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VERNON HILLS REVIEW

The Lake County Community Foundation awards \$247,000 in grants to support nonprofits serving county's most vulnerable residents

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(Posted by talihylen, Community Contributor)

WAUKEGAN, IL (June 6, 2019) - The Lake County Community Foundation (LCCF), an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, announced \$247,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in the county. The LCCF Board of Directors approved the grants on June 5 to support 22 local organizations engaged in this work.

LCCF received a record-breaking number of applications in the 2019 funding cycle. Maggie Morales, the Foundation's Executive Director, noted that the significant response to the request for proposals indicates that the county's nonprofits are experiencing a greater need of resources to help them fulfill their missions.

"The overwhelming number of proposals that we received certainly demonstrates the critical need that exists in Lake County," says Morales. "However, it also highlights that there are so many incredible nonprofit organizations doing the important work necessary to make Lake County a more prosperous, equitable community for all."

Over the last few years, LCCF has made a concerted effort to spread awareness about the Foundation's grant making and role as the premier and trusted steward of Lake County's collective philanthropy. As a result, the Foundation received a significant number of proposals from new applicants, many of whom were awarded funding. Grant recipients were selected through a competitive application process and their work has the potential for high impact and high visibility throughout Lake County.

New grantee, Willow House, will use funds to create a new suicide grief program in Bannockburn and expand school grief programs throughout Lake

County. Executive Director, Erin Leyden, emphasized that support from LCCF will help to ensure that no child in Lake County grieves alone.

"These groups provide a place in which the challenges and feelings of the grieving experience can be expressed, where loved ones are remembered and honored and where stories can be shared in a safe and non-judgmental place," says Leyden. "Willow House is very grateful to the Foundation for recognizing our work and the need for grief support for children and teens."

2019 Basic Human Needs Grants support critical needs in Lake County including physical and behavioral health initiatives, education, workforce development, advocacy and more:

- [Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance](#) - \$7,000
- [Antioch Area Health Accessibility Alliance](#) - \$5,000
- [Art Impact Project](#) - \$9,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Beacon Place](#) - \$8,000
- [College Bound Opportunities](#) - \$8,000
- [Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project](#) - \$5,000
- [Lake County Coalition for the Homeless](#) - \$5,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Lilac Tree Resources for Divorcing Women](#) - \$6,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Mother's Trust Foundation](#) - \$5,000
- [NorthPointe Resources, Inc.](#) - \$8,000
- [North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic](#) - \$8,000
- [Partnership for a Safer Lake County \(A Safe Place\)](#) - \$8,000
- [Reading Power, Inc.](#) - \$9,000
- [Roberti Culinary Pathway \(Roberti Community House\)](#) - \$9,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Willow House](#) - \$10,000 (*new grantee*)

2019 Collaborative Grants were awarded to Liberty Prairie Foundation and Northern Illinois Food Bank for year three of their collaborative effort to

increase access to affordable, nutritious food and to coordinate Lake County's food access system:

- [Liberty Prairie Foundation](#) - \$55,000
- [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) - \$55,000

Hester Bury, Director of Foundation & Grants for Northern Illinois Food Bank, noted that LCCF's investment through this 3-year funding commitment has provided the Food Bank with vital resources to feed hungry neighbors in Lake County and has presented new partnership opportunities.

"Through collaboration with our member food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, youth and senior sites we have distributed more than 8 million meals in the county each of the past 2 years and reached more people in underserved areas with access to nutritious food," she said. "We have developed a partnership with Liberty Prairie Foundation that is bringing locally grown vegetables to our food pantry members and providing education on the importance of fresh produce. We look forward to continuing this exciting collaboration."

2019 Animal Welfare Grants support organizations engaged in innovative approaches to animal welfare in Lake County:

- [Heartland Animal Shelter](#) - \$4,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Partners for Progress](#) - \$5,000 (*new grantee*)
- [Spay and Stay](#) - \$3,000

2019 Early Childhood Development Grants focus on equipping nonprofits with essential tools and resources to support young children and their families.

- [AAUW Preschool](#) - \$7,500 (*new grantee*)
- [Twice as Nice Mother and Child](#) - \$7,500

ABOUT THE LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Lake County Community Foundation (LCCF), an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, brings together philanthropists and donors, dollars and ideas to build permanent funds to benefit Lake County, Illinois - today and for generations to come. Since 2003, LCCF has grown to \$13.5 million in assets, and has served as a catalyst for generosity and change; a connector of people and organizations; and as the permanent steward of charitable funds dedicated improving the lives of the most vulnerable residents of Lake County.

LCCF has awarded grants totaling \$5.5 million to nonprofit agencies serving the residents of Lake County and beyond. The organization provides leadership on key issues, insight on emerging trends and helps donors learn more about local needs to make their giving as effective as possible. Through collective philanthropy and by partnering with others, LCCF's donors help make a greater impact together than any one organization can make alone. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.lakecountycf.org/.