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CF SNAPSHOT

The CF Snapshot is a monthly e-newsletter for Iowa Community Foundations and Affiliates. If you have information you would like included, please [email Michele Walstrom](#), ICoF Community Foundations Services Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

May Peer-Learning Call: Communications Roundup

May 23 | 10 am

ICoF Conference Call Line: 1-866-740-1260 | Passcode: 9891188#

The May Peer-Learning Call will feature a variety of your colleagues sharing ideas on best practices in community foundation communications. We will hear about a variety of strategies used by Host and Affiliate organizations that have proven effective in building understanding of their work in the community while also supporting fund development efforts. Specific details on speakers and topics will be available in the May *CF Snapshot*.

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date! Annual Connect Community Foundations Conference

Tuesday, September 18 | 9:00 am- 4:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn | Johnston, Iowa

Join us to learn from state and national experts about trends in philanthropy and best practices for community foundations! This conference is designed to provide a framework for thinking about how local community foundations can create positive change in their region and give volunteers and staff an opportunity to learn from one another. This is a free opportunity sponsored

this summer. Please save the date on your calendar now!

Foundations on the Hill Recap

This article is excerpted from the Iowa Council of Foundations' Council Column e-newsletter and was written by ICoF President, Kari McCann Boutell. This publication is distributed monthly to members of ICoF.

Two weeks ago, ICoF members and I visited Capitol Hill to meet with Iowa's members of Congress as part of the national Foundations on the Hill (FOTH) event. We discussed a variety of issues of importance to the philanthropic sector:

- Creating an above-the-line universal charitable deduction;
- Simplifying the private foundation excise tax to a flat 1%; and
- Expanding the charitable IRA rollover to include donor-advised funds.

We also advocated for issues beyond Federal tax policy, including:

- Preserving the full enforcement of the Johnson Amendment; and
- Funding a fair and accurate Census 2020 count.

In articulating why these issues are important to the sector, we were able to emphasize the variety of roles funders and nonprofits play in communities across Iowa. I feel these conversations have helped us strengthen our relationships on the Hill each year.

We have already seen some positive results from our visits! The Omnibus appropriations bill that was released last Tuesday did not include attachments or changes regarding the Johnson Amendment. Additionally, the 2018 budget provided increased support for this year's preparations for the 2020 Census. Please take a moment to review the [ICoF FOTH 2018 Fact Sheet](#) and [additional materials](#). If you have any questions, please let me know.

CF Stories Blog

In this month's post, Mary Freiborg, retiring President of the Okoboji Community Foundation shares an overview of a program she initiated last year

Lakes community. Mary shares their approach and lessons learned.

[Read This Month's Blog](#)

Learning Opportunities

Tri-State CF Partnership Webinar Series: Children's Savings Accounts

April 11 | 12 - 2 pm CT | \$50 for non-members

Hosted by Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

Creating a community with a vibrant and diverse economy, a skilled workforce and shared prosperity does not happen overnight—it requires meaningful investments. Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman argues that investments made during a child's early years offer the biggest bang for the buck, creating significant long-term benefits for both the child and society. Establishing Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs) is one such investment.

In this webinar you will learn:

- why CSAs are important to the future of our communities;
- evidence about the impact of CSAs, and
- about innovative programming that seeks to address the limitations of traditional scholarship and financial aid programs through CSAs.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

Council on Foundations Community Foundations Finance Training

Tuesday, May 15 - Wednesday, May 16, 2018 | Cedar Rapids | \$299

The Iowa Council of Foundations is partnering with the Council on Foundations to host a Community Foundations Finance Training in Iowa! As part of the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative, the ICoF will subsidize the cost for Iowa community foundations staff to attend and offer a [flat rate for the training of \\$299 per person](#). Your organization received an email with the code to use when registering for the discount. If you have any questions regarding the training or registration, please [contact Kari](#).

Peer Pointers

This section of the CF Snapshot features short descriptions of positive work happening at community foundations and affiliates across Iowa. If you'd like more information about these topics, please [contact Michele](#).

- Last July the Okoboji Community Foundation coordinated a Nonprofit Challenge to expand visibility and grow nonprofit partner funds. The Challenge resulted in 16 gifts totaling \$85K to nonprofit partner funds! Gifts ranged from \$100 to \$50K. The largest gift was used to create a new endowment fund with additional \$50K pledges for the next two years. The marketing/communication materials helped the event grow from \$17K in 2016 to \$85K in 2017! Marketing efforts included:
 - New videos for nonprofit partner funds on OCF website.
 - Event sponsor flags to fly on docks throughout July.
 - 15,000 summer flyers to showcase the impact of OCF grants.
- Looking for a new way to communicate your good work? Consider what the Kossuth County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, did recently. They partnered with their local Hy-Vee and put a table/banner in the entry and had volunteers talk to shoppers about the work of their community foundation and to ask for gifts to their Impact Fund. The event raised funds and also helped people in their county learn more about their work.

Community Foundations in the News

[The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation's Karla Twedt-Ball penned a Guest Editorial to share about work in their area to increase literacy.](#)

[The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque compiled community data and shared their findings in a "Data Walk".](#)

[The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa sponsored their local school district's Read Across America event.](#)

[Jerry Mathiasen, former President and CEO of the Pottawattamie County](#)

Articles & Items of Interest

Tax Credits May be More Important Now than Ever

The Community Foundation & Research Training Institute, a newly formed organization by a retired Indiana Community Foundation CEO, recently blogged about the importance now, more than ever, for tax credits. You can [read David Bennett's post and view his research here](#).

Washington Snapshot

The most recent issue of the Council of Foundations' *Washington Snapshot* can be [accessed here](#).

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