

The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation was established on October 1, 2015, as one of 850 community foundations in the country. In four short years, the Foundation has amassed assets of over \$2.4 million.

Founded by Chuck and Pamela Beckett, their vision was to bring the opportunity of a community foundation to Starved Rock Country. The Foundation makes it possible for every non-profit and charitable organization in the area to benefit from the generosity of the community as a whole.



Community foundations exist to meet the philanthropic needs of the community and the philanthropic desires of local donors. When we connect those two, wonderful things happen to enhance the quality of life for all of us.



"I truly believe that we each have a responsibility to make ourselves necessary to one another. The Community Foundation is the perfect vehicle to make that happen."

Pamela Beckett, President



Thomas L. Justice, Jr.
Chairman
Seneca

Stronger communities make for stronger businesses. Through a community foundation, we can strengthen the services provided in Starved Rock Country. An active foundation gives people a way to make long term gifts to projects they care about thus allowing communities to grow and flourish for years to come. The SRCCF truly allows people to invest in the future of their community.



Tom Heitmann
Mendota

I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve on this board. My goal is to help grow the Foundation and the Starved Rock Country area communities that it serves.



Susan Thornton
Ottawa

For me, it's all about giving back. Community foundations such as ours, are dedicated to improving the lives of residents within the given area. Because of our donors, our organization is able to make great things happen in Starved Rock Country.



Robert M Eschbach
Vice-Chairman
Ottawa

A community foundation can help turn great ideas into better and more vibrant communities. That excites me.



Jay McCracken
Hennepin

I have long believed that we are stronger together as we serve our community. We are excited to continue growing community service with your generous support.



Keith Cain
Princeton

I was honored to be asked to join the board of this new community foundation. I wholeheartedly support the concept of working together regionally throughout the LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam counties. There is strength in numbers. I feel that we are making tremendous headway in uniting the region.



Kris Zierke
Secretary
Seneca

The first time I had ever heard of a community foundation was when I was asked to be on the board. It has been a joy and privilege to learn more about the work of our Foundation and to help people realize their dreams and encourage generosity.



Boyd Palmer
Ottawa

I chose to become a member of the SRCCF because it was a vehicle for facilitating what the people in the communities of Starved Rock Country have always been... giving and supportive.



Reed Wilson
Ottawa

I am excited by the boundless potential of the SRCCF to make Starved Rock Country a better place to live by enabling all types of philanthropic opportunities, by fostering the arts and by leading the effort to use the concept of regional tourism to encourage economic growth and entrepreneurship.



John McCormick
Treasurer
Peru

I am honored to participate in the SRCCF because it is focused on the entire region. This approach allows us to pool resources and provide the greatest benefit to help Starved Rock Country grow and prosper!



Chuck Beckett
Co-founder
Ottawa

It has been a great pleasure to be part of the journey of the Foundation. To see the progress we have made in the short time of our existence and to watch our dream grow has been very rewarding.

SRCCF Board



Inga Carus
Ottawa

Improving the lives of ALL Starved Rock Country residents, in many different ways, is what the SRCCF is all about. That is why I am serving on the board.



Tara Bedal
Streator

I am proud to represent the city of Streator on the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation. We are making great strides in unifying the communities in Starved Rock Country and ensuring that philanthropy is alive and well throughout. I'm glad to be part of such a meaningful and progressive organization that serves the entire region.



Tom Helmsoth
Ottawa

I am amazed at the charity of Starved Rock Country residents and organizations, and there is a definite need for the SRCCF to assist them with individual giving and agency fund management needs. The Starved Rock Country brand, expressed in this very philanthropic way, is important for the entire region to realize its character and future strength. I am honored to serve this great organization



Larry Windsor
Ottawa

I have always believed in supporting organizations that have a positive impact on the lives of people in our communities. SRCCF is such an organization.



Dedication of Crotty Park Playground, June 2018

“We thought about starting our own family foundation, but the laws and process were daunting. It is much better to join with someone else. We’re glad we found the Foundation. Networking through the Foundation has helped to get the Crotty Park Playground project to be done more quickly. The 501c3 status helps people decide to donate. We also think that seeing the playground come together will help increase visibility and get more local donations.”

George and Cindy Lamb, *Philanthropists*

mission statement:

Connecting people



Members of the Women Inspired Network present the top Grant Award to Freedom House in Princeton. The funds will be used to support and expand the Youth Empowerment Program. Pictured are Kelly Wilson of WIN, Trisha Schafer and Melanie Witmer of Freedom House; SRCCF President Pamela Beckett, Lisa Braley of WIN, and Annette Schnabel, President of Perry Memorial Hospital/Chairman of the WIN Grants Committee.

“WIN’s mission statement caught my attention because I have been involved with service organizations and philanthropic endeavors for over 20 years. After attending the first meetings of WIN, I wanted to share my leadership talents to help get the Steering Committee up and running. I look forward to continuing to see WIN grow.”

Trisha Schafer, *Women Inspired Network Steering Committee*

“The Foundation has quickly become an integral part of our regional community. They were able to step in, assist with and secure the future of the race, which has been described as a hidden gem of Midwestern Marathons. The Marathon is proud to be a part of the Foundation’s good work, and the Foundation a part of our Marathon legacy. Truly two great organizations, still in their infancy, doing some amazing work for the betterment of our communities.”

Matt Skelly, *Event Director, Starved Rock Country Marathon*



The Penguin Project’s Jeff Houk, of Engle Lane Theater, accepts a \$500 grant presented by Pamela Beckett from the Margaret A. Messer Donor Advised Fund.



Women Inspired Network [WIN] Steering Committee:
Trisha Schafer [Chair],
Kris Zierke [SRCCF Board],
Reese Remus-Steriha and
Kelly Wilson.

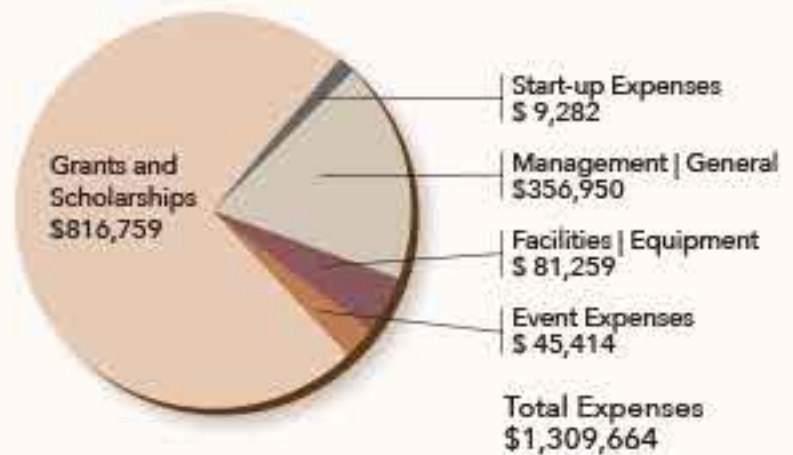


Board member, Jay McCracken, and local business owner, Robb Hasty, of Farmers Insurance, rock it at the "Heart of Fashion!"



SRCCF Sponsored Events

SRCCF Financial Position 10/1/2015 to 6/30/2018¹



Bureau County
Population: 33,389²
County Seat: Princeton
Founded: 1837



Putnam County
Population: 5,611²
County Seat: Hennepin
Founded: 1825

LaSalle County
Population: 110,981²
County Seat: Ottawa
Founded: 1831



SRCCF is a proud member of AICF

The impact of Community Foundations is staggering. Nationally managed funds exceed \$82.3 billion. In Illinois alone, community foundations manage in excess of \$2.71 billion in charitable giving. Grants back to the communities served totaled more than \$194.5 million in 2015. The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation has had an impressive start; funds in excess of \$2.396 million have been contributed to the SRCCF providing \$816,759 in grants to our community and investing nearly \$1.1M for our future.

¹ Includes unaudited 2019 financial information
² Population census from 2016



"I moved away from Ottawa in the '70s to the west coast. Over the past two decades, I've seen a transformation of Ottawa and the region. Ken and I traveled back often to visit family and enjoy the ever-changing town. I've met so many people who are passionate about the area and want to see positive changes. I am proud to direct my contributions to the Robert Eschbach Fund, to honor his leadership, strategic thinking/planning and creative instincts that have made Ottawa a wonderful place to live and visit. Bob would often quote Daniel Burnham, saying 'make no little plans.'"

Sharon E. Coleman, Robert M. Eschbach Endowment Fund

who care

The Ottawa home of Brandon and Emily Norris was significantly damaged in the tornado of February 28, 2017. They were displaced for more than four months. Financial support was provided from the Disaster Recovery Fund at SRCCF. *"The incredible unity of the community and the donations to the Disaster Recovery Fund are really amazing,"* said Brandon. *"From the evening of the tornado to today, support continues. We are back in our home and hope to restore it completely in the next few months."*



Their children, Luke and Leah, went to Camp Noah, a PTSD camp for kids who have suffered trauma as a result of a natural disaster. Luke says, *"Camp Noah was a lot of fun. We learned how to be safe in a tornado. Leah and I have our backpacks in the bathroom in the basement and, if another tornado comes, we know what to do."*

Luke and his family are grateful for SRCCF and the Disaster Recovery Fund for providing Camp Noah to kids throughout the community. Held at Jeremiah

Joe Coffee in Ottawa, Camp Noah, a special, week-long day camp program for elementary-age children, was orchestrated by the Long Term Disaster Recovery Group and members of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

"The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation offers a thoughtful and competent way to organize both the details and the overall direction of community giving. The entire region benefits, not only because of more effective fundraising but also because the Foundation brings disparate groups and programs together to dream, plan and make things happen."

Rick Brooks, Community Enthusiast and Philanthropist



Ethel McConnell loved her career as a teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Ottawa and Marseilles Elementary School. Her husband, Ed, was an engineer and an aviation mechanic. He owned Mac-Aero on Boadox Field in

Seneca. Together, they were frugal; doing most of the work around their home and building three homes themselves. They invested carefully.

When Ethel received the life insurance proceeds after Ed's passing in 2016, Ethel met with her attorney for advice. *"I realized after my husband's death that the money we worked so hard to save could provide a wonderful opportunity to do good. Rather than wait until I passed away and donations were made from my estate, I wanted to experience the joy of giving now. I have awarded three substantial scholarships, am creating a fourth, and also enjoy making contributions from my Donor Advised Fund. Once I do pass away, the Community Foundation will make those gifts for me. I feel really good about that!"*

In addition to Ethel McConnell's gifts to the Community Foundation, she has been a generous grant-maker from the Ethel McConnell Donor Advised Fund, the Rising Star Scholarship and the Mac-Aero Scholarship. Ethel is also a Founding Member of the Women Inspired Network, and a tremendous advocate for the Foundation.

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram recorded will never die, but long after we are gone be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency. Remember that our sons and our grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty." Daniel Burnham

“We are thrilled to be one of the first recipients of a Women Inspired Network grant. Together, we are empowering women and girls to live lives free of violence. With funding from WIN, barriers to obtain services for domestic and sexual violence survivors are being addressed. Monies will be used to help ADV & SAS to open a new office allowing more people access and to inform community members about helping survivors.”

Susan Bursztynsky, Executive Director, ADV & SAS

The Leadership Fund for NOW provides funds for immediate distribution to area agencies and charitable initiatives and helps SRCCF build the core administrative fund. The Fund is created with unrestricted gifts, earnings on investments and administrative fees.



SRCCF Legacy Fund accepts gifts from those who have made a bequest to the SRCCF in a will, or other estate document.

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation Initiatives



The Little Free Library initiative was formed in partnership with the Home Builders Institute working with residents of the Sheridan Correctional Center. Several unique libraries resulted, and with the creative work of other local talent, ten libraries were placed throughout Starved Rock Country.



Women Inspired Network [WIN] was established as a Women's Giving Circle, in partnership with OSF Healthcare Foundation 1-80 Region. Each member contributes \$200 annually with a goal of 150 women to raise \$30,000 per year. One-third raised is invested in a permanent endowment, with two-thirds being distributed to one or two programs, projects or causes in Starved Rock Country. We are creating a large pool of funds to make significant impact in the community. To date more than \$33,000 has been distributed and a \$10,000 Endowment created.



Youth Engaged in Philanthropy [YEP] is a SRCCF initiative. Students participate in monthly meetings, leadership activities, and volunteer outreach to understand philanthropy. They analyze grant applications and identify the potential impact a grant could have on community youth. Members make recommendations for grants to be awarded by the YEP program that address community needs.

SRCCF Responds to Community Needs



The Ottawa/Naplate Disaster Recovery Fund was immediately formed to assist those impacted by the February 28, 2017 tornado and related storms. Organizers of the ONE event, which raised more than \$80,000, were June Steder, Laurie Ragan, Andree-Marie Koban, Angie Keely and Cathy Claus. To date, more than \$312,000 has been contributed, with 100% used for local recovery efforts with no administrative fees. The SRCCF coordinates disaster relief efforts with other appropriate agencies in the community.



Starved Rock Country Marathon made grants totaling \$2000, including grants to the Oglesby, Grand Ridge, Naplate and Utica Fire Departments for their assistance to ensure the safety of the participants, spectators and volunteers.

“We worked closely with SRCCF to create our Internet of Things (IoT) scholarship to reach students with an interest in engineering, technology, science and math. Throughout the process, we found Pamela and the SRCCF board to be insightful, knowledgeable and impartial in selection.”

Carol Kuzmich, Director of Marketing, B+B Smartworx



The Internet of Things Scholarship for Engineering, Science and Technology, presented by B+B Smartworx, powered by Advantech is a \$1,000 scholarship, awarded to one male and one female student pursuing a degree in engineering, science and/or technology with a focus on IoT. The 2018 Award recipients are Taylor Vroman, of Seneca High School and Schuyler Hughes, of Henry-Senachwine High School.

with causes

Donor Designed Scholarships



The Carol and Dick Janko Scholarship for Promising Entrepreneurs reflects a lifelong commitment to youth, education, economic development and entrepreneurship. The scholarships are awarded to high school graduates of Putnam, Bureau, LaSalle and Livingston Counties.



The Rising Star Scholarship was created by Ethel McConnell who cherished her 40-year career as an elementary education teacher. It is offered annually to a high school graduate, who resides in Seneca or Marselles, to continue their education at Illinois State University in the field of Elementary Education.

“Being awarded the Rising Star Scholarship was a huge honor. It will be so beneficial this upcoming school year. The fact that Ethel recognized and selected me means the world to me.”

Sedona Parks, 2018 Recipient

“Receiving the Rising Star Scholarship was a big help financially. In addition, knowing that it came from a former teacher made me feel that I was on the right path.”

Avri Bland, 2017 Recipient



Marcos and Shelanda Rabedan with award recipients Sam Hettel and Cete Thompson, 2017 Marquette Academy graduates.



The Tucker Tillman Award at Marquette Academy was created to honor Thomas “Tucker” Tillman, an outstanding athlete and charismatic leader at Marquette High School, who was tragically killed in an auto accident in 1973. Awards are presented to graduates of Marquette Academy, who are nominated by their peers for demonstrating outstanding athletic performance, school spirit, fair play and strong leadership.

“Creating this scholarship has been my heart’s desire for many years. Because of the Community Foundation, I have been able to accomplish this. We will now be able to keep Tucker’s legacy alive forever.”

Shalanda Rabedan, niece of Thomas “Tucker” Tillman



Flags of Freedom stand in tribute in Princeton to the men and women who serve or have served our country as a reminder of the sacrifices made to keep our Nation free. SRCCF serves as the fiscal sponsor to assist with the purchase of new flags and to support project activities.



Robert M. Eschbach Endowment Fund recognizes the vision, dedication and accomplishments of the Ottawa Mayor. Established by Bob's sister, Sharon Eschbach Coleman and Ken Coleman of Seattle, it is specifically designated for the continued aesthetic, cultural and economic development of Ottawa. Contributions to the Eschbach Fund total over \$265,000.



Princeton Main Street Revitalization Community Fund welcomes donors who want to impact the multi-year project to enhance the downtown area. Princeton's streetscape, public square and historic buildings are all part of the rejuvenation effort.



OTTAWA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Fund is a Donor Advised Fund in partnership with the SRCCF. The fund will be used to support local economic development.

*Green *Stock*TEEN Fund* was established in 2017 to provide a gift to teens, ages 13 to 19, who may not otherwise receive a holiday gift. Created by the caring employees of Lady D's, an Ottawa retail store, over \$6000 was raised to buy gifts for teens in the Ottawa area.



Donor Established Funds



Ethel McConnell Donor Advised Fund was created by Ethel, a long-time Seneca resident and teacher, to support a number of local charities. A generous donation was provided to the annual TBM Avengers Tribute to Veterans in Peru, and recently the Reddick Mansion in Ottawa benefited from the Fund.



Danny Nelson Memorial Fund continues Danny's spirit of caring, loving and giving back. His friends have organized the Danny Nelson Memorial Golf Outing. All proceeds will go toward supporting local charities and schools in the Princeton area.

Susan B. Thornton Donor Advised Fund



"When I learned about the opportunities to establish a Donor Advised Fund with the SRCCF, I knew that would be a wonderful way to personally make gifts to the community. I believe in the mission of "connecting people who care with causes that matter" and I am now one of them."



Captain Thomas John Heitmann Memorial Fund Thomas John Heitmann graduated from St. Bede Academy, where he excelled as a track star. While attending Valley Forge Military College, Thomas was the first ever first-year cadet to achieve the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant (ZLT). After further training and a host of honors, while stationed at Air Station Miramar in San Diego, Thomas gave the ultimate sacrifice and died at age 27, doing what he loved most; flying a AH-1W Super Cobra. He was posthumously promoted to Captain. To honor Thomas' dream of building a superior running track at St. Bede Academy, his parents, Tom and Mary, along with generous donors and the Academy, built the Captain Thomas John Heitmann Memorial Track. Now, in partnership with the SRCCE, Thomas' Memorial Fund will support Veteran causes.

that matter...

The Oakland Cemetery Preservation Fund honors those buried there by contributing to the continual upkeep of the Cemetery in Princeton. It supports the work of a very small, dedicated team of concerned residents who maintain the grounds.



The Margaret A Messer Memorial Fund was created by her daughter Pamela to provide grant funding to organizations that support Margie's most cherished values – people of faith, mothers and children.



The Arts of Starved Rock Country Fund. More than 40 years ago, the Illinois Valley Fine Arts Trust was created by local philanthropist M. Blouke Carus and his family. Blouke's vision was to have a central trust

fund to support the arts throughout our entire region, then called the Illinois Valley. In 2019, the Trustees gifted the financial assets to create The Arts of Starved Rock Country Fund. The Fund provides a non-competitive, neutral hub to engage and connect local artists, arts and cultural organizations, sponsors, patrons, and venues. Competitive grant opportunities are available to arts and cultural organizations, schools and libraries throughout Starved Rock Country.



The Corbin Burress Superhero Fund was created to benefit schools and other organizations who support students with special needs. Corbin was treated to a surprise Superhero Party for his 13th birthday!



The Lamb Family Fund for Ability and Adaption was started with a generous gift from George and Cindy Lamb to make charitable gifts to organizations and agencies that serve individuals living with physical disabilities. The Fund will make grants to non-profit organizations through a grant application process.

The Lamb Family Fund for Crotty Park Playground brings an all-inclusive, wheelchair accessible playground to Seneca. Located not far from The Shipyards, it is dedicated to George Lamb's parents, Gene and Rosemary. The playground equipment allows children of any ability to play together.



“We are sincerely grateful to all those who have entrusted us to manage their philanthropic dollars, and to everyone who supports us through their faith in our mission and their advocacy for the good work we do with integrity and accuracy.”

Board of Directors, Starved Rock Country Community Foundation



Help continue the good work.

What comes to mind when you think of a great community? How about top-notch healthcare and human service programs, outstanding art, music and cultural events? Scholarship opportunities and continual economic development? When we are part of a caring, compassionate and giving community, we can achieve great things together.

When you support our work, you touch thousands of lives across our region.

*Invest in your community.
For good. Forever.*

The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation exists to match people like you who care, with causes that matter to you. And we are doing that by building charitable endowments and donor advised funds to make grants and scholarships available throughout Starved Rock Country.

We are your partner in giving.



Starved Rock Country Community Foundation
718 Columbus Street, Ottawa, IL 61350
815-252-2906 pamela@srccf.org
www.srccf.org

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SRCCF is a collection of individual funds and resources given by local citizens to enhance and support the quality of life in Starved Rock Country. SRCCF is a tax exempt charity that allows individuals, businesses and non-profit organization to establish pass-through funds, temporary funds and endowments within the confines of one large Foundation.

The Starved Rock Country Community Foundation (SRCCF) is a 501(c)3 organization as designated by the IRS and the state of Illinois. Your financial contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

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