

The beginning of a new year...
Our first newsletter of 2020



Community Foundation DEKALB COUNTY

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1ST QUARTER GRANTS AWARDED

The Community Foundation of DeKalb County has awarded 6 grants for the first quarter of 2020. p.02

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Becky Hefty is a lifelong resident of DeKalb County. Becky graduated from Garrett High School in 1999 and continues to serve the people of Garrett. p.02

MEET SHELBY: HIGH SCHOOL INTERN OF THE YEAR

Shelby Waligora, a high school senior attending DeKalb New Tech, was one of just three High School Interns of the Year celebrated at the 14th Annual IMPACT Awards of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The event was hosted in Indianapolis by Indiana INTERNnet, an internship-matching program linking employers, students, colleges and universities.

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PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ALEXIS WALIGORA, SHELBY WALIGORA, JAMIE BELL, JUDY SORG

INTERN OF THE YEAR CONT.

Shelby has worked with the Community Foundation since 2019, when the Foundation began implementing DeKalb County Promise, affiliated with Promise Indiana and Indiana Youth Institute. This community-wide initiative is designed to ensure that every DeKalb County child has the assets, champions, and community support to pursue their career dreams, with more than 30 local and regional organizations participating.

“As the convening organization, we never could have done what we have without Shelby’s boundless energy, critical thinking, and creativity. Shelby was integral to our ability to offer on-site 529 career savings account enrollment in every DeKalb County school in 2019. Because of her self-direction, we were able to expand Promise from serving children in Pre-K to grade 3, to serving students in Pre-K to grade 12 as we did last Fall,” said former Director of Learning Link, Judy Sorg.

Shelby has promoted the Promise initiative throughout DeKalb County by leading enrollment events with community volunteers, using strong social media efforts and developing DeKalb County Promise marketing materials. Waligora single-handedly brought together more than 60 high school volunteers in 2019 to make the annual Promise Walk Into My Future possible.

Those volunteers were critical as over 2,000 Kindergarten to 3rd grade students took part in the annual Walk event at Ivy Tech Fort Wayne. Waligora met with teachers, students, and her Principal, coordinating meetings with Community Foundation staff to recruit volunteers. Growing up in a single mother household, Shelby understands that every child needs hope, a dream for the future, and all the support they can get. The Walk Into My Future helps children begin to envision possible career fields that they, too, can aspire to after completing high school.

Shelby has been accepted and plans to attend Purdue Fort Wayne this Fall, focusing on a degree in Psychology with a minor in Secondary Education. She would like to become a psychologist and focus on helping children.

Until then, Shelby will continue focusing on expanding children’s access to 529 career savings accounts, making sure all young people have opportunities to build assets for their futures, and helping communities develop a career- or college-going culture.

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Becky Hefty is a lifelong resident of DeKalb County. Becky graduated from Garrett High School in 1999 and continues to serve the people of Garrett. She serves the community by being on the Community Foundation of DeKalb County Board of Directors, as the newly appointed president. She has an A.S. Degree from Wabash Valley College and a Bachelor’s Degree in General Studies from Indiana University and currently enrolled in the MBA program at The University of Southern Indiana. She is the Branch Manager, VP for Lake City Bank in Auburn. Becky also serves on the DeKalb County Chamber Partnership Board of Directors as Treasurer, Scholarship Chair for the Auburn Classic Noon Lion’s Club, steering committee for DeKalb County Cares 100+ and Board Member for SonShine Ministries. Becky and her husband, Morgan, reside in Auburn with their 4 children, Paxton, Wyatt, Lucy and Cooper. Becky and her family are passionate about DeKalb County and really enjoy giving back to the Community that they love.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDS

The Community Foundation of DeKalb County has awarded 6 grants for the first quarter of 2020. The Foundation accepts proposals and awards grants from several funds through a competitive process. Applicants submit grant proposals through the Community Foundation's website. The grant committee reviews all submissions and makes a recommendation to the board of directors based upon funding availability and other grant criteria.



While organizations are welcome to submit their proposals at any time, grants are awarded quarterly. The Foundation asks organizations to please plan according to the quarterly deadlines to best fit their needs. Deadlines for the remaining of 2020 are April 1st, July 1st and October 1st. The grant committee will meet after those deadlines to review proposals and make recommendations to the board of directors. Award recipients will be notified approximately 60 days after the quarterly deadlines. Grant proposals submitted after the quarterly due dates will be considered for the following quarter.

The Foundation would like to thank all applicants for submitting proposals. For more information on how to apply for a Community Foundation DeKalb County grant, visit the Foundation's website at www.CFDeKalb.org or contact Ashton Willis at (260) 925-0311 or AWillis@CFDeKalb.org.

Grants Awarded:

DeKalb Center for Early Learning - \$1,000 for professional development

DeKalb County Eastern School District - \$2,500 for mental health programming

DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. - \$5,000 for 2020 Launch DeKalb County

DeKalb Humane Society, Inc. - \$1,300 for spay and neuter program

Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House - \$3,000 for services provided to DeKalb County families

SCAN, Inc. - \$2,500 for SCAN intervention services

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Quarterly Newsletter

