

The SCCF's 20th Anniversary Series

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Creating a Healthy Community

When we at the Starke County Community Foundation (SCCF) consider how to distribute grants in Starke County, we think about how we can make the biggest impact on the community. We believe that supporting non-profit organizations that work in the field of health and human services is one way that we can benefit our community on a large scale. Health and human service programs help to achieve equal access to health-related services and a commitment to meeting basic human needs. This increases the quality of life for the whole community.

Community Services of Starke County has received over \$65,000 in grants from the SCCF. The grants have helped to support the food pantry and special programs, such as Support for Homemakers Program and Home Delivered Meal Program.

The staff and volunteers at Community Services of Starke County are dedicated to serving Starke County residents with dignity and with the highest standards. Their mission is “to provide dependable, quality services to low-income, elderly and disabled citizens in Starke County so they may maintain their independence in their own home.” In 2009, the organization established the Community Services of Starke County Fund with the SCCF in order to forever support them in fulfilling this mission.

Bella Vita Pregnancy Resource Center is another non-profit organization in Starke County. The SCCF has supported the organization through grants and also through their own fund, the Bella Vita Fund, which they established in 2013. Bella Vita is a partner of Care Net, which is a network of more than 1,100 pregnancy resource centers. At Bella Vita, staff and volunteers “affirm the value of life by providing practical, emotional, and spiritual support to the client.”

All of the services at Bella Vita are free and confidential. They offer pregnancy tests, pregnancy options counseling, peer counseling, community referrals, education on a variety of topics, support for men, and the “Baby Bucks” program that enables clients to earn needed maternity clothes, baby clothes, diapers, and baby furniture.

Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (CADA)/Phoenix House is another human services organization that has been supported by the SCCF. It has been awarded over \$120,000 for domestic violence education programs, equipment and furnishings for the Phoenix House, and other necessities that aid in fulfilling their mission.

The purpose of CADA/Phoenix House is similar to that of The Caring Place, Inc., which was supported by SCCF as early as 1999. The Caring Place provides services and shelter for victims of violence and their children. Additionally, it provides community education, support groups, legal counseling and case management, and independent living planning.



Bella Vita Pregnancy Resource Center accepts a check from the Starke County Community Foundation.

Finally, the Salvation Army Starke County Service Extension Unit has been supported through grants to the Emergency Assistance program. This program provides back-up resources for Starke County families experiencing financial crisis. Through the program, the unit also offers referrals to clients to assist in resolving problems that might have contributed to their need for assistance.

These are just a few of many organizations in the health and human services field that have been supported by the SCCF. The SCCF believes that helping non-profits in this field can help to promote equal health opportunities and to enhance the quality of life among Starke County residents. Next week, we'll look at how the SCCF has supported recreation and the environment in Starke County.