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# Donations encouraged this holiday season

**PETER KASPARI, Editor**

As the holiday season approaches, the Lake County Community Foundation is encouraging people to be generous and to donate to worthwhile causes throughout the county.

There are two days in particular the foundation is encouraging donations on; National Philanthropy Day, which is Friday, Nov. 15, and Giving Tuesday, which is Dec. 3 this year.

Maggie Morales, executive director of the Lake County Community Foundation, said National Phi-

lanthropy Day is a time to celebrate generosity.

“That’s really what makes our communities a better place,” she said. “It’s not just about celebrating peoples’ financial commitments to the communities or the organizations that they support, but also peoples’ generosity with their time and creativity and their love for the community.”

Giving Tuesday, which is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a day where families are encouraged to donate locally.

Morales said, in Lake County, residents are en-

couraged to donate to local nonprofits who participate in the day.

This time of year typically sees an increase in donations.

“Especially in the giving season and over the holidays, people are thinking about others and it’s a great opportunity to really reflect on the impact that your individual giving has in your own community,”

Morales said. “Whether it’s your church community or your school or your neighborhood.

“I think these days are special because it gives us a space to kind of pause

and reflect on the value that generosity has in making our community a better place.”

She added the Lake County Community Foundation is a resource to help people make sure their donations get to the right place.

“When you give to an organization like ours, you’re giving in an amplified way,” she said. “Because it’s not just about your one gift – it’s about the pooled impact. The sum is greater than all of its parts.”

Morales said oftentimes, people may not think a do-

nation such as \$25 makes a difference, but when it’s combined with other donations, it does make an impact.

She encouraged everyone to be generous.

“It’s something we need to be instilling in our children from an early age so they understand the power and importance of generosity and that that is truly what makes a difference,” she said. “No matter what level of generosity you’re able to provide. It’s the fact that you’re being generous that’s going to make the impact.”

There’s especially a

need for generosity in Lake County. Morales said she’s noticed the need increase, especially over the past year.

“We typically receive nearly 30 grant proposals,” she said. “This year was almost 60.”

And if people can’t donate their money, Morales said there are other ways to donate, including volunteering time and creativity.

“Even opting to volunteer at a one-time event is better than not doing anything,” she said.

For more information, visit lakecountycf.org.

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## LB Garden Club celebrates member’s 100th birthday

**SUBMITTED CONTENT**

Longtime Lake Bluff Garden Club member Barbara Stuessy recently celebrated her 100th birthday with the help of some fellow club members.

The celebration included a party at Lake Forest Place, where she has resided since 2014. The lovely luncheon was hosted by her stepson, Tod Stuessy, and his wife, Patty, from Columbus, Ohio. Family, friends and Lake Bluff Garden Club members and Lake Forest staff members were in attendance.

Sitting in her wheelchair in a stylish navy pant outfit with a beau-

tiful embroidered silk shawl, her eyes twinkled as she accepted greetings, congratulations and cards from guests as they entered. She was particularly delighted to greet the garden club members who wore their traditional garden club aprons.

Stuessy has lived through a great deal of history in her lifetime. Born in 1919 at the end of World War I during the Paris Peace Conference, she and her husband Haydn moved from Waukegan to Lake Bluff in 1961. She was an active community member during her 53-year residence on Moffett Lane, devoting

much of her time to the Lake Bluff Garden Club, which she joined in 1962.

She served as president from 1967-1969 and remained an active member for 52 years. In 2014, she reigned as the Grand Marshall in the Lake Bluff Fourth of July parade representing the Garden Club.

Members visit her regularly, bringing her photos and news of the club and community. Her family and friends agree that her secret to longevity lies in her gentle nature and her unique ability to shower love and kindness on those whose lives she touches.



**Barbara Stuessy (front) recently celebrated her 100th birthday with fellow members of the Lake Bluff Garden Club. Stuessy joined the club in 1962 and was an active member for 52 years. PHOTO SUBMITTED**