

HIGHLIGHTS



The Community Foundation's African American Community Fund helps bring in a highly regarded guest director for South Bend Civic Theatre's *Blue*. *Full story on p. 2.*



A \$25,000 Community Foundation grant to Healthworks! Kids' Museum allows for the addition of new technology within one of its learning theaters. *Full story on p. 6.*



Saint Margaret's House is up to the challenge of its 2012 Leighton Award. *Full story on p. 5.*



Preschool teacher Andy Theus and one of his students at Vision Day Care

Strengthening Quality in Our Local Day Care Ministries

Through a partnership between the Community Foundation's Early Years Count education initiative and its African American Community Fund, hundreds of our community's most at-risk children are getting a better start.

It's a cold and snowy morning on South Bend's west side, which means that Andy Theus's usual preschool class of nine is down to five. The four boys and a girl who came to Vision Day Care this morning are clustered around their teacher, using an activity wheel to show him what each of them plans to do today.

"Mr. Andy," as the children call him, is an

active participant in "It Takes a Village," a program created by the Community Foundation's Early Year's Count education initiative that works with administrators and teachers at local day care ministries. Through the Village, Theus has been trained in the HighScope curriculum, a nationally recognized program for early childhood educators. A big man with a quiet, gentle voice, Theus is clearly adored by the children here at Vision.

"What are you going to do first today, Brandon?" he asks one of the boys.

"Play at the sand table," Brandon says, after a moment of consideration, and he leans forward to turn the pointer on the activity wheel to the appropriate square. Another child volunteers that he plans to be in the art area, working on a bracelet for his Mom.

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It's a typical way of beginning a day in HighScope style: The children have the opportunity to choose the activities they'll take part in, planning their work time and building intentionality and awareness.

Vision is one of 30 registered day care ministries in St. Joseph County, and many of them serve some of our community's most at-risk children. Thanks to a partnership between the Community Foundation's Early Years Count education initiative and its African American Community Fund, the majority of these day care ministries now have enriched classroom materials, teachers who have been trained in HighScope, and the supportive peer community of the Village. Ann Rosen and Sue Christensen of the Family Connection, who coordinate the Village for the Community Foundation, have been building relationships with the administrators and teachers at the day care ministries since 2007.

Five years ago, Christensen says, the preschool classroom at Vision was sparsely

furnished, with very limited materials for the children. Today, it's a colorful, inviting space, full of art supplies, a wide range of toys, and plenty of books to encourage learning, interactive play, and the use of imagination. Watching Andy Theus and the happy, thriving preschoolers at Vision, you can see the dramatic benefits for the children in day care ministries like this one—and for their teachers.

Recently, the Village has reached out in a new direction: Rosen, Christensen, and their team are beginning to host monthly workshops for the more than 100 registered home-based day care centers in our county and plan to make HighScope training available to this growing group of providers. It's a challenging project, Christensen admits, but one that has the potential to brighten the futures of several hundred of our community's children.

Learn more about the Foundation's Early Years Count education initiative at www.cfsjc.org, under Leadership Initiatives.



One of the preschoolers at Vision cooks some pretend soup in the "creative play" area of the classroom.

AACF Grant Helps SB Civic Theatre Bring In Noted Director

Ron OJ Parson makes *Blue* a winning experience for actors and audience members alike.

On South Bend Civic Theatre's Wilson Mainstage, two brothers and their father are talking about the family's business—a funeral home.

"We've had an increase in business of sixty percent since your brother took over," the father tells his older son Reuben, proudly.

The younger son smiles a little smugly at the praise, while Reuben (played by Gilbert Michel) rolls his eyes and says, "He's probably killin' people to get it."

Director Ron OJ Parson bounds up onto the stage and says, putting a hand on Gil's shoulder, "Enjoy that line, Gil—*enjoy* it."

We're at one of the final rehearsals for *Blue*, the engaging story of the Clarks, a wealthy African-American family that owns a funeral home in South Carolina.

At the center of it is Parson, a 30-year veteran of professional theater who is guest-directing *Blue*.

The atmosphere on stage is remarkably comfortable; frequently, Parson is on stage with the cast, demonstrating a move, laughing easily at an actor's comment. There's an atmosphere of trust among this group, a trust that goes beyond the fact that everyone on stage is African American. At the center of it is Parson, a 30-year veteran of professional theater who is guest-directing *Blue*.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Parson has

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Director Ron OJ Parson (center) works with actors Diane Gammage and Ben Little in SBCT's *Blue*.

directed in the country's best professional theaters, including Steppenwolf and the Goodman in Chicago, Louisville's Actors Theater, and New York's Roundabout. To date, he's the only African-American man to have directed at Canada's prestigious Stratford Festival. Resident Artist at Chicago's Court Theatre, Parson also has a busy career in film, TV, and voice-over work. Six to seven months of the year, he's traveling, guest directing at professional theaters across the country.

It's been more than a decade since he's worked in community theater, but Parson says it feels good to get back to his roots.

"It's a whole different energy," Parson says. Although he acknowledges that it's challenging to work with actors who are volunteers, rather than professionals—some, like Michel, have never been on stage before—Parson relishes the opportunity to work with aspiring actors.

He's definitely making an impact on the actors in *Blue*.

"He'll take you there," says actor Ben Little with reverence, as he describes Parson's way of helping an actor find a voice for his or her character. Little, a long-time actor with SBCT and other local theater groups,

plays Blue Williams, a jazz musician with a special connection to the Clark family. "Ron will help you pull something from your experience—or, if you don't have one that matches up, he'll give you an example from his own life."

"Working with Ron is like getting an acting lesson for free," Natalie Davis Miller says.

For Little, working with Parson has brought him to an important point in his own theatrical development: He now feels he's ready to try directing a show himself.

Natalie Davis Miller, who plays matriarch Peggy Clark, says her experience with Parson has prepared her to direct, too.

"Working with Ron is like getting an acting lesson for free," she says. "And he's very positive: He always tells us, 'Don't go back—go forward.'"

For Davis Miller, the script is special, too.

"It's not 'just' an African-American show. It could be a white family, a Hispanic family—their experience is about much more than race."

That's exactly what Tami Ramaker,

executive director of SBCT, had in mind. She recalls coming out of a board meeting when one of the board's African-American members said to her, "Tami, [playwright] August Wilson is great, but that's not my story. It's time to start telling the stories of African Americans who have moved beyond that. Think *Huxtables*."

That comment and others like it led Ramaker to *Blue*, which Ramaker felt presented an opportunity to bring in an African-American director with professional experience to help strengthen Civic's acting and directing pool. She'd worked with Parson before, and knew he was the right man for the job.

With a grant from the Community Foundation's African American Community Fund and support from individual donors, Ramaker arranged for Ron to come to South Bend.

"We have some folks in the show who have never acted before, but you won't know it by the time we open," Ramaker says. "Actors learn a lot under Ron."

Blue runs from Jan. 20–Feb. 5, 2012: Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Fri./Sat. at 8 p.m., and Sun. at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18–\$21. For more info, visit www.sbct.org or call the SBCT Box Office: (574) 234-1112.



Ron OJ Parson, director of SBCT's *Blue*

Focusing on Our Donors: Evelyn Dust

Donor Evelyn Dust chose REAL Services as the beneficiary of a Charitable Gift Annuity she created with the Community Foundation, drawing an income from the fund during her retirement years.

When we plan for our futures, many of us think first about how we will provide for those family members we will leave behind when we die. Those without surviving family members, though, often focus their legacy-building on the charities that are dearest to their hearts.

Born in 1917, Evelyn E. Dust grew up on a farm outside of San Pierre, Indiana. She never married, but as an adult, she was very close to her younger sister Lavern. After Evelyn retired from her 38-year career with Indiana Michigan Power, the two women traveled the world together, eventually

visiting every continent but South America.

When Lavern became seriously ill, Evelyn created a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. She chose REAL Services, our community's agency that focuses on the welfare and interests of senior citizens, as the beneficiary of her annuity. That Gift Annuity provided Evelyn with regular income during the final years of her life, and, when she passed away in November 2011, the remaining funds were transferred to their endowment fund with the Community Foundation as she had directed.

Like Evelyn Dust, most Gift Annuity donors are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments, and want to save on taxes. Gift Annuity rates range from 5–9%, depending on your age.

You can learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities and receive a free



illustration of how a Gift Annuity might work for you by visiting the Community Foundation's website: www.cfsjc.org. You can also call Rose Meissner, President of the Community Foundation, at (574) 232-0041 for more information.

CFSJC OFFERS FREE GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR WILL AND TRUST AGAIN IN 2012

The Community Foundation is once again making its free *Guide to Planning Your Will and Trust* available to the entire community.

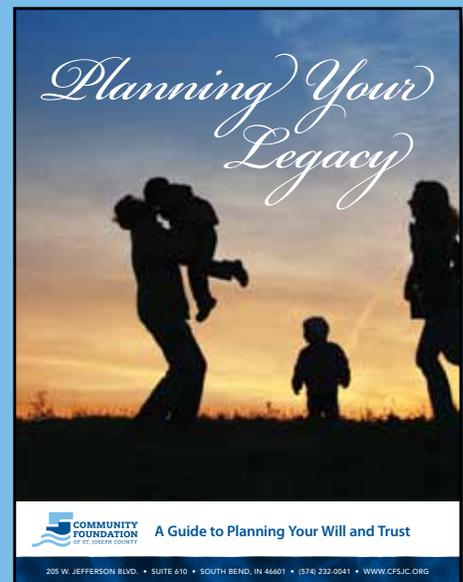
A will ensures your wishes are known and followed; through it, the assets you spent a lifetime acquiring are distributed as you intend. Your will identifies who will manage your estate, care for your dependent children, and make health care decisions on your behalf. But despite the benefits of having a will, some 70% of Americans still do not have one. We believe this needs to change.

In easy-to-understand language, the Community Foundation's 48-page *Guide to Planning Your*

Will and Trust walks you through the process of collecting and organizing the information you'll need to share with your attorney or financial planner in order to create a will.

You'll find information on choosing an estate plan that fits you, whether you're single or married; checklists and worksheets for collecting the data that your attorney will need; explanations of the roles of executors, guardians, and the importance of Power of Attorney; help on prioritizing your estate planning goals, from protecting your family to continuing support of a favorite charity, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions section.

To receive your copy of this free



guide, download it today at our website—www.cfsjc.org—or, if you prefer, just give us a call at (574) 232-0041 and we'll mail you a copy.

St. Margaret's House Lights a Fire with Leighton Award Match

The South Bend nonprofit that supports women living in poverty met its match for the \$100,000 Leighton Award at a blazing pace.

Kathy Schneider, executive director of St. Margaret's House, looks up from the fat brown folder where she keeps her Leighton-related correspondences. It's full of congratulatory notes from individuals, parishes, universities (the Notre Dame logo is prominent on one envelope), and former Leighton winners that she's collected since August, when the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County named St. Margaret's House as the winner of its 2012 Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence.

"It's been a real love-fest," Schneider says, with cheerful satisfaction.

On that day in August when the Leighton Award was announced, she got a bouquet of flowers and a check from Steve Camilleri, executive director of the Center for the Homeless, who wanted the privilege of being the first donor to the campaign.

Plenty of other donors followed on Steve's heels. In fact, Schneider says, with justifiable pride, St. Margaret's House has now officially met the Leighton match: \$100,000, raised in increments ranging from \$1 to \$10,000.

With an annual operating budget of only \$390,000, you might think St. Margaret's would have a tough time raising that much, especially in one of the worst economies on record. Was Schneider concerned?

"Never," she says. "Not for a minute. So much of our support is local, and very, very deep. Our supporters really believe in us."

Also, she says, donors responded to knowing that their gifts would be matched.

Many loved the thought of creating a legacy that would continue to support St. Margaret's House and the women in poverty that it serves long into the future.

Staff and volunteers, too, played a significant role in raising the match. Schneider has nothing but praise for her staff and St. Margaret's 150-some volunteers, who contributed more than 11,600 hours of their time last year.

St. Margaret's House has now officially met the Leighton match: \$100,000, raised in increments ranging from \$1 to \$10,000.

"They come in, serve lunch to 120 people at a time—with all that noise, all those voices going at once—and they keep coming back. That's the amazing part."

But Schneider is most glad that St. Margaret's House won the Leighton Award because of the joy and pride that

recognition brought to the women who come to the organization as guests.

You can see it in the picture from the front of the organization's October newsletter: It's a photo taken in the front room at St. Margaret's on the day the award was announced, and everyone there is beaming.

This year, St. Margaret's House has seen an increased in total visits of 10%, the largest increase since they first opened in 1990. That means that 20,187 women came through their maroon double doors in 2011—an average of 80 guests per day.

Kathy, who has been with St. Margaret's for 20 years, says those guests change the lives of the staff and volunteers just as profoundly as they themselves are changed.

"It's a mutual transformation," she says. "We work to help each other. But they're the ones who have the courage to walk through those doors every day."

The match is met, but you can make the future even brighter: Make a gift to the Community Foundation's endowment fund for St. Margaret's House at www.cfsjc.org, or call (574) 232-0041.



Celebrating the Leighton Award at St. Margaret's House; Kathy Schneider (center) with plaque

Foundation Creates New Nonprofit Leadership Program for Executives, Development Staff

After the success of the 2009 Executive Leadership Program, the Community Foundation and Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business have teamed up again to create a new certificate program for nonprofit executives: This time, it's specifically geared to CEOs and development officers. Designed to help organizations make the most of their fund-raising opportunities, this new program will help development officers build sustainability and growth for their organizations in the future.

Facilitated by Jimmie R. Alford, founder and chair of the Alford Group in Chicago, the program's presenters will include national experts from around the country with hands-on practical experience in nonprofit administration as well as some of Notre Dame's top development staff.

The program will begin in September, 2012, and conclude in the spring of 2013. Participants will receive a certificate in nonprofit executive leadership from the Mendoza College of Business. Costs of the program are being substantially subsidized by the Foundation and Notre Dame.

To learn more about this new program, including costs and how to register, contact Christopher Nanni at the Community Foundation: (574) 232-0041 or chris@cfsjc.org.



2009 Nonprofit Executive Leadership Program



Healthworks! educator Paul Davis leads a group of students from Bethany Christian School through material on healthy eating and the importance of exercise.

Grant Spotlight: Healthworks! Kids Learn Healthy Habits

A giant brain? Hula hoops? A chair made out of cigarette butts? Healthworks! mixes "infectious fun" with material about health and wellness.

In a brightly colored classroom in South Bend's Healthworks! Kids' Museum, Paul Davis, a high-energy young man wearing a spiral-dyed t-shirt and a wireless headset mic, quizzes a group of middle-school students from Bethany Christian School on health and wellness facts. The kids are lively and well informed, and they've got a natural competitiveness that keeps their answers coming fast and furiously.

"Can anybody tell me how many muscles are in your body?" Davis asks, and a girl in a green vest and glasses calls out, "600!"

"Very good!" he says, nodding, as he leads a quick round of applause. "And how long should you stay active every day?"

"At least an hour!" another child chimes in.

Then it's on to the food pyramid, which includes an entertaining explanation of the difference between refined and unrefined grains in which a good-natured boy named Sam agrees to don over-sized boxing gloves, a "bran" bike helmet, and a white t-shirt to demonstrate the superior strength, stamina, and fiber of unrefined grains.

"And what does fiber help us *do*?" Davis asks, with his eyebrows raised.

Twenty middle-school voices chorus, enthusiastically, "POOP!"

Next, Davis leads the kids through a swimming/jogging/dancing interlude that gets everyone's heart rate pumping, complete with the giggling and shrieking you'd expect from a group of kids this age. They're obviously having a blast as they learn about the body, nutrition, and the importance of exercise.

Studies conducted by Memorial Health System, the parent of Healthworks!, show that the museum and its messages about healthy lifestyle choices can make a big

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difference in kids' lives after just one visit.

Healthworks! administrators track the impact through pre- and post-visit surveys, which are “must-do”s for school visits. Those surveys demonstrate viable behavior and attitude changes in students regarding health and fitness two months after their experience at the museum, says Jacqueline Simmons.

Simmons, the manager of the museum—or, as her business card says, the “Conductor of Creative Chaos”—has been with Memorial Health System for more than a decade. She’s very excited about the Community Foundation’s recent grant to Healthworks!: \$25,000, which is funding a major upgrade to one of the museum’s two learning theaters—improving the sound, adding video capacity, and making the exhibits internet-ready.

“Kids are very tech-savvy these days,” Simmons says. The museum staff, she explains, makes sure the content of their presentations stays accurate and up-to-the-minute, but it’s more difficult to be able to afford the bells and whistles of technology that kids have come to expect.

Some 60,000 children, family members, friends, and teachers came through the doors of Healthworks! last year.

Some 60,000 children, family members, friends, and teachers came through the doors of Healthworks! last year. It’s a popular spot for school field trips, birthday parties, and play dates because it’s engaging, well maintained, and clean.

“We wipe down all the surfaces constantly,” confides Simmons, “because, frankly, we’re a bunch of germophobes ourselves.”

A certain amount of germophobia seems appropriate in the context of the 12,000 sq-ft. exhibit floor, which includes a climbing wall modelled after the epidermis (the “Skin Crawl,”) a 10-foot-high intestine, and a display about the many colors of mucus. But if you’re squeamish, don’t fear: There’s also a

little superette with shopping carts and tasty-looking play food, a treehouse, a life-sized dentist’s office, and a collection of different-sized hula hoops in primary colors, as well as plenty of space for active play.

The most popular parts of the exhibit floor, Simmons says, are Playmotion®—a wall-sized computer-generated screen that incorporates children’s shadows into a variety of interactive games—and Lightspace, a video floor area with flashing colors and sound effects. In “Bug Invasion,” one of the games in the Lightspace lineup, children try to jump on squares of a specific color as they appear, helping develop coordination, flexibility, and the agility needed to avoid knocking over fellow players.

The brainchild of Phil Newbold, CEO and President of Memorial Hospital and Health System, and Diane Stover, Vice President for Market Communications & Innovation Strategy, the museum opened in February of 2000. The “infectious fun” that Healthworks! touts has spread beyond our community: There’s a Healthworks! museum in Tupelo, Miss., and plans are in the works for locations in Florida, Kentucky, and Minnesota.

This year, Healthworks! will expand its reach locally by partnering with Memorial’s BrainWorks program, adding an early

Healthworks! Kids’ Museum is located at 111 W. Jefferson Blvd. in downtown South Bend.

The museum is open Tues. through Fri. from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and weekends from 12–4 p.m.

Admittance is \$5; children under two are admitted free.

For more information, call (574) 647-KIDS (5437) or visit Healthworks! online at www.HealthWorksKids.org.

childhood development room to the museum. Although smaller children can find plenty to entertain them at Healthworks! as it is, this space will be designed specifically for infants through the age of four and their parents, encouraging brain-based learning. The new room should be open for family fun by mid-summer.

Through a gift to the Community Foundation, you can permanently support organizations like Healthworks! that benefit the health and wellness of our entire community. Learn more at www.cfsjc.org.



Jacqueline Simmons, manager of Healthworks!, takes a moment to share a red onion with a young guest at the Healthworks! Superette.



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UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- Jan. 30–Feb. 1: Indiana Arts Commission free grant information sessions
- Mar. 1: African American Community Fund and Special Project grants application deadline
- Mar. 1: Indiana Arts Commission grant application deadline
- Mar. 1: Deadline for Charles Martin and Laidig scholarship applications
- Mar. 9: February issue of *ArtsEverywhere* magazine published and distributed through the *South Bend Tribune*

For more information, visit www.cfsjc.org or call (574) 232-0041.

Foundation's Yearlong Nursing Home Learning Collaborative Plans Future Steps

The Community Foundation's Nursing Home Learning Collaborative, made up of administrators and senior staff from St. Joseph County's 18 nursing homes and two from neighboring Elkhart County, has met regularly during the past year, exploring best practices in leadership regarding staff retention, quality of care, and a variety of other subjects with nationally recognized trainers Barbara Frank and Cathie Brady.

Although the group comes together for its final session this month, the camaraderie and team-based approach to learning that has developed through this initiative will continue in several different aspects.

First, REAL Services will begin coordinating quarterly meetings with our county's nursing home administrators that will include guest speakers and other learning opportunities, and provide a regular forum for peer communication. The Community

Foundation will continue to be involved as a participant in these quarterly meetings.

Secondly, the Foundation is working with Brady and Frank, the University of Indianapolis, and Ivy Tech to develop two theme-based training programs: a CEU-based certificate program for Directors of Nursing/Nurse Managers, and an on-site course for CNAs offering college credit. A state-wide effort is underway to replicate these curriculum-based programs in six Indiana metropolitan areas, improving and standardizing quality of care in nursing homes throughout the state.

You can find out more about the [Community Foundation's work](http://www.cfsjc.org) the Nursing Home Learning Collaborative, as well as our other efforts on behalf of our community's senior citizens, at www.cfsjc.org, under "Leadership Initiatives: Senior Housing Initiative."