



## E-NEWS

From your Rush County Community Foundation

2018 has not only arrived, it has flown by! Since we're *already* halfway through the first month of the year, we thought we'd give you a snapshot of the news thus far and the year we anticipate ahead.

### **RCCF Announces New Board Members**



The Board of Directors of the Rush County Community Foundation recently elected three new board members to replace outgoing board members Charlie Smith, Keith Perin, Tom Mahan, and Greg Krodel. The Foundation is delighted to announce that Karen Brashaber, Greg Harcourt, and Marilyn Yager have accepted a three-year term to serve on the Foundation's Board of Directors, with the term beginning January 2018.

Born and raised in Rush County, Marilyn Yager recently returned after obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University and spending her professional years in the Cincinnati-area where she was employed as an engineer and manager for Proctor and Gamble Co. and J.M. Smucker. Upon retirement from J.M. Smucker in 2013, she returned to the family farm in Rush County.

Marilyn has two adult children, Jennifer Colvin and Eric Yager-Schweller. She is involved with the Rush County Genealogical Society and the Rush County Garden Club and Master Gardeners. When asked why she agreed to serve as a member of the Rush County Community Foundation Board of Directors, Marilyn said, "Rush County gave me a great start in life. I'd like to give back to the community that is home to me."

A lifetime resident of Rush County, Karen Brashaber is a mathematics teacher for Rush County Schools. Karen received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Hanover College and her Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from Ball State University. She and her husband Philip have three adult children: Keith, Julie, and James.

Karen fills her time outside of work with a number of community involvements: she is a member, worship leader, and Sunday School teacher at Center Christian Church, a board member for the Rushville Public Library, a member of the Rush County Community Choir, on the Rush County Junior Leaders Advisory Board, an Academic

Teach coach, and the basketball and football teams treasurer. Karen quickly accepted the opportunity to serve on the Foundation's Board of Directors, stating, "I believe in the support that the RCCF gives to other organizations, programs, and individuals. My family has been richly blessed by this support through scholarships for my children. I am honored to serve and to help grow the outreach of this organization."

Greg Harcourt is also a lifetime resident of Rush County. Greg obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business at Franklin College and is employed at Trane. Greg and his wife Cindy have two adult children, Anthony and Brittany. Greg enjoys spending his time outside of work with family, participating in sports, and being outdoors. He is an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

When asked why Greg accepted the position on the Foundation's Board of Directors, he stated, "To serve the community! I hope to add to the board in a positive way that will help in serving the community: Rush County is home and I want to help and give back."

Alisa Winters, Executive Director of the Rush County Community Foundation stated, "We are thrilled to welcome Greg, Karen and Marilyn to the Board of Directors in 2018. Each brings a unique skillset to our board that will assist our development and capacity within the community for years to come. As we embark on an exciting year at the Foundation, their prior work and community experiences will undoubtedly prove beneficial to our organization's leadership and forward momentum. I anticipate a great year with a strong board at the helm!"

Though the Foundation is excited for the strong leadership guiding us in to 2018, we would be remiss to not recognize the departure of the four great board members we have had to replace. Charlie, Keith, Tom and Greg were incredible assets to the Foundation's Board of Directors throughout the past six years, all taking active roles on committees and leading our board in various roles and capacities. During their terms the Foundation grew from a \$9.5 million organization to a \$17 million organization. Their leadership and support on our Board of Directors will be greatly missed in the year ahead.

## Approaching Deadlines

A new year means new opportunities for your nonprofit organization or student to receive funding! Be sure to visit our website to view available grant opportunities for 2018, requirements, and to apply.

The following deadlines are quickly approaching:

- **January 30:** [CIRCLE Fund](#) applications due
- **February 15:** [Scholarship applications](#) and College Costs Estimator due
- **March 1:**
  - [Boy Scouts of America Fund](#) application due
  - [Rush County Parks Fund](#) application due
  - [Youth in Philanthropy Fund](#) application due
  - [Shane Young Memorial Soccer Fund](#) application due
- A few of our funds have a "rolling deadline", where we'll accept and consider applications on a monthly basis until funds are depleted for the year. Please visit our website to learn and apply for:
  - [Rush County Cancer Fund](#)
  - [Laurie Saunders Marlatt Memorial Scholarship Fund](#)

Visit our website, or click directly on the hyperlink to access each application.

## What's Ahead for 2018

As the Foundation approaches its 27th birthday in 2018, we look ahead for new opportunities for growth, donors, and impactful grantmaking. The past 26 years have offered us the opportunity to become an established organization within the community, grow our assets, and award over \$11 million in grant funding; in year 27 and beyond, we hope to only further the power of the dollars contributed to us throughout the past quarter of a century.

In 2018 we will distribute more in grants than we've ever given before in a single year (\$508,000!!), an upward trend made possible by years of donors' generosity and positive investment returns. While we are excited to make an astounding impact in Rush County this year through those dollars, the Board of Directors will continue the intensive review of community needs began in 2017 with a future goal of allocating a portion of our available funding to a specific cause, with intent of affecting the greatest issue(s) in our community. Ultimately, the Foundation is committed to our mission of enriching and enhancing the quality of life in Rush County, and in order to successfully do so, it's important we evaluate how assess how grant dollars can be used most effectively. In the year ahead, we anticipate working more closely with our grantees to better understand how we can best help the wonderful nonprofit organizations that serve our community.

Beyond fundraising and grantmaking, the Rush County Community Foundation strives to be recognized as a true community partner. In 2018, we look forward to hosting more community roundtables and nonprofit workshops. We are excited to share our insight and community relationships with other Rush County nonprofits in hopes of building new relationships and developing new opportunities within our wonderful county.

The foundation of the Rush County Community Foundation has been laid because of the commitment of hundreds of individuals, contributions from across the nation, and the dedication of our current and former members of our Board of Directors and staff. The year ahead provides us with the opportunity to continue to build on the strong foundation established, while enabling even more possibilities for our beloved Rush County. We are eager to begin another year with you, Rush County!

## Office Renovation

After a few months of construction, the Foundation staff and Board of Directors are thrilled to announce that the recent renovation is officially complete!! Stay tuned for an open house announcement, likely at the end of February or early March.

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Stay Connected



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