DONORS Disability Awareness Month

Recently Legacy Foundation received a Community Award from the Gary Mayor’s Organization on Disabilities during its annual celebration of National Disabilities Awareness Month. The award recognizes leaders who go over and beyond the vision of helping those who need us most in addressing life’s challenges.

Disability Awareness Month is a great time to rethink and revitalize our communities so they are sustainable and accessible for all. When people of all abilities and ethnicities work together, employees are more productive, organizations represent the people they serve and students learn new perspectives.

Thanks to donors like you, Legacy grants in 2015 built a more inclusive community by providing:

» A sensory room at Campagna Academy that fosters language development and hand eye-coordination
» A safe and easy way for residents in wheelchairs to enter and exit their homes with the Catholic Charities’ ramp building program
» Technology and furniture for interactive learning at a community center for Down Syndrome Association of NWI
» Disabled veterans with trained therapy or service dogs at Dunes Dog Training Club
» Job and life skills training through a horticultural program at Planting Possibilities
» Community exploration and learning experiences through Tradewinds Services and
» Opportunities for students with and without disabilities in the Best Buddies Indiana program to have daily social interaction that increases acceptance and combats isolation

At Legacy Foundation, we believe that breaking down barriers and negative attitudes helps all community members lead the fullest, most productive lives possible.

Yours in Philanthropy,
Carolyn, CFRE
President
Investing in the Good Work in our Community

We care about making Lake County a place where families are financially secure, education is accessible to everyone, our neighborhoods are safe, and art is abundant. This winter nonprofit agencies serving Lake County, IN, received over $180,000 in grants from the Lake County Community Fund in the areas of arts & culture, education, environment and animal welfare, health and human services. Here is a list of the grants that transform Lake County.

2015 SPRING GRANTEES

Calumet Astronomical Society
Campagna Academy Inc.
Christ United Methodist Church
Do Good Productions
Down Syndrome Association of NWI
Dunes Learning Center
Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana
East Chicago Arts Initiative
Friends of Emerson Visual and Performing Arts
Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana Inc.
Hessville Commerce and Community Creative
Hobart Family YMCA
Indiana Women in Need Foundation Inc.
International Institute of Northwest Indiana Inc.
Shifting Sands
South Shore Arts
Teach for America Inc.
Top 20 Inc.
Volunteers of America of Indiana

Dunes Learning Center
Dunes Learning Center received a Transform Lake County grant for the Naturalist Intern Program, which provides world-class, residential, career training and professional development to promising individuals.

Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana
With a Transform Lake County grant the Empowering Teens as Parents (ETAP) Program will offer both school and home-based parent education and case-management services to pregnant and parenting teens in Lake County.

South Shore Arts
South Shore Arts received a Transform Lake County grant to provide arts education programs throughout Lake County.

Top 20 Inc.
Top 20 Inc will enhance student development through dance instruction, mentoring, field trips, and community service with support from the Transform Lake County grant.

To support the ever changing needs of Lake County, consider a gift to the Lake County Community Fund. You can make that gift by returning the enclosed envelope or by clicking DONATE NOW on our website.
When the Gary-Emerson and Griffith communities were given the 2015 Neighborhood Spotlight Award, one of the first tasks was to find a community builder dedicated to doing the collective impact work. The community builders will work with a local steering committee to interview and build relationships with neighborhood residents, businesses, local government and community groups. The feedback gathered from community participants will help the steering committee develop a neighborhood improvement plan.

Legacy asked the community builders a few questions to get to know each of them a little better.

**Gary-Emerson**

**ELAINE CASTELLANOS (Left)**

What experiences do you have that you think will be helpful to you in this role?

My professional experiences are wide and varying as a result of the different positions held in the public, private and government sectors. I'm a graduate of West Side Senior High School in Gary and attended Indiana University to major in Business Administration.

What is one of your favorite quotes?

"Any great change must expect opposition, because it shakes the very foundation of privilege." ~Lucretia Coffin Mott

**MICHAEL LEWERS (Center)**

Even though you are new on the job, what is one thing you have learned about this experience so far?

Being able to assist and be assertive with others to reach a common, productive goal.

Who would you pick as your mentor?

My mentor would be God. He wrote the book on how mankind should live and get along with others! My Dad and Pastors are not forgotten.

**BRENDA JONES BURCH (Right)**

Did you grow up in NWI?

I was born in Gary, raised in the Ironwood neighborhood, married and currently live in the Tolleston neighborhood, and worship in the Emerson neighborhood.

What appealed to you about working as a Community Builder in Gary Downtown-Emerson?

I've lived in Gary most of my life, and witnessed the unheard voice of its people for many years. Our voices were not being heard; and I wanted to be a part of a paradigm shift. Gary has a different dynamic than most cities or towns in this region and we realized that the call to such an endeavor could not be done effectively with one community builder.

**Griffith**

**KENNETH KARLSTADT**

Did you grow up in NWI?

I have lived in Griffith for over 40 years, but I grew up in Blue Island, IL, a Southern suburb of Chicago, and a railroad town, just like Griffith. My wife is a lifetime Hoosier and our children have grown up here, so we have a strong attachment to Northwest Indiana.

What do you see as the greatest assets of Griffith?

I would have to say that our progressive Town Government, our exceptional volunteer resources and the pervasive positive attitude of our residents are among our greatest assets.

What appealed to you about working as a Community Builder in Griffith?

The key factor for me was the opportunity to give back to my community, and maybe help improve the quality of life for the next few generations.

Even though you are new on the job, what is one thing you have learned about this experience so far?

One thing that stands out is the positive interpersonal dynamics created when good people get together for a great cause, especially one that directly affects their lives and the lives of their families.

What is one of your favorite quotes?

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." ~Calvin Coolidge
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Legacy Foundation is a local source of scholarship funding designed to encourage higher education achievement. Last school year we awarded 173 students with over $800,000 in new and renewable scholarships. Right now there are 16 different scholarships with deadlines on April 15!

» Barbara Miller Meeker Art Scholarship
» Bill and Sue Modrak Scholarship
» Dr. John Maniotes Memorial Scholarship
» Good Teachers Count Scholarship
» Hanover Central High School Scholarship
» Lake County Fish and Game Scholarship
» Legends Scholarship
» Norah Salt Scholarship
» Patrick Lindsey Memorial Scholarship
» Philippine Professionals Association Scholarship
» Primich Family Scholarship
» Robert E. Rainsberger Scholarship
» Robert E. Rainsberger Scholarship Purdue Northwest
» Roger Begnoche Scholarship
» W. James Spicer Scholarship

Check eligibility and apply for these and other scholarships at www.legacyfdn.org/scholarships.

Pictured: Kevin Deal, 2015 recipient of the Good Teachers Count Scholarship with Legacy Foundation President, Carolyn Saxton and Legacy Board Members Margot Clark and Janet Moran