



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Gibble, President

HCCF announces new Partners in Excellence model

GREENFIELD, Ind. (March 20, 2019) – HCCF announces a new name and brand for its nonprofit support resources called Partners in Excellence. The Partners in Excellence initiative will include the customary grant and programming services HCCF provides to the nonprofit community with the complement of two new grantmaking features and one new programming feature.



PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

The new grantmaking opportunities are:

- 1) The LevelUp Grant Program’s goal is to support nonprofits and leaders so they can more effectively advance the mission and vision of their organizations. The program consists of four elements: a capacity-assessment and planning phase, a grant of up to \$10,000 to hire a consultant to focus on one area of organizational development, peer learning roundtables to foster idea-sharing among the cohort, and mentorship from leaders who have previously gone through the program. The program is currently by invitation only.
- 2) The Excellence Academy program is an educational deep-dive into core capacity-building topics for small and mid-size nonprofit organizations. The Excellence Academy is a three-year program providing an in-depth curriculum and a learning community. The curriculum is currently under development, and the inaugural cohort will launch in August 2019. The program is currently by invitation only.

Since its inception in 1992, one of HCCF’s philanthropic roles has been to serve as a funder for charitable causes in the community. Over the years, this role has evolved to include offering support services specific to nonprofit needs, such as competitive grant cycles, networking events and workshops, an online resource page, and a monthly newsletter.

During HCCF’s year-long strategic planning work in 2016, the board of directors determined it was time for HCCF’s menu of nonprofit support to include a dedicated focus on capacity-building.

“Capacity-building work is different from traditional responsive grantmaking in that it allows HCCF as a funder to engage with grantees on a deeper level,” explains Mary Gibble, HCCF president. “Instead of solely funding programs, capital improvements, or projects through a grant cycle, capacity-building funding invests in the organizational health of our nonprofit partners.”

The new programming feature Partners in Excellence offers is a community calendar. The re-vamped HelloHancock.com launched earlier this month to serve as an effective scheduling tool for community events. This concept dates back to 2007 when long-time community servant Nancy King sought a solution to end conflicting community events. Use of the first version of Hello Hancock dwindled several years after the launch. Beginning in 2017, Greenfield Sertoma and HCCF began working to reimagine the online calendar. A steering committee formed to decide on the features and functionality of the updated calendar, and Cross Creative Marketing created the new, mobile-friendly website.

“The foundational purpose of this website is to serve Hancock County’s nonprofits, service clubs, schools, and government entities with a powerful scheduling tool, one to be referenced before choosing a date,” Gibble says. “It is our hope that scheduling conflicts will be reduced and the calendar will connect community members.”

The Partners in Excellence brand encompasses all this work into a cohesive initiative. The name Partners in Excellence was chosen to capture HCCF’s intent to come alongside grant partners and grow together in the effort to build a stronger Hancock County.

“We look forward to this next step and the opportunity to provide even stronger support to those that work the front-lines, providing vital services to the residents of Hancock County,” Gibble concludes.

HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. Working with caring individuals, families, and organizations to create or grow existing permanent endowment funds is critical to the organization’s mission. These funds generate income that is distributed in the form of grants and scholarships to enrich and enhance life in Hancock County, as well as support the donor’s favorite charitable causes, both at home and afar forever. HCCF has granted more than \$14 million since its inception in 1992.

###