



Community Involvement

OUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In addition to providing superior legal services, our attorneys and staff recognize the importance of serving the communities where we live and work.

Whether participating in or hosting fundraisers, spending our free time helping individuals in need or offering leadership and guidance on various non-profit boards of directors, our employees constantly find new ways to give back to our communities.

Our Community Connections Committee was formed to help organize the philanthropic interests of our attorneys and staff members and translate them into concrete actions. In 2006, we established the Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard Charitable Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization that supports and contributes to the local, regional and national charities selected by our Community Connections Committee each year.

Each year we are excited to participate in the United Way Campaign and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis's Motion for Kids, as well as the various races for causes such as the Komen Race for the Cure, Alzheimer's Association walk, Run for Little Hearts and Head for the Cure.

Our Community Connections Committee also organizes firm-wide events throughout the year to raise funds for selected charities, including our annual Trivia Night, Thanksgiving Luncheon and Bake Auction featuring items baked and prepared by our members and their families. In addition to our efforts for our primary charitable organizations, we raise money within our firm by hosting dress-down days and other events for elected secondary charitable organizations in the area.

For 2022, our Community Connections Committee elected and proudly supports:

Swing Fore Hope

Swing Fore Hope is dedicated to impacting & financially assisting local families fighting cancer & contributing to the cutting-edge research focused on eradicating this disease. The charity helps local families by assisting with hardships they face during their fight against cancer including paying medical bills, mortgages, and providing financial assistance. Swing Fore Hope will also continue to benefit The Siteman Cancer Center of St. Louis to benefit cancer research as well as financially support local families fighting this disease.

Foster Together

Foster Together supports and equips children and families touched by foster care in the St. Louis region. Foster Together, formerly South County Foster Closet, was created in March 2018 when a group of moms in St. Louis, Missouri. They began collecting clothing, shoes, and baby items to be sorted and passed along to children in foster care, free of charge. Since then, they have helped hundreds of children in the St. Louis area.

Always & Forever Midwest Animal Sanctuary

The mission of Always & Forever Midwest Animal Sanctuary is to provide our senior furry friends a home in a loving, healthy living room setting. At the sanctuary, the animals can comfortably live out their lives, be they measured in weeks, months or years. At A&F they endure the bad, surpass the pain, and always, always, always look for the good. 1,700 dogs lives and countless human lives have been touched by a little red barn located in a tiny town in Kansas, filled with so much love.

Additional charitable organizations our committee will support in 2022 include:

- **Friends of Kids with Cancer:** Friends of Kids with Cancer is devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases. Their mission is to be an advocate for these special kids providing them and their families with the educational, emotional, and recreational support needed as a result of the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation.
- **Ready Readers:** At Ready Readers, they send trained volunteers into classrooms in low-income communities to read aloud to young children, sparking imaginations and building early literacy skills in preparation for kindergarten. They stock classroom shelves with new, high-quality books and provide books for each child to keep and enjoy at home. Together with their community partners, they provide literacy-related experiences to extend kids' love of reading beyond the classroom walls.
- **Webster University, College of Arts and Sciences, Interdisciplinary Border Project:** Together with student interns and volunteers, these faculty members assist in ongoing community efforts to help immigrants with issues such as healthcare and immigration. In addition, during the pandemic, faculty members and students have continued to remain active by conducting public conversations via Facebook on issues facing the community
- **Hope Animal Rescues:** They are an all-age, all-breed, no-kill rescue. Hope Animal Rescues saves dogs on their last day of life from animal control facilities and provides them a true second chance in their facility and their adoption program. They believe that all pets should be treated with dignity, respect, and kindness. They believe in showing compassion and working to rehabilitate abused and abandoned pets. At Hope Animal Rescues they educate people and communities about the importance of these principles as well as the importance of spaying and neutering to reduce the number of abandoned pets. They are based out of Godfrey, Illinois.

For more information on our community involvement efforts, please contact:

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