



Press Release

April 11, 2016

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pete Fornof
Email: pfornof@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 618-514-5398

Contact: Patty Navin
Email: pnavin14@gmail.com
Phone: 618-781-2348

Edwardsville Community Foundation

EDWARDSVILLE, IL – The Board of Directors of the Edwardsville Community Foundation (ECF) announced two recent grants that have been given to Edwardsville area organizations. These grants help fund initiatives that are aimed at improving the quality of life for District 7 residents – young and old.

A grant of \$1,000 was awarded to the Main Street Community Center to assist in funding software to schedule door-to-door transportation for seniors and disabled adults. This software will provide efficiencies to the scheduling process, which is currently being handled manually. The Center provides transportation for doctor appointments, grocery shopping, volunteer or paid positions at businesses, to pick up prescriptions, attend recreational activities, and other necessary errands for individuals in Edwardsville, Glen Carbon and to the Anderson Hospital campus in Maryville.

“Main Street Community Center is thrilled to receive the grant from ECF,” said Sara Berkbigler, Executive Director at the Main Street Community Center. “Our door-to-door transportation bus provided over 6,000 rides in the past year and those reservations are all made by hand, then transferred to spreadsheets to complete reporting to our funders. The ECF grant will be used to develop a transportation database system that will allow for an electronic reservation system and automated reports as requested by funders and potential donors. A huge leap forward – all thanks to ECF!”

A second grant of \$5,000 was awarded to the Edwardsville Children’s Museum to support the new Natural Play Space Project Initiative, an outdoor learning environment that will draw a wider range of children to the museum. This new natural playground offers children the opportunity to play with and among natural elements, and will enhance the exploratory, discovery and activity offerings at the museum. Museum leaders hope to attract new audiences

through District 7 field trips, as the Natural Play Space will allow for educational programming that could incorporate math, science, literacy and sensory exploration.

“The Edwardsville Children's Museum is extremely honored and excited to have received a grant of \$5,000 from the Edwardsville Community Foundation,” said Lindley White, Operations Director. “We know that the foundation has many opportunities and projects to consider. This grant is the seed money that will allow us to bring an Outdoor Nature Classroom to the community. This unique learning space will be available and accessible to the entire community and will be another resource that places the Edwardsville community as a destination to work, live and play. The grant funding, combined with a generous gift from Hortica, has allowed us to engage the Nature Explore organization to create a certified design that will provide an engaging, nurturing and nature based learning space for children of all ages. This endeavor is central to our mission to stimulate curiosity and cultivate learning at the age of wonder.”

“These grants are great opportunities for the ECF to assist in the growth of these outstanding organizations, the Edwardsville Children’s Museum and the Main Street Community Center, said Patty Navin. “We are allowing them to expand their offerings to even more children and seniors in our community.”

The Edwardsville Community Foundation was founded to create an organization where people can donate money that directly impacts the quality of life in the local communities. The ECF operates as a charitable trust that receives, manages, and distributes tax-deductible charitable contributions for the benefit of the residents living in the local communities, as defined by the Edwardsville School District 7. Since its inception in 1997, the ECF has distributed more than \$5.6 million to charitable causes.