

Honoring a Mother's Legacy and Love

Laura Stolz Memorial Scholarship



Laura Stolz

Pursuing a passion can happen at any age.

Laura Stolz, a wife and mother, had always known she wanted to teach young children, and at 48 years old she decided to fulfill this dream. She returned to college, receiving her degree in Elementary Education with a Special Education minor from the University of Northern Iowa in 2005.

Laura's love and compassion could be seen daily in the classroom. As a special education teacher at AEA 267 Castle Hill School in Waterloo, she was a positive role model for her students.

"It just started as an idea to honor my mother and grew into something that I know she would be proud of."

JEREMY STOLZ

Son and Fund Founder

Sadly, Laura suddenly passed away in 2012 at age 59, leaving behind her family and her students.

After her death, Laura's son, Jeremy Stolz, was looking to keep his mother's legacy of education alive, so in 2016 he established the Laura Stolz Memorial Scholarship with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa to honor her memory.

"It just started as an idea to honor my mother and grew into something I know she would be proud of," said Jeremy.

The annual scholarship award will assist graduates of New Hampton High School in New Hampton, Iowa planning to pursue a Special Education teaching degree.

"My mother was so fond of teaching, so proud of her students, and glad to have been given the opportunity to return to school later in life," said Jeremy. "Her enthusiasm for education spurred the idea to build a memorial scholarship fund that will allow others to pursue their passion for education."

During her life, Laura changed the lives of her students and their families for the better. Now her passion for students and education will live on for generations. 

For more information on starting a fund, visit our website at cfnea.org/giving, or contact us at 319-287-9106.

2016 Scholarships IMPACT

A scholarship can change the life of a student pursuing higher education.

Thanks to donors with a passion for supporting student dreams, CFNEIA was able to award more in scholarships than ever to deserving students.

\$444,525
total amount
awarded

272
scholarships
awarded

237
students
impacted

Apply Now!

Let the students in your life know the online application for 2017 scholarships is now available at cfnea.org/scholarships. The deadline for students to apply is **March 8**.

go online



for more

Visit cfnea.org

CELEBRATE MORE

KAYE ENGLIN
President and CEO



Celebration of Community

Event rounds out 60th anniversary year

Celebrating 60 years of good in 2016 was amazing. Let's keep the momentum going and celebrate even more in 2017.

As you read through this newsletter, you will read a lot about celebration. It is one of the many joys of being part of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Everyday there is something to celebrate.

In 2016, we celebrated the milestone of our 60th anniversary. It was a tremendous year filled with examples of our "here for good" philosophy. Here are a few highlights:

- CFNEIA and its affiliates granted over \$5 million to nonprofit and government entity projects actively improving the quality of life in our communities.
- A record number of scholarships were awarded, helping 237 students realize their dreams of higher education through over \$444,000 in scholarships.
- The Good Things Happening photo contest saw people submit over 300 photos of the good happening around them, bringing encouragement to all of us and showing the good that can happen when we come together.

We are only able to celebrate all of this and more because of people like you. Since 1956, generous people have made it possible for us to celebrate year after year.

As we enter 2017, I am mindful of our history and excited for our future. I challenge all of us to keep celebrating what we want to see more of. With this at the forefront of our minds, we will not lose the drive and passion that keeps us moving forward, allowing us to create a vibrant region of thriving people forever.

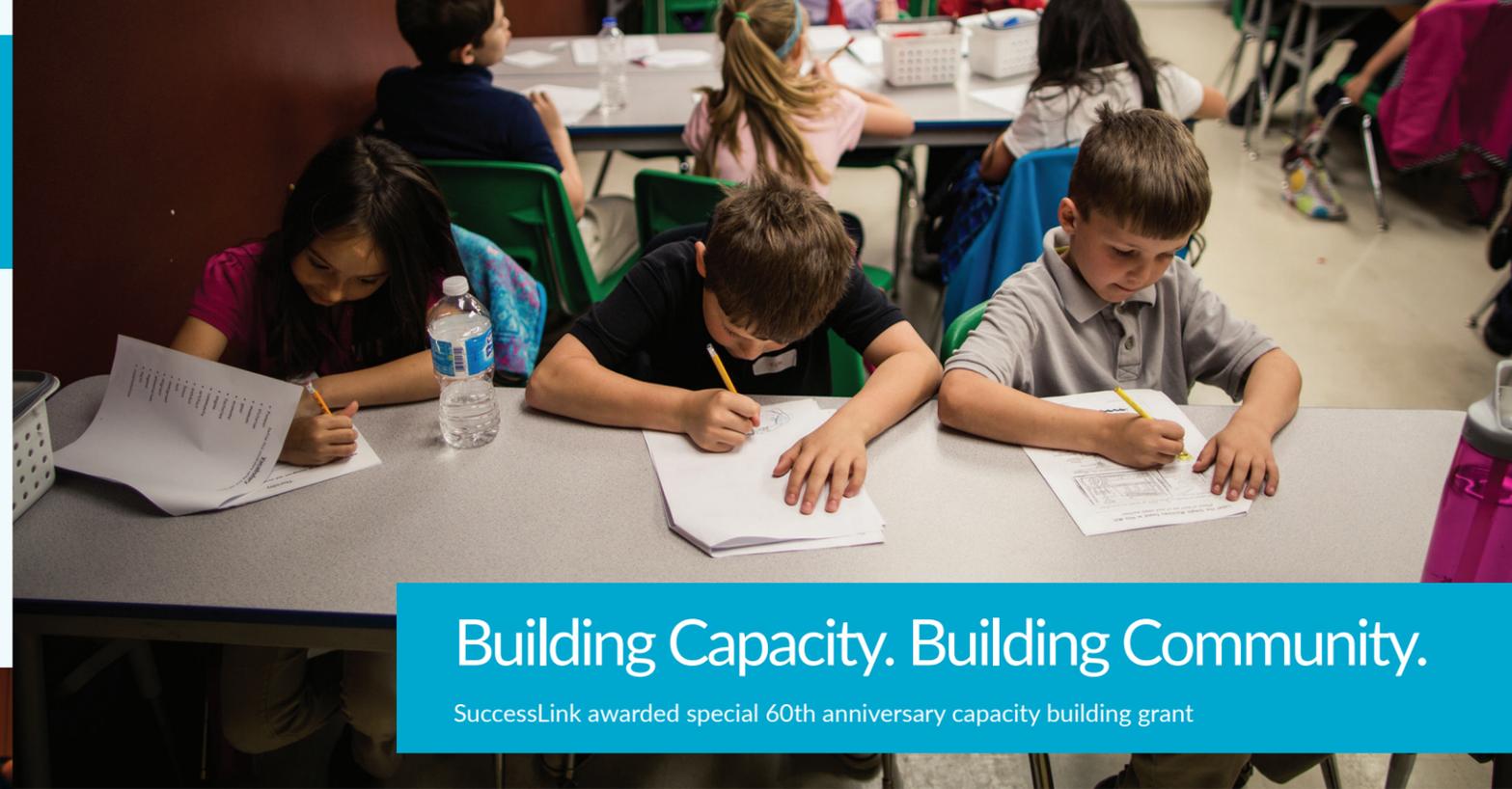
Thank you for always being part of this celebration of good. 

On November 4, 2016, CFNEIA brought together partners from across its region to celebrate the good things we are doing together at its annual Celebration of Community. Nearly 300 people attended the event, held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Not only was it a celebration of 2016, but a celebration of 60 years of inspiring people and connecting resources to enrich our communities.



Current President and CEO, Kaye Englin, celebrates CFNEIA's 60th anniversary with the Foundation's first President and CEO, Mary Ann Burk, at the Celebration of Community event on November 4.



Building Capacity. Building Community.

SuccessLink awarded special 60th anniversary capacity building grant

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa knows growth for good doesn't happen without building nonprofit capacity. The Foundation also understands these funding opportunities are more difficult to find, so as CFNEIA began its 60th anniversary year in 2016, it announced a special \$50,000 capacity building grant opportunity.

"Through grant applications and conversations with nonprofit leaders, we identified building capacity as a real area of need for our nonprofit partners," said Tom Wickersham, CFNEIA Program Director.

At the annual Celebration of Community event, the Foundation announced SuccessLink as the grant recipient of the \$50,000 capacity building grant.

The grant will provide funding for one of SuccessLink's main services, the Data Project, a community-wide data system.

This system began in 2001 as an attempt to capture data at the individual level in efforts to better track and measure outcomes. Data is gathered from the area school districts as well as many youth serving agencies such as Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA and Big Brothers Big Sisters. This data can range in complexity from individual school and health data to census and large aggregate data. The design allows quick retrieval of information demonstrating what is happening in the Cedar Valley. The Data Project helps make decisions about growing, changing, or ending programs based on measured value.

"This grant opportunity was designed to help agencies become stronger, more effective, and more capable as they move into the future," said Wickersham. "SuccessLink and its Data Project are an essential partner in doing just that for multiple agencies."



SuccessLink Executive Director, Brad McCalla, (middle) with CFNEIA President and CEO, Kaye Englin, and CFNEIA Program Director, Tom Wickersham, at the Celebration of Community event.

Seen by some as the backbone of continual improvement for many community nonprofits, SuccessLink provides a wide array of services to community agencies, ranging from IT support and database development to grant writing, contracting service providers, and serving as a fiscal agent. The organization works closely with local school districts, and has helped both Cedar Falls and Waterloo become designated Blue Zone projects.

"We would like to thank the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa for this generous grant," said Brad McCalla, SuccessLink Executive Director. "The \$50,000 grant will allow us to work with many additional community agencies and better track specific outcomes that will allow them to run more successful and efficient programs." 

For more information on SuccessLink and their programs, visit their website at www.successlink.us.



Contest Shows Good Things Happening



Randy Darst claimed the first place prize with this photo, "wcf-symphony live at RiverLoop Amphitheater."

So much good has happened over 60 years because of the people who partner with the Community Foundation. To help show off the good that is happening today, and to help celebrate this milestone anniversary, CFNEIA launched the Good Things Happening photo contest.

The six-week contest encouraged people to submit photos of the good things they saw happening in Black Hawk County. Ten individual winners were selected each week by local judges with each winner selecting a nonprofit to receive a \$100 microgrant.

Over 300 photos were submitted, and \$13,000 in grants were awarded through the contest to nonprofits serving Black Hawk County.

"We owe a huge thanks to all participants for submitting truly inspiring photos," said Kaye Englin. "The images are a testament to the great things people in our communities are doing to make them better and stronger for everyone."

Two grand prize winners were selected from all entries. Randy Darst's photo, wcf-symphony Live at RiverLoop Amphitheater, was the first place winner, and Daniel Luepke's photo titled, Green Iowa Americorp Gardening with YMCA Kids, received second place. Darst received a \$5,000 grant which he awarded to wcf-symphony and Luepke received a \$2,000 grant which he awarded to Green Iowa Americorp for Black Hawk County programming.

All pictures submitted to the contest can be found on the CFNEIA Facebook page at [facebook.com/cfneia](https://www.facebook.com/cfneia) under the albums. Weekly contest winners can be found [cfneia.org/goodthings-winners](https://www.cfneia.org/goodthings-winners).

**Funds used for this contest were restricted for use of CFNEIA's 60th anniversary in Black Hawk County.*



Daniel Luepke's entry, "Green Iowa Americorp Gardening with YMCA Kids" was awarded the second place prize.



Investing in a Successful Start for Children



Staff and children of The Learning Center (TLC) benefit from grants awarded by the Floyd County Community Foundation.

Communities across Iowa take great pride in education of their youth. Community members understand children are the future leaders and caretakers of the communities they love. The Floyd County Community Foundation and its committee members believe in the power of education and have invested in an area leader giving youth in their county a head start on their educational journey.

The Learning Center (TLC) in Charles City specializes in childcare and promotes continuous learning through age-appropriate curriculum taught to the children they serve. The child center cares for children ranging from six-weeks to four years old and the curriculum is taught to all, including infants. The children's curriculum programs are threaded throughout their time at TLC until they move on to elementary school.

The Floyd County Community Foundation has provided over \$30,000 in grants to TLC since 2008 to assist with the purchase of various needs for their center and programs for children and

staff. TLC depends on donors to keep their standards high and views the Community Foundation as a partner in success.

"The Foundation knows who we are, what our purpose is, what we are working toward. Without those grants, we couldn't continue what we are doing now," said Shirley Kelly, TLC Board Co-President.

According to Kelly, children who have been cared for by TLC exceed average test scores once they enter school, and though an educational jumpstart is important to parents, they place even more value on the reliability of the center and staff.

"We are here to help mom and dad who are in the world. We are open every week day. We provide stability for the families in Charles City," said Kelly.

By working together, the organizations continue to create a thriving community today and in the future.

Planning a future for you and your community



KATHY FOLKERTS
Folkerts Financial Services

For over 15 years, Kathy Folkerts of Folkerts Financial Strategies in Waverly has been assisting people with planning their financial futures. She is also part of making her community a better place and understands they are not mutually exclusive.

"Charitable giving should be part of our everyday language and life," said Folkerts. "I ask clients if charitable giving is going to be part of their financial plan. Some have never considered it and didn't realize it could be carried out through their estate plan, insurance, or other vehicles available."

When appropriate, Folkerts refers clients to the Community Foundation because of the benefits it presents to them and their community. She cites the opportunity to leave a legacy, knowledgeable

staff, tax benefits, including the Endow Iowa 25% state tax credit, and flexibility of giving options.

Folkerts has made plans to strengthen her community by including the Waverly Community Fund in her financial goals.

"I feel strongly about giving back to the communities we live in," said Folkerts. "We have been blessed in where we work, live and play because of the people before us who did the work, and through their generosity, have given us this quality of life."

To find more information on leaving a legacy for your community, go to [cfneia.org/legacy](https://www.cfneia.org/legacy).

Grantmaking Snapshots

PROJECT: MARY WELSH PLAYGROUNDS

Students at Mary Welsh Elementary in Williamsburg have a new, safe playground thanks in part to an over \$4,800 grant. Part of the PALS (Parents and Leaders for Students) playground campaign, the new equipment not only increased safety, but usage by local families of the playground also increased. This grant specifically covered the cost of the important initial groundwork which allowed PALS to purchase a six swing playground set, teeter totter, a musical instrument playground piece and buddy benches.



PARENTS AND LEADERS FOR STUDENTS (PALS)

IOWA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PROJECT: FIRE EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Mason City Fire Department received a \$3,000 grant for its Fire Explorer Program. The program is a collaboration with the Boy Scouts of America that provides boys and girls interested in a career in the field of fire and EMT services with an opportunity to learn more. The Explorer Program allows youth ages 14-20 to participate in a cross section of the training including fire safety, first aid and emergency medicine training. The youth also develop emergency management skills, gain physical fitness, leadership methods and learn teamwork.



MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

CERRO GORDO COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PROJECT: CRESCO RAILROAD COMPANY TRAIN RESTORATION

The Cresco Railroad Company purchased a three-car flatbed train over 30 years ago to represent Cresco's heritage as a pioneer city and the role of the railroad in its development. The \$3,000 grant assisted in the restoration of the locomotive, including providing a safe stairway, painting of the train, and general clean-up of the area. The Railroad Company completed this project for the city's Sesquicentennial in July and this train has become a tourist destination in Howard County.



CITY OF CRESCO

HOWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

New Staff



TERRY GAUMER, AFFILIATE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

We are excited to introduce Terry Gaumer, who joined our development team in November. Terry is building relationships with our affiliate partners and donors across our region, and can help you meet your charitable goals. Terry brings over 30 years experience in financial services and marketing, along with experience serving as committee chair of our affiliate, the Buchanan County Community Foundation, to her role.



ANDREA PINGEL, MARKETING ASSOCIATE

Andrea Pingel has been part of the marketing department for a year, but we are excited to announce her recent move to her full-time position. Andrea is helping with all aspects of marketing for CFNEIA and our affiliates with emphasis on content creation and social media. Andrea is a 2015 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and holds a degree in English.

New Funds

FUNDS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 AND JANUARY 20, 2017

- Balik Family Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Cedar Valley Pridefest Fund
- Davis Family Foundation Fund
- Dr. Frank E. and Marit N. Veltri Fund
- Elma Early Childhood Center Fund
- Elma Fire and Rescue Fund
- Elma Park Fund
- Harold and Elsie Koob Scholarship Fund
- Jacklyn Frink Rubendall Fund
- Jesse Cosby Neighborhood Center Endowment Fund
- Laura Stolz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Manie Foundation Fund
- Maynard Jaspers Family Northwood Methodist Scholarship Fund
- Rally Point Cedar Valley Veterans Endowment Fund
- Richard and Barbara Weiner Foundation (Quasi)
- Robert A. Sloan Scholarship Fund
- The First Freedom, Inc. established by Elaine Rose Govern Fund

CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED FUNDS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE ENDOW IOWA TAX CREDIT. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO CFNEIA.ORG OR CALL US AT 319-287-9106.



Visit cfneia.org for a list of all funds

Women in Philanthropy awards 2016 grants

CFNEIA's Women in Philanthropy awarded grants from the Women's Fund to two Black Hawk County nonprofits serving women and children at their annual holiday reception and grant award ceremony on December 8.

House of Hope received a \$6,000 grant for its Build Hope Capital Campaign to relocate and expand services to single mothers and their children.

The Job Foundation was also awarded a \$6,000 grant for their financial mentoring program. This program pairs low-income mothers and children with mentoring families, and establishes a savings account for each child who participates.

If you are a woman interested in impacting the lives of women and girls, visit our website at cfneia.org/womeninphilanthropy.

Board Fundamentals taps into nonprofits' boards strengths



On November 15, CFNEIA held a Board Fundamentals workshop to help nonprofit partners maximize their board of director's talents. Titled "Tapping into Your Board," the workshop included a webinar from the Stanford Social Innovation Series followed by discussion. The program was attended by 34 nonprofit board members and staff.

CFNEIA's Board Fundamentals is a program established to assist nonprofit partners in developing a stronger board of directors.

Look for upcoming Board Fundamental events for nonprofit partners at cfneia.org.



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF NORTHEAST IOWA

here for good.

3117 Greenhill Circle
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

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Return service requested

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is a nonprofit committed to creating long-term impacts in 20 counties in Iowa. CFNEIA helps people establish funds for the causes they care about and makes grants to organizations creating a stronger and more vibrant quality of life for everyone.

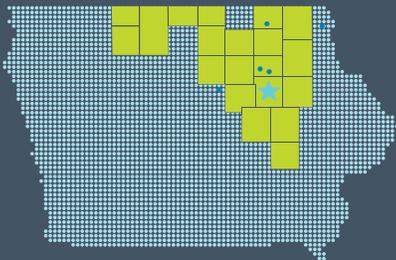
Our Mission

To inspire people and connect resources to enrich our communities.

Our Vision

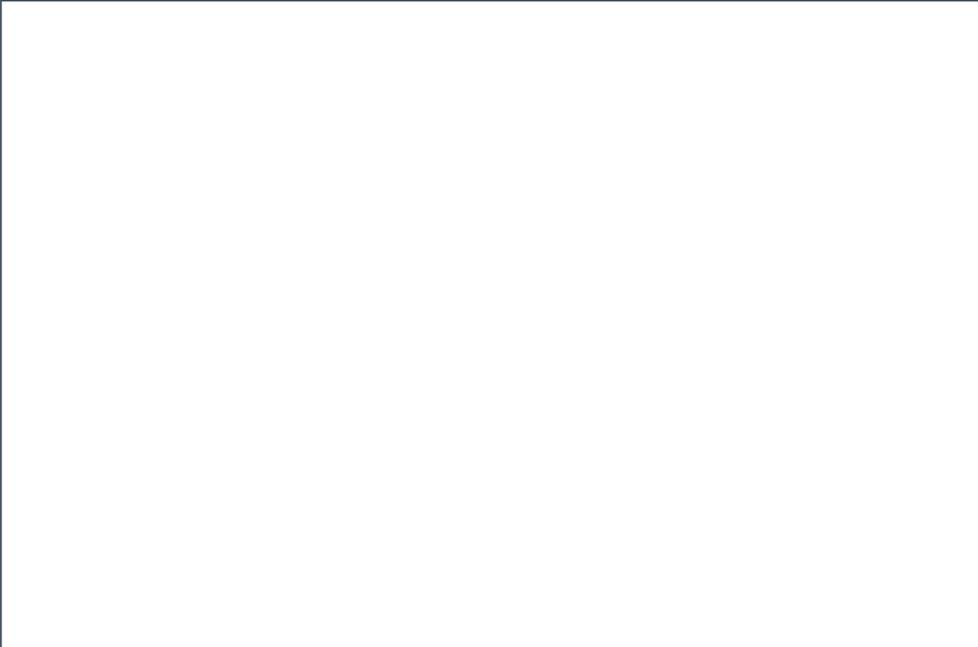
A vibrant region of thriving people.

CFNEIA SERVICE AREA



- ★ CFNEIA Office
- County Affiliates
- Community Affiliates

- Ackley Community
- Benton County
- Black Hawk County
- Bremer County
- Buchanan County
- Butler County
- Cerro Gordo County
- Chickasaw County
- Elma Area Community
- Emmet County
- Fayette County
- Floyd County
- Franklin County
- Grundy County
- Howard County
- Iowa County
- Kossuth County
- Palo Alto County
- Readlyn Community
- Tama County
- Waterville Community
- Waverly Community
- Winnebago County
- Winneshiek County
- Worth County



319-287-9106 cfnea.org



Endow Iowa Tax Credit

CFNEIA is a qualified community foundation that provides access to Endow Iowa Tax Credits. Taxpayers can receive a 25% Iowa tax credit through Endow Iowa in addition to normal federal charitable income tax deductions for certain charitable gifts.

CFNEIA is Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

Our accreditation provides assurance that we have sound policies and practices in place. In short, it means we meet the highest standards for local giving.



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™