



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

CARRY OUT CHARITABLE, LITERACY, LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL WORK IN AGRICULTURE IN THE COOK COUNTY AREA.

LIVE TO VIRTUAL LEARNING

After reaching

18,000

students in their classrooms by mid-March, our programming transitioned to a virtual format for spring and summer learning. We delivered student and family friendly content that included video cooking demonstrations connecting ingredients to the farm, learning segments featuring livestock at Historic Wagner Farm, along with lessons and field trips from IL AITC. As the 2020-21 school year opened, we are ready with new educational content showcasing our Ag in the Classroom presentations via Google Meets and partnering with industry educators throughout Cook County on new virtual offerings.

12

scholarship member recipients received a total of \$17,000 in scholarship funds to aid in their pursuit of a farm & food related career.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, JANET MCCABE



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us, farmers and non-farmers alike, in personal and professional ways. The essence of our Ag in the Classroom model was built on face-to-face storytelling. Obviously, when schools moved to remote

learning and families were homebound due to the shelter-in-place directive, our "in-person" approach to communicating the wonderful story of farming and agriculture was not going to work.

Immediately, the amazing Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy staff and presenters went into overdrive, shifting our in-class field trip presentation model to online lessons, Facebook activities, and engaging interactions when teachers, students and parents were struggling. Through it all, your Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation has sought to provide the support, programming, tools, resources, educational materials and encouragement needed for our members, parents, teachers, students, educators and families.

As local schools approached this next year in a remote learning environment, we developed hybrid and video-conference presentations for classrooms that can meet a variety of teacher and student needs while continuing to carry the powerful message of farming's important role in everyone's life.

And you can help...

- make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation
- purchase a brick paver for the Centennial Legacy Patio
- volunteer for an Ag in the Classroom activity
- mentor a high school or college student as a part of the Farm Shadows program

This annual report provides a glimpse of the many programs and activities that your funding dollars have made possible. We are inspired by the generosity of our donors and hold tight to the efforts that impact the future of individual lives connected to farming, food, fiber and fuel. Thankful to all of our wonderful supporters, donors, partners and member friends!

Janet B. McCabe

Janet McCabe, President, CCFB Foundation

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation is a 501c3 non-for profit created by the Cook County Farm Bureau in 1997 with the purpose of providing agriculturally related scholarships to members and dependents, enhance agricultural literacy in schools and to expand agricultural knowledge and understanding throughout the County.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CAREER ADVOCACY

Foundation funding allowed us to bring a full bus of young leaders on our urban Ag Leadership Academy in February. A new format included tours at a food service provider, a botanical garden and biotech company that featured speakers from three additional organizations who led students through a discussion on how to create start-ups in the agriculture industry.

A Job Shadow partnership continued with hosting four high school students with an interest in a teaching career to a local elementary school where they led a classroom lesson on nutrition and making good choices on eating options.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

While reaching many students through our "Agriculture in Illinois" and "There's Ag on MyPlate" 4th grade visits, our Ag Literacy efforts expanded by providing middle and high school lessons on ag technology, natural resources, careers and nutrition.

Our CCFB Young Leaders adopted a local 3rd Grade Classroom in Bedford Park this year and provided both remote and in-person lessons and activities on agriculture to this enthusiastic group of local students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops for educators focused on the topics of Harvest and Hunger, Teaching Agriculture with Literature and Earth Day Lessons. While our Summer Ag Institutes had to be canceled, that void was filled with a virtual professional development day led by IL AITC.



2020 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

CCFB Foundation has provided over \$256,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1999. Scholarship recipients were selected to receive the scholarships for the 2020-2021 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 \$17,000 to college bound member dependents in 2020. 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.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Katie Manika*



Dan Buttkofer



Alyson Doherty



Hannah Doherty



Colleen Elzinga



Asher Horcher



Daniel Macina



Jennifer Miller



Sierra Nelson



Jonathon Poole



Thomas Poole



Aidan Walton

*Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Award

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Former scholarship recipients have gone onto successful careers in the ag industry



Aidan Walton-
Graduated from Illinois State University, majored in Agribusiness and is completing his Masters in Agribusiness at

ISU. He is currently a Graduate Research Assistant at ISU assisting with undergraduate courses and researching various agricultural topics for professors. Aidan's career aspiration to be a Crop Specialist and Certified Crop Advisor.



Kirsten Raver-
Graduated from University of Illinois - Champaign, majored in Agricultural Sciences Education with an endorsement in

Biology and currently teaches at Rolling Meadows High School. She teaches Veterinary Science, Agriculture Biology, and Biology and is also an Advisor for Rolling Meadows FFA chapter.



Kayla Smits-
Graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, majored in Business with focuses on Small Business Management and Human Resources,

minor in Accounting and currently manages her parent's Farmers Market in Chicago Heights and assists in their greenhouse during the spring and summer months.

THE CCFB FOUNDATION BOARD

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Diane Merrion Director of Ag Literacy

CONTACT

6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

708.354.3276
www.cookefb.org/foundation/about-the-foundation

WE NEED YOUR VALUABLE SUPPORT!

We can only manage with you and supporters like you! We thank the large number of members that consistently remember the Foundation's efforts with a financial gift annually. When you consider year-end, tax-deductible donations, we encourage you to consider the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation as a worthy cause! We also receive memorials to mark the passing of a loved one. All donations are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DONATION.

Donor Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Discover

Card# _____ Exp: _____ Signature: _____

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

Visiting our website at
www.cookefb.org/foundation

In celebration of the Cook County Farm Bureau's 100-year birthday in March 2020, we built a Centennial Legacy Patio to benefit the Foundation. If you would like to make a tax-deductible purchase of a brick paver to include your name or your family's name as a part of the Legacy Patio, please go to cookefb.org/foundation for details.