

# EPCF NEWS

Be part of something bigger on Give to the Max Day, Nov. 17

One of the ways you can support the Foundation and the organizations that hold funds at the Foundation is by giving through Minnesota's 24-hour online give-a-thon, Give to the Max Day, which is Nov. 17.



Visit [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org) and search for the Eden Prairie Community Foundation page. There you'll find funds and projects supported by the Foundation, and you can contribute to them directly. They include:

- Eden Prairie Disability Awareness Committee
- Eden Prairie Reads
- Eden Prairie Youth Initiative
- EP Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- Interfaith Circle
- The Miracle League of Eden Prairie
- Dr. Jean Harris Scholarship Fund
- Lonnie Murphy Scholarship Fund

You can schedule your online donation right now, or visit [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org) on Thursday, Nov. 17 – and **Give to the Max!**



## We Do Better Together

HELP THE EP COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ADDRESS IMPORTANT NEEDS IN 2017 BY MAKING A YEAR-END DONATION NOW

**W**on't you contribute to the Eden Prairie Community Foundation's work to change lives and fill important EP needs in 2017?

The Foundation's leadership has pledged to match community contributions up to \$3,500. So, you can help turn \$3,500 into \$7,000 by making a year-end donation now.

Important Eden Prairie initiatives and grants to fill local nonprofits' greatest needs rely on your support. Please consider making a year-end contribution, online or using the remittance envelope enclosed.

Thanks! You'll help make sure Eden Prairie is a great place to live and work. 

## Save the date: April 29, 2017

There's an exciting change in venue for the Foundation's next EP Gives event.

Our annual party celebrating a year of philanthropy and our newest grantees will be held at Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center in Chaska on the evening of Saturday, April 29.



*Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center in Chaska.*

With 130 acres of natural beauty surrounding Lake McKnight, the Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center is the perfect place to kick back with friends and neighbors. This beautiful setting is just 10 miles from the heart of Eden Prairie, and you'll find convenient parking, great food, and fantastic ambiance.

Have fun and help your community by attending 2017 EP Gives. Watch for details, coming soon!

## THE FOUNDATION AS A FISCAL SPONSOR

# Miracles do happen; we have one in Eden Prairie

What do the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial, the Sydney Gallegger Memorial Pool, and Eden Prairie Miracle Field have in common?

They are projects conceived and implemented by neighbors that also got an assist from the Eden Prairie Community Foundation.

The Foundation's role was to act as the fiscal sponsor for these projects – meaning we offered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, online giving using the Foundation website, occasional grant-making for the organization's mission, state sales tax exemption, professional auditing, and annual reporting to the IRS and State Attorney General's Office. All of this allowed the organizers to focus on their projects and fundraising.

Take the Eden Prairie Miracle Field, for instance.

Miracle Fields, found nationwide, are specially designed baseball diamonds for kids and young adults with disabilities. Design features including a rubberized surface making baseball enjoyable for young people with a wide range of special needs. Volunteer "buddies" and others help organize the games so that they're not only fun, but competitive, too.

The Eden Prairie Miracle Field is a \$245,000 baseball diamond at Flying Cloud Fields, near Flying Cloud Airport. The idea for the EP project came about more than five years ago, when young Eden Prairie baseball players and their parents from a travel-league team were in Lakeville and saw a Miracle Field in action there.

They brought the idea back to Eden Prairie, got help from the City of Eden Prairie and the Eden Prairie Community Founda-



*Eden Prairie Miracle Field was finished and put to use starting this past summer. Money to pay for its construction is still being raised.*

tion, and their fundraising campaign was soon underway. Several years later, the brand-new field is complete and in use.

The Foundation's sponsorship allowed the organizers to focus on raising financial support. Along the way, the Foundation also provided a \$5,000 grant to the project.

Foundation leaders, said David Espe, one of the Miracle Field leaders, "have been a tremendous partner, and I couldn't be more pleased with their service and support."

Miracle Field "has already made an enormous impact," said Shaun Redford, a coach. "It was inspiring to watch the cheering, the smiles, the hugs, the high-fives, and the fist-bumps; to see the players' excitement grow with each game and the bonds their formed with their 'buddies'.

"On a personal level, I witnessed my son Corbin, who has limited speech, learn to say 'Hit baseball!' as he came up to bat. I can't wait for the next season to start, to recruit more players and families, and see the Miracle League flourish in Eden Prairie."

You can keep the fiscal-sponsor role going by supporting the Foundation with a year-end donation. 

## How you can help

Through donations large and small, planned giving, corporate and workplace giving, and about 550 grants totaling more than \$1.6 million, we have — as a community — accomplished great things: changing lives and making Eden Prairie better.

You can continue to make Eden Prairie great in 2017 by making a year-end contribution, and quickly turn \$3,500 into \$7,000 by giving now. That's because the Foundation's leaders and committee members have collectively pledged \$3,500 to the Foundation's work if the community-at-large matches that amount.

You can answer this Leadership Challenge and create \$7,000 worth of impact in any of three ways:



1. Donate through the Foundation's website at [www.epcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.epcommunityfoundation.org). Click on the "Donate" button and make a secure contribution using your credit card.

2. Donate through [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org) during the "Give to the Max Day" campaign that culminates Nov. 17. You can donate to the Foundation itself, or to any of the special-interest funds or projects sponsored by the Foundation, such as the Eden Prairie Reads Fund or the Miracle Field Fund. Find them listed on the Foundation page at [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org).

3. Send a check to the Foundation, using the remittance envelope tucked inside this newsletter.

So, give to the Foundation YOUR way, and help make a difference in Eden Prairie. 

## THE FOUNDATION AS A VEHICLE FOR OTHERS' PHILANTHROPY

### 'We've received a lot from this community'

Moved here, fell in love with the community, and are giving back: That, in a nutshell, is the story of Jeff Lukens and Nancy Tyra-Lukens.

Now, their "giving back" includes a donor-advised fund at the Eden Prairie Community Foundation, where they can become grant-makers on their own and help causes and organizations important to them, using the advice and expertise of the Foundation when needed.

(It's one of the many ways the Foundation encourages philanthropy in Eden Prairie. You can ensure that this effort continues with a year-end donation.)

It started in 1985, when the Lukens family moved here from Nashville, Tenn. Eden Prairie wasn't even on their radar, says Nancy, until friends suggested they consider buying a home in EP because of its good schools, parks and trails, as well as a wide range of housing choices.

"We just loved it – and raised three kids here," she adds.

They really didn't become involved in the Eden Prairie Community Foundation until about the mid-1990s, when Nancy was elected to the Eden Prairie City Council and became the council's representative to the EPCF Board of Directors. But they came to appreciate the farsightedness of the Foundation's 1981 founders.

"I think it's really, really interesting to think back to 35 years ago, when Eden Prairie was starting to boom, that community members had the foresight to recognize there would still be needs to fill," she says. Over the years, the Community Foundation has granted roughly \$1.6 million to 60-plus nonprofits and other organizations serving people who live or work in Eden Prairie.



*The Lukens family of Eden Prairie.*

Now, the Lukenses plan to tap the Foundation's expertise to find needs they can help fill with their donor-advised fund. "We feel we've received a lot from this community," Nancy explains, "and our desire is to give back."

They hope that starting their fund will inspire other Eden Prairie residents to create a fund or otherwise support the lean-but-knowledgeable Community Foundation ... that it will "show that the Foundation is here to stay, and has the expertise," she says.

Has Eden Prairie been good to you, too? Find out how you can "give back" through the Eden Prairie Community Foundation by contacting its executive director, Mark Weber, at [mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org) or (952) 949-8499. ↪

## THE FOUNDATION AS A GRANT MAKER

### Finding important projects – and funding them!

One of the Foundation's best-known roles is grant maker: turning donations from businesses and individuals like you into grants that have the biggest community impact.

It's something the Foundation has been doing for 35 years, with 60-some local nonprofits and agencies benefiting from more than 500 grants exceeding \$1.6 million.

**So, thank-you, Foundation supporters. You've made a big difference!**

One of the ways the Foundation stretches your donations is by collaborating with other local grant makers to make an even bigger difference. A good example is the homeless-teen backpack initiative started by PROP earlier this year. Using grants from the Foundation and the Eden Prairie A.M. Rotary Club, PROP stuffed backpacks with some of the essentials that a teenager who is faced with sudden homelessness might need: personal-hygiene products, snacks, bus passes, a PROP Shop coupon for clothes, a gift card for food, etc.

The backpacks were then distributed to agencies who have the most contact with teens in need: Eden Prairie High School, PROP, the Police Department, The PROP Shop, and the Familink/Office of Housing and Community Services located at Eden Prairie Center.

Within just a few months, eight teens received backpacks. And, just as important, the backpacks enabled social workers, case

managers, the police and others to have meaningful conversations with teens needing assistance. Plus, the collaborative effort is providing useful data on the topic of teen homelessness in Eden Prairie.

It shows that we do things better when we do them together! Your support of the Foundation makes collaboration like this happen.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Emergency help for teens is gaining more and more attention in Eden Prairie. Hopkins-based MoveFwd (formerly Teens Alone) recently began keeping drop-in hours at the Eden Prairie Library to discuss housing, employment, and other basic needs with young people ages 15 to 24. And, a group of concerned Eden Prairie citizens – including from the Foundation – has begun meeting to explore whether emergency or transitional housing for homeless teens needs to be created in this community. ↪



*Local Girl Scouts and other volunteers helped create homeless-teen backpacks at PROP, as part of a program funded by the Foundation and A.M. Rotary. (Photo courtesy of Sugi O'Neil)*