The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) awarded 79 grants in the fall 2017 grant cycle in support of charitable projects, programs, and events operated by nonprofit organizations in the region. CFNIL committed up to $1,948,320* over the next three years. This grant cycle continues a six-and-a-half decade old tradition of investing in Northern Illinois.

Every grant awarded in the cycle was made through the generosity of our donors—individuals, families, and organizations committed to improving our region’s quality of life. Their endowed gifts will continue to strengthen our region for generations. That’s the power of endowment.

Education has always been a priority for CFNIL. Historically more than a quarter of our grantmaking has supported educational purposes. In 2012, a bequest from Dr. Louis and Violet Rubin significantly increased CFNIL’s grantmaking capacity, enabling CFNIL to launch Education Works, a grantmaking strategy that invests in complementary education programs, career pathways, and the regional education system so that it continually develops healthy and productive citizens.

In this grant cycle, CFNIL awarded a three-year, $675,000 grant to Rock Valley College for its Linking Talent with Opportunity project, which aims to change the design and delivery of career education in the region. Rock Valley College is partnering with Highland Community College in Freeport and school districts at all points in between to ensure that high school graduates are ready to learn and earn, no matter their career or educational path. The project’s reach goes beyond students. In an op-ed, the editorial board of the *Rockford Register Star* wrote that “the program creates an economic development tool for the region that should provide a competitive edge as leaders look to grow the local economy.” (There’s more about Linking Talent with Opportunity on page eight of this document.)

Each grant awarded in this cycle was reviewed by volunteers who assessed the proposed plan, budget, the anticipated outcomes, and community need. To learn more about how CFNIL makes grants or volunteer as a grant viewer, visit [www.cfnil.org/grants](http://www.cfnil.org/grants). To learn how to support our grantmaking, visit [www.cfnil.org/endowment](http://www.cfnil.org/endowment).

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* Includes multi-year grants. Recipients of multi-year grants must demonstrate progress toward their anticipated results in order to receive funding for subsequent years.

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ARTS & HUMANITIES | 19 grants for $128,994

**Artists' Ensemble Theater**

*AE Summer Players*

Artists' Ensemble Theater will form a performance troupe of five to eight committed teens who will offer free performances for underserved and underprivileged community groups. The troupe, under the guidance of the Artists’ Ensemble’s professional staff, will train, rehearse, and perform in summer 2018. The program is free for students, who will receive professional training and performance experience.

$3,000 | Supported by the Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

**Artists' Ensemble Theater**

*Best of Enemies*

Based on the bestselling book by Osha Gray Davidson, this new play tells the true story about the relationship between C.P. Ellis, a Grand Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan, and Ann Atwater, an African-American civil rights activist, during the desegregation of schools in Durham, North Carolina in 1971. “Best of Enemies” exposes the poison of prejudice in the hearts of Atwater and Ellis who, by facing each other, are forced to face the worst and best in themselves. Performances will take place at the Cheek Theater at Rockford University in March 2018.

$2,500 | Supported by the Rod MacDonald Memorial Theatre Endowment Fund

**Crossroads Blues Society**

*Crossroads Blues Festival*

The eighth annual Crossroads Blues Festival will be held on August 25, 2018 at Lyran Park in Rockford in front of an anticipated 3,000 attendees. There will be performances by regional and national touring acts and free music workshops for kids between concerts. Proceeds from the Crossroads Blues Festival will support Blues in the Schools (BITS), a music education program conducted by the Crossroads Blues Society that teaches local students about the fundamentals and history of the blues. BITS has reached 58,000 students since its inception in 2002.

$2,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**Ethnic Heritage Museum**

*Relocation of Flag Garden & Restoration & Relocation of Gazebo*

The Ethnic Heritage Museum will establish Heritage Museum Park, connecting its existing museum with the recently-purchased Graham-Ginestra Home. Between the two sites, the Ethnic Heritage Museum will create an outdoor space for community events such as concerts, festivals, weddings, and family celebrations. To establish the park, the museum will relocate the gazebo and flag garden to a central point on the property. The gazebo will be refurbished and the area will be landscaped.

$26,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center**

*Summer Arts Enrichment at Patriots Gateway Community Center 2018*

In summer 2018, Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center will expand the arts experience for students at the Patriots Gateway Community Center by offering classes in music and movement and the visual arts. Each student will receive eight days of group lessons over two weeks, divided between the two subjects. Lessons will be given by experienced art teachers.

$2,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund
Midway Village Museum will host the Victorian Holiday Celebration in December 2017. Families will travel back in time and experience holiday traditions as they were practiced in the 1800s when they join in the Fezziwig Ball, ride a horse-drawn sleigh, or meet with Father Christmas. This event explores the origins behind many of our holiday traditions and even features some that are no longer practiced. The event encourages families to spend time together, learn about the past, explore various cultures and traditions, and foster intergenerational conversations about the holidays.

$1,850 | Supported by the Jon W. Lundin Historic Preservation Fund

Our City, Our Story tells stories that provide more opportunities for connection, compassion, and new, unexpected perspectives. The complex and dignified stories of Rockfordians are important to tell because the city is often portrayed through a narrative of violence and economic tragedy. Our City, Our Story Live expands on the existing video series and will combine screening of videos with live storytelling.

$7,800 | Supported by the Jon W. Lundin Historic Preservation Fund

RAAC Arts Camp for Young Creatives is a three-week summer arts program for children at Ellis School in Rockford. The school is equipped with dance studios, art studios, music rooms, and a theater with lighting and sound equipment. The camp is taught by area artists and arts educators. Campers select three classes from art, chorus, creative writing, dance, guitar, rap, theater, or video. On the final day, parents and friends attend a live performance and art exhibit.

$15,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

The Laura and John Fraser Collection is a recent and major gift to Rockford Art Museum. The Fraser Collection is a compilation of 122 contemporary pieces by an international roster of 57 artists, including several from the region. The collection will be on display from February 9 to May 28, 2018 and will run concurrently with the 77th Young Artist Show.

$3,500 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

This project is a collaboration between City of Rockford Human Services Department, Head Start and the Music Academy in Rockford that will give low-income children and families in Winnebago County the opportunity to learn about music in a formal setting. The children will experience the academic benefits of music education, including gains in literacy and numeracy. The Music Academy will provide a half-hour of age-appropriate music activities in each Head Start classroom on a monthly basis and four events at Early Head Start.

$4,615 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

For 32 years the Rockford Park District has hosted the Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition at Sinnissippi Park. The event provides the opportunity for area artists to create unique, public works of art. In the past, lack of snow has resulted in cancellations and postponements. Last year, the Rockford Park District purchased snow-making machines, making the event possible despite the lack of snow. However, the addition of the snow makers requires additional labor.

$8,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund
Rockford Symphony Orchestra, Inc.

Leonard Bernstein at 100 Festival

In April of 2018, the Rockford Symphony Orchestra (RSO) will lead a festival called Leonard Bernstein at 100, showcasing the American-born and American-trained conductor, composer, pianist, educator, and advocate for the arts who was born August 25, 1918. In partnership with other arts and educational institutions in Northern Illinois, the RSO will curate a collection of Bernstein's work in cooperation with the Leonard Bernstein Foundation in New York City.

$12,000 | Supported by the Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, IL

Sister Cities Summer Youth Exchange Program

The Sister Cities Association of Belvidere's Summer Youth Exchange Program will allow local students to visit Vaux-le-Penil, France and Schwieberdingen, Germany, while giving youth from the sister cities an opportunity to explore Belvidere. The program aims to form friendships between residents of the cities, celebrate diversity, and foster peace and understanding across borders.

$2,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

Stephenson County Historical Society

Scanning Project 2018

The Freeport Public Library (FPL) will digitize its collection of more than 3,000 slides, which are deteriorating in their present storage units. One is a collection of FPL images from the 1990s, the second collection contains candid photos of the downtown and residential areas of Freeport from the early 1980s, and the third includes slides of older photographs of Freeport landmarks from the early 20th century. All photographs will be digitized, cataloged, and stored at the Stephenson County Historical Society.

$3,096.66 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc.

The Art of Recovery - Fall Art Scene 2018

Stepping Stones of Rockford’s Stars of Light Theatre Troupe will host a series of Visiting Artist Workshops in preparation for The Art of Recovery gallery presented during Fall Art Scene in October 2018. Workshops will be open to persons living with mental illness who would like to participate in the gallery show. The gallery will spotlight the importance of artistic expression in recovery from mental illness, reducing the stigma that sometimes surrounds it.

$6,600 | Supported by the Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

The Music Academy in Rockford

A Collaborating Community

A Collaborating Community is a year-long, many-faceted project culminating in an intergenerational orchestral performance at the Sinnissippi Band Shell in July 2018. The Music Academy will commission five new compositions and arrangements, serving a wide range of musicianship. The Music Academy is working with Rock Valley College and the Rockford Park District to find participants, attract attendees, and host the concert.

$9,532 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund
**ARTS & HUMANITIES | 19 grants for $128,994**

**The Storytelling Trust: farrago vitae**

*The Jesus Cage*

The Storytelling Trust: farrago vitae will complete three related projects about the lives of cloistered nuns in Rockford: distributing the documentary “Chosen (Custody of the Eyes)” about the Corpus Christi Monastery of the Poor Clares in Rockford; finalizing the ethnographic film “The Jesus Cage” about monastic life; and creating a digital archive of stories about the nuns from the community’s perspective. These projects will allow unique access to the nuns’ lives, while conveying how locals have been impacted by their presence.

$15,000  |  Supported by the Community Grants Fund

**The West Side Show Room**

*Rockford New Play Festival 2018*

In its fourth year, the Rockford New Play Festival will present six new ten-minute plays by playwrights from Rockford and around the world. Official selections will be chosen from hundreds of entries and will be performed by professional local actors. The performances will be free and open to the public.

$2,500  |  Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**Village of Mt. Morris**

*Mt. Morris Jamboree*

The Mt. Morris Jamboree presents free concerts to the public in the historic band shell every Friday night throughout the summer. A different band plays every week and a different local charitable organization will raise funds through concession sales at each show. A new art gallery located next to the band shell will present shows throughout the summer.

$2,000  |  Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**EDUCATION WORKS CAREER PATHWAYS | 9 grants for $282,521**

**Forrestville Valley Community Unit School District #221**

*Forreston High School Engineering Pathway*

Forreston High School will purchase curricular supplies and equipment to implement an engineering pathway for students. Five courses will be implemented over three years, including a comprehensive program that equips students with the skills to meet workforce needs in our region. The program will increase the academic rigor of the high school’s math and science offerings.

$30,000 for the first year  |  $11,000 for the second year  |  $28,000 for the third year  |  Supported by the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund

**Kids Around The World, Inc.**

*Youth Career Development - Welding*

Kids Around the World, Inc., in partnership with the Workforce Connection and Comprehensive Community Services Inc./YouthBuild Rockford, will establish a welding career pathway to help students who have dropped out of high school obtain employable job skills and self-sufficiency.

$44,151  |  Supported by the Barber-Colman Management Fund

**Kinninkinnick Community Consolidated School District #131**

*Promoting Awareness and Interest in STEM-Related Careers*

Seventy-five percent of the fastest-growing occupations in the U.S. workforce require significant mathematics or science skills. This program will increase student awareness of STEM careers by providing them with the tools necessary to acquire STEM-related skills through hands-on inquiry-based learning. The school district will purchase iPads and accessories, as well as STEM-related software.

$15,000  |  Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
**Rockford Area Arts Council**

*ArtsPlace*

ArtsPlace is a job-training program that teaches essential skills to teens while they learn an artistic discipline. Apprentices choose an area of artistic study—such as print-making, theater, video, or dance—and receive eight weeks of rigorous training from a professional artist. Apprentices act as entrepreneurs, envisioning a product, developing budgets, securing supplies, marketing and selling the product, and creating a formal process of continuous improvement. Proceeds earned from art and ticket sales are used as stipends for the apprentices. ArtsPlace caters to the needs of “at-risk” youth and is free to participants.

$15,000 | Supported by the Ralph A. & Mildred Johnson Fund

**University of Illinois College of Pharmacy at Rockford**

*Recruiting Top Talent to Pharmacy*

The University of Illinois College of Pharmacy at Rockford (UICPR) provides highly skilled, well-trained pharmacists to the surrounding community and beyond. During the next three summers, UICPR will host High School Summer Pharmacy Camps and a Summer Pharmacy Institutes, which will provide pathways for local students to pursue pharmacy in Rockford. The events’ goal is to recruit the best and brightest students into the profession.

$12,080 for the first year | $13,320 for the second | $13,470 for the third - Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**University of Illinois Extension of Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties**

*Engaging Youth with Robotics*

Students in the 4-H program will develop skills in conceptualizing, designing, building, programming, and testing robots that will perform in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Beyond acquiring STEM skills, participants will develop ancillary skills in team building, public speaking, leadership, teaching, and networking. The 4-H students will mentor a younger robotics team and will use parliamentary procedure to run meetings and make decisions about expenses, fundraising, and activities.

$10,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**University of Illinois Extension of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties**

*4-H Community Tech Wizards Program*

The 4-H Community Tech Wizards program is a STEM program that engages youth ages 11-15 in hands-on STEM activities during after-school programs, community center programs, and community events. Youth learn about robotics, aerospace, wind and solar energy, GPS systems, digital video, photography, and 3D printing with activities that challenge them to creatively solve issues through technology. This program will connect youth to community leaders and employers through site visits, presentations, college tours, and half-day internships.

$30,000 for the first year | $25,000 for the second year | $15,000 for the third year - Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**YMCA of Rock River Valley**

*Black & Hispanic Achievers College Exploration Tour*

The YMCA of Rock River Valley will provide a spring break college tour trip for high school students who are members of its Achievers and Project 505 groups. On the trip, teens will travel to colleges and universities in the southern U.S. The trip will allow local students, many of whom are first-generation college attendees, to explore various schools and fields of study. The students will be able to meet with the colleges’ staff and students during the trip.

$15,500 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
YMCA Intern Challenge

The YMCA Intern Challenge is a program that provides area high school and college students with out-of-classroom experiences to prepare them for success in school and in future careers. During the team-based competition, students will work with a number of local organizations to complete projects that address community needs. Students will earn a stipend during the program while competing for scholarships and a paid internship with a local organization of their choosing.

$5,000 | Supported by the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

PowerScholars Academy™

The Belvidere Family YMCA and the North Boone School District will offer the PowerScholars Academy™ for students attending the extended school year program. The goal of this pilot program is to increase students' academic success while engaging families in the education process. The summer learning program is designed to address summer learning loss for children living in low-income households or under-resourced areas. PowerScholars Academy™ will enhance youth development, academic performance, and graduation rates in the community.

$15,000 | Supported by the Vera Maureen Fisher Fund

Success Through Targeted Outreach

The Boys and Girls Club of Rockford is partnering with Rockford public high schools on its Success Through Targeted Outreach program, which works to prevent substance abuse, violence, and pregnancy. The program will assist 120 at-risk minority males throughout high school to develop and follow a path to reach their education and career goals. The program will address behavior, academic success, and attendance and will include pre- and post-tests in order to evaluate student and program success.

$50,000 for the first year | $50,000 for the second | $50,000 for the third - Supported by the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

STEM Learning Opportunities in District 205

The program will be delivered to nine after-school programs in Rockford Public Schools. The Discovery Center will deliver hands-on interactive STEM activities twice monthly and host a school-wide STEM Family Night at each school. All of the students in the after-school program will come to the Discovery Center on a STEM-focused field trip.

$33,971 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Foundations for Success

This program is geared specifically to junior high students and is designed to give them the skills necessary to thrive in high school, college, and the working world. Foundations for Success concentrates on improving behaviors that lead to success, teaching study habits, conflict resolution strategies, job hunting skills, and basic personal finances.

$20,000 | Supported by the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund

Lady All Stars Mentoring Program

KFACT will provide direct services to girls in the Lady All Stars mentoring program. The program enhances the development of young girls, exposes them to the benefits of post-secondary education, and assists with developing and implementing individual life plans through mentoring and enrichment activities.

$50,000 for the first year | $35,000 for the second - Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
Severson Dells Nature Center

Environmental Education for Northern Illinois

Severson Dells provides environmental education to numerous students across the region. It will provide scholarships to increase availability of programs to underserved schools and will purchase new science equipment to be used by students on field trips. The goal is to increase science literacy across the region and improve appreciation and understanding of the amazing habitats and wildlife in our area.

$15,000 | Supported by the Meryle A. Stockhus Fund

United Way of Rock River Valley

I READ

I READ is a reading intervention program that matches volunteer mentors with selected kindergarten through 3rd grade students in four local public school districts. The goal is for volunteers to help students become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade by supporting students in phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension. Volunteers commit to working with the same child for four years and meet with them once a week during the school year. Currently, 350 students between kindergarten and third grade are served by I READ.

$22,000 | Supported by the Bengt & Mary Kuller Fund

Rock Valley College

Linking Talent with Opportunity

Linking Talent with Opportunity (LTO) is a regional, collaborative initiative led by Rock Valley College in partnership with Highland Community College to align career and technical education with local employment opportunities in high priority occupations. Over a three-year period, the community colleges will design and implement career education pathways based on a stackable credential model and increase collaboration with regional K-12 school districts. K-12 partners will design and deliver more preparatory coursework and dual credit classes as ‘on ramps’ to the community college pathways. Stackable credentials will offer students choice, flexibility, shorter paths to employment, and lower costs. The combination of stackable credentials and alignment with high priority occupations will make the regional education system more adaptive to continually changing employment opportunities, increase the regional talent pool, and support economic vitality.

$225,000 for the first year | $225,000 for the second | $225,000 for the third - Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

A Silver Lining Foundation

Buy A Mom A Mammogram

A Silver Lining Foundation's (ASLF) Buy A Mom A Mammogram® (BAMAM) program eliminates cost as a barrier to breast health services by providing funding to hospitals to support the delivery of free screening mammograms, diagnostic evaluation, and follow-up testing when necessary. BAMAM is committed to providing access to the highest-quality of care for patients and ensures that medically underserved women receive the same health services available to insured patients.

$15,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Family Counseling Services of Northern Illinois

Healthy Lives Build Healthy Communities

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, adults in the U.S. living with a serious mental illness die 25 years earlier than the national average and students with a mental health condition drop out of school at the highest rate of any disability group. Family Counseling Services of Northern Illinois will subsidize the cost of mental health services for low-income individuals and families, helping them restore their mental and physical health.

$20,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
HEALTH | 8 grants for $116,839

**Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center**

*Facing the Challenge Networking*

In 2015, the Home of Hope established the Facing the Challenge Networking group in Oregon, Illinois to increase accessibility to Home of Hope services for those living in Ogle County. The monthly support session offers psychosocial oncology services, including education, support, and wellness topics. Services are free of charge.

$1,100 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**NAMI Northern Illinois**

*Training Instructors and Group Leaders*

NAMI Illinois will train 12 local volunteers to become group leaders who will conduct meetings that will provide people living with mental illness and their caregivers a forum to talk constructively about their experiences with mental health. Applicants in the training program are rigorously screened. Training is also provided for NAMI’s Spanish language course, Familia a Familia.

$4,420 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

*Winnebago Medical Legal Partnership*

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. will expand the Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) established with Crusader Community Health. MLP improves the health and stability of low-income and homeless individuals through early legal intervention. In the coming year, Prairie State and Crusader will continue to provide civil-legal services focused on addressing the social determinants of health and by exploring options to expand the partnership to include additional community organizations.

$33,258 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Rockford University**

*Lyme Ecology in Northern Illinois: From Voles to Birds to Humans*

Since 2010, cases of Lyme disease have doubled in Illinois, which far outpaces the national average. More information on the life cycle of the causative agent is needed to determine what is causing the higher prevalence in the region. Specifically, the study seeks to discover the prevalence of the agent in rodents and birds. The data will be the first of its type worldwide and will be critical in understanding Lyme epizootic cycles.

$7,000 for the first year | $7,000 for the second - Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Saint Anthony College of Nursing**

*Baseline Concussion Testing*

Research indicates that the impact of a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and concussion on student athletes impairs their academic learning, social, and emotional functioning. This project will establish concussion baseline testing in all high school athletes who participate in contact sports in Rockford Public Schools. Baseline testing will allow the athletic trainers to accurately assess concussions, treat the injured athletes, and evaluate their readiness to return to play.

$25,515 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**YMCA of Rock River Valley**

*YMCA Physical Education for Lydia Urban Academy*

Lydia Urban Academy is a non-traditional Christian high school that serves 20 at-risk students in Rockford. The school is unable to offer physical education, so it is partnering with the YMCA of Rock River Valley to provide students with physical education. Lydia students will visit the I.D. Pennock Family YMCA twice weekly for various sports and group exercise classes.

$3,546 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
HUMAN SERVICES | 14 grants for $144,834

Barbara Olson Center of Hope
Small Van for Super Shredders and Hope Industries
Barbara Olson's Center of Hope Super Shredder program provides shredding services for clients and jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities. It will purchase a minivan for smaller jobs that do not require the Super Shredders' current box truck. The minivan will reduce costs on a per trip basis and increase the capacity for adding more jobs.
$15,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry
Pantry Walk-In Storage Cooler
The Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry will purchase a walk-in cooler, allowing for increased storage of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy. The pantry serves more than 1,000 individuals per month. The cooler will ensure nutritious fresh foods are available every time they visit.
$12,719 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Circle of Change
Veterans Dog Program
The program seeks to improve the quality of life for veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other psychological trauma. The program serves veterans by having them train dogs. Sessions are conducted by professional trainers who provide “troubled” dogs that exhibit similar symptoms to the veterans, such as anxiety, fearfulness, isolation, lack of trust, touch, and noise sensitivities. Classes focus on the dogs’ problems, engaging veterans as trainers and teaching them how to take responsibility for a dog’s well-being and behavior. The veterans and dogs will develop a mutually-healing bond.
$13,574 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Cornucopia Food Pantry
Computerizing the Pantry Information
The Cornucopia Food Pantry is moving from its current card and paper format to a computer system to record and maintain recipient records. The change is a best practice in the field and is required by the Northern Illinois Food Bank for its affiliated pantries.
$2,250 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
Outreach and Community Education on Worker’s Rights and Human Labor Trafficking
The Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project will help approximately 10,000 low-income immigrant laborers throughout the region understand their workplace rights, learn about the dangers of human labor trafficking, and offer pro bono legal assistance for those with workplace complaints through 12 free bilingual workshops. The project is a partnership with the Mexican Consulate Mobile office.
$6,000 | Supported by the Community Grants Fund

Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois
Scaling Up the Rockford Area Case Management Initiative
Rockford Area Case Management Initiative will scale up the implementation of the comprehensive case management system and community of practice for human service agencies, creating a radical systemic change. This initiative is helping our community move from hundreds of practitioners working in silos to a continuum of care, where agencies work together using the same language, philosophy, and best practices. This continuum of care provides case managers outcome-based referral practices that will move the needle on community outcomes.
$14,700 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
HUMAN SERVICES | 14 grants for $144,834

**Milestone, Inc.**
*Communication Upgrade Project*

Two-way radios are the primary means of communication among the staff in the six buildings on RocVale’s campus. These radios allow staff to communicate on an immediate and ongoing basis. The current system is old and unreliable. This project would replace the current system with state-of-the-art communication devices.

$6,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Northern Illinois Food Bank**
*Milk2MyPlate*

Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Milk2MyPlate program serves Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. In these three counties, 11 food pantries provide a total of 825 gallons of fresh milk each week. Approximately 2,400 people will benefit from drinking fresh, nutritious milk.

$10,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Remedies Renewing Lives**
*Community Room Furniture for the Domestic Violence Shelter*

Remedies Renewing Lives will replace the worn out furniture in the Community Day Room in the Domestic Violence Shelter and add multi-purpose and durable coffee tables and rocking chairs.

$7,872 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Rock River Valley Pantry, Inc.**
*Nutritious Food for Families*

The Rock River Valley Pantry (RRVP) assists more than 6,500 individuals every month with nutritious food that meets the nutritional and caloric needs of the individuals in the household. Vegetables are the food group that most needs to be consumed by all groups. RRVP will provide vegetables, canned and frozen, for six months.

$5,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Senior Resource Center**
*Information and Assistance*

The Senior Resource Center's Information and Assistance Program provides valuable resources for seniors, disabled adults, families, and caregivers. Through the program, clients receive counseling services from trained program staff. The staff present information on health assistance and insurance programs, assist seniors with the completion of benefit application forms, provide information on housing options, serve as advocates for senior citizens, and link clients to additional community resources.

$23,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Shelter Care Ministries**
*Caring For and About People With Mental Illness*

The Jubilee Center provides a safe, supportive environment for adults with serious and persistent mental illness who are living in poverty. Shelter Care will pay for additional case management, class offerings, and supportive services that will help clients obtain housing and lead to mental and physical stability.

$15,000 | Supported by the Armer F. Ahlstrand Fund

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**
*Grace Meal*

Members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pearl City prepare and serve a community meal on the third Sunday of every month. The meal takes place at the church and is free of charge. Meals are delivered to the home-bound in the area by volunteer drivers.

$3,500 | Supported by the Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund
**HUMAN SERVICES | 14 grants for $144,834**

**The Salvation Army of Rockford**
**Walk-In Freezer Installation**
The Salvation Army will install a walk-in freezer to double the cold food storage capacity at the Social Services Center, increasing the access and the variety of cold food items available to the approximately 3,900 clients who will receive food pantry orders over the next year.

$10,220 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES | 9 grants for $143,156**

**Forest Preserves of Winnebago County**
**Nature Fiesta: A Bilingual Nature Celebration of Local Nature**
Nature Fiesta is a multicultural, bilingual public event that will connect and educate families and individuals with nature. Guided hikes, games, and crafts will help teach about birds, wildflowers, butterflies, rivers, and other topics that can be explored in parks and natural areas throughout the summer. Guides and activity leaders will include Spanish-speaking educators and volunteers. There is no cost to participate.

$1,800 | Supported by the Meryle A. Stockhus Fund

**Habitat for Humanity of Boone County**
**2018 Habitat for Humanity Home Build**
The 2018 Home Build Project involves the construction of a new home in Boone County for a deserving family who will be selected prior to construction. A suitable lot for the construction has already been acquired and construction will begin in March of 2018.

$15,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County**
**2018 Rochelle New Home Build & 2018 Polo Rehab Project**
The Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County will build a new home in Rochelle and rehab another in Polo. This grant will purchase construction materials and other costs for both projects. The Habitat for Humanity model reinvests homeowner mortgage payments to fund the building of more homes to house more families.

$12,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden**
**Interpretive Sign for Oak Grove Restoration**
The project involves researching, writing, designing, and producing a unique sign that will interpret the restored oak woodland habitat. Since the initial clearing, work has been ongoing to control re-sprouting of unwanted species and encourage desirable plants, like oak seedlings, to flourish. The sign would orient visitors and describe the environmental benefit of the habitat.

$6,500 | Supported by the Dr. Courtney J. and Margaret Hutchins Hamlin Family Fund

**Natural Land Institute**
**Family Nature Day**
Family Nature Day is a family-friendly, hands-on learning event that will be held at Nygren Wetland Preserve on Saturday, June 26, 2018. There will be 12 learning stations scattered throughout the preserve, covering topics related to ecosystems, creatures, and conservation. Kids will be given a passport to get stamped at the various stations and will earn a Nygren Wetland Junior Naturalist Badge and certificate with six or more stamps. The event is free and open to the public.

$2,500 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES | 9 grants for $143,156**

**NW HomeStart**
*Regional Housing Resources Project*
HomeStart will organize discussions around available housing resources in Boone, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties and will produce a printed brochure and website for each county. HomeStart has already accomplished this in Winnebago County, hosting a monthly meeting with partners to share resources and advocate for future plans.

$15,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**
*A Foundation of Opportunity*
Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity will construct its fifth home of the year, starting in fall 2018. The partner family will take home-buyer education courses and will help construct their home alongside dozens of volunteers, including students from Guilford High School. Upon completion, RAHFH will sell the home to the family for a no-interest, affordable mortgage uniquely tailored to their income.

$53,356 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Rockford Park District**
*Expanding the Usability of the Rock River Recreation Path: Part 3*
Over the past few years, the Rockford Park District has improved lighting along the Rock River Recreation Path. The improvements have expanded the hours in which people are using the path by improving lighting and visibility and increasing the feeling of safety in the area. The forty-year-old lights have been replaced with improved LED lighting. The Rockford Park District will replace 15 additional lights and poles, completing the project on the most heavily used portion of the path.

$25,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Shelter Care Ministries**
*Providing Permanent Housing for People with Disabilities*
Shelter Care will help 12 families with a disabled head of household to maintain housing and provide supportive services such as transportation, education assistance, and advocacy on behalf of both parents and children. Shelter Care will assign a trained case manager to each participating family.

$12,000 | Supported by the Norris A. & Margaret K. Aldeen Fund

**YOUTH & FAMILIES | 12 grants for $116,005**

**African-American Resource Center at Booker**
*Build A Child*
This pilot project is for children who are not benefiting from educational and community resources because they are unable to regulate their behavior. These children find school-based and complementary education programs difficult to navigate, yet they are at highest risk for getting in serious trouble. Build A Child is a pull-out program from Booker’s after-school program that builds on the strengths of each child to help them learn self-awareness, civility, self-regulation, and the importance of social skills.

$8,745 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scouts of America**
*ScoutReach, At-Risk Youth Program*
The Blackhawk Area Council’s ScoutReach program is a site-based, after-school program for at-risk youth. The youth in this program will learn life skills and the values of Scouting in a safe, positively-led environment. All adult staff are trained to serve as program aides and positive role models for the participating youth. The program is free for participants.

$10,000 | Supported by the Meryle A. Stockhus Fund
FHN Family Counseling Center
Big Brothers, Big Sisters (BBBS)
The Big Brothers, Big Sisters Mentoring Program matches at-risk children in Stephenson County to an adult role model in order to reduce their risk of future drug use, alcohol use, or criminal justice involvement. BBBS has been in existence in Stephenson County for over 40 years. This grant will help the organization cover the cost of its mentoring services, which were formerly covered by the Illinois Department of Human Services.
$10,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Girls on the Run of Northwest Illinois
GOTR NWIL Accessibility Initiative
Girls on the Run (GOTR) inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident by taking them through a non-competitive running program that promotes social, physical, and emotional wellness. In order to expand GOTR in Winnebago County and make its programming accessible to all girls in 3rd to 5th grade, GOTR will offer its programming at little-to-no cost at underserved schools.
$9,600 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Mount Morris Public Library
Adulting 101
Adulting 101 is a series of programs aimed at young adults who need information and training in skills like banking, employment, college applications, mechanics, and cooking. As a rural library and community stakeholder, the Mount Morris Public Library would like to increase the employability and self-sufficiency of young adults and support their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.
$5,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

New Horizons Counseling Center
HEALTHY CHOICES: An Anger Coping Group for High School Students in FSD 145
New Horizons Counseling Center will offer Anger Coping Groups for high school students in Freeport. The groups will have a psycho-educational format and will meet weekly for two months. The goal is to help students cope with anger in healthier ways and increase students’ understanding of the relationship between events, thoughts, and feelings so that they make positive decisions and avoid conflict.
$3,510 | Supported by the William & Catherine McCoy Fund

Regional Access & Mobilization Project, Inc.
Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS)
RAMP’s new Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) lays the foundation for youth with disabilities to reach their full potential by encouraging enrollment in college, obtaining employment while still in high school, and preparing for independent living. The goal is to leave students with the tools needed for a successful transition to additional education or employment.
$20,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Rockford Park District
Jr. Chariots of Rockford
Since 1994, the Jr. Chariots, in cooperation with the Rockford Chariots Wheelchair Athletic Association, has provided youth with opportunities to play recreational and competitive basketball. The Jr. Chariots of Rockford will provide their athletes with transportation, allowing the team to travel together to their six out-of-town tournaments during the 2018 season.
$5,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Shelter Care Ministries
Rapid Rehousing
Rapid Rehousing is a unique housing program that moves families from homelessness to rental housing. Instead of living in a shelter, families will be offered the chance to find their own rental unit. Though a federal grant provides for most of the rent, it does not provide for utilities, furniture, transportation, or other necessities vital to starting a household.
$15,000 | Supported by the Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund
**YOUTH & FAMILIES | 12 grants for $116,005**

**Shelter Care Ministries**  
*Meals for MAYA'S House*

MAYA’S House, a daycare for children experiencing homelessness, has increased the number of hours it stays open each day. With that increase comes an opportunity to feed children an additional meal each day. Shelter Care will purchase healthy food, prepare meals, and train staff on safe food handling for the benefit of children in the program.  

$10,000 | Supported by the Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund

**Temple Baptist Church**  
*The Welcome Project*

The Welcome Project began as a simple gesture to welcome refugee children living in our community and show them that they are a valuable part of our city and our country. The Welcome Project provides transportation and translation services for recent refugees and hosts events welcoming refugee children entering Rockford Public Schools.  

$8,750 | Supported by the Community Grants Fund

**Winnebago County CASA**  
*Implementation of New Training for Volunteer CASAs*

Winnebago County CASA will implement the newly designed National Court Appointed Special Advocate training program. This new curriculum addresses the unique needs of children and families involved in the Abuse and Neglect Court System. The implementation of the training program will increase the number of advocates and it will better prepare them to handle obstacles as they help children recover from trauma. In the past year, 120 CASA volunteers served 373 children, but more than 600 children still need an advocate.  

$10,400 | Supported by the Meryle A. Stockhus Fund

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Thank you for reading.

If you have questions about this document or wish to have a copy sent to a friend or colleague, please contact Dan Dineen, Director of Community Investment, at 779-210-8204 or ddineen@cfnil.org.

The document is available on our website: [www.cfnil.org/reports/](http://www.cfnil.org/reports/).

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois  
946 N. Second Street | Rockford, IL 61107  
815-962-2110 | [www.cfnil.org](http://www.cfnil.org)
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**ARTS & HUMANITIES TOTAL**

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**EDUCATION WORKS - CAREER PATHWAYS TOTAL**

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**EDUCATION WORKS - COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION TOTAL**

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<th>Organization</th>
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<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<td>8</td>
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**EDUCATION WORKS - REGIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM TOTAL**

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**HEALTH TOTAL**

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<td>REMEDIES RENEWING LIVES</td>
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