

A LOOK AT LOCAL CHARITIES FOR GIVING TUESDAY

GIVING GUIDE



Building community together

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT

BY DAVE MCGOWAN

President & CEO, DuPage Foundation

When a community comes together with a common goal and collaboration, remarkable things happen. Today, because a few community members created DuPage Foundation back in 1986, more than \$55 million has been granted to DuPage County not-for-profits to date. The goal is to raise quality of life through coordinated impact with area residents and organizations to realize each donor's unique charitable goals while providing impactful support to make a difference in the lives of all residents.

A community foundation — to help the community

DuPage Foundation is a community foundation — which is a special type of public charity. Community foundations are “grantmaking public charities that are dedicated to improving the lives of people in a defined local geographic area. They bring together the financial resources of individuals, families and businesses to support effective nonprofits in their communities,” according to the Council on Foundations.

It requires many people in a community to make a community foundation thrive. Hundreds of residents have volunteered over the course of its nearly 35-year history to make DuPage Foundation what it is today.

A passion for its mission

When I joined the staff of DuPage Foundation in 1998, its assets totaled about \$4 million. Today, DuPage Foundation holds more than \$95 million in assets. That financial base helps to support many charities that receive grants to continue their vital



On Oct. 2, DuPage Foundation conducted an in-person, socially distanced outdoor board training at Butterfield Park District for new DuPage Foundation trustees.

work for the residents of DuPage County. We like to say that we're doing a world of good in our own backyard.

Volunteer driven

DuPage Foundation, like all community foundations, is governed by a volunteer board of trustees. Residents with special knowledge and skills also serve on a variety of committees and task forces to guide the work of the Foundation.

That breadth enabled DuPage Foundation to be perfectly positioned to address COVID-19 for the DuPage area this past year.

people survive the coronavirus pandemic. The Foundation raised and granted \$1.4 million from mid-March through November toward this effort.

A community foundation is in a unique position to impact the community as a whole. With the coronavirus, this meant helping food pantries, homeless prevention programs, public health systems, mental health providers and others with urgent funding needs.

Supporting DuPage Foundation

DuPage Foundation employs a variety of strategies to raise funds to achieve its mission.

Most importantly, it works to help individuals, businesses and organizations become aware of the impact they can have on their communities.

Gifts of stock and other appreciated property can be an attractive means toward achieving charitable goals.

Collaborating to build community

Coordinated impact can take many forms but it almost always breaks down silos, fosters communication and benefits the entire community.

It's gratifying to see how the Foundation, through its Bright & Early DuPage initiative, helps to foster collaboration among such

independent organizations as a school district, a YWCA and the regional office of education, for example, to ensure that all DuPage children — from the time of their birth — are being readied to enter kindergarten.

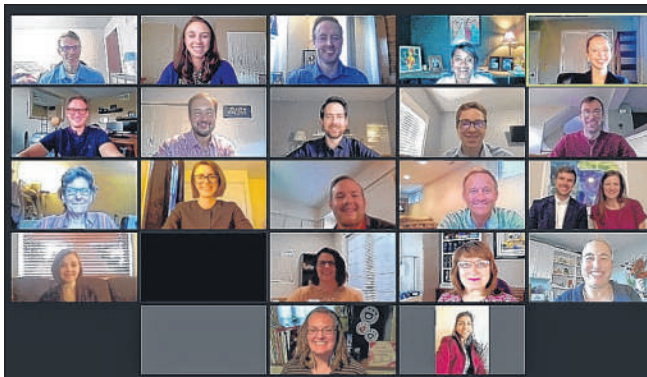
Raising support for the arts through DuPage Foundation's Arts DuPage initiative allows for deep coordinated impact to draw attention to the hundreds of theaters, museums, artists and artisans who bring joy and creativity to life in DuPage County.

There's also a social aspect of volunteerism and activity with the Foundation through networking events, educational programs and social functions that bring together people who want the best for their community.

The vision of DuPage Foundation is to raise the quality of life in DuPage County by fostering philanthropy, connecting donors to area needs and building community partnerships through collaboration.

DuPage County residents benefit as a whole, making DuPage County one of the most desirable places to live in the country.

To explore the benefits of charitable giving, get involved and learn more about DuPage Foundation, visit dupagefoundation.org.



The DuPage Foundation Next Generation Initiative connects donors and coordinates fundraising efforts.

Pivoting to meet urgent needs

When the pandemic struck in March 2020, DuPage Foundation launched its COVID-19 Response Fund to raise urgently-needed funds to support organizations that were — and still are — helping

Strong kids, strong future

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by The Bridge Youth & Family Services

Since 1965, The Bridge Youth & Family Services has been a place for families to turn to, for schools to refer and for police officers to seek interventions for runaways. It is no question more and more youth are in need of this vital community resource. The Bridge Youth & Family Services is that resource.

What makes The Bridge unique is that families receive therapy at a rate they can afford, because no one is turned away due to their inability to pay. In fact, 90% of their clients pay reduced service fees.

The Bridge has remained a leader in providing effective programming to youth in the community. The experienced staff is made up of counselors and therapists with advanced degrees in social work, counseling, clinical psychology and other related fields. Staff provide crucial support for a range of issues affecting young people, which impact their development socially or educationally. These services include: child and family

counseling, crisis intervention and mentoring. As well as providing these services, counselors and therapists are also a point of contact for young people to find out about other local services and introduce them to additional community resources for their area of concern.

For hundreds of kids, The Bridge is changing their stories from those of despair to hope through counseling and activities to help them cope and gain resilience.

They are achieving positivity through counseling, and no longer feel hopeless. And, mentors from our Youth Advocacy Program are filling the void of positive parental role models by building relationships based on kindness and trust.

The Bridge paves a path for a brighter, stronger future by building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. However, they can only do that through the generosity of their volunteers and donors.

For more information about the programs and services offered or to donate, visit The Bridge's website at www.bridgeyouth.org.



The Bridge Youth & Family Services staff provides crucial support for youth that includes counseling, intervention and mentoring.

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Now offering virtual support for children and teens dealing with anxiety, depression and trauma.

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You can help:

or visit www.bridgeyouth.org

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Living life to the fullest

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Submitted by Clearbrook

Clearbrook has been a staple in Arlington Heights and the surrounding communities for over 60 years, entrusted by families to care for their loved ones. What started in 1955 as a parent's response to the unmet educational requirements of their children with special needs, Clearbrook is now a leader in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Clearbrook is home, a family, to over 8,000 children and adults. They support them, and their families, by providing support across their life spans, helping them to live their fullest lives possible. Clearbrook provides personalized care for children, community day, employment, residential and clinical services at more than 60 locations in 160 communities and 16 counties throughout the Chicago area. They are the largest provider of home-based services in the state.

Clearbrook is one of the only organizations to deliver services for the



For more than 60 years, Clearbrook has been supporting area residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families.

intellectually and developmentally disabled in a multifaceted way, covering all ages, issues and levels of severity. Their commitment to community offers individuals the opportunity to form deep bonds, realize their potential and live their fullest lives. Peers and staff become family and celebrate each individual's exceptional qualities.

Clearbrook is more than just a non-profit, they are family, friends, a job, a way to give back, home. Employing more than 900 people, 92% of every dollar raised goes directly into programs and services. Please donate today and make an impact on the lives of thousands. Visit www.clearbrook.org/give.

“Words are simply inadequate, insufficient, to properly express how grateful we are to be members of the Clearbrook family.

Clearbrook has provided us with what we never thought would be possible — peace of mind that our son with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities has his own life, in the community, is safe, happy, and cared for, 24/7/365, by some of the most caring, special human beings you can imagine.”

Brian Rubin, Clearbrook parent and board member



Empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their fullest lives possible.

WWW.CLEARBROOK.ORG/GIVE

Ending hunger, transforming lives

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes Community Services is dedicated to providing healthy food and impactful programming to those in need.

Over the last several months, Loaves & Fishes has adapted to serve the dramatic increase of struggling families in our community and the many challenges brought on by the economic fallout caused by the pandemic. In order to provide a safe environment for their clients, volunteers, and staff, Loaves & Fishes adapted its grocery distribution model to curbside delivery and reduced the number of people in the building by over 80%.

Before the pandemic, Loaves & Fishes' grocery assistance program



served, on average, 789 families a week. They are now serving approximately 900 to 1,000 families a week. Sixty percent of these families have children. Loaves & Fishes relies on local grocery partners for its food rescue program. During the beginning of the pandemic, they experienced a significant reduction in this food supply; additionally, they were unable to accept physical food donations due to safety concerns. Because of these challenges, they were purchasing more

food to meet the demand. The Loaves & Fishes CARES Programs provide additional resources to help struggling families with essential needs such as rent or utility payment assistance. The volunteer team adapted to virtual consultations and worked around the clock, assisting clients. Calls for this emergency assistance have doubled during the pandemic. Food insecurity and financial distress continue to rise, and families will

"If not for Loaves & Fishes, I wouldn't even have any groceries. You're literally saving my life and relieving the stress of choosing paying rent and utilities or buying groceries. I can't say enough about your service and sacrifice ... you have gone above and beyond helping those of us who need this help. An outstanding group of people helping others."

Mary, Loaves & Fishes client

continue to need help. The community can be part of the Loaves & Fishes Journey of Generosity by becoming involved, whether through contributions, volunteering, or hosting a food drive or virtual food drive. We are so proud to live in a community that selflessly sets hope into motion for thousands of struggling families. Your generosity will result in greater access to healthy food and supportive programs by creating a lasting impact. To learn more, visit loaves-fishes.org.

Loaves & Fishes HOPE Have Give Hope

With your help and compassion, last year Loaves & Fishes provided food and support to **18,754** individuals or **5,492** families in Naperville and DuPage County.

This holiday season, your gift will help Loaves & Fishes provide a family with **HOPE**: a holiday meal and services that help families work toward self-sufficiency and brighter futures.

Visit our virtual food drive or website to donate online, or mail a donation to our address below.



1871 High Grove Lane • Naperville, IL 60540 • 630.355.3663

Thank you for providing a gift that lasts all year long!

You can provide a complete holiday meal for a family for just \$35!

I want to provide hope for families struggling in our community

- \$35 Complete Holiday Meal for 1 family
- \$70 Complete Holiday Meal for 2 families
- \$105 Complete Holiday Meal for 3 families
- I want to help ___ families x \$35 = ___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

MAIL TO:
Loaves & Fishes Community Services
1871 High Grove Lane
Naperville, IL 60540

Please send me your monthly e-newsletter.



loaves-fishes.org
volunteer • donate • support



GG 1220

Mission: Conquer blood cancers

LEUKEMIA
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
DEDICATED TO CONQUERING ALL BLOOD CANCERS



ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Leukemia Research Foundation

In 1946, the Leukemia Research Foundation was established in Chicago. Since then, more than \$82 million has been raised to fund worldwide medical research, patient financial assistance and educational/emotional support programs.

The mission of the Leukemia Research Foundation is dedicated to conquering all blood cancers by funding research into their causes and cures, and enriching the quality of life of those touched by these diseases. While research to find a cure is our passion, the Leukemia Research Foundation is also very much a people organization.

In our concern for patients and families struggling from the effects of leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, and other blood-related cancers, we strive to make a positive impact and serve as a source of support.

Today there are 21 active volunteer chapters that comprise the Leukemia Research Foundation — energetic volunteers who live and work primarily in the Chicago area, the St. Louis metropolitan area and the Atlanta metropolitan area. The Leukemia Research Foundation is headquartered in Northfield.

Research

The Leukemia Research Foundation exclusively funds New Investigators — individuals beginning to establish their own laboratories that are no longer

under the tutelage of a senior scientist mentor. It is difficult for them to get the level of funding they need at this critical point in their careers.

The Leukemia Research Foundation is unique in the level of support it provides to highly promising scientists in this absolutely critical research niche. Providing one-year grants of \$100,000 to selected New Investigator researchers allows innovative scientists to act on their ideas, and try new procedures and experiments that will hopefully lead to significant breakthroughs. The Leukemia Research Foundation funds the research of scientists that are from independent labs, not the labs of pharmaceutical companies.

Support of the Leukemia Research Foundation will be fueling today's creative ideas and launching the careers of scientists who may further our understanding of leukemia and lymphoma for years to come.

Expert recommendations on who receives the grants are made by the Leukemia Research Foundation's Medical Advisory Board, an independent volunteer board comprised of prominent and qualified M.D.s and Ph.D.s with expertise in blood cancers.

Every spring, the board convenes to discuss and prioritize the grant applications submitted by scientists from around the world. Researchers funded by the Leukemia Research Foundation publish their results in an effort to inform the scientific community about their advances. In addition, their initial results are used to obtain grants from larger, multiyear funding sources; thus furthering their research and potential for finding a cure.



In June, the Leukemia Research Foundation awarded a grant to Fabiana Perna, MD, Ph.D., to continue her research on leukemia.

Patient grant program

The Leukemia Research Foundation offers a need-based Patient Grant Program that provides a one-time grant of up to \$1,500 for eligible patients with a blood cancer diagnosis. The patient grant can be used for medical bills, transportation and miscellaneous expenses related to treatment of qualified patients residing in the state of Illinois or within 100 miles of Chicago.

Education and emotional support

The annual free kids' party for pediatric blood cancer patients attracts nearly 250 patients and

family members who are invited to come and enjoy the day, and provides them the opportunity to forget the stresses of a life-threatening illness.

Educating blood cancer patients and their families about all aspects of the disease is important to the Leukemia Research Foundation mission. Two annual Town Hall Meetings are provided, one offered entirely in Spanish, to give those affected by blood cancers an opportunity to ask questions of a panel of experts consisting of doctors, nurses, social workers, medical claims consultants and bone marrow transplant specialists. The meetings are free and open to the public.

The Treatment Options Virtual Education Series provides background on the various types of medical options that are available for treatment of blood cancers. Expert speakers representing some of the most prominent transplant institutions in the United States present their knowledge and insights in this forum.

No one should have to face a blood cancer diagnosis alone. The Leukemia Research Foundation's online Blood Cancer Support Community connects blood cancer patients, survivors and caregivers in the comfort of their own homes, or from anywhere. The online community provides support, gives information and resources, and helps participants feel connected to others who are going through what they are experiencing.

For more information, visit allbloodcancers.org.

The Leukemia Research Foundation is dedicated to conquering all blood cancers by funding research into their causes and cures, and enriching the quality of life of those touched by these diseases.



allbloodcancers.org

Blood cancers have not gone away. The fact is, COVID-19 affects cancer patients at a much higher rate than non-cancer patients, and forecasts indicate that productivity in research will be impacted for at least the next three and a half years because of the pandemic. The Leukemia Research Foundation's mission of conquering all blood cancers is more important now than it's ever been.

Your tremendous past support has helped fund groundbreaking medical research and assists blood cancer patients and their families. Your continued support is needed and will make all the difference.

Now is the time to have even more of an impact and help continue to provide this crucial funding to the best and brightest new researchers and enable them to work toward our goal of FINDING A CURE!

We are grateful for your passion to help discover the causes and cures for all blood cancers. It gives patients and researchers hope to know that you are behind them at this difficult time.

COVID-19 has made this pivotal role research plays in addressing threats to our nation, our communities, and our families highly visible. Your donation today will offer meaningful support that the blood cancer community needs right now!

Please, strengthen your impact by supporting us today, and **THANK YOU** for making our important work possible.

Sincerely,

Kevin Radelet
Executive Director
Leukemia Research Foundation



"I will always be grateful to the Leukemia Research Foundation. The Foundation's support was extremely important to jumpstart my research at an early stage of my career and helped us establish long-term research projects in my laboratory."

- Leukemia Research Foundation
New Investigator Grant Recipient

There's still time to make a tax deductible gift to the Leukemia Research Foundation!
Donate by December 31. Donate online at
allbloodcancers.org/give
or mail your donation to:
 The Leukemia Research Foundation, 191 Waukegan Rd, Suite 105, Northfield, IL 60093

Kids in crisis receive tools for success

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Mercy Home for Boys & Girls

Since 1887, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls has been a port in the storm for tens of thousands of young men and women in crisis. Mercy Home provides critically needed services for children and families in crisis, including young people who live full time at one of the organization's main locations — a home for boys in the West Loop, and a home for girls in Beverly/Morgan Park.

Throughout its nearly 134 years of growth and evolution, Mercy Home's mission has remained the same — to save young lives, help children heal from the traumas of their pasts, and give them the tools they need to build brighter futures.

Mercy Home provides young people with access to a good education and helps them chart career paths. In the home's early years, youth learned trades like bricklaying, candle making and operating a printing press. Today, under the leadership of the Rev. L. Scott Donahue, Mercy Home helps young people explore modern vocations in fields such as information technology, hospitality, logistics, business and more.



Mercy Home for Boys & Girls provides critically needed services to area youth, including a home and education.

No matter what career a child ultimately chooses, Donahue knows that education forms the foundation for success. That's why he directed more of Mercy Home's resources to education and career preparedness. This focus on learning has produced a high school graduation rate of 100% for the past several years. This is significant given that most youth come to Mercy Home about three years behind their

peers academically. Many had already stopped attending class altogether, either out of frustration or out of safety concerns.

Mercy Home places each youth in the most appropriate educational setting and offers them an array of academic assistance to support their success, including tutoring, art therapy, enrichment coursework, financial literacy, and more.

The home's model of therapeutic care has also evolved over the years. Therapeutic staff help youth address the long-term impact of traumatic life events, such as abuse, neglect, community violence, and other adversities. The trauma-informed approach is based on a scientific understanding about the effects of adverse childhood experiences on a child's development. Its approach reflects the shift among childcare practitioners from, "What's wrong with you?" to "What's happened to you?" This perspective guides Mercy Home's youth care staff in the ways that they help young people build personal resilience.

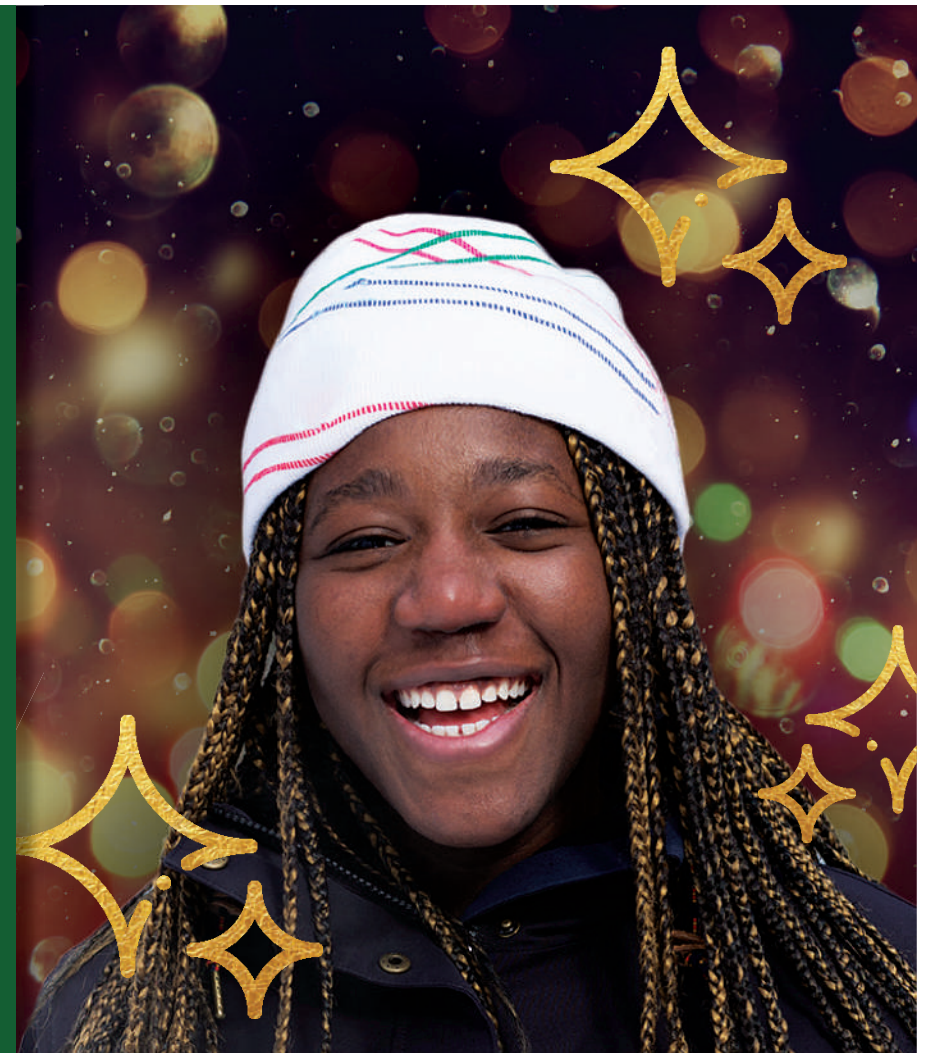
Mercy Home continues to evolve and innovate in order to provide the best care for more children and families in crisis. That includes efforts since last March to provide emergency assistance to struggling families and individuals hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis. But Mercy Home has only been able to make a difference in so many lives because of the compassionate donors who provide it with nearly 100 percent of its operating funds.

To learn more and to read stories about life at Mercy Home, visit mercyhome.org.

Your gift on Giving Tuesday
will create brighter futures
for kids like Aisha.

EVERY DOLLAR
WILL BE MATCHED 3X

Give online:
MercyHome.org/DailyHerald29



Uniting for the holidays, and year round

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by United Way of Metro Chicago

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us just how interconnected we all are — coupled with a national reckoning with race relations and equity and civil unrest, these events have challenged us in ways we could not have imagined and amplified the inequities that have impacted the Chicago region long before 2020. Despite all the challenges, at United Way of Metro Chicago we are energized by the opportunity to do things differently as we transition from immediate COVID response to recovery.

Our goal is not to return to normal, because normal didn't provide opportunities for all our neighbors. Our goal is to create a vibrant Chicago region where everyone has access to the resources needed to thrive and where all people have the opportunity to lead authentic, meaningful lives.

A dual approach to long-term recovery

While the COVID-19 pandemic may not be leaving us as quickly as we had hoped, we must still turn our focus to long-term regional recovery. At United Way, we believe the key to

long-term regional recovery is centered on two things: (1) providing access for our neighbors to meet their immediate, basic needs such as food, shelter and safety and (2) rebuilding our neighborhoods to be stronger and more equitable for all families through our Neighborhood Network Initiative.

By providing support to community leaders to transform neighborhoods from the inside out and supporting the basic needs of every household, we are confident that we can build back a stronger, more equitable Chicago region.

Uniting for the holidays

This holiday season, you can join us in our regional recovery effort and make a difference in the lives of families in need when you give back to give a hand up. United Way, in partnership with local community organizations, has created Uniting for the Holidays, a festive, "drive-through" event taking place in six suburban locations from mid-November to mid-December. Your support will help ensure thousands of families across the region receive a meal and gifts that will brighten their holiday.



United Way of Metro Chicago's Uniting for the Holidays event, which runs through mid-December, provides a meal and gifts to families in need.

Meeting our neighbors' most basic needs, such as food security, is a key part of United Way's approach to regional recovery and your generous support makes this possible. You can

make a difference this holiday season! Join us at liveunitedchicago.org/uniting-holidays.

Give today to build a stronger tomorrow. Every gift counts.

UNITING

FOR THE

Holidays

1 GREAT CAUSE

THOUSANDS OF MEALS

6 SUBURBAN LOCATIONS

Uniting for the Holidays celebrates the spirit of the season as we come together to build back a stronger, more equitable Chicago region. The festive, "drive-through" event will provide thousands of families across the region with a meal and gifts that will be certain to brighten their holiday.

You can make a difference this holiday season!
LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Uniting-Holidays

Gift-wrapped goodwill

Consider donating to worthy causes this holiday season

BY ERIK J. MARTIN
CTW Features

There are many people on Santa's "nice" list who deserve a handsomely wrapped holiday present. But the ones who have the greatest need for a gift this time of year are often overlooked and undercounted.

Many people will have to do without this December, from the homeless and underprivileged to needy families and impoverished children. But you can make a difference in some of these lives and generate instant holiday hope and cheer by putting worthy charitable organizations on your gift list.

"This year more than ever, many charities were hit hard by COVID-19 and need the support of others to ensure they can continue to help those in need," said Adina Lescher, vice president of Community Development at Smile Train (smiletrain.org), a New York City-based organization that helps kids around the world receive free treatment and care for cleft lip/cleft palate conditions. "Giving back to those less fortunate during the holiday season can be a great way to pay it forward and show your friends and loved ones that you care."

Meg Nordmann, author of the book, "Have Yourself a Minimalist Christmas" (Amazon, 2020), says a great date to practice generosity is Giving Tuesday, which occurs on the Tuesday immediately following Thanksgiving (Dec. 1 in 2020).

"Participating in Giving Tuesday and helping nonprofit charities throughout the holiday season helps counter the mass consumption mindset practiced on Black Friday or Cyber Monday," notes Nordmann. "Too often, we let the marketing messages and culture of consumerism become the loudest aspect of the holidays. But it's important to remember that the true meaning of the season is about togetherness, joy, love and a giving spirit."

Diamond Dixon, media relations specialist for Unbound (unbound.org), a Kansas City-headquartered charity that helps children, families and older adults overcome extreme poverty worldwide, points to an increasing trend.

"At Christmastime, we notice many people give charitably to our organization in honor of a loved one instead of giving traditional Christmas gifts. For a family member who doesn't want more material things, giving the gift of sponsorship or making a donation is a beautiful way to celebrate," said Dixon.

There are countless worthy causes and charitable associations you can contribute to, including organizations specific to your area as well as national and international groups. Many accept monetary contributions, wrapped gifts or both. In addition to the two



Many charities are struggling due to the pandemic and need the support of others to continue operating.



Contact your charity of choice to find out whether they accept monetary donations, wrapped gifts, or both.

mentioned above, consider donating to or volunteering for any of the following:

- Action Against Hunger (actionagainsthunger.org) focuses on treating and preventing malnutrition in more than 45 countries.
- American Cancer Society (cancer.org) aids less-fortunate American children and adults in fighting cancer and contributing to cancer research.
- Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org) uses donations to provide medical care and basic medications, equipment and supplies to patients in countries coping with conflict and

lessness.org), whose mission is to end homelessness in the United States and eradicate racial disparities among the homeless.

- Operation Christmas Child (samaritanspurse.org), a Christian charity that encourages the donation of shoe boxes loaded with toys, candy, school supplies and other items along with a personal note.

- Pajama Program (pajamaprogram.org), which has delivered more than 7 million pajamas and books to kids across the United States and Puerto Rico over the past 19 years.

disaster.

- Everest Effect (everesteffect.com), a group that provides relief resources to help people and communities recover and rebuild after a disaster.

- Heifer International (heifer.org), a philanthropic organization that allows you to pick a specific gift designed to benefit needy folks in developing countries, including water for life, a goat, or a flock of chicks.

- Make-A-Wish Foundation (wish.org), which helps make the dreams and wishes of young ones with life-threatening conditions come true via public donations.

- National Alliance to End Homelessness (endhomelessness.org), whose mission is to end homelessness in the United States and eradicate racial disparities among the homeless.



Look for ways to donate while you are out and about this holiday season.

- Salvation Army (salvationarmy-usa.org), which teams up with Walmart for its annual Fill the Truck toy drive designed to area families in need.
- Semper Fi Fund (semperfund.org), a group that offers “urgently needed resources and support for combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families,” according to its website.
- Toys for Tots (toysfortots.org), a well-known organization that accepts new unwrapped toys that are delivered to less fortunate kids.
- UNICEF (unicef.org), which helps children across the planet overcome malnutrition.
- USO (uso.org), which depends on donations to provide support to troops and their families.



This holiday season may cause stress for families who are facing economic uncertainty this year.

Change a Child's Story



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TEXT "CASA" TO 630-448-8135 TO DONATE TO FOSTER YOUTH!

Volunteer — Be there and advocate for the best interest of a child.

Donate — To ensure 100% of children receive a CASA/GAL volunteer.

Connect — Invite us to speak at your business, church, social group or attend our events.

CASA Kane County is a Guardian ad Litem, nonprofit volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of children in abuse, neglect and private guardianship cases within the Juvenile Court system.

100 S. THIRD ST. | SUITE 460 | GENEVA, IL

Area pantries ramp up response

Northern Illinois Food Bank delivers millions of meals amid pandemic

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Northern Illinois Food Bank

Food insecurity impacts thousands of Illinois residents each year. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the impossible choice of choosing between groceries and gas or buying food and paying rent became all too common topics of conversation in Illinois households.

In normal times, 77% of those experiencing food insecurity must choose between paying for utilities and groceries and 62% must choose between medical care and food. As the pandemic continues to impact Illinois, the Northern Illinois Food Bank expects those numbers to increase.

As the food bank for the suburbs of Chicago, the Northern Illinois Food Bank quickly rose to the challenge of the pandemic by providing food for even more families at its 900-plus food pantries and feeding programs across 13 counties.

"We want people to know we are here and that we are ready to serve them," said Maeven Sipes, vice president of philanthropy for Northern



Northern Illinois Food Bank requires 900 volunteers a week to do its work.



The Northern Illinois Food Bank relies upon its caring volunteers to provide meal assistance throughout a 13-county region.

Illinois Food Bank.

One major misconception families have about Northern Illinois Food Bank is that they must qualify to receive food from the pantry, but Sipes said that is not the case. Anyone in need of food can stop by a pantry or mobile distribution to pick up groceries to feed their families, no questions asked. For those who do need assistance with securing food stamps and registering for other government-funded programs, the food bank has staff members ready to assist people with the application process.

"Families in need can pick up for food themselves as well as their neighbors, extended family or anyone else who they know is struggling. Our volunteers will pack the car for as many families as requested," Sipes said.

With only half the fiscal year over by December, Northern Illinois Food Bank has already distributed more than 37 million meals and is on track to serve nearly 100 million meals to families in need by July of 2021. Demand for the pantry's services spiked in the spring when COVID-19 impact our communities and has continued to grow. Throughout its 13-county service area, distribution sites are seeing two to five times the usual need for programs and food distribution. In 2020, around 40% of the neighbors the food bank serves used the pantry for the first time.

Community support

Despite challenging times throughout Illinois, the Northern Illinois Food Bank has seen a record year of donations. Sipes said the organization has



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Due to COVID-19, all Northern Illinois Food Bank distributions are drive-through, making volunteering as simple as putting boxes of food in families' trunks.

been blown away by the generous support of companies and individuals who have stepped up to donate funds to help the food bank meet the growing demand for services. Thanks to community partners, a donation of a single dollar helps provide \$8 worth of groceries to families in need.

The restaurant and food distribution industries also went above and beyond to help the pantry distribute a record number of meals this year. Trucks of fresh produce no longer heading to restaurants during the stay-at-home order were brought to the pantry. Food distributors also helped the pantry secure quick deliveries of cheese and other goods when the typical wait time to receive food was 12 weeks because of shortages and delayed distribution caused by the pandemic. Through the summer, the food bank was grateful to have enough produce to host several pop-up markets in addition to its distribution operations.

"We feel incredibly humbled that so many people and organizations have come forward to ask how they can help," Sipes said. "In a time when it's easy to get buried in the stress and heaviness of the pandemic, it's been amazing to see the community think about what they can do for others and support each other."

Get involved

Sipes said monetary donations are always greatly appreciated, but with the holiday season approaching, the best way to support the food bank's

efforts is to volunteer. Northern Illinois Food Bank relies on 900 volunteers each week to make its food distributions possible and the organization is always looking for people to fill those vital roles. Due to COVID-19, all distributions are drive-through, making volunteering as simple as putting boxes of food in families' trunks.

Each year, the food bank packs and distributes holiday meal boxes to families in need. In 2020, orders for the box, which contains a frozen turkey or ham and all the trimmings for a holiday meal to feed a family of eight, increased by nearly 50%. Packing the meal boxes is already well underway, but more volunteers are needed to ensure all boxes are packed, as well as to sort and pack food for our pantries and other distribution programs.

Sipes said the food bank understands people may be cautious about volunteering during the pandemic, but the organization isn't taking any chances when it comes to volunteers' health and safety. Pantries reduced the number of volunteers per shift, make sure volunteers and staff follow social distancing guidelines, require masks and gloves be worn during shifts, regularly sanitize high-touch surfaces, and sanitize and disinfect warehouses often.

"On Giving Tuesday, consider giving your time to the Northern Illinois Food Bank," said Sipes. "The gift of time or a financial donation can go a long way to solving hunger in Northern Illinois."

To learn more about Northern Illinois Food Bank and ways to help, visit solvehungertoday.org.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
**WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN
YOUR
NEIGHBOR
IS
ONE
PAYCHECK
AWAY
FROM
HUNGER?**

She turns to Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Through a vast network of food pantries and direct distribution programs, we fuel solutions to hunger - providing 80 million meals annually to our neighbors across suburban Chicagoland and Northern Illinois. Learn more about Northern Illinois Food Bank and be a part of the solution at SolveHungerToday.org.



Helpline rolls out in time for pandemic

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by United Way of Lake County

United Way of Lake County has been focused on solving big community problems for nearly 75 years, and those problems are magnified now. While the pandemic has tested our collective strength, it hasn't stopped United Way's mission to create lasting change by breaking the cycle of poverty through education, empowering families to become and remain self-sufficient, and connecting individuals and families to life-changing support.

United Way recently marked the first anniversary of its 211 helpline — Lake County's new one-stop shop for help. 211 is a free, confidential, multilingual, 24-hour information and referral helpline that guides individuals and families to a wide range of essential health and human services. S

Since launching on Sept. 24, 2019, 211 has made more than 60,000 connections to help from every ZIP code in the county. Throughout the pandemic, Lake County neighbors have been increasingly relying on 211 to meet growing and expanding needs.

211 is open to everyone in Lake County, and connects people to available resources by phone, by text and



United Way of Lake County's new 211 helpline, open to everyone in the county, launched in September 2019 and connects people to available resources.

online, including shelter, utilities, food, mental health, health care, addiction support and rehabilitation, employment and financial assistance.

Jane, a single mother, became unemployed due to the pandemic, which limited her income and ability to maintain household expenses. She sold her car to pay rent, but money was quickly running out. Jane was admitted to the hospital because she stopped using insulin regularly and could no longer afford it. She was overwhelmed. A hospital social worker informed her about 211. Jane

was able to call one number to receive financial assistance, a supportive case management program for single parents and telehealth counseling. 211 meant not having to worry about language barriers, transportation issues or contacting multiple agencies.

In addition, United Way has adapted its education programs and offerings making them available virtually so that students in Lake County can regain their footing. This year:

- Success By 6 provided early childhood development programs for

vulnerable children, as well as parents, to help build a foundation for strong, successful academic futures. Last year, 22,470 children benefited from these programs.

- Reading Success celebrated 10 years of building literacy skills to ensure children can read at grade level by the end of third grade. First grade students who received tutoring had reading improve rates two times higher than their classmates who did not participate.

- Stay in School prepared 503 students for the future by providing opportunities to learn about potential careers, as well as visiting workplaces and colleges.

By supporting United Way of Lake County, companies and individuals can be part of solving local community problems and helping connect people to life-changing support.

This year, between Nov. 24 and Dec. 24, the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County will be generously matching 100 percent of new or increased donations up to \$7,500. That means, double the donation and impact for United Way's 211 and education programs.

To learn more and give, visit liveunitedlakecounty.org/give.

GIVE LOCAL. LIVE UNITED.

Your support of **United Way of Lake County** is the most powerful investment you can make right here at home. The money RAISED here STAYS here.

The tough work that is needed to help Lake County recover, rebuild and thrive is the work United Way of Lake County does every day. Join us in supporting our neighbors by preparing children to succeed in school and connecting families to life-changing support.

Make a gift between **November 24 and December 24** and Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County will **match 100% of all new or increased donations up to \$7,500.**

Visit LIVEUNITEDlakecounty.org/give

Let's come together to help our neighbors in need.



Make a difference from a distance

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Marklund Charities

This holiday season, all of us at Marklund are especially thankful for YOU and all you do to make everyday life possible for individuals with profound developmental disabilities. Each of our 174 residents and 77 students benefit from your generosity. In these uncertain times, as our plans have changed and priorities have been rearranged, we are asking friends and family to come together to lend their support this holiday.

Online giving

Your online gift will be matched ... double your donation today!

• **Giving Tuesday matching gift campaign:** December is the birth month of Marklund's namesake, the first child in our care: Mark William Lund. This year, Marklund is asking donors to celebrate his legacy with a gift on Giving Tuesday to honor how his life made a difference for so many others with developmental disabilities. Gifts made online at www.marklund.org/donate on Dec. 1 will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$5,000.

• **Year-end matching gift campaign:** Over this past year, our staff has literally been an answer to prayer and worked tirelessly to keep our residents safe and active throughout the COVID-19 crisis. While we hoped to maintain a sense of normalcy for the individuals we serve, certain aspects of everyday life have been on hold for their safety. However,

we are constantly adapting and evolving in this new world — moving forward and being creative, particularly with regard to communication technology. But we can't do it without you. You give our residents hope for the future. Gifts made online at www.marklund.org/together by Dec. 31 will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$6,000.

Giving Tree Gift Drive

Yes, we are going ahead with our Giving Tree Gift Drive. Just like every year, each of our 174 residents has a personal wish list, and during our annual gift drive, these items are featured on individualized tags that hang on Marklund's holiday Giving Trees both on site and throughout the community in private businesses. Presents purchased by supporters can be dropped off at our various locations by Dec. 21, or, if there are large quantities, can be arranged to be picked up. Different this year is the gift opening process.

Our traditional gift opening days, usually attended by hundreds of volunteers, is canceled. However, once sorted, the presents will be given to our residents by staff and opened together. There are sure to be plenty of smiles! We will capture the moments on photo and post as many as possible on our social media sites.

To request an assortment of the resident tags or arrange for large-quantity gift pickup, email Cathy Nikrandt, Manager of Volunteer Engagement, at cnikrandt@marklund.org.

Virtual ball

Join our virtual top hat ball — our ball, your ballroom! Become a Peer-to-Peer Ambassador — prizes available!

An in-person event of our traditional size and magnitude won't be possible for our 25th Annual Top Hat Ball this year.

That's where you come in. By becoming a Top Hat Ball Ambassador, you get your social network of family, friends and colleagues engaged in supporting Marklund as YOUR cause! You can create a free online fundraising page and track your activity and progress. It is still possible for all of us to make a difference, from a distance. Top Fundraiser will win their choice of (1) Pizza Party and Wine Tasting for 20 guests at Aspen Lane Wine Company in spring/summer 2021 OR (2) \$1,000 Apple gift card to snag the newest iPhone or Apple gadget. Visit p2p.one-cause.com/tophatball for more information.



Holiday shopping with Amazon?

Select Marklund Charities on AmazonSmile to donate 0.5% of eligible purchases. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you.

For information regarding any giving opportunities, contact Heather Graves, Chief Development Officer, at (630) 593-5479 or hgraves@marklund.org.

Zoom to www.Marklund.org
Make a Difference from a Distance for the Holidays.

Marklund.org/donate Marklund.org/together Marklund.org/wishlist

Marklund.org/tophatball Amazon.com/smile

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021
from 7-8 p.m.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.
Select Marklund as your charity!

thank you!

Your support this holiday season will help us make everyday life possible at Marklund

Mute Stop Video Invite Manage Participants Share Chat Record Breakout Rooms

For additional information, contact Heather Graves, Chief Development Officer, at (630) 593-5479.

No detours for Avenues to Independence

Pandemic is a roadblock, but organization stays the course

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by Avenues to Independence

Since 1953, the people at Avenues to Independence have believed in putting aside old ideas about what is possible for people with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

COVID-19 has challenged us all, but the important work at Avenues to Independence on behalf of adults with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities continues. Avenues offers flexible work and enrichment services at the newly renovated Center for Independence (CFI) in Wheeling. Additionally, we support employment opportunities as well as residential living in Park Ridge and Des Plaines.

This fall, after 43 years of dedicated service, president and CEO Bob Okazaki retired from the organization. Okazaki has always been an advocate for the individuals at Avenues — knowing they wanted to be a part of the community in every way. He guided the organization to ensure people Avenues serves are given opportunities to live the lives they choose with independence and dignity.

Bob's successor, Jason Clark, took over in early October. He brings more than 20 years of experience working in nonprofit organizations.

"His experience, leadership style and commitment to the people in the ID/DD community made a great fit for the role," said Jolene M. Wise, chair of Avenues' board of directors.

In March, due to Illinois state protocols enacted to reduce spread of the coronavirus, programs at the CFI were closed. In September, some program participants were able to return to the CFI under new guidelines from the state. The CFI provides opportunities for the people of Avenues to grow and learn in new and exciting ways, including contract packaging work opportunities, community employment training, computer classes, art programming, and fitness and entrepreneurial opportunities. Extra safety measures are being taken throughout the day to ensure the safety of staff and program participants.

Avenues also operates supported living opportunities in homes and apartments in Des Plaines and Park Ridge. Residents are given assistance to learn cooking, housekeeping, budgeting, transportation and other daily living skills that are essential for independent living. Avenues recently opened its newest home in Park Ridge this fall. The home was donated by the Debicki Foundation, on behalf of Wanda and Jeannette Debicki, who left the home as a legacy gift to Avenues.

The greatest challenge Avenues faces today is the decrease in vital funds from the state of Illinois during the pandemic. Currently, Avenues receives funding based solely on the number of participants who can attend the Center for Independence. In coming months, there will be many ways to support Avenues and help overcome this challenge.



This holiday season, we ask that you consider a gift to Avenues to Independence to support people with developmental disabilities who add so much to our community. Now through Dec. 1, all gifts are eligible to be matched.

To make a donation, find out more information about Avenues programs or to learn about upcoming events, call (847) 292-0870 or visit www.avenuestoindependence.org. You can also find Avenues on Facebook and Instagram @avenuesonline.



Avenues to Independence has supported individuals with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities since 1953. Avenues offers flexible day services, residential programs, and employment opportunities. We encourage individuals with disabilities to live the lives they choose with independence and dignity.



From now until December 1 donations to Avenues have an opportunity to be matched. To learn more about how you can double the impact of your gift please visit our website

avenuestoindependence.org or call 847-292-0870

Center helps victims of child abuse find hope

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT
Submitted by The Children's Advocacy Center

There is no denying that our lives have changed in unimaginable ways this year. From socially distanced weddings to mastering Zoom meetings, we've tried our hardest to stay connected to each other.

The isolation we felt, the feeling that there is no end in sight, is how many children who are victims of abuse feel.

This year forced some children to be in lockdown with their abusers. While we are keeping them safe from disease, they are being subjected to abuse, and without the help of teachers and school personnel (the primary reporting source of child maltreatment) they may feel like there is no hope.

It is suggested that, nationally, roughly 40,000 additional instances of child maltreatment would have been confirmed in March and April were it not for school closures, as stated in the article "Suffering in Silence: How COVID-19 School Closures Inhibit the Reporting of Child Maltreatment."

At The Children's Advocacy Center, we have spent the last eight months attending

trainings, utilizing telehealth services for our therapy clients and preparing for the influx of children we anticipate seeing once the lockdown orders are lifted. We have even provided virtual child abuse prevention training to local school districts -- we are continually finding new and inventive ways to help keep the children in our communities safe and spread the message of hope and healing.

While many of us dream about life "going back to normal" after the pandemic, a child who has been abused doesn't have this luxury. The abuse will be with them their whole lives, and without intervention from our Master's-level therapists and expertly trained Family Advocates and Forensic Interviewers, these children risk lower levels of education, lower earnings, and are more likely to engage in crime.*

We ask that you partner with us to help these children. Your support provides a child who has been abused access to free, high quality care that enables them to build resilience and confidence. These children will not just survive, but they will thrive.



The Children's Advocacy Center is preparing for an expected influx of clients once children are back in school.



**Kids in crisis
can't wait
until the end
of the crisis.**

Help children heal from abuse.
CAChelps.org/KidsCantWait



Caring for others re-imagined

ADVERTISER GENERATED CONTENT

Submitted by United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago

United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago provides life skills training, assistive technology, meaningful employment and a place to call home for people with disabilities, as well as specialized foster care for children. UCP Seguin's goal: life without limits for people with disabilities.

Expanding its footprint of services to meet community need, UCP Seguin has focused increased efforts on supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in DuPage County.

Coping with COVID-19

Like so many other human services organizations — and society in general, UCP Seguin has had to make significant adjustments to cope with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Since COVID-19 struck, its comprehensive in-person services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been profoundly disrupted. By state mandate back in March 2020, UCP Seguin temporarily closed its seven Community Day Services sites, including two in DuPage County. As a result, day services participants have had to remain in their group and family homes until the state determined it was safe to do otherwise. With schools and day-care centers also closed, and only partially reopening if at all since earlier in the year, children in the agency's foster care program have had to remain safely in place in their foster homes. This extreme disruption in routine and its resulting isolation has led to a palpable increase in needs among these participants, most of whom are already vulnerable due to their disabilities and other challenging conditions.

As the pandemic emerged, UCP Seguin reassigned direct support staff from its day services sites to supplement our Adult Residential Services staff and foster parents, and to provide these participants 24/7 care and supervision in their homes. These staff and parents — front-line heroes to say the least — have been providing both in-home and online life skills training and other activities to reduce anxiety and increase enjoyment among these participants, ensuring their health, safety and well-being during this continuing pandemic.

While UCP Seguin serves the entire Greater Chicago area, it has a strong presence of services and support in DuPage County, serving 150 DuPage residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other special needs. Many reside in group homes, children's foster care homes and other sites throughout the county. Based on their disabilities, co-occurring conditions, and other factors, they are very vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and are in great need of emergency food and supplies, shelter, various crucial services and therapeutic interventions.

But UCP Seguin, with the help of public and private donors, has risen to meet the challenge of COVID-19.

Rising to the challenge

Through grants and in-kind donations from area funders, such as DuPage County and the DuPage Foundation, UCP Seguin has been able to secure much needed PPE, cleaning materials, hand sanitizer and other supplies to mitigate and prevent infection. Staff are getting tested regularly to detect for coronavirus. The organization has secured iPads and other telecommunications devices for those served to support remote and online



A UCP Seguin participant safely shelters in place with "front-line hero" staff.

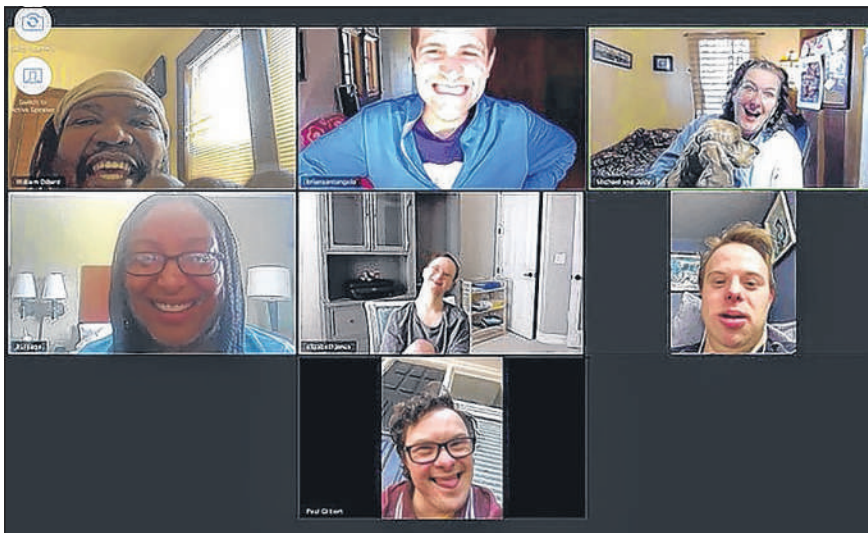
services. Funding has also underwritten the significant additional costs of the extra staffing required to support the children and adults with disabilities across a range of environments.

UCP Seguin has established some of its adult group homes to quarantine those diagnosed with the coronavirus who do not require hospitalization. Children — medically fragile or with behavioral/emotional challenges — in its many foster homes are receiving extra supports. The organization is providing medical monitoring, behavioral supports, enrichment classes, transition services, and more — remotely through telecommunications. Some staff are providing on-site job coaching for those individuals employed in "essential" community jobs, making sure that participants adhere to social distancing, wear masks and practice proper hygiene in their worksites. UCP Seguin's Infinitec assistive technology and training initiative provides online learning and professional development training resources, including many related to disease prevention and management, to educators, students, parents and adult service providers across the county.

While public and private contributions have greatly assisted UCP Seguin in addressing the major needs of persons with disabilities during these challenging times, UCP Seguin still needs additional donations to sustain these heroic efforts as the pandemic continues. The holiday season is a great time for individuals donate to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities served by UCP Seguin. Through challenge gifts offered by foundations and generous donors, you can double your gift to UCP Seguin through a donation on Giving Tuesday, December 1, or throughout the holiday season. Be a Holiday Hero, and help make "Life Without Limits" possible for everyone served by UCP Seguin.

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities. UCP Seguin helps children and adults with disabilities achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community.

You can make a donation to UCP Seguin by visiting their website at ucpseguin.org.



UCP Seguin participants connect during the pandemic through Zoom classes.

Success Knows NO LIMITS!



Living with a disability doesn't have to stop dreams from coming true. Individuals with physical and developmental disabilities throughout Chicago and around the world are living their dreams every day. Whether it's living on their own, becoming part of a family or landing their dream job – with the support of their family, friends and the community, people with disabilities are making dreams a reality.

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago is a charitable not-for-profit agency serving individuals with disabilities in metropolitan Chicago and beyond. We believe that all people, regardless of ability, deserve to achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community.

So we stop at nothing to provide life skills training, assistive technology, meaningful employment and a place to call home for people with disabilities, as well as specialized foster care for children.

OUR GOAL:
LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

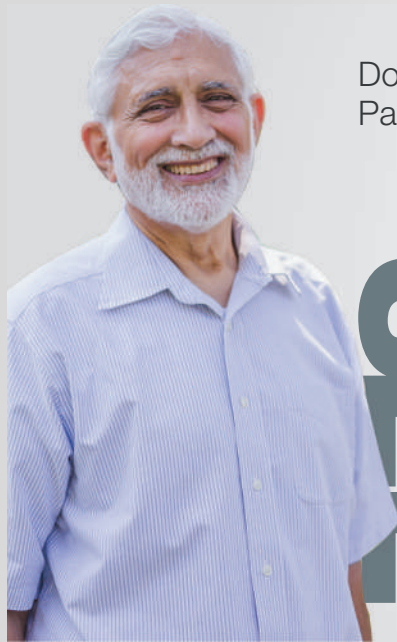
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

“life without limits for
people with disabilities”

VISIT
ucpseguin.org



17-19 E PARK BLVD. | VILLA PARK, ILLINOIS 60181 | 708.863.3803 | INFO@SEGUIN.ORG



Donor: **Dr. Sunil Chand**

Passion: **Immigrant assistance: Women, children and family needs; Early childhood education**

**DO MORE
IMPACT**

“ DuPage Foundation serves the people of DuPage County as nimbly and efficiently as possible. They have a broad and sharp understanding of where the most compelling needs are and act with great speed and compassion. ”
– Dr. Sunil Chand

Customized giving.

That’s how **DuPage Foundation** is connecting donors like Dr. Sunil Chand to local service organizations that need their support. Godsend was the word he used to describe the effort.

DuPage Foundation raised and granted nearly \$1.4 million to dozens of local organizations between April and November 2020 with its *COVID-19 Response Fund* thanks to support from Dr. Chand and many others.

For a list of grantees, like the DuPage Senior Citizens Council (for Meals on Wheels), the DuPage Health Coalition (for Access DuPage) and Samaracare Counseling (for mental health services), please visit dupagefoundation.org/COVID.

DuPage Foundation’s *COVID-19 Response Fund* was supported by hundreds of donors. For a complete list of supporters, visit dupagefoundation.org/COVID.


Effective philanthropy. That’s what a community foundation stands for. Get to know DuPage Foundation as we continue to meet the needs of DuPage County residents.



dupagefoundation.org/GIVE

630.665.5556

info@dupagefoundation.org

**DuPage
Foundation** TM
Doing a world of good in our own backyardTM