

# GIVING MATTERS

## Community Foundation DeKalb County

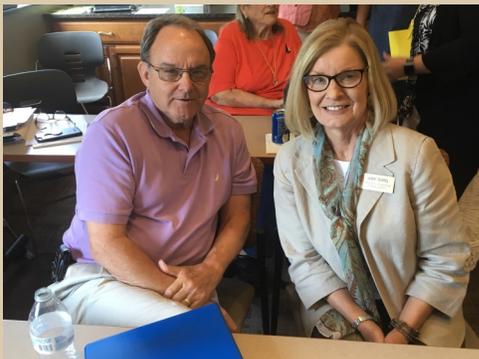
### Farewell to Judy Sorg

Sadly, Judy Sorg will be leaving the Community Foundation DeKalb County at the end of the year. Judy, who is well known and respected for her passionate work, has for over 17 years dedicated countless time and energy to supporting and raising educational attainment across DeKalb County.

Judy's work in DeKalb County started with Terra Firma and then, through a grant, transitioned into the work of Learning Link. She has been instrumental in bringing business, education, and community together to positively impact collaboration and partnerships. She has mentored interns and helped them grow to become professionals in a variety of career fields. Most recently, Sorg spearheaded the DeKalb Promise program to continue raising educational attainment starting with the community's younger population.

When asked, what was the most enjoyable part of her time with the Community Foundation, Judy said, "I've enjoyed meeting so many people who have become friends along the way."

She will be missed by many, but her passion for education will remain through the many partnerships and programs that are a result of her countless hours and dedication. The Foundation board and staff wish the very best to Judy as she sits back, relaxes and enjoys a glass of wine with a good book.



Mayor Norm Yoder and Judy Sorg

*"Judy, the DeKalb community has appreciated you sharing your gifts as a communicator, convener, and enabler for the Community Foundation, Learning Link, and all educational groups you have touched. You have been a role model extraordinaire for many. Thank you and have a very enjoyable retirement." - Mayor Norm Yoder*

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*"Judy championed education as a driver of community economic development. She fostered the work of program providers toward shared community goals that enhance quality of life for everyone in the community." - Wendy Oberlin*

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Judy Sorg and Wendy Oberlin

## Board Member Spotlight: Loraine Hartranft

Loraine Hartranft grew up in DeKalb County and graduated from Auburn High School. After working at Cooper Industrial Products in production scheduling, she moved to Southern California for the next 24 years. While in California, she served as the conference treasurer for the United Methodist Women and in conference finance building yearly budgets for the United Methodist church.

Upon retiring in 2014, she moved back to Auburn and continued to serve the community by volunteering at the DeKalb Hospital gift shop and the Curiosity Shop in Garrett. She is also a board member of the Friends of the Eckhart Public Library and enjoys Kenwigs, a literary group in town. In 2017 she joined the Community Engagement Committee at the Community Foundation.

In 2012, Loraine and her sisters, Sherri and Diana, created the Kelso and Margaret Davis Community Fund. The purpose of this endowed fund is to support local charitable programs, including education as both her parents valued it.

***"Raising my two daughters in Auburn helped give me a sense of belonging to a community which cares for others and is why I will continue to serve the Community Foundation."***

### Eight Questions with Loraine

#### Why did you want to be a board member?

I wanted to honor the wishes of donors and contribute to the community for the better. This community has given a lot to my family.

#### What is your Foundational Role?

Community Engagement Committee member

#### What book has had the greatest impact on you?

The Bible

#### Who are the people that had the greatest influence on your life?

My mother and father

#### What is your favorite movie?

*The Murders in the Rue Morgue Mystery*

#### What is your favorite place or activity to unwind?

Pickle ball at the YMCA

#### If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

Down the Mississippi on a paddle boat

#### Who is your favorite television/movie character?

Mark Harmon who plays Gibbs on NCIS



## Why an Endowment Fund?

An endowment fund is a permanent fund where your gift of at least \$20,000 to the Community Foundation, is never spent. The gift is invested and as it grows, the earnings are used to make grants that meet our community needs. **Your gift and all future income from it, is a permanent source of funding for the community.**

Established in 2001, Richard A. (Dick) Dircksen DVM, and his family created the **Peggy Dircksen Fund for the Arts**, an endowment fund in memory of Dick's wife. With gifts from Dick and his family, the fund immediately began to grow and distribute grants to things that brought Peggy joy in her life – art, music, and culture. To date more than \$33,797 has been awarded in grants and the fund continues to grow, ensuring that it will permanently support Peggy's lifelong interests.

What are your interests or favorite charitable organizations? Let us help you create an endowment fund so that your gift can continue to support our community!

### Growth of endowment funds



## September 20th Promise Walk Into My Future Event

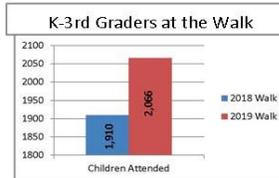


DeKalb County Promise and community partners coordinated the 2019 *Walk Into My Future* for 2,066 children in grades Kindergarten to 3 on the Ivy Tech Fort Wayne Campus. Students learned about careers and educational options beyond high school. As one component of DeKalb County Promise, along with 529 enrollment and career focused curriculum in schools, the *Walk Into My Future* provides young children with exposure to a wide variety of career options through learning experiences that are hands-on and age-appropriate.



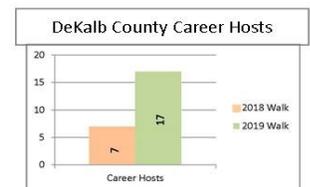
### 2019 WALK INTO MY FUTURE BY THE NUMBERS

\*\* Over 600 volunteers, chaperones, and Ivy Tech personnel.\*\*



\*\*28 sponsors for the 2019 Walk Into My Future.\*\*

\*\*83 high school students from DeKalb Central and Eastside attended as chaperones.\*\*



## 2nd Business & Early Education Summit

A second Business and Early Learning Summit was held with DeKalb County community leaders representing schools, early childhood professionals, non-profit providers, and business leaders on October 3rd at First United Methodist Church. This was Part 2 following an April 30th introduction to community and business leaders of the importance of early learning on children's brain development from age birth to 5 years, and their future success. Attendees were also made aware of the issue of inadequate child care and its financial impact on Indiana's workforce and the economy (*Lost Opportunities*, Indiana University Public Policy Institute, 2019).

The October 3rd event was designed to further educate the business community to the local child care landscape, including the shortage of infant and toddler care and absence of care for 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers. Employers were given an opportunity to discuss what they are currently doing to support their employees with young children. Responses included offering employees the ability to work remotely, flex-time, and comp time within a two-week period.

Karyn Tomkinson, Executive Director for Early Childhood Development for Ambassador Enterprises, reported on the related challenges and opportunities, sharing an excerpt from *Leading The Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education*, called *Taking the Next Step: A Guide to How the Business Community Can Engage in Childcare* (2018, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation).

Those attending the Summit left with the Foundational Learning Team's contact information for talking further about individual employers' thoughts for supporting adequate child care and education, or implementing a shared services model as a way to address the needs of the community and of young parents in the workforce.

This event was hosted by Ambassador-Enterprises, United Way DeKalb County, and Community Foundation DeKalb County.





# Save The Date

## Community Foundation Annual Meeting

Friday, March 27, 2020  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The JAM Center  
1200 E. Houston St.  
Garrett

**Building starts with the Foundation.**

Building hope • Building relationships • Building community



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email us at  
Info@CFDeKalb.org or call (260) 925-0311.

**Community  
Foundation**  
DEKALB COUNTY



700 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 111  
Auburn, IN 46706-0111  
260-925-0311  
Info@CFDeKalb.org  
www.CFDeKalb.org