

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Community Foundation's return on investment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 ranked in the top ten percent of 153 community foundations surveyed. Our return of (.7%) was much better than the industry average of (4.5%).
- During the past year, 28 new funds were created in the Foundation, bringing the total number to 407. The Foundation awarded more than \$5.7 million in grants in the past year.
- Through our African American Community Fund and our Early Years Count Education Initiative, and with the help of a grant from the Bowsher-Booher Foundation, the Foundation has retained Nefertiti K. Bruce of the Devereaux Early Childhood Initiative to offer training to teachers in local African American day care ministries. A remarkably talented facilitator, Nefertiti has led six training sessions in the past year and has four more sessions scheduled in 2008.



Early Childhood expert Nefertiti K. Bruce leads a training session.



A YWCA client and her son, photographed by Santiago Flores

## Picturing Community Exhibit Highlight of '08 Annual Meeting

The Community Foundation's 2008 Annual Meeting focused on the "big picture"—104 big pictures, to be exact. To celebrate the year, the Foundation held its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the opening of its Picturing Community exhibit. Guests stood elbow to elbow in the Center for History's Carroll Gallery to admire photos of 15 area nonprofits, all shot by professional photographers.

The Annual Meeting itself took place in the Center's Wiekamp Auditorium, with approximately 100 Board members, donors, and friends coming together to go through new business, review the year's financials, recognize outgoing Board members and welcome new members.

Special Foundation guest Molly Anderson spoke about "Access to Recreation," a major

Community Foundation project that has made Potawatomi Park more accessible to people of all abilities. While photos of the new playground and walking paths showed on a screen behind her, Molly told the group about what the project has meant for her son K.J., who has cerebral palsy. Hearing her story allowed meeting attendees to see a more personal side of the work the Foundation does, and every member of the audience was moved by Molly's words about her son.

After comments from Foundation President Rose Meissner about the past year's successes, the group adjourned to the Carroll Gallery. The long hallway space, which stretches north from the Center for History's main entrance, was lined with an explosion of colorful images. Each of the 15

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As usual, former Board president Chuck Roemer makes friends wherever he goes—this time with Clara Walton, daughter of the Foundation’s Communications Director Laura Moran Walton, during the Picturing Community opening.

organizations involved with the project had its own section of half a dozen photos.

The Center for History volunteered to host the exhibit, which Executive Director Randy Ray felt fit perfectly with the Center’s mission.

“We understand that images tell stories in a phenomenal way, and that a community’s stories are the essence of its history,” he said. “The photographs of Picturing Community are striking in the stories they tell, in their artistic presentation, and in their place in history—significant today, 50 years from today, and 100 years from today.”

Although those who attended the opening had different favorites, all had words of praise for the photographers’ work.

“Would you just *look* at those sweet babies,” former Foundation Board member Virginia Calvin said, with relish, as she scanned the photos from Hope Ministries’ Hope4Kids program. “Such adorable faces!”

“These photos look amazing,” said Steve Camilleri, Executive Director of the Center for the Homeless. Despite his role with the Center, however, Steve’s favorite photo seemed to be one of the shots of Southold Dance Theater’s children’s classes, taken by Peter Ringenberg. Why?

“That’s my daughter,” he confided, indictating one of the tiny ballerinas.

Other nonprofit executives were looking forward to getting back to their offices and putting the photos to use.

“I can’t wait to see some of these images as part of our season brochure,” said South Bend Civic Theatre’s Executive Director Jim Coppens, as he admired Matt Cashore’s shot of Civic’s Wilson Auditorium filling up before a performance.

That’s where Picturing Community—which was made possible through a grant from the Community Foundation’s ArtsEverywhere Fund—will make a major impact. Over the next year, expect to see hundreds of fresh, dynamic images appearing on organization Web sites, brochures, and annual report covers.

Enthusiasm for the project has come from outside of our community, too. After seeing the online image gallery and exhibit brochure, community foundation professionals throughout the state have expressed interest in scaling Picturing Community to fit their own counties.

“It’s very seldom that you see this level of photography in the nonprofit sector,” said Brian Johnson, Associate Director of the Fulton County Community Foundation. “As an amateur photographer and as a fundraiser, I can say that the picture in the brochure of the Head Start children [shot by Santiago Flores] is priceless.”

In addition, the Indiana Grantmakers

The Picturing Community exhibit will be on display at the Center for History through April 30, 2009. You can also view a gallery of exhibit photos at [www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org). If you’d like a copy of the exhibit brochure mailed to you, just give us a call at (574) 232-0041.

Alliance has asked the Foundation to present a session about the project at a leadership seminar this October.

All of this interest spurred the Center for History to extend the exhibit until April 30, 2009, although it will move to another location in the museum after October 31.

Be sure to see Picturing Community for yourself, and you’ll be impressed by the stories of our talented, hard-working nonprofits—those organizations that “brighten the picture” for so many people in our community.

To help support projects like Picturing Community, consider supporting our ArtsEverywhere Initiative. You can donate online at [www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org), mail your gift to the Community Foundation, or contact Rose Meissner directly at (574) 232-0041.



Peter Ringenberg’s photos of Southold Dance students were particularly popular at the exhibit opening.

# SJC Public Library Wins Leighton Award

More than 150 people filled Century Center's Recital Hall on August 27 to learn the winner of the Community Foundation's tenth annual Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence, one of the largest awards of its kind. After a keynote speech by former South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan, Leighton Award Committee Chair Rod Ganey announced that the St. Joseph County Public Library had won the 2009 award in recognition of its enduring excellence in innovation, design, and customer service. The library receives a \$100,000 endowment challenge grant, and must raise \$100,000 in matching funds over the next year. Also, the library receives an additional \$10,000 to assist with the costs of fundraising.

In his acceptance speech, SJCPD Director Don Napoli thanked his executive staff for their part in the library's success, and later told the press that the award came at an opportune time, adding, "It's a good morale booster for the staff" in light of recent budget challenges created by changes to the county's property tax structure.

Community Foundation President Rose Meissner noted that nonprofits such as the library pursue excellence in order to make the best possible difference in people's lives.

"These are the organizations that constantly ask, 'Where can we improve? Are we better than we were 12 months ago? Will we be better in 12 months than we are now?'" she said. "That's the journey of excellence."

The Foundation also named two Special Recognition winners: Healthwin Specialized Care for successfully engaging Healthwin residents, families, and employees in the pursuit of excellence; and the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County for its extraordinary growth in mission, quality, and reach on behalf of our community's children. Each receives an award of \$10,000.

Learn more about the Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence at [www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org).



Don Napoli, Director of the St. Joseph County Public Library, receives hearty congratulations from Tom Lower, one of the Foundation's founding Board members, on winning the Leighton Award.

When people think of libraries, the first thing that comes to mind is checking out library books. Although this has always been a core function of the St. Joseph County Public Library, its services go well beyond loaning materials. The Library serves as a major community center. In 2007 alone, it drew 1.8 million patrons through its doors. Its website and online catalog have become vehicles for public interaction which drew half a million unique visitors last year with a total of 3.6 million visits.

St. Joseph County Public Library has truly distinguished itself in the area of technology and its unflinching dedication to spanning the digital divide. In 1994, it became the first public library in the United States to establish a website, it was the first public library in Indiana to provide public internet access, and it was the first nationally to provide a searchable database of its resources over the internet. Most impressively, for the past decade it has consistently ranked among the top ten libraries of its size nationally.

The St. Joseph County Public Library, through its public spaces, offers a variety of programming free to the general public. This past year, the Library presented over a thousand programs attended by 45,000 people including art exhibits, music performances, voter registration, bankruptcy counseling, tutoring, and GED classes among others.

Its accomplishments are many, its strength has been enduring, and its services are excellent. The St. Joseph County Public Library has shown itself to be uncommonly adept at evolving with the times. It is not trapped in some fixed notion of what a library should be, but rather seeks to define itself by what the community needs.

—from the award speech delivered by Rod Ganey,  
Chair of the Community Foundation's Leighton Award Committee



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## UPCOMING DATES

- October 15: Annual Meeting for the Foundation's Nonprofit Partners at the Center for History
- October 30: GiftLaw Webcast Seminar for Professionals. This free event includes continuing education credits for attorneys, CPAs, CFPs, and Certified Bankers
- November 1: Deadline to apply for Senior Housing grants and ArtsEverywhere grants
- November 14: Next issue of *ArtsEverywhere* magazine available in the *South Bend Tribune*

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

## Challenge Grants

A challenge grant can be a very powerful fundraising tool. In 1997, Community Foundation donor Janet Scholtes decided that she wanted to make a gift to support Reins of Life, an organization she has been involved with since its earliest days.

"I'm a horse person—my kids and I all participated in 4-H Horse and Pony—and I was also a Reins of Life volunteer," Janet said. "I think their mission is very important, and I've always been impressed with the staff."

Originally, Janet had planned to make an outright gift to the organization. But after talking with Foundation President Rose Meissner, Janet decided that a better option would be to create an endowment fund for Reins, using a challenge grant in the hopes of attracting new, permanent resources.

People responded to that challenge. Reins of Life ended up with a \$50,000 endowment that has since grown to nearly double that amount—and, over the years,



A Reins of Life client gives a volunteer a "high five" in Janet Graham's Picturing Community photo

has granted more back to Reins of Life than Janet's original gift.

"They've made such good use of the money, and they've grown so much since that initial gift—that's what's been so rewarding," says Janet, warmly.

That's the value of a challenge grant. Thoughtful, committed philanthropy can create gifts that continue to give forever, making a world of difference for the nonprofit organizations that we care about.