

The sky's the limit



GIVE

CENTURY APPEAL
HAS \$3.5K MATCH

This is the Eden Prairie Community Foundation's mid-year, Century Giving campaign.

We're asking Eden Prairie households to each contribute \$100 or more to support the Foundation's work to fill unmet community needs, something it has been doing since 1981. More than \$2 million has been granted to 100-plus organizations that help older adults, youths, disabled persons, victims of domestic abuse, and many more.

But the needs keep coming, and your help is critical if Eden Prairie is to continue to be one of the best cities in America in which to live or work.

The first \$3,500 donated by you and your neighbors will be matched by a group of generous donors: Bob and Joan Grootwassink, Don and Patricia Romanaggi, Dr. Stephen and Mary Battista, and Tina and Mike Palmer.

We labeled this newsletter "The sky's the limit" because so much more can be done..

Please donate now by using the envelope in this newsletter. Or, visit the EPCF website, epcommunityfoundation.org, where you can use a credit card. Any amount is welcome.

EP NEEDS

EDEN PRAIRIE'S TOP NEEDS CAN
BE MET WITH YOUR SUPPORT

It is often difficult to predict a community's emerging needs. However, Janet Palmer, executive director of the PROP social services organization in Eden Prairie, often has a handle on the most immediate issues facing our community.

According to Palmer, one of the most current struggles facing her clients is the cost of housing. "Families are working multiple shift jobs and still need to use our services because the cost of housing is so high," says Palmer. Of the food shelf's clients, 62 percent are employed. Despite receiving a paycheck, their basic nutritional needs are still unable to be met due to soaring housing costs.

Another concern in Eden Prairie that continues to be at the forefront is transportation. Not having access to transportation can greatly impact quality of life, from being able to get to work and medical appointments to attending parent-teacher conferences. Palmer can confirm this as can the Family Resources Program at Eden Prairie Schools, which conducted a formal needs assessment and found transportation to be among the top needs and service gaps in Eden Prairie. The Foundation responded last year by offering a grant to

provide bus passes to families in need.

The final emerging issue that Palmer sees are families dealing with physical health issues. Twenty-three percent of PROP's clients have reported that they or a family member suffer from a physical condition. PROP's answer to this problem is to ask for more nutritious produce and healthy food donations to assist families struggling from health concerns.

Other social-service providers add Eden Prairie's aging population to the list of emerging needs. For example, 9 of 10 older adults want to stay in their homes as long as possible, but 40 percent of seniors report needing some type of assistance to do so, according to Deb Taylor, CEO of Senior Community Services.

As the top social service needs emerge, it is more important than ever to direct philanthropic efforts toward these concerns. The Eden Prairie Community Foundation's main priority is to help identify and solve problems that impact Eden Prairie residents. To find out more about how your donation can help those in the greatest need, visit epcommunityfoundation.org or call (952) 949-8499.



A 2019 grant and \$31,000 raised at the Foundation's EP Gives event are helping launch a TreeHouse program for teens in Eden Prairie.

2019 GRANTS HELP THE YOUNG, DISABLED AND OTHERS

Fourteen organizations serving people in Eden Prairie were recognized April 27 as the Eden Prairie Community Foundation's 2019 grantees. The grants will help hurting youth, homebound meal recipients, people with disabilities, women in shelter, homeless young people, and others. Grantees are:

Bloomington-EP Meals on Wheels -- \$1,500 to provide additional fresh produce in clients' lunches.

CHOICE Inc. -- \$2,000 for supplies and technology to expand the fine-arts and performance-arts programs for intellectually disabled clients.

Cornerstone -- \$2,500 for replacement furniture and other items for an emergency shelter for women and children.

Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation -- \$1,800 for its art-in-public places project in city parks. (This grant has additional funding from the Pastor

Rod & Julane Anderson Donor-Advised Fund.)

ESTHER Homes -- \$4,200 for car-related education and assistance to pregnant women and single mothers facing homelessness. (This grant received support from a donor-advised fund holder.)

Mission Animal Hospital -- \$4,816 to upgrade a telephone system as part of facility expansion to provide more affordable pet care. (This grant received support from a donor-advised fund holder.)

Mothers Tutoring Academy -- \$2,000 for tutoring and mentoring of EP immigrant students to close the school achievement gap.

MoveFwd -- \$2,000 to create a new fund to help with expenses associated with teens' first jobs.

Onward Eden Prairie -- \$1,800 to help with 2019 utility payments at their Eden Prairie home.

PROP -- \$2,000 for emergency utility assistance to older adults.

Star Legacy Foundation -- \$3,000 for technology to help provide guidance and support to families facing pregnancy loss and neonatal death. (This grant is being provided thanks to funding support from the C.H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation.)

The PROP Shop -- \$1,050 for bedroom dressers for families-in-need.

TreeHouse -- \$2,000 to support the operation of a transportation van for one year so the nonprofit can serve hurting teens. (TreeHouse also received more than \$31,000 from a special appeal at EP Gives.)

True Friends -- \$4,000 for programming at Camp Eden Wood in Eden Prairie to serve people with disabilities. (This grant received support from a donor-advised fund holder at the Foundation.)

LEGACY

LEAVE A LEGACY THROUGH THE ENDOWMENT

Your help is needed to build the EPCF Endowment Fund to \$2 million, which will allow the Foundation to sustain its mission of philanthropy, collaboration, and leadership for years to come.

The Foundation will use the income from that carefully invested and carefully managed endowment to augment, expand, and enhance the Foundation's work.

You will be sustaining our day-to-day work, and also allowing us to expand our granting for community projects, so that many more people can be helped.

We invite you to consider making an endowment gift or including the Foundation in your will or trust.

Your gift is one that will keep giving, because you are ensuring that the high quality of life we have enjoyed in Eden Prairie will extend to all, for generations to come.

Contact the Foundation at (952) 949-8499 for more information.



Thirty-three board and staff members, including from PROP, attended the Board Boot Camp.

PARTNERS

UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO MAKE ALL EDEN PRAIRIE NONPROFITS STRONG

One of the things that makes the Foundation unique – thanks to your support – is its work to strengthen the overall nonprofit community in Eden Prairie.

That work goes beyond Foundation grants, which have been given to more than 100 different Eden Prairie nonprofits and organizations working to help people who live and work in Eden Prairie.

Recent work in this area also includes:

- Efforts to launch new nonprofits like Onward Eden Prairie and Eden Prairie TreeHouse by making them the focus of the Foundation's special appeal at EP Gives.
- A special Board Boot Camp for local nonprofits held Jan. 30 – attended by 33 board members

and staff, and professionally led by Propel Nonprofits.

- The GIVE Gathering volunteer fair, an April 29 collaboration with the City of Eden Prairie and Eden Prairie Schools Community Education to encourage more residents to volunteer with local nonprofits.

- Recruitment of local nonprofits to participate in an April "Pro Bono in a Day" program held by Eden Prairie-based Optum. This event had Optum employees working with various nonprofits to solve persistent problems.

- Fiscal sponsorship services to fledgling organizations without tax-exempt status, including one that just created the Lions United Fitness Center, an innovative gym for special-needs athletes.

FUNDS

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE FUND

One of the Foundation's unique roles is to hold funds for special projects and fledgling organizations that don't have their own nonprofit status.

Support these initiatives and groups by donating to their fund at the Foundation. When you donate, simply indicate which fund you are supporting.

We call them "community-impact funds," and here are the current funds held at EPCF:

- CounterAct
- Dr. Jean Harris Scholarships
- Eden Prairie Reads
- EP Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- EP Disability Awareness
- EP School Supply Fund
- Friends of the EP Players
- Interfaith Circle
- Lions United
- Miracle Field
- Onward Eden Prairie
- PROP Youth Scholarships



The Onward Eden Prairie Fund supports a home for young adults that was opened in 2018.

YOUTH

DONORS LEVEL THE FIELD FOR EDEN PRAIRIE'S KIDS

Through your support of the Foundation's Youth Initiative, we've funded scholarships so that nearly 100 kids per year from households-in-need can afford after-school activities like swimming lessons, enrichment classes, driver's training, and more. Thank you!



The Foundation has a fund for after-school scholarships.



Mark your calendar for 2019 Prairie Brewfest, 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

BREWFEST

SIP BEER AND HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

There's such a thing as sipping beer for a good cause, and it's called the Prairie Brewfest.

Our fall fundraiser combines samples from nearly two dozen craft-beer brewers, live music, food trucks, and games – all at Purgatory Creek Park Eden Prairie, from 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019.

Last year, more than 650 of your neighbors attended.

When you attend Brewfest, you are supporting the Foundation's programs and operation. You can find more information about this event on the Eden Prairie Community Foundation website, epcommunityfoundation.org.

LEADERS

MEET THE EPCF BOARD

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors with representation from many, many parts of the community -- including the city, schools, businesses, clergy, and civic organizations.

2018-19 OFFICERS

PG Narayanan, Chair
Ron Case, Vice Chair
Kathy Swart, Treasurer
Nancy Holden, Secretary
Joan Grootwassink, Past Chair

2018-19 DIRECTORS

Beverly Aho
Pastor Rod Anderson
Carlos Berger
Hanadi Chehabeddine
Alfonso Chicre
Ranee Jacobus
Jeff Jiang
Elaine Larabee
Jay Lotthammer
Pastor Paul Nelson
Tina Palmer



Executive Director Mark Weber

HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR PHILANTHROPY

It's a pleasure to serve as the Foundation's executive director, and I am in total awe over the generosity of residents and businesses. There's more than can be done, which is why we titled this mailing "The sky's the limit." I'm here to serve your philanthropic interests, whether that involves starting a fund, leaving a bequest, or supporting an appeal. Contact me at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org or (952) 949-8499.

