



Your Community | Your Foundation | Your Opportunity

Winter 2014

## Can Your Gift Make a Greater Impact?

### Benefits of a Year-End Giving Plan

How would you like to wrap up 2014 with a gift that directly, positively impacts your community AND offers tax deductions and benefits? It's the perfect time of year for giving and we can help you create a year-end plan that fully satisfies your values and philanthropic goals.

Your donation will help transform lives throughout the community as your funding supports efforts for the betterment of the environment, the arts, community development, education, and health and human services. Cash gifts and securities or investments are both excellent tax-deductible options. Cash donations allow charities to meet immediate financial needs, and securities and investments can be a significant gift to a charity at a much lower cost to you.

As you develop your giving plan, please consider becoming part of an extremely important and generous group of Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation (GEACF) Sustaining Donors. Sustaining Donor contributions start as low as \$75 per year per individual. Becoming a GEACF Sustaining Donor as part of your giving plan allows you to take advantage of year-end tax savings as well.

*"Your donation will help transform lives throughout the community as your funding supports efforts for the betterment of the environment, the arts, community development, education, and health and human services. Cash gifts and securities or investments are both excellent tax-deductible options."*

If you haven't had a chance to send in your pledge form yet, make sure to find out the deadlines for giving and maximize your benefits by consulting with your tax advisor, particularly, if you are considering making a significant charitable donation.

With your generous year-end support, the Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation can continue to enhance the quality of life for you, your family and your neighbors by distributing life-changing grants to local charitable organizations and providing educational scholarships to deserving students within School District No. 7. Please don't forget to send in your pledge form and share your support today! ♦

## GEACF Strategic Plan for the Future

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The GEACF Board of Directors participated in three Strategic Planning Sessions in October 2014. During these sessions the board explored ways that the GEACF can expand its endeavors in the future. They examined the mission statement, vision statement,

and organizational direction. There were many new ideas, projects and undertakings discussed. The opportunities are endless – please watch for updates and exciting announcements during 2015. ♦

## It's Not too Late to Apply for Grants and Scholarships for 2015

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### Grants and scholarships bring greater prosperity to your community

The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation (GEACF) awarded approximately \$8,800 in grants in 2014 for various organizations such as the Hospice of Southern Illinois to fund projects related to hospice education, the Riverbend Head Start to complete the outdoor classroom project and the Edwardsville Township to restore the Veteran's Monument and US Navy A-7E Corsair Aircraft. GEACF grants are available to support a variety of community projects and programs for the New Year.

The Foundation also offered 40 new scholarships in 2014. Approximately 30 to 50 scholarships are awarded

through the Foundation's Scholarship Fund each year. Scholarships are available for a wide range of needs and interests from one year to four years of financing in educational areas from fine arts to math and science – and everything in between. Scholarships range

from \$500 to \$8,000 and are applicable to both traditional college and vocational routes.

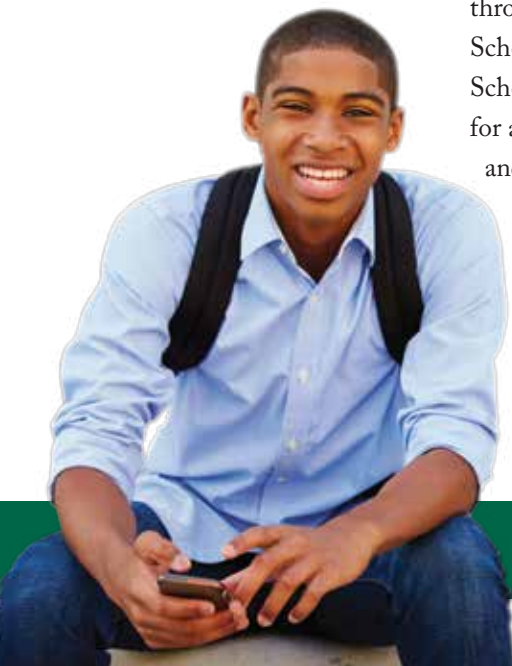
In addition to existing scholarships such as the Dirty Dozen, Charles A. Wentz, Bank of Edwardsville and many more, new scholarships are available for 2015:

**Ryan A. Garbs Gold Star Memorial Scholarship** – awarded to qualified graduating high school seniors planning to become law enforcement officers or major in Criminal Justice.

**Mildred A. Carr EHS Scholarship** – awarded to qualified graduating high school seniors, preferably planning to pursue a major in education, mathematics, science, engineering, or business fields or any recognized vocational field.

**Mark Speciale Family Vocational Scholarship** – awarded to graduating high school seniors continuing their education at an accredited trade or vocational school (excluding the IT field) as a full-time student.

You can pick up applications for any of the numerous 2015 scholarships in the Edwardsville High School Counselor's office. Scholarships are open to students in the Edwardsville School District 7 and most forms are due back by the end of January, so don't delay! ♦







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P.O. Box 102 · Edwardsville, Illinois 62025



# GO GREEN!

Sign up for our digital newsletter at [www.geacf.org/contact-us](http://www.geacf.org/contact-us).

## Want to Learn More?

The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation is dedicated to the enhancement and betterment of the quality of life in the communities of Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Hamel, Moro, Dorsey, Worden and the surrounding areas.

Since our inception in 1997, The GEACF has distributed more than \$5.4 million to charitable causes.

See below to learn more about our Foundation or to find out ways to become a charitable donor.



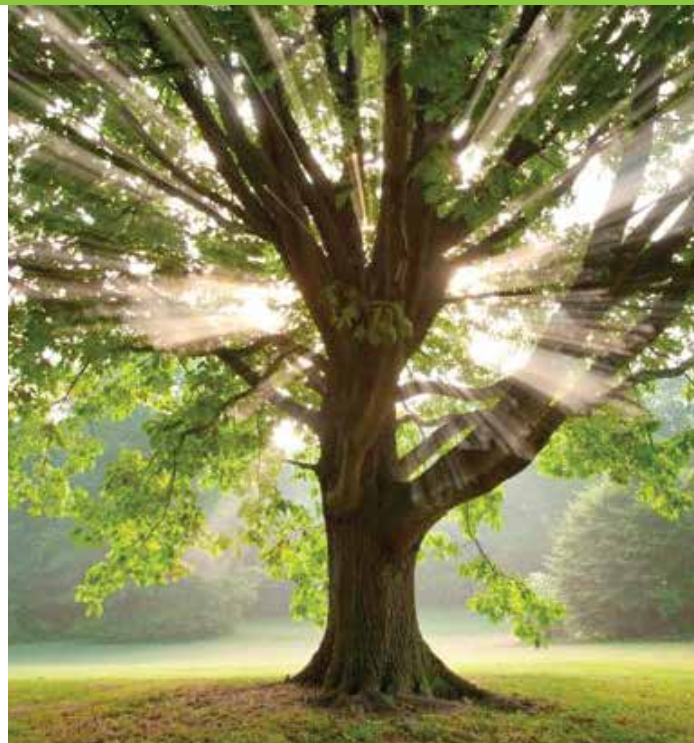
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Edwardsville Community-Foundation



(855) GO-GEACF (855-464-3223)



[www.geacf.org](http://www.geacf.org)