

Foundation's Voice

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2008

Ripley County Community Foundation, Inc.

Making a difference in Ripley County.

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RCCF Announces New "Seedling Fund" Program

The Ripley County Community Foundation is very pleased to announce a wonderful opportunity for philanthropists in our county. A Seedling Fund gives individuals, families and organizations a simple and flexible way to build an endowment fund over a period of time instead of all at once.

The policy in the past required that an endowment fund be started with a minimum of \$5,000. Now an endowment fund can be started with a \$1,000 minimum and then periodic contributions are made over the next five years to reach \$5,000. Once the minimum is reached, the endowment fund will begin to provide annual support to the charitable organization chosen by the donor.

A Seedling Fund is an excellent way to teach your children and grandchildren about philanthropy. It could also be a way for all members of the family to have an opportunity to contribute over time to build the fund. A Seed-

ling Fund also allows a family to start an endowment in memory of a recently deceased loved one for the eventual establishment of a permanent endowment fund. This type of fund enables an agency to start a fund that can grow slowly.

Frequently asked questions:

Is there a minimum gift needed to begin the Seedling Fund? A minimum gift of \$1,000 is required.

Is there a payment schedule for donations to this fund? Yes, you are required to contribute a minimum of \$1,000 per year until the fund reaches \$5,000. This can be paid monthly, quarterly or annually.

Is there a limit on the period of time that I have to build the \$5,000 endowment fund? Yes, when you begin the Seedling Fund, you agree to a completion date that can be as long as 5 years from the date of the Seedling Fund Agreement.

When do I set up the future endowment fund? You execute the type of fund that you want the future endowment fund to be and you execute the Agreement at the time that you start the Seedling Fund.

What if the fund doesn't reach the \$5,000 minimum in the allotted period of time? If the \$5,000 isn't reached by the agreed completion date the Community Foundation Board will place the assets in the Community Granting Endowment Fund, an unrestricted endowment that benefits the entire community

Can charitable distributions be made from a Seedling Fund? Distributions may not be made from a Seedling Fund in order for the fund to reach its goal in as short a time as possible. At the time that it reaches maturity, early distributions will be scheduled.

What are the fees for a Seedling Fund? There are NO FEES until the fund reaches \$5,000. The

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Small Project Grants

The Ripley County Community Foundation Board has once again voted in favor of offering Small Project grants in 2008. These Small Grants are offered four times a year with application deadlines on the first business day

of March, May, July and September. Decisions are made by the Grants Committee by the 30th of each of those respective months.

Qualified organizations may apply for only one small grant per year along with the traditional fall

granting cycle. Projects must fall within the charitable guidelines for traditional grants.

Grant applications are available at the RCCF office as well as online at www.rccfonline.org.

Seedling Funds (con't)

RCCF will then charge their normal fee as set by the Board according to the fund type per the Foundation's fee schedule.

Will the Seedling Fund assets be invested?
All contributions will be invested according to the Ripley County Community Foundation's Investment Policy for en-

dowment funds.

What happens when the Seedling Fund achieves its goal? Once contributions to the fund reach the \$5,000 minimum from gifts and earnings, the fund becomes a permanent endowment fund.

If you are interested in starting a Seedling

Fund, don't hesitate to call our offices and speak with Sally Morris. She will be able to answer any additional questions you may have about this wonderful opportunity.



5th Annual Women in Philanthropy Luncheon

The Ripley County Community Foundation is planning its 5th Annual Women in Philanthropy Fundraising Luncheon. The proceeds from the luncheon benefit the RCCF Fund for Women.

This year the theme is, "A Tisket, A Tasket...Come Fill the Giving Basket" and will feature keynote speaker Kristin Longaberger of the Longaberger Basket Co.

Ladies attending will enjoy a delicious luncheon, door prizes, give-aways and of course, our wonderful speaker. The an-

nual Women's Fund grant will also be presented to one of our qualified grant applicants for 2008. Last year's grant recipient, Safe Passage, will also give a report on what they did with the monies they received in from the Women's Fund in 2007.

The event will again be at the Hillcrest Country Club. The date is Wednesday, April 16th from 11:30—1:00. The Foundation is again looking for sponsors—hopefully from women who own businesses in the county. Tickets are \$40. (\$25

goes directly into the Women's Fund.) Tickets will go on sale on March 17th and no reservations will be taken until that date. Space is limited to 200 guests.

**"A TISKET,
A TASKET...
COME FILL THE
GIVING BASKET"**

Nine New Named Operating Endowment Funds

Last October at the President's Circle Dinner, a \$100,000 matching grant was announced whereby any monies donated to the Ripley County Community Foundation's Operating Endowment would be matched. In addition to a generous grant made to RCCF by the Rising Sun Regional Foundation that provided a 20% match on all Operating Endowment contributions, donors could now receive a match from the Foundation. For gifts under \$5,000, the match would be 50%. Gifts of \$5,000 or more would be matched dollar for dollar.

This was an excellent opportunity for individuals, organizations, or businesses to start a named fund within the Foundation for as little as \$3,333.33. The match from the Foundation brought the fund amount up to

the required \$5,000 for starting a fund. The Rising Sun Regional Foundation's 20% match money will then added to the original gift.

The community has responded with incredible generosity. There have been nine new "named" Operating Endowments started since the announcement. The Ripley County Community Foundation wishes to thank the following for their foresight, generosity and trust:

- The Daren Baker Operating Endowment Fund
- The Al and Norma Hartman Family Children's Operating Endowment Fund
- The Jane T. and Clarence J. McGowan Operating Endowment Fund

- The Roselyn McKittrick Family Operating Endowment Fund
- The Miles Enterprises Operating Endowment Fund
- The Ollier Masonry Operating Endowment Fund
- The Fred & Jolene Rockwood Family Operating Endowment Fund
- The Marilyn M. and William T. Van Hook Operating Endowment Fund
- The Nellie Volz Memorial Operating Endowment Fund

"All of our endowment fund originators are such valued friends," said Executive Director, Sally Morris. "It takes, however, a special person to see the value of starting a new or contrib -

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Operating Endowments (con't.)

tributing to an Operating Endowment fund. This is because an operating endowment fund provides operating money to run the Ripley County Community Foundation. That means that the donor does not get to choose a particular charity to give to or a scholarship student to watch grow into a contributing adult. What it does mean is that they see the value of the Foundation and the importance of ensuring the day-to-day operations that make sure RCCF can effectively administer all of the 90 funds. All of these nine new named operating endowment funds will help us to sustain ourselves

so we can continue our good work in Ripley County forever!”

We all know that charitable organizations in Ripley County help to protect our environment, bring us arts and culture, nurture disadvantaged children, provide health care, build affordable housing, teach teen parents self sufficiency, serve seniors, assist women escaping violence, promote literacy, combat drugs, support the mentally ill, educate the next generation, support our local fire and police departments and so much more. The RCCF has helped in many of these causes through grants and through the

endowment funds it administers.

When you give to the Foundation, you aren't just giving ... you're investing in our communities. For good. For Ripley County. Forever



St. Louis School Multi-media enhancement grant (adult use)

Scholarship Deadlines

The Ripley County Community Foundation administers 18 scholarships. These scholarships benefit students throughout the county and vary in size and scope. The majority of the scholarships have deadlines of April 1st.

If you (or your child/grandchild) are interested in applying for one of these

scholarships go to the Guidance Office at your high school and obtain a copy of the 2008 Scholarships and Application brochure from the Foundation. A copy of the brochure is also on the RCCF website at www.rccfonline.org.

By carefully studying the brochure,

students may discover the scholarship that most closely fits their needs. Now is the time to begin the application process.

**DEADLINES FOR
MOST
SCHOLARSHIPS
ADMINISTERED
BY RCCF IS
APRIL 1ST!!**

For Your Information

- In addition to the new Operating Endowment Funds, two other new scholarship endowments have been started: The George and Patricia Brinkmoeller Scholarship Endowment Fund and The Rural Alliance for the Arts and Elsa and Peter Soderberg Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Oak Heritage Conservancy has also started an endowment fund to provide support for the organization.
- Please mark your calendars with the following date: The Ripley

County Community Foundation Golf Tourney will be held this year at the Hillcrest Country Club on July 22nd. Watch for more information in the newspapers and on our website.

- The RCCF Gala Committee could use some additional volunteers. If you are talented in any aspect of event planning—or you would like to learn about event planning, please give the Foundation office a call at 933-1098 or toll free at 877-234-5220 and let us know. We'd love to

have you join this fun committee of dedicated women who plan and execute our annual Gala Fundraiser.

- If you would prefer to have this quarterly newsletter emailed to you, please let the Foundation know by either emailing the office at rccfound@nalu.net or calling our office at 933-1098 and making that request.
- Special thanks to all our donors over the past quarter + January. See separate list (included).

Making a difference in Ripley County.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

RCCFONLINE.ORG

Our Mission:

To assist donors in building an enduring source of charitable assets to benefit the citizens and qualified organizations in Ripley County

The Older I Get ... A Message from our President, Bill Van Hook



If you're anywhere near my age, you may use that phrase a lot! "The older I get the more I see how smart my Dad really was" or "The older I get the more I appreciate ... whatever. Could be "my health", or "my teeth" or , "my friends." It seems we get wiser as we get older.

One thing I've come to realize as I become older is the importance of making a difference while you're here. In addition to your own recollections and a treasury of photos, writings and various heirlooms, you may want to consider an ongoing legacy. While there are probably many ways to do this, I've found that the simplest way is to hook up with the Ripley County Community Foundation. Over the past few years, my late wife, Marilyn and I, have memorialized our daughter, Daryl Lea, with a scholarship, have started an endowment fund for the Margaret Mary Community Hospital Hospice, and set up a named Operating

Endowment Fund. Every time I look at the RCCF brochure of scholarships, I see Daryl Lea's picture and know that, in her name, young people are being helped with their college costs. The Hospice Fund will continue to grow and assist this wonderful organization into perpetuity. Our operating fund shows that I care deeply for the Ripley County Community Foundation.

I became personally involved with the Foundation because I believe in what they do. I feel good about the difference RCCF makes in the county. It has been gratifying to see the Foundation grow and thus be able to help more and more each year. As RCCF becomes better known, more people are assisting our great cause.

I hope you've read the article in this newsletter about our new "Seedling Funds". As far as I'm concerned, there is no better way to leave a legacy. By establishing a fund now, in your name, you provide your

loved ones with a "living photograph", if you will, of the key involvements in your life. The RCCF has a way that allows individuals to create endowments that focus on specific aspects that are especially important to the honoree—whether that person be you or a loved one. As you wish you can add to your endowment over time, and you can even earmark a portion of your estate to eventually enter your fund.

In my opinion, endowments are worth considering. If leaving a legacy is important to you, call Sally at the Foundation and let her show you the many ways you can do this.

The older I get, the more I realize that each of us can make a difference. It's important that we do.

