

THE FUND'S HISTORY

The Greater East St. Louis Community Fund evolved through a unique set of circumstances back in 1991. Hon. William D. Stiehl, established The Fund in a judgment against a criminal defendant found guilty of fraud. The Fund's responsibilities grew to include Brooklyn, Illinois following a separate case involving a different defendant almost a decade later.



Judge William D. Stiehl



Judge Donald G. Wilkerson

From its inception, The Fund's assignment has been a simple one: Advance projects that enhance community improvement, education and vocational training, infrastructure, health care, and housing in East St. Louis and neighboring Brooklyn, Illinois. A court-appointed executive board invests and distributes The Fund's money to work on the two communities' behalves.

Close judicial oversight has been an integral part of The Fund's more than 20 year success. Hon. Donald G. Wilkerson currently serves as The Fund's Judicial Supervisor, continuing in the tradition of Judge Stiehl, who retired in 2014.

CONTACT US

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WAYS TO GIVE

Want to share a financial gift with the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund? Here are several ways to do that.

Establish a Donor Advised Fund: Make a tax-deductible gift, and in turn we will help you identify projects available to help support nonprofit organizations working in the community.

Scholarships: Invest in our Scholarship Program and have a direct impact on a successful high school graduate's plans to attend college. You also can designate a gift in a specific discipline, such as medicine or education. Since 1994, The Fund has awarded more than 500 scholarships to East St. Louis and Brooklyn residents who then study across the country and abroad. Many of those same awardees have gone on to become some of the leading practitioners in their professions.

Donate Unrestricted Funds: Give a charitable gift that we'll use to respond to emerging community needs and priorities. Our Board and Staff know the 501 (c)(3) landscape well and can steer your funds toward quality charities that address the community's most pressing concerns.

Establish a Field of Interest Fund: Target your gift to address needs in a specific area of community life -- Children, Youth, and Recreation. When you make your gift, you identify your personal interest area and our Board awards grants to community organizations and programs that are making a difference in that selected area.



www.estlfund.org

GREATER EAST ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY FUND

COMMITTED TO THE GREATER GOOD



PROMOTING CONSISTENT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TO PRODUCE GREATER OUTCOMES



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GREATER NEEDS

East St. Louisans are a proud people with an unwavering drive to succeed. The town has produced winners in entertainment, politics, sports and other professions. However, for every success story ripped from the city's history book, hundreds more lag behind clinging to torn, crumpled and yet unturned pages.

Nothing comes easy for the 27,000 people who call East St. Louis, Illinois home. And in nearby Brooklyn things aren't much better. Residents have endured decades of economic hardship, educational despair and blight. While most urban centers have issues the needs here seem bigger and call for a **greater** commitment than elsewhere.



GREATER COMMITMENT

Wherever you find need, you'll likely find well-meaning organizations trying to help out. Their hearts are in the right place, but so often they lack big enough resources to punch a hole in the problem. Other times, the institutional infrastructure's not there to facilitate alliances among the nonprofit organizations.

That's where the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund comes in. The Fund teams up with and coordinates area partners to lend the financial and organizational muscle to deliver services that align with The Fund's core mission -- to help the residents of East St. Louis and Brooklyn move up and out of poverty and encourage others to do the same.



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GREATER PARTNERSHIPS

The Fund takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to problem solving. Armed with more than 20 years of experience and a court ordered mandate, The Fund marshals help from all corners of the philanthropic and benevolent community to benefit the residents of East St. Louis and Brooklyn, Illinois. Most often, the Fund doesn't operate programs itself. Through strategic partnerships, it spearheads and directs efforts that address citizens' most pressing needs.

The Fund identifies existing organizations that already are working to address the area's environmental, infrastructure, youth and education needs. In places where no program currently exists, The Fund may launch one and simultaneously seek partner agencies that can take the program forward.

GREATER GOOD

Here are just a few of the many ways The Fund works to create greater outcomes.

We started and have funded The East St. Louis Youth Project, which provides summer programs for 1,200 school-aged children throughout the East St. Louis area. The Fund enlists nonprofit organizations to administer the program. We also have partnered with other organizations, including the Jefferson Memorial National Park Service and local artists to foster river and environmental awareness.

The Fund created the Greater East St. Louis Youth Coordinating Council. It fortifies nonprofit youth organizations by assembling agencies to establish standards for quality summer programming. The Council's signature project to date was a city-wide training program for summer youth workers that equipped them to serve area youths.

Since 1992, The Fund has awarded scholarships to East St. Louis and Brooklyn high school graduates enrolled in higher education. Our young scholars go on to prestigious and well know colleges and universities nearby and nationwide.

GREATER CHILDREN

Young people are every area's lifeblood. Where children stumble, the community falls. With that in mind, The Fund has made serving local children and youth its priority. Whether it's sports, computer and recreational programs or before and after school activities, The Fund is committed to providing young people better lives and opportunities.

In East St. Louis and Brooklyn, The Fund actively supports Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and educational scholarships. The Fund even organized a group to study early childhood education needs and implement a number of its recommendations.

