facilitate by looking for ways to assist — specifically, to remove any barriers or obstacles that kept at-risk students from participating," says EdCo Director of Operations & Community Engagement Dani Craft.

Lack of transportation was identified as a particular obstacle. And, thanks to the generosity of The Community Foundation donors, EdCo broke this barrier by providing a bus, routed through designated areas, which transported students to and from Camp daily. EdCo staff members also made site visits and provided Camp Connections leaders with activity books for campers.

Removing the transportation obstacle planted another seed: The concept of a portable pre-school.

"EdCo is considering whether a portable pre-school might be the right fit for Decatur in the future," Craft says. "But, we always look for evidence of success behind a plan before we initiate."

## Creative Ways to Celebrate

EdCo joined the Decatur Celebration fun in August by setting up shop at a booth located on the Celebration's "Kid's Block," where staff members and volunteers watched with delight as youngsters tugged on their parents' hands and, armed with an activity sheet, embarked on a scavenger hunt together.

"Youngsters are like sponges when it comes to soaking up time with their parents, and adult interaction is the key to improving school readiness," says Craft. The Celebration activity sheets, for instance, asked "hunters" to find different shaped signs and to identify their colors; or, to count the number of letters on the first sign they spotted.

Every participant received a nylon drawstring tote bag with activity books, and qualified to win one of five grand prizes: Fully "loaded" backpacks, valued at over \$100 and stocked with school supplies.

EdCo also hosted two free family nights at The Children's Museum, and took part in Scovill Zoo's Thursday family nights. Scav-

enger hunt activity sheets were designed specifically for each venue, with adults required to team up with their children.

"Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to continue to expand our school readiness initiatives," says Craft, adding that Rock Springs Nature Center may be a partner in the future.

*(Busey Bank co-sponsored EdCo's summer events.)*

## Piecing Together the Puzzle

"Transforming Our Schools: A Panel on Funding Reform," a public forum held on Thursday, May 8, and organized by EdCo, drew more than 100 people to the Decatur Civic Center in order to better understand the complexities of proposed school funding changes.

Panel participants included: State Senator Andy Manar, 48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District; Kristen Kendrick, Superintendent, Warrensburg-Latham School District; Dr. Todd Covault, director of business affairs, Decatur Public Schools; and Ralph Martire, executive director, Center

for Tax & Budget Accountability.

Sponsored by Senator Manar, the School Funding Reform Act of 2014 (SB 16) seeks to establish a single school-funding formula that places more of a focus on the needs of school districts. The Bill currently is awaiting action in the House.

"There was a very high level of engagement and a lot of excellent questions," says Sarah Bjelland, research and data manager for EdCo. "In general, residents wanted to know what could be done to 'right this ship'."

"We consider this event to be the beginning of a greater conversation on school funding in Illinois — one that we look forward to continuing in the community."





# Scholarships Reward Excellence; Reflect Generosity

A reception, held on Sunday, June 8, and hosted by The Community Foundation, united local scholarship recipients and their families with Foundation donors, staff, and board members. The event recognized top students, and applauded the generosity that supports their future success.

“We love that our donors are interested in helping a young person achieve their dreams of a college education,” said The Community Foundation President Wegi Stewart in her welcoming remarks.

Peggy Rothe, whose father and stepmother are honored through the Walter and Inabell Kirby Memorial Scholarship, appreciated the opportunity to connect with the students who will benefit from her parents’ commitment to education.

“This scholarship is so important to me and my brother, Robert, and it was very rewarding to see that students valued the

sacrifices our parents made to establish the fund,” says Rothe, who retired in 2001 after a 25-year teaching career at Eisenhower High School. “For me, hearing a ‘thank you’ was as meaningful as the money itself.”

*Mercedes Clemons, Leading the Way Scholarship recipient, with her mother.*

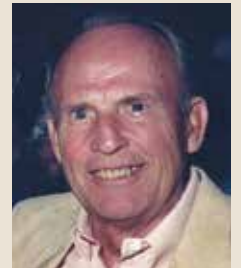


The Walter and Inabell Kirby Memorial Scholarship is awarded to the top foreign language student at Eisenhower and MacArthur High Schools.

The Community Foundation awarded more than \$130,000 to deserving students in the form of scholarships in 2013 — a total that is expected to grow significantly throughout this year. Awards range from \$500 to \$3,000, and some scholarships are renewable.

The range of resources and depth of generosity continues to build, with new scholarships established in the past year:

- Described as a humble man with a passion for business and education, Claud Thompson’s legacy endures through the **Claud Thompson Decatur Industrial Electrical Scholarship**, established by the Thompson family after Claud’s death on February 16, 2014, at age 93.



A graduate of Millikin University and a World War II veteran, Claud founded Decatur Industrial Electric in 1952, a family business now in its third generation that has expanded to four Decatur locations, as well as branches in Mt. Vernon and Kankakee.

“My grandfather always had a bright spot for Millikin, and supported the university through the years,” recalls Trent Thompson, president of Decatur Industrial Electric. “The purpose of the memorial scholarship is to assist students seeking a great career in business through the Tabor School of Business at Millikin, or to help students that are more mechanically inclined and are interested in pursuing engineering technology at Richland Community College.”

Scholarships are based on financial need and will be directed to self-driven and leadership-oriented students with a record of community service. Two scholarships will be awarded in 2015.

“Up until a year before his death, my grandfather was still in his office every day,” says Trent. “Our family was so fortunate to have him in our lives until age 93.”

- Established to provide financial assistance to children of those who have dedicated themselves to public service, the **Susan and Lloyd Swanson Memorial Scholarship** honors a couple whose lives touched many community residents.

A graduate of Argenta-Oreana High School and Illinois State University, Susan O’Brien Swanson served as a special education teacher for 27 years in the Decatur School District.

– Continued on back page



*You can make donations to any of these funds held by The Community Foundation, or start a fund of your own.*

## Arts/Culture

- Alpi Arts & Entrepreneurship
- Anne Lloyd Endowment for the Decatur Arts Center
- Blues in Central Park
- Children's Museum of Illinois Endowment
- Governor Oglesby Mansion Endowment
- Lincoln Square Theatre Endowment
- Louise A. Fathauer Memorial Scholarship for DAAC
- Macon County Historical Society
- Mertz & Fassnacht Piano Scholarships
- Theatre 7 Endowment

## Community Development

- Beautify Decatur
- Clokey Park Neighborhood Association
- Community Foundation Operating Endowment
- Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity
- Decatur Earthmover Credit Union and Dave Walker Communityworks Funds
- Decatur Plugged In
- Downtown Decatur Beautification
- Fall in Love with Maroa
- Greenwood Cemetery
- Grow Decatur
- Homeward Bound Animal Shelter
- Horace G. Livingston Jr. Memorial Project
- Let's Keep Decatur Bee-utiful Contest
- Lucy Lloyd Murphy Operating Endowment
- Macon County Animal Shelter Endowment
- Macon County Conservation Endowment
- Midwest Inland Port Project
- Mt. Zion's Fletcher Park
- Rock Springs Endowment
- Stephen Decatur Lake Front Attraction
- Sun-Star Botanical Garden Endowment
- World War II Memorial
- Young Philanthropists Giving Circle

## Education

- Altrusa of Decatur
- Charles William Turner Award
- Claud Thompson Decatur Industrial Electric Scholarship
- Curtis R. & Georgia Ann Pelz Scholarship
- Decatur Christian Education Foundation
- Decatur High School Class of 1927 Scholarship
- Decatur Public Library Foundation
- Decatur SCORE Chapter #296
- Dell and Evelyn Carroll Scholarship
- Education Coalition

- Gerald Demirjian Scholarship for Webster Cantrell Hall
- Harold and Rose Oyler Scholarship for St. Patrick School
- Howard Brown Endowment
- Eloise Ivens Memorial

### Jack and Barbara McCoy Scholarships for RCC

- Burl Stoner & Al Dobbins – Frontiers
- Clarence Taylor – Early Bird Kiwanis
- Elfreda Virginia Jacobson Witzeman
- Everett Ryan – Early Bird Kiwanis
- Harry S. Johnston – Early Bird Kiwanis
- John Eugene McCoy

### Jack and Barbara McCoy Scholarships for St. Teresa

- Brian Chelsea & Daniel Everett McCoy
- Chelsea Eugene "Mac" & Dorothy Mae Clemens McCoy
- Donald Joseph "Don" McCoy
- Eugene Davis and John Lee St. Thomas Grade School
- Jane Bernadette McCoy Hirshinger
- Priests who taught at St. Teresa High School
- Religious Vocations Decatur Catholic Parishes/St. Teresa
- Shirley Mae McCoy Suni
- St. James Grade School Class of 1951
- St. Patrick Grade School Class of 1951
- St. Teresa Families Class of 1950, 1951, and 1959
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1952
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1953
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1954
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1955
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1956
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1957
- St. Teresa High School Class of 1958
- St. Thomas Grade School Class of 1951
- Ursuline Sisters Scholarship Award

- James W. Thomas Scholarship
- John Leman Memorial Scholarship
- Kiwanis Golden K Scholarship
- L. Mark Hanover Scholarship
- Leading the Way Scholarship
- Lutheran School Association Scholarship Endowment

- MacArthur High School Class of 2010
- MacArthur Lady Generals Award
- Mac McPherson Scholarship
- Macon County 4-H Endowment
- Matthew and Tony Memorial for SADD
- Matt Laverty Memorial Scholarship
- MCSWCD Scholarship
- Michael E. Shampine Scholarship
- Lou Miglio Endowment for Retired Teachers
- Mt. Zion Schools Foundation
- Noon Kiwanis Builders Scholarship
- Norman Lee Stewart Education Scholarship
- Prairie Flower Montessori School
- Robert G. Turner Scholarship

- Robert and Joy Witt Scholarship
- Robin Vogel 5K Scholarship
- St. Teresa High School
- Sister Lucy Educational Scholarship for St. Patrick School
- Think Outside the Barn
- Victory Pharmacy Scholarship
- Walter and Inabell Kirby Scholarship
- Susan and Lloyd Swanson Scholarship
- YMCA Soccer Scholarship
- Zahner Scholarship Endowment
- Zannie Rawls, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

## Health

- Amy Caldwell Memorial
- Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois Charitable Fund
- Care Trak/Delores P. Fleming
- Jack and Olive Langsdorf Endowment for Senior Services at St. Mary's
- Rita Cornille Memorial for Cancer Care
- Teen Health

## Social Services

- Central Christian Church Endowment
- Charter for Compassion of Decatur
- DMCOE Endowment
- Decatur Fire Local 505 & Auxiliary
- Decatur Metro Rotary
- Easter Seals of Central IL Endowment
- Games for Troops
- God's Shelter of Love Endowment
- Havana Nights
- Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project
- Macon County CASA
- NALC Food Drive
- Northeast Community Fund
- Rotary 180
- SantaCon
- Sertoma Club of Decatur
- Summit of Hope
- United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois
- Vietnam Era Vets
- We Are One Community
- WSOY Food Drive

## Youth

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment
- Boys and Girls Club of Decatur Endowment
- Champions for Children
- Decatur Chess Club
- Decatur Family YMCA
- Gather.Give.Share.
- Lee J. Robinson Award
- Lincoln Trails Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts of Central IL
- Macon County Queen Pageant
- Rodney T. Miller Triathlon
- Webster Cantrell Endowment
- Sean and Lee Robinson Foundation



Leslie Chandler, recipient of the Lois Chervinko Scholarship, pictured with her mother, Kristine Horn.

## Scholarships *Continued*

Susan was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis when she was a college sophomore, and her determination and perseverance were inspirational to her many students. She died in May 2007 at age 55 and was memorialized by her husband, Lloyd, and son, Andrew, through establishment of The Susan Swanson Memorial Scholarship.

Lloyd, a retired Master Patrol Officer of the Decatur Police Department, died in June 2014 at age 63. He served as president of the Decatur Noon Sertoma Club, and was a member of the Civil War Round Table, the National Rifle Association, and The Banner of St. Michael, a Polish history reenactment group.

Upon Lloyd's death, the scholarship was renamed to the Susan and Lloyd Memorial Scholarship. Lloyd also included a \$100,000 donation to The Community Foundation in his estate plan.

The fund now awards two new scholarships annually — one to a student whose parent is a member of the Decatur Area Education Association, and one to a student whose parent is a member of the Policeman's Benevolent & Protective Association unit 39.

*(For more information on the range of scholarships, student eligibility, and the application process, visit The Community Foundation website at [endowdecatur.org](http://endowdecatur.org). The site accepts applications through March 31 each year.)*

Long-time publisher of "The Voice," Horace G. Livingston, Jr. was known in Decatur and throughout Central Illinois for his enduring activism in the African-American community. To honor his legacy, artist Preston Jackson will create an original bronze likeness of Livingston for the community to enjoy. If you wish to memorialize Livingston's life and civic contributions by being part of this creative endeavor, you may do so by donating to the Horace G. Livingston, Jr. Memorial Fund through The Community Foundation.

Donate online at  
**[endowdecatur.org](http://endowdecatur.org)**

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Beginning April 1, 2014*

Nancy Acks	Kitty Lindsay
Mary L. Allan	Horace G. Livingston Jr.
Edna Arthur	Gary E. Maddox
John Arthur	Judy Mason
Pauline Batman	Donald H. Metzger
Donna E. Bentlage	Maryellen Miller
William H. Bourne, Jr.	Rodney T. Miller
William D. Brewer	Lloyd Moma
Helen K. Bright	Stanley L. Moore
Janet L. Brunner	Eva Mueller
Anna Buchanan	Gloria R. Nuxoll
Elizabeth A. "Betty" Butts	Linda Olinger
Rita Cornille	Harold Oyler
Sally Crubaugh	Rose Romano Oyler
Kenneth F. Curry	Timothy J. Parker
Paul K. Daniels	Paul B. Pierson
Theresa A. Defend	Marie Romano Potrafka
Rita D. Doty	Janet L. Poynter
Henry F. "Frosty" Estell	Kathleen Reedy
Edna Mae Black Fischer	William "Dave" Riber
Dr. Robert H. Fischer	Tony Samuelson
Peggy L. Farney	Betty Schneider
Doris L. Finney	Nevada B. Seaman
Delores P. Fleming	Michael Shampine
Elizabeth "Beth" Frederick	Nolen G. Sheehan
William F. "Bill" Fryman	Donald M. Shields, Jr.
Marlin F. "Buzz" Gramley	Lindsay Marie Sparks
La Verne H. Greene	Sister Lucy Spinner, OSU
William E. "Bill" Hardaway	Floyd E. Stark
Wendell Henby	Norman Stewart
Nancy Hughes	Tab E. Stortzum
Steven R. Imel	Lloyd Swanson
Norma A. Jackson	Susan Swanson
Elsie James	Jean E. Sweitzer
Larry G. James	Claud Thompson
Robert J. "Rob" Jenkins	Robin Vogel
Robert L. "Bob" Kissel	Lawrence L. "Larry" Walk
Lonnie D. Klukis	Thomas D. Wear
James F. "General" Koester	Joy Witt
Donald Kunzman	Robert Witt
Doris "Jean" Lamb	Robert M. Wrigley
Marilyn J. Lane	Matthew Yelovich
Howard W. Lawrence	Kathleen Zahner
Richard O. Laymon	

## HONOR GIFTS

*Beginning April 1, 2014*

Vietnam Veterans	Joann Kindermann
Carter Brantner	Jim Madell
Mary Galbreath	Robert Lyle Schilawski
Pauline Jurgens	Dr. and Mrs. James L. Wade
Carole Kindermann	



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It carries with it the wish  
for health, happiness,  
and peace for  
you in the New Year.*

Here is a gift idea for the holidays. Make a gift to The Community Foundation in honor of family, friends, business associates, or customers. Notify them with a holiday card like this one, available at no charge from The Community Foundation office, 125 North Water, Suite 200, Decatur, IL 62523. 217.429.3000