Growing up in a family of nine on a farm in Dubuque, Marilyn Hoefer learned about the importance of helping one's neighbors.

"I understand how to give back because we were helped out many times when we were growing up," she says.

Marilyn carried that same concern for others into her work as an obstetrics nurse at Mercy Hospital. Meanwhile, her husband Bob launched his career at Dupaco, where he gained appreciation for the organization’s commitment to community.

"Dubuque has had its ups and downs," he says. "I saw a lot of people who needed a lot of help and I was glad our organization was there for them.”

That's why when the Community Foundation launched the Dubuque Forever Fund in 2018, the Hoeffers were happy to show their support.

“We choose to give through the Forever Fund because when our donations are pooled with others, we can have greater impact both now and in the future,” says Bob and Marilyn. “The Foundation is engaged with community organizations and knows about the most pressing needs in the community. It's the best way to invest in tomorrow and place dollars where they will have the
Greater Dubuque Forever

“I understand how to give back because we were helped out many times when we were growing up,”

– Marilyn Hoefer

most benefit for the greater good.”

No one knows exactly what tomorrow may bring for our community. What needs and opportunities will arise? What critical work will be needed to improve the quality of life? What can we do now to help assure that future needs are met?

The Forever Fund was created to address these questions. It presents an opportunity for all who love our region to invest in the most important issues, initiatives and needs for generations to come. Think of it as the community’s savings account. The flexible dollars it will provide will address critical and emerging needs, similar to CFGD’s affiliate foundations’ grantmaking endowments.

“We can’t predict the future,” says Nancy Van Milligen, president/CEO of the Community Foundation. “But today, through the Forever Fund, we can play a role in positioning our community for continued success. Future generations are counting on us.”

To learn more about the Dubuque Forever Fund, visit www.dbqfoundation.org/forever.

FIFTH ANNUAL GREAT GIVE DAY RAISES $230,801

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque’s fifth annual Great Give Day—a 24-hour giving day presented in partnership with Theisen’s Home • Farm • Auto—raised $230,801 for local nonprofits. Since 2014, Great Give Day has raised $1,504,046 for local nonprofits. This year, 157 nonprofits participated.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wednesday, August 15
Board Boot Camp - Summer 2018
McCarthy Center

Tuesday, August 28
The Cannon Financial Institute Estate Planning Series: Retirement Asset Planning For Estate Planners - Compelling Practical Advice

Tuesday, October 23
Donor-Centered Fundraising with Penelope Burk
Grand River Center

For event details and to register, visit www.dbqfoundation.org/events.
‘The Middle of Everywhere’

Welcome Home Summit Generates Discussion for Support of Rural Community Vitality

“Live in the middle of everywhere” reads a post on the Delaware County Economic Development Facebook page. The organization has been working to change the narrative of rural living.

“It’s so much more than that though,” says Donna Boss, executive director of Delaware County Economic Development, “We’re more than just a place to live.”

Donna was one of 70 community leaders who met at the Edgewood Locker Event Center on May 16 for the Welcome Home Summit to discuss and develop strategies to attract and retain new and returning residents to rural communities. This regional meeting was an effort to engage leaders to welcome and include new comers.

“The conference truly emphasized what we are doing and reminded us that we definitely have more to do,” says Donna. “One of our board member was skeptical of the brain gain until hearing Ben Winchester’s presentation first hand. It made a believer out of him to hear that rural communities are making gains.”

The summit featured keynote speaker Ben Winchester, a rural sociologist and senior research fellow for the University of Minnesota Extension’s Center for Community Vitality. The event also hosted two panel discussions: one consisted of individuals who decided to move to a rural community and the other consisted of representatives from the community resource agencies Community Heart and Soul, Institute for Decision Making - Business & Community Services, Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, and Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development.

The sessions explored different ways to increase the quality of life and make it easier for communities to make it easier for other people to choose a life in a rural community. Between sessions, participants worked in small groups to brainstorm ideas to conduct in their hometowns.

“It was wonderful to see the creativity and collaboration of community leaders as they shared ideas and began to apply their learning to dream up innovative ways to keep their small towns vital and thriving,” says Jason Neises, CFGD Community Development Coordinator. “Everyone walked away with new connections to like-minded leaders who could be partners as we work to create a more positive narrative for our region.”

Director of Affiliate Foundations, M.J. Smith added, “Affiliate Community Foundation boards will continue to study and invest in programs that celebrate vitality and welcoming.”

To learn more or access resources from the conference, visit www.dbqfoundation.org/middleofeverywhere.
Community Impact Grants Raise $34,330 For Nonprofits

This year, 11 nonprofits received 2018 Community Impact Grants totaling $34,330:
- City of Cascade- $4,200 Cascade Heart and Soul
- Clay County Development Group- $3,000 Workforce Road Map for Sustainability
- Council of Social Agencies – Getting Ahead Program- $4,025 Clinton Getting Ahead Training Expansion
- Dubuque Museum of Art- $2,910 Art in Action Multicultural Education Program
- Corporation- $3,000 Inclusive Dubuque and Beyond
- Felix Adler Children’s Discovery Center- $2,300 Building Mission Capacity with Essential Training: For Both Executive Director & Board
- Junior Achievement of the Heartland- $1,000 Expand Junior Achievement’s Core-Mission Programs in Clayton County
- Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation- $6,000 Career Learning Link (Dubuque County)
- St. Mark Youth Enrichment- $2,100 Storytelling to Grow Impact
- Stonehill Franciscan Services- $3,600 Leadership Development Program

The Community Impact Grant program is funded by gifts to the Foundation’s Community Impact Fund. The goal of the grant is to improve policies and practices affecting the Greater Dubuque community and to have the greatest possible impact. Unlike many grant programs, Community Impact Grants focus on building capacity of local nonprofits by supporting training and development, collaboration and coaching, research and planning, and operations.

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Celebrates 15 Years

This year’s event celebrated 15 years of community impact by donors, funders, nonprofit leaders and advocates of the Community Foundation. Best-selling author and chief political analyst of ABC News, Matthew Dowd, addressed attendees about the current urgency for leaders to serve with integrity and boldness of mission to meet today’s community-building challenges.

Since the Foundation’s inception in 2002, more than 10,340 community members have made donations or created funds at CFGD totaling $92 million. As one of the largest annual grantmakers in the Greater Dubuque region, the Foundation has made a total of $35.2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, including $5.4 million last year alone.
Deanna Roberson moved to Dubuque eight years ago to pursue a safer life for her and her kids. She believes in doing everything she can to ensure her sons Marcus, 16, and Kryi, 6, can succeed in life.

“As long as my kids are smiling, I’m smiling,” she says with Kyri smiling next her. “My journey is based on my kids. I wouldn’t trade my kids for nothing in the world.”

Deanna was part of more than 23 families who attended parent engagement sessions this spring. The sessions were part of an effort from the Dubuque Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in partnership with the Multicultural Family Center to offer parents in the Washington Neighborhood not only the tools and resources they need to help educate their children but also the skills to teach their neighbors.

“I joined to see what help I can get as far as bettering myself as a parent,” explains Deanna.

“Studies have shown that parent engagement is crucial to a child’s well-being,” says Julee Albers, director of youth impact at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. “When parents are engaged, students perform better in school. They earn better grades, improve test scores, increase attendance, gain more motivation and self-esteem, and have fewer behavioral issues.”

Julee adds that when parents aren’t engaged, reading proficiency, an important predictor of high school graduation and career success, can also suffer. Currently, about 28 percent of Dubuque students are not reading proficiently by the end of the third grade.

“This has significant and long-term consequences not only for each of those children but for the Dubuque community, and for our nation as a whole,” explains Julee. “If left unchecked, this problem will undermine efforts to end intergenerational poverty, close the opportunity gap and reduce high school dropout rates.”

It’s an impact that Deanna see’s first hand. Both of her sons are doing well in school and have perfect attendance. She hopes to use her own experiences and her new skills to teach other parents like her how important their role is in their children achieving success.

“I shared a lot of information and it got across to a lot of women,” says Deanna. “It gives my heart an abundance of joy because I’ve shared information with somebody who can utilize something.”

To learn more about the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, visit www.readdbq.org.
Women’s Giving Circle Raise $14,484 For Local Nonprofits

The Women’s Giving Circle, organized through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD), brings together women from all walks of life to learn about community needs to build the Circle’s endowment fund. Payouts from this fund provide a sustainable source of grant funding to support local nonprofits serving women and children in our community.

This year, the Women’s Giving Circle awarded five grants totaling $14,484:

- Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association- $2,000 Children’s Ammunizations Program
- Dubuque Food Pantry- $2,775 “Lunches to Go”
- Almost Home Dubuque - $3,000 Just Between Us @ St. John’s Open Closet
- St. Mark Youth Enrichment- $3,000 Social Emotional Learning to Break Down Barriers
- YMCA Clinton- $3,709 Empowering Women Through Rapid Rehousing

Williams Joins Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque as Youth Impact Coordinator

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD) is pleased to announce that Rachel Williams joined the staff as youth impact coordinator on June 21.

In addition to connecting donors to causes they care about and strengthening nonprofits, CFGD brings together community members to create greater good, addressing complex community challenges to build a thriving, resilient region. Williams will lead initiatives that focus on academic achievement including the Campaigns for Grade-Level Reading in Dubuque, Dyersville and Jackson County.

Williams comes to the Foundation from the Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading where she focused on growing a network of strong partnerships with nonprofits and community leaders to implement a community solutions action plan in order to improve outcomes for students. Her past experience with attendance strategies, summer learning and school readiness will benefit her as she guides the GLR Networks of Dubuque, Jackson County and Dyersville to continue their great work.
Local High School Students Raise $10,035 For Youth Programs

The YAPPERS are local high school students who serve as CFGD’s youth grantmaking board. YAPPERS grants to youth-serving nonprofits help organizations strengthen and grow their programs. Preference is given to proposals that focus on meeting basic human needs, combating violence, providing opportunities for youth, and/or raising awareness for issues that local youth are facing.

This year, the YAPPERS awarded five grants totaling $10,035:

- Hills and Dales Child Development Center- $200

Inclusive Summer Music Jam Sessions

- Life Connections Peer Recovery Services- $2,200

Life Connections Wellness Center Technology for Others

- Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates (iJAD)- $4,000

iJAD: Transforming At-Risk Students into Future-Ready Graduates

- Live Like Jack- $635

Children’s Support Group with Grief Library

- Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association- $3,000

Prevention of Child Abuse – Parent Education Program

“He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times.” – Friedrich Schiller

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The Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is creating adventures for kids during the summer months.

Now in its third year, Summer Adventure, a free, four-week summer program, provides an opportunity for students in Jackson County to explore reading in the morning and enjoy an afternoon of exciting enrichment activities.

“We know that when we continue that learning over the summer months then they’re more likely to continue learning over the school year and bridge some of those gaps for children who may be struggling with reading,” says Rachel Williams, Jackson County GLR coordinator.

Students get to experience music, art, math, science and much more from local organizations like ISU Extension, Jackson County Conservation and the Maquoketa YMCA. Those experiences mean a lot to parents like Mindy Williams, whose daughter Bailey is attending the program for the second year.

“I think Summer Adventure is a place where Bailey can go and get her academics, that little refresher and really hone in on some of those skills she’s lacking in,” says Mindy.

In the 2017-2018 school year, only 77% of 3rd Grade students in Jackson County read at grade level. Last year, 72% of Summer Adventure participants maintained or improved their reading scores over the summer break. As Katie Peterson, Summer Adventure coordinator explains, the work can’t continue without the support of donors and partners.

“These kids are our future, says Katie. They are what the community is going to be as we grow and if we want productive citizens, we need kids who can read. I think that’s the bottom line behind it is if we are able to move the needle on the kids who are proficient in third grade, we’re going to have better outcomes in graduation, we’re going to have better outcomes in students that are ready to go on and get a job and have a good background in a vast variety of areas. I think over all it will make our communities better.”

To support the Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, visit www.jacksoncountyglr.org.