



**“What do we live for...  
if not to make the  
world less difficult  
for each other?”**

George Eliot

**PAINT a brighter future**

"What a man does for  
himself dies with him. What a  
man does for his community  
lives long after he is gone."

Theodore Roosevelt



the ARTof giving back

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For **good.** For **ever.**<sup>®</sup>

the Art of giving

and the ARTof giving back



The mission of the **Elkhart County Community Foundation** (ECCF) is to inspire people to make charitable gifts that improve the quality of life in Elkhart County. As a public, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization, created by and for all the people of the county, we solicit and develop endowment funds and distribute income from them for the benefit of our community.

We do so with enthusiasm, dedication and sincere passion, because – unlike other not-for-profit organizations, the ECCF is the **philanthropic conduit** in Elkhart County. Hundreds of donors who care deeply about this county look to us because of our strong community connections, our depth of knowledge and our ability to put their contributions to work, providing solutions that can make dramatic, life-altering change possible for Elkhart County children and adults in need.

Like Michelangelo who said, *“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free,”* we see many angels who need our help.

## *For Quantum Change*

The art is in all that we envision for positive change in our communities and then bring to reality. Just as an artist’s canvas is blank when the work begins, the artist’s experience, knowledge, talent and passion create the finished painting on the canvas, one brush stroke at a time.

We are the philanthropic catalyst for creating positive change, one donor’s gift at a time... and through many collective donors’ gifts. You bring our art and vision to reality.

**“You can not hold onto riches. You must use them and, by so doing, receive other riches in return.”**

Robert Collier

PROACTIVE leadership

  
Elkhart County  
Community Foundation



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt and a lanyard, is sitting on the floor in a classroom. She is holding an open book and looking at it intently. In the foreground, the backs of several children's heads and shoulders are visible as they listen. The classroom background features a blue bulletin board with various cutouts, including teddy bears, and several papers and notices pinned to the wall.

RESPONSIBLE **stewardship**

The ECCF was created in 1989 by a small group of individuals who saw a need to establish a charitable entity that would help **provide solutions to community needs**. We continue to follow their vision today, identifying emerging issues in the county, bringing together diverse voices from throughout the community and stimulating resources to address those needs.

Blessed with a **strong continuity of leadership**, 10 of our 15 founding members remain active with the foundation.

Those serving on the ECCF board also serve the community through positions on 72 not-for-profit boards in Elkhart County.

This involvement and familiarity makes a significant impact on the effectiveness of our grant-making activity.

Charitable gifts, like the one you may be considering, are made – not to, but – through the foundation for the benefit of the organizations we serve. **Your gift is never spent**. It is pooled with others' gifts and prudently invested – with the earned interest used for community grants. In this way the ECCF endowment – and your gift – benefit the community today and tomorrow, while helping our region prepare for the future.

Our goal is to provide a permanent sum of monies to respond to current, ongoing and emerging community issues. Unlike other not-for-profits, the ECCF does not ask you to give to our cause. Rather, we ask you, **“What is your cause and how can we help you reach your charitable goals?”**

By creating a fund through the ECCF, you achieve:

**Strategic impact:** Create effective, meaningful community improvement by targeting your resources as you meet your charitable goals.

**A personalized involvement:** Learn about likeminded donors, resources and community organizations who can help address your mutual interests.

**Tax benefits:** Integrate your gift of cash, stocks, securities, real estate or personal property with your financial and estate planning to maximize your tax advantages.

**A charitable legacy:** Convert a non-endowed fund to a permanent endowed fund to create a lasting legacy.

The Elkhart County Community Foundation has a new mantra: “50 by 20”. Our objective is to increase the foundation’s assets to \$50 million by our 20th anniversary in 2009. Currently, the ECCF has \$36 million in assets, a rather remarkable accomplishment in our brief 16-year history.

## 50 by 20

When we achieve our 50 by 20, this will result in:

- An increase in more than a half million dollars in annual grants, yielding \$2,250,000+ each year!
- Additional leverage to attract added community resources – both public and private.
- An increase in visible evidence of what the ECCF can accomplish.
- Beginning efforts in crafting a 100-year Vision for Elkhart County.

We realize our goal is ambitious, but we feel a strong sense of urgency to pull resources together... now. The needs are there; children, adults and families throughout the county are waiting. We can’t afford to waste precious time!



ACHIEVING your goals

*talented*

**“One of the highlights in my life has been these nine years [on the ECCF board] working with so many generous and talented people.”**

George Buckingham,  
Yoder, Ainley,  
Ulmer & Buckingham LLP;  
former ECCF board chairman

**“Our foundation has doubled in size the last seven years. Wouldn't it be wonderful to double our size and double the good we do for our community in the next seven years? I believe we can!”**

Craig Fulmer,  
Heritage Financial Group;  
former ECCF board chairman

*generous*

For **good.** For **ever.**®

# the Art of giving

## 1989

Incorporate Elkhart County Community Foundation (ECCF).  
Receive not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt designation.  
Name founding directors.  
Name Bill Myers as part-time executive director.  
**Receive first \$250,000 gift!**

**1990** Receive Lilly Endowment \$100,000 GIFT  
(Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) Matching  
Funds Challenge Grant for Elkhart's downtown  
East Bank project.  
Receive 5-year \$1.7 million Lilly Matching Funds Challenge  
Grant for endowment building; receive \$377,475 in  
unrestricted funds this year.  
Distribute first grants, totaling \$120,904.

**1991** Establish official grant-making committee.  
Send out first newsletter.  
Begin "quiet" 5-year endowment-building campaign.  
**Award \$117,904 in grants.**

**1992** Assets build to \$3.2 million.  
Co-sponsor first seminar for ECCF professional advisors.  
Receive \$820,000 in unrestricted funds from  
5-year Lilly grant.  
Establish public relations, investment policy, goals committees.  
**Award \$155,952 in grants.**

**1993** Assets grow to \$6 million!  
Qualify for Lilly's 5-year \$1.7 million Matching Funds  
Challenge Grant for endowment in 2 1/2 years, 2 years  
ahead of schedule!  
Hold first strategic planning retreat for board of directors;  
approve \$500,000 administrative endowment fund goal.  
**Our fund balances are growing:  
Award \$334,225 in grants!**



**1994** Our 5th Anniversary!  
\$7 million in assets.  
**Award \$388,210 in grants.**

**1995** \$8.5+ million in assets + \$1.65 million charitable  
remainder trust = Our \$10 million goal!  
Establish Dollars for Scholars' funds with 3 county  
school districts.  
Receive gift of Ivy Tech's Elkhart campus.  
Award over \$1.3 million in total gifts and grants since 1989!  
**This year: \$393,196.**



## 1996

Assets grow to \$11.3 million.  
Begin distributing annual report through Elkhart Truth and  
Goshen News, reaching 46,500 county residents.  
Award almost \$2 million in grants in seven years!  
**This year: \$424,150.**

**1997** Assets still growing: \$13.9 million!  
Attain \$500,000 Lilly Challenge Match GIFT II Grant;  
received \$300,000, to date.  
Establish Dollars for Scholars funds with 2 more  
school districts.  
Funding \$50,000 for at-risk youth preventive  
intervention program in local schools.  
**Award \$441,615 in grants.**

**1998** Assets grow to \$17 million.  
Rename "Friends of the Foundation" to "Legacy Society."  
Goshen's Mennonite Foundation joins KeyBank and NBD  
Bank as investment manager.  
Local benefactor makes \$250,000 challenge match  
to build fund for administrative endowment.  
Anonymous donor gives \$50,000 for pilot project  
in five Elkhart elementary schools.  
Receive \$1,000,000 Lilly Endowment Gift III.  
Lilly funds 2 full college scholarships.  
**Award \$549,678 in grants.**

## 1999

Our 10th Anniversary!  
Assets grow to \$21 million,  
exceeding our '95 goal of  
doubling \$10 million in  
assets by 2000!  
Lilly Endowment funds 2  
more college scholarships.  
**Award \$880,948 in grants,  
a significant increase over '98!**



**2000** After 10 years, Bill Myers retires as executive director;  
is succeeded by Earl Taylor of Omaha CF.  
Participate in "Leave a Legacy" state-wide awareness  
blitz re. need for philanthropy.  
**Award over \$1 million (\$1,137,000) in grants!**

**2001** Assets near \$23 million.  
Jon Housand becomes first part-time program director.  
Participate in Lilly's "Taking Stock" initiative re. IN CFs'  
sustainability.  
2 more Lilly scholarships added; now total 6.  
4 Kegerreis college scholarships established.  
**Award \$1,202,353 in grants.**

**2002** With LaGrange County CF, receive Lilly Foundation  
Community Alliances to Promote  
Education (CAPE) grant for \$9,992,670.  
Receive \$2 million through Lilly Endowment GIFT Phase V  
Matching Challenge.  
Facilitate and provide initial funding for Horizon Project:  
"Today's Vision for a Dynamic Elkhart County Tomorrow."  
Hold 1st board strategic thinking retreat, led by  
national facilitator.  
Establish DREAMSWORK® at Elkhart's Hawthorne Elementary.  
**Award \$1,499,859 in grants.**

**2003** Assets grow to \$29.8 million,  
a 10.7% increase over last year!  
Secure \$2 million Lilly GIFT V Challenge Match. [ECCF is 1  
of only 12 of IN's 92 counties to achieve this!]  
ECCF ranks in top 25th percentile in  
performance vs. other foundations.  
**Award over \$1.6 million in grants.**

**2004** Assets grow to \$34.2 million.  
Total investment return: +14.6%.  
ECCF raises fund fees from .5% to 1% to  
become operationally self-sustaining!  
Jim Siegmann becomes the new part-time program  
officer; full-time mid-year 2005.  
Hold 2nd board strategic thinking retreat,  
led by national facilitator.  
**Since inception, grant over \$12 million!  
Award \$1.5 million.**

**2005** Assets reach \$36 million!  
Kick off "50 by 20" campaign to increase assets to  
\$50 million by ECCF's 20th Anniversary in 2009.  
Hold board training workshop, conducted by I.U.  
School of Philanthropy.  
Lead funding consortium for professional financial  
advisors seminars.  
Initiate first county-wide, 2-day leadership retreat  
for NFP agencies' executive directors.  
**Award \$1,739,292 in grants.**

**2006** What we create through our Art of Giving these  
next crucial years...

## 2007 depends on... You.

**2008** Benchmarks for end of year:  
Increase total assets from \$36 million to \$50 million.  
Increase Unrestricted Fund for Elkhart County from  
\$9 million to \$10.5 million.  
Increase Legacy Society membership from 80 to  
120 members.  
Increase administrative endowment to \$2 million.

**2009** ECCF celebrates its 20th Anniversary!  
Reaches 50 by 20 goal and thanks its visionary,  
generous donors.

and the ARTof giving back





## give a gift

Because the ultimate goal of the ECCF is a healthy, thriving community, we encourage and embrace services that assist those in need. This is where our heart is.

These not-for-profit organizations reach out and lift up hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people in our county every year. The investment of donors, like you, in the Elkhart County Community Foundation addresses unmet, local needs. What you give stays here. Your gift enables the ECCF to grant funds for these deserving causes. And so, *a legacy of caring begins.*

**Here are but a few examples of what we have been able to do, to proactively address, to effectively change... with financial gifts from caring, responsive people like you.**

**The Boys & Girls Club:**\* Greater Goshen – Boys' and girls' dried tears, restored self-esteem, hope rekindled. How could we not respond to this reputable agency's innovative proposals that help repair so many families? (\$158,865 over many years)

**Family Christian Development Center:**\* Nappanee – Donors' gifts helped put a new roof on this 100-year-old former church and helped keep roofs over the heads of Wa-Nee families facing eviction and/or utilities shut-off after 9/11's economic downturn. (\$39,450)

**Unique Learning Academy:**\* Elkhart – Another new roof plus reinforced foundations for both the ULA facility and underprivileged children ages six weeks to 12 years. ECCF partners also help us support their needs because these kids get an education beyond daycare. (\$27,200)

**Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS):**\* County-wide – Fund a "forum"? Usually not. But when a respected organization like CAPS seeks funding for a "Families First" forum, we believe that this healthy family initiative has great promise for our communities. (\$108,609 over years)

**Horizon Project:** County-wide – "What kind of society do we want to leave to coming generations?" is one of many questions addressed at community meetings focusing on change for Elkhart County. Plans for a comprehensive strategic plan are underway!

**Heart City Health Center:**\* Greater Elkhart – No more toothaches, no more pain! Close to 1,000 disadvantaged patients a year will benefit from emergency treatment, plus routine care as volunteer staffing becomes available at the Findlay Dental Clinic in this renovated facility. (\$72,575)

\* Special thanks to these organizations for their photographic contributions.



We can help you achieve your philanthropic objectives through our charitable gift-planning services. Through a variety of fund options, we provide flexible, efficient and tax-effective ways to ensure your gift achieves the greatest possible impact.

**Our personalized service includes:**

- Staff expertise to make sure your giving supports legitimate charitable organizations and receives the recognition it deserves.
- Advice, financial examples and sample legal documents on the variety of ways to grow your philanthropy, including outright gifts to make a difference today and deferred gifts to make a difference in the future.
- On request, information summaries on a variety of community issues and giving opportunities in Elkhart County, including the pooling of gifts for greater impact.

**Our “Tools for Giving” include a variety of fund options:**

**Unrestricted Funds.** Use your gift to meet ever-changing community needs. These funds enable us to respond to the most urgent needs, today and tomorrow.

**Field-of-Interest Funds.** Target your gift to meet your charitable goals – in areas like at-risk youth, disadvantaged adults or economic development. We’ll award grants to county agencies or programs matching your area of interest.

**Designated Funds.** Direct your gift to a specific not-for-profit agency, like a day-care center, a museum, your church – virtually any charitable organization. Tell us which you want to benefit from your gift; we’ll manage the annual distribution of funds for you.

**Donor-Advised Funds.** Be actively involved in the use of your gift. Working with our professional grant-making staff, identify how you want your gift utilized to address needs you care most about. We’ll distribute the grant dollars.



Scholarships

Health & Human Services

Arts & Culture

Youth Development

Community Development

Education

**“Riches do not consist in the possession of treasures but in the use made of them.”** Napoleon Bonaparte

# Sculpting the future

**We believe** the quality of life in our county is most dependent upon jobs and types of jobs, education, community leadership, community spirit, and strong core cities and downtowns.

Within the next three years, we are committed to making major contributions toward shaping our county's future. Our three strategic areas of emphasis are:

– **Creating a vibrant economy**

by encouraging new business formation, identifying and training future leaders, involving our minority populations and considering alternative housing initiatives.

– **Achieving educational attainment**

by placing a greater value on education, promoting increased expectations, expanding mentoring programs, focusing on early intervention, and funding parental and minority training programs.

– **Attaining asset growth**

by communicating more effectively with potential donors, initiating a major effort with financial advisors, partnering with financial service firms and successfully marketing the ECCF's purpose.

These issues are multi-faceted. They include housing initiatives, reducing weekly rentals, training future leaders, promoting increased educational expectations, unlocking untapped resources, making highly visible strategic grants and nurturing the human spirit.

Again, our aspirations are ambitious, but the needs must be addressed – now and in the future. We must be the visionary, proactive force that serves as a catalyst for actions that lead to long-lasting, quantum change and quality-of-life improvement for the people of Elkhart County.

The majority of our donors have become successful and earned their wealth here in Elkhart County. They understand what we mean by **“For good. For ever. Right here.”** They appreciate their good fortune and want to give back to the community that helped them become successful.

Through their generous gifts – and yours, we can reach our goal: **\$50 million in assets by our 20th anniversary in 2009!**

Help us sculpt a more promising future for children and adults in Elkhart County by making your commitment now. Please call the ECCF office today at 574.295.8761. Working together, we can perfect the art of giving... and the art of giving back.

