



Montgomery County Improvement Fund

There's a constant challenge not only to stay current but to stay ahead of the curve and anticipate future needs and opportunities.

For organizations like Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), they're looking to foresee those future events for a wide range of issues. Progress, like providing broadband fiber optic internet to make Montgomery County a Gigabit County, is always ongoing.

So when MCEDC leaders explored options for how to improve the county's growth and social structure, they began discussing the idea of a fund through the Community Foundation.





Building the Future

Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation starts grantmaking fund

After seeing the possibilities of how an unrestricted, grantmaking fund could make an impact in wide variety of ways for years to come, MCEDC decided to pursue that avenue and establish the Montgomery County Improvement Fund.

"The Board of Directors felt the Community Foundation offered an opportunity for donors to make a long-term commitment for the entire county," MCEDC Board of Directors Chair Robert Mulch said.

"There are several large endowed trusts set up for portions of the county, but the trusts limit their good works to a very small geographic area."

Mulch knows Montgomery County well. After graduating from Raymond Lincolnwood High School, he later set up a medical practice in Hillsboro that eventually became the first satellite for Springfield Clinic outside of Sangamon County. Since retiring from the medical field, MCEDC is the latest of numerous organizations for which Mulch has volunteered.

It's people like Mulch who will serve on a committee to make recommendations for grants to county organizations, people who have a read on the pulse of Montgomery County and care about its long-term wellbeing.

"Montgomery County is a special combination of fields, farms, forests, streams, lakes, wildlife, eclectic shops, small business, entrepreneurs, manufacturing, and most of all, wonderful people," Mulch said.

"Our small towns are populated with residents who truly care about each other and share their love with those who need it most."

The plan is to build up to where the fund can help touch lives in a significant way, from Farmersville to Coffeen, from Litchfield to Nokomis. As a county-wide effort to help spur growth and development, MCEDC wants to put a plan in place to invest in the county for generations to come.

"The short-term goal is to have \$100,000 in the fund," Mulch said. "This will allow us to start making some grants and let the community know this is an option for donors. Of course, long-term, we hope to have a fund with enough assets to start to have a profound effect on the county's growth and social structure."



For more information on how to start an unrestricted fund, or how to contribute to the Montgomery County Improvement Fund, please contact the Community Foundation at 217.789.4431 or visit CFL.org.