



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF  
ELKHART COUNTY

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**SEEDS**



**GENEROSITY**



**Founding Donors are those individuals or organizations that contributed \$50,000 or more from the inception of the Foundation in 1989 through June 30, 1995. The names of the donors will always be prominently displayed in the Foundation's Annual Report as the original endowment builders and supporters of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.**

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Corson  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deahl  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Decio  
The Decio Family:  
    Terrence Decio, Jamee Decio,  
    Lindy Decio Reilly, Jay Decio  
    Christman, Leigh Decio Laird  
Sherrill and Helen Deputy Family  
Elkhart County Council on Aging  
Elkhart County 4-H Endowment  
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fidler  
Dr. and Mrs. John Foreman  
Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hartman  
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Goshen College  
Goshen Rotary Club Scholarship Fund  
Greencroft Foundation  
Gunden Family Fund  
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Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
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Mr. William F. Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Naquin  
Northridge HS Dollars for Scholars  
Oaklawn Foundation  
Mrs. Lee A. Rieth  
Ms. Martha Rieth  
Mr. and Mrs. Marly Rydson  
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sailor  
Salvation Army Elkhart Corps Endowment  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sherman  
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Schricker  
Ina L. Strasser Endowment  
Trinity United Methodist Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Basil S. Turner  
United Way of Elkhart County  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Van Der Karr  
Maynard W. Wells Family  
YMCA/YWCA Joint Community Project

#### Founding Members

Charles Ainlay\*  
Jon Armstrong  
Lehman Beardsley\*  
Wilbert H. Budd\*  
Arthur J. Decio  
Dr. John Foreman\*  
Samuel Hoover\*  
William Johnson  
Lee Martin\*  
James McNamee\*  
William Myers\*  
Richard Pletcher  
Laura Rydson  
Oscar Schricker  
Thomas Warrick

*\*deceased*

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## 2015 - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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**It's humbling when people choose the Community Foundation of Elkhart County as the way to make their generosity live on for future generations.**

Whether it's helping young people better afford higher education or supporting the work of the great nonprofits who create a safety net in our community, the gifts to the Foundation make our community stronger and plant seeds that will grow and bloom in unexpected and remarkable ways.

The real work of the Foundation is matching donors and worthy causes. It is work that our staff and volunteers take seriously. Watching them interact with donors and grant recipients is inspiring. These people are the engine that truly inspires good and improves the quality of life in our community.

They do this work with high degrees of commitment and professionalism. From those who answer the phones to those who make the tough decisions on how to award grants, it inspires us to support their work and help them be community leaders.

The fiscal year that ended this summer was remarkable. We received \$12.9 million in new gifts between July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016. That is just astounding! The assets of the Foundation were \$231.6 million when we closed the books in June. The story of generosity in this community continues to grow and be told in new ways.

Due to the generosity of our fund holders and the growth of our unrestricted fund (Fund for Elkhart County), we distributed more than \$16.1 million in grants and scholarships.

We're also grateful to the Lilly Endowment, Inc. which inspired even more generosity through their GIFT VI Initiative that was completed in March. You can read more about that in the following pages of this report.

In addition to its role in being a caretaker for the generous gifts of others, your Community Foundation of Elkhart County has been invited into several processes to improve life in our county and larger community. We are thrilled to be among the thought leaders in those efforts. We are excited and proud to be a part of the Regional Cities Initiative (being involved in a regional mindset and movement) as well as the local efforts of the Vibrant Communities Initiative.

Vibrant Communities of Elkhart County gathered more than 600 people this spring to discuss making this place more liveable. Conversations in our cities and towns gathered people to talk about what we want to be as a community. The Community Foundation helped sponsor this conversation because we thought it was important.



The resulting strategic plan will give our staff and volunteers, as well as others in our community, a road map for the future drawn from the dreams of our residents.

For more than a year, the Regional Cities of Northern Indiana worked to secure a \$42 million grant from the state of Indiana. Pete has been a key member on that governing board, which was humbling and exciting, particularly as the group was successful in getting the funding that will help transform our region for years to come.

Alongside both of those efforts, Community Foundation leaders have been involved in conversations about a new natatorium and River District in Elkhart. We have been at the table and worked to advance a new type of

development for Elkhart and Elkhart County. If successful, we will have a world-class Fitness and Aquatics facility on the plot next to two rivers in downtown Elkhart. We could also have apartments and shopping that look different than what we have had in the past in that same River District.

It's an exciting time to live and work in Elkhart County. The Community Foundation of Elkhart County and all those who support it as donors and volunteers is a key part of that. We are grateful for all that is happening in this amazing community.

Warmly,



**Dzung Nguyen**  
CHAIRPERSON

**Pete McCown**  
PRESIDENT



## Regional Cities Initiative

Over the last two years, your Community Foundation has expanded its leadership to not only improving the quality of life in Elkhart County but supporting efforts throughout the region as well, through its participation in Indiana's Regional Cities Initiative. Both Community Foundation president Pete McCown and community leader Dallas Bergl, CEO of INOVA Federal Credit Union (headquartered in Elkhart), play a key role in the five member Regional Development Authority (RDA) board overseeing the Elkhart, St. Joseph, and Marshall counties region.

During the summer of 2016, the RDA reviewed applications focusing on quality of place topics that will contribute toward creating the vibrancy that is critical in attracting -- and keeping -- talent in the region. The RDA then forwarded its recommendations to the Indiana Economic Development Corp for review.

Currently, we are proud to announce that, to date, \$38.6 million of the \$42 million has been awarded by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to 15 projects in our three counties. Disbursement of funds is expected to occur in October 2016. To read more about the history of this initiative and projects, visit [InspiringGood.org/RegionalCities](http://InspiringGood.org/RegionalCities).



## Vibrant Communities Initiative

Your Community Foundation has also taken a partnering role in the Vibrant Communities initiative. This initiative is Elkhart County's opportunity to strengthen our great communities and improve the quality of our physical and natural environments. A six-month process, fueled by 7,000+ individual comments, has resulted in the community's first-ever quality of place Action Agenda. This document will help us maintain what we love about our communities and guide the improvement process to ensure we all have a great place to live, work and raise a family. The agenda includes more than 70 projects - from expanded bike trails, theater restorations, strengthening of neighborhoods and much more - spreading from Middlebury to Nappanee.

Through the experience of the state's Regional Cities Initiative, we learned as a county, we must continue to be proactive to retain and attract talented young people, encourage new investment, and promote our communities as exceptional places for residents and businesses to put down roots.

Over the next 10 years, the Community Foundation and the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau plan to invest tens of millions in grants at multiple levels to make this happen. To learn more about the history, process, and Action Agenda, visit [VibrantElkhartCounty.org](http://VibrantElkhartCounty.org).

# Statements of Financial Position

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ELKHART COUNTY

*Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2016 and 2015*

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## SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>JUNE 30, 2016</b>	<b>JUNE 30, 2015</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	529,000	136,000
Notes receivable	407,000	441,000
Investments	228,904,000	232,863,000
Property held-for-sale	97,000	683,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	1,322,000	1,744,000
Other assets	295,000	319,000
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$231,634,000</b>	<b>\$236,186,000</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable	\$159,000	\$98,000
Grants payable	1,035,000	289,000
Annuities payable	572,000	595,000
Custodial funds	18,616,000	19,301,000
Net assets	211,252,000	215,903,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$231,634,000</b>	<b>\$236,186,000</b>

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*Audited financial statements are available upon request.*



# Statements of Activities

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ELKHART COUNTY  
*Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2016 and 2015*

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## SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

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<b>SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES</b>	<b>JUNE 30, 2016</b>	<b>JUNE 30, 2015</b>
Contributions and grants	12,908,000	11,213,000
Investment return, net	(3,118,000)	(745,000)
Fund administrative fees	1,473,000	1,022,000
Valuation changes	(25,000)	(278,000)
Gain (loss) on property held-for-sale	(4,000)	60,000
Other revenue	5,000	14,000
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES</b>	<b>\$11,239,000</b>	<b>\$11,286,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Grants	12,971,000	8,570,000
Fund administrative fees	1,360,000	954,000
Operational expenses	1,559,000	1,063,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,890,000</b>	<b>\$10,587,000</b>
Change in net assets	(4,651,000)	699,000
Net assets, beginning of year	215,903,000	215,204,000
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$211,252,000</b>	<b>\$215,903,000</b>

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*Audited financial statements are available upon request.*



## Estate Planning Council: Looking after donors' legacy

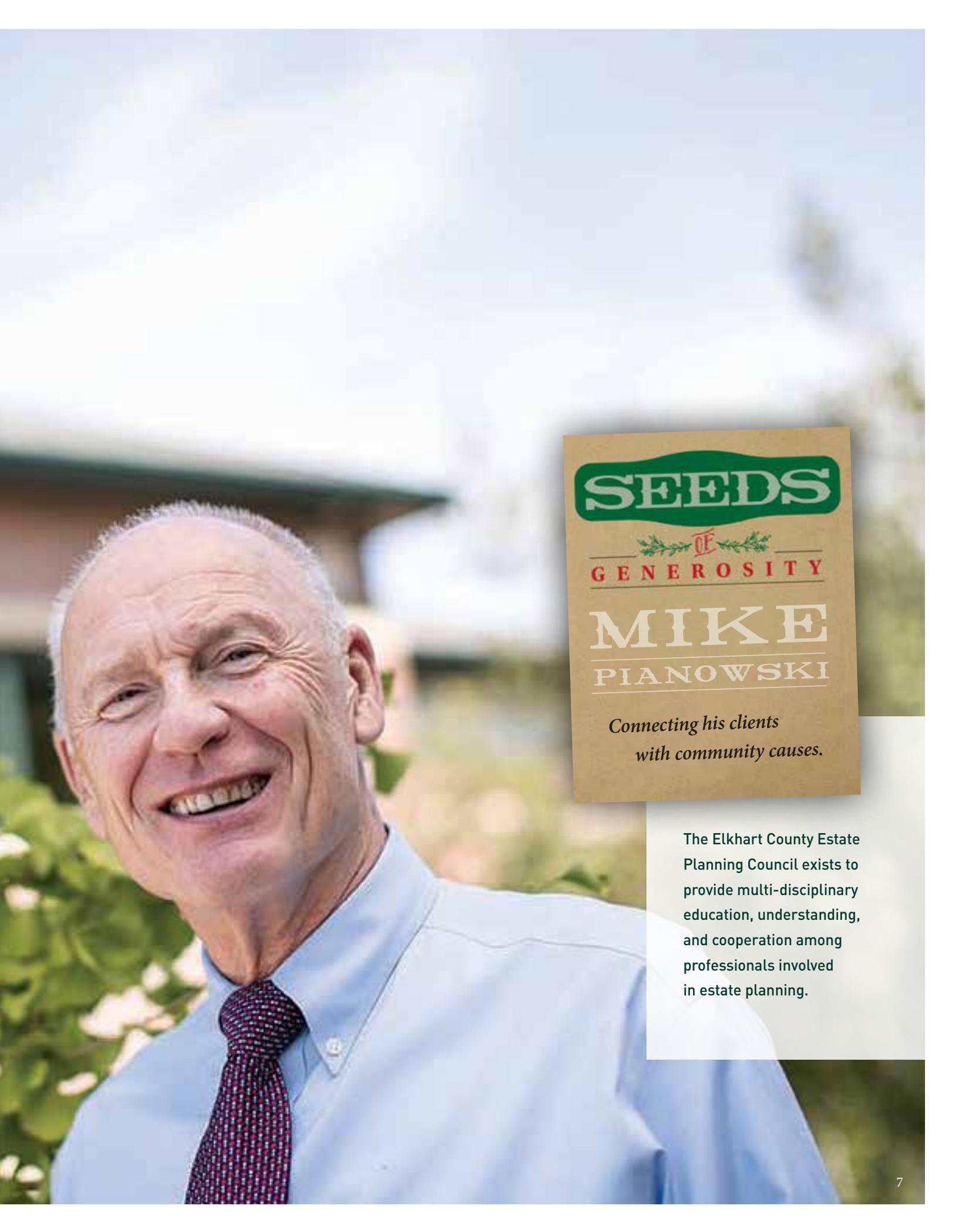
There's a partnership of the Community Foundation that you may not be aware of: the Elkhart County Estate Planning Council. This Council is composed of professional advisors from a number of different fields: attorneys, investment advisors, trust officers and certified public accountants — all professionals who are instrumental in advising their clients when it comes to making decisions on planning for their estates.

“Many times I hear people say ‘Estate? I don't have an estate,’” relates Mike Pianowski, Senior Partner of Sanders - Pianowski, LLC, located along the RiverWalk in downtown Elkhart. “For example, I may be talking to a young couple who have a baby who don't think they have an ‘estate.’ But when I ask them, what would happen to the baby if you two were killed in an auto accident? Who would care for and raise the child? What would happen to what you own and when would the child inherit that? Have you planned for something drastically unforeseen like this? Then they look at me and say, ‘oh, now we see what you mean. We have some property, a few possessions, life insurance and a little bit of money, so I guess we do have an ‘estate.’”

For a number of years, Pianowski served with a group of professional advisors who compose the Estate Planning Council's core committee. With representation from throughout the County, this group organizes quarterly meetings held at different locations that attract a wide range of fellow advisors. The purpose of these meetings? To continually educate themselves on matters affecting estate planning so they may more wisely counsel their clients. “It's important to keep up to date on all the factors that affect our decision-making and our recommendations for clients,” Pianowski says. “Federal and State tax laws in Indiana are continually changing; probate laws too, along with Medicare and Medicaid regulations and limitations. There's always something new to learn.”

Networking is another important aspect of these meetings, as is relationship-building. Pianowski believes it is important to know other professional advisors you are able to recommend and trust. Some of the meetings invite local professionals to discuss their unique specialties; others bring in nationally known speakers to share knowledge-based state-of-the-art concepts. Attendees are able to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as mandated by the state of Indiana.

*To learn more about the Elkhart County Estate Planning Council and upcoming events, visit the Community Foundation website at [InspiringGood.org/Advising](http://InspiringGood.org/Advising).*



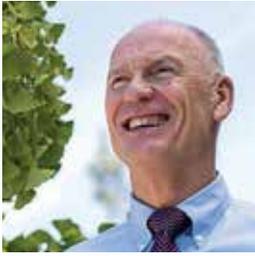
**SEEDS**

*OF*  
**GENEROSITY**

**MIKE**  
**PIANOWSKI**

*Connecting his clients  
with community causes.*

The Elkhart County Estate Planning Council exists to provide multi-disciplinary education, understanding, and cooperation among professionals involved in estate planning.



## Estate Planning Council

continued

One of the topics Pianowski feels strongly about is the importance of getting the younger generations involved. “We need to attract them; we need to keep them,” he says. “We need to continue to enhance the community. We have the great Elkhart Jazz Festival, the Lerner Theatre, Goshen’s First Fridays, the Pumpkinvine Trail, the Wellfield Botanic Gardens, the NIBCO Water & Ice Park, locally owned restaurants and retail spaces in our downtowns and throughout Elkhart County. The millennials understand that there needs to be a work/life balance... with time for volunteering in the community. Of giving back. Of helping underserved people.”

Pianowski thinks the Community Foundation provides a great service. It offers, among other attributes, expertise and professional management at a low cost. “Now we need to get the people, the younger ones, involved. We have a great group of older members who are caring and dedicated. We need to get the next generations excited about growing the community. We need to train them. And we need to continue to invest our time, monies and talent and use them wisely.”

“This County will only get better,” he adds. “We have the heart... and the leadership providing good direction.” Which all bodes well for the Foundation, its donors... and the community.”

## Legacy Society List 2016

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who believe in impacting their community. Their stories and hearts are inspiring! The following list includes the names of those who have informed us of bequests, policies, trusts, and other end-of-life planned gifts, for the purpose of encouraging others. Some members of the Legacy Society, however, have chosen to inform us but otherwise keep their decision confidential.



- Anonymous 1
- Anonymous 2
- Anonymous 3
- Charles and Dorothy Ainlay*
- Dick and Linda Armstrong
- Tom and Dot Arnold
- Harold “Doc” and Jane Atkins
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bachman
- Paris and Becky Ball-Miller
- Glenn and *Joan* Banks
- John and Nancy Banks
- William and Linda Beier
- Al and Rebecca Benham
- George and Mona Biddlecome
- James and Joan Bock
- Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes
- Derald and Cindy Bontrager
- Wilbur and Sarah Bontrager
- Thomas and Elizabeth Borger
- Dorothy Borger
- Jean Borneman
- Brian and Jeannelle Brady
- Patty and Coley Brady
- Terrence and Kathy Brennan
- Michael P. Bristol
- James and Patty Brotherson*
- George and Martha Buckingham
- George and Patricia Bucklen
- Justine Sparks Budd*
- Wilbert and Alice Budd*
- Robert Burger
- B. Jane Burns
- Bill Caldwell
- John Calvert*
- James and Anke Chandler
- Brantly and Katie Chappell*
- Betty Chatten
- Jack and Karen Cittadine
- Brian and Diana Clark
- Todd and Missy Cleveland
- Tom and *Dot* Corson
- Donald* and Margaret Covert
- Betty Cox
- Richard W. and Mary Davis, Jr.
- June Deal*
- Arthur and *Patricia* Decio
- Elizabeth De Fries*
- Donald and Melanie DeGroff

Robert and Mary Pat Deputy  
Lawrence and Sherrod Deputy  
*Thomas and Lois Dusthimer*  
Kay Ann Eller  
*Sharlene Eller Preston*  
Jane Eslick  
*Ned and Agda Farber*  
*Frederick and Dorothy Feick*  
Bill and Kristin Fenech  
John and Lois Fidler  
*Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler*  
Richard and Marlene Finnigan  
*Ivan Fisher*  
John and Margaret Foreman  
Martha Foreman  
Andrew and Kathy Frech  
Daniel Fulmer  
*L. Craig and Connie Fulmer*  
Bill and Sue Garvey  
Dan and Suzanne George  
Robert and Stevie Giel  
John and Gwen Gildea  
Gary and Debra Gilot  
John and Judith Goebel  
Sharon Ann Gongwer  
William Goodsene  
*Christiana Graham*  
Doug and Barbara Grant  
*Ralph and Opal E. Gunden*  
*Guy David Gundlach*  
*John Harman*  
Stan and Sharon Hess  
Terry and Lu Hoogenboom  
Floyd and Esther Hoover  
Mary E. Hoover  
Shirley Hoover  
*Joyce Hultin*  
Eugene W. and *Barbara Hungate*  
Tom Irions  
Vera Irions  
Randall and Rachel Miller Jacobs  
Rick and Sandy Jenkins  
Levon and Dorrene Johnson  
William P. and Toni Johnson  
Stephen Kash  
Carolyn Keefe  
*Thomas and Suzanne Keene*  
Robert J. and Kristy King  
Richard and Susan Klepinger  
*Ted and Diane Kolodziej*  
*Don L. and Jurate Krabill*  
Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklau  
Michael L. and Rebecca Kubacki  
Mark and Karen Kurtz  
James A. Leaverton  
John and Jane Leavitt  
Merritt and Dierra Lehman  
Robert and Carolyn LeMaster  
*Walter and Jane Lerner*  
John and Dianne Letherman

John and Joy Liechty  
The Liegl Family Foundation  
Tom and Marianne Lilly  
*Ralph and Rita Lockerbie*  
Mary Jo Ludwick  
Allan and Karon Ludwig  
*Mervin and Dorothy Lung*  
Philip and Jeannette Lux  
Robert W. and Gail T. Martin  
Frank and Marsha Martin  
Rex and Alice Martin  
*William and Margaret Martin*  
*Irma Mast*  
Kathleen McCoy-Royer  
*Betty Jean McKeever*  
*James and Ann McNamee*  
Bob and Sue Miller  
Ruth Miller  
*S. Ray and Linda Miller*  
Ronald and Connie Minzey  
Gordon and Marie Moore  
G. Lynn and Linda Morris  
Dan and Jan Morrison  
*Don and Jane Mossey*  
*William and Patricia Myers*  
*Thomas and Mary Naquin*  
Thad and Rachelle Naquin  
James and Joyce Nelson  
Dzung and Francoise Nguyen  
Mike Nicolini  
Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger  
Shannon Oakes  
*Virginia J. Pardee*  
Jeffrey and Diana Peat  
Richard and Suzanne Peterson  
*William O. and Loretha Phillips*  
Mike and Judy Pianowski  
Frank and Barbara Piaskowy  
James and Sharon Piechorowski  
Mac Pierce and Lori Schiltz  
Richard and Susan Pletcher  
Donald Pletcher  
Kenneth and *Jean Pletcher*  
Thomas and Dana Pletcher  
Doug and Mary Putnam  
*Clayton and Carol Quimbach*  
Larry and Elizabeth Renbarger  
*Florence Richardson*  
Robert E. and Sandy Richardson  
Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke  
*Mary Jane Rieth*  
J. Douglas and Sharon Risser  
*Lucille Risser*  
Kelly and Karen Rose  
Charlene Rule  
Marly and Laura Rydson  
Janet Elaine Ryman  
*Vernon and Doris Sailor*  
George and Terri Schmidt, II  
William and Lorette Schmuhl, Jr.

Michael and Vickie Schoeffler  
Kenneth and Doris Ann Schrad  
*Barbara Schricker*  
Oscar W. and *Marilyn Schricker*  
Nancy Schricker  
Susan A. Schricker  
Bob and Marie Schrock  
*Harold and Donna Schrock*  
Janet Rae Scribner  
Amy and Amish Shah  
Paul Shannon  
James Foster Shea, Jr.  
*Daniel and Josephine Sherman*  
Stuart W. and Shirley H. Showalter  
James and LaRayne Siegmann  
*William and Bernice Simms*  
Brian and Lauri Smith  
David and Nancy Smith, Jr.  
*Harold and Patricia Smith*  
F. Richard and Josephine Snyder  
Christopher and Jodi Spataro  
*William D. Stimpson*  
Donald and Claudia Stohler  
Tim and Christy Stonger  
Dick and Kay Stout  
*Marjorie M. Swift*  
W. Earl and Linda Taylor  
Michael and Sheila Terlep  
Dr. Michael and Carole Thomas  
Richard M. and Anne K. Treckelo  
Gerald A. and Barbara J. Trolz  
Nura K. Turner  
John and Carole Ulmer  
*Adrian and Treva Vaksvik*  
*Richard and Bellodene Van Der Karr*  
Michael and Meredith Vickrey  
*Mary Elizabeth Walker*  
Thomas and Patricia Warrick  
Laveta Weaver  
*David and Dottie Webster*  
Donald Weed  
M. Scott and Kimberlee Welch  
Ross and Linda Weldy  
Jeff and Phid Wells  
Karen R. Wesdorp  
John and Carolyn Wolf  
Chris Wolfe  
Al and Marie Yoder

*\*Names in italics are  
deceased Legacy Members.*

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# FINDING AMANDA'S LEGACY..

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**How do you recover from the unexpected death of a child, your daughter? Even more tragic, the brutal murder of your daughter? This is what Phil and Robin Byars and their family have been trying to cope with the past many painful months.**

On the morning of November 10, 2015 their son-in-law Davey Blackburn went to a gym to work out. Upon returning to their Indianapolis home, he found his wife, Amanda Byars Blackburn, 28, suffering from gunshot wounds after a home invasion. Amanda was 12 weeks pregnant with their second child, a daughter, and both died 24 hours later from her injuries. Their son, Weston, age 16 months, was unharmed.

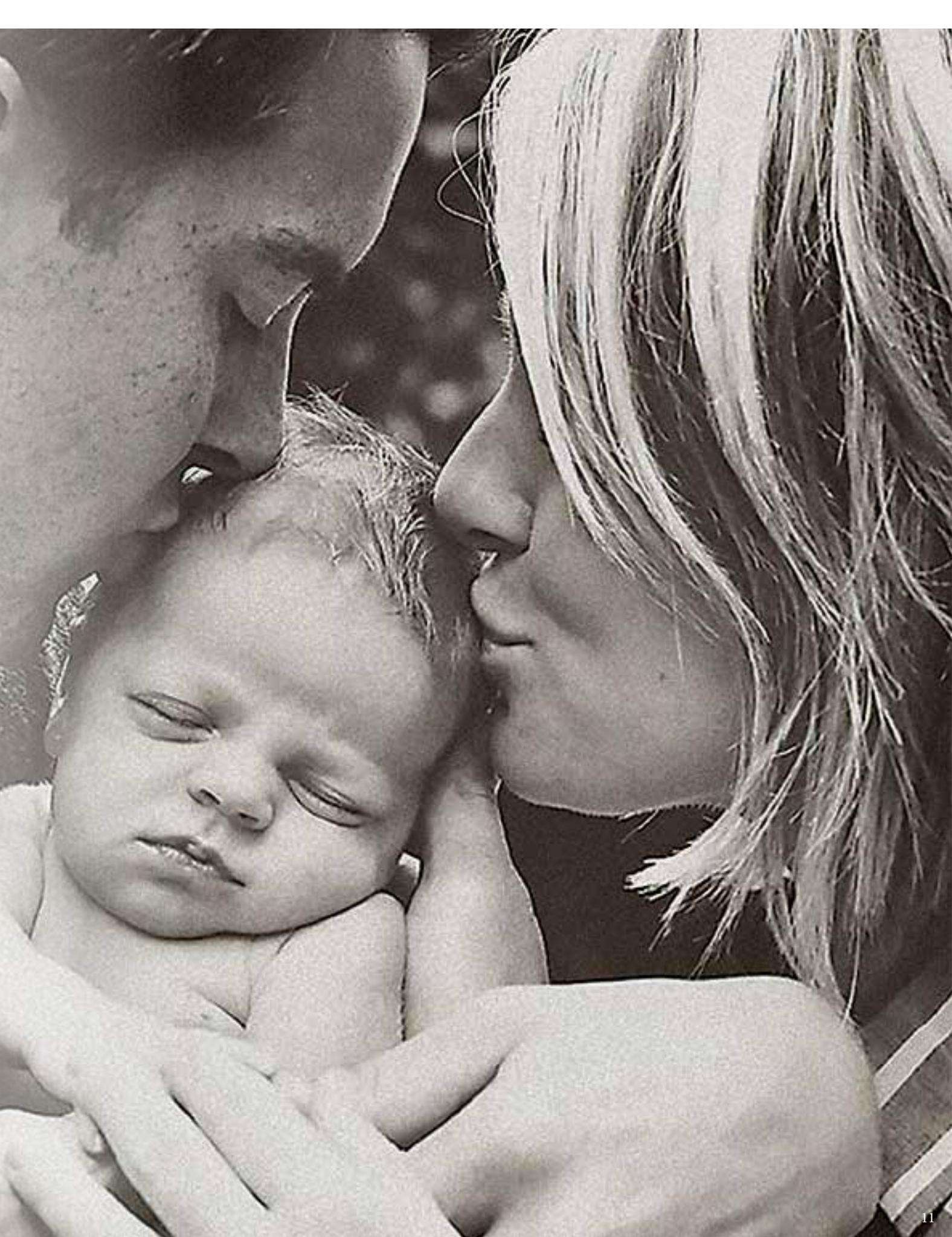
Amanda's father Phil Byars is pastor of the First Baptist Church on County Road 17 in Elkhart. He and his wife Robin both have a deep-seated Christian belief in God. It has been their faith that has been their rock, their saving grace, over the past months.

In the weeks following Amanda's death, David Bailey — a close friend, member of their congregation and former coach of Amanda's basketball team — suggested the Byars set up a fund at the Community Foundation in their daughter's name as a way to honor her, her life and her deep faith. According to Phil, "Amanda loved to bring people together to believe in Jesus.



Therefore, if we invest in the kingdom, we can continue to make an impact — in Amanda's name." And so the Byars set up a fund, a donor-advised fund, which meant the family would be the ones to determine where distributions from the fund would be made. At the time they established the fund, they had not yet determined what that would be.

In addition to Phil and Robin, and Amanda's husband and son, Amanda is survived by her sister Amber and brother-in-law Gavin Wilkinson (who has become like a second son to Phil and Robin) and her brother James and wife Angela Byars.



As sisters, Amber and Amanda were particularly close; they even shared a joint wedding. The day before Amanda was killed, they were together in Indianapolis at The Park at Traders Point Christian Church.

“We had so much fun,” Amber said. “The kids played, and we just laughed and talked.” Memories of that special day were actually captured in a video that one of The Park’s staff had taken and sent to the Byars family, after learning of Amanda’s death.

The Park is actually an indoor park with different areas for younger or older children, featuring multiple play structures on six different levels with interactive play stations and activities. It also has two basketball courts and a rock wall for climbing. Children must be accompanied by an adult, creating a safe, fun environment designed to make its visitors feel welcome.

“One of the things that characterized Amanda was that nothing was wasted,” Phil added.

“As it says in the Bible, in Romans 8: 28-29, ‘all things work together for those who love God.’ God turns trash into treasure. At garage sales Amanda bought what some people call junk and in their back yard turned it into treasure, selling the items in her business Weathered Willow and helping support their family.”

Trash into treasure. Pain into platform. A platform to carry on Amanda’s beliefs and convictions, to continue what was important to her. Like at a Park, in Elkhart, on the site of the First Baptist Church where Phil and his staff could offer grief counseling and treatment for others dealing with the shadow of death.

The First Baptist Church on County Road 17 is flanked by a housing development on each side. The owners of the 40 acres of land on which the church sits died. The property was left to their children — with the stipulation that that land was not to be sold or developed as residential or commercial commodities. But... possibly for a First Baptist Church Park?

At Amanda’s funeral at Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis last November, the director of the funeral told Robin that The Park is their church’s greatest outreach tool. As a large church (with three locations in the Indianapolis region), they’re always looking for ways in which to make community connections. For them, they accomplish this with The Park.

Amanda’s mother tells how Amanda liked to do things among nature, like play games in a park. “Amanda felt you could build relationships and share Jesus with people in this setting.”



As Amanda's brother-in-law Gavin added, "It's not just about Amanda; it's about Jesus. This would be a great opportunity to be a part of something like this."

Amanda made it her life's calling to love and serve everyone she knew.

The day of Amanda's death, her husband Davey released a statement saying: "Amanda made it her life's calling to love and serve everyone she knew. Even more, she has made it her life's mission to see as many people as possible come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. I know that in her death — and in her legacy — even more people will come to a saving faith in Christ. I hold a firm belief that God is still good, that He takes our tragedy and turns it into triumph and that the best is truly yet to come."

In the near future, the Elkhart community may be blessed with the development of a Park. A place for parents to connect, for children to laugh and play, for making meaningful transformations for those suffering from a disability... or for those facing the shadow of death. All made possible through a simple fund through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County in Amanda Byars Blackburn's name... as a way to honor her, her life and her deep faith. Planting seeds of hope and faith in the memory of a special young woman... Amanda.



Meridian Hills

Davey Blackburn is pastor of Resonate Church in Indianapolis which he and

Amanda started in 2012 after living in South

Carolina. Their intention was to create life

change through Jesus Christ for the

residents of Indianapolis. With a beginning

congregation of only 150 people, it began

to develop the way Amanda lived her life —

with her strong faith, her trust in Jesus

and the importance of developing

meaningful relationships.



## Building a destination... and a family legacy

Sue and Bob Miller, founders and owners of Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, are prime examples of people who are planting seeds of generosity in Elkhart County, sowing those seeds not only for their family but also for their staff and the community.

The Millers, originally from Ohio, moved to this area from Walnut Creek in 1971, purchasing a small 24-hour truck stop in the midst of corn fields on U.S. 20 outside Middlebury. “We dreamt about having an inn and, more than that, creating a destination,” said Bob with a twinkle in his eye. “Eventually we had to buy two farms to have what we do now.”

What they have now is remarkable. First, the popular Essenhaus restaurant, serving family-style comfort food for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and now accommodating up to 1,000 people (said to be the largest seating capacity for a family restaurant in the state of Indiana); a popular bakery; the friendly inn, which was built in 1986 and expanded in 2004; a conference center with meeting rooms and banquet services; and quaint village-style gift shops. Plus offering seasonal recreation in the Heritage Hall for concerts and theater performances, Das Dutchman Essenhaus has truly become a northern Indiana — and regional — destination, drawing buggies to tour buses of those wanting to learn more about Amish traditions.



The Millers’ original goal was to offer Amish hospitality in a country setting. “We had a call to mission; we have a passion for doing this,” they explained. Their mission and passion turned into a thriving family operation that includes all five of the Miller children having some involvement in the daily activities. So when it came time to think about another passion, Bob and Sue turned to the Community Foundation to discuss ways to build a new legacy of giving that could involve their children, grandchildren and any future generations.



From left, behind Bob and Sue Miller, are sons Joel and Lance Miller and son-in-law Randi Yoder.

“...establish such a fund so that our kids, as the next generation, could see the importance of giving,”

The Millers established a donor-advised family fund with the Community Foundation. “Before we were capable of doing this, we thought that if we were ever in a position to do so, we’d like to establish such a fund so that our kids, as the next generation, could see the importance of giving,” according to Sue, who served on the Community Foundation of Elkhart County’s Board of Directors for three terms “Our parents taught us that; they planted the seeds. Have a strong ethic. Do it in a quiet way. Don’t publicize what you do.

That philosophy of helping, of quiet giving, of doing good in the community is important to us. Establishing our donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation enabled us to do that.”

The Millers’ five “children,” two grown daughters and three sons, all live in the area except for their son who is managing the Florida restaurant and working on the inn project. All have been at one time or are currently involved in operations with the family business; now all of the Miller grandchildren have gotten involved as well, doing jobs like clearing tables to managing on duty. After college or university work is completed, it’s suggested for family members to work somewhere else for two to three years to learn about the business world. Then when there are openings in Middlebury or the other locations, the Millers can offer to bring them back.

## Donor Advised Funds

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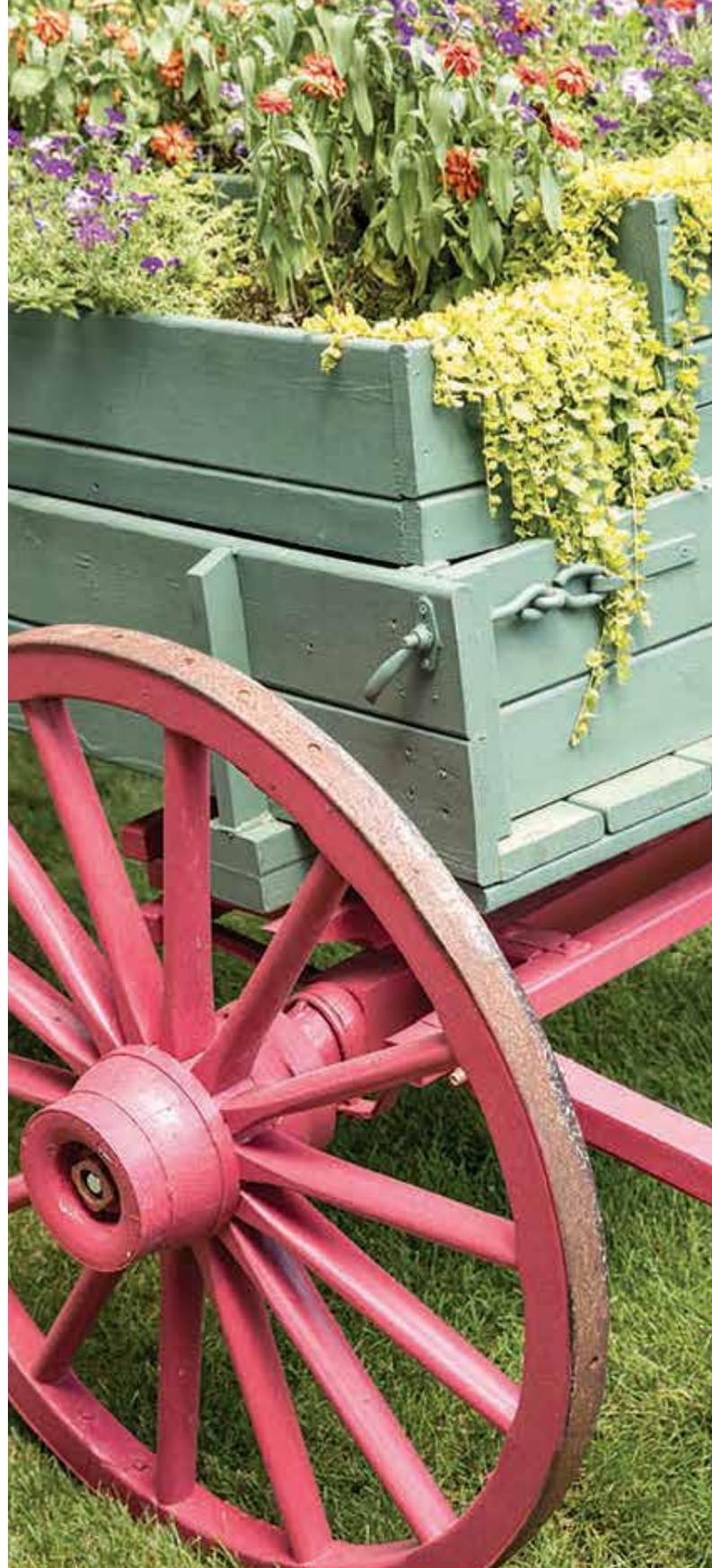
The Community Foundation holds 80 donor advised funds totaling \$16 million in assets. This year, \$3.4 million in grants were awarded through donor advised funds.

When their children were younger, the Millers gave to nonprofit organizations that were more child- or local church-related. Now the Miller's donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation focuses not only on youth-focused groups but also on universities, schools and missions. "Faith plays a role in our gifting," Sue stressed. "It's the basis of our convictions."

Sue, who currently serves on the Community Foundation's Youth Development Grant Committee, was also instrumental in helping nurture a stronger link to the Middlebury area for growth and expansion. To do so, she worked with the Amish for a greater familiarity of what the Foundation is all about, the grants that are available to the community and more. "I helped open a dialogue with them, started a conversation going which resulted in a positive relationship with the Amish community."

"We've been blessed," Bob added. "God's been good to us... with our children and with our tremendous staff. They buy into our values."

Those values being the Miller's deep belief in planting seeds of generosity and seeds of philanthropy. Quietly giving... Making an impact in Amish country and beyond.



The number one option for donors who value freedom, flexibility, and choice are Donor Advised Funds, which offer a hands-on approach to philanthropy. Donor Advised Funds are ideal for those wanting to give to multiple organizations and programs throughout the year.

## Selecting and making your gift

When an individual, a couple or a family wish to establish a fund with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, deciding the level of engagement is one of the first steps. Some donors choose to be actively engaged. Others prefer to establish an endowment to benefit a specific organization and maintain assets to help ensure its sustainability.

Dick and Linda Armstrong were confident in the latter, a Designated Fund. Dick wanted to create a fund for long-term impact on the charities most important to Linda and him. It was important for them, particularly for Dick as a financial executive by profession, to give efficiently and locally.

Over decades, the Armstongs have given generous gifts through the Community Foundation in a variety of ways. Whether using cash, stocks or IRA distributions, Dick and Linda leveraged their giving by creating designated funds for organizations such as the Bristol Food Pantry and the Riverview Adult Day Center, maximizing on the Community Foundation's 25% matching program. Creating these designated funds allowed them to honor the memory of Dick's brother who suffered from Alzheimer's and to make a continual impact on an organization.

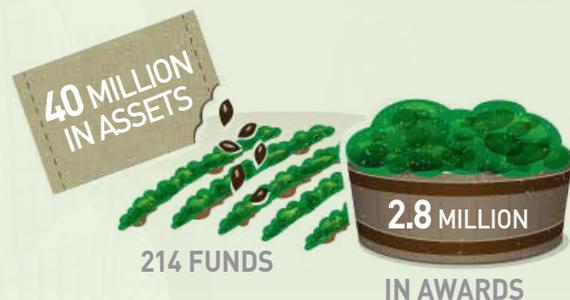
The Armstrongs have also planted other seeds of endowment which continue to flourish. As founding donors they created the designated scholarship for Elkhart Memorial High School and continue to ensure the scholarship fund is fed with annual contributions matched by the Community Foundation.

"We've been successful and blessed; we're believers in the importance of payback," Dick explains. "We make our own choices in how we support the community. We would hope that others who have been fortunate will give, perhaps to scholarship programs. Youth are our future."

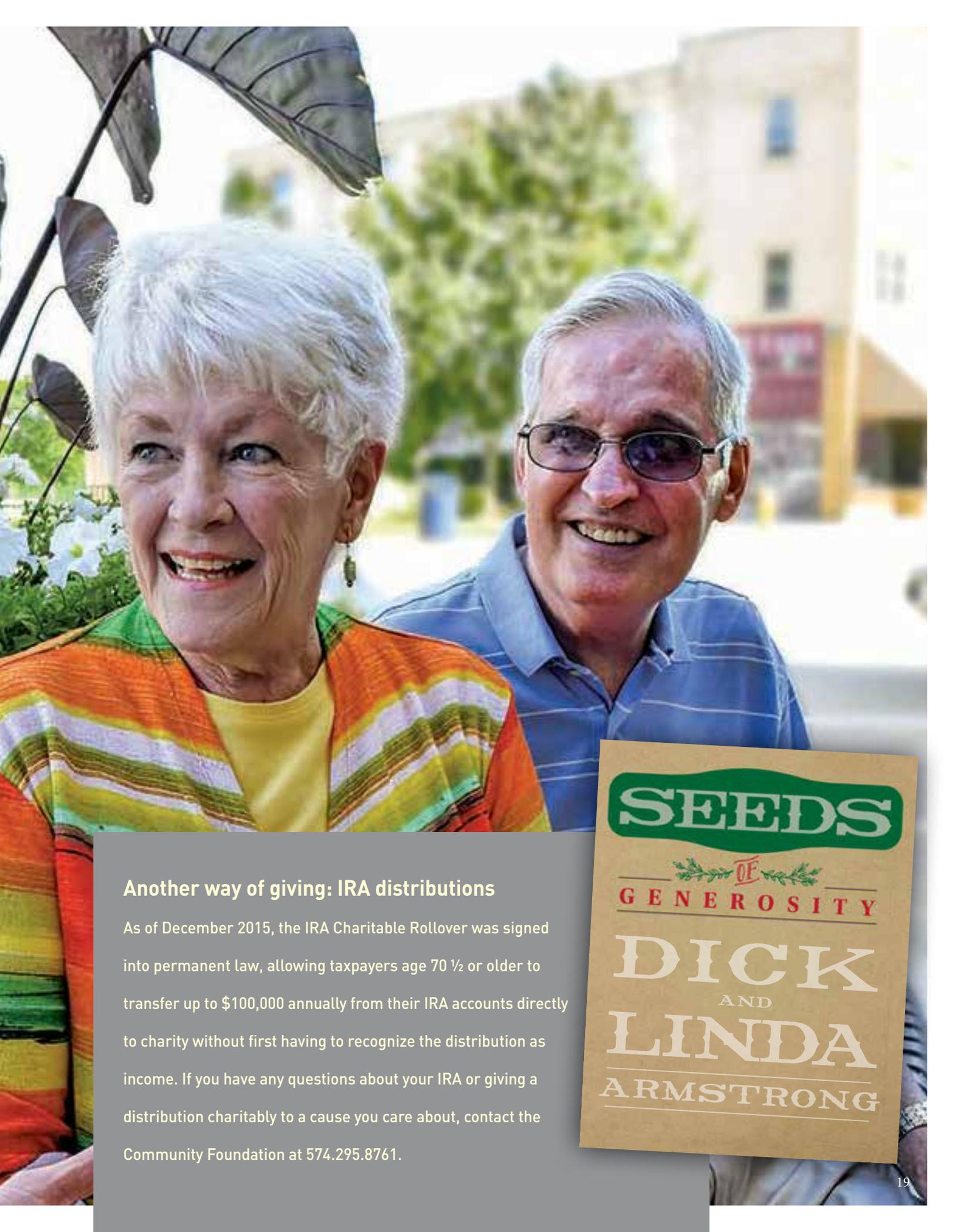
For simplicity and efficiency, the Armstrongs have also used the Community Foundation as a one-stop charitable conduit. They have made pass-through donations directly to a nonprofit organization of their choice and some have been contributions to other agency endowments held at the Community Foundation. This was extremely convenient when they decided to capitalize on the IRA Charitable Rollover (see sidebar).

"Giving through the Foundation is both convenient and tax-efficient," Dick stressed. With Linda, who had been an early giver to the Elkhart County Women's Shelter, adding, "More people need to know about how easy and effective it is to give to local causes through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County!"

### Designated Funds

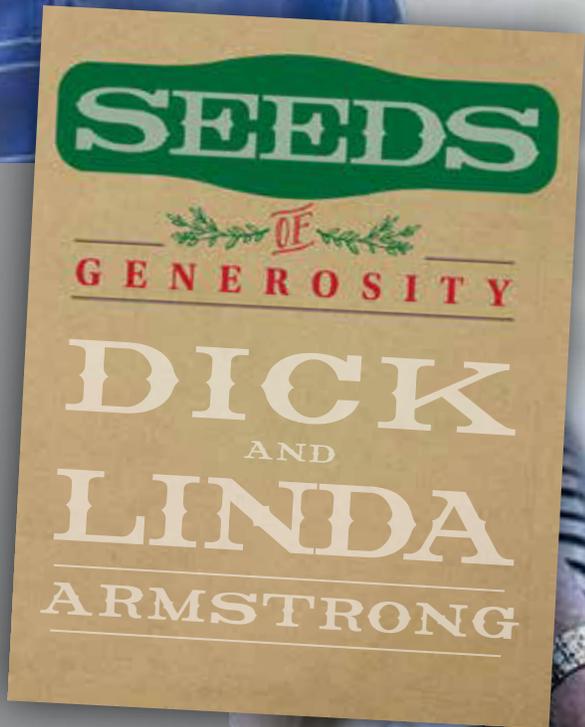


The Community Foundation holds 214 designated funds totaling \$40 million in assets. This year, \$2.8 million in grants were awarded through designated funds.



### Another way of giving: IRA distributions

As of December 2015, the IRA Charitable Rollover was signed into permanent law, allowing taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. If you have any questions about your IRA or giving a distribution charitably to a cause you care about, contact the Community Foundation at 574.295.8761.



## 100 Women Who Care – becoming a miracle in Elkhart County

According to Microsoft Encarta Dictionary, to be philanthropic is “to show kindness, charitable concern and generosity toward other people; devoted to helping others, especially through giving charitable aid.”

Two local women certainly fit that definition although Jenny Welch and Sheila Terlep, founders of Elkhart’s 100 Women Who Care (100 WWC) don’t think of themselves as philanthropists. “No, not us; it’s too big a word,” Sheila laughs. Jenny chimes in, “We’re just two caring women who want to make a difference and who have a passion for what we do.”

What they do is amazing. Two short summers ago, Jenny read *Be the Miracle* by author Regina Brett who related the story about the Cleveland, Ohio-based 100 Women Who Care organization. “It was empowering,” Jenny says, and so she shared the idea with her friend Sheila. These two women, about to become empty nesters, began their research. Their next step was to meet with Megan Deputy Baughman and Liz Naquin Borger, both active community members, to sound them out on what they thought about the possibility of establishing a 100WWC chapter here in Elkhart. Both Megan and Liz loved the idea and suggested Sheila and Jenny meet with Dr. Pete McCown and Jodi Spataro of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. Both thought this was a great idea and agreed that the Foundation with its 501(c)3 status could be the perfect vehicle to handle their funds.

The mission of 100 Women Who Care is to provide philanthropic assistance to those who need it through nonprofit organizations serving Elkhart County residents.

100WWC members meet four times a year for an hour-long meeting with each woman or team of women writing a check for \$100, nominating a nonprofit serving Elkhart County. Each nomination is put into a pool for consideration. Three are drawn; members vote to determine which one of the three will receive that meeting’s funds. “The women who nominated each charity nominated makes a presentation about why they are seeking funding and what the monies will be used for,” Jenny explains. “The needs explained are often quite personal and tug at your heartstrings.”

“The looks on our members’ faces when they see that the nonprofit they nominated will be the recipient of the \$10,000 donated is so rewarding.”

“Not only are the women’s presentations touching, but it’s also exciting when your charity wins,” Jenny says. “The looks on our members’ faces when they see that the nonprofit they nominated will be the recipient of the \$10,000 donated is so rewarding.” Sharing the good works of these organizations is like planting seeds, ideas, possibilities, they say. They know they are building awareness and making an impact. “100WWC is such a simple, powerful tool,” Jenny says.

These quarterly donations of \$10,000 each can make a real impact. One of the most recent \$10,000 gifts benefitted the Elkhart County Clubhouse which is a support community for adults with mental illnesses, helping them rehabilitate, recover, and reintegrate into the community. The gift went to their capital campaign for a kitchen/ bathroom renovation.



**SEEDS**

*OF*  
**GENEROSITY**

**100 WOMEN  
WHO CARE  
ELKHART  
COUNTY**

JENNY WELCH | SHEILA TERLEP

## Becoming the miracle

continued

Since its founding in 2014, 100WWC has donated close to \$90,000 to local nonprofits serving County residents, thus truly helping people “grow – and be nurtured – where they’re planted.”

Jenny and Sheila understand that 100WWC isn’t for everyone. However, they believe this is a much simpler, less time-consuming way to raise funds than to spend hours of time on a specific fund-raiser, like a competitive run with its heavy time commitment to bring in dollars. “We meet four times a year at the Matterhorn,” Jenny explains. “From 5-5:30 p.m. is our social hour; our meeting is from 5:30-6:30. That’s it. And if someone can’t attend, due to a family or work-related conflict, vacation, etc., she can send her check with a friend or send in her contribution through the Community Foundation. It’s only a one-year commitment.”

But many of the women have been with 100WWC both years; membership is currently between 145-150 and still growing. The first members started as names on Sheila’s and Jenny’s Christmas card lists and church

directories, or with other friends and acquaintances. They want every woman throughout the County to know she’s welcome to join 100WWC.

Currently, the local 100WWC chapter has members not only from Elkhart but from Middlebury, Nappanee and Goshen too. Eventually these cities may form independent chapters of their own. “Our meetings are empowering,” Jenny and Sheila say. “The fellowship, combined with learning of these local nonprofits’ good work, is so meaningful. Basically we’re driven by God...”

“Being associated with the Community Foundation lends us a presence and gives us a strength that we wouldn’t have on our own.”

Partnering with the Community Foundation made a huge difference, according to Jenny, because “we want to give brick and mortar assistance here in Elkhart County. There are numerous worthwhile nonprofit organizations across the country, but we



want the funds we raise to stay here. Being associated with the Foundation lends us a presence and gives us a strength that we wouldn't have on our own."

"Making a difference" is a phrase that has become familiar to all of us, both locally and nationally. However, the passion these two women have for people's needs throughout Elkhart County brings new meaning and importance to these three simple words.

Jenny and Sheila believe deeply in what they do. Together, they and Elkhart's 100 Women Who Care are indeed making a difference... through their caring, kindness, charitable concern and generosity. In our book they are true philanthropists.



## IMPACTING SUCCESS

As of September 2016, the 100 Women Who Care have given a total of \$90,000, in increments of \$10,000, to the following nonprofit organizations serving Elkhart County: Ribbon of Hope, Elkhart County Clubhouse, Guidance Ministries/God's Kitchen, Ryan's Place, Elkhart County Suicide Prevention Coalition, CASA, Bashor Children's Home, The Crossing, and Church Community Services.



## Introducing... our new INSPIRE Scholarship

Beginning October 2016, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County launched a new scholarship to inspire graduating high school seniors throughout the County to further their education.

**Our INSPIRE Scholarship is designed for those students who maintain a grade point average (GPA) between 2.0 and 3.75, plan to enroll full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational education institution and are seeking a 2- or 4-year degree. They must also be a resident of Elkhart County.**

“There are a lot of good kids out there, kids who work hard and want to pursue higher education,” according to Gordon Moore, a Community Foundation board member and chair of the Scholarship Committee. “They may not have achieved a 3.8 or 4.0 GPA, but they are dedicated and want to continue to apply themselves.”

Recipients will earn \$3,000 per year for tuition to put toward their advanced education. To be eligible to renew their scholarship, each of the recipients must complete a minimum 30 hours of volunteer time per year in Elkhart County. “This will encourage our young people to give back to the community,” says Moore. “This flows naturally from the Foundation’s mission of giving back to our community through the commitment of time or resources.”

“Three years ago, our Scholarship Committee assessed what we were doing regarding our scholarships. We evaluated the criteria that had been established and asked how the kids were benefitting. The generous Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship awards three four-year full-tuition scholarships annually.

## Scholarship Funds



The Community Foundation holds 85 scholarship funds totaling \$17 million in assets. This year, \$1.7 million in awards were distributed through scholarship funds.

Nominees not selected are awarded a Guy David Gundlach Memorial scholarship that awards six scholarships each year at \$5,000 per year for four years. “But,” we asked, “what happens to the other nominees? The ones that are on the academic borderline but still try so hard? How could we encourage them?”

And so the Committee, aided by the Foundation staff, worked with several County high school counselors. They worked through the timeline, being careful not to disrupt school schedules yet giving enough time for the seniors to apply. “There is definitely a sense of excitement about this new INSPIRE Scholarship,” according to Moore. “In addition to the high school counselors, there’s enthusiasm and support from other Foundation board members and from those within the community with whom we’ve spoken. There’s a sense of anticipation that this will do a lot of good for the community, particularly the commitment of service to the community. We believe it will help improve the quality of life in Elkhart County -- which is what the Community Foundation is all about.”

**Learn more about the INSPIRE Scholarship qualifications and timeline at:**  
**[InspiringGood.org/InspireScholarship](http://InspiringGood.org/InspireScholarship).**

In addition to the 2.0-3.75 GPA and community volunteer requirements, the selection process will also weigh the students' community and/or work experience, career goals, personal statements and their face-to-face interviews.

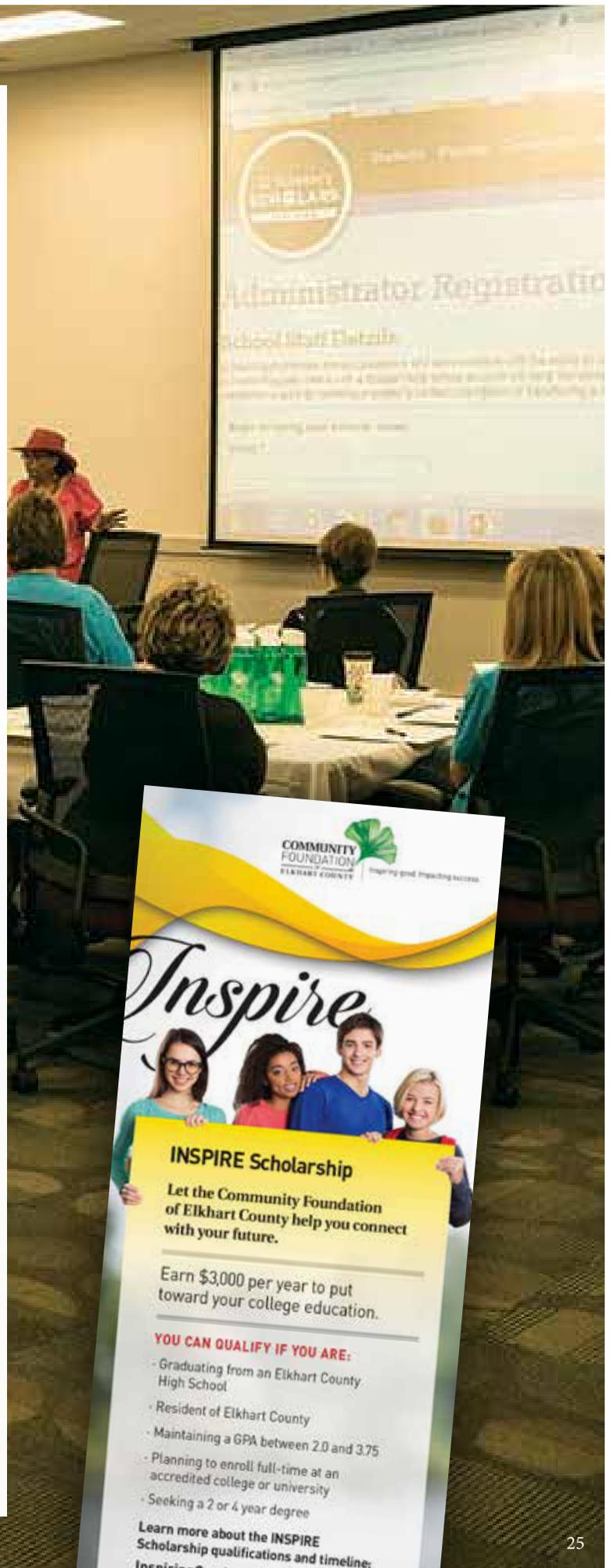
Applications will be available at guidance counselors' offices at high schools throughout Elkhart County and online at the Foundation's website: InspiringGood.org. Each high school will be able to nominate one or two students depending on the size of their enrollment.

To underscore its commitment to the INSPIRE Scholarship, the Community Foundation has committed \$3 million to start this new scholarship program. In 2016 we anticipate awarding 10 scholarships. When fully deployed in 2021, the Scholarship Committee anticipates awarding approximately 16 new awards each year.

It is significant to note that this is the only scholarship awarded by the Community Foundation of Elkhart County that features the unique community volunteer component, the sense of giving back. The hope is that the planting of the INSPIRE Scholarship will encourage the skill sets that County businesses are looking for. "We'll attract kids who live here, who will get their education here and, we hope, who will work here," Moore says. "Plus they'll be giving back to their community. It's a win-win situation."



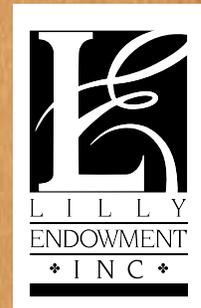
**In 2018, the Community Foundation plans to offer a new scholarship for adults, the Community Impact Scholarship. The adult module is being designed for those adults, post-high school, who wish to go back to school -- either to an accredited college, university or vocational education institution.**



# A Special

As we look back at our roots over the last 26 years, much of our early success and momentum was fertilized by the Lilly Endowment and its initiative for Indiana community foundations. Begun nearly 25 years ago, the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative was designed to help local Indiana communities develop the philanthropic capacity to address their own needs and challenges.

The late Thomas H. Lake, who was the Endowment's board chair at the time, stated: "We believe the best way to assist Indiana communities is to help them generate local solutions to local problems. Our intention is to aid Indiana in developing a perpetual legacy of self-reliance to serve state's communities for generations to come."



Toward the end of 2014, the Lilly Endowment once again invited the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to participate in a funding opportunity, GIFT Phase VI, in the amount of \$1.5 million. GIFT Phase VI offered two basic types of grant support, each with the incentive for community foundations to raise additional matching dollars from donors: 1) funds to build unrestricted endowments and 2) funds to be used for any charitable purpose chosen by the community foundation, such as operating expenses, community programs and community capital projects and endowments for such purposes. At least one-half of the Endowment's grant had to be dedicated to the community foundation's unrestricted endowment.

### **Lilly Endowment's Recent Impact in Our County**

To meet the grant requirements, your Community Foundation rose to the challenge and established a new proactive unrestricted endowment, in the amount of \$750,000, separate from the Community Foundation's main endowment. This fund, aptly named "Fund for Excellence", will provide a stream of income to underwrite the Community Foundation's Organizational Effectiveness Resource Center which addresses educational and professional development opportunities for nonprofit organizations.

"The recently established Fund for Excellence helps nonprofits be more strategic throughout our community which, in turn, helps them accomplish their missions and goals. We have already seen nonprofits benefit in the areas of governance, planning, assessment and fundraising capacities," said Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

The Community Foundation has been helping County nonprofits in similar ways for about 10 years, assisting them with networking opportunities and capacity building needs. But now, due to GIFT Phase VI, the Community Foundation can provide a full curriculum of professional development opportunities for our nonprofit partners.

The other half of the funding from the Lilly Endowment GIFT VI Initiative, totaling \$750,000, was allocated equally to three community projects connected to the Community Foundation's specific areas of interest:

- for youth development — Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County
- for community vibrancy — Wellfield Botanic Gardens
- for quality of life — Humane Society of Elkhart County

Each of these organizations was granted \$250,000 and then challenged to raise an equal or greater amount for their community project; each succeeded.

# Thank You

You can read about each organization's story and how Lilly Endowment GIFT Phase VI monies are helping them advance their mission on the following pages.

On March 31, 2016, due to the generosity of the community, the GIFT Phase VI requirements were successfully met. "These impressive results would not have been achieved without the imagination, generosity, commitment and leadership of thousands of donors, volunteers and foundation staff members throughout the state. We are amazed at the Hoosier philanthropic spirit," said Ace Yakey, the Endowment's vice president for community development.

Because the Lilly Endowment believes it is important for community foundations to have unrestricted endowment funds to respond to critical needs as they evolve in their counties, the matching incentive during GIFT Phase VI made for attractive giving opportunities.

"The Lilly Endowment is continuing to have a significant impact on community foundations across the state of Indiana," said McCown. "We are thankful for the investment the Lilly Endowment continues to make in Elkhart County through the Community Foundation."



**Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County**  
See page 30



**Wellfield Botanic Garden**  
See page 34



**Humane Society of Elkhart County**  
See pages 38

To learn more about the Organizational Effectiveness Resource Center funded by the newly established Fund for Excellence, visit the Community Foundation's website at [www.InspiringGood.org](http://www.InspiringGood.org).

## Historical Assets /Awards

In Millions



## Grant History By Program Area

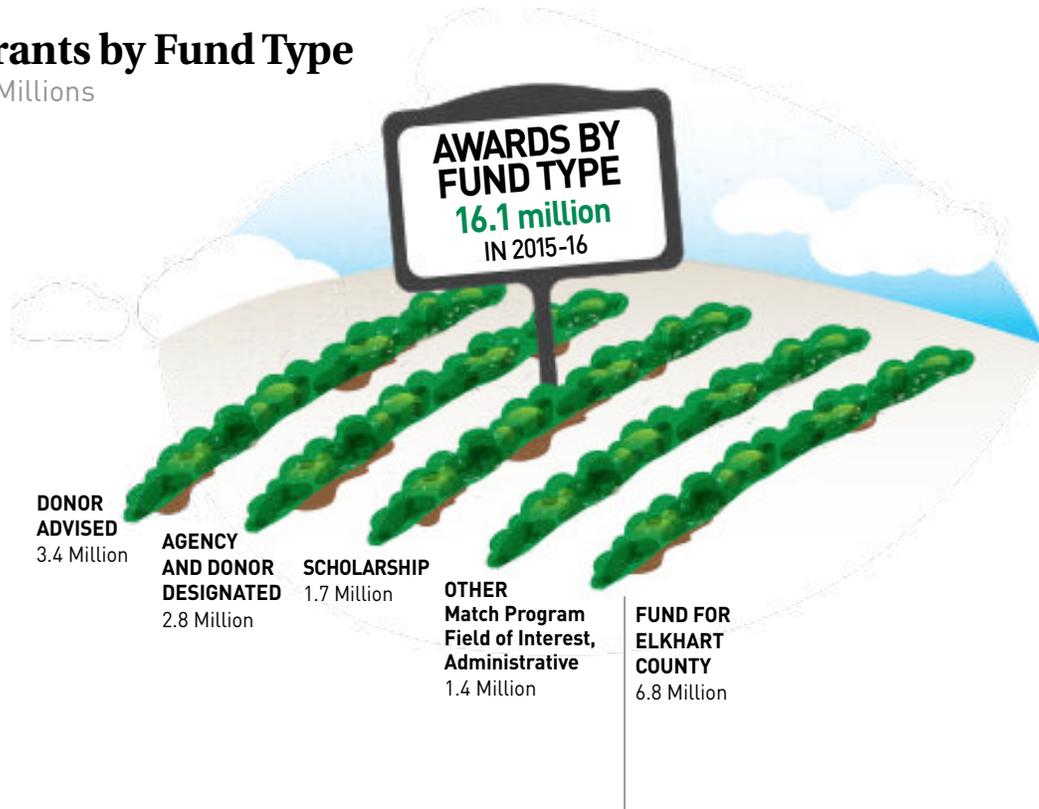
In Millions

Since the Foundation's inception in 1989, over \$78.5 million in grants and scholarships have been distributed to help community causes, services, education, culture and humanity. Here are the areas in which the Community Foundation of Elkhart County has invested.

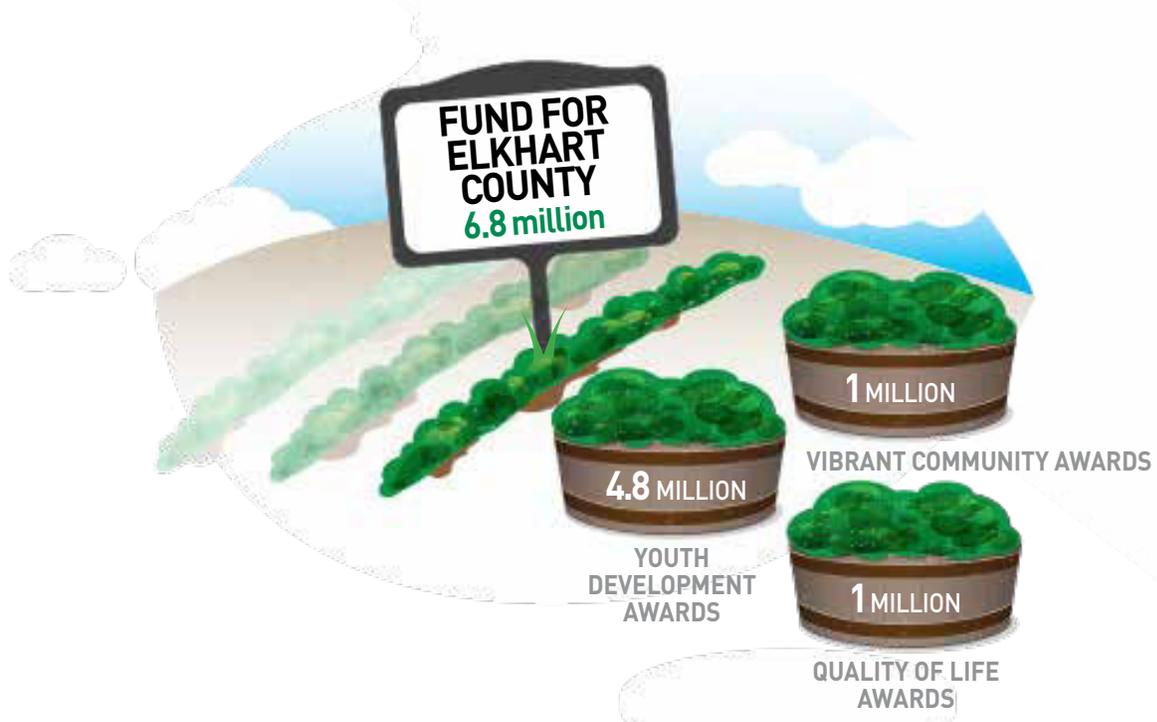
ESTIMATED GRANT TOTALS PER AREA	1989 - 2016
*1989 - 1999 (AREAS NOT RECORDED)	\$3.8 MILLION
ARTS & CULTURE	\$4.0
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$5.9
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	\$8.1
EDUCATION	\$7.0
IUSB ELKHART CAMPUS PROJECT	\$4.1
LERNER THEATRE PROJECT	\$1.4
RELIGION	\$3.6
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$12.2
YOUTH & CHILDREN SERVICES	\$6.4
UNRESTRICTED	\$19.5
MATCHING GRANT PROGRAMS	\$2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$78.5</b>

# Grants by Fund Type

In Millions



The Community Foundation holds an unrestricted fund - the Fund for Elkhart County - totaling \$153 million in assets. This year \$6.8 million in grants were awarded by focus areas:



## Empowering Elkhart County's Youth

**“We want to inspire and empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens,” says Kevin Deary, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County. “Currently we serve 5,392 children across the County with two urban and two rural clubs, providing them opportunity for now and optimism for their future. We don’t believe in entitlement or hand-outs but rather empowerment. We pride ourselves on our character development programs, building character in kids who may need successful role models.”**

According to Deary, the nuclear family that many of us grew up with rarely exists any more. “So we mimic what healthy families do: we help teach them how to dress, about manners and how to act in social situations. We provide alternatives for them as opposed to the temptations out there, like gangs, drugs and alcohol. We tell them ‘you can do bad or you can do good.’ We encourage them to choose good.”

Deary and his staff know that often there’s a serious technology gap between what a child is exposed to at school versus the home environment. Thankfully the \$250,000 grant from the Community Foundation — as part of the Lilly GIFT VI Initiative — will help close that gap. “For kids age 6-18 it is mandatory for them to have computer skills to be able to function in today’s classroom and for their reading comprehension.

For example, at Goshen High School, every student has an iPad and must know how to use it. The money from the Lilly Gift VI Initiative will help us expand our technology center from 3,200 to 51,000 square feet.”

“In addition, we’ll also be able to expand our dining and kitchen facilities there, as well as the nutrition program. At some of the schools we’ll be making necessary safety/security improvements. And in Nappanee and Middlebury we’ll be able to help them build their endowments.”



Some of the Lilly GIFT VI money was also used in Elkhart in what's known as the Sawmill District, north of the city. While there were programs for students at Beardsley and Oslo Elementary Schools and North Side Middle School, the Beardsley program was expanded to serve 500 students. "The schools loved us," Deary says, "because the Lilly fund generated donor dollars. We could have a bigger impact. If you could raise a kid's grade level from a C to a B, that's wonderful. But if you can change an F to a C, that's life changing!"



## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ELKHART COUNTY**

### **The Seed for the Boys & Girls Club of Elkhart County:**

So how did the Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County come about? In 1956, Goshenite Theda Clark Smith generously donated her girlhood home to the City of Goshen which established the Goshen Boys Club. In 1989 girls were offered membership, and the organization became the Boys & Girls Club of Goshen. In 1998, the Boys & Girls Club of Nappanee was launched, followed by the Boys & Girls Club of Middlebury in 2002 and the Boys & Girls Club of Elkhart in 2010.



**SEEDS**  
OF  
**GENEROSITY**

## Empowering Elkhart County's Youth

continued

The Lilly VI funding also served as enticement for raising \$5.4 million — via simultaneous community capital campaigns in Goshen and in Elkhart. “We exceeded our goal,” a beaming Deary says. “The donors said, ‘so I can give a gift, and it’ll be matched one to two?’ Yes.”

This funding became a seed for growth, Deary says, “and the timing couldn’t have been better. We are so grateful for the backing to help us close that technological gap here in our county. It’s a great partnership with the Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment.”

He also notes the fact that in Elkhart County the nonprofits work together. “Whether it’s the United Way, a Chamber of Commerce or another youth-related group, we pool our resources; we counsel one another,” Deary explains. “We support each other, we support our families and this helps us support the kids.”

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County.  
Empowering our county’s children and inspiring all of us.



# Youth Development Grants

Unrestricted

Includes Rapid Response, Good Neighbor, Community Investment and Key Initiative Grants awarded to organizations or programs serving the next generation of Elkhart County citizens.

<b>ADEC</b> Technology Challenge 2.0	\$10,000.00	<b>ETHOS - Encouraging Technology Hands on Science*</b> Building campaign	\$1,000,000.00
<b>All God's Children Childcare Ministry</b> Summer camp program	\$3,000.00	<b>ETHOS - Encouraging Technology Hands on Science</b> Building campaign	\$250,000.00
<b>Bashor Children's Home</b> Learners are Leaders	\$25,000.00	<b>Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana*</b> Girl Power: Get the 4-1-1	\$5,000.00
<b>Bashor Children's Home</b> Sheltering Kids Strengthening Families	\$60,000.00	<b>Girls on the Run Michiana</b> 5k celebration	\$6,500.00
<b>Boy Scouts of America, LaSalle Council</b> Elkhart County scouting program year 1 of 3-year grant	\$37,500.00	<b>Goshen Community Schools</b> Merit Learning Center building improvements	\$10,000.00
<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of Elkhart County</b> Elkhart building project	\$250,000.00	<b>Horizon Education Alliance</b> Triple P - Positive Parenting Program	\$200,000.00
<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of Elkhart County</b> Goshen and Elkhart Building projects	\$750,000.00	<b>Horizon Education Alliance</b> Operational support year 1 of 3-year grant	\$275,000.00
<b>Campus Center For Young Children</b> Security upgrade	\$5,000.00	<b>Indiana &amp; Michigan Mennonite Camp Association</b> Camp Amigo building improvements	\$9,600.00
<b>CAPS - Child and Parent Services</b> Building campaign	\$250,000.00	<b>Indiana Golf Foundation*</b> First Tee National School Program - Elkhart Community Schools	\$31,000.00
<b>CAPS - Child and Parent Services</b> Building campaign	\$1,000,000.00	<b>Indiana Youth Institute</b> Elkhart County Youth Worker Cafe	\$3,000.00
<b>City of Goshen</b> Fidler Pond - Junior Sailing Camp 2016	\$5,000.00	<b>LoveWay</b> Generator	\$7,100.00
<b>Clinton Christian School Association</b> One-to-One technology initiative	\$65,000.00	<b>Northern Indiana Hispanic Health Coalition</b> Healthy Hearts Program	\$100,000.00
<b>Cornerstone Christian Montessori</b> Fire alarm system improvements	\$7,000.00	<b>Oaklawn Community Mental Health Center*</b> Partnership for Children year 2 of 3-year grant	\$250,000.00
<b>Crossing Educational Center</b> Five Star and Crossing collaboration	\$49,100.00	<b>Ryan's Place*</b> Grief support programs - year 2 of 2-year grant	\$30,000.00
<b>Elkhart Community Schools</b> Charles Person Freedom Rider event	\$4,500.00	<b>St. James Boxing Club</b> Program improvement	\$5,000.00
<b>Elkhart Community Schools</b> Project Y student event	\$10,000.00	<b>Third Street Youth Arts</b> Youth outreach studios	\$70,000.00
<b>Elkhart Community Schools</b> Student Leadership Summit	\$4,600.00	<b>Wellfield Botanic Gardens</b> Educational Program Director - year 3 of 3-year grant	\$16,000.00
<b>Elkhart Community Schools*</b> Support for musical instruments	\$25,000.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,839,900.00</b>
<b>Elkhart Festivals, Inc.*</b> Hoagy Jazz Workshop 2016	\$6,000.00		
<b>Elkhart Youth Football League*</b> Equipment	\$5,000.00		

\* Challenge or Conditional grant awarded, funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of committee requirements.

## A growing garden in our community

**There is an amenity in Elkhart that you may not yet be aware of: the Wellfield Botanic Gardens. In fact, even if you live here, you may not know of them or their history. You may actually have driven right by this site, but never experienced its beauty.**

Wellfield resides on an historical piece of property originally known as the “North Main Street Well Field,” a source of hydraulic energy and drinking water for the city since the mid-1800s. Wellfield Botanic Gardens has a long-term lease agreement with the City of Elkhart, which still owns and operates 13 active wells on the site, providing the majority of the drinking water for the community. However, these 36 acres, half of which involve water — with creeks, ponds and waterfalls — are now a gorgeous array of ever-growing gardens with over 1,500 species of flowers, plants and trees that entice over 25,000 visitors annually.

In 2002 the Elkhart Rotary Club was challenged to come up with a community service project to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International. Over two years, the Club worked with a community steering committee to create a Master Plan for the Gardens. Three years later the project was officially handed over to the Wellfield Botanic Gardens’ board of directors to begin implementation, which envisioned 25 themed garden and event spaces, as well as a visitors center and guest amenities. Actual construction began in 2006.

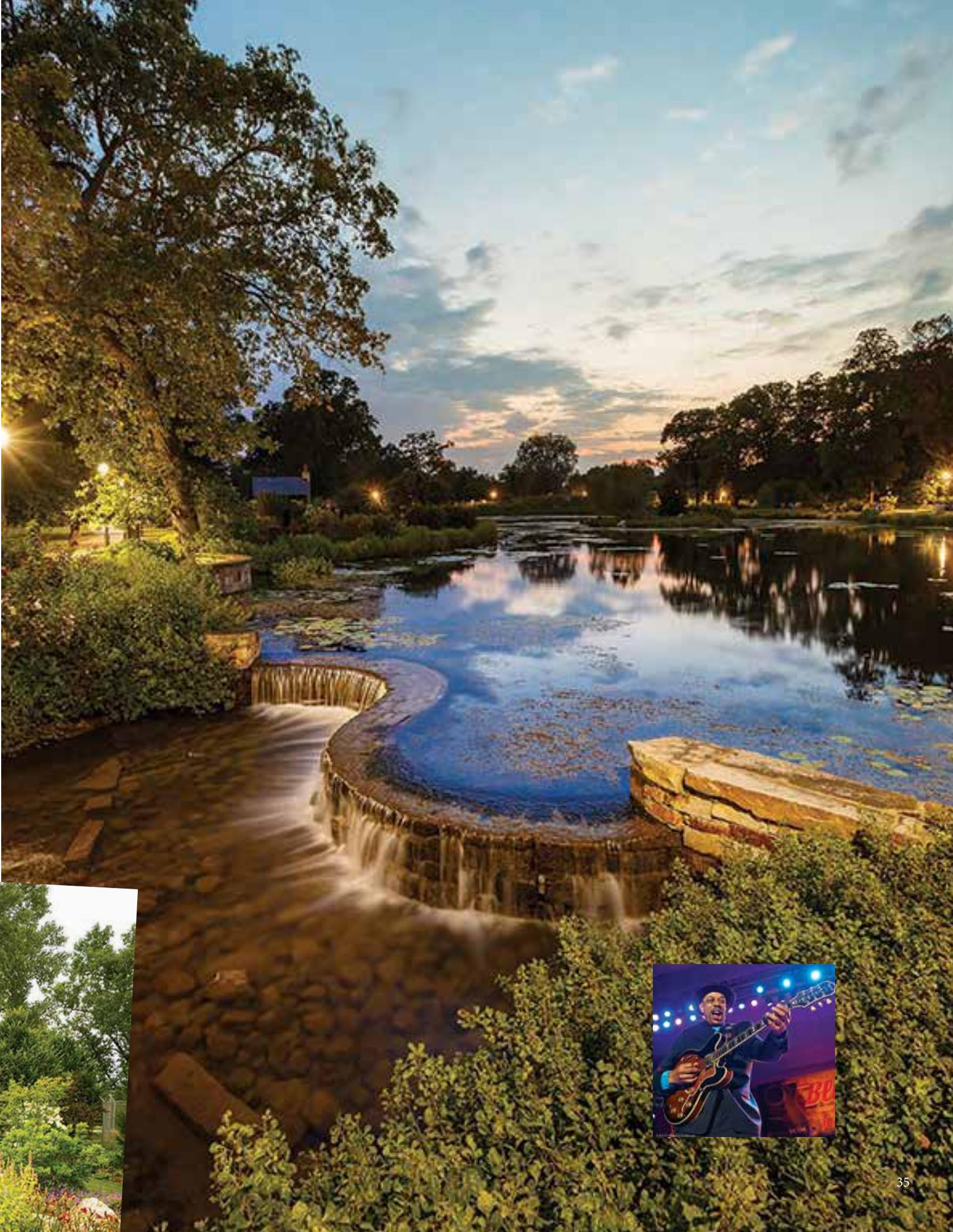
Today, Wellfield’s Master Plan is 60% complete. It currently features the Water Celebration, Spring, Annual, Conversation, English Cottage, Sensory,

Waterfall, Lotus Creek, Pergola, West Promenade, Adventure Path and Woodland Conservation Gardens. In the works this summer is the Island Garden.

This is the new garden that Executive Director Eric Garton is particularly enthused about. A native Oregonian, Garton says that Sadafumi Uchiyama of the famed Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon is currently working on the Master Plan for this new addition. This addition was made possible as a gift of the late Don Krabill and his wife Jurate Krabill, who continues to plant seeds of generosity throughout the community.

“It’s an honor to be one of the recipients of the grant monies the Community Foundation received via the Lilly GIFT VI Initiative,” Garton adds. “These funds are helping us build our sustainability and our endowment. We’re essentially a young organization wanting to engage the community with our key messages: There is an inseparable relationship between fresh water, plants and animals. We celebrate nature by fostering stewardship for the natural world. And we seek to bring people together, to build community.”





## A growing garden in our community

continued

To build community, Garton, his staff and board have introduced some new events this year to bring in more people, like the summer concert music series, Groovin' in the Gardens. Complete with a wide variety of live music and catered food, these fun family-friendly evenings were held each Thursday until mid-August and were presented by the Center for Hospice Care and sponsored by the Community Foundation. The popular all-day annual Taste of the Gardens event featuring fine art, food and music brought thousands of enthusiastic attendees to the Gardens this year as well.

“The Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment funds also built our capacity to fund raise,” Garton explains. “Once people learned that if they gave us 50 cents, their monetary gift would be matched, becoming \$1, they were more willing to contribute.”

The monies received will definitely help the Gardens grow, but beyond that Garton sees the philanthropy being spread among multiple organizations as being a good thing. “We (as in local nonprofits) are not competitive; we complement one another and work together. So it’s a good investment for the Community Foundation. We’re here to help Elkhart County and beyond by becoming a regional attraction and a four-season destination. We want people to eat in downtown Elkhart, to shop, to visit Ruthmere Museum and the Midwest Museum of American Art. We see the Gardens as having tremendous potential to grow for future generations as well. We hope to teach the kids the importance of the natural world and of becoming stewards for it to ensure its longevity for generations to come...”



# Vibrant Community Grants

Includes Rapid Response, Good Neighbor, Community Investment and Key Initiative Grants awarded to organizations or programs focusing on enhancing the living experience in Elkhart County.

<b>Bethel College</b>	Hispanic student outreach	\$10,000.00	<b>Goshen Theater</b>	Renovations - year 2 of 2-year grant	\$50,000.00
<b>Bristol Parks Department</b>	Cummins Park - fitness equipment and walking trail	\$25,000.00	<b>Goshen Theater</b>	Building campaign	\$50,000.00
<b>City of Goshen</b>	Fidler Pond gazebo - Indiana Lincoln Highway Association Partnership	\$3,000.00	<b>Historic Elkhart River Queen</b>	Hull restoration	\$10,000.00
<b>Downtown Elkhart, Inc.</b>	Project and properties management	\$30,000.00	<b>LaCasa</b>	Help-A-House 2016	\$10,000.00
<b>Elkhart County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	Micro Grant Program	\$10,000.00	<b>LaCasa</b>	Maple City Cultural Festival 2016	\$1,500.00
<b>Elkhart County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	Community Action Agenda	\$60,000.00	<b>LaCasa</b>	East Lincoln Crossroads neighborhood revitalization	\$250,000.00
<b>Elkhart County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b>	Live.Work.Play. - year 1 of 3-year grant	\$90,000.00	<b>Mid America Filmmakers</b>	River Bend Film Festival 2016	\$5,000.00
<b>Elkhart County Parks*</b>	Boot Lake Nature Preserve	\$100,000.00	<b>Middlebury Chamber of Commerce</b>	Middlebury Fall and Summer Festivals 2016	\$5,000.00
<b>Elkhart Rotary Club</b>	Speaker series	\$5,000.00	<b>Nappanee Area Chamber of Commerce</b>	Nappanee Apple Festival 2016	\$10,000.00
<b>Friends of The Lerner</b>	Elkhart Jazz Festival - year 1 of 3-year grant	\$50,000.00	<b>Ten Thousand Villages</b>	Technology upgrades	\$5,000.00
<b>Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail*</b>	Middlebury Nature Trail Extension - year 2 of 2-year challenge grants	\$150,000.00	<b>Wakarusa Maple Syrup Heritage</b>	Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival 2016	\$5,000.00
<b>Goshen Art House</b>	Developing local film ecosystem	\$5,000.00	<b>Wellfield Botanic Gardens</b>	Groovin' in the Gardens Summer Concert Series 2016	\$10,000.00
<b>Goshen College</b>	Music Center Performing Arts Series 2016-2017	\$5,000.00	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$954,500.00</b>

\* Challenge or Conditional grant awarded, funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of committee requirements.

## Improving the quality of life for Elkhart County's residents, pet owners and animals

Whether you're a two-footed creature, four-footed or have no feet at all, your quality of life is positively enhanced by the hard work and dedication of the staff and friends of the Humane Society of Elkhart County.

Situated on 27 acres west of Bristol, the Humane Society "is dedicated to promoting respect and responsibility for all animals and to the prevention of suffering and neglect through education, public service and adoption." Or as executive director Anne Reel simply says, "we're here to serve animals."



Having the Community Foundation's support "brings a sense of credence to our project and therefore is seen as a benefit to the community," Reel says. "It helps bring in additional gifts and gets us closer to our goal: Our monetary one... as well as our desire to humanely treat Elkhart County's animals."



When Reel started at the Humane Society (often referred to as the Shelter) in 2009, they were taking in an astounding 8,500-9,000 animals a year. Since then, they have significantly reduced annual intake of animals to approximately 4,500. How has this been possible?

The Shelter eliminated the “drop box” in front of their building because it could be accessed by non-Elkhart County residents disposing unwanted animals. Adoption turn-around has grown from 20% to over 56% and, incorporating transfers to other animal welfare groups, the figure reaches 90% during some months. Also, the Shelter has a strong education component, effectively teaching residents proper animal care and about cruelty and neglect through presentations to service clubs, other organizations and through school-based programs.

The Shelter’s staff will pick up stray animals and attempt to match them with their owners and corral overly aggressive or dangerous animals throughout the County. They also provide pet food assistance to families experiencing financial difficulty, provide temporary homes for animals whose owners experience domestic violence and provide education segments for the media.

As Reel and her team say, shelters are not warehouses. Rather its facility compassionately and effectively treats varied animal needs. And varied animals as well: in 2014 they took in 51 different species.

However, the aging existing facility is no longer adequate. The results of a strategic five-year feasibility study concluded in 2012 identified serious building deficiencies and the need for segregation of healthy vs. unhealthy animals and of aggressive incoming animals from outgoing adoptable animals, the installation of air flow systems to prevent cross-contamination of contagious airborne diseases and more.



So began the efforts on a campaign to build a new facility on the site: “Unleashing the Possibilities: Building a New Shelter for the Humane Society of Elkhart County.” The current facility has the capacity of housing 200 adoptable and stray animals; the new one will increase that by 60%, “with the emphasis not on the capacity of numbers but more about the capacity of improved care for the numbers we see,” according to Reel.

The new building expands capacity for education and collaborative efforts with other quality animal welfare groups -- and improves access to more opportunities and hands-on learning for kids and adults interested in a career in animal welfare. “We’ll be able to open up the Shelter to the community,” Reel says. “For groups wanting to hold a meeting here... or for a fun activity geared to the young ones, like a child’s birthday party with the kitties.”

Thanks to the generosity of the \$250,000 grant from the Community Foundation — as part of the Lilly GIFT VI Initiative — and an ambitious match from their community Capital Campaign, the Humane Society is on its way.

Having the Community Foundation’s support “brings a sense of credence to our project and therefore is seen as a benefit to the community,” Reel says. “It helps bring in additional gifts and gets us closer to our goal: Our monetary one... as well as our desire to humanely treat Elkhart County’s animals.”

## Quality of Life Grants

Includes Rapid Response, Good Neighbor, Community Investment and Key Initiative Grants awarded to organizations or programs focusing on social services issues in Elkhart County.

<b>Center for Healing and Hope</b> Website update	\$3,200.00	<b>Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry</b> Protein food distribution	\$15,000.00
<b>Center for Healing and Hope</b> Expanding medical care and advocacy	\$25,000.00	<b>Hubbard Hill Retirement Community</b> Angel Garden Patio	\$9,745.00
<b>Christ's Commissary (First Brethern Church)</b> Freezer	\$1,000.00	<b>Humane Society of Elkhart County, Inc.</b> Building campaign	\$500,000.00
<b>Church Community Services</b> Greenhouse and operational support	\$35,000.00	<b>Maple City Health Care Center</b> Expanded parking	\$10,000.00
<b>Community Action of Northeast Indiana Inc.</b> Covering Kids and Families programming	\$17,500.00	<b>Pathways Retreat</b> Furnishings	\$10,000.00
<b>Elkhart County Clubhouse Inc.*</b> Kitchen and bathroom renovations	\$83,000.00	<b>RETA Ministry</b> Operations for mobile unit	\$40,000.00
<b>Elkhart Legal Aid</b> Legal aid and advocacy	\$10,000.00	<b>Salvation Army - Goshen Corps</b> Senior Programming - year 3 of 5-year grant	\$50,000.00
<b>Emerge Ministries</b> Transitional Care Center renovations	\$10,000.00	<b>Salvation Army of Elkhart</b> Feast to Feed 2016	\$5,000.00
<b>Family Christian Development Center</b> Baby immunization clinic	\$15,000.00	<b>Samaritan Health and Living Center, Inc.</b> Building renovations for new location	\$80,000.00
<b>Here Kitty Kitty Cat Rescue</b> Equipment	\$4,800.00	<b>United Cancer Services of Elkhart County</b> Journey Through Treatment	\$20,000.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$944,245.00</b>

\* Challenge grant awarded, full funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of the challenge.

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*Improving the  
quality of life in Elkhart County  
by inspiring generosity*



**Inspiring good. Impacting success.**

101 South Main Street | P.O. Box 2932  
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Established in 1989, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County is a public charitable foundation with endowment assets devoted to helping people from all communities within Elkhart County. The Foundation is inspired on a daily basis by the generosity of others.

**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ELKHART COUNTY IS DEDICATED TO TRANSFORMING ELKHART COUNTY BY:**

**Advising donors of all types and their professional advisors on charitable giving.**

**Awarding grants to effective nonprofit organizations that are doing invaluable work in our communities.**

**Providing leadership to address critical needs with a focus on youth development, vibrant community and quality of life.**