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MACON COUNTY

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

The Community Foundation OF MACON COUNTY

Help Our Community Thrive Through

G1VE365

Together, we can make our community stronger through the G1VE365 Giving Circle.

This new giving program was launched Feb. 14, sponsored by The Community Foundation of Macon County. Its purpose is to encourage community members to engage in making a positive difference for the Macon County area by giving \$1 a day for one year.

Each dollar given through G1VE365 is pooled with all funds donated to the program. The collected funds will be distributed to worthy nonprofit organizations through community grants, with each donor having the opportunity to evaluate the nonprofit finalists and to help make the grant-funding decisions by voting for their top choice.

"It's a collaborative movement," says Chasity Casey, finance and foundation services associate. "G1VE365 members are creating a collective fund that has a powerful and positive effect on our community."

Individual members of any age may join G1VE365 at any time by giving \$31 monthly for a year or making a one-time donation of \$365. Couples and families may also join for \$365 but will receive only one vote per couple or family during the grant selection process. Member events are held regularly throughout the year. Donations are tax-deductible and may be made by a check sent to The Community Foundation or online through Maconcountygives.org/give-365.

"Our goal is to have 100 community members sign up for G1VE365 in 2020," says Chasity, who is also a member. "There is power in giving \$1 a day when we come together in our giving. Members get to see the efforts that area nonprofits are making to address social issues in our community, and they get to be part of the process of evaluating where these funds should go for the greatest impact."

- Continued on page 4



Building Our Community, One Board Member at a Time

CPA Jené Row signed up for a workshop course and soon found a new purpose.

Today, Jené is still accounting manager of Decatur's MCK CPA & Advisors (formerly May, Cocagne & King, PC). But in her spare time, she's treasurer of the board of directors for God's Shelter of Love (GSOL), a nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter, resources and hope to homeless women and their children.

"We're providing a very needed service for the area," she says. "These are woman who need help to get back on their feet. Often, they are trying to get out of some bad situations that are not any fault of their own, such as abuse. We try to provide a good start for the women who come our way."

How did a workshop course lead to her new role with GSOL?

- Continued on next page

Jené took “Introduction to Board Governance,” sponsored by The Community Foundation of Macon County and taught by Bruce Nims, an active community leader who has extensive experience in board development, business ownership and training.

Bruce launched the course in 2015 and has taught it nearly 30 times, training overall about 200 participants ranging in age from their early 20s up to their 80s. After successfully completing the class, each participant may submit an optional personal profile. The profiles are then compiled in a booklet and shared with all Macon County Legacy members – nonprofit organizations who may be seeking volunteers with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve on their boards. The course is especially suited for professionals in the workforce, since the full day of training is broken into three short sessions held over three days, Bruce says.

“I feel as though I’m helping to make a difference for God’s Shelter of Love and the women who come there seeking help.”

–Jené Row

Bruce sees himself helping people move into board roles as a way of helping to provide effective and diverse community leadership.

“I work with groups of people who want to do something good in the community but may not be quite sure how,” Bruce says. “They want to get a little guidance on being an effective leader. Boards are always looking for new members, and being on a board has a lot of value and can be very interesting and rewarding.”

Bruce notes that individuals like Jené, who have had previous board experience, can bring a valued additional perspective to the course discussions.

“I thought it would come in handy to have the knowledge from the board governance training and to grow a little,” Jené says.

Jené completed the course in spring 2018 and submitted her profile. Not long after that, Ed Bacon, the former executive director of God’s Shelter of Love, read it and contacted her.

“I recruited Jené . . . She was exactly what we were looking for, and I found her because of the class and booklet,” says Ed, who is now executive director of the Northeast Community Fund. “The booklet is a great resource for nonprofit executive directors and boards.”

Jené soon joined the GSOL board of directors and was named treasurer of the board a year later. She was pleased to learn about the good work being done at GSOL and put her accounting skills to good use, ensuring that the financial statements and bookkeeping are complete, accurate and timely.

She also volunteers at the shelter in other roles when she can.

“It felt like a Christian organization I would want to be involved in,” she says. “And it is. I try to use my skills to be of benefit to this nonprofit. It’s a good fit for me.”

The next board governance course will be held in May (see related article for how to sign up or visit www.grithq.org/beabetterboardmember, a website run by Bruce’s promotional partner for the course, Kelly Gagnon). Jené encourages those seeking to help their community to sign up.

“You should not just join a board without knowing what you’re doing,” Bruce says. “We all start our board service as amateurs, plus there’s always something we can do better.”

“It’s been most fulfilling being on the shelter’s board,” Jené says. “I feel as though I’m helping to make a difference for God’s Shelter of Love and the women who come there seeking help. And that’s what’s most important.”



God's Shelter of Love

Opened in 1991, God’s Shelter of Love (GSOL) has grown beyond its original shelter home to include a second home that provides overnight shelter for crisis intervention and a resale shop that helps fund the shelters through its proceeds. According to the organization’s website, “As a mission focused on empowering individuals to be independent members of the community, God’s Shelter of Love requires that all adult women leave the shelter daily to work or seek employment. Individuals are also encouraged to enroll in classes and job-training programs that will lead to certification and employment . . . On average, single adult women stay for three months and women and children stay for six months.”

UPCOMING GOVERNANCE COURSE

May 2020

Thursday, May 14 | 6:30–9 p.m.

Saturday, May 16 | 9:30 a.m.–noon

Monday, May 18 | 6:30–9 p.m.

Course is presented in three parts. To graduate, must attend all three sections.

Cost is \$30. Register at grithq.org/beabetterboardmember



“We are big believers and supporters of Decatur and The Community Foundation helps us express our love for the community and its people. The Community Foundation makes it easy for us to show our thanks for all the good the community has given us. There is no better feeling than giving back to your neighbors.”

- Susan and Mark Avery, standing in front of the Eric Weatherford mural they funded through the Decatur Area Arts Council.

Fulfill your philanthropic goals and create a legacy.

Call us at
429.3000

Maconcountygives.org

The  Community Foundation
OF MACON COUNTY

Jey Owens, recruitment and retention specialist for Decatur Public Schools, feels that her dollar a day donation as a member of GIVE365 makes a difference.

"I feel that my voice matters," says Jey, a graduate of Decatur Public Schools and Millikin University. "And together, our combined voices are going to be used in selecting the organizations to benefit from our donations."

A lifelong Decatur resident, Jey was already aware of the good work being done by the nonprofits in her community, but wasn't sure how to go about supporting them in a tangible way.

"This is something I've been wanting to do, but I just didn't know how," she says. "This is a way to start giving back to our community in a way that builds our philanthropy and makes a difference. As my father used to say, 'Small steps make a long mile.'"

Jey encourages other community members to take that first step with her, noting the convenience of joining GIVE365.

"What I'm really excited about with GIVE365 is the flexibility and convenience of how to give, plus the way it's an attainable goal, especially for young professionals like me," Jey says.

GIVE365 builds upon the Foundation's successful Young Professional Giving Circle program, which distributed nearly \$70,000 in community grants to 18 nonprofit organizations since 2012.

"Inspired, collective giving makes an impact on our members and on grantees - bringing those two together in a meaningful way that creates more intentional philanthropists and builds a greater Macon County," says Natalie Beck, president of The Community Foundation.

GIVE365 is part of The Foundation's NextGen Giving Circle, an umbrella of programs that connects community members with projects to improve the quality of life in our community.



Calendar of Events

JULY

- 1** GIVE365 member voting begins to select 2020 grant theme
- 20** 2020 grant theme announced - social event for GIVE365 members

AUGUST

- 1** Grant applications made available
- 21** Grant application deadline
- 31-Sept. 6** GIVE365 members vote online to select 3 finalists

OCTOBER

- 14-30** GIVE365 members invited to meet/greet/tour events at the 3 nonprofit grant finalists *(exact dates to be scheduled)*

NOVEMBER

- 4-5** GIVE365 members vote online
- 20** Grant award recipients/funding amounts announced live on Byers & Co. at 6:20 a.m.

DECEMBER

- 1** Giving Tuesday grant award ceremonies



NextGen Community Connection member Chasity Casey crowns Queen Debbie at Night to Shine Feb. 7 at GT Church. NextGen members volunteered at Night to Shine, an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs.



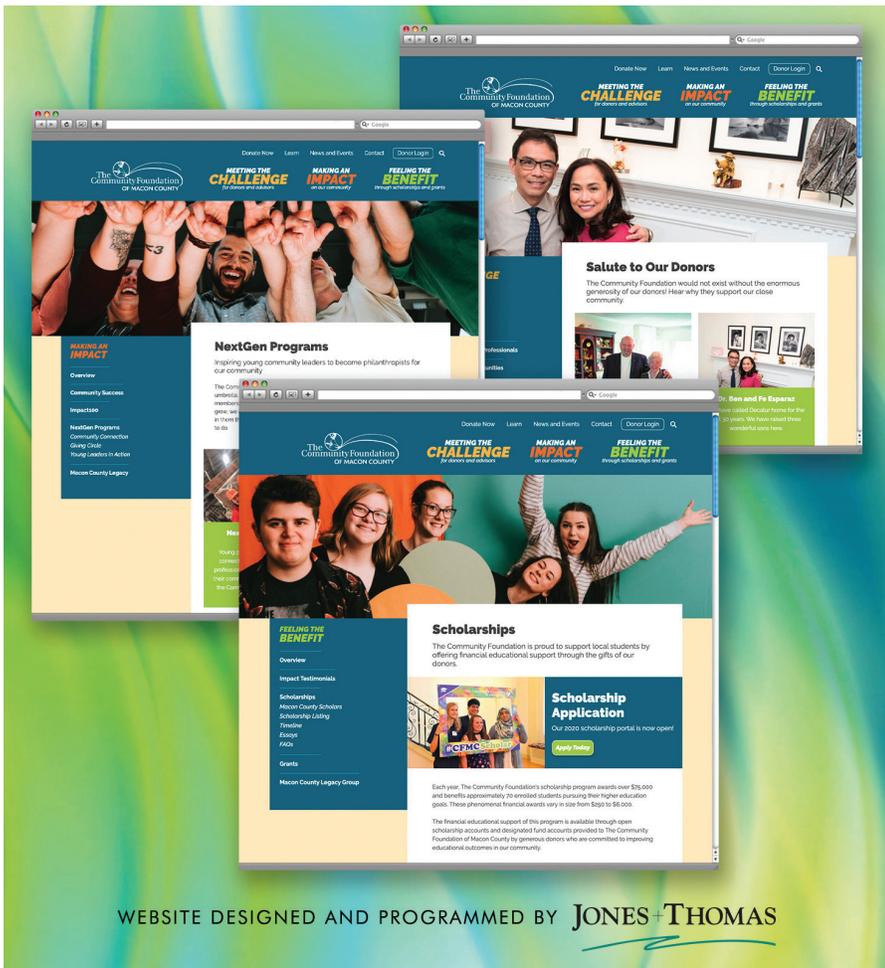
NextGen Community Connection members participated in a Caterpillar facility tour hosted by Caterpillar's YP Group. NextGen Community Connection is a free club for young professionals who want to connect with peers, elevate their professional image and give back to their community. To learn more about joining NextGen Community Connection, visit Maconcountygives.org or call Chasity Casey at 429-3000.

New Website Launched

You'll love it! You're encouraged to check out The Foundation's new website, Maconcountygives.org.

Designed by Jones + Thomas, the new website features a modern design that's easy to navigate and mobile friendly. It's where you'll find information directly connecting our community with our mission, including features about donors and the impact of their contributions.

The new website also allows visitors to view and apply for scholarships, to donate to specific funds and to access a secure donor portal for viewing fund balances, making gifts and requesting grants. The website will be updated regularly, so stop by often for news about donor and foundation activities, grant opportunities, resources for nonprofit and professional advisors, and much more.



WEBSITE DESIGNED AND PROGRAMMED BY **JONES+THOMAS**

Coffee with The Community Foundation

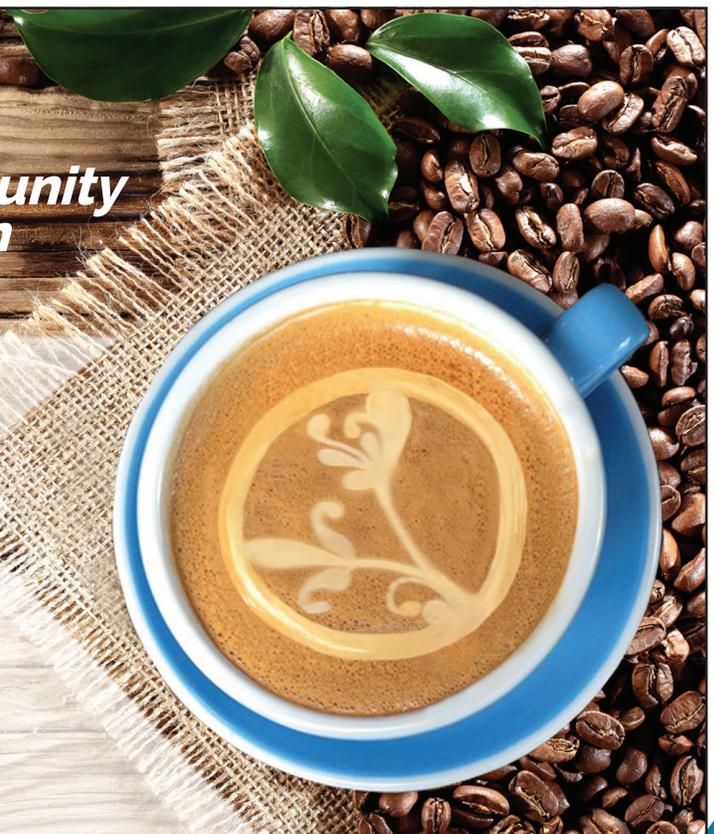
Please join The Community Foundation of Macon County staff for an informal gathering:

- Receive up-to-date statistics about your fund
- Gain tips for utilizing the donor portal
- Learn about various community needs
- Meet other donors
- Enjoy coffee and a continental breakfast

Friday, March 20
from 9-10 a.m.

101 South Main Street | Suite 400 | Decatur, IL 62523

Contact Missy Batman at mbatman@Maconcountygives.org to reserve your spot at an upcoming coffee!





MEMORIAL GIFTS

Dec. 1, 2019 – Feb. 29, 2020

In Honor of...

- ADM Finance Team
- Cancer Care Specialists of Illinois
- Dr. Ben Esparaz
- Enzo and Freda June
- Joe Kimerle
- Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wagner
- Shih Family
- Tom Miller

In Memory of...

- B.J. Carr
- Barry K. Mell
- Bernie Borene
- Charlene Moore
- Clarence W. Haney
- Clyde Randolph Reynolds
- David L. Doom
- Don Minton
- E. Pauline Batman
- Everett C. Bradford
- Florence G. Cahan
- Frank Stanick
- Gary L. Hein
- Harold and Mary Bell
- Janann Burrus
- Jay Poling
- Jerry L. Fyke
- Kenneth Moser
- Linda B. Orr
- Lindsay Marie Sparks
- Malcolm Carnahan
- Mary A. Drake
- Meredith McMinn
- Mildred Flottmann
- Nancy Rauscheck
- Peggy Madden
- Richard E. Schroeder Jr.
- Richard Phillips
- Richard T. Casteel Jr.
- Robert J. Stearns
- Robert L "Bob" Kissel
- Ronald G. Aubert
- Ruth A. Hauenstein
- Terry J. Smith

... THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS ...



YLIA members attended a VIP tour of Tate & Lyle with a special presentation provided by Julie Staley on Feb. 9.



Young Leaders in Action visited with and served an early lunch to patrons at The Oasis Day Center. This impact day was planned and executed by YLIA members Allie Schelling of Maroa-Forsyth High School and Morgan Bohm of Argenta-Oreana High School. Together, they scheduled the event, recruited volunteers and ensured they had proper materials to serve those in attendance.

Thanks to You

Throughout 2020, we are marking the 20th anniversary of The Community Foundation of Macon County by extending a special and heartfelt thanks to the generous people who make up our Community Foundation family.

It is our honor to be a partner and facilitator with our many donors, helping them give to the causes they care about most deeply. Today, there are over 315 funds at The Community Foundation. Collectively since 2000, The Community Foundation's funds have given over \$30 million to organizations throughout our community and the United States.

Behind those numbers are stories of people who bring tremendous passion to their giving, leveraging their creativity and strategic thinking to help organizations deepen their impact.

With two decades of working side-by-side with citizens and organizations in Macon County, we've brought the community together in more ways than ever to empower some wonderful programs and projects. Serving our community is a responsibility we do not take lightly, as it is built on the shoulders of local people who want to make a difference. Our generous donors, devoted staff and our board of directors are truly a dedicated group of people passionate about the future of our community.

We invite you to join us!

\$42 MILLION total ASSETS

Years of INSPIRING GENEROSITY 20 

Over \$3.8 MILLION GIVEN in GRANTS to 399 Organizations in 2019 

Impact100 AWARDED \$100,000 to 11 Area Nonprofits Supporting Educational Programs

YOUNG LEADERS IN ACTION Launched with Participants from all 11 MACON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS 

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Become A Wish Granter

Boys & Girls Club of Decatur youth enjoy new sports equipment after the organization listed items on our community wish list and their wish was granted!

If you'd like to make a difference but you're not sure how or where you want to donate, consider funding one or more items from our Community Wish List. Each quarter we survey area nonprofits to find out their specific wishes.



Visit
maconcountygives.org/community-wish-list