

## A Wonderful Story to Tell...

Farming and agriculture in the Cook County area and the Midwest has been so crucial for centuries to the success and prosperity of this area and the world. Today, farming and agriculture continue to provide healthy and nutritious food, renewable energy, clothing, and so many other products that we use every day. We need the best and brightest students to pursue agriculture as their career choice in order to ensure a strong and prosperous agricultural industry. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents need to know how food gets in the lunchbox and who provides it. The general public needs to understand the efforts that farmers and agribusiness are making to provide a safe, abundant food supply while caring for their crops and animals and protecting the land and the environment. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is uniquely positioned to help tell the amazing story of farming and agriculture to an excited and enthusiastic audience of all ages, backgrounds and awareness. Thank you for joining us to help tell the wonderful story of food, fiber, fuel and farming!

### The CCFB Foundation Board:

James Gutzmer, President  
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Janet McCabe, Sec./Treasurer  
Gerald Kopping, Director  
Pat Horcher, Director

### Staff:

Robert A. Rohrer, Executive Director  
Melanie Paffumi, Operational Finance Mgr.  
Katie Smith, Director of Membership & Admin.  
Diane Merrion, AITC Coordinator

### Your support is so valuable!

We can only manage with you and supporters like you! We have a number of larger donors that have consistently remembered the Foundation efforts with a financial gift. We work with the Cook County Farm Bureau members who make contributions as a part of their membership renewal. We also receive memorials as family and friends of the passing of a loved one earmark contributions to the Foundation. All gifts, large and small, are appreciated.

### Do YOU want to volunteer?

We are frequently looking for assistance with the preparation and coordination of the agricultural literacy program sponsored by the Foundation, Ag Days, school mailings, and leadership programming. If you would like to be contacted for volunteer opportunities, email us at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).

Enclosed is my gift of:  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  Visa  Master Card  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to the CCFB Foundation can be made by:  
Mailing a check to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525  
Calling 708.354.3276 to donate with a credit card  
Go to [www.cookcfb.org/foundation/donors](http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation/donors)

### Donation opportunities!

Go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) to learn more about ways to support the CCFB through the Amazon Smile program.

\*\*The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501c (3) non-for-profit. Donations to the are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines...please consult your tax advisor if you have any questions.



## See the GIANT impact your support makes!

# Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation 2016-2017 Annual Report



### A year of highlights—see our report card!

#### Literacy Enhancement

- ◇ 29,000 urban grade school and junior high and high school students expanded their understanding of agriculture through our Part 1, 2 & 3 Ag In the Classroom visits.
- ◇ 800 third grade children attended Ag Days in Schaumburg and in Chicago to gain first hand knowledge about farms and food.
- ◇ 150 youth attended our STEAM-themed library programs this summer.
- ◇ 60 at risk youth attended our camp program highlighting the importance of agriculture and healthy eating.

#### Leadership Development

- ◇ 33 outstanding students were selected for the Ag Leadership Academy by their teachers to experience a day of discovering agricultural career possibilities.
- ◇ 70 High School student entrepreneurs started up their own ag-related small business and sold their products at the 2017 Chicago Flower and Garden Show in Chicago.
- ◇ 1 college intern majoring in education joined us to teach agriculture at camps, libraries and with teachers in Cook County.

#### Farm Learning

- ◇ 8 scholarship member recipients received \$14,000 in scholarship funds to aid in their pursuit of a farm & food related career.
- ◇ 17 teachers representing Grades K-12 attended Summer Ag Institute 1 to learn ways to bring farm and food education back to the classrooms of Cook County.
- ◇ 250 educators attended workshops this year to learn how to incorporate agriculture into their existing science, socials studies and reading curriculums.



Kids match grains with final products.



Students learn leadership skills.



Teachers experience hands on agriculture.



Kids love learning more about farming!

## Save the Date

2nd Annual Farming for our Future Gala...

"Sowing the Seeds of Greatness"

Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Ruffled Feathers Country Club, Lemont IL

Evening includes filet mignon dinner, open bar, live entertainment and dancing, door prizes, silent auction, live auction and 50/50 raffle opportunities!

**\$100 per ticket—early bird price**

**For more info and to purchase tickets, contact the CCFB at 708.354.3276**

*All proceeds fund scholarships, agricultural literacy and leadership development*



# Teacher Quotes...

Summer Ag Institute: *"This experience was well worth my time this summer! It has truly given me a deeper knowledge base to teach students along with expanding my knowledge of available resources to supplement my classroom."*

Summer Ag Institute: *"Farmers are the heroes/heroines of our nation... 2% of them provide 98% of our food."*

Ag in the Classroom: *"It was wonderful (as always). The students are able to make connections to their everyday lives as well as the content (we study Illinois). Perfect mix of seeing/touching the samples of the plants/items, the game, the end production line--all great!"*



Farmer Tim Stuenkel talks to teachers.

# Student Quotes...

## What are you going to tell your family about Ag Days?

*"Agriculture is about people, animals, and plants."*

*"They use special machines to take out the corn and soybeans."*

*"I'm telling them that I had the best day ever!"*

*"Agriculture grows our food and is very important to the state of Illinois."*



2 students started a potted flower business with support from the Foundation and Compeer Financial Grant.

# Grant Recipient Quotes...

*"We are not only proud of what we accomplished economically but also what we've accomplished in general through this grant program." Tala, Student from Chicago*

*"With every challenge, there is success. With every bump in the road, there is satisfaction. Our business had both." Halena, Student from Chicago*

*"This project (starting a business) has been a great experience our group will always appreciate.", Fatima, Student from Chicago*

# 15 to Date!

## 2016-17 CCFB Foundation Sponsored Programs

Since 2005, The Foundation has supported 15 interns to help fulfill Ag Literacy efforts for teachers and youth in Cook County. These college interns have gained experience in public speaking, program development/execution and agriculture education outreach.

With the demand for professionals in every agricultural area being so high, our internship provides the perfect opportunity for exposure and experience in the ag industry. We encourage interested students to consider a summer internship at the farm bureau by applying through our Foundation website.

- ◇ Summer Ag Institute for teachers
- ◇ FFA Leadership Academy
- ◇ 4th grade in-school Field Trip basics
- ◇ 4th grade "There's Ag on my Plate" classroom visits
- ◇ Teacher Workshops and In-Service Days
- ◇ Farm & Food Scholarship programs
- ◇ Summer Internships
- ◇ Summer Library and Community Service Programs
- ◇ Ag Days for 3rd graders
- ◇ High School Farm Entrepreneur program
- ◇ "Where does bacon come from" field trip to Fair Oaks Farm
- ◇ Junior High Farm, Science & Careers Classroom visit

Visit [www.cookcfb.org/foundation](http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation) for scholarship and internship applications for the 2018-19 program.

## 2017 Scholarship Programs

CCFB Foundation has provided over \$206,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1999. Scholarship recipients were selected to receive the scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year based on exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, focus on an agriculturally related need and overall character.

The Foundation Board distributed over \$14,000 to college bound member dependents in 2017. Each of these students pictured is planning on seeking an agriculturally related career. The Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship carries the highest financial award and is given to the top rated applicant.

# 2017 Scholarship Recipients



**Katherine Manika, North Riverside**  
Katherine attended St. Joseph College with a major to study Pre-Veterinary/Biology.



**Devan Groves, Cary**  
Devan attends Oklahoma State University with a major in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.



**Alyssa Volland, Tinley Park**  
Alyssa attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Pre-Veterinary/Animal Science.



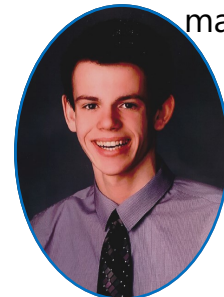
**Xavier Morgan, Chicago**  
Xavier attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Ag Communications and Advertising



**Thomas Poole, Chicago**  
*Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Award*  
Tom attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Crop Sciences.



**Colleen Elzinga, Evergreen Park**  
Colleen attends Ripon College with a major in Veterinary Medicine.



**Aidan Walton, Westchester**  
Aidan attends Illinois State University with a major in Agribusiness and a Spanish minor.



**Jessica Biernacki, Tinley Park**  
Jessica attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana where she is studying for her Master of Sciences degree for Ag Leadership Education.