



The **MOLINE**
FOUNDATION

You Can Change Our Community

Happy Holidays!

Almost 70 years ago, a person you more than likely never heard of, Robert K. Swan, started The Moline Foundation with a \$350,000 gift. This original act of kindness has helped fund \$40 Million in grants to local non-profits, including more than \$500,000 this year.

An inspiring gift of generosity from a humble man who wanted to help his community confirms that indeed, one person can change the world!

Please enjoy reading about four organizations who received grant awards in 2022, and best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Warmest regards,

Paul Plagenz
The Moline Foundation
President/CEO



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
THE MOLINE FOUNDATION**





One Small Garage to Three Warehouses

Like Robert K. Swan, the first donor to The Moline Foundation, Tom and Caren Laughlin started something from the goodness of their hearts in 1982. With a simple spreadsheet in a small garage, with the help of 70 hunger-relief partners, they served 158,000 meals. Today, the River Bend Food Bank utilizes three warehouses that help serve 20 million meals with 300 partner organizations across 23 counties in Iowa and Illinois. A five-gallon drum of vinegar (a first donation) did not discourage Tom and Caren, "Every day, I was thankful to be there. It was a huge blessing." Tom shared.

Tom Laughlin noted, "Food insecurity is truly a bi-partisan issue. We can all still agree that no one should go hungry. We are so excited about the growth (through the capital campaign). We want the Food Bank to continue to grow." Indeed, it has. The Moline Foundation is proud to support this capital campaign with a \$100,000 commitment.



Local to Global

Empowering the next Generation



Established in 1919 by three men in Springfield Massachusetts with 28 students, today Junior Achievement serves more than 20,000,000 students.

Founded in 1956, Junior Achievement of the Heartland has grown to annually serve more than 50,000 students. "Junior Achievement of the Heartland has come a long way in our 66 years in the Quad Cities area" states President and CEO Dougal Nelson. In fact, Junior Achievement was one of the very first recipients of a gift from the Moline Foundation. As Mr. Nelson relayed, "at Junior Achievement, we believe in possible." The Moline Foundation is proud to continue our legacy of support by awarding \$60,000 to the new Inspiration Center.



A Journey

Science – Technology – Engineering – Arts – Math

Inspired by his STEAM education, Sam McCullum wanted to pass along his passion and understanding to local students. He started by offering classes to 100 kids and now offers classes year around including during the summer.

Serving a diverse student base, he wants to reach as many students as possible. "This is an opportunity to get exposed to STEAM learning and have a chance to see what's out there," McCullum said. The Moline Foundation is proud to assist Sam's non-profit, STEAM on Wheels, with a \$10,000 grant to support programs at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.



It started with Sam, and a journey to power STEAM!



It Takes One

The year was 1996

With one paid dancer, a dedicated board of directors and \$25, 000, Joedy Cook's dream of a professional ballet company became a reality.

Today, Ballet Quad Cities employs 14 professional dancers and stands strong as one of only 100 professional ballet companies the country.

With growth and success, it was time for a new studio space. Finding the perfect building in downtown Moline was another dream come true!

The new location at 1611-5th Avenue in Moline offers wide-open spaces without pillars which restrict movement as well room to grow and expand programming to engage, inspire...and transform our community.

"The time to Build Ballet Quad Cities Better is now! Thank you, Moline Foundation for this gift!" Joedy Cook - Founder

The Moline Foundation believed in Ballet Quad Cities and their mission by gifting \$50,000 to kick-off their Capitol Campaign



Joedy Cook



Front Concept

Ballet Quad Cities
1611 5th Avenue
Moline, IL



Giving

A Successful Team is a Group of Many Hands and one Mind (Bill Bethel) ...and one Zoo!

Thank you, Lee Jackson - Director of Niabi Zoo for letting us into your world for a day of work! The Moline Foundation team is grateful for the experience, tired, but grateful. When asked if we should do the front of the Biodiversity Building since, we had completed the back, Lee quickly said, "If you are so inclined." Indeed, we were.



Keto making sure we were doing things right!



CHEERS FOR A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

Please do not hesitate to contact The Moline Foundation if we can be of service to you. Let us help discover your story, your dream, and how you can change our community.

The Moline Foundation

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