

The Lamp Post

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Orange County Community Foundation, Inc

The Great Philanthropic Divide Rural Communities and Philanthropy

Rural Philanthropy helps rural residents...

- *Organize their whole community around common goals.*
- *Change community self-perception from deficit and need to assets and opportunity.*
- *Provide a new local giving choice for both wealthy and modest donors.*
- *Leverage new resources from outside the community.*



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Rural areas face a long list of challenges. Declines in agricultural and manufacturing industries have devastated some rural economies. Young people continue to migrate elsewhere to pursue jobs, education, or greater social opportunities. Meanwhile, empty-nesters and retirees move back home to rural places and live on fixed incomes.

Rural places are becoming increasingly diverse, yet wealth and income disparities are widening across race and class. Across rural America there are gaps in basic services and infrastructure, such as quality medical care, high-speed communication, and even grocery stores—the kinds of everyday amenities

that most places take for granted. Rural areas account for 97% of our nation's space, and there are an estimated 2,300 rural counties in the United States. However, with more than 7,500 endowed foundations located in rural America, their assets represent only 3% of all foundation assets nationwide. Of the \$40 billion handed out each year by 80,000 US foundations, less than \$1.50 of each \$100 reaches rural America.

To add to the challenge, rural residents struggle with stereotypical images from an outsider's point of view. They are deemed as ignorant, or too self-sufficient and proud to accept aid from outside.

These challenges are difficult,

but not insurmountable. People are beginning to recognize visible assets and discover the hidden opportunities in rural areas, among them talented people, money and land, extraordinary willpower, and deeply-held charitable values. When they view themselves as places of abundance rather than places of want, rural communities can tip the scale away from crisis and toward real change. Many are discovering how to make this happen through the process of building local endowment and other philanthropic assets.

A number of recent summits and conferences addressing the need for more rural philanthropy have developed new strategies and new ways of

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Come to the Cabaret, My Friend

Once again, Orange County Players will collaborate with the Foundation in a cabaret fundraiser, featuring local performers and delicious food.

The Cabaret will be offered Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, at 6:30 PM with dinner included, and Sunday af-

ternoon, April 13, at 2:00 PM with dessert included. Tickets are available at the Foundation office, at a cost of \$20 per person for Friday or Saturday dinner performances, and \$15 per person for Sunday dessert performance.

The event takes place at the Paoli 1st Presbyterian Church,

located at 110 NE First Street, and is under the direction of Larry Hollan.

For more details, call the Foundation office at 812-723-4150 or visit us online at www.orangecountycommunityfoundation.org.

OCCF/BHOC Foundation Celebrate Administrative Professionals' Day



Guests enjoy the 2007 Ladies' Luncheon, co-sponsored by Orange County Community Foundation and the Bloomington Hospital of Orange County Foundation.

The Bloomington Hospital of Orange County Foundation will join OCCF in celebrating Administrative Professionals' Day by co-hosting a ladies' luncheon in the Windsor Ballroom of the French Lick Resort Casino.

Invitations for the event will be mailed in mid-March, and tickets for the luncheon are \$25.00. Tickets will be available from the Foundation office.

Women of every shape, size, color, nationality, and profession are invited to attend this annual function, which features a fashion show and a presen-

tation on women's health issues...not to mention a fabulous meal!

Last year's luncheon was enjoyed by more than 200 guests, many of whom went home with lavish door prizes.

This year's event will feature fashions from Chastain's Clothing, as well as vital information regarding health issues facing women.

For more information, call the OCCF office at 812-723-4150 or the BHOC Foundation office at 812-723-2811.

Nominations Open for 2008 Indiana Achievement Awards

INDIANA
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS
RECOGNIZE AND
REWARD INDIANA
NON-PROFITS FOR
THE IMPACT THEY
HAVE ON THEIR
COMMUNITIES.

Sycamore Foundation of Indianapolis is once again offering their annual Indiana Achievement Awards, meant to recognize and reward Indiana non-profit organizations for the impact they have on Indiana communities. The awards also recognize as innova-

tion and sustainability. The award program, instituted in 2000, provides the winning non-profit in each category a cash prize of \$10,000. Winners also receive a professionally-produced video showcasing their organization, an invitation to the November 18 awards luncheon at Indianapolis Marriott North, and public recognition through printed materials and targeted press releases distributed throughout the state.

Nomination guidelines and application

forms are available at the OCCF office and online at the Sycamore Foundation website (www.sycamorefoundation.org). Eligible non-profits must be 501c3 or 509a public charities, and may nominate themselves. All applications must be received no later than May 16, and must be accompanied by IRS letter of determination. A non-profit organization may submit only one application in a given year, and 2006 and 2007 winners are not eligible to apply in 2008.

Caesar's Hosts Women in Philanthropy

Caesar's Indiana will once again serve as venue for the 2008 Women in Philanthropy Awards Luncheon, this year on May 17. Female Philanthropist of the Year from each of the five sponsoring counties will be recognized at the event, along with 2008 Emerging Philanthropists, nominated from among 25- to 35-year-old women in each county. Participating are Crawford, Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Orange

and Washington County Community Foundations.

The Women in Philanthropy program was created to recognize outstanding philanthropic women, women who demonstrate their commitment to philanthropy through volunteer service, leadership roles, and monetary support of charitable causes.



2007 Female Philanthropist of the Year, Marilyn Fenton, enjoys the awards luncheon with her family in attendance.

Farewell to a Friend

Margaret Murray was a friend to many, and the epitome of a philanthropic spirit. As 2006 Female Philanthropist of the Year, Margaret was honored for her many years of work with the Bloomington Hospital of Orange County and the Orange County Humane Society. She helped establish the BHOC Foundation, and was there to raise funds for equipment and services for decades. She served as secretary for the Orange County Board of Health, assisted in the school reading program at Throop Elementary School, and was a very active

member of the Paoli Friends Meeting.

Having enjoyed more than 90 years of life, Margaret has now gone away from us. But while we mourn the loss of this very special lady, we are sincerely grateful to have been blessed with her giving presence for many years, and with the opportunity to know her as the loving soul she was.



Margaret Murray (center), with fellow Female Philanthropists Diane Dillard (left) and Marilyn Fenton at the 2007 Women in Philanthropy event..

Commissioners Supporting Organization Announces Grant Cycle

Until April 1, the Orange County Commissioners Supporting Organization accepted grant applications for its first grant cycle.

Having met its initial obligation toward textbooks in the three county school systems, the Supporting Organization has now turned its attention toward grant-making and the building of a permanent endowment to ensure future grant cycles.

The focus of the group is to provide funding for programming and projects

which made a positive and widespread impact on Orange County. Categories such as arts and culture, civic and historical, education, recreation, health and human services, community development and youth will be addressed in this initial outlay of funding.

In addition to its first grant cycle, the SO is planning to set aside a percentage of its casino revenues toward a permanent endowment, from which future grant-making can be ensured.

“THE TEST OF PROGRESS IS NOT WHETHER WE ADD MORE TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE MUCH; IT IS WHETHER WE PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE.”
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

The Tax Man Cometh...

Even as the income tax deadline once again looms over us ominously, it's time to start thinking about next year's tax planning.

Do you have enough deductions to head off the tax man next year? Did you know that charitable giving is tax deductible, so long as the recipient is designated a charitable organization under the IRS 501c(3) umbrella?

Your contributions to any fund at the

Orange County Community Foundation are not only tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the IRS code, but they also help build Orange County.

Don't know what you'd like to support? Give us a call, we can help you organize your giving and suggest funds to which you might be interested in contributing.

Were you one of those lucky enough to receive a refund this year? Contrib-

uting part of an unexpected windfall also helps hedge against next year's tax liability, and still provides funding for such things as scholarships, the arts, civic improvement, and much more.

You can even establish your own fund; and we take care of the details like investing, legal considerations, and financial management. All you do is decide what non-profit organization receives the payout



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The Great Philanthropic Divide (continued)

thinking about the assets and potential of rural areas. Rural communities build assets in necessarily inclusive ways; they transcend race and class and acknowledge that everyone is a philanthropist and everyone is a beneficiary.

Emerging rural philanthropy is both democratic and visionary. It counters the discouragement that can infect rural areas by marshalling local resources for long-term change. It changes the language of the communities from a focus on what the community lacks-deficits-to what the community has-assets. And it generates new, permanent resources in places where they did not exist before.

Rural philanthropy is proving to be a powerful tool in many areas, and one that everyone can utilize. Large private foundations have joined the effort, with names like Ford and Kellogg providing large grants for the study and development of rural philanthropy.

While the great divide still exists, it is beginning to narrow, being brought to the nation's attention by such lawmakers as Senator Max Baucus of Montana. And while many temporary strategies have been aired, it is becoming increasingly evident that what works best is when rural residents invest in their own futures by creating community endowment funds. In the

past six years, the number of geographic funds affiliated with community foundations has increased by 132%; and there are an estimated 2,000 of these funds available nationwide, with at least \$1.5 billion in endowed assets in rural areas alone.

Building a community involves not only the upgrading and improvement of infrastructure and government; it requires the widespread "feeling" of community, of belonging, of being an integral part of something greater than one's self in every resident, and the opportunity for each member of the community to be both contributor and beneficiary. That's rural philanthropy at its best.