

Community matters



SHAPING THE FUTURE

Helping La Porte County Skill UP

There are more jobs than people to fill them, in some local industries. That's why Unity has supported efforts to keep and grow good jobs, especially in the manufacturing and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering/Environment and Math) fields.

Unity is proud to be one of the La Porte County Skill UP Network partners. The Skill UP Network was awarded \$677,000 recently from the Dept. of Workforce Development for a 3 year effort, spearheaded by the mayors from Michigan City and La Porte and coordinated by the Center of Workforce Innovation. The focus is to **create an integrated talent supply system to support La Porte County manufacturers in filling skill gaps in high demand, high skilled jobs.** It's estimated that throughout the state, 30,000 jobs annually will require an industry specific certification in addition to a high school diploma. We want to help make sure those jobs in La Porte County are filled by residents of La Porte County. The Skill UP grant provides funding to bring together local employers, educators, economic development partners, and non-profits to offer programs and opportunities for our communities to grow and develop. We are excited to be at this table with so many passionate individuals and groups working toward the goal of a more highly skilled local workforce.

Unity was proud to be a partner with Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City and Michigan City Area Schools for the second annual Week of Code. In May, all students spent time learning about coding. Bringing coding tools, like Ozobots, into the classrooms helped add the necessary element of fun into learning. Through a caring Unity donor, most classrooms throughout La Porte County have access to tiny robots that can be programmed by students through computer programs, templates, and a marker system that allows the students to draw the path an Ozobot must take. Codes to make their tiny friends jump, turn around, or switch directions help students learn how to plan ahead and troubleshoot.

If you aren't familiar with this technology, we encourage you to visit one of our grantees, La Porte County Library, to see their makerspace and the many great opportunities offered to our community there!

We believe in the future of La Porte County, and we think the workforce has untapped

potential. Through initiatives like the Skill UP grant and Week of Code, we hope to see an increasingly skilled workforce and La Porte County residents obtaining secure, high wage jobs.

"Getting computer coding tools into classrooms and kids hands is key to our future workforce. Unity and our visionary donors purchased Ozobot kits so that everyone — adults too — can play and learn about computer coding. We want to help our schools implement and excel with the new state computer science standards."
— Maggi Spartz, Unity President

La Porte County
SKILL UP
Network

Robot petting zoo



New Planned Giving Tool Box

The future waits for no one, and it can be scary to look ahead. Keeping an up to date estate plan is one way to ensure you and your family are prepared. There are a lot of important questions to ask yourself, and your financial advisor, when considering your estate plan: who will receive your assets? How much is “enough” of an inheritance? Unity has made it easy to begin asking yourself these kind of questions thanks our new tool, uflc.giftlegacy.com.

With our newest webpage you can learn more about planned giving and how to best help your family and your community after your death. When you visit uflc.giftlegacy.com, you can read donor stories about people like you who made decisions that still benefit their communities today. Visit the webpage and request a FREE estate planning guide to get started

In addition to materials on our website, you can sign up for an e-newsletter delivered right to your inbox – at the frequency and day of the week of your choice! Each newsletter includes timely finance news, articles regarding planned gifts, and creative life hacks.

We are thrilled to offer you these new features, and we can't wait to see all the good that can come. Please visit our website and explore the Planned Giving page for everything you need..... go to uflc.net and simply click on the beach!

uflc.giftlegacy.com



Concerned Givers Help Raise an Army

Before 2008, The Salvation Army of Michigan City did not have a “forever fund” with Unity. Many times, donors asked Unity if there was such a fund but there wasn’t because no one had stepped up to get one started.

Late 2008, not one, but two families decided to get the ball rolling. They each started a fund they felt would be most valuable to this important non-profit. Those lost opportunities became regained opportunities when the two endowment funds were established. The Salvation Army Endowment Fund will help support the day-to-day work. The Salvation Army of Michigan City Major Building Repairs Fund will provide for major building repairs and equipment replacement.

—excerpt from donor story, **Concerned Givers Help Raise an Army**

Visit uflc.giftlegacy.com
 to read the full Salvation
 Army Fund histories and
 many other donor stories!

Home Team members meet with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, State Representative Jim Pressel, and former State Representative Tom Dermody to discuss homeless issues in La Porte County.



Unity's Home Team has Audience with Lt. Governor Crouch

Since 2004, Unity has convened stakeholders around the topic of housing and homelessness in our community. In June, representatives from our Home Team met with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch to share progress and highlight the goals of our Plan to End Homelessness. State Representative Jim Pressel and former State Representative Tom Dermody coordinated the meeting to show how La Porte County agencies are working together to address homelessness.

The Lt. Governor oversees the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, so she serves as an integral alliance with Home Team. La Porte County has seen an increase of homelessness, despite an overall decrease throughout the state of Indiana, which highlights the importance of the Home Team's work and presence in our community.

As Crouch noted in her social media post, the Home Team is focused and taking action. Ed Seal, Home Team Coordinator said, "Meeting with the Lt. Governor was a great way to highlight Home Team's success while motivating us toward greater action going forward. We appreciate that Lt. Governor Crouch and State Representative Pressel took the time to learn more about our efforts to end homelessness in La Porte County."

Unity works hard to stay engaged with our legislators, so that we can share knowledge and progress on the important topics in our communities. Home Team, which consists of 30 agencies and many dedicated people, strives to prevent and eliminate homelessness through coordinated efforts. If you think you'd like to be involved with the comprehensive support towards a solution, email hometeamlp@gmail.com.

Front Row L-R

Jackie Dermody, Courtney Parthun, Maggi Spartz, Kris Pate, Sandy Young, Lisa Pierzakowski, Sydney Varnak, Rep. Jim Pressel, Tom Dermody

Back Row L-R

Shannon Walker, Leigh Coburn, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Edward Seal, Nate Loucks

{ **SHAPING THE FUTURE** }
2018

Although Indiana has seen a slight decrease statewide, La Porte County's homeless numbers increased from 2017 to 2018. The Home Team is working to change that.



Home Team meets every 4th Thursday at 9:00 a.m. alternating between La Porte and Michigan City. For our meeting schedule or to learn more:

 hometeamlp@gmail.com

You can be a part of the solution!



Unity Foundation
of La Porte County

Power for Good 

422 Franklin St., Suite C
Michigan City, IN 46360

uflc.net



Thanks to our Generous Sponsors 2018

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**Mayor Ron Meer and the
City of Michigan City**



UNITY OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND

After 25 years, Unity Foundation is still growing and spreading our leaves. We continue to offer strong branches of support to many organizations and issues affecting our county. You love your community and want your dollars to go far. A donation to the **Unity Operating Endowment Fund** is a great way to show your support for your community by supporting your Community Foundation! The Unity Foundation Operating Endowment Fund was established in 1999 by caring board members to help Unity help others forever. Donating to Unity helps us continue our work in shaping the future of La Porte County, and we couldn't be involved in all the branches without a strong trunk- our Operating Endowment!

**Thank you for considering us in
your giving plan!**

Upcoming 2018 Events:



September 7

Lilly Scholarship Deadline

September 12

Annual Update Luncheon

October 12

Teacher Grant Deadline

Other events can be found on our Facebook page!

Mark your Calendars!

Unity administers more than 40 local scholarship programs! Tell students to mark their calendars for **January 1, 2019**, when our online application goes live!