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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.

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## Idea Implementation Grants Recap

As part of the Connect Community Foundations Conference ICoF hosts each September, Idea Implementation Grants are available to fund an idea that was sparked at the conference. Some of the grant programs that were submitted and approved for funding this year included:

- Kossuth County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, will host an event where board members will each bring a prospective donor to the event to learn about their foundation. The idea was inspired by the Nebraska Community Foundation's session on *Strengthening Relationships and Growing Endowments*.
- Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine is planning to bring Ben Winchester in to present to their community on rural housing issues and how to move beyond the myths. The idea came from Ben's keynote.
- Allamakee County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, will develop a unique marketing plan for outreach to their local professional advisors. The idea was sparked by listening to Dawn Brown's session on *Stewarding Your Donors*.

the conference. Consider attending Connect and applying next year!

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## Updated Communications Tools Available

Updated communication tools have been added to the ICoF Communications Toolbox to help you with outreach to your donors and community. We've recently updated fact sheets and postcards for you to use with donors when discussing the IRA Charitable Rollover and Donor-Advised Fund Bunching strategies. These tools offer concise explanations of the concepts, so current or potential donors can understand options available to them. These Word Document Templates can be easily customized to include your logo and organization's contact information. If you need any assistance utilizing these tools, please [let us know](#).

[Charitable IRA Rollover Fact Sheet & Postcard](#)

[Bunching Fact Sheet & Postcard](#)

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## Upcoming Trainings & Events

### ***Save the Date!* 2020 Community Foundations Legal Training with the Council on Foundations**

Tuesday, May 12 | Quad Cities Community Foundation | Bettendorf, IA

Please plan to join us for a special learning opportunity in partnership with the Council on Foundations. You will learn from COF's legal team right here in Iowa! This day-long workshop is designed to answer your broad legal questions on administering funds, grants, and community foundation activities. A reduced fee of \$50 will be available for Iowa Community Foundation participants.

Registration will open in early 2020, but mark your calendars now!

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## Celebrating National Community Foundations Week, November 12-18

In recognition of the great work of Iowa's Community Foundations, the ICoF has drafted a [press release](#) we will distribute statewide in honor of National

available in the [Community Foundations' Week Toolbox here](#).

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## CF Stories Blog

This month, Joe Sorensen, Vice President of Affiliate Relations, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, shares some of his learnings and takeaways from attending the National Conference for Growing Community Foundations last month in Kansas.

[Read this month's blog here!](#)

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## Learning Opportunities

### National Standards Monthly Conference Call

Second Wednesday of each month | 12 pm | Next call is November 13

The purpose of this monthly call is to offer community foundation staff a venue to voice questions or concerns related to the National Standards program. The input of CF staff is critical to the success of the program. Additionally, this call provides an opportunity for National Standards staff to update CF staff about any upcoming changes or improvements to the accreditation process.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

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## 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](#).

In early September, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and several of their affiliates hosted over two dozen members of the Nebraska Community Foundation network. The purpose of the two-day gathering was to

While in Manchester, participants shared a day of learning and tours around the area counties to see community foundation affiliate work in progress. The tour participants had the opportunity to interact with and observe programs focusing on rural art, youth engagement, inclusiveness, childcare, energy sustainability, reconnecting people with what they love most about their hometown, and ending stigmas around brain health.

According to McCook County Foundation Fund (Nebraska) board member Dale Dueland, “We visited some amazing rural Iowa towns with populations from 250 to 25,000 where we saw impressive examples of projects dreamed and developed by community leaders with a positive attitude and a collaborative mindset. It was energizing to view their projects and listen to their enthusiasm for serving their community by engaging people with diverse interests. They are truly making their hometowns exciting and beautiful places to live.”

Dale and Denis Garey with the Nebraska Community Foundation presented at the Connect Conference this year. They focused on the success they've had with building their communities through endowment challenge grants. You can learn more about the Learning Exchange with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque [here](#) and access their presentation [here](#).

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## Community Foundations in the News

[The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine recently announced their fall grants to 27 organizations.](#)

[The Siouxland Community Foundation saw a 15% increase in donations over last year's annual Big Give Day.](#)

[The Pella Community Foundation announced a new Impact Grants program which will address important community issues.](#)

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## Articles & Items of Interest

### Career Center Postings

To view the most up-to-date career postings for positions in philanthropy

## Endowment Investment Report Released

The Council on Foundations and Commonfund report is the field's most comprehensive study on investment and governance policies and practices.

Topics covered include:

- Returns and Investment Objectives
- Asset Allocation and Responsible Investing Criteria
- Responsible Investment Practices
- Fund Flows, Spending and Gifts
- Resources, Management and Governance

You can access the report [here](#).

## Midwest Flooding: The Year's Biggest Disaster Webinar

The ICoF recently partnered with the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and several other philanthropic associations for a webinar on the Midwest flooding, recovery, and response. A recording of this webinar can be accessed [here](#).

## Foundation Circle 2020 Now Accepting Applications

The Foundation Circle is an 18-month cohort-based learning program for place-based foundations who are committed to advancing their mission-aligned investing work. Additional information can be accessed [here](#).

## Washington Snapshot

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

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**Our mailing address is:**

6919 Vista Drive West Des Moines, IA 50266

**Office address:**

1200 Grand Avenue, Suite #300 Des Moines, IA 50309

**Phone number:** 515-989-1188

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