



Jennifer Bell, Judy Hey, and Allison Carnahan

# Giving Matters

Community Foundation DeKalb County  
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## 22nd Annual Meeting

The Community Foundation of DeKalb County celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> year at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The program started with Executive Director, Tanya Young updating guests on the many successes the Foundation experienced in 2018. Board President, Matt Bechdol, explained the progress made by Learning Link's Foundational and Continual Learning Teams. The Director of Learning Link, Judy Sorg, showed a video recap of DeKalb County Promise's 2018 Walk Into My Future Event. Claire Comfort, the President of the Foundation's youth philanthropy group, VOICE, discussed the work the high school students have been doing to support the community's charitable needs. She explained how VOICE's grants have impacted programs and organizations in DeKalb County. Foundation Board member, Bryan Nugen, described the time, talent and treasure Mayor Norm Yoder has put into the community to make it a better place and this is why he was awarded the Change Maker Award.

Guests were able to participate in the Grant Off by voting for 1 of 3 organizations. We heard from Inspiration Ministries', Andrew Foster, as he expressed the need for the community to support those in recovery. Amy Hanna, from RespectTeam, described how the organization goes to middle and high school classes and teaches students to not only respect and care for themselves, but also others, and how to receive support when needed. Bob Krafft told guests how the YMCA of DeKalb County is creating a program called 'Y on the Fly', where they will be going to specific locations in the county to reach out to those who may not get to experience the

YMCA's facility and activities. With the guests and Foundation's grant committee votes totaled, Inspiration Ministries came in 1<sup>st</sup> place and received a \$3,500 grant. YMCA of DeKalb County received a \$1,300 grant as 2<sup>nd</sup> place and RespectTeam received a \$1,200 grant as 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Thank you to all who attended the Community Foundation of DeKalb County's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting! As always, the Foundation appreciates your support. Without our donors and community support, the Community Foundation would not be able to grant these special dollars to three deserving organizations or the many other wonderful organizations that receive grants throughout the year. For more information on how you can continue supporting our community's charitable needs, contact Tanya Young at (260)925-0311 or TYoung@CFDeKalb.org.



L-R Foster, Mercer, Hanna, and Krafft



Tanya Young, John Sampson, and Judy Sorg



Matt Bechdol and VOICE Members (L-R Libby Detcher, Claire Comfort, and Emily Silvers)

# Business & Early Childhood Education Summit

On April 30th, 60 guests came together to learn about the brain science behind early childhood development and a variety of perspectives on the importance and challenges of ensuring accessible and affordable early childhood education. These issues are particularly acute as we now know that quality early childhood education is a “game-changer” to children’s later success, and we live in a time when many parents are both working to make ends meet, 65% in DeKalb County.

At the event, a resounding message to parents of young children from Dr. Tony GiaQuinta, Fort Wayne pediatrician and President of the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy for Pediatrics, was “your child needs to be a bigger screen than your phone, your child IS your screen.”

Also at the event, Madeleine Baker, CEO, Early Childhood Alliance, moderated a panel that shared perspectives from manufacturing, city government, small business, and early learning environments. Regional and local panelists included Jamie Bell, HR Manager at Therma-Tru; Heather Borton, Early Head Start in Huntington County; Stephanie Crandall, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the City of Fort Wayne; Sherry Crisp-Ridge, DeKalb Central District Preschool Director; Chelsey Robinson, Director of Early Learning for the YMCA of DeKalb County; and Dr. Dan Schmidt, Auburn Dental Associates. Bell shared some proactive measures taking place at Therma-Tru to assist employees with young children, like being able to use time off in two-hour increments. Employees for the City of Fort Wayne now have a more generous family leave benefit for new parents. In the DeKalb Central school district, Crisp-Ridge takes pride in her district’s decision to decentralize early childhood education from one site in Waterloo Elementary to each of DeKalb Central’s four elementary schools. “That’s important for families, to remove any barriers, like transportation,” said Crisp-Ridge. Robinson shared that the YMCA offers its employees a 50% discount on child care and serves children ages 12 weeks to 12 years old. Schmidt, a practicing dentist, has been a long-time advocate of early learning and believes there’s a positive effect not only on the child engaged in early childhood education, but on the child’s parents as well, sometimes called “the two-generational impact.”



“Dr. Tony” and attendee, Dena Jacquay



Panelists at the Business & Early Childhood Education Summit

Part of the impetus for the event was the release of the report, “Lost Opportunities: The Impact of Inadequate Child Care on Indiana’s Workforce & Economy”. Researchers estimated that Indiana’s direct employer costs of absences and turnover due to lack of adequate child care total \$1.8B in economic activity every year. Authors reported “these child care related disruptions cost the state an additional \$119M in tax revenue every year.” In DeKalb County, the estimated loss directly to businesses is \$12.1M due to employee absences and turnover. The full report is available at [www.earlylearningindiana.org](http://www.earlylearningindiana.org). For more information about Learning Link, the Community Foundation’s education initiative, or resources, contact Judy Sorg at 260-925-0311 or by e-mail at [JSorg@CFDeKalb.org](mailto:JSorg@CFDeKalb.org).

## Foundation Welcomes New Intern

Noah Benzing is a Senior Sports Management and Accounting major at Trine University as well as a 2016 graduate from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. At Trine, he is involved in many on campus activities and clubs, including being the Vice President of Finance for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the Trine honors society, the Order of Omega honors society, being a former member of the Trine baseball team, and working for the Sports Information Department.

Noah applied for the internship after the executive director of the Steuben County Community Foundation gave a talk to one of his classes on what working for a nonprofit is like. A good friend of his also completed an internship at a community foundation and recommended it to him because of how much he enjoyed his time there.

So far Noah has really enjoyed his time at the Community Foundation, and said his favorite part has been seeing the family aspect that a community can really have. Noah says that "growing up in a large city like Fort Wayne, I never really felt like the community was all that close, but in DeKalb County you can definitely feel that they are." Noah is excited to continue working here over the next coming months, helping the county grow and learning more about the community that he is now blessed to be a small part of.

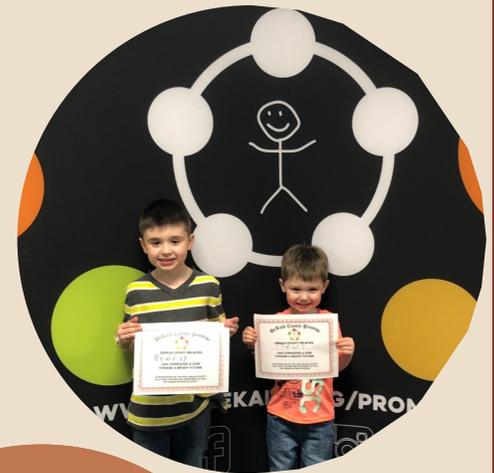
Following graduation he plans to work within the sports industry, preferably somewhere he could utilize the accounting/finance skills he has gained, but noted that maybe a career in the nonprofit industry could be on the horizon, as well.



## 2019 DeKalb County Promise Spring Enrollment Update

9  
Schools  
Visited

13  
Enrollment  
Events



250  
Promise  
accounts  
created!



The Foundation would like to thank the generosity of our scholarship donors who believe in continued education after high school. With your help, 33 scholarship awards totaling \$141,050 were given to DeKalb County students! These scholarships recognize the accomplishments the students have achieved in the last four years. The Foundation is very proud of all the DeKalb County students and wishes them great success as they continue their education!



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