Foundation

FOCUS

Fall 2026

A Decade of DuPage in Full Color

ARTS DUPAGE **CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ENRICHING LOCAL CREATIVE CONNECTIONS**

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

DuPage Foundation

Arts DuPage

Don't Miss

DUPAGE LEADERS' SUMMIT **CULTIVATES A STRONGER COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION**

Dear Foundation Friends:

"You cannot build a community on a foundation of strangers." That line came from Daniel Ash, president of the Field Foundation, during our inaugural *DuPage Leaders' Summit*, and it's stuck with me.

Ash's point was that community isn't a given—it's something we must keep building. Forty years ago, a visionary group of DuPage leaders took on that critical work, believing that focused intention and collective generosity could be harnessed into something powerful and lasting for DuPage. Four decades later, their vision is being realized and still holds—proof that we thrive when we unite instead of remaining siloed.

This fall, one of our signature initiatives, *Arts DuPage*, is marking its own decade of impact. Its recently published economic impact study highlights the DuPage arts industry's invaluable contributions to the prosperity and enrichment of our region. I encourage you to read our feature story to learn more about how *Arts DuPage* makes our community brighter.

Our financial leadership in strengthening our community also continues. We recently awarded more than $700,000 to 52 nonprofits through our summer and fall grant programs, addressing a range of local needs through our *Arts DuPage*, *Bright & Early DuPage*, and *Capacity Building* cycles. Additionally, you'll find an update on our *All In DuPage* community endowment-building campaign, which is fueling our future impact.

This fall marks a notable transition in our Board leadership. We're grateful to outgoing Chair Bill Blum for the distinguished leadership he has provided during an important chapter in our history. We're also pleased to welcome incoming Chair Roger McDougal, and Joan Vilim as Vice Chair, along with three new Trustees. We also thank our Trustees whose terms are ending for their immeasurable contributions. We're fortunate to have them remaining involved with us as a new set of leaders steps up to serve.

Finally, as I mentioned above, we're celebrating the success of our inaugural *DuPage Leaders' Summit*. More than 100 business, civic, and philanthropic leaders joined us at Ball Horticultural Company for connection and a conversation about the challenges and opportunities facing DuPage. Ash's call to action at the *Summit* applies to all of us: the work of building our shared community doesn't end with one generation. It's ongoing, and its rewards belong to those who come ready to collaborate and help shape it.

Thank you for continuing to show up and invest with us. Together, we'll keep doing a world of good in our own backyard.®

Mike

Mike Sitrick, JD, CFRE
President & CEO

FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

Henry Kaskov, Uncovering the Value of Local Philanthropy

Henry Kaskov's passion for community runs deep. After growing up in the suburbs, he met his wife, Jessica, at the University of Illinois. Today, Henry owns a growing valuations firm, Kaskov Valuations, and he and Jessica are raising their young boys, Riley and Parker—all while staying involved in the community that shaped them.

In the 2010s, Henry helped restart our *Next Generation Initiative (NGI)*, creating a space for emerging leaders to connect, learn, and make an impact together. Over nine years on the *NGI* Steering Committee, including time as both vice chair and chair, Henry helped shape an initiative that continues to turn collective generosity into meaningful support for local nonprofits. Since its founding, *NGI* has granted nearly $225,000 through its endowment fund.

"*NGI* has broadened my understanding of local philanthropy, introduced me to many dedicated and like-minded individuals, and led to lasting friendships. Most importantly, *NGI* has shown me how collective generosity can create a lasting and measurable impact," said Henry.

We are grateful for Henry's generosity and the community of leaders he has helped inspire!

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Ten years after *Arts DuPage* began, we look at how its work has strengthened the arts and DuPage County's creative economy.

Cover (bottom): Daniel Ash, president of the Field Foundation, makes keynote remarks at the inaugural *DuPage Leaders' Summit*; Cover image: Drury Lane Theatre & Events.

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Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically?

Email Maureen Brink at maureen@dupagefoundation.org.

Our Vision

To raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County.

Our Mission

To foster philanthropy, connect donors to area needs, and build community partnerships.

Arts DuPage
A DuPage Foundation Initiative

A Decade of Connection, Creativity, & Community

Celebrating 10 Years of *Arts DuPage*

Grantee pictured: BrightSide Theatre.

A student lands a job in multimedia production. An artist earns a five-figure contract for a public video projection project. A community heals together through an art therapy program.

Behind each of these moments is a connection, and for the past decade, *Arts DuPage* has been making connections like these happen across DuPage County.

CHAMPIONING A CREATIVE COUNTY

Arts DuPage's story began before the initiative itself. With support from the *JCS Arts, Health & Education Fund*, in 2014, DuPage Foundation commissioned an "All for Arts" study to explore the feasibility of a countywide arts council. Residents, arts organizations, educators, businesses, and community leaders helped identify DuPage's cultural strengths, needs, and opportunities for greater collaboration.

"The study showed us there was both a need and an appetite for a unified voice for the arts in DuPage," said Barb Szczepaniak, Foundation vice president for programs. "It gave us a framework for bringing people together, growing audiences, strengthening organizations, and expanding access to the arts across the county."

Those findings helped inspire *Arts DuPage*, created to support, promote, and advocate for the arts throughout DuPage County. Today, it supports nearly 350 arts organizations and more than 200 individual artists.

Building on that advocacy role, *Arts DuPage* recently commissioned its first DuPage-focused economic impact study of the creative economy. It found that **the creative economy generates $8 billion in total economic output, contributes $4.7 billion to DuPage County's economy, and supports more than 38,000 local jobs**. Every $1 generated produces another $0.61 in the wider regional economy.

Grantee pictured: Chicago Arts Partnership in Education.

Arts DuPage also helps nearly 110,000 website visitors each year discover local arts experiences through **ArtsDuPage.org**, promoting 2,200+ events annually. Behind the scenes, it connects artists with paid opportunities, nonprofits with program spaces, and community organizations with creative partners.

FUELING THE NEXT ACT

During the pandemic, *Arts DuPage* secured $300,000 in County relief funding and helped bring another $2.3 million to local arts and cultural nonprofits through Arts Alliance Illinois' Illinois Creative Recovery (B2B Arts) Grant Program.

Its grantmaking continues to expand that support. In the past three years alone, *Arts DuPage* has awarded more than $605,000 to 47 organizations supporting music, fine arts, theatre, dance, and more.

Ten years in, *Arts DuPage* has helped make the arts more visible, connected, and accessible throughout our county. As artists find audiences, ideas find support, and creative experiences reach our community, *Arts DuPage* is ready to carry that momentum into the decades ahead.

To learn more about *Arts DuPage* and the organizations and artists it supports, visit **dupagefoundation.org/ArtsDuPage** or contact **Debbie Venezia**, director of *Arts DuPage*, at **debbie@dupagefoundation.org** or **630.598.5299**.

Foundation friends Scott and Mary Jo Sindelar and Cheryl Gilkerson (center) celebrate with Foundation staff members Debbie Venezia, Barb Szczepaniak, and Mike Sitrick (far left and right) during Arts DuPage's 10th Anniversary Celebration.

Every Story Matters: 40 Years of Keeping Our History Preserved

One of the DuPage County Historical Museum's May 2026 exhibits, Built to Last.

For the team at the DuPage County Historical Museum (DCHM), history isn't reserved for famous names or landmark events. It's the everyday stories that matter.

That belief has connected us and the Museum for as long as DuPage Foundation has been serving the community. In fact, our very first grant, awarded 40 years ago, went to the DuPage County Historical Society, the predecessor to today's Museum. Now, an *Arts DuPage* grant is helping DCHM continue that work, giving more residents opportunities to see themselves and their neighbors in the story of DuPage County.

"Knowing your local history is why we exist," said Michelle Podkowa, DCHM's manager and educator. "Exhibiting artifacts and objects that were used by everyday people helps visitors relate to them more, it grows our history, and it allows neighbors to be involved in preserving it."

With support from a 2025 *Arts DuPage* grant funded by our *History DuPage Fund*, the Museum is expanding its 2026 annual theme, "DuPage Identified," exploring the many ways residents express identity through military service, culture, heritage, clothing, and community. The grant is supporting exhibitions as well as Museum programming to bring this year's theme to life with lectures, family events, and interactive experiences made to immerse visitors in DuPage's history.

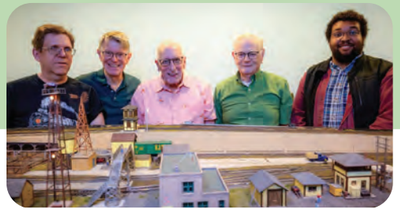
"People don't recognize how rich their history is until it's laid out in front of them," said Emily O'Brien, DCHM's curator. "Showcasing that history at the Museum means a lot to them because now they're more invested in us and in telling their stories."

Behind every exhibit is a conversation. Museum staff work alongside veterans, families, collectors, historians, and community organizations to ensure the stories they tell are authentic and inclusive. Rather than simply displaying artifacts, they invite the people behind those objects to help shape the narrative, creating experiences that are as personal as they are educational.

As DuPage Foundation celebrates 40 years of strengthening our community and *Arts DuPage* celebrates 10 years of supporting our region's arts and culture sector, partners like the DuPage County Historical Museum remind us that preserving history isn't only about protecting the past—it's about ensuring every generation can see itself in the story of DuPage County and play a role in the chapters still to come.

"We are stewards of this important history, and we want DuPage County to be actively engaged in it," said Podkowa. "Everyone who's from this county, lives in this county, and works in this county is contributing to DuPage's history."

The Museum hosts various summer programs to engage the younger generation with their community's history.



DCHM volunteers in front of the Museum's model train.

DCHM's temporary exhibit, Woven Together: Coverlets and Community in DuPage County, that was on display earlier this year.

Grantee pictured: West Suburban Symphony.

Grantee Pictured: McAninch Arts Center (College of DuPage Foundation).

Guiding Generosity Home

More than $700,000 awarded to 52 local nonprofits in collaboration with our donors and partners

Behind every grant is more than a gift. It's a generous community member—or several—who want to make a difference, and a nonprofit working to meet community needs.

At DuPage Foundation, we help bridge the two. Our team works alongside donors to understand what matters most to them, and then provides funding to trusted organizations creating meaningful change across DuPage County.

We provide three options for donor investment: 1) establishing or supporting community grantmaking endowments to help us address current and future local needs, 2) funding specific grant requests from worthy charities carefully vetted by our expert staff and volunteer leaders, and 3) establishing a donor-advised fund to streamline giving to favorite local and national nonprofits while benefiting from our team's expertise. This personalized approach helps generosity go further while shining a light on causes that donors might not have known about otherwise.

The grants and funding partners highlighted on the next page show what's possible when generous people invest together in the community we call home. When you give through the Foundation, we can connect you with meaningful opportunities to support the causes that matter most—and help you become part of the collective impact happening across DuPage County and throughout our region.

When generosity is guided by local knowledge and trusted relationships, every gift has the power to make a difference.

To learn how you can engage with this process and make a difference through your giving, contact **Natalie Knight, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **natalie@dupagefoundation.org** or **630.598.5291**.

Grantee pictured: BrightSide Theatre.

Arts DuPage Grants (34) — $244,295

Supporting arts, artists, and creative opportunities across DuPage.

SUSTAIN GRANTS

Acappellago*	4,500
Addison Center for the Arts	5,000
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble	15,000
Camerata Chicago	15,000
Chicago a cappella	5,000
Chorus of DuPage	5,000
College of DuPage Foundation	15,000
Community School of the Arts, Wheaton College	5,000
Downers Grove Choral Society	5,000
DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation	5,000
DuPage Symphony Orchestra	15,000
Elmhurst Art Museum	15,000
Elmhurst Choral Union	5,000
Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra	3,380
Elmhurst University	4,615
ESSE Adult Day Services	10,000
Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale*	5,000
Illinois Conservatory for the Arts*	7,500
Kaivalya Arts*	5,000
Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art	5,000
NaperVoice	2,500
New Horizons Band DuPage	3,500
Opera for the Young	5,000
Paramount Theatre	15,000
Roots & Wings - Alas y Raices	5,000
Salt Creek Ballet	15,000
Sharing Notes	5,000
Sinfonietta Bel Canto	5,000
Sounds Good Choir	5,000
Spirito!*	5,000
The West Towns Chorus	5,000
Young Naperville Singers	8,800

SEED GRANTS

ArtForum: The Naperville Partnership for Public Arts	5,000
Chicagoland Performing Musicians	4,500

**Supported by Illinois Arts Council's Regional Arts Partners grant funding.*

Bright & Early DuPage Grants (7) — $340,500

Investing in early childhood education so more children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Addison Partners for Play, Learning & Education (APPLE)	50,000
Bensenville Early Learners Supporters (BELS)	50,000
Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative (GECC)	50,000
Villa Park Area Early Childhood Collaborative	40,500
WeGo Together for Kids	50,000
Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collective (WWECC)	50,000
Willowbrook Community Early Childhood Collaborative	50,000

Capacity Building Grants (11) — $117,806

Strengthening nonprofits so they can better serve our community.

Bridge Communities, Inc.	16,500
BrightSide Theatre	13,000
CASA of DuPage County, Inc.	6,000
Child's Voice	4,088
DuPagePads*	15,000
Elmhurst Choral Union	13,000
EQuality Downers Grove (EQDG)	1,000
Naperville Heritage Society/Naper Settlement	12,000
Senior Home Sharing, Inc.*	7,218
Serenity House Counseling Services, Inc.	20,000
West Suburban Humane Society	10,000

** Funding provided by the Community Impact Circle*

Our thanks to the many Foundation donors and fund representatives who supported this cycle of grantmaking.

To view a full list of the Foundation's community grantmaking endowments, visit **dupagefoundation.org/Foundation-Funds**.

Foundation Donor-Advised Fund Partners

Donor-Advised Fund for Needy Children

History DuPage Fund

JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund

Martha J. Johnson Fund

Robinwood Legacy Fund

Paula K. Partipilo Fund

Snodgrass Family Fund

Shebik Family Fund for Basic Human Needs

Additional support for *Capacity Building* grants was provided by the Foundation's *Community Impact Circle*.

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

Arts DuPage received $27,000 in regranting funding through *Illinois Arts Council's Regional Arts Partners* (*RAP*) grant program, an invitation-only initiative designed to support arts programming in underserved populations within the community.

ALL IN DUPAGE

All In DuPage: Meeting Today's Needs, Building Tomorrow's Possibilities

Every day, people across DuPage County turn to local nonprofits for help, hope, and opportunity. Whether it's finding stable housing, accessing reliable transportation, or helping a student pursue continuing education or new skills training, these organizations are changing lives. As our neighbors' needs continue to grow, so does the demand for help.

That's why we launched our *All In DuPage* campaign—a bold community endowment-building effort that will double our annual grantmaking capabilities, allowing us to address the rapidly growing needs of our neighbors.

Helping lead that effort are Trustees Bill Blum and Megan Shebik, who, along with their spouses, Jen Blum and Steve Shebik, recently stepped into the role of campaign co-chairs. Now, they're inviting others to join them in making sure we can continue supporting the nonprofits our neighbors count on every day.

To date, generous donors have helped move *All In DuPage* more than 20% of the way toward its $35 million goal. Al and Patti Gustafson are also helping inspire even more generosity. The Gustafsons committed $1 million from their donor-advised fund to *All In DuPage* and are challenging others to join them. They'll match, dollar-for-dollar, contributions of $250,000 or more from individuals, businesses, and other foundations, up to $1 million in total.

It's an exciting milestone, but even more exciting is what we can accomplish in the years ahead.

"When my wife Jen and I were asked to serve as Campaign co-chairs, it was an easy yes," said Bill. "For 40 years now, we've seen firsthand how DuPage Foundation brings people together to make a real difference. *All In DuPage* is about making sure those opportunities to help our neighbors continue for another 40 years, and beyond."

Jen and Bill Blum (Naperville).

This is crucial because the needs of our neighbors continue to grow. Over the last five years, requests for Health and Human Services grants to DuPage Foundation have increased by 163%, reaching a record $3 million, and the total number of grant requests we receive each year has nearly doubled.

BEHIND EVERY REQUEST IS A NEIGHBOR WITH A STORY

Becky, a DuPage resident and single mom, is one of those neighbors. She reached out for help when she and her family were experiencing homelessness.

Her journey began with DuPagePads, a Foundation grantee, where she found temporary housing and support to help her move forward. DuPagePads connected Becky with financial counseling through H.O.M.E. DuPage to build a manageable budget and mental health and substance use counseling through Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS), both Foundation grantees. With continued support, Becky eventually moved into an apartment of her own and gained the resources, confidence, and stability to maintain an independent life.

As Becky got back on her feet, she hit another bump in the road. Her aging car became unreliable, making it difficult to get to work. Through the car donation program at Loaves & Fishes Community Services, another one of our grantees, Becky received dependable transportation that helped her keep moving forward.

Megan and Steve Shebik (Wheaton).

With stable housing and reliable transportation in place, Becky and her family could begin looking toward the future. When Becky's caseworker learned that her son Jason dreamed of attending college, she connected him with Green Halo Scholars. With support from our generous donors, the organization provides first-generation and low-income students with college counseling, financial aid guidance, tutoring, mentoring, test preparation, interview coaching, and other resources that help students turn big dreams into real possibilities.

IMPACT THAT REACHES FAR AND WIDE

Becky's story is a reminder that one act of generosity can reach farther than we ever imagine. **A gift to the *All In DuPage* campaign doesn't just support one person or one organization. It helps strengthen the network of nonprofits throughout DuPage that work together to meet people where they are, help them overcome challenges, and create opportunities for brighter futures.**

For Bill and Jen Blum and Megan and Steve Shebik, that's what *All In DuPage* is all about. It's about making sure more of their neighbors, like Becky, can find the support they need when they need it most.

"We need to help our families in DuPage County, so they can help themselves get ahead and provide for their families' needs," said Megan. "DuPage Foundation has to be able to provide more and larger grants. There is so much to do, and we need to be ready."

For donors considering a gift to *All In DuPage*, the *Illinois Gives Tax Credit* provides an additional incentive. Illinois taxpayers who make qualified contributions to permanent charitable endowments, like *All In DuPage*, at community foundations can receive a state tax credit equal to 25% of their contribution, subject to program limits and availability.

Whether through the *Illinois Gives Tax Credit*, the Gustafsons' matching challenge, or a gift of any size, every contribution to *All In DuPage* helps meet our community's changing needs. We're building a stronger DuPage County together, one where nonprofits have the resources to respond, neighbors have somewhere to turn, and more families have the opportunity to build brighter futures.

Do you want to go *All In* for DuPage? Learn more about how you can support our community's future by visiting **dupagefoundation.org/AllIn** or contacting **Natalie Knight, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **natalie@dupagefoundation.org** or **630.598.5291**.

Funding for Our Future

See what happens when you support *All In DuPage*:

STEP 1

DONORS
Contribute generously through gifts of all sizes to our permanent community endowment.

STEP 2

DuPage Foundation
Invests and stewards these contributions to grow and support nonprofits now, and for years to come.

ALL IN DUPAGE

STEP 3

Our community endowments fuel annual grants to local nonprofits working to address critical needs and opportunities throughout our community.

STEP 4

NEIGHBORS LIKE BECKY
Get the support they need to build a brighter future.

From left to right: Greg Bedalov (Choose DuPage), Daniel Ash (Field Foundation), and Ray Kinney (Maclyn Group).

Event Co-Chairs Anna Ball (Ball Horticultural Company) and Chris Burke (Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd).

Event Host Committee Members Stephen Davis and daughter Jessica Ashley Garmon (The Will Group).

DuPage Leaders' Summit Sparks Community Collaboration

More than 100 leaders from across DuPage County gathered this past June with a shared purpose: to build stronger relationships in service of a stronger community.

Our inaugural *DuPage Leaders' Summit*, hosted at Ball Horticultural Company, in partnership with Choose DuPage, brought together local business, civic, and philanthropic leaders for an evening of conversation centered on two questions: What are DuPage County's greatest challenges and opportunities? And what are the greatest possibilities for collaboration?

The answer wasn't expected to come in a single evening. Instead, the *Summit* was designed to spark new relationships, build connections, encourage honest dialogue, and identify opportunities for long-term collaboration.

Keynote speaker Daniel Ash, president of the Field Foundation, shared a powerful reminder for attendees about the key to success in effective community building:

> *"Before we can solve problems and build together, we must know each other."*
>
> –Daniel Ash, President, Field Foundation

A SHARED VISION FOR DUPAGE

Participants acknowledged that DuPage County is a community with remarkable strengths, resources, and opportunity. At the same time, they recognized that challenges such as affordability, workforce development, mental health, housing, and building community connection require more than individual solutions. They require partnerships and working across community and town lines.

Across the room, one message rose above the rest: lasting progress happens when organizations, businesses, schools, government, and neighbors work together.

The *Summit* also highlighted practical opportunities to strengthen those partnerships, from expanding workforce pathways and mentorship opportunities to improving awareness of existing community resources and building stronger public-private collaborations.

For the Foundation, the gathering reflected an important part of our mission. Beyond connecting donors to community needs, we serve as a convener—bringing people together around shared challenges and shared possibilities. The *Summit* reflects our ongoing commitment to creating spaces where ideas can be shared, partnerships can grow, and community leaders can work toward a stronger future together.

From left to right: Karyn Charvat (PowerForward DuPage), Jacque Clermont (Naperville Dist. 203), Hon. Deborah Conroy (DuPage County Board), Barb Szczepaniak (DuPage Foundation), and Rena Tamayo-Calabrese (Naper Settlement).

Our sincere thanks to Event Co-Chairs Anna Ball of Ball Horticultural Company and Dr. Christopher Burke of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.; additional speakers Greg Bedalov of Choose DuPage, Hon. Deborah Conroy of the DuPage County Board, and Mike Sitrick of DuPage Foundation; moderator Karyn Charvat of PowerForward DuPage; and our stellar Host Committee.

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

This inaugural *Summit* was only the first step. As conversations continue and relationships deepen, we're reminded that DuPage's greatest strength has always been its willingness to come together.

Interested in helping host and sponsor a future gathering? Please contact **Natalie Knight, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **630.598.5291** or **natalie@dupagefoundation.org**.

4 New Funds Established Since July 2026

- Acappellago Agency Fund
- Robert and Caroline Jacobsen DuPage Historical Leadership Fund
- Jim and Jayme Karen Fund
- George and Marilyn Seagraves Fund for Rotary Club of Lombard

The Spirit of Giving Lives on Through the *Legacy Society*

A legacy is about more than what you leave behind. It's about the impact you choose to create.

More than 200 generous donors and families have joined DuPage Foundation's *Legacy Society* by including us in their will, trust, IRA, life insurance policy, or other estate plans. Their planned gifts will continue supporting the causes and organizations they care about, while strengthening DuPage for generations to come.

Every *Legacy Society* member has a different story, but they share one common goal: creating lasting impact through thoughtful philanthropy. Whether you're passionate about DuPage County, national causes, or both, our team can help you build a giving plan that reflects your values. Regardless of wealth, creating a legacy is within reach for anyone who wants to make a lasting difference.

> *"Knowing my children will have DuPage Foundation as a resource and trusted partner in managing our donor-advised fund gives me confidence that our family's charitable values will continue for generations."*
>
> – Laurie McMahon, Foundation Trustee Emerita and *Legacy Society* Member

New *Legacy Society* Members Since July 2026

Anonymous (1)

To learn more about our *Legacy Society*, visit **dupagefoundation.org/LegacySociety** or contact **Natalie Knight, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **natalie@dupagefoundation.org** or **630.598.5291**.

Charitable Minute: Smart Strategies for Year-End Giving

Simple Ways to Make a Bigger Impact in 2026 and Beyond

As the year comes to a close, many of us take time to reflect on the people and causes that matter most. It's also an ideal time to review your charitable giving and ensure it aligns with your philanthropic and financial goals.

Whether you're supporting a favorite nonprofit or exploring new giving opportunities and tax-saving strategies, thoughtful planning can help your generosity go even further.

Here are five ways to maximize your year-end giving.

1. UNDERSTAND NEW TAX LAW CHANGES

New federal tax rules took effect January 1, 2026, and may affect your charitable giving strategy. Talk with your tax advisor about what these changes mean for you.

> **For non-itemizers:** Standard deduction filers may claim a charitable deduction of up to $1,000 for individuals or $2,000 for married couples filing jointly for qualifying cash gifts. Gifts to donor-advised funds are not eligible.

> **For itemizers:** Charitable contributions must now be in excess of 0.5% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to be eligible for deductibility, and high-income taxpayers may see deduction benefits capped at a 35% marginal tax rate ceiling.

2. UTILIZE APPRECIATED ASSETS

Donating low-basis stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, and other long-term appreciated assets can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. You may avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction for the asset's full fair market value.

3. PUT *ILLINOIS GIVES* TO WORK TO RECEIVE A 25% STATE TAX CREDIT

Through the *Illinois Gives Tax Credit*, qualifying gifts to permanent endowment funds at Illinois community foundations like DuPage Foundation are eligible for a 25% Illinois state income tax credit, helping you invest in DuPage and your favorite causes and fields of interest while receiving a valuable tax benefit. Gifts to donor-advised funds are ineligible.

Illinois Gives Tax Credit Program
Donors. Nonprofits. Community.

4. DON'T OVERLOOK YOUR IRA

If you're age 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA may reduce taxable income while supporting charitable causes. If you're 73 or older, your QCD can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Up to $111,000 per individual or $222,000 per couple in QCDs may be directed to many charitable funds at DuPage Foundation or directly to nonprofits, though donor-advised funds are ineligible.

5. CONSIDER IF "GIFT BUNCHING" MAKES SENSE FOR YOU

One strategy that continues to be effective for some donors is "gift bunching."

Instead of making charitable gifts in roughly equal amounts each year, consider combining two or more years of planned gifts into a single tax year. By "bunching" your contributions, you may be able to itemize deductions in one year and take the standard deduction in subsequent years, potentially increasing your overall tax savings.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

No two charitable giving plans are exactly alike. Whether you're making a year-end gift, establishing a charitable fund, or considering a long-term giving plan, our team can help you explore your options alongside your financial, legal, and tax advisors to create lasting impact throughout DuPage and beyond.

For year-end giving dates and additional resources, contact **Natalie Knight, CFRE**, vice president for advancement, at **natalie@dupagefoundation.org**, **630.598.5291**, or visit **dupagefoundation.org/Year-End-Giving**.

Welcoming Our New Officers and Trustees

As we celebrate 40 years of strengthening DuPage County through philanthropy, we are excited to welcome a new slate of Foundation Officers and Trustees this fall.

Roger McDougal has stepped into the role of Board Chair, succeeding Bill Blum, who has completed his two-year term as Chair, and will now assume the role of Immediate Past Chair. A longtime Trustee who most recently served as Vice Chair, Roger has been part of the Foundation's leadership for years and brings a wealth of experience to his new role.

"Taking on the role of Board Chair is both an honor and a responsibility. DuPage Foundation has a long history of bringing people together to make meaningful improvements throughout our greater community, and I am excited to work alongside our Board, staff, donors, and community partners to build on that legacy. I look forward to helping expand the Foundation's impact and ensuring it remains a trusted catalyst for positive change across DuPage County."

– Roger McDougal, Foundation Board Chair

Joan Vilim has assumed the role of Vice Chair, joining Roger and returning officers Rich Cline (Secretary), Braden Waverley (Treasurer), and Bill Blum (Immediate Past Chair). These five leaders will serve as the Foundation's Board officers and play an integral part in helping advance our mission.

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

We're also pleased to welcome new Trustees Tricia Buhrfiend, Diana Doyle, and Tom Schnell to our Board. Each brings a different set of experiences and expertise to the table, along with a commitment to giving back to their community.

Tricia Buhrfiend (Elmhurst) is an attorney, certified public accountant, and member at Clingen Callow & McLean, LLC in Lisle, whose practice focuses on estate planning, estate administration, taxation, succession planning, and corporate matters. She has held leadership roles with the DuPage County Bar Association and Fox Valley Estate Planning Council, and was named the DuPage County Bar Association's 2019 Lawyer of the Year.

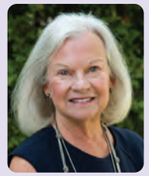
Diana Doyle (Downers Grove) is a partner at Latham & Watkins LLP where she advises multinational companies on complex tax planning and transactions. A former Chair of the firm's Chicago Tax Department, Diana also brings extensive leadership experience within the legal profession, including work supporting women in law. Diana recently co-chaired Gloria Deo Lutheran Church's capital campaign and supported the efforts of the Highland Park Community Foundation and Southern DuPage CROP Walk.

Tom Schnell (Lisle) brings more than 32 years of banking, capital markets, and investment experience. Before retiring in 2019, he served in leadership roles with J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. in Chicago and London and previously worked with PNC Bank Corporation. A DuPage resident since 1999, Tom currently serves on the Board of Loaves & Fishes Community Services.

We're grateful to these leaders for sharing their time and talents with us. Their collective expertise will help us build on the momentum of the last 40 years and continue to support our neighbors throughout DuPage.

Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Our Retiring Trustees

This fall, we're proud to celebrate and thank retiring Trustees Julie Curran, Bob Fernandez, John Kaiser, and Kevin Phillips for their distinguished leadership, service, and lasting contributions to the Foundation's mission.



Julie Curran (Hinsdale) served on the Board from 2022 to 2026. As a member and past chair of our Endowment and Campaign Committees, Julie helped shape and launch our current *All In DuPage* community endowment-building campaign. As a fierce advocate for the arts, Julie continues to serve on our *Arts DuPage* Advisory Committee.

Bob Fernandez (Downers Grove) served on the Board from 2022 to 2026. A partner at Latham & Watkins LLP, Bob provided invaluable contributions to our *Arts DuPage*, Board Development, and Bylaws Committees. He also utilized his commercial real estate expertise to support our acquisition of an adjacent office condo as part of our headquarters expansion.

John Kaiser (Glen Ellyn) served on the Board from 2017 to 2026, lending his accounting and financial expertise to our Audit, Bylaws, Executive, Campaign, Financial Operations, and Professional Advisor Committees. John's leadership, which included multiple committee chair roles, strengthened many facets of our organization, while he and his wife, Paulette, have been generous personal supporters of our mission and impact. **In recognition of John's extraordinary contributions to the Foundation, he was named as a Trustee Emeritus.**

Kevin Phillips (St. Charles) served on the Board from 2019-2026, serving as Treasurer from 2024 to 2025. A financial advisor at Savant Wealth Management, Kevin lent his financial expertise to our work serving as a member and past chair of the Investment and Financial Operations Committees. Kevin was first introduced to the Foundation when he joined our *Next Generation Initiative* in 2015.

"Serving on the DuPage Foundation Board gave me the opportunity to give back in the community where we have lived, worked, and raised our children. Over nine years on the Board, I've been amazed to see the growth of the Foundation as a philanthropic leader, bringing together government, business, donors, and nonprofits to address challenges and raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County."

—John Kaiser, Trustee Emeritus

Maureen Brink Promoted to Office Manager

Please join us in congratulating Maureen Brink on her promotion to Office Manager! Often the first friendly face to welcome visitors to DuPage Foundation, Maureen has spent the past four years helping keep our office and events running smoothly. In her new role, she'll continue to be an invaluable resource for our donors, volunteers, partners, and staff. And while it's not part of her job description, we're especially grateful for the delicious sweet treats she frequently shares with the team!

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