

With the holidays almost upon us, it often is the time of year that we tend to reflect on the things that we are grateful for. The Racine Community Foundation is grateful for many things: our extremely generous donors who are dedicated to improving Racine County, the not for profit organizations that we help to support, the volunteers that we work with, and being part of an exceptionally generous community.

For the past 41 years, the mission of the Racine Community Foundation has been to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and by managing and distributing the funds in a responsible manner. The work of our Foundation is mission driven and we find that simply being in the position to benefit our community is something that we are also grateful for. In 2015 the Foundation awarded more than \$989,000 to not for profit organizations that benefit our community through our competitive grants process, and 59 scholarships totaling \$70,880 for college-bound Racine County students.

Here are some examples of the Foundation's commitment to improving the quality of life for our community.

Earlier this year, the Foundation was pleased to award a grant to the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps (GLCCC). The mission of GLCCC is to leverage resources among Great Lakes communities to train and educate disadvantaged populations for credentials that close the skills gap, improve water quality, build habitat, grow the legacy of the original Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and make the region more competitive in the global economy. The grant was made to help fund the Greater Racine Green Zones Initiative that focused on two micro-neighborhoods in two different municipalities in eastern Racine County. Corps members conducted energy audits to check the existence, condition, quantity and type of the home's various energy features. Corps members worked with the Racine Department of City Development to progressively address the improvement of every residential property in the target area. Two separate but overlapping populations benefitted from the Initiative – disadvantaged young adults who increased their skill levels, and the households inhabiting residential dwellings within the Green Zones benefitted from minor home repairs and increased energy efficiency. The Foundation is delighted to support such an innovative program.

The Racine Community Foundation also awarded a grant to the Racine Symphony Orchestra in their 85th season of enriching, educating and entertaining our community through the power of music. The funds were used for a piece of music created by a Polish composer, Masterworks Concert, and extensive education programs. The April, 2017 Masterworks concert will find the RSO performing Symphony No. 3 by Henryk Gorecki. The event will include a Preconcert Conversation, along with anecdotes by

Maestro Pasquale Laurino. The RSO music education programs reach music enthusiasts of all ages. The programs include Artist-in-Residence, the Concert for Fifth Grade students, the Young Artist's Competition, Middle School Mentorship Program, Preconcert Conversations, Side-by-Side Youth Invitational, Masterworks classes, and the High School Choral Invitational. We wish the RSO all of the best for the next 85 years and beyond!

We encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about the Racine Community Foundation to go to www.racinecommunityfoundation.org, or call us at 262.632.8474. We love to discuss our community and our work as well as ways for others to become involved.