

2024 IMPACT REPORT



THE FOUNDATION
for Northwest Illinois



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2024

\$6.2
MILLION
in Total
Assets

\$285
THOUSAND
Granted to
Nonprofits

16
Funds
Administered

Newly Established Funds

BETH WINTER FAMILY FUND FOR NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

The Beth Winter Family Fund for Northwest Illinois is established to provide charitable grant support to nonprofits throughout The Foundation's service area. This fund will give special consideration to grant requests to nonprofit organizations, projects, programs, and/or collaboratives supporting community growth and development. Special consideration is given to grant applicants supporting children and/or children's projects/programs. 🌱

DON MORSE FAMILY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

The Don Morse Family Community Impact Fund supports organizations that are at the heart of our community. The Foundation for Northwest Illinois, will carry on this mission and Don Morse's commitment to helping others in need. 🌱

Towards a Thriving Tomorrow

As we look toward the next few years, we find ourselves filled with both deep gratitude for your unwavering support and tremendous excitement for what lies ahead for our Northwest Illinois communities.

Your generosity has allowed us to be keepers of hope and builders of opportunity throughout our region. While our **nonprofit granting** and **leadership programs** have built a strong foundation, we know that true, lasting prosperity calls for a more comprehensive approach. The landscape around us is changing—beautiful small towns facing economic transitions, hardworking families needing new skills for new opportunities, and a natural environment that deserves our careful stewardship.

So, we've been dreaming about what's possible. We imagine creating regional *innovation hubs* where local entrepreneurs can gather with established businesses and educational institutions to co-create solutions uniquely suited to our corner of Illinois. We picture *workforce development programs* that don't just train people for jobs but prepare them for meaningful careers that can support families and build futures.

We're thinking about how we can help ensure that everyone in our communities has access to quality, *affordable housing*—from young workers starting out to seniors who've built our communities. We want to partner on *health initiatives* that address the root causes of wellness challenges, and we're committed to *environmental stewardship* that protects our beautiful landscapes while creating sustainable opportunities.

Our leadership development work will grow into what we're calling a *leadership ecosystem*—nurturing emerging leaders from all walks of life, creating spaces where different sectors can come together to solve problems, and helping residents feel empowered to shape their communities' futures.

What's beautiful about this approach is how it builds on our existing strengths. The philanthropic world is evolving, with more emphasis on equity and strategic partnership, and we want to position Northwest Illinois at the forefront of this positive change.



None of this would be possible without you. Your support allows us to *leverage additional resources*, take thoughtful risks on innovative ideas, measure what truly matters, and build institutions that will serve our region for generations to come. This journey will unfold gradually, building momentum and ensuring lasting impact.

This vision is ultimately about people. It's about creating communities where every person has the opportunity to thrive, where local businesses can grow and prosper, and where our children will inherit a region even more beautiful and opportunity-rich than the one we know today.

We have a heartfelt commitment to the people and places we serve. Your belief in our work has brought us to this moment. Your continued partnership will carry us toward that thriving tomorrow we all imagine when we look at our hometowns and see not just what they are, but what they can become. 🌱

A Community Who Cares: A Legacy that Continues...

*NW Illinois / SW Wisconsin Fund
for Community Development*

*The John M. Drogosz
Youth Wellness Memorial Fund*

*Ian's Fund for the Boys & Girls Club
of Freeport & Stephenson County*

*Jeanette Lloyd
Memorial Scholarship Fund*

*Luthin Family
Endowment*

*Marvin • Wilson
Community Impact Fund*

*RC Miller Agriculture
Land & Conservation Fund*

*Don Morse Family
Community Impact Fund*

*Dan & Nancy Schmitt
Family Fund*

*Rachel & Roy Sellers Sr
Scholarship Fund*

*Beth Winter Family Fund for
Northwest Illinois*

Support these & other funds at www.fornwil.org

Modern Day Janes

In early 2024, The Foundation launched the Jane Addams Legacy Fund, an initiative to elevate and empower women and girls in Northwest Illinois. Named for the local life and legacy of our own Jane Addams who once hailed from neighboring Cedarville, The Foundation follows her model of a collaborative, care-centered approach that fosters community engagement and consideration for the well-being of everyone.

Alongside this new fund is a local women's gathering called The Jane Club. The original Jane Club was both a workingwoman's cooperative and a building near Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago. This cooperative ensured that all Jane Club members' rent was paid while also watching out for the basic needs of each other.

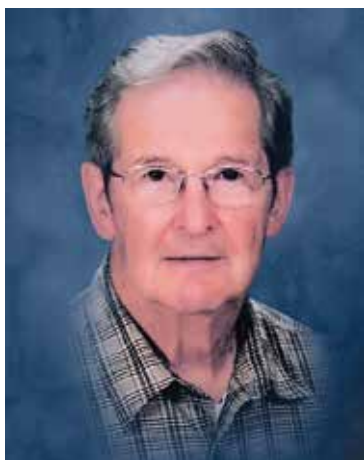
The Jane Club at The Foundation for Northwest Illinois borrows from this aspect of the legacy of Jane Addams. As a collective of women who care about the needs of others and who know that so many of the needs fall on the shoulders of women, The Jane Club provides support to projects and programs of nonprofit organizations. Periodically, The Jane Club gathers for conversations or to hear from subject experts and inspiring leaders to discover ways we can continue to uplift and celebrate the women of Northwest Illinois.

The Jane Addams Legacy Fund continues to see growth. This year saw the first ever Gatsby Gala hosted by The Foundation in which \$35,000 of support was raised through the generosity of individuals and corporate sponsors. That evening, the inaugural Jane Addams Legacy Award was presented to Jananne "JR" Schaffner who is a passionate partner for so many in our community and continues to elevate and inspire women around her. With record attendance and shared excitement about the impact of The Jane Addams Legacy Fund, the Gatsby Gala will continue to be a signature event for The Foundation...for many years to come. 🌱



Honoring a Legacy: August 8, 1929 - June 14, 2025

Richard "Dick" Luthin: The Legacy of a Conservationist



In 2016, Dick Luthin established Luthin Family Endowment Fund to become part of the permanent endowment at The Foundation for Northwest Illinois. The purpose of the fund is to provide resources through grants to area nonprofit organizations, funding conservation and human service projects and programs that support the region.

Over the years, Dick received numerous awards, but of note are the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society Land Stewardship Award as well as Kiwanian of the Year. His commitment to Freeport and the surrounding area also included supporting local arts, including concert performances and plays at Highland College, Winneshiek Playhouse and Timber Lake Playhouse.

Dick was kind to and patient with everyone, showed no prejudices and embraced diversity within the human community. He was exceptionally generous of his time as a volunteer and money as a supporter. He donated to dozens of nonprofit organizations for many years.

As stated by his family, Dick was a true Renaissance man, and his quest for knowledge lasted his entire life. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved Dick Luthin. 🌱

**Support the Luthin Family
Endowment Fund**

www.fornwil.org

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