

THANK YOU

for your sponsorship at the Fideliter Club "Making Magic Happen" Gala. It's been eight months since the Gala and we want to share how we are helping children. Thanks for your generosity!



PROJECT PRODUCE

One of our adopted partners, the Boys and Girls Club (BGCE), is launching Project Produce. The goal is to increase consumption of a variety of fruit and vegetables to the almost 1,000 boys and girls they serve. With your help, the Fideliters are funding the School Year and Summer Programs which will assist BGCE in exposing children to a diversity of fresh fruits and vegetables. Cathy Russell, Director of the BGCE, notes "this expands their palates, and encourages increased consumption of fresh produce." In addition to providing healthy snacks, they will: sponsor seasonal vegetable and fruit tastings, vegetable recipe contests, chef cooking and tasting events and "Rainbow Day" salad bar events.

SUMMER BREAKFAST

The Boys and Girls Club 9-week summer program for elementary aged members runs from 7am to 4pm each day. The Boys and Girls Club had funding to pay for lunch and an afternoon snack but not for breakfast. With your generous support, we are able to include breakfast for the 125 children involved so they can start the day nourished and ready to learn.



MILK FOR THE FOOD PANTRIES IN ELGIN AND BATAVIA

Another of our adopted partners, Food For Greater Elgin, provides food to families and serves 32,400 children per year. They have participated in the **Milk2MyPlate** program, an innovative partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank, to make milk available to families with children. Sadly, milk is one of the least often donated items to food pantries and one of the most expensive for pantries to purchase. With your generous support, we are funding the **Milk2MyPlate** program for them for 2019, which will provide **13,104 gallons of milk** for families with children. Food for Greater Elgin is the largest pantry in the Elgin area providing milk to families. This year we are also able to fund the **Milk2MyPlate** program for the Batavia Food Bank which will provide **3,016 gallons** of milk for families with children. In total, with your help, we are providing **16,120 gallons** of milk to the Fox Valley area. We dedicated our 2019 donation to the Food For Greater Elgin in honor of the late Donna Burnidge, a longtime member of the Fideliter Club and generous supporter of our community.





BACKPACK MATCHING CHALLENGE

Every Friday, over 2,000 children in the Northern Illinois FoodBank Backpack program receive a backpack filled with easy-to-prepare food specially selected to meet their nutritional needs. Each backpack has enough food to provide nine meals for the child and his or her siblings. This year we targeted our funding to the 45 children in the St. Charles school area.

With your generous gifts, we set up a program to match donations up to \$12,500 designated to go to the Backpack Program for St. Charles. The Matching Challenge started on March 14 and was scheduled to run through May. Great news! We reached the Matching goal on March 26 (in under 2 weeks) and raised an additional \$14,476 in matching donations for the Backpack Program! This makes the total donated \$26,976.

School: John [redacted] Grade: 5th

WHY DO YOU LIKE RECEIVING THE WEEKEND FOOD BACKPACK?

I like it because their
 is good food & It helps
 us because we really don't
 have a lot of food at our
 house

NORTHERN
 ILLINOIS
 FOOD
 BANK

BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND BIRTHDAY BAGS

With your donations this year, our birthday program will provide “Birthday Bags” for children who come to the food pantry at Food for Greater Elgin and for members of the Boys and Girls Club. This year we will provide 2,000 bags for children to celebrate their birthdays.

At the Food For Greater Elgin, each bag contains a gift for the Birthday Girl/Boy, cake mix and frosting, birthday decorations, candles and balloons. Our Fideliter program Chairs, Debbie Hudgens and Faith Thomas said, “The children are very grateful and the parents really appreciate the special recognition for their children during these tough times for their families.”

During the Boys and Girls Club after school program at local grade schools, “Birthday Bags” are delivered to children personally. These “special bags” include a gift, candy, fun favors, pens/pencils/markers, and a \$2 bill. Our Fideliter program Chair, Brenda Morrissy said, “Thanks to your generosity, many children will have a much happier birthday.”



DREAMING OF THE HOLIDAYS

This year we sponsored our first “Children's Fashion Show and Brunch”, co-chaired by Keli Nitschke and Gini Shahzada. Held on Sunday, November 11th at the Elgin Country Club, it was a wonderful success enjoyed by old and young alike. The event featured children and grandchildren of Fideliter members modeling children and teen styles from Janie and Jack, Matilda Jane and Swish Avenue, storytime from Mrs. Claus (Fideliter Ann Warner) and Dancers from The Fox Valley Nutcracker. Everyone had a great time. With the funds raised from the event we are funding the Summer **PROJECT PRODUCE** program for the Boys and Girls Club!



YWCA LEADERSHIP AWARD

The YWCA Leader Luncheon honors women volunteers and employees by recognizing their leadership and contributions. This year's event honored eight outstanding women. Fideliter Carri Laird was one of the eight women honored, receiving the Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer & Community Service.

Carri has given, and continues to give, service to our community. Through Elgin Junior Service Board, her chairmanship of the “Dental Survey” project brought dental care to hundreds of kids in U-46 schools. During her fifteen-year commitment to Presence St. Joseph Hospital as a Life Auxiliary Member, she was a force in fundraising activities which achieved their goal of \$1,000,000.00 for projects and new equipment. She continues her strong leadership in the Fideliter Club and is Co-Chairing this year's Annual Charity Gala with Kim Hively. Congratulations Carri!

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Mobile Pantry Program serves people in areas of high need to supplement other food banks in the area. In a Mobile Pantry, a truckload of food is distributed through a farmers market-style distribution where people choose to take what they need. This process allows for fast and flexible delivery of rescued food and grocery products including meat, produce and baked goods. Our Fideliter Program Chair, Linda O'Connor, has organized several volunteer activities working at the Mobile Pantry distributions in Elgin and the NIFB distribution center. Here's a few pictures of the Fideliters in action!



Thank you.

We hope you can join us at this year's 131st Annual Charity Gala on
Saturday August 24th, 2019 at the Elgin Country Club.



www.fideliterclub.com

fideliters@gmail.com

P.O.Box 5442, Elgin, Illinois 60121

