



The MOLINE FOUNDATION

A Sweet Reminder



Greetings,

An affirmative sign Summer has officially arrived is the appearance of neighborhood lemonade stands. Recently, I noticed a stand with a handwritten sign stating, "TO HELP SHELTER CATS AND DOGS." Curiosity and nostalgia insisted I pull over. After making my purchase, I inquired of the young lady entrepreneur and her younger brother, why did you choose to raise money for the animal shelter?

Her explanation was unassumingly simple. They had recently adopted a family dog from a local shelter and noticed so many other cats and dogs who also needed homes. She and her brother wanted to help them all find a home.

Their sweet sentiments not only made me smile, but they also reminded me compassion and acts of kindness are two of our best human attributes.

Please continue reading to learn about the inspirational story of the Midwest Hope and Healing founders. Like the young lemonade entrepreneurs, these philanthropists saw a need and out of the goodness of their hearts, acted.

Best Regards,

Paul Plagenz

A Promise to Care

More than a decade ago, a group of passionate women made a promise... to care for individuals who were newly diagnosed with breast cancer. The founding women, Colleen Borts, Laura Danay, and Linda Watson, worked tirelessly to offer comfort and support to breast cancer patients through the distribution of their signature "healing baskets."

Although the basket distribution ceased in 2019, the founders wished to continue their important work and established the Midwest Hope and Healing partner fund at The Moline Foundation.

"Midwest Hope & Healing continues to fulfill its mission through annual grantmaking to area non-profits. We support organizations in our community who provide a variety of services and programs to breast cancer patients and their families," Borts said.



LivingProof Exhibit is an example of one of the organizations that serve breast cancer patients through their Art-To-Go Project which has received support from Midwest Hope and Healing in 2019.

Executive Director Jordan Kirkbride said, "Art-To-Go projects provide free art supplies for people with cancer so they can experience the healing power of the arts at times when they cannot attend one of our formal art sessions." LivingProof Exhibit also received support for their upcoming mural project this year.

The Azubuike African American Council for the Arts received a grant this year from Midwest Hope & Healing for their *Breast Cancer Support Group*.

Gaye Shannon Burnett, Azubuike Board President believes, "The *Wrapping Ourselves in God's Love* support group was created to provide a safe space for survivors and women going through treatment to meet, talk, laugh, and share their stories of living each day with breast cancer. We are grateful for receiving funding that will allow us to offer Healing Talking Circles to women impacted by breast cancer from the Quad Cities African American Community." The founder's promise to care continues!

[Give to Midwest Hope & Healing](#)

Hope for the Future



YouthHope does just that – brings youth hope. Originally founded in 1936 as Christian Friendliness Association, its focus remains the same: to equip, encourage and empower youth and families in need.

The organization partners with school and park districts, housing complexes, churches, and other organizations to provide fun, safe, and enriching out-of-school programs for kids and teens.

These programs include literacy tutoring, leadership development, and life skills training. Camp Summit in New Windsor, Illinois, provides a summer camp where youth experience outdoor activities, team building, and character-developing challenges.

"We passionately and persistently pursue at-risk and low-income youth to provide a safe place to be encouraged, opportunities to be enriched, and programs to equip and empower," Hannah Carr, Development Director said. "It doesn't matter how or why students come through the doors, it's WHO they are when they leave."

YouthHope is in Moline, Rock Island, and New Windsor. They also provide Community Outreach Programs throughout the Quad Cities.

YouthHope established an endowment fund with The Moline Foundation in 2017 to help with annual operating expenses. Since 2017 the fund has paid out \$15,000. Together YouthHope and The Moline Foundation continue to grow the endowment fund.

"Creating an endowment offers supporters of YouthHope's Mission the opportunity to leave a legacy gift, ensuring youth and families in need are provided these important life-changing programs," Paul Plagenz.

[Learn more about YouthHope](#)

[Give to YouthHope](#)



Imagine a better
community,
forever.

Let's talk about how your
planned gift can make this a
reality.

[Learn more](#)

Important Dates

- August 26 - East Moline Community Fund grant deadline
- September 23 - The Moline Foundation Fall grant deadline



Leaders in Philanthropy - Together

The Moline Foundation staff spent the day on June 29 volunteering for the John Deere Classic. Like Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's all that ever has."

[Give to the Moline Foundation](#)