



**YOUR COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
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Summer 2014

## The GEACF Hosts Annual “Celebrate Your Community” Event!

The GEACF is proud to have hosted their annual “Celebrate Your Community” event! This year, the event was held on Friday, April 25 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the LeClaire Room on the N.O. Nelson Campus here in Edwardsville. Residents within the District 7 boundaries came over to visit with friends and neighbors, partake in delicious hors d’oeuvres, dance to some great live music, celebrate the donors, and learn about all the wonderful new changes and contributions taking place in our great community.

The live music was provided by the Bob Perry Band, and attendees took to the dance floor as the band



played and danced the night away. Each resident who attended was also automatically entered in for a chance to win an iPad Air!

“We are so proud of this event and feel that residents enjoyed a really fun and educational time full of good people, good food, and good music,” said Patty Navin, Foundation Chairman for GEACF. “There’s so much good going on in our community, and we were thrilled



to have shared the information on all of the Foundation events and programs in and around our community!”

Thank you again to everyone who came out in support of the Foundation and the community! Be on the look-out for information regarding next year’s “Celebrate Your Community” event. We hope we’ll see you back next year!

Want to learn more about  
the **GEACF?**

Visit us online!

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



## The GEACF Sets Up Community Support Fund for the “Preach” Project

The Foundation is lending a helping hand to a community project here in Edwardsville! We have set up a Community Support Fund for the “Preach on Main” project, a work of love dedicated to Edwardsville’s greatly admired citizen and unofficial ambassador of the city, Marvin “Preach” Webb.

There are plans in the works for a bronze statue of Preach to be created, and it is to be funded mostly by private donations. The Foundation has established the Preach on Main Fund to accept donations for this project. The total fundraising goal for this project is \$85,000.

“We are excited for this project to get underway and are so proud to be a part of it,” said Patty Navin, Foundation Chairman for GEACF. “Preach has been a huge part of the city of Edwardsville, and we want to show our gratitude for all the kindness he has expressed to everyone throughout the years.”

If you’re not familiar with who Preach is, he is known for being a happy-go-lucky citizen who traverses up and down Edwardsville’s Main Street, carrying out errands and talking to just about everyone he encounters. More than 70 years old, Preach is fondly known as “Mr. Edwardsville” and happily welcomes all who are visiting or new to town while catching up with settled-in residents. He has been doing this for over seven decades.

Local sculptor Ned Giberson, who made the statue of Robert Wadlow, will be creating the statue of Preach. The statue will eventually be donated to the city of Edwardsville and placed on Main Street. The city will be responsible for annual maintenance.



*To donate to the fund or for more information, please call (855) GO-GEACF or visit their website at [www.edwardsvillefoundation.org](http://www.edwardsvillefoundation.org).*

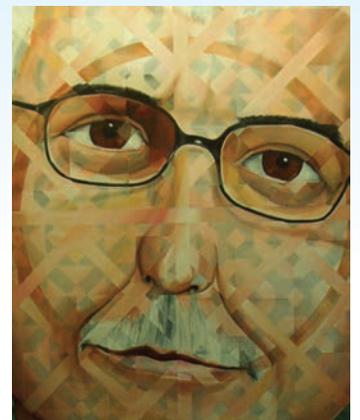
## The EAC Helps Provide Support for the Arts With the Dennis DeToye Scholarship

If you happen to know Dennis DeToye, retired EHS art teacher and football coach, mayor, and local resident, then you probably know about his ongoing passion and dedication to the arts and art education. Having taught at EHS from 1970 to 2003, Dennis delighted in his students’ works of art, accepted them and their abilities no matter where their skills were, and did everything he could to promote art education. In fact, he was the force behind getting the student gallery portion of the EAC up and running and single-handedly developed the Southwestern Conference Art Competition, which features the best of students’ artwork across Southwestern Conference schools.

Recently, Dennis learned that he has brain cancer. Since then, he has undergone surgery to remove the cancerous tumor and is currently receiving cancer treatments in St. Louis. Before the cancer was detected, the EAC was secretly planning on dedicating and naming their student gallery, which contained several pieces of past students’ artwork, in Dennis’ honor. Ever humble, Dennis requested that any funds for memberships, sponsorships, or proceeds in his name go to the EAC.

The center was dedicated in Dennis’ name on Friday, November 29, 2013, and a fundraiser for the newly-named DeToye Student Gallery was also launched on that day.

Aside from his family, the two things that Dennis loves the most in the world is art and artists, students and professionals alike. We ask that you choose to support Dennis by supporting the EAC and the arts as he battles brain cancer. Call (855) GO-GEACF to find out more or to donate!



# Local Fund Gives Children with Special Needs a Chance to Learn Tennis

The GEACF is facilitating a local fund that allows students with special needs to have the chance to learn tennis for free.

This new community support fund, which is called Mitch & Friends, was established by Edwardsville High School tennis coach Dave Lipe and Kevin McGinnis, the father of the fund's namesake, Mitch.

Coach Lipe knew Mitch, who has autism, through coaching his twin sister Morgan throughout her high school career. Mitch was the coach's student manager on both the boys and girls tennis teams at the high school for four years. At first, he was helping out the teams by getting the courts ready for practice, but then he and the coach began playing tennis together, and Mitch loved it. Soon, the two began playing tennis on a regular basis before practice, and from there, all the students on the team started hitting balls with Mitch every day.

After a while, Coach Lipe invited some of Mitch's friends from school to enjoy tennis as well. From there, Mitch & Friends was formed.

Initially, the fund was formed to revolve around a night of tennis that is held during the men's pro tournament in August and was to be a one-night clinic for kids with special needs. The fund has actually now morphed into an official non-profit whose aim is to provide free opportunities for kids with special needs to play tennis.

When Mitch's grandfather, friend to Coach Lipe, passed away in 2013, many donated money to the fund in his memory, which helped propel the fund to become an actual non-profit organization. The Foundation also helps facilitate donations to the organization, providing others an easy avenue to give any kind of donation they may wish.

Mitch & Friends Fund strives to put on one to two large events annually. Last year, the group held The Futures tournament here in August. Eighteen children with special needs learned from 18 professionals for one-on-one teaching. They hope to do this again this year.

*For more information or to donate to Mitch & Friends Fund, please call (855) GO-GEACF or visit [www.geacf.org](http://www.geacf.org).*



## 2014 GEACF BOARD

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**GREATER EDWARDSVILLE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**PLEASE GIVE!**

Please help us help our community by becoming a sustaining donor of the Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation. For as little as \$75 a year you can be a sustaining donor of the Foundation and will not only be listed as a charitable donor to the GEACF, but will also be invited to our Annual Donor Event.

To become a donor, please send your charitable contribution in the mail. You may also visit our website at [www.edwardsvillefoundation.org](http://www.edwardsvillefoundation.org) and make your contribution via Paypal.

The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation is committed to enhancing the quality of life in the District 7 area, but we can't do it alone. We need your help! Please, give today.

**GEACF FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT**

**The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation Financial Snapshot Through December 31, 2013**

- Total assets as of December 31, 2013 are \$1,833,518.71
- Grants and awards during 2013 – \$102,465
- Scholarships awarded – 56, valued at \$66,700

