



“As leaders of your community foundation, we are dedicated to fueling the power of philanthropy – connecting you to the causes you care about and building human connections to enrich lives.”



MOVING Forward → → Together

Oak Park and River Forest has much of the richness and complexity of a big city, while offering the intimacy and community of a small town. Part of that feeling is the amazing spirit of philanthropy in the people who call this area home. Each of you is a generous advocate, supporting causes you care deeply about. Your sincere commitment to build a stronger community – and to build common ground that supports us all – inspires the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation to do more. As leaders of your community foundation, we are dedicated to fueling the power of philanthropy – connecting you to the causes you care about and building human

connections to enrich lives.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read amazing stories of generosity. You will meet Jim Marshall, a long-time resident of Oak Park who has bestowed his charitable giving to help employees of Brookdale Senior Living Community get a better education – not just now, but for generations to come. You will learn about John and Linda Tibensky and their devotion to providing opportunities for students to study abroad, which now spans over two decades. And you will discover the rich 60-year history of the Community Foundation.

These stories and more speak to the power of philanthropy and the strength

of our community. We all play a valuable part in this collective endeavor. As spring comes into full bloom, our Board and staff look forward to working with you to bring fresh ideas and new approaches to enhance your philanthropic giving and help our community reach its full potential.

In partnership and service,

Donna Myers
Chair of the Board
of Directors

Antonio Martinez, Jr.
President and CEO

Donor Advised Fund Brings a Legacy of Scholarship to Fruition

When Oak Park resident Jim Marshall decided he wanted to play a larger role in expanding education opportunities for fellow community members, he first reached out to the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. A longtime fan of the Foundation and familiar with the work we do, Jim decided to engage us to help develop and manage a charitable trust scholarship fund for employees at Brookdale Senior Living Community, where he currently lives.

“Staff at Brookdale deserve a break and deserve the confidence that comes with having a scholarship,” he said. “The staff works so hard in order to get an education.”

Jim is no stranger to scholarships. He credits his own college scholarship with changing his life and opening up the path to a successful career, and he and his wife, Alice, were active in establishing scholarships at their alma mater.

After his wife’s death in 2017, Jim opened a Donor Advised Fund with the Foundation to support educational opportunities in the community – the Marshall Family Memorial Fund.

“I am happy to have the Community Foundation doing the work,” Jim said, who first learned about the Foundation in the 1990s when he was a member of the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club, tasked with

Breaking News: SAY Connects!

Fresh off the publication of its 12th issue, "SAY Connects" marked a yearlong partnership with the Wednesday Journal, generously sponsored by the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation. In addition to the monthly newspaper inserts, the joint project included live events and videos, all aimed to raise awareness of Success of All Youth (SAY) and our objective: to empower every child to reach their full potential.

Each issue of "SAY Connects" features SAY partners informing readers about important childhood developmental goals. These goals fall into three areas of focus that SAY partners use as common measurements toward success. Topics in the first dozen issues have included the importance of belonging, kindergarten readiness, mental health, post-secondary preparedness and more. Each issue also contained local resources for families related to that month's theme.

In response to events that impacted children and their families in our community, the "SAY Connects" team presented two Community Conversations that addressed concerns about equity. In November, individuals from local organizations shared their innovative work and equity resources that encouraged people to connect and take action.

Young people took the lead in the second Community Conversation in January. Youth from local affinity groups working on issues of equity exchanged ideas and discussed their work to foster positive change in Oak Park and River Forest.

You can find all 12 issues of "SAY Connects" as well as the Equity Resource Guide from our November Community Conversation at: sayopr.org/index.php/library

You can also watch both Community Conversations on our YouTube channel. Search YouTube for "Success of All Youth."



powered by the
Communityworks Fund

PlantGreen, Success of All Youth and Leadership Lab are part of the Communityworks fund family managed by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

NEW: THE SAY DATA DASHBOARD IS ONLINE! FIND THE LATEST DATA AND TRACK OUR PROGRESS IN 10 AREAS. CLICK ON THE "DATA DASHBOARD" BUTTON WHEN YOU VISIT SAYOPRF.ORG.



Giving the Gift of World Travel

Both John and Linda Tibensky value the opportunity to study abroad and believe in the benefit of living in and interacting with a foreign culture. The Tibenskys also believe in supporting local nonprofits.

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation provides an opportunity to combine those passions into a plan for their charitable giving.

Through Linda's work at Oak Park and River Forest High School, where she was exposed to exchange program trips through the foreign language department, the couple was inspired to raise funds for students who could not afford to participate in these valuable travel opportunities. When Linda retired from the high school, John approached the Foundation about creating an enrichment scholarship as her retirement gift. "The Community Foundation provided excellent guidance on how to establish our Tibensky Family Foundation Fund in

just one afternoon," he said. John and Linda have granted a scholarship from their fund every year since it was opened in 2003.

An easy way to make an impactful gift to your favorite organization(s) is to list those organizations, or your own charitable trust fund, as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy. The premium on the policy matures into a substantial benefit. Your life insurance company or attorney can quickly assist you with making this allowance on a policy. John and Linda have their fund listed as a beneficiary on their policies.

As a professional advisor, John understood the value of starting the fund at the Foundation. "The Foundation plays an important role in our community by providing a variety of scholarships and supporting many local organizations. People can donate to a specific fund at the Foundation or to the general Fund for Now. Linda and I have included the Foundation in our estate plans, so we can help their work continue for the generations."



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HONORS

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation hosted its Community Foundation Honors on Wednesday, May 15. More than 150 community members were in attendance at The Carleton Hotel as the Foundation presented this year's Excellence in Philanthropy Awards to honor those who most exemplify philanthropy and their contributions to the Oak Park and River Forest community.

"Oak Park and River Forest has much of the richness and complexity of a big city, while having the intimacy and community of a small town. Part of that intimacy, I believe, is the amazing spirit of philanthropy in the people who call Oak Park and River Forest home. Each of you is a generous advocate, supporting causes you deeply care about," said Foundation President and CEO Antonio Martinez, Jr. at the event.

Previous award winners, Bill Planek, Aidan Bertocchini, and Donna Myers served as presenters for each award. The award recipients each received a \$1,000 grant to donate to a local nonprofit of their choosing. Stephanie Schrodt presented her grant to the Oak Park & River Forest Food Pantry. Ben Crane presented his grant to Oak-Leyden Developmental Services. Claire Love presented her grant to Hephzibah Children's Association.

The event also afforded Martinez the opportunity to recognize Students Advocating for Equity (SAFE) with the President's Award. SAFE is a student-led organization through the Oak Park and River High School that is creating a course to discuss race and equity issues affecting the community.

This year's Excellence in Philanthropy Award winners are:

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST AWARD Stephanie Schrodt

Stephanie is a tireless social justice advocate and volunteer, an avid fundraiser, as well as a generous sustaining partner of several local organizations. She also established a fund at the Community Foundation that brings music to food pantry distributions and PADS nights multiple times per year. Stephanie encourages her family and friends to volunteer with her and give to the organizations she supports. Her passion for these organizations is contagious and heartfelt.

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC BUSINESS AWARD Ben Crane, representing Coplan+Crane

Coplan+Crane demonstrates its commitment to the community by raising awareness and providing financial support to organizations that provide services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, to nonprofit organizations that provide pro bono legal assistance, and to organizations that provide programs for individuals with cancer, among others. Coplan+Crane encourages others to be active participants in their communities by volunteering and to donating.

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC YOUTH AWARD Claire Love

Claire has made significant impact at Hephzibah Children's Association since she began volunteering there her freshman year of high school at OPRF, as a Huskie Helper. Over the past four years, Claire has recruited more than 20 volunteers, and has volunteered in almost every capacity at Hephzibah, and engages her friends to volunteer as well.



Jim Marshall with the 2018 recipients of the Marshall Family Memorial Fund

Donor Advised Fund Brings a Legacy of Scholarship to Fruition

continued from page 1

setting up a charitable foundation on the Club's behalf.

Jim added that the funds he has established "not only help reduce my taxes, but also allow me to leave a legacy for society."

He values how the Foundation's skill at fund management makes his visions a reality and how our work helps build relationships among community members in ways that benefit the whole Oak Park-River Forest community – now and for generations to come.

We are grateful to the Marshall Family and donors like them for enriching the lives of those who call Oak Park and River Forest home.

To learn more how the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation can help you, please call 708-848-1560 or visit oprfcf.org.

60 YEARS

A Foundation in the Past, A Vision for the Future

The inspiration for the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation came 60 years ago from concerned citizens with a desire to preserve the integrity of the two villages. The initial design was a charitable trust among five local banks. A board of directors composed of representatives of the five banks, both villages, the high school, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Welfare Council was created to oversee requests from the trust.

In 1959 the Foundation launched publicly, and appointed Luther Replogle as its first president. He was an ideal candidate for this role. Replogle was a long-time Oak Park resident, founder of Replogle Globes (made famous during the 1933 Chicago World's Fair), and a developing philanthropist. Replogle projected that "the Foundation will be of great help in solving community problems and aiding many worthy projects in the years ahead."

Replogle's vision was accurate, and the early Foundation was involved in several successful projects and produced several noteworthy philanthropists from within the community. Nevertheless, it was almost 30 years before the Foundation positioned itself to take action in direct support of the community.

In 1986, Nancy Follett, the newly elected board president, connected with Case Hoogendoorn, who would become long-time legal counsel for the Foundation. Follett saw potential for the Foundation to provide a support structure for local nonprofits and address the community's long-term needs. Under the guidance of Hoogendoorn, Follett transitioned the charitable trust into an official foundation. In 1989, Follett recruited the first executive director, and a new age began for the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

The Foundation saw many defining moments during this time:

- A formal shift from the trust structure to a corporate not-for-profit structure that provided greater flexibility in accepting gifts and managing funds
- A matching campaign built an initial endowment designed to "meet the needs of Oak Park and River Forest in the future"
- A change in the board structure, allowing for growth in size and diversity in membership
- The growth of the executive director position

Carolyn Saxton became executive director in the mid-1990s. Under Saxton's leadership, a focus on women's roles led to the establishment of Women Leaders in Philanthropy, which initially funded a significant portion of the Foundation's charitable endowment.

Virginia Martinez shared why being a member of Women Leaders was so important. "Oak Park is my home, and the Community Foundation supports organizations that I care about," she said. "It makes it easy for me to give back to this very special community."

Another milestone for the Foundation happened in the early 2000s with the creation of the *Communityworks* Fund, which came courtesy of a grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation. The initial funds were further developed through a fundraising campaign in the community to support programs in the focus areas of workforce development, child care, and land use protection. Following three phases of funding from Grand Victoria, and investing its full commitment to maintaining the community-driven process, the Foundation, led by Executive Director Sophia Lloyd, convened leaders to form the *Communityworks* Advisory Board (CWAB). The CWAB identifies local issues and aspirations and guides strategic grantmaking toward the vision of a sustainable community.

"The only way to tackle these kinds of concerns is by looking at whole systems rather than individual programs," shared Nancy Waichler, a former Foundation board member and a member of the *Communityworks* Advisory Board. "It's another way of thinking that makes a big difference in what we do."

Donor-advised funds also grew during this time. Judy Das Gupta, who established the Das Gupta Family Charitable Fund with her husband, said, "We believe it is important to make an investment at home. We look forward to seeing its impact in the years ahead."

In 2010, Case Hoogendoorn arranged the Foundation to become a trustee to the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust. This raised the Foundation's profile as an organization and more than doubled the assets managed at the time.

The Foundation continued to grow in 2013. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Sophia Lloyd, two area philanthropic institutions deepened their relationship and announced a merger, The Community Chest of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park and the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. Before the merger, the



Foundation focused on asset-building for the further development of the community, while the Community Chest raised funds to support current nonprofit efforts. Merging the two organizations positively impacted the capacity of the Foundation in a variety of ways:

- The Foundation was able to award more project grants into the community
- The Foundation established the means for nonprofits to create and house endowed funds
- As assets grew, the Foundation expanded its operations, staff size, and the number of charitable grants awarded

In 2014, Kristin Carlson Vogen became the Foundation's first president and CEO. During her tenure with the Foundation, Vogen was instrumental in creating a successful giving group model for the Foundation, adding donors, assets, and grantmaking capacity to the landscape. Foundation capacity was also increased exponentially under Vogen with the creation of new positions that nearly doubled the size of the Foundation staff, and more than \$10 million in assets were added to the bottom line.

In 2018, Antonio Martinez, Jr. took over as president & CEO. "Taking the Foundation to its next level energizes me greatly," Martinez said. "Working together, we can transform lives and grow prosperity in and around Oak Park and River Forest, now and for generations to come."

In the midst of the Foundation's 60th year, it is poised to embark on its next great adventure, working hard to secure its vision of a vibrant and sustainable community.

"Working together, we can transform lives and grow prosperity in and around Oak Park and River Forest, now and for generations to come."

– Antonio Martinez, Jr.



1959

Luther Replogle named 1st President

A long-time Oak Park resident and founder of Replogle Globes (made famous during the 1933 Chicago World's Fair), Replogle was a developing philanthropist.



1986

Nancy Follett named President



1990

Carolyn Saxton becomes first full-time Executive Director



Established through a grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation.

2005



2007

Sophia Lloyd becomes Executive Director

Community members raise \$2.25M to secure a match from the Grand Victoria Foundation increasing the Communityworks endowment fund to a total of \$4.5M.

2008



The Foundation becomes a Trustee of the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust

2010



2014

Kristin Carlson Vogen named first President & CEO



2018

Antonio Martinez, Jr. named President & CEO

Reflections

from Past Excellence in Philanthropy Award Winners

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Community Foundation's Excellence in Philanthropy Awards. Over the past ten years, we have granted awards to businesses, groups, youth, youth groups or individuals who have modeled outstanding philanthropy in our community.

Bill Planek, 2012 Outstanding Business Award recipient:

"Oak Park Apartments was humbled to receive recognition for doing our small part to support all the good that happens within the borders [of our community]. How could we not feel some sort of responsibility to contribute to their missions and improve the community we both work in and call home when we see so many worthy, local organizations doing the real "heavy lifting?"

Mary Carlin, aunt of Aidan Bertocchini, 2016 Outstanding Young Person award recipient:

"Winning the award was an amazing moment. It means everything to see Aidan recognized for the good work he has done to benefit his community. Aidan is embarrassed by awards, he is very matter

of fact about his charitable leanings, he just thinks that he does what anyone should. Sheila Price (former Foundation Board President) once described Aidan as a "natural philanthropist." On a practical level, all of the publicity and the notoriety that the award brought to the work has been wonderful. Aidan's Diaper Fund has continued to grow, and our family is pleased that our partnership with Foundation has enabled more people to hear about the work. It has validated Aidan's good work by making it part of an important organization."

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF PAST WINNERS VISIT
OPRFCF.ORG/WHO-WE-ARE/EIP-AWARDS



Bill Planek



Aidan Bertocchini



Laura Maychruk



PING! Mentors

Laura Maychruk, Owner, Buzz Café, Outstanding Philanthropic Business in 2016:

"We were honored to be recognized for all of the work we do to support all of the incredible nonprofit organizations, schools, and groups in Oak Park and River Forest. They all do incredible work in our community to foster the values we believe make our community unique."

Judy Weik on behalf of PING! Mentors, 2018 Outstanding Youth Group award recipients:

"The PING! Board feels that winning the Excellence in Philanthropy Award was a much deserved reward for the hard work and generosity of the PING! Mentors, who give an extraordinary amount of time to middle schoolers. The Mentors love music and sharing it with younger students."

In addition to giving the Foundation a platform to highlight the amazing philanthropic work in our community, the Excellence in Philanthropy Awards have also provided an outstanding introduction to the work that the Foundation does. Laura Maychruk is a founding

member of the Foundation's Entrepreneur Leaders in Philanthropy giving group. Laura shares, "The Foundation is the heart of the community. It is the conduit through which organizations and individuals can give back in meaningful ways." Mary Carlin, her sister, Ann Sugg, and Ann's son, Aidan, opened a fund at the Foundation following Aidan's award, in order to maximize the gifts he was receiving to do more good in the community. Mary said, "We are proud to have our fund with the Foundation. We enjoy being associated with an organization that does so much good in our community, and our partnership has helped my sister and I support Aidan's efforts." Judy Weik has volunteered her time at our Big Idea event and credits the Foundation for our "tremendous support for non-profit organizations like PING! The [Impact Excellence] workshops are very helpful, and the help we have received from the Foundation in setting up and maintaining the PING! Endowment Fund has been invaluable." Bill Planek eventually joined the Foundation as a Board member. He loves that the Foundation "provides a necessary conduit for all to become philanthropic champions" to those that "serve the Oak Park and River Forest communities."



What's the Big Idea?

"It's Our Future"

"Our community is filled with people who have lots of brilliant ideas. Sometimes it's a challenge to figure out what to do with those ideas, and this helps some of those great ideas rise to the surface."

– OPRF Community Foundation Board Chair Donna Myers

The struggle against climate change received a boost at the 4th Annual Big Idea Pitch Party in March, when giving group Entrepreneur Leaders in Philanthropy (ELP) awarded \$50,000 to It's Our Future.

The winning pitch by high school senior Abby Bankes and Seven Generations Ahead Executive Director Gary Cuneen, a longtime regional environmental leader, presented a vision for a multi-pronged education, engagement and empowerment initiative that raises up the next generation of sustainability leaders.

When the announcement of the winner was made, after five finalists pitched their Big Ideas to a panel of ELP judges, it left Bankes momentarily speechless. "I was blown away," she said. "I didn't really believe it at first."

Activities under the It's Our Future plan will include a media workshop series, film screenings, youth-led café forums, and field trips that connect youth to the global movement fighting climate change and its devastating effects.

"I am thrilled, but we have to keep things in perspective," said Cuneen. "This is a long battle that we all have to be involved in combatting."

Partners in the project include the One Earth Film Fest, founded by Oak Parker Ana Garcia Doyle; the Doris Davenport Radio Show; the OPRF High School Environmental Club, which Bankes helps lead; and PlanItGreen, a collaboration of local sustainability organizations that operates under the auspices of the Community Foundation.

As in the event's first three years, the Big Idea Pitch Party was marked by a diverse set of five outstanding finalists. Judges needed about 45 minutes to come to a decision, and one judge – ELP member David Fussichen – jokingly referred to the deliberations as "a little bit of bare-knuckles fighting."

"They were all inspiring," said Fussichen, president of Analytics8, a data analytics software consulting firm. "Any of the ideas could have been the winner – they were all great."

While the judges deliberated backstage, five students from the OPRF High School Business Incubator took the stage to share synopses of the various entrepreneurial ideas they have developed during that program's two-year history. So far, more than 100 OPRF Huskies, most of them juniors and seniors, have taken the elective course under the guidance of teacher Matt Prebble. ELP has forged a partnership with the Incubator, and the groups joined forces for a mentoring event at the high school in April.

"The Big Idea offers a valuable opportunity for finalists to share their aspirations with the broader community," said OPRF Community Foundation Board Chair Donna Myers. "Our community is filled with people who have lots of brilliant ideas. Sometimes it's a challenge to figure out what to do with those ideas, and this helps some of those great ideas rise to the surface."



Bobbie Raymond Remembered

Bobbie Raymond loved Oak Park. She was a powerful advocate of her ideals. Bobbie made her name as an advocate for open housing, first in the 1970's but also for the next 40 years. She helped shape Oak Park into the community we know today.

After she retired from the Oak Park Housing Center, she looked for ways to stay involved in the community. One of the ways she chose to make a difference was in reviving the Alumni Association of Oak Park and River Forest High School. But growing the membership rolls was not enough – she wanted an organization that would make a difference in the lives of the current students. She conceived of the Alumni Summer Enrichment Grant program as a means to help current students with financial need, to have educational opportunities which they might not otherwise be able to afford. The Alumni Association partnered with the OPRFHS Scholarship Foundation (a fund of the OPRF Community Foundation) to create an endowment to support the Alumni Summer Enrichment Grant program. She raised funds – lots of funds. The Alumni Association Endowment Fund now exceeds half a million dollars and continues to grow, so that more students may benefit. Then she read applications, helped select recipients alongside the committee, and when students returned to OPRFHS she listened to tales of their life changing experiences in rain forests; at music camps; in research labs; of service projects; and of cultural and language immersion opportunities. Bobbie believed with these new experiences, students would gain a greater sense of their strengths and abilities, along with life lessons that would help them discover what they are capable of achieving.

In 2017, as a final gesture of support for "her" high school, Bobbie created the Roberta L. Raymond Scholarship. The four-year college scholarship is further evidence of her desire to help economically disadvantaged students to succeed; to help them achieve their dream and to make a difference.

Written by Donald Vogel, past president of Oak Park & River Forest High School Scholarship Foundation and former faculty of OPRFHS



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Community Foundation

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Visit us at oprfcf.org to learn more about us and how you may wish to participate.

Community connections



Introducing Anne Sullivan

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Anne Sullivan as its new Donor and Grants Services Coordinator. In this role, Anne will support the administration and management of the Community Foundation's grants and scholarship programs, and donor development efforts, including maintaining the integrity of our donor and grants database.

Anne joins us from Dominican University, where she supported the University's Honors Program through program management, student advising, and logistical support as Administrative Coordinator since 2014. Anne also served as a portfolio manager for several investment and wealth management companies throughout her career, including LaSalle National Bank. She earned a Masters in Business Administration, Finance from DePaul University and a Bachelor of Arts, American Studies & ALPA from University of Notre Dame. Anne also volunteers for the IWS Children's Clinic, Oak Park-River Forest.

Anne resides in River Forest with her husband John and their three children.

Our team is very excited about Anne joining the Community Foundation!

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