

For: The Racine Journal Times "Your Community" Newsletter

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While 2012 offered a gratifying mix of challenges, opportunities, and successes, the Racine Community Foundation (RCF) continues to look to the future, endeavoring to find more ways to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County in 2013. While doing so, the Board of Directors and staff wish to also express their gratitude to the many individuals, organizations and businesses with whom we have partnered. We extend a special thank you to our donors whose commitment and financial support make improvements in our community possible.

A New Year and New Partnerships

The RCF is constantly looking for new ways to connect with important projects and programs in the community. Early this year we are partnering with the Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc. and the Racine Public Library to mount a unique photographic exhibition in tribute to the more than 20,000 individuals honored as Righteous Among the Nations by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel. As stated in the Alliance's grant application, "The exhibition focuses on twenty-one such recipients who live in the Krakow region today. Their faces and stories are given in honor of all those, living and dead, who could not be included in one exhibition."

This contemporary exhibition was co-curated by the Auschwitz Jewish Center, the Galicia Jewish Museum and the Polish/American/Jewish Alliance for Youth Action. The photographs were taken by the late Chris Schwarz who wrote, "These photographs are not just of a people who respected their past, but also of a people who expected to have a future." The exhibit will run from February 10th through the middle of April 2013.

Beyond the Classroom

More than half of the scholarship funds held by the Racine Community Foundation were established by teachers or family members who sought to honor them. The scholarships assist local students pursue their dreams of obtaining higher education through technical colleges and universities throughout Wisconsin and the nation. Some scholarship funds are school-specific, while others support students pursuing specific fields of study. Still other scholarships seek to assist students who have the greatest financial need. Throughout this next year the RCF

intends to reach out to retired and retiring teachers to help them explore ways in which planned and charitable giving can expand their own personal legacies in education.

Giving Back to Teachers

In addition to student scholarships, the RCF also manages scholarship funds intended for teachers, including the Kids First Fund and the Helen Patton Scholarship.

The Kids First Fund accepts grant requests for special projects aimed at enhancing learning experiences within the Racine Unified School District. The Kids First Fund also oversees the School Bell Fund which provides additional aid to teachers in the classroom. Information regarding both the Kids First Fund and the School Bell Fund can be obtained from Racine Unified's Central Office.

In 1990, Helen Patton, a former Director of Art for the Racine Unified School District, established a scholarship to assist art faculty further their education through study, travel, and professional networking. More information about this scholarship can be obtained by contacting the Racine Community Foundation.

For more information about the Racine Community Foundation, please call: 262-632-8474. Or visit the RCF website at www.racinecommunityfoundation.org. For the latest on events and activities, go to RCF's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/RacineCommunityFoundation.