

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Foundation's new Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship will connect local students with area nonprofits through a paid summer internship and \$7,500 of tuition assistance, allowing students to gain real-world experience while they support the important work done by local nonprofit organizations.
- Good news for the arts: Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has retooled his original plan to reduce the 2010 state arts budget by 50 percent. Instead, the budget will be reduced by 8 percent—a reduction in line with other state programs.
- The 2008 Potawatomi Park "Fun for All" project—a collaboration between the Community Foundation and South Bend Parks which made the Potawatomi complex more accessible for people of all abilities—has won a 2009 Outstanding Park Development Award from the Indiana Park and Recreation Association.



Children enjoy the universally accessible equipment at Potawatomi's new playground.



photo by Matt Cashore

Funding from the Weinberg grant will support relatives, friends, and neighbors who care for elderly adults in the 46619 ZIP code, making it possible for those seniors to stay in their own homes longer.

## Major Grant to Support Caregivers Through REAL Services Partnership

Out of more than 400 applicants from across the country, the Community Foundation and REAL Services have earned one of only a dozen or so major grants awarded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc. The grant will fund *Caregiver Connection*, a multifaceted program that supports those who care for aging relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Based in Baltimore and Honolulu, the Weinberg Foundation is one of the nation's largest private foundations and is dedicated to relieving the burdens of poverty, especially among older adults. The \$780,000 grant calls for approximately \$600,000 in matching funds, creating total resources of more than \$1.3 million over three years.

*Caregiver Connection* focuses on the 1,000 or so caregivers in the 46619 ZIP code, building on several successful pilot

programs that REAL Services and the Community Foundation have developed over the past few years. A full-time Aging and Caregiving Facilitator—a REAL Services staff member whose office will be located in the heart of the 46619 neighborhood—is at the center of *Caregiver Connection*, working one-on-one to connect caregivers with available resources. All caretakers will have access to a specially tailored five-session training program offered in collaboration with Memorial Home Care. Through this gateway, caregivers can become eligible for direct services such as home modifications, respite care, and transportation.

Stayed tuned: As REAL Services and the Foundation move forward with the implementation of this major new grant, we'll bring you stories about those people whose lives will be changing as a result.



NELP participants Rebecca Zaseck (REAL Services), Jacqueline Kronk (Center for the Homeless), and Anita Echevarria (CFSJC)

## NEW PARTNERSHIP GROWS CAPACITY IN DIFFICULT TIMES

With private donations down, state and federal funding slashed, and endowment returns at the lowest levels in decades, local nonprofits are facing unprecedented operational challenges.

“Basically, in today’s economic climate,” says Christopher Nanni, the Community Foundation’s Vice President, Program, “nonprofit organizations need to become more strategic, more efficient, and more relevant in order to survive.”

In response to this crisis, the Foundation and Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business have joined forces to create a certificate program to help executive staff of local nonprofits develop tools to cope with these challenges.

The new Nonprofit Executive Leadership Program (NELP) brings in national experts to present sessions on financial vitality, leadership, management, and governance to participants from organizations including Center for

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# Update from the President

Recently, I heard a report stating that our economy is contracting at its fastest rate since 1982. Believe it or not, I found that oddly comforting. I remember the steep recession in 1982. I was an undergraduate at Notre Dame and very worried about my job prospects. By the time I graduated in 1984, things were turning around, I found a good job, and my worries were soon forgotten.

What I find comforting in the midst of a pretty relentless stream of bad news is the reminder that our community and our nation has faced challenges since 1982, and worse challenges before then, and we pulled through. While one would never wish for times such as these, they do give us the chance to show what we are made of, to refocus on what is essential, and to think more strategically about the things on which our future prosperity depends.

By its design, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County is long term in its orientation. We are the community’s savings account, made up of thousands of gifts from people who want to make sure this community does not just tread water but has flexible resources to invest in where we need to go.

So even as the Community Foundation seeks to meet immediate needs, such as our collaboration with REAL Services to help low-income seniors remain independent, we also invest in the future. We invest in the potential and capacity of our citizens.

Investing in the potential and capacity of our citizens can take the form of our Early Years Count Education initiative, which over last several years has trained, mentored, and equipped hundreds of early childhood teachers who in turn prepare thousands of local children to succeed in school.

It can take the form of promoting superior design. Sometimes a playground is not just a playground. The new playground at

Potawatomi Park demonstrates principles of universal design that delight all children, regardless of disabilities.

It can take the form of providing professional development opportunities to local nonprofit leaders who are going to need all the help they can get as they lead their organizations through these difficult times.

It can take the form of honoring Charles Martin, a man who dedicated himself tirelessly to developing the aspirations and abilities of local young people.

While we have every confidence our community and our country will yet again pull through these difficult times, it doesn’t happen by accident. The Community Foundation is working hard to make sure we contribute as much as we can to dealing with current challenges while continuing to build the community we want to be on the other side of this crisis.

Like everyone, we will search for ways to do more with less, to accept the challenge of becoming stronger and more effective in the face of adversity, and to support the work of local nonprofits that are a key source of community strength.

We are excited by the potential of Notre Dame’s Innovation Park and South Bend’s Ignition Park to create new jobs in the flourishing nanotechnology, life sciences, and clean energy sectors. We are gratified by the generosity people continue to show to the Community Foundation and other local charities. And we appreciate the dedication of so many people in our community who are committed to finding constructive solutions both to our problems and to our opportunities.

Things may get worse before they get better, but they *will* get better. And some day I’ll hear a report about the recession of 2009, and I’ll think, “Oh yeah, I remember that...”

*Rose Meisner*

# New Scholarship Honors Charles Martin



Civic leader Charles Martin worked tirelessly to encourage young African Americans to “dream big.”

When you were growing up, was there a special person in your life who believed in you? Encouraged you? Inspired you to become the person you are today?

For many young African Americans in South Bend during the '70s, '80s, and early '90s, that person was Charles E. Martin, Sr., Executive Director of the YMCA Urban Youth Services Program for more than 20 years. Charles knew how to challenge young people to think about the future. *Dream big*, Charles would say. *Set goals. Commit to achieving them.*

Because of Charles, literally hundreds of young African-American students from South Bend went onto college.

His support didn't end when those students left town. Charles wrote hundreds of letters to his “kids,” letters that were filled with words of inspiration, advice, and high expectations. Charles pushed his “kids” to work hard, earn good grades, and fulfill their educational goals.

For Charles, the greatest demonstration of love was to help a young person succeed. Anyone who knew Charles—whether as a student, a friend, a colleague or by virtue of his larger-than-life reputation—knows

exactly what he meant by his personal motto: “Touch a life every day.” During his short life, Charles lived his motto, changing hundreds of lives as a result.

To create a lasting, meaningful tribute to this remarkable man, former students and friends have partnered with the Community Foundation to start a permanent scholarship in his memory. The Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship

will help local, academically motivated African-American students attend college through a \$2,500 annual renewable scholarship. Our campaign goal of \$200,000 will permanently endow the scholarship, ensuring that Charles Martin's example lives on forever. Through the generosity of many of Charles' “kids,” friends, former colleagues, and other members of the community, we're more than halfway to our goal already.

This scholarship mirrors Charles' spirit in a way that goes beyond financial support. Each student who receives a Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship will be connected with a network of Charles' former students, who will keep in touch with the young scholar throughout his or her educational journey, offering encouragement, inspiration, and advice—just as Charles did.

To help support the Charles Martin “Touch a Life” Scholarship campaign, visit [www.cfsjc.org/touchalife](http://www.cfsjc.org/touchalife). You can donate online, mail your gift to the Community Foundation, or contact Rose Meissner directly at (574) 232-0041.

## THREE OF HIS “KIDS” REMEMBER CHARLES MARTIN



Mr. Martin asked me, “What would you like to do?” I said, “I'd like to be valedictorian.” He said “Write it down.” I remembered that a few years later when I became co-valedictorian.

—Crescent Muhammad  
Producer and Actor



Mr. Martin started us thinking about college at a young age, by fifth or sixth grade. He started laying foundations early.

—Curtis Bethel  
Personal Banking Officer  
1st Source Bank



Charles basically put me through school. He helped in every way to get me and other kids the opportunities and financial aid packages we needed.

—Jacquelyn Rucker  
Director, Community Relations  
University of Notre Dame

## UPCOMING DATES

- May 1: Deadline to apply for Senior Housing and ArtsEverywhere Fund grants
- May 15: Next *ArtsEverywhere* magazine available in the *South Bend Tribune*
- May 19, 20, 21: Indiana Arts Commission public grant review hearings, Mishawaka Penn Harris Public Library, downtown Mishawaka
- June 1: Deadline for letters of intent for Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence
- July 1: Deadline for Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence applications

To learn more, visit [www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org) or call (574) 232-0041.



Speaker Matt Bloom, PhD, leads an NELP session on innovation.

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Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.; Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.; St. Margaret's House; LOGAN Community Resources; Hope Ministries, and 30 others.

The partnership combines the Community Foundation's close working relationship with the community's nonprofits and Notre Dame's knowledge base and facilities, creating a program that emphasizes a practical "in the trenches" approach to nonprofit leadership.

A significant portion of the program's cost is subsidized by the Foundation and Notre Dame, with each nonprofit paying a fee of \$1,000 per participant.

Based on feedback from those attending, the information learned in the first of the four sessions is well worth the price.

"I can't say enough about the inaugural session of the NELP," says Susan Warner, Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation, Inc. "I appreciate the quality of the speakers, hands-on presentations, and the opportunity to learn from and interact with my fellow nonprofit executives."

After the program ends in October, the Foundation and Notre Dame will evaluate its impact on the capacities of the organizations to determine whether—and how—to extend the program in the future.