

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ann Rosen and Sue Christensen, co-directors of the Family Connection of St. Joseph County, received the David P. Weikart Award at the 2009 HighScope conference. Rosen and Christensen have coordinated the Community Foundation's Early Years Count Education Initiative since its inception almost a decade ago, an effort which has resulted in extensive training, mentoring, and support for more than 400 local teachers.
- Get ready for *Innovation: George Rickey Kinetic Sculpture*. The Community Foundation, South Bend Museum of Art, Notre Dame's Snite Museum of Art, 1st Source Bank, and the George Rickey Foundation and the Estate of George Rickey are collaborating to present a series of exhibitions and educational outreach that celebrate the work of internationally known South Bend native George Rickey. *Innovation* begins at Art Beat, on September 26, 2009.



Rickey's *Annular Eclipse V*, one of five sculptures that will be exhibited as part of a "Rickey Trail" through downtown South Bend.



Two children at Hope4Kids, one of the three nonprofits hosting a Laidig intern this summer. Peter Ringenberg shot this photo as part of the Community Foundation's 2008 "Picturing Community" project.

Giving and Receiving: New Laidig Service Scholarship

Caroline Thomas, a Marian High School graduate who will be studying art education at the University of Dayton in the fall, first heard about the Community Foundation's new Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship when she applied for the annual Lilly Scholarship, which the Community Foundation administers.

Although a Lilly Endowment scholarship wasn't in the cards for Thomas, "the Laidig sounded perfect for me," she says. "I did a lot of service work at Marian High School."

She applied, and—along with Jordan Hamilton, of Trinity High School; Erica Schmeltz, of LaVille High School, and Alex Flores, of Marian High School—was chosen as one of the inaugural Laidig recipients. Now, Thomas is interning with Hope Ministries' Hope4Kids, an intervention program for the children of families living at Hope Ministries' Family Life Center.

Begun in 2006, Hope4Kids currently serves 15 children from infant to preschool age in a set of three bright, colorful classrooms in Hope's Family Life Center in South Bend. The program uses the HighScope curriculum, which focuses on creating an orderly, rich learning environment for children, with regular daily routines that include small group and large group time.

Thomas comes from a family of nine, and says that taking care of her five younger sisters gave her a good foundation for the work she's doing now.

"Caroline's a big help," says Karla Pedue, warmly. Children's Services Coordinator at Hope4Kids, Pedue says that Thomas assists Hope staff with the infants, toddlers, and preschoolers—serving lunch, cleaning up, doing laundry, cleaning toys, and, as she's gotten to know the children, planning group

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Bryanna J. Bocardo, first recipient of the Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship

CHARLES MARTIN, LILLY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

The Community Foundation awarded the first Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship to Bryanna J. Bocardo, a Washington High School graduate who will attend Notre Dame this fall. A collaborative effort with Martin's former students, colleagues, and friends, this \$2,500 renewable scholarship honors a remarkable man who encouraged hundreds of local African-American students to go to college and "dream big."

The recipients of the 2009 Lilly Endowment Scholarships, which are awarded annually through the Community Foundation, are Samantha Champion (St. Joseph's High School), Jessica Shafer (LaVille High School), and Michael Couch and Amanda Stukel (Trinity School at Greenlawn). Champion will attend Purdue University, Shafer and Couch will attend Butler University, and Stukel will attend Saint Mary's College.

Lilly Endowment Scholarships provide students with full tuition, fees, and a book stipend for four years of academic study at any accredited Indiana college or university.



South Bend Rotary President Todd Bruce, Mayor Steve Luecke, and Community Foundation President Rose Meissner talk about the new Chris Wilson Pavilion at the May press conference and groundbreaking.

Breaking Ground: Potawatomi Park Gets a New Performing Arts Venue

Beginning this fall, our community will have a new stage on which to enjoy our rich range of performing arts talent: the Chris Wilson Pavilion at Potawatomi Park. The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, the Rotary Club of South Bend, and the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department have partnered to build a high-quality, accessible performing arts venue at the city's most visited park this summer. It's the second phase of the Potawatomi Park "Fun for All" project, a \$1.1 million collaboration that funded the popular, universally accessible playground and walking paths added to Potawatomi Park last year.

Funded by the Community Foundation's ArtsEverywhere Initiative, the family of Christopher H. Wilson, private trusts at Wells Fargo Bank, and the Rotary Club, the more than \$400,000 Chris Wilson Pavilion at Potawatomi Park will accommodate a wide range of arts performances, including music, dance, and theater. Designed by James Childs Architects, this new space represents a

major improvement over the park's current band shell. Designed with a flat floor to accommodate dance and theater as well as music, the Chris Wilson Pavilion will have room for a 50+ member symphony. It will face north, an improvement for audiences and performers, and will back up to Wall Street with a curb cut, which makes it easier to access than the current band shell. Audiences will appreciate its optimized acoustics, as well as the improved, universally accessible seating configurations that blend benches with grassy areas. Artists will like the pavilion's flexible infrastructure, designed to support a wide range of lighting and amplification, and the backstage area, which has been enlarged to include storage, changing area space, and sinks. The structure's overall design complements the historic Potawatomi picnic pavilion located nearby.

The new pavilion is named for Chris Wilson, an accomplished classical guitarist, who died along with his father, Dr. James M. Wilson, in a tragic car crash in 2004. Born and raised in South Bend, Chris was

living in Bend, Oregon as a performer and music teacher at the time of his death. His family decided the Chris Wilson Pavilion was a perfect way to honor his memory.

On May 21, the project partners held a joint press conference and groundbreaking. Some one hundred people attended, including representatives from many local arts organizations—South Bend Civic Theatre, Summer Shakespeare at the University of Notre Dame, Conservatory of Dance, IUSB's Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association, and others—that hope to stage performances in the Chris Wilson Pavilion once construction is complete. These organizations are actively involved with the Community Foundation's ArtsEverywhere Initiative, which promotes the arts in our community through ArtsEverywhere.com, *ArtsEverywhere* magazine, and grants to many local arts organizations.

"The Chris Wilson Pavilion is an important part of our effort to engage local citizens in the arts and showcase local talent at the same time," says Rose Meissner, the Foundation's president. "This new space will provide a beautiful, accessible venue for artists from throughout our community."

The Rotary Club of South Bend's involvement with the project includes financial support and hands-on work, a trademark combination for the organization. This project is particularly special for Rotary because of the Club's history with Potawatomi Park.

Rotary President Todd Bruce explains, "We built Kids Kingdom, and we have a broader history of service projects that benefit South Bend's parks and schools. The Chris Wilson Pavilion project demonstrates the power of leadership and collaboration, and we're proud to be a part of that."

The South Bend Parks and Recreation Department, which hosts the popular Potawatomi Park outdoor summer concert series—which will be held in the old band shell this summer while construction is underway—will program the new performance space, working with the Foundation and Rotary to plan an inaugural series of exciting and varied free, family-friendly performances for the summer of 2010.

The project's general contractor is the Robert Henry Corporation, and Foegley Landscape Inc. will provide landscaping. Construction will be completed by the end of August, with an opening ceremony scheduled for September.



Marjorie Wilson, mother of Chris Wilson, and his sister Nancy Saunders talk with Mayor Steve Luecke at the May 21 press conference and groundbreaking for the new Chris Wilson Pavilion.

To learn more about the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County—including how your donation can make a difference in our community—visit us online at www.cfsjc.org or contact Community Foundation President Rose Meissner directly at (574) 232-0041.



CFSJC RESPONDS TO IMMEDIATE NEED

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and that's why the Community Foundation chose to focus its most recent Special Project grants on programs that address the devastating effects of the current economy.

Approximately half of the \$70,000 in grants awarded in May will support the work of three organizations that are on the front line of need: the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Joseph County's Direct Assistance Office, which addresses the immediate day-to-day needs of families by providing food, clothing, and, at times, financial assistance; Prevent Child Abuse of St. Joseph County, and

the Suicide Prevention Council of the United Health Services.

"When we talk to local social service organizations about these difficult economic times, we hear that they're seeing increased need among the 'newly poor'—that is, recently unemployed people who have not had to turn to their agencies previously," says Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation. "These clients are very stressed, and that stress can turn into domestic violence, child abuse, mental illness, and suicidal tendencies. That's what we're trying to help to alleviate with these grants."



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UPCOMING DATES

- Aug. 14: *New ArtsEverywhere* magazine available in the *South Bend Tribune*
- Aug. 30: Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence presented at Century Center
- Sept. 26: *Innovation: George Rickey Kinetic Sculpture* opens in downtown South Bend at Art Beat 2009
- Oct. 1: Application deadline for African American Community Fund grants and Special Project grants
- Nov. 1: Application deadline for Senior Housing grants and ArtsEverywhere grants

To learn more, visit www.cfsjc.org or call (574) 232-0041.

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activities based around their particular interests.

Thomas is also taking part in Hope's orientation program for families, which Pedue believes will help her develop a sense of the "bigger picture" of the organization.

"So far I've loved it all," Thomas says. "I especially like being with the younger kids—there's a special innocence to them."

That's exactly what businessman Jon Laidig and his wife Sonja wanted to do through the scholarship: Create opportunities and connections that would benefit talented local students and the community's best nonprofit organizations at the same time.

"It was a privilege to work with Jon and Sonja on developing a program that reflects their belief that education is more than academic," says Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation. "They wanted to give students a chance to give back and gain valuable work experience in

the process. They're helping these students become not just good scholars, but good citizens as well."

The Laidig Scholarship is particularly attractive to students because it helps with school costs *and* summer support: It pays a \$2,500 stipend for the summer internship and provides an additional \$5,000 in tuition assistance for the school year. This four-year renewable scholarship will increase by four students each year, building to a total of 16 Laidig scholars in 2012–13.

Local nonprofits can apply to host Laidig interns through the Community Foundation; this year, Hope Ministries, Memorial Hospital, and the Robinson Community Learning Center will be the internship sites.

To learn more about the Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship, including how to apply for the 2010 awards, visit www.cfsjc.org/scholarships.
