



Giving Back

In Big And Little Ways

Scott McClain was taught to help others from his earliest memory. His parents — through their acts and actions — created an example for their children to learn how to help their community.

“Our family has always been involved in serving others in the community. Beyond giving dollars, we often roll up our sleeves to help. When McHenry County Community Foundation was founded in 2001, it provided a simpler way to connect with those in need,” Scott McClain says. Now president of the board of the Community Foundation, McClain leads the group’s charge for expanding philanthropy and community giving. This year, McHenry County Community Foundation celebrates its 15th birthday and there is much to cheer about.

“Giving should actually bring more joy to the giver than to the receiver,”

says Robin Doeden, Executive Director of McHenry County Community Foundation since 2012. “McHenry County has a surprisingly large number of people who truly want to help others. It seems our county has the unique understanding of the benefits of giving.” Doeden and her staff facilitate an annual grants cycle for nonprofits to request funds. “In 2015, the Community Foundation partnered with donors to distribute over \$1.2 million to 62 nonprofits across McHenry County. That’s strong evidence that our county has a caring and giving nature.”

▲ Board of Directors (front from left): Susan Schott, Nancy Gonsiorek, Barbara Oughton, LeeAnn Atwood and Sheila Henson. Back row from left: Robin Doeden, Scott McClain, Vern Schiller, Russell Foszcz, John Buckley, Mark Davids and Michael Stetler. Not shown is Carolina Schottland.

“We receive gifts from individuals ranging from \$5 to \$5 million,” explains Doeden. “We truly are an organization that serves everyone. Founded by local residents, the Community Foundation offers people a method to pool philanthropic giving in our county — so regardless of your giving level you CAN have a tremendous impact.”

When Doeden joined the McHenry County Community Foundation, bringing with her 20 years of experience in fundraising and nonprofit leadership, the organization facilitated a branding and positioning study. Just a few months later, the organization affiliated with Chicago Community Trust to streamline operations and provide a solid base of support.



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▲ Community Foundation Staff: Margaret Miller, Robin Doeden and Donna Kassens.

Text-A-Tip

Sponsored by the McHenry County Community Foundation and a consortium of McHenry County Schools and LEAD, Text-A-Tip provides anonymous, professional crisis line support via text for students, families and individuals in McHenry County at no charge. Information is posted and promoted through middle and high schools in the county as well as through the public.

- MCHHELP — 24/7 crisis hotline accessible via text — simply text MCHHELP to 274637.
- Offers students a method to seek immediate help from licensed, professional counselors in an anonymous, communications platform.
- In the first 6 months of the program, more than 400 unique users have accessed the program.
- Frequent topics of concern: bullying, depression, anxiety, drugs, self-harm, suicide, pregnancy, eating disorder, grief, school issues, family issues, etc.

In 2015, the McHenry County Community Foundation relocated from Woodstock to the McHenry County Mental Health Board building at 620 Dakota St., Crystal Lake. Staff includes Margaret Miller, Program Coordinator and Donna Kassens, Director of Development. Programs and grants are managed through a sophisticated system in conjunction with Chicago Community Trust.

Raising awareness for philanthropic giving as well as serving the community in areas of need is the focus of McHenry County Community Foundation.

“There are three key clients of the Community Foundation,” says McClain. “Donors have a foundation with local roots and branches; nonprofits have a source of grant funds with connections to help them continually thrive; and community members have nonprofit services to enhance their quality of life.”

The ultimate goal of the McHenry County Community Foundation is to ensure financial support for the nonprofit community long into the future. This is accomplished through a wide array of diverse giving and philanthropic efforts, including legacy gifts and donor-advised funds. “We want to help people across McHenry County with their giving plans, and we offer guidance in how to make that happen in easy and flexible ways.”

GIVE360: Step Into The Circle

Helping more individuals learn about community philanthropy, the Community Foundation offers GIVE360. For less than \$1 per day, individuals can help identify causes that are important to them and provide annual grants to help support the causes. At the same time, the program allows for a GIVE360 Community Endowment Fund to continue to grow for future funding in the county.

GIVE360 is giving that lasts — made simple. In just its first year, 90 people chose GIVE360 to have a big impact on the McHenry County community.

- **Members give \$360 to the McHenry County Community Foundation** to join the circle. Funds can be submitted in one payment, quarterly or monthly.
- **50 percent of the funds are distributed annually** to local nonprofit organizations via a vote by the GIVE360 membership. Each member will vote their preference and top vote recipients will receive a grant to be used as the charity chooses.
- **50 percent is invested** in the GIVE360 Community Endowment Fund, supporting ongoing giving for future generations in McHenry County.

In addition, the McHenry County Community Foundation helped launch two new programs in 2015. GIVE360 and Text-A-Tip both play important roles in helping people who live, work and learn in the county.

GIVE360 was launched to encourage philanthropy through collective giving. Pooling the contributions of individuals



▼ On-the-Table 2015 hosted by the Community Foundation — sharing priorities of needs among groups and generations.



▲ Dr. DuBose receives the Philanthropist of the Year Award.

giving \$360 per year — less than \$1 per day — has a big impact on the county. Half of the funds collected are placed into a giving pool and are distributed to nonprofit agencies and programs through a member vote. The remaining half of the funds are placed into an endowment fund that will provide grants to nonprofits across McHenry County long into the future. In just its first year, 90 people joined the GIVE360 circle, and the Foundation goal is to double that number in 2016.

Text-a-Tip was launched in 2014 through a partnership between the Community Foundation and all 18 school districts in McHenry County. Teens can reach out to a licensed, professional counselor via text message 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and receive an immediate reply if they or a friend is struggling with drug or alcohol abuse,

depression, difficult family situations, bullying or other issues.

“This program was strongly supported by our board because it offers immediate support to kids, in a communication style they’re comfortable with,” Doeden says. “It’s a crisis line in a texting format. It is the perfect solution.”

To access the program, teens send the message “MCHELP” to 274637. The app is available for both English and Spanish speaking students.

Organizations and donors interested in learning more about the McHenry County Community Foundation, and how they can assist you in your charitable giving, can contact the team via the website: www.MCCFdn.org or call the office 815-334-4483 (GIVE).

GRANT CYCLE for 2016

Nonprofit and charitable organizations may participate in The McHenry County Community Foundation's grant cycles. The application process is all online, and can be accessed through the Foundation's website. It provides the Foundation and its Grants Committee a comprehensive overview of the nonprofit organization's needs, goals, reach, and potential. There are two annual grant cycles, divided by categories — Arts, Education, Environment, Economic Opportunity in the spring and Health and Human Service funding in the early fall. Workshops are provided to assist nonprofit leadership through the process.

Arts, Education, Environment, Economic Opportunity funding cycle begins in October:

- Grant presentation Breakfast on March 24, 2016, Boulder Ridge Country Club.

Health and Human Services funding cycle will kick off with the Workshop on March 16:

- Letter of Intent due April 21, 2016
- Full proposal invitations sent May 23, 2016
- Full proposal due June 22, 2016
- Grant presentation Luncheon in August 2016

More information on www.MCCFdn.org or call 815.338-GIVE (4483).



▲ (Above) Doeden speaks to sponsors at the 2016 People in Need Forum.

◀ (At left) Grants Giving: Diana Kenney receives a grant for Downtown Crystal Lake Main Street.