On behalf of the Moraine Valley Foundation Board of Directors, thank you very much for supporting the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation. It has been an exciting year in which we awarded nearly $100,000 in scholarships to students in need, some of which are highlighted within this report and on the college’s YouTube channel. I hope you enjoy reading their stories and learning more about how the Foundation makes a tremendous impact on students’ lives.

I also am excited to share the stories of Moraine Valley alumni who have recently returned to the college. We are proud of their success—and even more pleased they chose to share them with our college community. To read additional stories, I invite you to visit Moraine Valley’s alumni website, morainevalley.edu/foundation/alumni.

With each passing year, the Foundation is fortunate to be able to increase our contributions to Moraine Valley and its students. None of this could be done without your support. Thank you for your generous commitment to Moraine Valley students and our local community.

Philip T. Foster
**Chicago Blackhawks Charities**

**Help Usher in New Era of Health**

Moraine Valley continually strives to offer more opportunities to its students and community members. The latest endeavor that will help meet the physical, as well as the intellectual needs, of its various constituencies is the new Health, Fitness & Recreation Center that will open in the spring. This state-of-the-art health and fitness facility will be a valuable and unique resource for the entire district.

The Chicago Blackhawks Charities partnered with Moraine Valley to bring this wonderful facility to the southwest suburbs. **The charity made an extremely generous donation of $250,000 toward this project.** The fitness area of the center is named in the Blackhawks’ honor, and will feature top-of-the-line cardiovascular and free-weight fitness equipment. The Foundation helped to facilitate this donation by the Chicago Blackhawks Charities, which was made at the groundbreaking ceremony held in January 2013.

*The Chicago Blackhawks intend to build a strong and lasting relationship with the Health, Fitness & Recreation Center by bringing programming to the southwest suburbs in the future.*

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**Toasts and Tastes Abound at Gala**

Supporters of the Foundation again paired their generosity with delicious food and wine at the annual Bon Appétit Gala held April 6, 2013, in the Moraine Business and Conference Center. In addition to sampling delicacies and wines from around the world, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction and bid on exciting items such as a day as an extra on a movie set, an autographed jersey of Chicago Blackhawk Duncan Keith, tickets to the Steppenwolf Theatre, and much more. **The stellar evening raised $52,000 for student scholarships and college programs.**

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**Golf Outing—Another Ace**

A day chasing birdies and eagles under a beautiful sky is par for the course at the Foundation’s golf fundraiser. The 32nd annual golf outing, held in September 2012, was no exception. Participants enjoyed their day on the greens while they helped raise money for the Foundation. After golfing, everyone headed to Silver Lake Country Club’s lovely clubhouse for dinner and prizes. **The real winners of the day were Moraine Valley students, as more than $33,000 for scholarships was raised at the event.**
“I always knew this was what I wanted to do. I’d hold my hair brush like it was a microphone, and I would pretend to be a singer,” says Moraine Valley grad Ebonie Taylor. “As a young child, I traveled with my mom and spent a lot of time back stage and in dressing rooms. Music was something I was always around.”

Ebonie hails from a family of professional musicians—from her parents to her legendary great aunt, Koko Taylor, known as the Queen of the Blues.

Although she knew she wanted to follow in the family business, Ebonie was encouraged to get a college degree as a “plan B.” She attended Moraine Valley, where she took vocal classes and was a member of the Chorale and Chamber Singers. She went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in international business and then began to pursue her music career. She has since toured with musicians such as R. Kelly, The Contours, Mavis Staples, and Junior Walker and the All Stars. On a recent 30-city tour with The Official Blues Brothers Revue, she returned to Moraine Valley to perform at our Fine and Performing Arts Center. “When I found out, I was like—‘Hey, I went to that school.’ I loved seeing Moraine Valley again. It looks beautiful—very fancy and state-of-the-art. It was great to come back,” she says.
“When I was a student at Moraine Valley, I used to hang out in the theater and dream about playing with my band in that venue,” says Moraine Valley alum Marty Sammon. He was able to fulfill that dream last fall when he returned to perform in the Fine and Performing Arts Center with his band and the legendary Buddy Guy. Marty has traveled with Buddy Guy for nearly 10 years as his keyboardist in more than 1,000 shows, and has shared the stage with musical luminaries such as Eric Clapton, John Mayer and Carlos Santana. He also has performed on Jimmy Kimmel Live, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Late Show with David Letterman, and others.

Marty says his father inspired him to pursue music. “One of my favorite memories is playing piano at home when I was around 14, and my father would sit next to me and request songs. If I didn’t know the song he was asking for, he would play it on his record player and expect me to learn it after one listen. I got to the point where I could.”

He was excited to return to Moraine Valley, where he performed in the jazz band and took music classes, to make that early dream come true. “When I saw on Buddy’s schedule that we were playing at Moraine Valley, I was thrilled,” Marty says.
“I was undecided on a major when I started here but I knew I needed an education,” says Moraine Valley grad Michelle Gerrity. “I heard that Moraine Valley has a great faculty and facilities, so I thought I’d come here and get the process started, and hopefully something would fall into place.”

Michelle earned her Associate in Science degree before transferring to Bradley University thinking she would study teaching or nursing. But she soon realized she had a passion for math and physics, so she switched directions and decided to earn a mechanical engineering degree with a biomedical concentration instead.

While at Bradley, she started working on cars with some other students and discovered that she really enjoyed it. After graduation, she began working at Honda Research and Development in Ohio as an automotive safety crash engineer. She runs various tests to determine the safety and comfort of seatbelts and analyzes the results. “I talk with the seat designers and marketing engineers. It’s like a balancing act. I have to make sure the product satisfies the designers and stylists while also making sure the customer will feel comfortable sitting in the seat. On top of that, I have to make sure the seats pass regulation and are safe,” she says. She is also responsible for running tests on the seatbelt anchorage points. “That’s basically anywhere the seatbelt connects with the vehicle body,” Michelle explains. Using instrumented crash dummies, she makes sure a person’s head will contact the head restraint on time to reduce the severity of whiplash injuries in rear-end collisions. And she analyzes the strength of the child restraint latches to help protect children in accidents. “We need to ensure the latch bar is strong enough to keep a child safely secured in a vehicle crash,” she says.

Michelle recently returned to the college to give a presentation to students entitled “The Role of Mathematics in Predicting Whiplash Injuries and Seat Belt Performance” to encourage them to look at careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. She has helped many Moraine Valley students over the years. She was a tutor in Moraine Valley’s Tutoring Center and often had students discuss their challenges with her. “Many would tell me things like they didn’t have parents or what a financial burden school was for them,” she says. To make it easier for some to achieve their dreams, Michelle decided to set up a scholarship through the Foundation. The $1,000 Michelle Gerrity Engineering Scholarship helps future engineers pay their tuition and fees. “I felt I was so fortunate to have gone to Moraine Valley that I wanted to give something back and help others,” says Michelle.
**Student Scholarships**

*Hear more from these students: [YouTube]*

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**Tony Medina**  
*Recipient of the Espresso Love Scholarship*

“It’s hard being a single dad and going to work and school,” says Moraine Valley student Tony Medina. “Especially in this program—it’s very demanding.” Tony plans to become a nurse, and is grateful he received this scholarship to help with his tuition. “The scholarship takes off a lot of stress. I’m now able to stay home more to study. I work two jobs—I have to. I have a family and bills. So if I can take a few days off to study, it helps me out greatly.”

Tony’s wife passed away in 2007 leaving him with four children under the age of 5 to raise on his own. He says that after seeing the compassion his wife’s nurses showed, he decided he wanted to pursue a nursing career. He waited until his children were a bit older, and is now in Moraine Valley’s Nursing Program. “I believe nursing is not just a job, but also a responsibility to the community that you serve,” Tony says.

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**Rebecca Lyons**  
*Recipient of the Arlene Spiros Academic Scholarship*

“When I enrolled at Moraine Valley, I thought I was going to pursue a business degree,” says Moraine Valley student Rebecca Lyons. “Then I took an environmental science class that really opened my eyes to the ways of the world, and the abuse the world suffers.” Rebecca decided to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. “I thought it was my best shot at making a real change in the world.”

Coming to college has allowed Rebecca to make a positive difference in her own future. She was in a job she did not enjoy, so after her daughter turned 2, this single mom enrolled at Moraine Valley. “As soon as Hannah was born, I remember deciding that I needed to do big things with my life—for both our sakes,” she says. “The scholarship has allowed me to concentrate on my classes rather than how I’m going to afford to pay for those classes. I’m very thankful, and hopefully one day, I’ll create my own scholarship to help someone.”

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**Justin Kapelinski**  
*Recipient of the Standard Bank and Trust Company Scholarship*

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, so I decided to come to Moraine Valley to save money. It offered the perfect opportunity to explore my interests. Plus, I could live at home and work,” says Moraine Valley student Justin Kapelinski. He started out taking business classes, but after working as a student aide in the Academic Advising Center, he knew he wanted to go in a different direction. “I realized I wanted to work in a profession where I could engage and help people. It’s great when people get a smile on their faces because you gave them the right answer,” he says.

Justin applied for the Foundation scholarship as part of an assignment in his high school honors English class. He was proud to receive it because it was based on academics rather than financial need. “Scholarships like these help give students an academic goal to work toward,” he says. “It was a good feeling to know I had to earn it.”

After Justin visited the college’s Counseling and Career Development Center, he decided to pursue a dual major in communications and psychology, with a long-term goal of becoming a physical therapist. And once he has success in that caring profession, he plans to give back. “I’d like to create my own scholarship to help others who need support,” he says.
MISSION STATEMENT
To promote and financially support college programs and provide scholarships and financial assistance to students, while exercising prudent management and investment of donor funds.

VISION STATEMENT
To be the charity of choice for educational charitable giving of private gifts from donors sympathetic to our cause.

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation appreciates the gifts and pledges received from our donors during the 2013 fiscal year.

New Gift and New Gift Commitments:
Received or pledged July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

- Events - $157,525
- Administration - $114,533
- College Programs - $299,018
- Special Events - $72,112
- Other - $261,602
- Unrestricted - $338,239
- Temporarily Restricted - $352,400

FY13 Foundation Expenditures

- College Programs - $299,018
- Special Events - $72,112
- Other - $261,602
- Administration - $114,533

FY13 Gifts and Commitments by Donor Category

- Corporations, Foundations and Government - 51%
- Gifts-in-kind - 28%
- Faculty and Staff - 8%
- Friends - 11%
- Alumni and Annuitants - 2%

Investment portfolio

- June '08: $3,932,810
- June '09: $3,384,260
- June '10: $3,671,925
- June '11: $4,223,244
- June '12: $4,205,113
- June '13: $4,354,736

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation celebrates the gifts and pledges received from our donors in fiscal year 2009.
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July 2012–June 2013

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