

County Board

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Handouts

Item VII. Community Foundation of East Central Illinois – CCNH Endowment



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Champaign County Nursing Home Auxiliary Starts Endowment with Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

CHAMPAIGN. The Champaign County Nursing Home Auxiliary has established an endowment with the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois to receive donations to use to enhance and enrich the lives of Champaign County Nursing Home residents.

The Auxiliary was established in 1965 as an organization focused on improving the comfort and enjoyment of daily living for nursing home residents. "From the very beginning, our goal has been to help brighten each day for residents," recalls Auxiliary President Mary Fraser Hodson.

"The nursing home has always had a tight budget so our aim has been to pay for special things that were not in the operating budget. Because we spend lots of time in one-on-one conversations, reading to residents or helping them select items from our Busy Bee Gift Shop, we recognize needs and use our money to purchase extras or pay for activities that make residents happy," Hodson added.

Over the years, the Auxiliary has purchased items like a popcorn machine, beauty shop equipment, games, art supplies and recliners. They have purchased outdoor benches, flags and flowering landscaping materials, as well as funded various kinds of outings. The auxiliaries also voluntarily staff

activities like the immensely popular “Thursday Morning Sing-a-long” that has been occurring since the 1960s. It seems that singing old familiar songs brings out smiles and fond memories in everyone.

“As is the case with many auxiliary units these days, our group is getting smaller and older. As we look to the future, we want to ensure that our funds continue to fulfill our intended purpose. When we talked to Joan Dixon, President & CEO of the Community Foundation, it was clear that we could do exactly what we wanted by starting the Champaign County Nursing Home Auxiliary (CCNHA) Endowment,” Hodson explained.

“The Auxiliary leaders worked closely with us to write a fund agreement that preserves the fund’s original intent of enhancing the lives of nursing home residents—under any contingency,” said Dixon. “We were all pleased that their 50-year-old legacy of brightening up the daily lives of nursing home residents will endure through ongoing grants that continue to accomplish their mission,” Dixon added.

The Auxiliary members will continue to add to the endowment fund with some of their profits. They will also add contributions from family members and memorial contributions that they receive. Anyone can donate through the Community Foundation website “Donate” at www.cfeci.org. Donors just need to indicate their gift is for the Champaign County Nursing Home Auxiliary Endowment.

Additional questions can be directed to Ellen Schweitzer, CCNH Volunteer Coordinator, at 217-693-5016 or eschweitzer@co.champaign.il.us.

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The Community Foundation of East Central Illinois distributes nearly \$1 million each year through grants to non-profit organizations and scholarship recipients in its service area that includes Champaign, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Moultrie, Piatt and Vermillion Counties. For more information, visit www.cfeci.org.

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