COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2020/2021

A report on grants awarded to local nonprofits for charitable projects, programs, and events benefiting the people of Northern Illinois.

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Front cover photo: Students visit the Rockford Art Museum and view the Sonic Disruptions exhibit. Work pictured: 'Natural History Diorama (Reedy Creek)', oil on canvas, by Laurie Hegin. Image courtesy of Rockford Art Museum.

Unless otherwise noted, photos contained within this report are courtesy of the organization which applied for the grant related to the photo. Photos may have been taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report and all reports on CFNIL grantmaking may be found online at cfnl.org/reports. Questions about this report? Contact CFNIL Engagement Director Jennifer Smith at jsmith@cfnl.org.
The Community Grants Program is the largest grantmaking program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL). Grants are awarded to support charitable projects, programs, and events operated by nonprofit organizations in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. Community Grants are made in six focus areas: Arts & Humanities, Education, Health, Human Services, Sustainable Communities, and Youth & Families.

In Fall 2020 CFNIL awarded 62 new grants totaling $1,064,045.96, in addition to $245,566 to five multi-year grant commitments from prior cycles, for a total of $1,309,611.96. This report provides an overview of each of the 67 grants awarded in this cycle. The grant descriptions are sorted by focus area and then alphabetically by organization. Each grant awarded was reviewed by community volunteers who assessed the proposed plan, budget, anticipated outcomes, and community need. Learn more about the Community Grants Program at cfnil.org/community.

### 2020 - 2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM GRANTMAKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS AREA</th>
<th>2020 # OF NEW GRANTS</th>
<th>PRIOR COMMITMENTS # OF GRANTS</th>
<th>2020 NEW AWARDS</th>
<th>PRIOR COMMITMENTS AWARDS</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>$156,780.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Families</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,064,045.96</strong></td>
<td><strong>$245,566.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,309,611.96</strong></td>
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### AWARDS BY FOCUS AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS AREA</th>
<th># OF GRANTS</th>
<th>AVERAGE AWARD</th>
<th>RANGE OF AWARDS</th>
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<td><strong>$19,546.45</strong></td>
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As may have been expected in a 2020 grant report, some grant descriptions describe plans to begin or continue an organizational response to COVID-19. The pandemic and related economic and social stresses have presented exceptional challenges for the communities and organizations of our region. In addition to the awards made in the Community Grants Program, CFNIL has partnered closely with other local funders and supporting organizations to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Learn more about this response on page 4 of this report.

Every dollar awarded through the Community Grants Program and COVID-19 response was made possible by the generosity of donors—individuals, families, and organizations committed to improving our region’s quality of life. Their gifts will continue to strengthen our region for generations. That’s the power of endowment!

The 2020 - 2021 Community Grants Program cycle continues CFNIL’s sixty-seven year commitment to investment in Northern Illinois through grantmaking. This work and its growing, ongoing impact would not be possible without the generosity of our donors and the exceptional efforts of our grantees—thank you!
First Grant: 1973 - $1,375 for a new building

First Grant: 1970 - $1,000 for supplemental music in elementary schools

First Grant: 1963 - $1,000 for a youth center

Are you interested in being involved in the Community Grants Program process? Visit cfnil.org/volunteer or call (815) 962-2110 to learn more about volunteering on a focus area committee and to sign up for our next recruitment event. Support and expand the work of the Community Grants Program by making a financial contribution — visit cfnil.org/give-now to learn more about the ways you can support this work and make a secure online donation.
The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois has kept faith with its mission to serve as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois for more than 65 years. This uneasy time facing a global pandemic is no different; in fact, it is the foresight and generosity of past generations that allows CFNIL to respond now with both targeted and general support for the challenges facing our local communities.

To date, this support includes over $300,000 toward the ongoing local COVID-19 response and a commitment to flexibility and responsiveness for current and future grantees:

**NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUND**

This fund was established in 2008 to assist individuals and families living in Winnebago County with disaster-related expenses. Disbursements are available from the fund for the COVID-19 response thanks to a joint declaration of need from the Mayor of Rockford and the Winnebago County Board Chair. CFNIL distributed $40,000 from this fund.

**SUPPORT FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

CFNIL participated in a 2:1 match challenge from the Illinois Arts Alliance's Arts for Illinois Relief Fund. In partnership with the Kjellstrom Family Foundation, our $40,000 pledge was matched by $20,000 from the Arts Alliance. The combined $60,000 was awarded to four northern Illinois arts organizations to help cover losses and impact from COVID-19. Learn more about these grants on page 7.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH FREEPORT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

CFNIL was invited to apply for funding from the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to be distributed to nonprofits in Stephenson County, and was awarded $60,000. CFNIL partnered with the Freeport Community Foundation (FCF) to administer the grantmaking process, and provided an additional $1,200 to FCF to support their administrative efforts. The $60,000 was distributed to nine nonprofits providing emergency services to Stephenson County residents impacted by COVID-19. Learn more about these grants on page 16.

**815 COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM**

CFNIL joined United Way of Rock River Valley and other funders and community partners in the new coalition known as the 815 Community Response Team (815CRT). 815CRT works with nonprofits to identify needs and make funds available for both immediate, emergency needs, as well as ongoing needs during and after the pandemic. CFNIL's Board of Trustees has committed:

- $57,000 for immediate, emergency needs which was distributed in conjunction with the 815CRT Grants Committee, of which CFNIL is a member.
- $150,000 to help nonprofits recover from COVID-19 losses via the 81Thrive initiative.

Learn more about these grants and the 815CRT partnership at 815crt.org.

**FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS FOR CURRENT GRANTEES**

Nearly 70 organizations received over $1.4 million in CFNIL's 2019 Community Grants cycle. For many of these grantees, the programs and projects that were funded have been disrupted by COVID-19. CFNIL staff and trustees have worked to provide flexible options, including adjusting event timing, extending deadlines, and adjusting outcomes or results. CFNIL staff maintain ongoing conversations with our grantees to ensure the grant dollars will be used for the benefit of the organization and our community, even if that use looks different than the original proposal.

Since our inception, CFNIL has worked with the long game in mind: we're committed to being a stable and growing resource, to honor the intent and generosity of thousands of donors over more than half a century, and to connect the results of that past generosity to current needs. CFNIL Trustees will continue to exercise careful stewardship of every fund and thoughtful oversight in grantmaking. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois stands ready to support the people and places of our region through the known challenges of today and the unknown needs of tomorrow.
Grants in the Arts & Humanities Focus Area are made to:

• Increase the availability of and access to artistic and cultural experiences, especially those that represent our community’s diverse culture.
• Celebrate the region’s history and preserve historical integrity.

**ARTISTS’ ENSEMBLE THEATER**

*Intermission Season*

The pandemic has made traditional live theater productions impossible, so Artists’ Ensemble will produce socially distanced, socially responsible non-traditional live theater. Our “Intermission Season” is a free (pay-what-you-can) series of plays specifically adapted for performance in a pandemic.

$2,000 | Supported by the Rod MacDonald Memorial Theatre Endowment Fund

**ARTISTS’ ENSEMBLE THEATER**

*“Mysterious Journey” Podcast*

Artists’ Ensemble Theater will produce a new free podcast, “Mysterious Journey — Theater for the Mind”, featuring short audio plays based on the works of such writers as Agatha Christie, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, L.M. Montgomery, and Philip K. Dick. While stages are dark and we feel stressed and unsure about the pandemic, climate change, and social unrest, podcasts with familiar voices and intriguing stories can offer comfort and escapism for listeners.

$2,300 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*One Book One Freeport 2021*

One Book One Freeport 2021 is a community reading program and related activities based around Colson Whitehead’s Pulitzer-prize winning book *The Underground Railroad*. This shared reading experience will promote community discussion, encourage literacy in several age groups, illuminate U.S., Illinois, and local history.

$307.83 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**FRIENDS OF THE CORONADO**

*Website Redesign and Development*

Friends of the Coronado will develop a new website to create a vibrant destination to experience the Coronado’s grand architecture and history, impart lessons in the importance of historic preservation and civic engagement, and to communicate a culture of inclusion. Features of the new website will include blogs, slideshows, new video presentations including an interactive 3D video.

$16,250.00 | Supported by the Armer F. Ahlstrand Fund

**MENDELSSOHN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

*Summer Arts Enrichment at Patriots’ Gateway Center 2021*

Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center will present an arts experience for the students at Patriots’ Gateway Community Center in Rockford by offering classes in music and visual arts over a two week period. This project will provide children in an underserved population the opportunity to explore different forms of creative expression and expand their view of the world.

$1,873.00 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund
**ARTS & HUMANITIES FOCUS AREA | 14 grants for $156,780.83**

**MIDWAY VILLAGE AND MUSEUM CENTER**

*Improved Mobility Access to Midway Village*

As the population of Northern Illinois ages the need to ensure access for those with limited mobility increases. Midway Village Museum will purchase a six-passenger cart to increase access to its historical village for the elderly and those with mobility challenges.

$5,950.00 | Supported by the Roger and Mary Reithmeier Fund

**MIDWAY VILLAGE AND MUSEUM CENTER**

*Reinventing Civil War Hands on History Days*

The Midway Village Museum will create a virtual Civil War Days program for schoolchildren. After the disruption caused by COVID-19, staff will reconnect with teachers and students throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin and make the America of the 1860’s come alive again.

$23,000.00 | Supported by the Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

**POLO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*2021 Outdoor Concert Series*

Local bands will perform in the library pavilion for the Polo community to enjoy free, quality music in an outdoor setting. Now, more than ever, it is important to provide opportunities for community events where people can connect in a safe, outdoor, spacious setting and have their spirits lifted by enjoying musical entertainment together.

$3,000 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**ROCKFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL**

*RAAC Summer Programs*

SPARK!, New Ways, and Summer in Color summer art programs will provide youth an opportunity for unique, intensive, hands-on, art skill-building, artist mentorship, and job preparedness. These summer programs provide access to progressive art mediums, meaningful and purposeful mentorship, and positive social connection through the arts.

$40,250 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**ROCKFORD AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

*Historical Immigrants and Ingenuity*

RACVB will update and reinstall historical signage throughout the Rockford region focused on historical immigrants of the region.

$15,000 | Supported by the Jon W. Lundin Historic Preservation Fund

**ROCKFORD ART MUSEUM**

*Website Redesign: For the Future*

The Rockford Art Museum will redesign their website to increase audience access to the museum’s digital resources – including educational materials, audio/video recordings, and an improved collections database – through an updated, user-friendly platform. The new website will better support museum staff, exhibitions, programs and outreach initiatives and better serve Rockford’s diverse community.

$19,550.00 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

**THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM**

*Equity Diversity Inclusion Workshops for the Arts*

The West Side Show Room has developed a series of live online Equity Diversity Inclusion (EDI) workshops designed to meet the needs of Rockford Area arts organizations. By making these workshops free and accessible to leaders and participants, our arts community will become a more diverse and welcoming space for everyone.

$5,000.00 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund
THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM

Rockford New Words 2022

Rockford New Words presents ten new works written for performance by writers from Rockford and around the world. Works may include spoken word poetry, raps, plays, storytelling, and monologues. This unique event offers each writer a royalty for the rights to perform their work, thereby providing local writers the opportunity to have their work presented alongside that of national and international writers.

$2,750.00 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Town Hall Restoration

The Winnebago Community Historical Society will stabilize the historical Town Hall in downtown Winnebago through the repair and restoration of brick and mortar.

$19,550.00 | Supported by the Community Arts & Humanities Fund

GRANTMAKING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

CFNIL participated in a 2:1 match challenge from the Arts Alliance Illinois’ Arts for Illinois Relief Fund. In partnership with the Kjellstrom Family Foundation, our $40,000 pledge was matched by $20,000 from the Arts Alliance. The combined $60,000 was awarded to four northern Illinois arts organizations to help cover losses and impact from COVID-19.

These grants were part of one round of funding via the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, a statewide effort administered by Arts Alliance Illinois and established by the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the broader philanthropic community. Since its launch on April 1, 2020, the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund has awarded $6,909,450 to 2,493 artists and 269 organizations around the state.

The following organizations were awarded grants thanks to this partnership:
Grantmaking for educational projects, programs, and events is a priority for CFNIL and is strategically aligned under the banner of Education Works. Approximately 50% of the total Community Grants awards are made to the Education Focus Area in two tracks: Career Pathways and Complementary Education.

Grants in the Education Focus Area are made to:

- Align with Education Works guidelines (visit cfnil.org/education-works for more information).
- Provide creative and systemic approaches for educational improvement.
- Support the education of current and future medical professionals.

**BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*Museum Internship Program*  
The Museum will offer two paid internships for either high school or college aged students who seek to gain hands-on experience in the fields of museum studies, public history, and library science.  
**$22,880 | Supported by the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund**

**DISCOVERY CENTER MUSEUM**  
*STEM on the Rock: Increasing STEM Engagement in Minority Middle School Students*  
In partnership with the local chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Discovery Center seeks to increase STEM engagement in and develop career pathways for minority middle school students through the delivery of bi-monthly, hands-on STEM enrichment sessions.  
**$17,820 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund**

**HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
*Linking Talent with Opportunity: A Regional Strategy*  
Highland Community College will continue work with stackable pathways of career choices for high school or college-aged students to benefit local employers.  
**$94,806 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund**

**KIDS AROUND THE WORLD**  
*Welding and Forklift Career Pathway 2021*  
Kids Around the World will continue a Welding and Forklift career path to help high school drop-outs gain job skills and self-sufficiency. This program is provided in partnership with Comprehensive Community Services/YouthBuild Rockford, First Institute of Training and Management, and The Workforce Connection.  
**$42,182 | Supported by the Barber-Colman Management Fund**

**KFACT**  
*Lady All Stars Holistic Mentoring Program*  
The Lady All Starts Holistic Mentoring Program helps girls become exceptional women by providing the experiences and supportive environment they need to achieve their dreams. The program offers mentoring and case management services to emphasize the importance of post-secondary education, foster positive self-image, and encourage educational achievement.  
**$50,000 | Second year of three years of funding | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund**

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
*Support for Career Pathways in RPS205 and D100*  
EdSystems will partner with Rockford Public Schools, Belvidere District 100, and regional partners to provide strategic counsel, technical assistance, and other supports to foster equitably accessible high-quality pathways that prepare young people for success in college, career, and civic life.  
**$65,000 | Second year of three years of funding | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund**
THE WORKFORCE CONNECTION

Technology Access & Equipment to Address the Digital Divide
The Workforce Connection will purchase 60 Chromebooks to allow individuals who do not have access to technology the ability to attend online sessions and complete their education or training program. The individuals who would receive these Chromebooks will be both adults and youth, who are required to take their training or education program of study online due to COVID-19.

$18,600 | Supported by the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - ROCKFORD

Rural Health Explorers Program
Rural Health Explorers Program (RHEP) is a six-week career exploration program that introduces rural high school students to healthcare opportunities and the healthcare field. RHEP students prepare for future health professions degree programs through weekly learning modules, meetings with local rural healthcare providers, and the completion of a health topic exploration project.

$16,806 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

ALIGNMENT ROCKFORD

Ready to Learn
Early life experiences are the foundation for lifelong achievement and success. Community-wide interventions and targeted supports for children and their families will improve the educational and life outcomes of children and strengthen neighborhoods, families, schools, and the region.

$70,000 | Second year of three years of funding | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ROCKFORD

Academic Success
The Boys & Girls Club Academic Success Project helps youth develop and follow a path to reach their educational and career goals. The program is a targeted reading and math program which will provide small group support for members of the Boys & Girls Club who are identified as at-risk for academic success.

$25,200 | Supported by the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

BURPEE MUSEUM

WE ARE ONE Worldwide: Empathy through Art, Research, Education, Outreach, Nature, & Exhibits
Burpee Museum will collaborate with local cultural organizations to launch an East African exhibit featuring over 60 African animals, authentic Maasai tribal artifacts, and exploration of African art, music, nature, and culture from Arusha, Tanzania. Students will learn from educators trained by Tanzanian natives and participate in the development of authentic art projects, explore wildlife ecosystems, learn tribal dances, build native instruments, and research cultural norms.

$29,900 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

CHILDREN’S HANDS ON MUSEUM OF NW IL

Sanitization & Safety Measures for Children’s Hands-On Museum Reopening
The Children’s Hands On Museum closed in March 2020 and is preparing to reopen in January 2021 with significant modifications to entry, safety, and disinfectant procedures. The museum will purchase equipment and supplies including a disinfectant spraying machine, sanitizing stations, PPE, timers, print materials, signage, thermometers, plexiglass barriers, and air purifiers.

$7,470 | Supported by the Vera Maureen Fisher Fund

DISCOVERY CENTER MUSEUM

Discovery at Home
Discovery Center will distribute Discovery at Home kits through community partners to households with children ages 3-5 who are not currently enrolled in an early childhood program. The kits will be paired with short videos and ideas for activities around the themes of kindergarten readiness, language/literacy, and the arts.

$22,360 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

FIRST STEP DAY CARE

Educational Support Program
First Step will provide both the environment and the tools necessary for children to learn virtually, including scholarship funds for low-income families who are facing the unexpected day care expense for school-aged children.

$10,000 | Supported by the William & Catherine McCoy Fund
KEN-ROCK COMMUNITY CENTER

Little Cubbies Day Care Launch

The coronavirus pandemic shined a harsh light on the lack of affordable, safe daycare options in the U.S. as a whole and Rockford in particular. Ken-Rock Community Center will launch the Little Cubbies Day Care program.

$14,300 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

Youth Education Enrichment Program

The Youth Education Enrichment Program is a before- and after-school program for youth ages 5 to 12 years old. Youth receive homework assistance, character building activities, healthy snacks/breakfast, and various enrichment activities. Youth learn and utilize the six pillars of character development and participate in group building activities, all in a safe, structured environment for youth to grow and develop outside of school hours.

$16,310.37 | Supported by the Ralph A. & Mildred Johnson Fund

THE SALVATION ARMY

After School Program

The Salvation Army After School Program provides academic, social, and behavioral resources for at-risk elementary and middle school students at their facility on Kilburn Avenue in Rockford. The program focuses on empowering youth to develop basic life skills, character development, appropriate social interaction, and academic excellence.

$30,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

It Takes a Village Volunteer Reading Mentor Program

To read proficiently by 4th grade, youth need support during their early years to ensure success throughout their school years and beyond. United Way’s “It Takes a Village (ITAV)” program matches volunteer reading mentors with kindergarten to 3rd grade students. Mentors meet with behind-grade level students each week during a school day for 30 minutes. The ITAV mentors also provide patience and encouragement, which helps students gain valuable reading skills and increased confidence in reading and other areas.

$10,566 | Third year of three years of funding | Supported by the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund

UNITED WAY OF ROCK RIVER VALLEY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

United Way of Rock River Valley will expand the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program throughout Ogle County. Each month, at no cost to participating families, high-quality, age-appropriate books will be mailed directly to children 0-5 years old in order to foster a love of reading and establish the foundation for academic and life success from the earliest point in life.

$10,000 | Supported by the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund

YMCA OF ROCK RIVER VALLEY

Supporting Our Youth in Remote Learning

As COVID-19 continues to surge throughout our community, parents question the safety of having their children back in school, but face the need to return to work. Supervised remote education offers remote learning sites, with small group sizes and a focus on cleanliness, along with enrichment activities for fun and recreation and adult mentors who provide guidance for students – a viable option for already stressed families.

$11,885 | Supported by the Bengt & Mary Kuller Fund
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT ROCKFORD

Promotion of early detection of lung cancer in rural and urban areas in Northern Illinois

UIC will continue lung cancer study in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Stephenson Counties, conduct seminars, provide educational materials to physicians and smokers about new CDC guidelines for early screening, and study previously identified biomarkers to develop a blood test for early detection that will improve diagnosis/survival.

$50,000 | Second year of two years of funding | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Grants in the Health Focus Area are made to:

- Improve the quality of and access to health services.
- Support community wellness.
- Conduct research to promote the health and well-being of our community.

A SILVER LINING FOUNDATION

Buy A Mom A Mammogram
A Silver Lining Foundation will provide free screening mammograms and diagnostic testing to women who are un- or underinsured through the Buy A Mom A Mammogram program. While providing potentially life saving testing to underserved women, the program also encourages women to be proactive rather than reactive relative to their health care.

$7,500 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

CRUSADER COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Mitigating Risk in Dental Procedures using Extraoral Suction Units
Due to high aerosolization risk associated with dentistry, use of Extraoral Suction Systems can help ensure the safety of patients and staff by decreasing the concentrations of contaminants with the use of a HEPA filtration system. Infection control has always been at the forefront of dentistry and air quality of dental offices will remain an important aspect of providing safe care.

$10,500 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Changing Lives, Building Hope
This grant will help ensure socioeconomically disadvantaged people in northern Illinois access professional counseling to address mental health, family, and other issues that interfere with their functioning at home, school and in the community. FCS helps clients heal trauma and develop skills and resiliency to live more productive and happy lives.

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

MILE SQUARE HEALTH CENTER

Mile Square LP Johnson Dental Services Program
Mile Square LP Johnson primary care clinic will add a dental service line in order to reduce the above-average rates of decay seen in children living in the Rockford region and improve the oral health of uninsured/underinsured patients living in the area. The clinic will increase preventive services for marginalized populations and improve the overall health of the community through interdisciplinary care.

$18,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOSPICE FOUNDATION

Virtual Reality Training to Enhance Empathy and Care for Elderly Community Members
Northern Illinois Hospice will purchase virtual reality equipment and software to help users “embody” an individual as they transition to home hospice care or experience the progression of prevalent, often age-related, diseases. The training will build empathy and understanding and better care for elderly community members and those experiencing life altering diseases.

$9,300 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

THE HAVEN NETWORK

Perinatal Bereavement Program Support
Compassionate and comprehensive grief support for perinatal bereavement is essential and much needed in our community. The Haven Network will provide immediate in person support, grief counseling, support groups, patient well checks, printed educational materials, and more.

$6,886.56 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT ROCKFORD

Promotion of early detection of lung cancer in rural and urban areas in Northern Illinois
UIC will continue lung cancer study in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Stephenson Counties, conduct seminars, provide educational materials to physicians and smokers about new CDC guidelines for early screening, and study previously identified biomarkers to develop a blood test for early detection that will improve diagnosis/survival.

$50,000 | Second year of two years of funding | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
Grants in the Human Services Focus Area are made to:

- Serve the basic needs of individuals and families.
- Provide services to persons with intellectual disabilities, especially activities that promote inclusion.

**CIRCLE OF CHANGE**

**Veteran's Dog Program**

COC improves quality of life for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and other psychological disorders through dog training classes. Dogs with symptoms (fear, aggression, noise sensitivity) are paired with veterans who build confidence, self-respect, security, and communication skills as they develop a healing bond with the dog and other veterans. *Circle of Change program participants are pictured above.*

$20,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**FAMILY PEACE CENTER**

**The Family Peace Center**

Family Peace Center creates pathways to hope for people who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, and human trafficking through collaborative, integrated multi-disciplinary centers and initiatives focused on breaking the generational cycle of violence in families.

$16,396 | Supported by the The Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services

**KITCHEN TABLE INC.**

**Rural Community Hunger & Healthy Eating Programs**

Kitchen Table will expand walk-in freezer space to increase the number of individuals served each week. Enhancing methods to accept & store large quantities of donated food will help improve efforts to supply “Take & Bake” meals, monthly brunch & other direct food services.

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

**MILESTONE, INC.**

**Medical Equipment Upgrade**

Medical equipment at the will be upgraded to insure both quality of care and patient safety, particularly for aging clients with complex medical conditions. Hi-low beds, wheelchairs, and EZ Lifts will help meet the changing needs of people served, preserve quality of care, and increase the level of client independence.

$15,000 | Supported by the United Cerebral Palsy of Blackhawk Region Fund

**PFLAG ROCKFORD**

**The LIAM Foundation**

The LIAM Foundation, supported by the PFLAG Rockford Chapter, is the first LGBTQIA+ resource center in Rockford. The LIAM Foundation assists with gender and name changes, provides guidance with vital record corrections, coordinates transition assistance, and promotes the overall health and well-being of the LGBTQIA+ community.

$10,000 | Supported by the Community Grants Fund

**REMEDIES RENEWING LIVES**

**Virtual Educational Study Space**

Remedies will equip a designated area for school-age victims of domestic violence to participate in virtual learning. Currently Remedies does not have a designated space for school-aged children to engage in educational activities. The pandemic adds greater urgency for a separate learning space.

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

**ROCKFORD SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING**

**Empowering the Physical and Emotional Self Series**

RSAC will hold self-defense and mindfulness classes to empower child, adolescent and adult clients physically and emotionally. In addition, class participants and individuals involved in therapy sessions will receive empowerment bags.

$8,625 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
SECOND FIRST CHURCH
The Overnight Cafe
The Overnight Cafe is an overnight warming center located at SecondFirst Church in downtown Rockford. Unhoused guests are welcomed during the winter to spend the frigid nights in the gym, eat hot meals, use shower and laundry facilities, and access clothing, hygiene items, and other resources.
$16,000 | Supported by the Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund

THE ARC OF WINNEBAGO, BOONE & OGLE COUNTIES
Low-Cost Guardianship Program
The Arc of Winnebago, Boone, & Ogle Counties will continue to offer a low-cost guardianship program that helps families with a disabled loved-one, who are already facing a financial burden, apply for legal guardianship at a low-cost.
$6,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

THE JERICHO PROJECT, NFP
The Jericho House: From life-long addiction to sustained sobriety
The Jericho House provides a program of addiction recovery, career education, transition to career-potential jobs, financial management and planning, and reconciliation with family. Residents give back to the community by serving at Ruthie’s Kitchen, participating in Habitat for Humanity builds, and outreach to neighborhood youth.
$20,635.34 | Supported by the Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund

UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS
Digital/Remote Access Operational Upgrade
UWNI will upgrade technology to support digital and mobile capabilities. COVID-19 shutdowns have revealed that systems in place do not fully support remote work. An outdated server and desktop computers will be replaced and a laptop updated to support remote work.
$4,050 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

WALTER LAWSON CHILDREN’S HOME
Mechanical Lift with Scale Capability
A mechanical lift with built in scale will be purchased in order to quickly and efficiently obtain weight measurements for the individuals served at Walter Lawson Children’s Home.
$7,708.02 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA
1300 Voices Need to be Heard
CASA will recruit and train new volunteers who will speak up for, and on behalf of, over 1300 abused and neglected children in Winnebago County who are waiting for an advocate to help them process their traumatic experience and provide support during their court journey. With new facts and statistics released relating to the rise of child abuse during the coronavirus pandemic, it is imperative to speedily recruit, train, and assign advocates to these children.
$12,300 | Supported by the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund
Grants in the Sustainable Communities Focus Area are made to:

- Promote neighborhood and economic development.
- Support efforts to ensure public safety and access to quality, affordable, and permanent housing.
- Preserve our natural environment, especially activities that increase the region’s understanding and appreciation of the environment.

**CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT**

*Development of Kelly Creek Environmental Learning Landing and Trail*

Kelly Creek is a heavily-impacted spring mingled with storm water adjacent to the Natural at the Confluence Environmental Center. With the city park permanently flooded, a new park with a nature-based playground and splash pad will be built along the creek. The creek bank will be cleaned to make it safe and accessible, and a new trail and access point will be created for environmental education along the creek.

$30,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BOONE COUNTY**

*Habitat Boone County 2021 Build*

Habitat for Humanity of Boone County will build its twelfth home in Boone County since the affiliate was founded in 2007, and house a family from Boone County who otherwise might not have been able to become a homeowner.

$34,500 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**HOO HAVEN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & EDUCATION CENTER**

*Surgical Lighting for Trauma/Treatment Room*

Hoo Haven will install better lighting in the trauma/treatment room where wildlife are brought after injury or illness. The current lighting is not able to provide the amount of targeted light needed for staff and veterinarians to perform assessments, treatments, and surgical procedures. The upgrades will result in better outcomes for wildlife patients.

$6,500 | Supported by the Guyer-Hyzer Fund

**KLEHM ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN**

*Smartphone Tour Pilot Program for 2021*

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden will expand capacity to educate visitors about the arboretum’s vast tree and plant collections through the use of interactive mobile technology. Klehm will establish a smartphone-based platform to visitors to participate in interactive tours of the grounds and gardens throughout all seasons, increasing engagement and access to education.

$13,913 | Supported by the Dr. Courtney J. and Margaret Hutchins Hamlin Family Fund

**ROCKFORD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

*Critical Home Repair*

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity will launch a pilot project for critical home repair for existing, low-to-moderate income (LMI) homeowners in Winnebago County. This project will help existing LMI homeowners stay in and maintain the value of their homes while preserving Rockford’s housing stock by completing critical interior and exterior home repairs for qualified households.

$41,101 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund
Grants in the Youth & Families Focus Area are made to:

- Provide pathways to self-sufficiency.
- Strengthen families.
- Support intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development.

**YOUTH & FAMILIES FOCUS AREA**

**7 GRANTS for $141,330.84**

**CHILDREN’S HOME & AID**

_Doula Program_

Children’s Home & Aid’s Doula Program in Rockford uses specially trained home visitors (“doulas”) to provide support to high-risk young women before, during, and after pregnancy, increasing the health and well-being of both mother and child. This project seeks to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect and to develop strong parent child attachments to help mothers build healthy and safe futures for their babies.

*$45,000 | Supported by the Meryle A. Stockhus Fund*

**GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

_First Aid/CPR/AED Training_

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois has always been required to train all our leaders in First Aid, CPR, and AED procedures. With the onset of COVID-19 the guidelines have changed dramatically and now call for a greater number of classes and equipment. Funds will be used to lower class sizes and purchase additional equipment so every leader is certified in First Aid, CPR and AED procedures as required.

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

**NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER**

_Empowering Women for Success Program_

Empowering Women for Success is a program designed to help women make positive changes that will lead to success in their desired careers, through case management, training, and job placement.

*$20,000 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund*

**ROCK HOUSE KIDS**

_15-Passenger Van Benefitting Children’s Education_

Rock House Kids will purchase a third 15-passenger van to transport children to and from nightly programming and soon-to-be launched daytime Tutoring Program. The third van will help positively impact the lives of additional children each day by guaranteeing them a safe ride to Rock House Kids.

*$22,980 | Supported by the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund*

**ROCK HOUSE KIDS**

_New Copier for Cost Savings_

Rock House Kids will purchase a new copier and buy out an existing copier lease. This upgrade will allow RHK to print newsletters in-house, saving over $1,000 each month. The savings will be allocated directly into programming for Rockford’s inner-city youth.

*$8,350.84 | Supported by the Norris A. & Margaret K. Aldeen Fund*
CFNIL was invited to apply for funding from the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund (ICRF) to be distributed to nonprofits in Stephenson County, and was awarded $60,000. CFNIL partnered with the Freeport Community Foundation (FCF) to administer the grantmaking process, and provided an additional $1,200 to FCF to support their administrative efforts. The $60,000 was distributed to nine nonprofits providing emergency services to Stephenson County residents impacted by COVID-19.

The following organizations were awarded grants in this round of ICRF funding:

- **Shelter Care Ministries**
  
  **Housing Families Safely During COVID-19**
  
  Shelter Care will house families experiencing homelessness during (and after) the COVID-19 pandemic in safe, scattered site houses and apartments, free from the risks of sleeping in a communal shelter.

  $20,000 | Supported by The Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services

- **Shelter Care Ministries**
  
  **MAYA’S House is Making a Comeback**
  
  MAYA’S House, a free daycare for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years who are homeless or experiencing housing instability, is re-opening in a closure due to Covid. Parents who are feeling the stress of homelessness, housing instability, poverty, and Covid may again utilize MAYA’S House and give their children a chance to play in a safe environment with no close interaction with children from outside their household.

  $10,000 | Supported by the Bengt & Mary Kuller Fund

**GRANTMAKING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19**

**GRANTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Pictured top of page 17: Family outside their home thanks to services from Shelter Care Ministries. Pictured above: Children’s Home & Aid Doula Program baby; “Busy Bags” delivered to MAYA’S House families during COVID-19 closure; Children’s Home & Aid Doula kids “Covid Heroes”.

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YOUTH & FAMILIES FOCUS AREA | 7 grants for $141,330.84
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<td>WE ARE ONE WORLDWIDE: EMPATHY THROUGH ART, RESEARCH, EDUCATION OUTREACH, NATURE, &amp; EXHIBITS</td>
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**ARTS & HUMANITIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL: $156,780.83**

**EDUCATION WORKS - CAREER PATHWAYS TOTAL: $328,094.00**

**EDUCATION WORKS - COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION TOTAL: $257,991.37**

**EDUCATION FOCUS AREA TOTAL: $586,085.37**
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<td>CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT OF KELLY CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING LANDIN G AND TRAIL</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BOONE COUNTY</td>
<td>HABITAT BOONE COUNTY 2021 BUILD</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>$34,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>HOO HAVEN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION &amp; EDUCATION CENTER</td>
<td>SURGICAL LIGHTING FOR TRAUMA/TREATMENT ROOM</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>KLEHM ARBORETUM &amp; BOTANIC GARDEN</td>
<td>SMARTPHONE TOUR PILOT PROGRAM FOR 2021</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>$13,913.00</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>ROCKFORD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY</td>
<td>CRITICAL HOME REPAIR</td>
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<td>$41,001.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>CHILDREN'S HOME &amp; AID</td>
<td>DOULA PROGRAM</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$45,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS</td>
<td>FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER</td>
<td>EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>ROCK HOUSE KIDS</td>
<td>15-PASSENGER VAN BENEFITING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$22,980.00</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>ROCK HOUSE KIDS</td>
<td>NEW COPIER FOR COST SAVINGS</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$8,350.84</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES</td>
<td>HOUSING FAMILIES SAFELY DURING COVID-19</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES</td>
<td>MAYA'S HOUSE IS MAKING A COMEBACK</td>
<td>YOUTH &amp; FAMILIES</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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**HEALTH FOCUS AREA TOTAL** $125,186.56

**HUMAN SERVICES FOCUS AREA TOTAL** $174,214.36

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL** $126,014.00

**YOUTH & FAMILIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL** $141,330.84

**COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2020 - 2021 TOTAL** $1,244,611.96
The mission of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is to serve as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois.