MAY CAPSTONE CEREMONY
$75,000 in Grants Awarded
Seniors Raise $127,647

In the packed second-floor ballroom of the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association on May 23, the FPP Class of 2022 and Class of 2023 put on a memorable Capstone Ceremony. It was highlighted by the announcement that $75,000 in grants, a record, was awarded to nonprofit organizations in Oak Park, River Forest and bordering communities including the Austin Neighborhood. The juniors granted $50,000 and the seniors granted an additional $25,000 in response to the significant increase in needs due to the effects of COVID-19.

The junior cohort received requests for grants from 26 community organizations, also a record, for a grand total of $171,000. After careful and diligent consideration, they approved the following grants:

- Access Living: $3,000
- Beat the Streets: $7,000
- Farmer and Landscaper Project: $6,000
- Hephzibah: $4,000
- Kidz Express: $5,000
- Quinn Center: $6,000
- Sarah's Inn: $5,000
- YEMBA: $7,000
- Youth Outreach Services: $7,000

The senior cohort received requests for grants from 23 other community organizations. These small grants were intended to provide general operating support for whatever the organization determined to be their greatest needs during the pandemic. The seniors approved the following grants:

- A House in Austin: $1,000
- African American Christian Foundation: $1,000
- Austin Children’s Providers: $1,750
- Cluster Tutoring: $2,000
- Defy: $2,000
- Infant Welfare Society: $2,500
- Institute for Positive Mental Health: $2,000
- Leyden Services: $2,000
- Oak Park Education Foundation: $2,500
- Parents Allied with Children and Teachers: $2,500
- PING: $1,250
- Sisterhouse: $2,500
- Welcome to Fatherhood: $2,000

The senior cohort is tasked with raising money each year so that the FPP Endowment Fund can continue to grow and provide more grants to nonprofits to support their important services. The current Class of 2022 mounted a year-long fundraising campaign in September 2021 using such techniques as letter writing, personal asks and fundraising events such as a live silent auction, dine and share and a 5K race. After all their hard work, the seniors were able to raise a total of $127,647.

Congratulations and job well done!

FPP Class of 2022

FPP Class of 2023
Giving USA, the authoritative source for philanthropic data analysis, recently reported that giving to charities reached a record $485 billion in 2021. That was $14 billion more than 2020, a modest 4% increase which was pretty much wiped out when adjusted for inflation last year. Yet, despite the effects of COVID, high unemployment and global economic crises, the U.S. donors still contribute more money to charity than any other country in the world.

- Individuals donated 67% of total giving or $327 billion. By comparison, in 2019 individuals represented 69% of total giving and in 2015 they represented 72%. This downward trend, while concerning, has been offset by increases in giving by foundations. Last year, foundations accounted for 19% of all giving. In 2019, it was 17% and in 2015 it was 15%. Corporate giving has been flat at 4-5% for the last 6 years.

- Religious organizations have received the lion’s share of charitable giving for as long as this data has been recorded. Last year, they received $135 billion or 27% of total giving. In 2019, religious organizations received 29% of all donations. In 2015, they received 32%. This downward trend is consistent with the nearly 30- year decline in the percentage of people who say they are connected to a religious organization.

- As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, giving in the U.S. accounted for 2.1%. This percentage has been steady for the past 20 years at an average of 2%. By comparison, in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the share of GDP represented by giving had been at 1.9%.

Philanthropy continues to be a growth industry. The number of nonprofits in this country has seen steady increases for the past decade which currently stands at 1,404,170 tax-exempt organizations. Check out the charts supplied by Giving USA for further information.

* Total includes unallocated giving, which totaled -$26.75 billion in 2021  
** Estimates developed by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy using data provided by Candid.
UKRAINE AID REVISITED

As reported in our last newsletter, junior and senior FPP students along with their mentors organized a drive to collect donations for Ukrainian refugees following the Russian invasion of their homeland on February 24. Ukraine Aid took place on April 14-16. Partnering with Pete’s Market store in Oak Park, on those days shoppers were greeted at the door by FPP teens who gave them a list of items that are in great need to Ukrainian refugees such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, baby products, feminine hygiene items, first aid/medical products, school supplies and more. Shoppers who added these items to their shopping list then donated them upon exiting the store. Many shoppers also gave cash donations which helped defray the cost of air transport.

More than 2,000 pounds of goods were donated and approximately $4,500 in cash was contributed.

With the help of students who are attending Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine, all of the donated supplies reached their intended recipients. The cargo arrived at the University the week of May 16. The 73 boxes that were shipped were unpacked and sorted and repacked into smaller bags and then delivered by the students to women, children and the elderly who had been displaced from the Eastern Ukraine region. Andrii Gubar, director of development at the UCU Foundation, helped coordinate the distribution of goods to those in need. He also extended his most sincere thanks to all the FPP students, mentors and community volunteers who made this happen.

“Thank you for your help and belief in our victory. Thanks to the support of millions of people around the world, Ukraine is still resisting and repelling the enemy. After our victory, we sincerely look forward to seeing you in Ukraine at our University to personally thank you for your support and generosity.”

– Andrii Gubar, UCU Foundation
Why FPP Works So Well

By Maille O’Donnell

To me, the most exciting and empowering piece of this program was being trusted to effectively allocate real money in real time by collaboration with my cohort and working with adult mentors who really made me feel like my voice, as a 16-year old, mattered. Yes, there are a lot of youth empowerment programs out there, but this is one that truly “walks the talk” in terms of actually giving students the sole responsibility to allocate philanthropic capital and to raise significant amounts of money. It goes beyond just training them to do something sometime in the future, like many other youth leadership programs.

It also offers a connection to mentors and an alumni network of FPP graduates. Things like having mentors serve as professional references in some capacity with college or job apps and alumni networking that play a huge role in helping someone hit the ground running in the professional world are really valuable.

Dr. Elvira Kizilova, assistant professor of marketing at Dominican University Brennan School of Business, and her 14-year old son, Artem, delivered a compelling presentation to the current FPP junior and senior cohorts in April following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Dr. Kizilova and Artem relocated to Oak Park two years ago for their own protection since she had been an outspoken critic of Russia’s occupation of Crimea, her birthplace. Her mother, Antonina, who was still in Crimea, decided to join her daughter and grandson after Russia’s attack on Ukraine. Following a harrowing and circuitous series of flights through Eastern Europe, including Moscow, she arrived in Oak Park to join her family. They were honored at this year’s Capstone Ceremony.

Maille has worked at the Global Food Institute based in Washington, DC since graduating from the University of Maryland. She is a member of the FPP Class of 2015 and she sits on the Three Pillars Initiative board of directors which is directing the expansion of the FPP model program in communities across the country.
The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society celebrated the grand opening of its new home and its Children’s Clinic on June 9, 2022. It was an open house event with guided tours of the completed space, a 14,250 square foot, 2-story brick building, located at the northeast corner of Madison and Humphrey. The entire 1st floor was gutted to expand its Children’s Clinic. The 2nd floor is used by the Society as program and administration spaces.

The event featured a special ribbon-cutting ceremony with Emmy-winning journalist Zoraida Sambolin and Dr. David Ansell, Senior Vice President of Community Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center, who spoke to the Clinic’s work in improving access to healthcare for children and families from marginalized communities. The event was hosted outdoors under a tent in the organization’s private 38-spot parking lot north of the building.

Over the course of four years, the Society received nearly $5 million dollars in contributions to purchase and renovate the space for its Children’s Clinic to further support the health and well-being of children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We cannot thank our community enough for stepping forward to help us achieve this dream. We are more committed than ever to meeting the health and well-being needs of children through integrated medical, dental and behavioral healthcare, and look forward to rolling out additional programming to address other unmet needs of the population we serve,” stated Executive Director Peggy LaFleur. “This building is a physical manifestation of the dream we have for all children – helping them grow-up healthier, stronger and more resilient.”

Students in the Future Philanthropists Program have frequently provided grant funding for the Children’s Clinic including a grant in 2022.
Long-serving Mentor Reflects on FPP Experience

By Cindy Milojevich

There are many notable aspects to the Future Philanthropists Program. But let’s start with the most important – the student philanthropists themselves. The superb pool of capable students each year never disappoints. The goal of the program is to seek out students from across all of our community high schools that have a passion and interest in sharing their leadership and caring skills in a philanthropic way, and those willing to make a 2 year commitment above and beyond their current school activities, sports, and personal duties. What a lofty, yet noble goal. Each student must go through a formal application process which includes an interview in front of a board of mentors (typically consisting of about eight adults). It is a daunting task in which they all succeed. Although intimidating, year after year the students say it is always among their most important learning experiences from the program. The selection process is challenging to say the least, but every year the vetting process allows the adult team to find 25-30 amazing and top-notch students with whom to work. But as a mentor, we gain more than the students – we learn about what drives this Generation Z, what motivates them, and what makes them want to be philanthropists.

Once selected, students are teamed up with a mentor. I had the privilege of being a mentor for six years working with three teams of students. Each team was with me for two years. Those students became a small family and we worked together to meet the FPP goals. I loved my small group and getting to know them personally. Some of them still stay in touch as college students and into their early careers! As a prior OPRFHS administrator, I especially enjoyed the crosstown collaboration between Fenwick, Trinity, OPRF and a few St. Ignatius students sprinkled in. What a great way for students to bond in our community over a common cause.

Although I have recently stepped down as a mentor, the students that I have worked with, the things they accomplished, and most importantly the things that I personally learned about philanthropy will be long remembered. I loved the opportunity to be a part of this one-of-a-kind program.

Priceless is Worthless

By Joe Smith, FPP Mentor

"Money is not the root of all evil. The lack of money and the reckless pursuit of it is."

– George Bernard Shaw

Let me begin this essay with an important disclaimer: I love The Antiques Road Show. It could be because I am rapidly becoming an antique myself.

My favorite episodes are the retrospectives in which the price of an antique from a previous time is reappraised years later. Sometimes the price increases and sometimes it decreases, but it is still the same object. What happened?

Complexly put: the material value of the item is arbitrary. The cost to make it remains the same and the emotional value it can provide may increase or decrease over time. It could be priceless to someone and worthless to someone else. It is all about perception.

How does this apply to our shared experience as part of FPP? In your junior year you did not give money with a singular and spontaneous action. You granted money. You read proposals, made site visits and negotiated the process. You were made aware of the fact you were the stewards of resources that someone else placed in your trust.

In your senior year you built upon that stewardship by paying the price of performing fund raising activities. Planning, executing and evaluating the process of having conversations with donors, executing events and still finding time to provide service to others contributed to the ongoing value of FPP.

You paid a price in time, commitment, and responsibility. Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1983 said:

“Priceless things matter not for their value, but because they offer us an enduring reminder of stability and permanence.”

We thank you for making FPP a permanent and enduring endeavor. We hope you have that perception too.

We will always be your Mentors.
Reaching Consensus
by Estefania Linarez, FPP '23

In the excerpt “Invent Options for Mutual Gain,” from Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In by Roger Fisher and William Ury, it discusses the importance of creating options and going into negotiations with an open mind to increase the chances of coming to a consensus with the other members. The article states how people will often go into negotiations with premature judgment or will come in with a very narrow mindset. This is extremely unhelpful when trying to negotiate with someone because it often wastes a lot of time trying to convince others to take the same viewpoint and may not even reach consensus in the large amount of time spent negotiating. The excerpt also gives advice on what someone should do to increase their chances to reach a consensus that satisfies what they want when negotiating. For example, instead of going into a negotiation with one idea of what you want, come in with lots of different ideas. It makes it easier to reach success with someone when you present them with a lot of options rather than just one.

This article was extremely helpful when it came to negotiating which organizations we wanted to award grants to and how much money we wanted to grant to those groups. With a total of fifty thousand dollars we are able to give away, there is a limited number of organizations that we would be able to give to. So, it was vital for each group in the Junior Cohort to create options to make sure every organization each group wants to fund is funded. However, this was a difficult task in itself due to the fact that the majority of organizations that applied to this grant requested the maximum amount that outlined in the applications. With this issue in mind, each group created ranking sheets of which organizations they wanted to fund and how much money they wanted to fund them. This proved to be extremely helpful because we were able to see which organizations everyone agreed should be funded and which ones we should not be funding. By creating options of funding amounts for each different organization, we were able to come to a consensus.

On the website Seeds for Change, they created a short guide called Introduction to Consensus Decision Making. This article contains many tips pertaining to why it is important to come to a consensus. By reaching a consensus, it creates an opportunity for everyone to share power and listen to many other viewpoints that may not be as popular. Also, decisions are made a lot more efficiently. It even gives a step-by-step process on how to reach a consensus. The process mentions to clarify the issue at hand to prevent any confusion about what the group should be discussing. It also mentions that it’s important to make it an open discussion and to let everyone talk. More ideas are shared this way and also prevents any animosity from being created. Lastly, the guide states to make it clear what you agree with and what you disagree with when trying to create consensus to avoid any confusion.

All in all, I learned that it’s important to come into negotiations with many options and clear viewpoints to increase the chances of reaching a consensus. These two things proved to be very useful during the large group meeting in March because each group in the cohort came in with different viewpoints. By creating different options, we were able to come to a consensus about the organizations we all wanted to fund. Without reading the articles beforehand, it would have been more difficult to come to a conclusion about which organizations should be funded.

Storytelling
by Jasmine Davis, FPP ‘22

We’ve all heard a story before, whether it’s one that we’ve read to a little sibling or one that we have heard ourselves as children. Storytelling has been around since the beginning of time in order to help preserve the memories and wisdom of those who came before us. In this article titled, “Using Digital Tools To Tell Your Story” by Beth Kanter, the reader is taught how to properly tell one’s story through everyday media. She starts off by telling us that your storytelling must be connected to your main communication strategy, and that there are three main parts to storytelling. She asks us to ponder the difference between passive and active co-creation in regards to the different levels of engagement. She then goes on to take us through different types of platforms and the different ways in which we can tell our stories. Overall, Kanter provides the reader with Do’s and Don’ts in regards to storytelling and how we can use these techniques to boost our own platforms more effectively.

Throughout my time at the Future Philanthropists Program, we have used storytelling techniques in a number of ways. For example, in order to spread the word about our donation drives and our philanthropic events, we have had to use social media networks such as Snapchat and...
The Learning Corner

Writings of FPP Students

**STORYTELLING – continued from previous page**

Instagram to tell our story to our friends and followers. By telling our story via social media, we were able to gain more attraction and invite more people to participate in our events. We told our story through art, through coffee get-togethers, auctions, and more. In addition, we really had to tell our story when it came to the Ukrainian aid at Pete’s fresh market. For every new customer that attempted to walk into Pete’s Market, we had to quickly tell our story to them in order to gain their attention. We had to tell them why we were doing what it is we were doing and how we planned to get it done. By telling our story to the customers walking into the grocery store, we were able to gain their interest and their help towards our Ukrainian aid.

Jessica Thiefels further supports this argument with her article titled, "The Art of Storytelling: What I’ve learned in 8 years of writing". Her goal is to provide her reader with easy strategies to follow in order to tell an effective story. She brings up similar points by stating, "Powerful stories are ones that your reader can connect with and relate to. Don’t be a selfish or show-off writer; the art of storytelling is drawing the reader in so they think it’s about them. Yes, you can use personal experiences, like I’m doing here, but don’t make it purely about you. Always weave the reader into your story, giving examples and stats that give them something to think about and connect with throughout." (Thiefels) Her strategies include keeping it concise, being strong with your word, hooking your reader, relating to your audience, and being funny! All of these strategies can be used to keep your audience on their toes and to keep their minds open.

With the help of both of these readings I have learned what is needed in order to properly tell a story for the success of your business/brand. The main thing I took away from this was that it’s extremely important to make your audience feel included and seen. People like relating to things because as humans we like to make things about ourselves, therefore making my story as relatable as possible will help gain the attention of my target audience. I also learned that I must continue to connect my story back with my main idea in order to remind my reader of the end goal. Overall both of these articles have enhanced my philanthropic abilities greatly and I cannot wait to put them to use!

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"Philanthropy, charity, giving voluntarily and freely... call it what you like, but it is truly a jewel of an American tradition” remarked John F. Kennedy decades ago. Philanthropy is an American tradition and has been ingrained in our citizenry so that it is in our nature to give voluntarily. This resulted in Americans donating nearly 485 billion dollars in 2021, with 67% of that coming from individuals (Giving USA). There are many factors that encourage philanthropy in the United States and prompts it to be a prominent component of our society, including the history of religious charity, the legislative encouragement of nonprofits, and the economic benefits of tax deductibility for donors.

The history of religious donations has led the United States philanthropic sector to be a prominent component of our society. For centuries there has been a strong relationship between religion and philanthropy, as religion generally encouraged philanthropic giving. Early in the development of the United States, “coalitions of interdenominational religious societies were formed, totaling hundreds of thousands of members, and raising several millions dollars annually. These groups concentrated on religious causes and moral reform”(Philanthropy in America). These religious groups focused on problems affecting them and their religion, and in the early development of the United States philanthropic giving was ingrained in our history. This continues to today, as 29% of the $450 billion given in 2020 was donated to religion, more than twice as much as to any other sector (Giving USA). Even today, religious donations dominate the philanthropic sectors, traditions that can be traced back to our founding as a nation.

Equally important, the legislative encouragement of charitable giving has led philanthropy to be a prominent component of the United States’ society. There are many laws in the United States to encourage charitable giving, one of the biggest being that nonprofit organizations, including private foundations are tax-exempt entities. This means that nonprofits don’t have to pay income tax, which is enormously important because this allows nonprofits to operate freely and encourage people to give to charity. Without these laws in place, donors would be hesitant to

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Storytelling has been around since the beginning of time in order to help preserve the memories and wisdom of those who came before us.

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Factors Effecting U.S. Philanthropy

by Chris Hedrich, FPP ’22

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FactorS Effecting U.S. PhilanthropY –

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contribute money to nonprofits since a portion of their donation would go to the government. Furthermore, nonprofits receive even more encouragement politically, as nonprofit organizations of all kinds are generally exempt from paying property taxes at the state and local levels. This is another reason nonprofit donations are encouraged politically and make philanthropy a prominent component of the United States’ society. Author Eric Friedman, a well-known philanthropist who has donated a large percentage of his income to charity, states in his article, Philanthropy and Equality, that “the intertwining of charitable giving with the tax code … makes the United States the most generous country in terms of subsidizing charitable activity”. It is widely accepted that the legislative structure around nonprofit organizations and charitable foundations is responsible for philanthropy’s immense role in American society.

Finally, the economic benefits of charitable giving has played a huge part in American philanthropy. When donating, taxpayers can itemize their deductions. So, a person who occupies the top tax bracket would find that a $1,000 donation actually costs them only $610. The government effectively pays $390 of that donation as a “subsidy”. This is possibly the biggest incentive for philanthropy, making it so the donor doesn’t have to pay that money in taxes but rather to charity. As Friedman stated, these policies “have been described as ‘the world’s most generous tax concessions’ for charity. One economist observes that ‘no other nation grants subsidies at such a high level or across so many types of activities’.

Overall, the United States has many conditions that make philanthropic giving more prevalent than any other country. First, the history and tradition of philanthropic giving through religion has normalized donating to charity. Second, legislative encouragement and laws surrounding nonprofit tax structuring has made donating to nonprofits much more appealing. Finally, the economic tax benefits through tax deductions that donors receive for donating encourage philanthropy to an extreme extent, making it so that millions of Americans donate every year for that sole reason.

Philanthropy is an American tradition and has been ingrained in our citizenry so that it is in our nature to give voluntarily.

Generational Differences
Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z

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