



THE LAKE COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
An affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust

Media Contact: Miah Armour
The Lake County Community Foundation
847-377-0520 ext. 24
miah@lakecountycf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lake County Community Foundation Joins Nearly 800 Foundations Across the U.S.A.
to Celebrate Giving and Impact During *National Community Foundation Week***

LCCF Announces 2017 Grants and Honors Local Volunteers and Grantees

December 12, 2017, WAUKEGAN, IL - During the week of November 12-18, 2017, The Lake County Community Foundation (LCCF) joined nearly 800 community foundations across the United States in celebrating *National Community Foundation Week*. For nearly 30 years, this community celebration has raised awareness throughout the nation about the increasingly important role of community foundations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address critical civic and economic challenges throughout their communities.

To celebrate locally, LCCF held its Annual Meeting and reception to honor its volunteers and 2017 grantee organizations on Thursday, November 16 at the Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake. Foundation board member and Reverend Dr. Robert Davis fittingly shared a proverb with guests before dinner stating, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Grant recipient and President & CEO of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Julie Yurko noted, "That sentiment is exactly what our organization is all about. By coming together with our partners, we are able to provide 8.6 million meals, right here in Lake County." LCCF's investment is also ensuring families have greater access to fresh produce as well as education on how to prepare nutritious meals thanks to the expertise of Liberty Prairie Foundation's team.

Earlier this year, the Foundation approached Liberty Prairie Foundation and Northern Illinois Food Bank with an opportunity to partner more deeply. The result was a multi-year grant investment that will further the coordination of existing local efforts, inform local food policy and promote and support local, sustainable food production.

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For nearly 15 years, LCCF has served as an engine to rally and drive local philanthropy throughout the county. “Partnership is in our DNA,” said Miah Armour, Executive Director of LCCF. “We are always seeking to fund high-impact initiatives and help organizations more efficiently scale their efforts through collaboration.”

“With the season of gratitude and giving upon us, LCCF is pleased to announce its grants for 2017,” said Maggie Morales, who leads LCCF’s grants and community outreach activities. “These investments represent strong partnerships with organizations committed to serving thousands of families across Lake County.”

- **2017 Collaborative Grants** - This year, the Foundation awarded \$110,000 to Liberty Prairie Foundation and Northern Illinois Food Bank to work together to build a better local food system and increase access to affordable, nutritious food across the county. This award is the first under LCCF’s new community investment strategy which is focused on aligning grant funding and community leadership work, ultimately leading to a more streamlined coordination of countywide efforts.
- **2017 Basic Human Needs Grants** address key needs in Lake County: housing, immigrant legal services and violence prevention.
 - Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County - \$6,000
 - Mano a Mano Family Resource Center - \$5,000
 - Partnership for a Safer Lake County - \$8,000
- **2017 Early Childhood Development Grants** focused on early literacy and providing essential items to families with newborns and infants.
 - Reading Power- \$10,000
 - Twice As Nice Mother & Child - \$10,000 (*new grantee*)
 - Words on Wheels - \$5,000 (*new grantee*)
- **2017 Animal Welfare Grants** support animal adoption and equine therapy in Lake County.
 - Equestrian Connection - \$10,000 (*new grantee*)
 - PAWS Chicago – Glenn L. Felner Adoption Center - \$10,000 (*new grantee*)

To learn more about how you can start something good in your community, call us at 847-377-0520 or visit lakecountycf.org.

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About Community Foundations - Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors and channel them to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. They represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban, rural and suburban—all working to advance solutions on a wide range of social issues.

Community Foundation Week, created in 1989 by the George H.W. Bush Administration, recognizes the important work of these public charities throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

About The Lake County Community Foundation - The Lake County Community Foundation was established in 2003 to raise the quality of life throughout Lake County. The Foundation serves our community by helping area residents and organizations realize their unique charitable goals, providing impactful support to our community's not-for-profits, and fostering key partnerships to address critical issues affecting residents across the county. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation receives contributions and bequests from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations looking to make a difference for our region and the causes about which they are most passionate. Since its inception, the Foundation has grown to over \$12 million in assets and with our donors has awarded nearly \$5 million in grants to nonprofit agencies serving the residents of Lake County and beyond.

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