

## ECF SUPPORTS JUST, VIBRANT COMMUNITY

August 31, 2016

### **Evanston Community Foundation: Partnering with McGaw for a Stronger Community**

Evanston residents would be hard pressed to name a local organization or issue that the Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) has not impacted in some way. The McGaw YMCA is no exception: through responsive and capacity-building grants, as well as donor-advised and designated funds, ECF is one of the McGaw YMCA's most loyal supporters.

For the past three years, the Evanston Community Foundation has supported the McGaw YMCA's efforts to reduce summer learning loss and address the persistent achievement gap among Evanston students. This spring, for example, McGaw YMCA's Power Scholars Academy (PSA) greatly benefited when ECF awarded over \$800,000 in competitive and strategic grants to dozens of organizations serving Evanston residents. ECF awarded the McGaw YMCA with a \$17,500 responsive grant – one of the largest responsive grants given – to pilot PSA at Walker Elementary School this summer.

PSA builds on the McGaw YMCA's successful Y Readers summer learning program, a past ECF grant recipient. With support from ECF, 30 rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received intensive reading and math instruction and enrichment programming over the summer. These students started the school year last month prepared and excited to learn.



They are unlikely to know it, but many of our youth already benefitted from ECF's support of the McGaw YMCA and our partnership with the YWCA Evanston/ North Shore through Evanston Swims!. Evanston Swims! was a result of the community-wide, Evanston150 initiative to come up with 10 big ideas for Evanston's future.

"It's been exciting to see how a collaboration between the McGaw YMCA, YWCA Evanston/North Shore, and other Evanston organizations created a practical program that ensures our community's kids are safe in the water," says ECF President CEO Monique Brunson Jones. "ECF is proud to support this exciting effort – and the YMCA's continued work with many Evanston Swims! participants in summer learning programs. All of these programs work toward ECF's goal of a more just, vibrant, and inclusive community."

As a trusted steward of donors' investments and through partnerships with other grant makers, especially Northwestern University's Dance Marathon, the Evanston Community Foundation acts as a catalyst to bring ideas to life for a better Evanston. For the youth and families the McGaw YMCA, ECF helps youth gain access to the academic opportunities they deserve and life-saving skills they need.

We are proud to be a grantee and partner with ECF, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. ECF's remarkable work is having a lasting impact on the lives of Evanston's youth, and we thank them for their continued support.

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