Written by Natalie Anderson
Monday, 21 January 2013 10:46

BETTENDORF, Iowa – Supporters of fifteen nonprofit organizations contributed over $1 million to help those nonprofits succeed in the 2012 Endowment Challenge issued by the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (CFGRB). The endowments funded by these donations and $75,000 in matching grants from the CFGRB will create a permanent, consistent source of income, allowing organizations to fulfill their missions for years to come.

Nonprofits that raised $15,000 in new gifts for their endowment at CFGRB received a $5,000 matching grant for their endowment. Alternatively, nonprofits that raised $30,000 in new gifts had the option to add the $5,000 matching grant to their endowment or use it for current operations. Every year, 4.5% of endowment assets held at the CFGRB are distributed back out to the community to support the work of nonprofit organizations, while the principal remains intact as a permanent resource.

Because gifts had to come from at least ten people, organizations had to spread the message of the importance of endowment. Jay Morrow, Superintendent of United Township, had conversations with alumni about how they could support the United Education Foundation, which provides scholarships to students and mini-grants to teachers. “We let them know that they could be significant in the future of our foundation, giving tomorrow’s students the same opportunities that they had.”

CFGRB Vice President of Programs Matt Mendenhall agrees. “While the $5,000 award is certainly helpful to these organizations, increased stakeholder awareness of endowment as permanent support for a mission they care about will have much greater value over the long run.” In total, 397 donors contributed to the 2012 Endowment Challenge.

For all but one organization, the 2012 Endowment Challenge was their first time raising funds specifically for endowment. Children’s Therapy Center of the Quad Cities, already an Endowment Partner, took the opportunity to grow their endowment. “In today’s economy, a lot of organizational energy is focused on the ‘now’ – making sure we can provide services today,“ says George McDoniel, Executive Director. “The Community Foundation through their challenge match encourages us to focus energy on securing our future with endowment.”

Both Endowment Partners and CFGRB staff stressed the value of the partnerships they built through this process. Barb Melbourne, Vice President of Development at the CFGRB, says, “I am very proud of our partners who committed to building endowment for a sustainable future.” Mark Drake, Executive Director of Youth Hope, says, “We are so excited about our new endowment with the Community Foundation! We received a generous match, a new partnership, new income, and unlimited long term potential.”

Each Endowment Partner who met the match will be featured on the CFGRB Facebook page as “Endowment Partner of the Week” beginning January 28th. To learn more about the impact of these organizations and how you can make a difference, Like our Facebook page.

2012 CFGRB Endowment Challenge

Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation
Catholic Diocese of Davenport
Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities
Eastern Iowa Community College District Foundation
Family Resources, Inc.
German-American Heritage Center
Habitat for Humanity
Handicapped Development Center
Midwest Writing Center
Oakdale Memorial Gardens
Saint Anthony's Catholic Church – Davenport
Scott County Family Y
United Education Foundation
Women's Choice Center
Youth Hope

CFGRB 2012 Endowment Challenge – By the numbers:

Successful Endowment Partners: 15
Total gifts: $956,680.31
Total donors: 397
Total match: $75,000

If you have questions, please contact the Community Foundation at 563-326-2840, or info@cfgrb.org.

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