

20 Under 40 Award: Josh Gibb



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GALESBURG — The first recipient of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce's "20 Under 40" award to be profiled is Josh Gibb, executive director of the Galesburg Community Foundation.

According to the nomination forms for Gibb, he oversees the \$26 million GCF, which is 17th largest in the nation representing a community of 100,000 or fewer. In that position, he oversees 52 funds that have aided numerous families, individuals and organizations to connect with causes to create their philanthropic legacy. There has been more than \$3 million granted to area health, education and non-profit organizations.

Gibb also serves as a member of the District 205 School Board.

As one person stated in Gibb's nomination, "his energy, intelligence and vision are far beyond his years ... GCF has grown dramatically under Josh's leadership and he is a driving force in meeting the

philanthropic needs of our area."

Here's more about Gibb, in his own words:

Q. What do you do in your current position?

I am fortunate to be the executive director of the Galesburg Community Foundation. The Galesburg Community Foundation builds endowment for our communities in Knox and Warren counties and for non-profits serving this area. In the same way a CEO leads a company, I lead the Galesburg Community Foundation team. In everything I do I have a great team (staff, board, family) supporting me and the very important work of our organization. The most exciting part of my job is that I help connect members of our community with causes they care about. Philanthropy is a huge part of the health of our communities and I consider our area fortunate to have local community foundation fostering philanthropy.

Q. How are you involved in the community?

I actively participate and I think it is important that every member of our community is involved. Locally, I am a member of the Galesburg Lions Club, I serve on the Galesburg District 205 School Board, I am a "Fourth Sunday" barista at Northwoods Community Church, I chair the Governance Committee of the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, I am helping coach K-1 soccer for the YMCA and occasionally I can be found attending a Henderson Aggies 4-H Club meeting. I have also been fortunate to serve with state and national organizations that serve our area.

Q. Of what achievement are you most proud?

I am fortunate to have a career filled with moments I can be proud of. To single out one gives disservice to the others.

Q. What advice do you have for other young professionals?

Page 2 of 2 - A. Surround yourself with people who challenge you and make you think. Find someone that you can mentor. It is great to have a mentor and I have been fortunate to have solid and wise people pour wisdom and perspective into my life; but unless you can impart wisdom to another person it is all for not.

Q. What's the most important thing people should know about your community?

Our community is what we make of it. Every day we get to choose how we respond and decide how to conduct ourselves. We all have the ability to make our community better for today and stronger for tomorrow. Stacy and I consider ourselves blessed to be a part of Galesburg and raise our family here. Where else can your kids learn about symphonic instruments, work with cattle and play soccer all in the same day.

Bio Age: 36 **Residence:** Rural Galesburg **Profession:** Executive director of the Galesburg Community Foundation **Education:** Associates from Carl Sandburg and bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. **Family:** My wife is Stacy and together we have four children: Esther, Miles, Maxwell and Harrison.

About the award The Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce have launched the "20 Under 40" award.

This award honors 20 individuals under the age of 40 considered to be the "movers and shakers" in the community. Honorees will be profiled each week through Jan. 31, 2016, in The Register-Mail.

They will be included in a special supplement in February 2016, in addition to being recognized at the Chamber's annual dinner to be held in February 2016. The 20 honorees are judged on their outstanding career achievements and community impact. Two people will be chosen from the 20 as Man of the Year and Woman of the Year.

A panel of judges evaluated each nomination on information provided in the following categories: Reason for nomination, career achievements/special awards and recognition, community involvement, volunteerism and community service leadership skills.