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For Immediate Release

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SCCF Helps Local Nonprofits Learn to Raise Money

Angola, IN – Steuben County Community Foundation sponsored the participation of 15 area nonprofit leaders in a workshop about Fundraising for Small Nonprofits, hosted by Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne in May. This workshop was facilitated by Bill Stanczykiewicz, Director of The Fund Raising School at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI.

Many attendees were surprised by the emphasis on engaging board members in fundraising efforts and carefully planning annual giving, as opposed to organizing fundraising events. Matthew Love, Executive Director of Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center, said, “I was pleasantly surprised at how much of the material was comprehensive with board, volunteer, and staff development. The course was also good affirmation that we are headed in the right direction.” Shelly Allen, Executive Director of Women in Transition, also said, “I was a bit surprised when the class started and it focused on the board and the development of a few things that we will need to implement. The class was not about how to hold fundraising events but to build relationships in the community and with your donors. I knew this, but did not realize the full impact of the importance.”

The workshop had valuable information to offer participants with a variety of backgrounds, ranging from new directors to long-time nonprofit professionals. Denise Kreais, Executive Director of Rise, Inc., spoke highly of the workshop: “Serving in Executive positions at a nonprofit for the past 15 years, I cannot believe how much I learned about cultivating donors and building our fund capacity.”

In addition to the technical knowledge, this workshop provided networking opportunities for nonprofit leaders to share some of their insights and become re-energized in their efforts. Bridget Harrison, Executive Director of Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy commented, “I also really appreciated the small group size and everyone asking questions. As small nonprofits we don’t often get the chance to ask questions and gain such helpful information and perspectives.” Other participants expressed gratitude for the information this training provided. Bill Stockberger from YMCA of Steuben County said, “Thank you for the opportunity to attend the most recent class. It was a great opportunity to have a refresher in overall fundraising.”

Many participants said they hope to participate in additional training sessions. Amber Hukill, Director of Little Lambs Daycare and Preschool said, "I think it would be very beneficial for our board members to attend. It was a lot of information to take in and try to bring back to the board." Other directors suggested classes about different topics such as financial accounting for non-profits.

The nonprofit leaders who attended these sessions are excited to act on their newfound fundraising insights. They mentioned plans to improve donor databases, organize and strengthen their annual appeal process, and connect with the people who are about their causes. By equipping these individuals with the tools to effectively fundraise, SCCF is helping nonprofits increase their ability to provide meaningful services to the residents of Steuben County.

Angola Kids League
Cahoots Coffee Café
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
Community Humane Shelter
Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center
Little Lambs Daycare
RISE, Inc.
Steuben County Council on Aging
Steuben County Economic Development Corporation
Steuben County United Way
Trine University
Turning Point Homeless Shelter
Well Child Clinic
Women in Transition
YMCA of Steuben County

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Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, Steuben County Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. The Steuben County Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization with assets totaling more than \$25 million. Our vision: Serving as a community leader and improving the quality of life by assessing, supporting and coordinating philanthropic giving and endowment building. Our mission: Connecting people who care with needs that matter to our community. For more information on the Foundation, visit its website at www.steubenfoundation.org.