

Gift Received from Rogers Estate Impacts Three Local Organizations

At the beginning of the year, the foundation received at \$1.15 million gift from the estate of Martha Rogers, with an additional \$1 million promise to give pending a real estate sale. With this generous gift, the Martha Rogers Fund was established. It was stipulated that the endowment's annual earnings be split between three local organizations: RISE, Inc., Habitat for Humanity of Northeastern Indiana, and Steuben County Council on Aging. With this increase in funding, the three organizations have all been able to increase the amount of service they provide to the community.

- RISE, Inc. was established in 1965 to serve adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. In the past 48 years, the size in the organization's client base as increased from 6 to nearly 225 adults and adolescents that are impacted by its service. Prior to the funding provided by the Rogers Estate, RISE was working to expand the services provided to the community through integration classes, home residential assistance, and a day service program. Due to recent changes in an Indiana waiver program, RISE, Inc. has seen an influx of clients, taking on an additional 32 clients. The organization anticipates that nearly 60 new clients will soon be added, and has the potential to gain as many as 300. The new funding has been used to for equipment upgrades, a planned building expansion, and the addition of a quadruplex apartment building. Pending a board approval, RISE hopes to expand the front of their building, adding additional classrooms and meeting rooms to accommodate the service expansion.

- Habitat for Humanity of Northeastern Indiana was formed in 2010 when the Steuben, DeKalb, and Noble County Habitat for

Humanity Organizations merged. Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity has been serving the Steuben County area, providing adequate housing for those in need. Currently, the local organization offers support through critical home repair and weatherization, new home construction, and their A Brush with Kindness program. The grant will allow the organization to take on more projects, and will have a positive impact on a larger number of qualifying families. This additional funding has also allowed the organization to begin developing a new restoration center on Mechanic Street. The center will work to restore and rehab usable home supplies and construction materials donated by homeowners, businesses, or builders.

- Steuben County Council on Aging was delighted to be a recipient of this endowed fund. The organization's mission is to be a community leader in the advocacy and services for older-adults and others to empower independence and enhance well-being. The additional funding will support the organization's transportation services, including the STAR program. In 2012, STAR made over 10,000 trips with passengers totaling over 203,000 miles. The program is supported through federal dollars, as well as, foundations, organizations, and private donations. STAR offers transportation to medical appointments, dialysis, and assists other transportation needs as requested. The need for transportation is growing, and future funding will allow the COA to meet these needs. The organization has begun expanding the reach of its programing by hiring additional staff and drivers. In the future, the COA hopes to be able to add additional wheelchair assessable vans and a garage for storage.