

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2025
REPORT



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

946 N Second Street, Rockford, IL 61107

815.962.2110 cfnil.org



Cover photo provided by Severson Dells Educational Foundation. Images included in this report were submitted by grantees with their proposals; logos indicate those sources. This report and others related to CFNIL grantmaking efforts may be found online at cfnil.org/reports.

Questions? Contact CFNIL Engagement Officer Adam McGhee at amcghee@cfnil.org.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY



- 4 About Community Grants**
- 5 Focus Areas**
- 6 By the Numbers**
- 7 Community Grants Recipients**
- 19 Summary Tables**
- 22 Meet the CFNIL Team**
- 23 Be a Part of Community Grants**

ABOUT CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is proud to present this report for the 2025 Community Grants cycle. From the classroom to the stage, the doctor's office to the construction site, and just about everywhere in between, CFNIL Community Grants support charitable organizations and the good work they undertake each and every day in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties.

Community Grants are awarded in eight Focus Areas (page 5) that encompass a diverse mix of projects and programs and benefit a broad range of people and places in our region. Each facet of the program is inherently local, including the staff, organizations, and volunteers.

Since 1953, individuals, families, and businesses have made investments in the future through endowed donations to CFNIL. This stable and ever-growing pool of support connects that generosity of the past with the unique needs and opportunities of the present, all for the benefit of the people of Northern Illinois.

This year CFNIL Community Grants awards total \$1,633,716.75 to 91 organizations. We have provided this report to highlight every grant and the significant good work these organizations will accomplish in the near future. We invite you to learn more about the organizations awarded this year and consider how you might be involved in supporting this good work (page 21).





FOCUS AREAS

Community Grants are awarded in eight Focus Areas, each with its own unique emphasis. Applicants select the focus that best matches the desired outcomes of their proposal, and grant reviewers are assigned to a specific Focus Area. Defining these areas ensures applicants are compared against similar organizations pursuing similar outcomes, and helps accomplish a significant Community Grants Program goal: providing a broad range of services and supports which strengthen the health, resilience, and vitality of the communities of Northern Illinois.

Proposals in each Focus Area are reviewed with consideration of the funding priorities outlined on this page.

ARTS & HUMANITIES



- Increase the number, type, and quality of arts, crafts, and cultural experiences and educational opportunities.
- Promote access to high-quality arts & cultural experiences, especially those that represent our community's diverse culture.
- Celebrate the region's history and preserve its historical integrity.

BASIC NEEDS & COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT



- Serve the basic needs of individuals and families, such as food, clothing, and temporary shelter.
- Alleviate suffering and provide hope and aid to individuals and families.

CAREER PATHWAYS



- Promote post-secondary readiness and attainment through academic support, mentorship, and soft skill development.
- Increase student access to and engagement with career information and their related academic pathways.
- Define the region's workforce needs and develop a skilled workforce through job training, internships, apprenticeships, and other educational opportunities.
- Foster collaboration among educators, employers, and workforce/economic development entities.

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION



- Strengthen educational opportunities for all ages in the region.
- Increase the capacity, infrastructure, and educational quality of schools and school-approved programs.
- Provide more learning hours, reinforce classroom instruction, and advance student development.
- Support before-and after-school, summer school, and enrichment programs with an academic focus.

DIGNITY & RESPECT



- Promote dignity and respect for all in our region.
- Support, protect, and enhance the lives of vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, older adults and victims of violence and exploitation.
- Provide services to persons with disabilities, especially activities that promote inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

HEALTH



- Promote public health and general wellness.
- Improve the quality of and access to physical and mental health services.
- Conduct research to promote the health and well-being of our community.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



- Promote economic activity, strong neighborhoods, and public safety.
- Preserve and enhance our community's built environment and ensure quality, affordable, and permanent housing.
- Preserve our natural environment and increase the region's understanding and appreciation of the environment, including animal welfare.
- Increase the capacity and infrastructure of our non-profit and public sector.

YOUTH & FAMILIES



- Provide pathways to self-sufficiency for individuals and families.
- Strengthen families by providing access to vital services, caregiver education, and other support.
- Support the emotional, physical, social, and character development of youth through mentorship, life skills training, and other programming.



COMMUNITY GRANT NUMBERS

2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM GRANTMAKING

FOCUS AREA	ICON	# NEW GRANTS	# PRIOR GRANT COMMITMENTS	NEW AWARDS	PRIOR COMMITMENT AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	RANGE OF AWARDS	% OF TOTAL TO THIS FOCUS AREA	TOTAL AWARDED
ARTS & HUMANITIES		16	-	\$205,906	-	\$12,869	\$3,450 - \$28,750	12.6%	\$205,906
BASIC NEEDS & COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT		13	-	\$162,457	-	\$12,497	\$2,300 - \$40,000	9.9%	\$162,457
CAREER PATHWAYS		7	1	\$170,045	\$30,000	\$24,292	\$3,045 - \$69,000	10.4%	\$200,045
COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION		8	2	\$138,082	\$57,744	\$17,260	\$5,074 - \$35,190	8.5%	\$195,825
DIGNITY & REPECT		11	-	\$219,673	-	\$19,970	\$2,768 - \$40,000	13.4%	\$219,673
HEALTH		13	1	\$233,017	\$6,900	\$17,924	\$4,025 - \$46,000	14.3%	\$239,917
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		10	-	\$179,873	-	\$17,987	\$1,610 - \$34,500	11%	\$179,873
YOUTH & FAMILIES		13	-	\$324,664	-	\$24,974	\$6,095 - \$75,000	19.9%	\$324,664
TOTAL		92	3	\$1,633,717	\$94,644	\$18,472	\$1,610 - \$75,000	100%	\$1,728,361



2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS

ALIGNMENT ROCKFORD

Strong Schools Leadership Initiative, RPS District Parent Advisory Council

\$17,193 | Winnebago Co. | Meryle A. Stockhus Fund

Serve as Rockford Public Schools District 205's official District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), to support and elevate parent and caregiver leadership in their communities.

ARTISTS' ENSEMBLE THEATER

"Conscience" by Joe DiPietro

\$8,050 | Winnebago Co. | Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

Hire actors to bring to life this extremely relevant play. Tony Award-winning playwright Joe DiPietro uses our own history from the 1950's to show the danger of demagoguery and the importance of truth in politics.

BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

Glenn H. Green Open Space Nature Education Playground

\$28,750 | Boone Co. | Ronald F & Joan K Nature & Env. Preservation 2

It will serve as a vibrant entry and exit point for the community. The nature-themed playground will offer hands-on conservation and environmental education. As the sole playground in the vicinity, it will provide a gathering place for families, encouraging outdoor activity and community connection.

BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

(Scout) Reaching Out

\$25,672 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

ScoutReach serves resource-poor young people, giving them equal opportunity to benefit from character development, academic enrichment, leadership skills training, and habits of good mental and physical health..

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ROCKFORD

Leaders in the Making: Empowering Youth Through Keystone and Torch Clubs

\$21,567 | Winnebago Co. | The Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services

Support the launch of Keystone and Torch Clubs at the Boys & Girls Club of Rockford, offering youth ages 11–18 leadership development, service opportunities, and peer mentoring. These programs will build confidence, character, and community engagement among participants.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF FREEPORT & STEPHENSON COUNTY

Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County (BGC) Van

\$36,151 | Stephenson Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

This will provide a viable means for moving kids from school to the Club, from site to site, and on field trips to other clubs and destinations for learning opportunities. As a result, we can serve more kids, reduce costly rentals and reallocate more resources to direct services.

BREAD OF LIFE

Helping the Hungry

\$5,750 | Ogle Co. | Norris A. & Margaret K. Aldeen Fund

This money will be used to help fill the need for nourishment and personal items in Ogle County. Many parents are struggling to supply supper to their families, since breakfast and lunch are served at school. This will help buy self-care and shelf-stable foods.



BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY NI

Getting Ahead Classes

\$22,624 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

The grant funding will be used to help to continue providing Getting Ahead classes in our community which help those experiencing poverty build their resources and life stability.

BRIGHTPOINT

Rockford Crisis Nursery Overnight Expansion

\$75,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support a third shift staff position at our Rockford Crisis Nursery. This is a safe haven for families in crisis, providing emergency childcare and family strengthening services for children zero to six years old, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the Rockford community area.

BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Northern Illinois: 12,000 Years of Change. The Science of Our Land, Life, and People.

\$35,190 | Winnebago Co. | Meryle A. Stockhus Fund

Create a permanent STEM exhibit showing how Northern Illinois has transformed since the Ice Age. Using paleontology, archaeology, ecology, and weather patterns, it will allow us to reopen a 5 year closed space and replace outdated Native American Indian displays with American Indian Nation-approved content.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

CLETA'S STAY AND SEW

Cletas Stay and Sew Program

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | Armer F. Ahlstrand Fund

Hands-on, creative learning experiences where children and adults develop new skills in a safe, welcoming environment. Participants will engage in projects and events that build confidence, encourage self-expression, and strengthen community connections.

COLISEUM MUSEUM OF ART, ANTIQUES & AMERICANA

Moveable Steps for Stage Access

\$8,372 | Ogle Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Purchase moveable stairs to gain access to our stage from our main floor. Built in 1922, the existing steps are extremely narrow and steep causing a tripping hazard. Moveable steps that meet the height of the stage are critical for the use of our stage for public presentations.



DURAND AREA FOOD PANTRY

Durand Area Food Pantry Personal Care Products And Cleaning Products For All Program

\$2,875 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Establish a new section of our pantry that would provide personal care products and cleaning supplies for our pantry guests. The funds to set up and stock a personal care section will help to better meet the needs of our guests.



DURAND CHARM

Durand Charm Music in the Park Concert Series

\$5,635 | Winnebago Co. | Armer F. Ahlstrand Fund

This program will implement three summer music concerts in Durand's Saelens Park that will encourage social interactions through intentional programming while also supporting local musicians.

EASTERSEALS SERVING CHICAGOLAND AND GREATER ROCKFORD

Creating A Healthy, Safe Learning Environment for Students with Disabilities

\$20,125 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Improve the infrastructure of Easterseals Academy Machesney Park for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This will allow students to fully participate in classroom learning and achieve their educational and developmental goals.

EASTERSEALS SERVING CHICAGOLAND AND GREATER ROCKFORD

Increasing access to autism diagnoses by building in waitlist reduction systems

\$9,833 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

The Autism Program (TAP) at Easterseals can broaden community access to its diagnostic services by creating a plan to 1) navigate the process of joining insurance networks and 2) develop a sliding scale fee structure.

EMBRACE LIVING COMMUNITIES

Embracing Art & Music for Resident Wellbeing

\$9,660 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Provide interactive psychosocial programming that fosters engagement and social connections through art, music and movement therapies, to low-income senior residents living at Greencastle of Mulford and Allerton.

ETHNIC HERITAGE MUSEUM

Restoring the Graham-Ginestra Barn

\$27,600 | Winnebago Co. | Phyllis Mae Rogers Memorial

Funds will help with the next two phases of our barn restoration process; foundation and flooring repair and repair and the restoration of the barn's siding.

EVANS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Paper Angel Closet Outreach

\$2,300 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

This program is to provide families in need through distribution of personal care items and cleaning supplies. This program targets at least 18 families in three elementary schools in Machesney Park.

EVERSIGHT

Support for Corneal Donation and Transplantation Across Northern Illinois

\$7,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support clinical operations in Northern Illinois, allowing even more Northern Illinois cornea donors to give the gift of sight and residents to receive sight-saving corneal transplants.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES OF NORTHERN IL

Building on Success in Experiential Therapy

\$22,455 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Funding will support the creation of a sensory therapy room with a dedicated LEGO® therapy area, expansion of individual and group experiential therapy sessions, purchase of new equipment, replacement of worn or broken items, and AAIT Fellowship Training Course for therapists.

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES OF NORTHERN IL

Counseling At Community Locations - Reducing Barriers

\$25,070 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Improve access to counseling services for people who may not have insurance, so they can improve their mental health. Counseling will be provided at community locations where they already are, thereby reducing financial, transportation and other barriers to mental health services.

FARMWORKER AND LANDSCAPER ADVOCACY PROJECT

Empowering Low-wage Youth and Families Through Culturally Responsive Support

\$34,500 | Winnebago Co. | Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund

Deliver free, year-round, trauma-informed legal education and social services to immigrant youth and families. The program strengthens low-wage family stability, promotes youth leadership, and increases access to vital resources through bilingual outreach and rights education.

FREEPORT ART MUSEUM

smArt After School

\$28,750 | Stephenson Co. | Thomas G. and Mary Alyce Bartels Memorial

This program is a collaboration between the Freeport Art Museum, the Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA that delivers high-quality, hands-on art activities onsite at partner locations after school. It serves nearly 300 children annually, expanding access to enriching arts education for the youth of our community.

FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Refresh Meeting Room Furniture

\$5,750 | Stephenson Co. | Roger and Mary Reithmeier Fund

Purchase new, washable chairs for the large meeting room at the Freeport Public Library. The room is used for a variety of public and private programs over 400 times a year. Updating the chairs in our meeting room will allow us to offer a more functional and inviting space for our community.

FREEPORT REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Diaper Drive for Stephenson County

\$3,450 | Stephenson Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

To provide families in Stephenson County with Diapers and other supplies as these items are not provided by other agencies or covered by WIC. These items are expensive, the goal is to assist in meeting their families' need.

FREEPORT REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Improving Safe Sleep for Newborns

\$4,025 | Stephenson Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Purchase Halo Sleep Sacs for newborns. These award-winning, wearable blankets help provide safe sleep and eliminate the need for loose covers. All new parents are taught how to use the sleep sac while in the hospital and learn a variety of safe sleep practices to keep their babies safe.

GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Project Opportunity - Rockford

\$5,074 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Courtney J. and Margaret Hutchins Hamlin Family Fund

Initiative designed to bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to underserved girls in Rockford. Through weekly sessions held at community centers, or housing sites, girls engage in activities focused on life skills, STEM, financial literacy, career exploration, healthy relationships, and leadership development.

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

Girls on the Run is committed to access, support and expansion for our Spring 2026 season.

\$9,890 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expand Girls on the Run programming to new schools for the Spring 2026 season. Through the program, girls gain vital life skills in a safe, inclusive environment—strengthening their social, emotional, and physical well-being while developing lifelong healthy habits.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Career Clothing Closet

\$3,045 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Goodwill Industries provides workforce development, education, and support to help individuals with barriers gain employment and achieve self-sufficiency. One critical need in the community is access to required steel-toed boots, which are often unaffordable and rarely donated due to heavy personal use.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

GUEST HOUSE

A Home Away From Home: Medical Lodging for Northern Illinoisans

\$5,235 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Provide medical lodging and support services to 30 Northern Illinois families. The Foundation's renewed support will reduce the financial and emotional stressors Northern Illinoisians face when they must travel to Chicago for advanced, hospital-based care.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF OGLE COUNTY

Habitat Housing Solutions 2026: Impacting Futures

\$5,750 | Ogle Co. | Guyer-Hyzer Fund

Provide critical home repairs and mobility projects for an estimated 6-7 lower income families in Ogle County. Specifically, funds are for assistance to purchase needed building materials used for these projects which will address safety, accessibility, health, quality of life and dignity for Ogle County residents.

JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT NFP

Revitalizing Jeremiah Development's Entryways

\$12,650 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Repair the stairway from the parking lot and cellar door of the building. The stairway needs to be safe for people to enter the building, and to ensure the basement no longer gets water in it after a storm, which would also help prevent mold from growing, and being able to hold workshops in the basement.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ROCKFORD

A Monument to Faith: Preserving the Lintel of Rockford's First Synagogue

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | Jon W. Lundin Historic Preservation Fund

Preserve and publicly display a significant piece of Rockford's Jewish history: a 2,600-pound stone lintel from Rockford's first Jewish synagogue. This unique artifact is a tangible link to the city's early Jewish community and stands as a powerful symbol of cultural identity and heritage.



KANTOREI, THE SINGING BOYS OF ROCKFORD

Kantorei Tuition Assistance Program

\$3,450 | Winnebago Co. | Rod MacDonald Memorial Theatre Endowment Fund

The only youth choir that boasts an educational and pedagogical approach. Funds will allow them to maintain their unique excellence and make participation affordable for more youth.



KFACT

Lady All Stars Holistic Mentoring Program

\$69,000 | Winnebago Co. | Barber-Colman Management Fund

Provide direct services (holistic mentorship) for 100 at-risk girls in grades 6-10, preparing them to create individual life plans that will reduce generational poverty by attending post-secondary education in their career choice.

LA ONDA, NFP

2026 South Main Mercado

\$20,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

South Main Mercado is a neighborhood-based, volunteer-run, one-day street festival that seeks to amplify Latino culture and southwest investment and revitalization. The grant will allow for improved execution, intentional community outreach, and elevated experiences.



MIDTOWN LUTHERAN PARISH

Nutrition, Healthcare and Social Interaction for Ruthie's Kitchen

\$9,487 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Several times a year, they offer a hot meal, social interaction and health services at Ruthie's Kitchen (RK) to individuals in need. Healthcare providers are on-site to offer blood pressure checks, share health information and distribute free self-care products.



MT. MORRIS FIRE FOUNDATION, NFP

Mount Morris Fire Department Training Room Equipment

\$20,000 | Ogle Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Funding for training room equipment to strengthen our workforce development and education for our department. Improvements to emergency services, firefighter work experience and development, candidate recruitment, and community utilization of the space can be achieved with a new facility.



NAMI NORTHERN ILLINOIS

A Welcome Safety Net: Emergency Relief Funds

\$10,250 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expand our Emergency Assistance Program to provide temporary, short-term financial assistance to individuals or families enrolled in the Mental Health Advocate Program who are unable to meet essential expenses through other means due to unexpected hardships.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

NEW HORIZONS COUNSELING CENTER

The Mental Health Counseling Program for Homeless People Living in Freeport IL

\$40,250 | Stephenson Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Provide FACC homeless clients access to professional mental health counseling services on-site at the FACC homeless shelter in Freeport IL provided by NHCC Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors. Five hours/week, 48 weeks/year annually for 3 years.

NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL SANCTUARY AND CLINIC

Population Control Program 2026

\$28,750 | Winnebago Co. | Joan K. and Ronald F. Peterson Community Support

Help fund a lower cost spay/neuter program so that all individuals in the area will be able to afford to spay/neuter their family pets and community cats. This will help keep the animal population under control and help to not overburden local shelters/rescues.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS CENTER FOR NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE

SOLVING Significant Social Issues

\$14,925 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

With NICNE as movement builder, the Food Insecurity Task Force will continue to plan and implement solutions to bring food to people and people to food AND the Belonging Begins With Us: Rockford team will continue to drive systems change to build a community-wide culture of belonging, with dedicated planning for a Financial Empowerment Center.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Neighborhood Market

\$15,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Funding will help provide fresh, nutritious groceries to support our neighbors shopping at the Neighborhood Market in Rockford.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Immigrant Welcoming Center Support

\$34,500 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Perform outreach in Rockford to vulnerable immigrant communities, providing free high-quality immigration legal services, legal consultations through centralized workshops and legal referrals.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

15 passenger van to transport youth enrolled in our programs

\$26,448 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expansion of their youth programs, to include high school students attending Auburn High School, requires reliable transportation. To ensure they can safely and consistently pick up students after school each day, they are purchasing a van dedicated to transporting participants to their program site.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

Empowering Women for Success Program

\$23,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Matching dollars to support our Empowering Women for Success (EWS) program. EWS is designed to assist women in making meaningful and lasting changes that lead to successful careers. Through individualized case management, targeted training, and job placement services, participants are empowered to overcome barriers and pursue their desired career paths.

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Services for Survivors

\$25,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Free civil legal services to individuals who are survivors of domestic or sexual violence in Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties. The assistance from PSLS helps individuals establish safety and separation, equips them with the necessary tools for safe co-parenting with an abuser, and explores options for maintaining housing.

REGIONAL ACCESS & MOBILIZATION PROJECT, INC. (RAMP)

Project SEARCH

\$28,750 | Winnebago Co. | United Cerebral Palsy of Blackhawk Region Fund

Immersive, business-led internships for young adults with disabilities equipping them with competitive job skills, independence, and confidence. Grant funds will support program coordination, skills training, job coaching, and the purchase of essential training materials.

ROCK CUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Social Emotional and Academic Growth through Fitness

\$12,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Utilize Rockford Barbell's (NFP) movement-based SEL programming to improve youth social emotional skills and academic growth.



2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

ROCK RIVER VALLEY BLOOD CENTER

Empowering Donor Care: Supporting A1C Testing in Blood Donations

\$13,800 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expand the testing completed for each blood donation to include A1C testing. The results of these tests will be made available to the donor at no cost. This will help donors better understand their risk of developing diabetes and increase lifesaving blood donations.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY PANTRY, INC.

Nutritious Food for Winnebago County Residents

\$28,750 | Winnebago Co. | Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry Fund

During fiscal year 2025, the Rock River Valley Pantry served 82,302 individuals. This is a 18% increase from a year ago, a 48% increase from two years ago, and the demand continues to rise. This funding will help purchase shelf stable fruits and vegetables to meet the nutrition needs of clients seeking assistance each month.

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Celebrating Our Region Through Art and Education

\$21,280 | Winnebago Co. | Community Arts & Humanities Fund

Inspire students and celebrate regional voices by purchasing and placing original art pieces created by talented local artists in Rock Valley College's newest campus built in the heart of downtown Rockford. These pieces will reflect the landscapes, heritage, cultural diversity, and the industries that have built this shared community.

ROCKFORD BMX CLUB INC

Beginning STRONG

\$11,774 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

The Beginners League is an educational program for youth and under-privileged newcomers that takes place every summer. The current bikes/helmets are at the end of their life cycle and in need of replacement. Replacements bikes/helmets will be necessary to continue the educational and fitness driven Beginner's League Programs for 2026.



ROCKFORD MAKERSPACE, INC.

Support for youth STEM development, FIRST Robotics Program.

\$5,750 | Winnebago Co. | Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund

Sponsor and provide administrative support for FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team 2290, FLYT. The team of Rockford high school students build a robot each year to compete. Learning skills including complex design in CAD, CNC machining, 3D printing, budgeting, marketing, teamwork and an appreciation for STEM education and careers.



ROCKFORD PROMISE

Thrive 360: College Success Summits

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Our Scholar Support Summits address the lack of college readiness among many Scholars, particularly first-generation students. Interactive workshops with community and collegiate partners build skills in academics, time management, wellness, and communication—equipping freshmen to thrive in college and employment beyond.

ROCKFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, INC.

Bringing Music Within Reach: Accessibility Initiatives at the Rockford Symphony Orchestra

\$8,625 | Winnebago Co. | Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

The Rockford Symphony Orchestra will reserve 10% of seating across the 2025/26 season for accessibility programs, including free and reduced-cost tickets for youth, students, veterans, and community members facing financial barriers—ensuring that live orchestral music is within reach for all.

SECOND FIRST CHURCH

Serious Soup at Second First Church

\$40,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Overnight warming center in downtown Rockford that shelters some of the area's vulnerable populations from cold-related injuries and deaths. Guests at the Overnight Cafe can enjoy a hot meal, have access to items that meet their basic human needs, and receive support to help them to connect with other local human service organizations.

SECOND FIRST CHURCH

Second First Church's Overnight Cafe

\$2,875 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Serious Soup is a weekly soup kitchen that focuses on reducing food insecurity and improving health for people in downtown Rockford. In addition to feeding people who live and work in the neighborhood, Serious Soup offers a program in which select residents from the neighborhood receive training in food service and a small stipend.

SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER

PCAT Senior Rides Free

\$17,612 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

PCAT is the public transit service provider for Stephenson County providing nearly 20,000 trips for seniors at no cost. Operational cost increases and funding decreases have strained our capacity to offer these rides at no cost. Funds would be used to support our continued mission to provide free rides to the senior community within Stephenson County.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

SEVERSON DELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Science and Nature Field Trips to Support Student Learning

\$24,426 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Field Trip program with 17 guided experience offerings all purposed to fulfill the mission of linking people to nature through education & research. This funding will support 2500 Northern Illinois students participation in enriching STEM nature education opportunities.

SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES

From Barriers to Belonging - The Jubilee Center's 37-year Legacy

\$30,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support of comprehensive services, including daily meals, case management, and on-site health care access for nearly 500 adults living with serious mental illness in Rockford. This funding will ensure we can continue to provide over 20,000 meals each year, while maintaining housing assistance and advocacy that helps Jubilee members find and keep safe, affordable housing.

SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES

There's No Place Like Home

\$34,500 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Provide shelter and supportive services to recently homeless families and individuals now housed with Shelter Care. Housing Advocates offer tailored assistance, including advocacy, transportation, case management, and life skills training to ensure that people have the tools they need to maintain housing stability.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

Special Olympics Illinois – Region A Spring Games

\$5,000 | Winnebago Co. | United Cerebral Palsy of Blackhawk Region Fund

Support of inclusive sports programming that benefits athletes with intellectual disabilities in SOILL Region A (12-county service area in Northwest Illinois). Funds will help to facilitate the 2026 Region A Spring Games (Track & Field) event for 470+ local athletes, including residents of Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties.

SS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Emmaus Mental Health

\$25,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Provide free counseling services, for the Hispanic community of Winnebago County. They are currently offering this service, thanks to a grant from the Winnebago County Mental Health Board. They will also be doing some activities for the youth and group therapy for the Hispanic community.



STATELINE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Rebalance: Expansion

\$27,600 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expand our ability to offer a robust SEL program called Rebalance to youth here in the Rockford area. Rebalance is a specialized holistic, trauma-informed intervention program and is especially effective with young individuals who may have encountered notable challenges in their lives.

SUSTAIN ROCKFORD, INC.

Good Neighbors Fix-it Fair

\$1,610 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Free repair clinic to fix small appliances, bicycles, mending garments, furniture, etc. The funds awarded will help with overhead costs. The event will be 100% volunteer staffed. The goal is to keep items out of the landfill as long as possible and help the community save their stuff. Once started, they hope this program will be self-sustaining through donations.



SWEDISHAMERICAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Equipment

\$19,167 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Purchase and install the Cortexflo Photographic Examination System with training for their 20 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. This secure, specialized equipment will replace their outdated camera, ensuring compliant, high-quality photo documentation per Illinois SASETA requirements. The system will improve survivor privacy, data security, and evidentiary accuracy, enhancing both survivor care and legal support.

THE ARC OF WINNEBAGO, BOONE & OGLE COUNTIES

Project Art

\$28,750 | Winnebago Co. | Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

Project Art provides inclusive art classes and creative experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, utilizing grant funds for essential supplies, expert instruction, and adaptive materials. These resources ensure full participation, fostering improved self-expression, increased social engagement, and enhanced emotional well-being for all participants.

THE BABY BANK

Diapers with Dignity: Helping Families Thrive

\$11,500 | Stephenson Co. | Club Blue

Create a healthier community, by providing hygiene supplies to children in need. Their vision is to provide to families in need, containing diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, and baby-safe detergents and soaps. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a community where no child goes without basic hygiene supplies for a clean, happy, healthy childhood.



2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED

THE FAMILY YMCA OF NORTHWEST IL

Lifesaving Skills for New Families: Infant and Child CPR Training Initiative

\$8,404 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Community-based CPR training program tailored for new and expecting parents, guardians, and caregivers. The program will provide free, hands-on instruction in infant and child CPR, equipping families with essential lifesaving skills and improving child safety outcomes in our community.

THE LIAM FOUNDATION

LIAM's Fund & Access Program - LGBTQ+ Direct Client Services

\$40,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Empower Northern Illinois' LGBTQ+ community with essential services including legal name changes, housing, basic needs assistance, and access to gender-affirming resources. Their peer-led support groups, and community events promote dignity, respect, and well-being.

THE MUSIC ACADEMY IN ROCKFORD

The Music Academy Connects

\$11,042 | Winnebago Co. | Donald V. and Britta A. Peterson Memorial Fund

The Music Academy provides positive classical music experiences for all. Their interactive concerts will connect people with a deeper love of music and ensure everyone has access to quality musical experiences.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF ROCKFORD & WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Pathway of Hope

\$32,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Pathway of Hope provides individualized services to families with children who desire to break the generational cycle of crisis and vulnerability. By addressing the root causes of poverty like unemployment, unstable housing, and lack of education, families can find a path of increased stability and self-sufficiency.

THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM

Fat Ham

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | Armer F. Ahlstrand Fund

High-quality, thought-provoking theater, with local artists, and broadening cultural opportunities in the region. Fat Ham is a modern, award-winning reinterpretation of Shakespeare's Hamlet, blending humor, drama, and contemporary themes in a backyard barbecue setting.

THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM

WSSR Dance+Theater / Spring 2026

\$4,442 | Winnebago Co. | Barber-Colman Management Fund

The program blends contemporary dance and theatrical performance, with local dancers, choreographers, and creative collaborators. The project builds on the mission to foster regional participation in performing arts.

TOMMY CORRAL MEMORIAL FUND / FOUNDATION

The Cost of Counseling

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | The Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services

Referrals and financial assistance to individuals experiencing emotional and mental health challenges. Grant funds will be used to offset the cost of counseling for those who are uninsured or underinsured. Improving access to mental health services will result in individual healing, strengthened families, and contributions to a more resilient community.

TOMMY CORRAL MEMORIAL FUND / FOUNDATION

The Healthy Mind Support Squad: Building Resilience in Our Youth

\$9,430 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support Healthy Mind Kids Club-Support Squad, a therapeutic program for children ages 8–12 that fosters emotional awareness, resilience, and healthy communication. Led by licensed professionals, the program provides at-risk youth with coping skills, social development, and a safe space to process emotions.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES

Veteran Diabetic Nutrition

\$2,875 | Winnebago Co. | Joan K. and Ronald F. Peterson Community Support I

Purchase diabetic specific nutritional food items for 50 low-income veterans struggling to provide the nutrition they need each month to manage their diabetes. The agency provides nutritional assistance free of cost so veterans may improve their physical health.



TRINITY HOUSE, INC.

Winter-Ready: Keeping Trinity House Residents Safe & Warm

\$19,838 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Funds will be used to replace five furnaces that are over 25 years old at Trinity House properties. New, high-efficiency units will reduce energy costs and improve reliability. This upgrade ensures tenant partners stay warm, safe, and housed with dignity.



UNITED WAY OF LEE COUNTY INC. DBA-UNITED WAY OF OGLE COUNTY

Fueling Imaginations! The Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Ogle County

\$11,252 | Ogle Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Expand the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Ogle County, providing a free, high-quality book each month to children from birth to age five. This will allow help grow enrollment from 600 to 1,000 children by the end of 2026, ensuring more families have access to early literacy resources.

2025 CFNIL COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS, CONTINUED



UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

\$17,250 | Stephenson Co. | Ralph A. & Mildred Johnson Fund

They've been an affiliate for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library since 2016. While the Dollywood Foundation covers many overhead costs and administration needs, the local programs secure the funding for the cost of books and postage. As the local Affiliate, they will use CFNIL funds to cover their portion of the DPIL costs for Stephenson County.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ROCKFORD

Promote Lung Cancer Screening in Minority Communities and Development of Novel Blood Biomarkers

\$46,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Continue studies in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and Stephenson, counties with a focus on underrepresented minorities to promote lung cancer screening. They will conduct seminars and develop a website for smokers with screening guidelines that incorporate access to UIC Telehealth. They will study novel protein and DNA biomarkers to develop a blood test for early detection, improving early diagnosis and patient prognosis.

VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS

2026 Mt. Morris Jamboree Free Concerts

\$5,750 | Ogle Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

The Mt. Morris Jamboree presents 2-hour free concerts on Friday nights during the Summer in a band shell on our historic campus in the center of town. These funds would allow them to present higher quality bands to help grow the crowds larger and the program stronger.

VOICES OF INSPIRATION

Assistance with Food Cost

\$5,235 | Winnebago Co. | Guy B. Reno Family Fund

Assist with food costs for the Pantry for a period of at least six months. In 2025, VOI's program; through June 2025 has served 17,412 families/individuals with nutritious food and has helped to offset the negative effect of local food deserts and reduced SNAP benefits.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA

Champions of Children Conference

\$2,768 | Winnebago Co. | William & Catherine McCoy Fund

Provide CASA staff with greater knowledge about child abuse prevention strategies, trauma informed care, evidence based practices around child welfare, law enforcement, and healthcare. Conference attendees will present conference materials to other CASA staff members and CASA Advocate Volunteers.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Doula Development Program

\$29,000 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support ten scholarships for community members to become certified doulas. Increasing the capacity to provide physical, emotional, and informational support resulting in better birth outcomes and empowered families. This will expand maternal-care capacity in Winnebago County, where provider shortages and waitlists currently limit access.



WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

Winnebago-Boone Agriculture in the Classroom

\$11,500 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support in-school agriculture programs where students will learn how their food and fiber is produced. It will pay for supplies for the student's activities, as well as resources for the programs and mileage for educators.

WOMANSPACE

Kids CREATE- Cultivating Resilience, Empathy, Artistry, Tenacity, and Empowerment

\$6,095 | Winnebago Co. | Bengt & Mary Kuller Fund

Expand Kids CREATE, a youth program combining arts, nature, mindfulness, and mentorship to foster creative expression, emotional growth, and leadership development. Funding will expand current programming to include deeper, year-round programming for both elementary and adolescent youth in the Rockford region.

YMCA OF ROCK RIVER VALLEY

Teen Programming Support

\$21,390 | Winnebago Co. | Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Support the hiring of an afterschool staff member to lead year-round teen programming at both the Good Shepherd and SwedishAmerican Riverfront YMCAs. This position will provide consistent support for the Youth and Government, Youth Advisory Board, Jr. Achievers, and Achievers programs, along with STEAM learning opportunities, including: STEAM supplies, enhancing engagement and skill-building for local teens.

YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

Respect for Homeless Youth

\$18,126 | Winnebago Co. | The Corbett Family Fund for Youth, Families, and Human Services

Replace a total of 36 mattresses at both Emergency Youth Shelters and our Transitional Living Program. The current mattresses have been in use since 2005 and some even longer. They would like to upgrade from institutional type of mattresses to a regular twin size mattress that would include a protective covering.

WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY GRANTS POSSIBLE?

The people and places of Northern Illinois are diverse: urban and rural, well-established and new, representing many nations, heritages, and backgrounds. Every grant awarded was made possible by local generosity and will serve local needs; every grant and every donor that made this work possible is unique.

Unrestricted gifts made to CFNIL provide the bulk of the funding for the Community Grants Program. Some donors have established funds that support specific types of charitable activities. Distributions from these funds are awarded in the Focus Area that best matches the donors' intent.

This report includes fund names adjacent to award amounts, the majority of which include the name of that fund's original donors. Some of these donors are still active in our community; many are long deceased. Without exception, their generosity has made immeasurable good work possible; they may not have imagined today's challenges and opportunities, but their support persists all the same. It is a privilege to put these gifts to work each and every year.





SUMMARY TABLES OF GRANTS BY FOCUS AREA

PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	AWARD
ARTS & HUMANITIES	ARTISTS' ENSEMBLE THEATER	"Conscience" by Joe DiPietro	\$8,050
	CLETAS STAY AND SEW	Cleta's Stay & Sew	\$11,500
	COLISEUM MUSEUM OF ART, ANTIQUES & AMERICANA	MOVEABLE STEPS FOR STAGE ACCESS	\$8,372
	DURAND CHARM	DURAND CHARM MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES	\$5,635
	EMBRACE LIVING COMMUNITIES	EMBRACING ART & MUSIC FOR RESIDENT WELLBEING	\$9,660
	ETHNIC HERITAGE MUSEUM	Restoring the Graham-Ginestra barn	\$27,600
	FREEPORT ART MUSEUM	SMART AFTER SCHOOL	\$28,750
	JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ROCKFORD	A MONUMENT TO FAITH: PRESERVING THE LINTEL OF ROCKFORD'S FIRST SYNAGOGUE	\$11,500
	KANTOREI, THE SINGING BOYS OF ROCKFORD	KANTOREI TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$3,450
	ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION	CELEBRATING OUR REGION THROUGH ART AND EDUCATION	\$21,280
	ROCKFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, INC.	BRINGING MUSIC WITHIN REACH: ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES AT THE ROCKFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	\$8,625
	THE ARC OF WINNEBAGO, BOONE & OGLE COUNTIES	PROJECT ART	\$28,750
	THE MUSIC ACADEMY IN ROCKFORD	THE MUSIC ACADEMY CONNECTS	\$11,042
	THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM	FAT HAM	\$11,500
	THE WEST SIDE SHOW ROOM	WSSR DANCE+THEATER SPRING 2026	\$4,442
	VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS	2026 MT. MORRIS JAMBOREE FREE CONCERTS	\$5,750
	ARTS & HUMANITIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		
	\$205,906		
BASIC NEEDS & COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT	Bread of Life	Helping the Hungry	\$5,750
	DURAND AREA FOOD PANTRY	Durand Area Food Pantry Personal Care Products And Cleaning Products For All Program	\$2,875
	Evans United Methodist Church	Paper Angel Closet Outreach	\$2,300
	Freeport Regional Healthcare Foundation	Diaper Drive for Stephenson County	\$3,450
	GUEST HOUSE	A Home Away From Home: Medical Lodging for Northern Illinoisans	\$5,235
	Midtown Lutheran Parish	Nutrition, Healthcare and Social Interaction for Ruthie's Kitchen	\$9,487
	NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK	Northern Illinois Food Bank's Neighborhood Market	\$15,000
	Rock River Valley Pantry, Inc.	Nutritious Food for Winnebago County Residents	\$28,750
	Second First Church	SecondFirst Church's Overnight Cafe	\$40,000
	Second First Church	Serious Soup at SecondFirst Church	\$2,875
	SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES	From Barriers to Belonging - The Jubilee Center's 37-year Legacy	\$30,000
	The Baby Bank	Diapers with Dignity: Helping Families Thrive	\$11,500
	Voices of Inspiration	PATHWAY OF HOPE	\$5,235
	BASIC NEEDS & COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		
	\$162,457		



SUMMARY TABLES OF GRANTS BY FOCUS AREA



CAREER PATHWAYS	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	AWARD
		GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS	CAREER CLOTHING CLOSET	\$3,045
		KFACT	LADY ALL STARS HOLISTIC MENTORING PROGRAM	\$69,000
		NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER	EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM	\$23,000
		REGIONAL ACCESS & MOBILIZATION PROJECT, INC. (RAMP)	PROJECT SEARCH	\$28,750
		ROCKFORD MAKERSPACE, INC.	SUPPORT FOR YOUTH STEM DEVELOPMENT, FIRST ROBOTICS PROGRAM.	\$5,750
		ROCKFORD PROMISE	THRIVE 360: COLLEGE SUCCESS SUMMITS	\$11,500
		WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	DOULA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	\$29,000
		CAREER PATHWAYS FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		\$170,045



COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION	BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY	NORTHERN ILLINOIS: 12,000 YEARS OF CHANGE. THE SCIENCE OF OUR LAND, LIFE, AND PEOPLE	\$35,190
	GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS	PROJECT OPPORTUNITY - ROCKFORD	\$5,074
	ROCK CUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SOCIAL EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH THROUGH FITNESS	\$12,000
	SEVERSON DELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	SCIENCE AND NATURE FIELD TRIPS TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING	\$24,426
	UNITED WAY OF LEE COUNTY INC. DBA-UNITED WAY OF OGLE COUNTY	FUELING IMAGINATIONS! THE DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY FOR OGLE COUNTY	\$11,252
	UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS	DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY	\$17,250
	WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION	WINNEBAGO-BOONE AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM	\$11,500
	YMCA OF ROCK RIVER VALLEY	TEEN PROGRAMMING SUPPORT	\$21,390
	COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		\$138,082



DIGNITY & RESPECT	BROOKE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CENTER SUPPORT	\$34,500
	EASTERSEALS SERVING CHICAGOLAND AND GREATER ROCKFORD	CREATING A HEALTHY, SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	\$20,125
	FARMWORKER AND LANDSCAPER ADVOCACY PROJECT	EMPOWERING LOW-WAGE YOUTH AND FAMILIES THROUGH CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SUPPORT	\$34,500
	PRairie STATE LEGAL SERVICES	LEGAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS	\$25,000
	SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER	PCAT SENIOR RIDES FREE	\$17,612
	SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS	SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS – REGION A SPRING GAMES	\$5,000
	SWEDISHAMERICAN HEALTH FOUNDATION	SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINATION EQUIPMENT	\$19,167
	THE LIAM FOUNDATION	LIAM'S FUND & ACCESS PROGRAM - LGBTQ+ DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES	\$40,000
	TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES	VETERAN DIABETIC NUTRITION	\$2,875
	WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA	CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE	\$2,768
	YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK	RESPECT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH	\$18,126
	EQUITY, DIGNITY, & RESPECT FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		\$219,673

SUMMARY TABLES OF GRANTS BY FOCUS AREA



PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	AWARD
HEALTH	EASTERSEALS SERVING CHICAGOLAND AND GREATER ROCKFORD	INCREASING ACCESS TO AUTISM DIAGNOSES BY BUILDING IN WAITLIST REDUCTION SYSTEMS	\$9,833
	EVERSIGHT	SUPPORT FOR CORNEAL DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS	\$7,000
	FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES OF NO. IL.	BUILDING ON SUCCESS IN EXPERIENTIAL THERAPY	\$22,455
	FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES OF NO. IL.	COUNSELING AT COMMUNITY LOCATIONS - REDUCING BARRIERS	\$25,070
	FREEPORT REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION	IMPROVING SAFE SLEEP FOR NEWBORNS	\$4,025
	NAMI NORTHERN ILLINOIS	A WELCOME SAFETY NET: EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS	\$10,250
	NEW HORIZONS COUNSELING CENTER	THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE LIVING IN FREEPORT IL.	\$40,250
	ROCK RIVER VALLEY BLOOD CENTER	EMPOWERING DONOR CARE: SUPPORTING A1C TESTING IN BLOOD DONATIONS	\$13,800
	SS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH	EMMAUS MENTAL HEALTH	\$25,000
	THE FAMILY YMCA OF NORTHWEST IL	LIFESAVING SKILLS FOR NEW FAMILIES: INFANT AND CHILD CPR TRAINING INITIATIVE	\$8,404
	TOMMY CORRAL MEMORIAL FUND / FOUNDATION	THE COST OF COUNSELING	\$11,500
	TOMMY CORRAL MEMORIAL FUND / FOUNDATION	THE HEALTHY MIND SUPPORT SQUAD: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR YOUTH	\$9,430
	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ROCKFORD	PROMOTION OF LUNG CANCER SCREENING IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL BLOOD BIOMARKERS	\$46,000
	HEALTH FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		
	\$233,017		
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT	GLENN H. GREEN OPEN SPACE NATURE EDUCATION PLAYGROUND	\$28,750
	FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY	REFRESH MEETING ROOM FURNITURE	\$5,750
	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF OGLE COUNTY	HABITAT HOUSING SOLUTIONS 2026: IMPACTING FUTURES	\$5,750
	LA ONDA, NFP	2026 SOUTH MAIN MERCADO	\$20,000
	MT. MORRIS FIRE FOUNDATION, NFP	MOUNT MORRIS FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM EQUIPMENT	\$20,000
	NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL SANCTUARY AND CLINIC	POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM 2026	\$28,750
	NORTHERN ILLINOIS CENTER FOR NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE	SOLVING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL ISSUES	\$14,925
	SHELTER CARE MINISTRIES	THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME	\$34,500
	SUSTAIN ROCKFORD, INC.	GOOD NEIGHBORS FIX-IT FAIR	\$1,610
	TRINITY HOUSE, INC.	WINTER-READY: KEEPING TRINITY HOUSE RESIDENTS SAFE & WARM	\$19,838
	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		
	\$179,873		
YOUTH & FAMILIES	ALIGNMENT ROCKFORD	STRONG SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE, RPS DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	\$17,193
	BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	(SCOUT)REACHING OUT	\$25,672
	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ROCKFORD	LEADERS IN THE MAKING: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH KEYSTONE AND TORCH CLUBS	\$21,567
	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF FREEPORT & STEPHENSON COUNTY	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF FREEPORT & STEPHENSON COUNTY (BGC) VAN	\$36,151
	BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY NI	GETTING AHEAD CLASSES	\$22,624
	BRIGHTPOINT	ROCKFORD CRISIS NURSERY OVERNIGHT EXPANSION	\$75,000
	GIRLS ON THE RUN OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS	GIRLS ON THE RUN IS COMMITTED TO ACCESS, SUPPORT AND EXPANSION FOR OUR SPRING 2026 SEASON.	\$9,890
	JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT NFP	REVITALIZING JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT'S ENTRYWAYS	\$12,650
	NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER	15 PASSENGER VAN TO TRANSPORT YOUTH ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAMS	\$26,448
	ROCKFORD BMX CLUB INC	BEGINNING STRONG	\$11,774
	STATELINE YOUTH FOR CHRIST	REBALANCE: EXPANSION	\$27,600
	THE SALVATION ARMY OF ROCKFORD & WINNEBAGO COUNTY	PATHWAY OF HOPE	\$32,000
	WOMANSPACE	KIDS CREATE- CULTIVATING RESILIENCE, EMPATHY, ARTISTRY, TENACITY, AND EMPOWERMENT	\$6,095
	YOUTH & FAMILIES FOCUS AREA TOTAL:		
	\$324,664		



MEET THE TEAM



**KATE
BLACK**

SCHOLARSHIP & IYWT
ASSOCIATE
kblack@cfnil.org
779-210-8202



**HEATHER
CUNNINGHAM**

SCHOLARSHIP & IYWT
OFFICER
hcunningham@cfnil.org
779-210-8209



**LISA
DELANG**

GRANTS
OFFICER
edelang@cfnil.org
779-210-8210



**SHANNON
GUSTAFSON**

VICE PRESIDENT OF
FINANCE & ADMIN
sgustafson@cfnil.org
779-210-8205



**ISABELLA
IBARRA**

ACCOUNTANT
iibarra@cfnil.org
779-210-8211



**VICKI
LAY**

DEVELOPMENT &
ADMIN ASSOCIATE
vlay@cfnil.org
779-210-8203



**ADAM
MCGHEE**

ENGAGEMENT
OFFICER
amcghee@cfnil.org
779-210-8201



**JAMES
PATTERSON**

PRESIDENT
jpatterson@cfnil.org
779-210-8206

CFNIL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karen Schiller, Chair
Winnebago County CASA

Joseph Cruz
PCI Pharma Services

John Kehoe
Retired - MercyHealth

Jim Derry, Vice-Chair
Field Fastener

Derek Dreier
SPX Flow Inc.

Rebecca Kendall
Retired - Rockford Health Council

Dayton Smith, III, Treasurer
DBS Accounting

Sherry Gaumond
Larson & Darby Group

Timothy (T.J.) Leake
AGHL Law

Mike Gann Asst Treasurer
Retired - MPEC

Bryan Heidemann
CoyleKiley Insurance

M. Beth Thacker
Northwestern Mutual

James Patterson, Secretary
CFNIL President

Annie Hobson
Active Minds

Skip Trotter
Trotter Manufacturing

Steve Schmeling, Past Chair
Schmeling Construction, Co.

Beth S. Howard
Retired - Friends of the Coronado / RCCA

Richard T. Leighton
Trustee Emeritus



BE A PART OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

A gift of financial support, your time, and your expertise, is a gift for our whole community!

Unrestricted gifts made to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois build the endowment which provides funds distributed through Community Grants, and help us ensure that a perpetual and growing reservoir of support is available to the organizations doing good work in our region.

Our grantmaking efforts would also not be possible without the time and expertise of dozens of volunteer grant reviewers, who read and score every application and make recommendations for awards to CFNIL's Board of Trustees.

Would you like to be a part of the grant review team? Interested in learning more about supporting Community Grants with a financial gift? Contact us at: 815.962.2110 or info@cfnil.org.



OUR VISION

A healthy, sustainable Northern Illinois supported by partnerships fostered by CFNIL.

OUR MISSION

To inspire endowment and promote philanthropy for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

946 N Second St., Rockford, IL 61107
815.962.2110 cfnil.org

