



Here for Good, Here Forever

Good will and philanthropic gifts surge in Racine County during the holiday season as individuals and businesses give back to our community. The Racine Community Foundation (RCF) is often the choice for these donors because they seek to maximize the benefits of their gifts. Gifts to RCF impact our community today and for future generations.

RCF doesn't think in terms of the next election or business cycle. We think in terms of the current and long term needs of those in greatest need in our community. We like to say in the community foundation world, "here for good, here forever." We focus our efforts on programs and organizations that will help the place we call home, Racine County, to flourish and grow.

A gift to RCF is endowed – a balance of each and every fund will be here in perpetuity. Over the years, RCF has grown from an idea to an endowment of \$62,100,000.00 today. This means that our impact grows each year and becomes consistently more sustainable for our community. We are thankful for widespread support that we have received from donors and volunteers in the 42 years since our inception. The mission of RCF is to improve the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and distributing funds in a responsible manner. In 2016 RCF awarded over \$1,740,000.00 to non-profit organizations and year to date RCF has awarded \$2,321,100.00.

A recent example of RCF's mission to improve the quality of life in our community was held on September 20th. We held our first Shark Tank event for developing soft skills in our youth to become more employable and be an asset to area businesses. The Shark Tank was a result of 18 months of collaboration with organizations serving youth in our community. We learned that soft skill development was critical for employers hiring young people and that there were few resources dedicated to this need.

RCF received a matching grant from an anonymous donor to help up to two area programs to address this issue. RCF ultimately adopted a grant making process that was inclusive and engaged local organizations and businesses. There were six finalists in the competition to make their "pitch" to a panel of community leaders in the Shark Tank. Two of these finalists, the Racine Family YMCA Young Leaders Academy and Junior Achievement were awarded grants. The Young Leaders Academy will use their grant to create a Job Skill Training Team comprised of St. Catherine's High School's Interact Club to teach soft skills to middle and high school students in the George Bray neighborhood. These skills will help our youth to obtain and keep a job while in high school. Junior Achievement will create a soft skills kit for all Racine County middle and high schools. Volunteers will interact with students to foster soft skills and provide them with real-world context.

RCF was proud to launch and host such an event that benefits young people as well as local employers. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about us and how everyone can make a lasting impact on our community to call us at 262.632.8474 or go to www.racinecommunityfoundation.org.

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