

Mission:

Seeking to make the Morris community a better place to live and raise our families.

Board of Directors

Jim Baum, *president*

Bill Norton, *vice president*

Jim Peterson, *treasurer*

Ron Evenon

Andy Hunt

Carol Narvick

Sue Rezin

Chuck Richardson

Dick Schweickert

Ann Marie Struck

Dick Walker

**Julie Buck,
*secretary and executive director***

History

The Morris Community Foundation has undergone great change in 2003 and will continue to grow the spirit of philanthropy in our community in 2004.

The Morris Community Foundation was created in 1999 to focus on the charitable needs of our community. The primary goal of the Foundation is to improve the quality of life in our community. To this end, the original focus of the Foundation was in four areas: historic preservation, education, recreation, and health services. The Foundation believes that the preservation and growth of these important ingredients make the difference in how a community will prosper over time.

Since its organization, the MCF has sought to identify problems that could respond to immediate intervention by the Foundation. This was intentionally a proactive approach. This led to direct involvement in several historic preservation and recreation initiatives.

The second priority of the MCF has been to undertake an assessment of community needs in order to target priorities for direct involvement of MCF. We have also begun to build a grant program to partner with other non-profit organizations to target specific community needs.

Our long-range priority is to grow the community's understanding of philanthropy and to provide the structure and capabilities of fostering charitable activities in the community of Morris. To this end, the Foundation is committed to organizing a fund structure and an endowment program to grow its financial resources.

From 1999 to 2003, the Morris Community Foundation was run on "stamps and stationery" and the hard work of a volunteer board of directors. In June 2003, the MCF was awarded a 5-year "CommunityWorks" grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation that asked us to focus on the three areas of child care, workforce development, and land use and protection, as well as hire an executive director. Since hiring Julie Buck as our executive director in June 2003, the Morris Community Foundation has seen explosive growth in both our programs and our philanthropic fundraising.

The Morris Community Foundation is most proud of our "Challenges of the Future" series which was launched in September 2003 with the debut of "Challenges of the Future: A Community Video of Morris, Illinois." The Foundation interviewed over 30 residents about the issues of greatest concern to themselves and the community as a whole. The topics highlighted have a broad range, from waste management to education to recreation. But the connective issue that was mentioned over and over was the concern about the growth of our community and how to control it in order to maintain the quality of life that we now enjoy in Morris.

Since the video debut and panel discussion in September, the Morris Community Foundation has continued the "Challenges of the Future" series with public forums about child care, subdivision design, and our schools. Additional topics for public forums in 2004 may include environmental health and planning for industrial and commercial growth. We believe that this communication is the key to controlling the growth of our area and continuing the quality of life that we now enjoy in Morris.

Other goals for 2004 include the expansion of our grant program to other non-profits and to expand the community's knowledge of charitable giving and how individuals can use their own philanthropy to influence issues of importance to them.

2003 Donor List

Dr. Hugo Avalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Baum**
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bedson
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Belt*
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bennington
 Mr. & Mrs. Ariel Bjelland
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Boma
 Mr. Gerald Borens*
 Mr. & Mrs. Doug Brandt
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brandt
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Burla*
 Mr. John Carr*
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cheshareck
 Mr. & Mrs. Guy Christensen**
 Ms. Joan Christensen*
 Mr. Phil Dinelli
 State Farm Insurance
 Dr. & Mrs. Terry Dingbaum*
 Mr. & Mrs. John Dollinger
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Engle*
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Evenson
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Fannin
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Farrell*
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Fruland*
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Funk
 Dr. & Mrs. Todd Gay
 Ms. Carole Griggs
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Headrick
 Mr. Jay Heap
 Mrs. Ruth Herman*
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hynds**
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Jennings*
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Jepson*
 Dr. Ben Johnston
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones*
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jorstad*
 Mr. Parker Kemp*
 Mr. Mike Mattingly*
 Mrs. June McElvain
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Narvick**
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Norton**
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Olson*
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren Olson*
 Dr. & Mrs. Tim Ortiz*
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Peacock*
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Peterson**
 Judge Lance Peterson
 Dr. & Mrs. Keith Rezin*
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Romines*
 Mr. & Mrs. John Rooks**
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Root*
 Mr. Bob Roth*
 Dr. & Mrs. John Roth*
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schmitz*
 Mr. & Mrs. Dick Schweickert**
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Scoggin
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sereno*
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Sommers*
 Mr. & Mrs. John Sparrow
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Spiezio
 Ms. Angie Strobel
 Dr. Ann Marie Struck &
 Mr. Paul Jung*
 Mr. & Mrs. Dick Walker*
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Warner*
 Ms. Pam Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Wohlwend**
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Wolter
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wright*
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael Wright
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wright
 Advantage Realty*
 Ayers Electric*
 Banner Equipment*
 Baum Charitable Trust*
 Carpetile Morris
 Central Limestone
 Costco
 Equistar*
 Erienna Twp.
 Fruland Funeral Home
 Goodwin & McDonald, CPA*
 Grand Victoria Foundation
 Grundy Bank
 Grundy Pioneer Title
 Harco Engineering*
 Jewel-Osco
 Mazon State Bank
 Morris Healthmart*
 Northwestern Corp.*
 Olson Capital*
 Redford Excavating
 Reichold, Inc.*
 Rockwell Inn
 Smurfit Stone Corp.*
 Sponge Cushion*
 The Turf Team*
 UniTech Services Group

2003 Grant Recipients

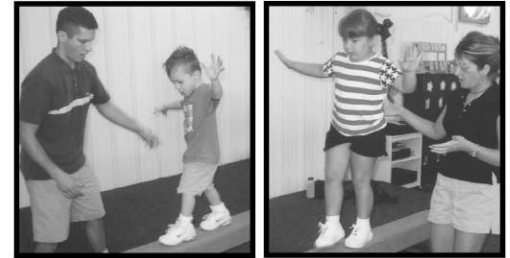
- Morris Theater Guild to install air conditioning in the theater on Liberty Street -- \$4,750



- Morris Marathon Canoe Club for the installation/sponsorship of one canoe dock along the I&M Canal -- \$400

- Boy Scout Troop #471 for a troop trailer -- \$4,000

- Easter Seals of Will-Grundy to provide swim lessons and general recreation in Morris for kids with disabilities -- \$5,000



- Guardian Angel Home for violence prevention training -- \$2,500

*donated in 2002 & 2003

**donated in all years (1999-2003)