

HIGHLIGHTS



Several recent Community Foundation grants underscore our commitment to high-quality options in education for our local students. *Full story on p. 6.*



It's scholarship season: The Community Foundation has 16 Laidig Community Service Scholarship recipients doing internships with local nonprofits this summer. *Full story on p. 3.*



A new partnership between the *South Bend Tribune* and our ArtsEverywhere initiative means that our community gets more information about the arts, more frequently. *Full story on p. 7.*



Dr. Emmett Carson, keynote speaker for the Community Foundation's recent 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Morris Park Country Club

Celebrating 20 Years of Making a Major Difference

Foundation donors, friends, and staff came together recently with keynote speaker Dr. Emmett Carson to reflect on two decades of service to the community, to celebrate, and to look to the future.

This year, the Community Foundation marks its 20th anniversary. In June, we gathered together dozens of current and former board members, donors, and other friends of the Foundation to celebrate this milestone. To give the event special meaning, we were honored to have Dr. Emmett Carson, CEO of the Silicon Valley Community

Foundation, serve as our keynote speaker.

I have known and admired Emmett for many years. Emmett is one of the pre-eminent leaders of the nonprofit field, recognized nationally and internationally. After 12 years as head of the Minneapolis Foundation, during which time he set a whole new standard for active engagement and civic leadership, Emmett was recruited to lead an unprecedented merger that created the \$2-billion Silicon Valley Community Foundation. He has been a personal inspiration and role model ever since I joined the community foundation field 20 years ago.

So, you might wonder, what could the

continued on p. 2



About 150 friends of the Community Foundation gathered to hear Dr. Emmett Carson's keynote.

continued from p. 1

head of a \$2-billion community foundation possibly have to share with the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County?

First, that the value of community foundations—whatever their size—is not about money.

“Think about it,” he said. “Pick a challenge

facing your community. There is no single entity you can write a check to of any size that would simply solve the problem. The big issues facing the world are not going to be solved by a single grant.”

Rebuilding the common good requires more than money: It requires leadership and a willingness to ask tough questions.

Emmett believes there is another role that community foundations are uniquely well-suited to play. According to Emmett, the primary focus of community foundations should be “to rebuild the common good.”

He explains that in an age that seems more fractured and partisan and “I-focused” than ever, community foundations may be the one entity with the credibility to pull everyone together and say, “There’s a collective, common good and together we need to rebuild it.”

Rebuilding the common good requires more than money: It requires leadership and a willingness to ask tough questions, questions that will lead us out of our comfort zone. He told us that to speak on behalf of the community, we have to reflect the

community. We must continue to pick issues that are important, get the facts straight, and be willing to speak the truth to power.

Some community foundations have been afraid to play this role, concerned that it will lead to controversy and cause donors to withdraw their support. But speaking from firsthand experience, Emmett says the opposite is true. People who give to community foundations in the first place are eager to see them work actively and courageously for the common good.

“Leadership matters to people,” Emmett emphasized. “It attracts partners. It attracts friends.”

Emmett described anniversaries (like birthdays) as a great time to reflect on and celebrate past achievements. He complimented the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County on its rapid growth and major initiatives to improve early childhood education, build capacity in the African American community, strengthen the arts, and meet the needs of low-income seniors.

“What you have accomplished in only 20 years is amazing,” he said.

“Leadership matters to people,” Emmett emphasized. “It attracts partners. It attracts friends.”

But, he stressed, anniversaries are also a time to form resolutions about future achievements. What achievements do we want to be celebrating five and ten years from now?

As we continue to encourage local citizens to give to the Community Foundation, we will remember that this is about more than money. As we have for 20 years, we will continue to pick issues that matter, get our facts straight, identify solutions, and use our large network of local citizens who believe in the common good to make a difference that is worth celebrating.

Rose Meissner
President



The Roemer family has a long history of service to the Community Foundation: From left: Jay Lewis, Greta Roemer Lewis, Chuck Roemer, and Denise Roemer.

Foundation's Laidig Scholars Receive Chance to Serve Others

Sixteen Laidig scholars spend their summers helping others through paid internships with local nonprofit organizations.

The Laidig Community Service Scholarship is more than a standard scholarship. In addition to providing \$5,000 toward college tuition, it gives students who are committed to helping others an opportunity to do that: Each recipient gets paid \$2,500 to perform a 300-hour summer internship with one of our best local nonprofit organizations.

Now in its fourth year, the Laidig program includes 16 students: four rising college freshmen, four sophomores, four juniors, and four seniors. Graduates of local high schools—Adams, Marian, Penn, Mishawaka, Clay, St. Joseph's, Laville—these students attend colleges that include Saint Mary's College, IU Bloomington, Purdue, the University of Notre Dame, University of Dayton, and Xavier University.

Christopher Nanni, the Foundation's Vice President, Program, holds a half-day orientation program for the Laidig scholars each summer, giving them a chance to reflect on their service work as a group. At the beginning of this year's meeting, the students take turns introducing themselves, sharing a little about their internship experiences.

Drew Roush, a Penn graduate who's now at Purdue University, did an internship last year with the Center for the Homeless, working with children; this year, he's with Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County.

"I'm mostly on the job site," he says, "working with our partner families on



Four Laidig scholars (from left): Madison Nelson, Jordan Hamilton, Matt Reisdorf, and Drew Roush

their new homes." There are administrative meetings, too, he says, but they're short. "I really like it," he says. "It's hands-on, and the work varies a lot."

Other students talk about their internships with the Center for Hospice, the American Red Cross, the United Way, the Women's Care Center, REAL Services, and LOGAN. While many speak enthusiastically about the time they've spent tutoring homeless adults in pursuit of their GEDs or leading enrichment activities for nursing home residents, they also have stories about shredding paper and answering the phones.

"If we want to help others," clinical social worker M.J. Murray Vachon tells Laidig scholars, "the main tool we have is ourselves."

The contrast between these two types of experiences illustrates the day-to-day reality of nonprofits, Nanni points out. There's the direct work with the people you're trying to help, which tends to be more immediately rewarding, and then there's the administrative work, which is less glamorous but also important.

"Nonprofit work isn't always sexy," Nanni says. The students laugh—after all, they're teenagers, and an adult said "sexy"—but they also nod in agreement.

Although a Laidig scholar can choose to repeat his or her internship with the same organization the following year, "I encourage them to change it up," Nanni says. "It's a good way for the kids to see the different ways that nonprofits operate." The variety also helps students develop a better sense of their personal strengths and abilities, he explains, enabling them to be more effective in their service work.

M.J. Murray Vachon, a member of the Laidig Scholarship Committee and a licensed clinical social worker, talks with the students as part of the orientation program, underscoring the importance of this type of self-knowledge.

"For an accountant, it's the calculator. For a construction worker, it's a hammer and nails. For a doctor, it's the intellect. If we want to help others," Murray Vachon says, "the main tool we have is ourselves."

For these 16 Laidig scholars, that process of acquiring self-knowledge through serving others translates into significant gains for our community, too.

The Community Foundation manages more than 50 scholarship funds. For information about how you can create a legacy through a scholarship fund with the Foundation, visit www.cfsjc.org.

Focusing on Our Donors: The Abernethys

For Spike and Anne Abernethy and their three daughters, philanthropy is a family affair.

Spike and Anne Abernethy have deep roots in our community: Spike's family came to South Bend in 1831, when Andrew Jackson was President; Anne's family—the O'Briens, founders of South Bend Lathe Works—has been here since 1906. Lifelong South Bend residents themselves, the Abernethys live in a historic Italianate farmhouse on South Bend's south side that has been home to their family for seven generations.

They also have a long-term commitment to philanthropy, a family activity that includes Spike, Anne, and their three daughters Sarah, Megan, and Molly.

"We started one Christmas years ago, when Molly was about nine," Spike says. "In those years, we were taking care of foster babies—caring for them from the time they left the hospital until they were ready to go to their adoptive families. Of course, the girls loved that. They always wanted to hold the babies."

"That Christmas, the Women's Care Center had asked if we would consider donating a crib for the babies that they took care of," Molly remembers. "My parents asked me and my sisters if we were willing to give up our Christmas stockings that year, and instead donate three cribs to the Women's Care Center. Of course we said yes."

"The girls felt good about it," Spike says, "and Anne and I did, too."

The Abernethys wanted to continue and increase their philanthropy over time, and Spike's friend Chuck Roemer, a local attorney, suggested that they consider the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County as a vehicle for that work. Ultimately, the Abernethys decided to set up a donor-advised fund with the Foundation: the Abernethy Family Legacy Fund. This type of fund allows donors to be actively involved in philanthropy, making annual recommendations about how disbursements from their funds should be made.



A recent Christmas portrait of three generations of the Abernethy family

Each year around the holidays, the Abernethys meet to decide what charities or causes will receive disbursements from their fund. Each family member ranks requests from potential recipients; then, they average those rankings to make a family decision.

"This community has been very good to us, and we want to be good stewards of those resources," says Spike Abernethy, Community Foundation donor.

"The charities that hit the hardest with me and my sisters are usually the ones that serve women and children in need," Molly says, citing the after-school program at the Center for the Homeless as an example.

Since the fund is permanent, the family's philanthropy will go on long into the future.

"Anne and I really wanted to set something up with the girls that will continue after we're gone," says Spike. "Something that will eventually include Molly's son Riley and our other grandchildren—and their children, too. That's the 'legacy' aspect of the fund."

A financial planner with Northwestern Mutual, Spike says that he often suggests that his clients consider the Community

Foundation as a charitable partner.

"We've been very pleased with the strong investment performance that the Foundation provides, which has allowed us to make more charitable gifts. The organization has been run extremely well since it was founded 20 years ago."

As part of their own giving plan, Spike and Anne intend to gift assets from an IRA to the Community Foundation after their deaths. Because of IRS regulations, it's a much more tax-favorable option than leaving an IRA to a family member, he explains.

The Abernethys' philanthropic commitment has a clear parallel to their role as caretakers of the historic property they call "home."

"We have an easement that insures that whoever owns this property needs to keep it the way that it is, preserving its historic character," Spike says. "Our fund with the Foundation is very similar. This community has been very good to us, and we want to be good stewards of those resources."

If you'd like to learn more about donor-advised funds or IRA gift options, contact Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation: (574) 232-0041 or rose@csj.org.

The Terrible Cost of Not Having a Will

Financial columnist Michelle Singletary writes about the importance of a will.

My brother Ross recently died of complications from lung cancer. He was 40.

Ross left a wonderful personal legacy. He was a good father, friend and coach. He was a dedicated educator who devoted his career to working with children with emotional, developmental and physical disabilities.

But like many Americans, my brother failed to take care of his financial affairs even after receiving the diagnosis that his cancer had progressed and he might not have long to live. He just wouldn't or couldn't follow through on advice to prepare a will. Tragically, he was a single parent who left no written instructions regarding guardianship for his 3-year-old son.

As shrewd as she was, even my grandmother, Big Mama, who raised me and was a great money manager, refused to prepare a will. She kept saying she didn't need one, that everyone knew her wishes. Well, most didn't and some who did ignored what Big Mama wanted. Upheaval followed her death, leaving broken relationships that have still not been mended after 17 years.

Death is hard enough to deal with, but toss in a family with unresolved issues along with no instructions from the deceased and you have discord at the very time you most need order.

I'm so weary from going to funerals—and I've been to way too many—where the deceased didn't take the steps needed to either eliminate or at least mitigate fights over his or her assets or to appoint a guardian for the children. I've witnessed the horrible fights that erupt when people die without updating their beneficiary

information or even naming a beneficiary. Deserving survivors become wounded when they learn their loved one didn't have a will and, as a result, assets are distributed to spendthrift relatives.

Please, I'm begging you to get your financial affairs in order, especially if you have children or you are responsible for taking care of someone. Tomorrow isn't promised to any of us. I've heard many of the excuses, so allow me to address some of them:

• **“I don't want to think about dying.”** That's what happened to my brother. He couldn't really face his illness. But death came anyway, and major decisions that needed to be made weren't. Is this what you want to leave behind -- confusion? This isn't just about you. It's about the people you love and being responsible and courageous enough to make the hard decisions.

• **“It's too much paperwork.”** There are a lot of essential documents that need to be assembled: a will, bank statements, insurance policies, retirement and pension information, guardianship instructions, advance medical directives, or perhaps powers of attorney. Yes, it's a pain pulling all these documents together. On the other hand, if something does happen to you, the last thing your family wants to do is have to dig through your clutter to piece together your financial life. If you can't find your paperwork, how will they? Set aside a day to prepare what's called a “letter of instruction,” which is a master list detailing what financial documents you have and where you keep them.

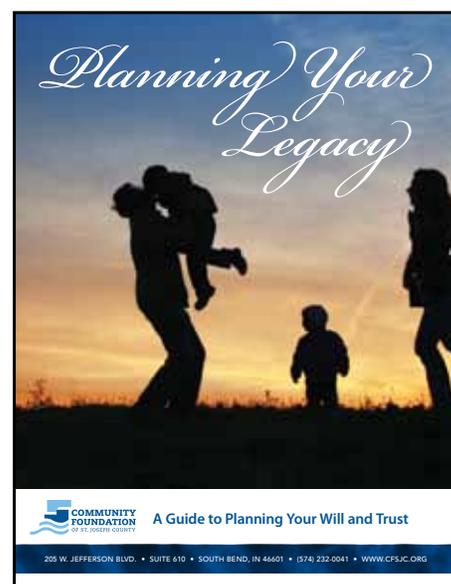
• **“It's too expensive.”** And chaos is cheap? Trust me, it's not. You can get a will drawn up inexpensively. You can go to nolo.com or legalzoom.com to get do-it-yourself wills done for less than \$100. Or pay a few hundred dollars to a lawyer to prepare a will. If your estate is a bit more complicated, then please spend the money for an estate attorney.

• **“I don't have much to fight over.”** A car could be left to a relative in need of transportation. The proceeds of a life

insurance policy left to a responsible person who will at least pay for your funeral. Your children are worth planning for, aren't they? You may have been avoiding this selection because the pickings are slim for guardians or you can't imagine anyone raising your children like you would. No one really can. They won't be you. So find the next best you. You may select one relative to raise your child and another, better at handling money, to be responsible for managing the child's inheritance.

Having a will doesn't guarantee peaceful management of your estate. But without a will, decisions about your money, your belongings and your children will be left up to state law and the things you value the most could be given to someone you would have never chosen. Please don't assume people will do the right thing when they are grieving.

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Not sure how to start the process? We can help. To receive your copy of the Community Foundation's free guide to planning your will, download it today at our website—www.cfsjc.org—or, if you prefer, give us a call at (574) 232-0041 and we'll mail you a copy.

Grant Spotlight: Investing in Education in Our Community



Above: The Public Education Foundation received a Community Foundation grant recently for its successful LiPS/Wilson reading program.

This spring, the Community Foundation made several related major grants that increase educational options for local young people. Through these, we're making a difference for thousands of children and teens.

Helping Children with Autism

The Community Foundation has made a grant of \$50,000 to support LOGAN's new Sonya Ansari Autism Learning Center, which will help children between the ages

two to 12 with significant communication and behavioral challenges related to autism live better, more meaningful lives. The Center will provide applied behaviour analysis (ABA) therapy for 15 children in 2012, with that number increasing to 20 in the future.

Since 2006, LOGAN's Sonya Ansari Center has been providing home-based ABA therapy. But because the rate of autism occurrence continues to grow—the Center for Disease Control reported in 2012 that 1 in 88 children has an autism spectrum disorder—there's a need for more services that isn't currently being met in our community.

ABA is a specialized style of therapy clinically proven to help autistic children improve communication, develop better social skills, and perform better in school. Nikki DeWitt, clinical director of the Autism Learning Center, points out that it's an approach that makes life better for the families of the autistic individuals, as well.

"The whole family benefits from ABA because they're able to form bonds with their children," says Nikki DeWitt, clinical director of the Autism Learning Center.

"The whole family benefits from ABA because they're able to form bonds with their children; they're able to see them learn

and grow... They're able to learn how to help their children and teach them," DeWitt says.

Our community's first and only non-profit ABA Center for children with autism, the new Sonya Ansari Autism Learning Center is scheduled to open on July 9.

Project-based learning emphasizes the need for students to work together to solve real-life problems, which helps them develop critical thinking and communication skills.

Providing Alternatives for High School, Junior High Students

It's no secret that young people have a variety of learning styles. While some respond well to traditional classroom presentation styles—lectures, reading assignments—others perform better when they work in close collaboration with their peers. Project-based learning emphasises the need for students to work together to solve real-life problems, which helps them develop critical thinking and communication skills.

The Community Foundation has made two grants of \$50,000 each to support recent efforts to provide local students with project-based learning alternatives: New Tech High, a part of the South Bend Community School Corporation which is housed at Riley High School, and the Career Academy, a publicly funded charter school.

New Tech is part of the New Tech Network, a national organization that includes more than 80 schools. The school, which opened in August 2011 and has a goal of enrolling 400 students by 2014-15, emphasizes technological integration in the learning process. Each New Tech student works on a laptop computer, using software that facilitates project management and collaboration.

The Career Academy is based on the concept that a vocational, project-based approach to learning makes more sense for

continued from p. 6

some students than a traditional college-prep curriculum. Sharing space in the same building as the Career Academy—a facility on South Bend's northwest side that's undergoing a \$13-million renovation—is the Apprentice Academy, which provides vocational training, and The Crossing, a faith-based alternative high school.

Boosting Reading Skills for Primary School Students

The Community Foundation approved a \$20,000 grant to the Public Education Foundation, Inc., to support the expansion of the successful LiPS/Wilson Language Reading program to all of the primary centers in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

The reading program, which combines a focus on “decoding” words with increased phonemic awareness, involves more than 630 staff members who have worked with some 4,400 students. Launched as a pilot program in 2003-04 at Hay Primary Center, LiPS/Wilson was first implemented in a handful of SBCSC's nine Title 1 primary centers, which have the highest percentages of students in poverty. Because so many students receiving LiPS/Wilson tutoring posted significant improvement in their reading skills, the School Corporation asked the Public Education Foundation to expand the program to help even more children develop their reading skills.

Teachers are strong supporters of the program, too. According to Brenda Allen, an Explorers teacher at Hay Primary Center, because of LiPS/Wilson, “Many students move up several reading levels in one year. This is one of the most beneficial programs in our school.”

You can support programs like these through a gift to the Community Foundation, creating a better future for our children and our community. Learn more at www.cfsjc.org.

New Partnership: *SB Tribune* and ArtsEverywhere Initiative

It's a change that means more local arts news produced more frequently, available in more places than ever before.

The Community Foundation's ArtsEverywhere initiative has taken an exciting new direction: We're partnering with the *South Bend Tribune* to help get the word out about the tremendous arts resources we have in our community.

The Community Foundation has agreed to support the *South Bend Tribune's* new weekly entertainment publication: IntheBend.com. Printed on a heavier, whiter paper than the rest of the *Tribune*, IntheBend.com is a tabloid publication that comes out every Thursday and includes a complete list of things to do in the community that weekend. You'll find it in every *South Bend Tribune*, as well as in various pick-up locations—coffee shops, libraries—around the community.

“We received lots of positive feedback about our *ArtsEverywhere* magazine,” says

Laura Moran Walton, the Foundation's director of communications and public relations, “but we were only able to publish it three times a year and that limited its effectiveness as an arts promotion tool.” Through this partnership with the *Tribune*, she explains, the Foundation is helping to ensure that arts information reaches the largest possible audience every week.

As part of this new partnership, the Community Foundation has decided to shut down ArtsEverywhere.com, the events calendaring website that it has administered for the past seven years.

“ArtsEverywhere.com was a popular site,” Moran Walton says, “but the *Tribune* is very committed to its IntheBend.com website. It didn't make sense to continue duplicating efforts. A community our size is well served by a single online calendar.”

Passionate about the arts? Contact Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation, to learn how you can support our ArtsEverywhere initiative: (574) 232-0041 or rose@cfsjc.org.



More frequent arts coverage means more attention for our local arts organizations, such as South Bend Civic Theatre, South Bend Symphony, South Bend Museum of Art, Southold Dance Theater (Above: SDT students performing *Coppelia*), and dozens of others.



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UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- Aug. 29: Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence presented at Century Center
- Oct. 1: Application deadline for African American Community Fund and Special Project grants
- Nov. 1: Application deadline for Senior Housing and ArtsEverywhere grants

Learn more at www.cfsjc.org or call (574) 232-0041.

ArtsEverywhere Series Returns to the Chris Wilson Pavilion at Potawatomi Park

It's summer again, and that means it's time for the Community Foundation's award-winning **ArtsEverywhere Performing Arts Series**. Held in the Chris Wilson Pavilion at South Bend's Potawatomi Park, this six-event free series runs from July 21 through August 25 on consecutive Saturdays. All events begin at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating; pack a picnic or buy dinner from Fiddler's Hearth at the show.

July 21: Members of the **South Bend Civic Theatre** perform an evening of musical hits (*Rain location: South Bend Civic Theatre*)

July 28: IUSB's **Raclin School of the Arts** performs *Johnny Appleseed*, a play for children (*Rain location: IUSB's Campus Auditorium, Northside Hall*)

August 4: **Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival's** Young Company performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (*Rain location: IUSB's Campus Auditorium, Northside Hall*)

August 11: **Southold Dance Theater** presents an evening of dance, featuring two guest artists (*Rain location: IUSB's Campus Auditorium, Northside Hall*)

August 18: An evening of jazz with **New West Guitar Group**, one of whose members—John Storie—was a student of Chris Wilson (*Rain location: IUSB's Campus Auditorium, Northside Hall*)

August 25: The **South Bend Symphony Orchestra** will perform (*Rain location: Adams High School Main Auditorium*)

The ArtsEverywhere Performing Arts Series is sponsored by the Community Foundation's ArtsEverywhere Fund, South Bend Parks and Recreation Department, and the family of Christopher H. Wilson.

You'll find more details about the ArtsEverywhere series at www.cfsjc.org under "Foundation News."