

# Navigating Our Way

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





## *Letter from the President and Board Chairman*

# NAVIGATING WHERE WE ARE GOING

Navigating where we are going means we have to understand where we have been and where we are at the moment.

In 1989, our founders envisioned the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and the various ways it might serve this community, but they had no way of truly knowing what lay ahead.

Because of the generosity of our founders and others, including Lilly Endowment Inc., the Community Foundation began having an impact.

The legacy gift of Guy David Gundlach's estate changed the Community Foundation and required a new map and new approaches to inspiring good in Elkhart County. A thoughtful, strategic approach to build a sustainable model has helped guide our efforts for nearly a decade.

The Community Foundation's assets are now more than \$400 million, a figure our founders may have had a difficult time imagining in the late 1980s. We are again assessing where we are and how we map our future as stewards of these resources.

The calendar year of 2020 was scary and challenging, but our staff and volunteers, including board and committee members, focused on how to do what is right for Elkhart County. Those capable people, along with the great staff members and volunteers of our local nonprofit community, came together with our generous donors to meet community needs.

It is a privilege to be at the center of so much philanthropy and generosity in Elkhart County. That is a role we cherish and look forward to expanding as we continue to grow together.

The Community Foundation brings together people around their common interests. It is humbling to be part of processes to forge public/private partnerships and build consensus as people engage the community.

We are deeply humbled by and grateful for all the ways generous people use the Community Foundation to accomplish their philanthropic goals. As you review the foundation's financial performance in this annual report, we believe you will be pleased to note CFEC

received a total of \$25.4 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2020-21. We are also delighted to report CFEC's investment portfolio produced an annual return of 29.8 percent. The foundation's investment performance over the last few years has ranked among the top decile of our peer endowments.

Because of our community's generosity and strong investment returns, we were able to distribute \$23.4 million in grants.

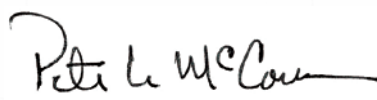
We are envisioning our future — one in which we continue to inspire generosity, assist donors with their philanthropic efforts, encourage volunteerism, and walk alongside nonprofits meeting needs in our community. That future is exciting and full of unending possibilities.

Much lies ahead of us. We are grateful to be on this journey with you.

Warmly,



**DAVID FINDLAY**  
Board Chairman



**PETE MCCOWN**  
President

*By the Numbers*

## **FISCAL YEAR 2020-21**

*Total Assets*

**\$418.2M**

*Total Gifts*

**\$25.4M**

*Grants*

**\$23.4M**

*Investment*

*Return*

**29.8%**



## 2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Findlay  
*Chairman*

Cien Asoera  
*Vice Chairman*

Dave Weaver  
*Treasurer*

Deb Beaverson  
*Secretary*

Dick Armington  
Megan Baughman  
Becky Bontreger  
Todd Cleveland  
Rob Cripe  
Raquel Espinosa  
Jan Farron  
Steve Fidler  
Ken Julian

Del King  
John Liechty  
Sharon Liegl  
Galen Miller  
Thomas Pletcher  
Kerri Ritchie  
Isaac Torres  
Ola Yoder

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## FOUNDING MEMBERS *Names in italics are deceased*

*Charles Ainlay*  
Jon Armstrong  
*Lehman Beardsley*  
*Wilbert H. Budd*  
*Arthur J. Decio*

*Dr. John Foreman*  
Samuel Hoover  
William P. Johnson  
*Lee Martin*  
*James McNamee*

*William Myers*  
Richard Pletcher  
*Laura Rydson*  
Oscar Schricker  
Thomas Warrick

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## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOUNDING DONORS

*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.*

Bashor Home Endowment Fund  
Boys & Girls Club of Greater  
Goshen Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert H. Budd  
Charitable Fund of the First  
Congregational Church  
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  
Mr. F. L. Hascall  
Goshen College  
Goshen Rotary Club Scholarship Fund  
Greencroft Foundation  
Gunden Family Fund  
Paul and Joyce Hultin Family Fund  
KeyBank  
LaCasa of Goshen  
Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
Mervin D. Lung Family  
Martin Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin  
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 VanDerKarr  
Maynard W. Wells Family  
YMCA/YWCA Joint Community Project



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# MISSION AND VALUES

## *Mission*

To improve the quality of life in Elkhart County by inspiring generosity.

## *Values*

The Community Foundation is committed to the following as essential to our effectiveness. We aspire to reflect the following values as we serve the community:

- **Integrity:** An abiding pledge to honesty, professionalism, humility, and respect.
- **Inclusion:** We seek and elevate diverse voices. We are most impactful when our organization and deliberations include people from varied backgrounds, opinions, and perspectives.
- **Excellence:** In our every endeavor.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in teamwork, both internally and externally. We desire to be trusted partners with community members, civic leaders, and not-for-profit organizations to provide high-impact programs and services benefitting the broadest possible constituency.

## FOUNDING DONORS

Founding Donors are those individuals or organizations that contributed to the Fund for Excellence through the Lilly Gift VI Initiative from 2014 through 2016. The names of the donors will be prominently displayed in the Community Foundation's Annual Report as the original endowment builders and supporters.

*Names in italics  
are deceased*

Gary and Connie Adamson	Dean and Ruth Hupp	Mike and Judy Pianowski
Dick and Deb Armington	Irions Foundation	Donald Pletcher
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller	Jayco	Marly and <i>Laura</i> Rydson
Megan and Troy Baughman	Rick and Sandy Jenkins	Mike and Vicki Schoeffler
Deborah and David Beaverson	William P. and Toni Johnson	Oscar and <i>Marilyn</i> Schricker
Roy Beck	Thomas and Donna Kauffman	Bob and Marie Schrock
Bill Deputy Foundation	Donna Kercher Schrock	Brian and Lauri Smith
Brian and Margot Borger	Levi and Joanna King	Carl and Emilie Tiedemann
George and Marty Buckingham	Delmar and Sherri King	Thomas and <i>Patricia</i> Warrick
Corson Family Foundation	Richard and Susan Klepinger	David Weed
Rob and Vicki Cripe	Chuck and Betty Lamb	Jeff and Phid Wells
Cripe Family Foundation	John and Jane Leavitt	<i>Madelon Wells</i>
<i>Arthur J. Decio</i>	<i>Allan</i> and Karon Ludwig	Welter Foundation
Lois Dusthimer	Pete and Wendy McCown	John and Carolyn Wolf
Estate of Guy David Gundlach	Bob and Sue Miller	
John and Lois Fidler	Gordon and Marie Moore	
David and Susan Findlay	MutualBank Charitable Foundation, Inc	
John and Gwen Gildea	Dzung and Francoise Nguyen	
Gordon McCormick Corporation	Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger	
Joseph and Holly Hosinski		







2020-21

## FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

Though the year presented a range of financial challenges, we are pleased to report that the Community Foundation of Elkhart County had an excellent year. The Community Foundation received a total of \$25.4 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 and because of past giving and investment, we were able to give \$23.4 million in grants. Our number of funds continues to grow and wise counsel from our volunteers and advisors is continuing to help our assets grow. Thank you for your generous gifts of time and resources to help us tend the community's assets.

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*Your Community Foundation*

### AT A GLANCE

567

**TOTAL FUNDS**

\$23.4M

**TOTAL GRANTS**

\$418.2M

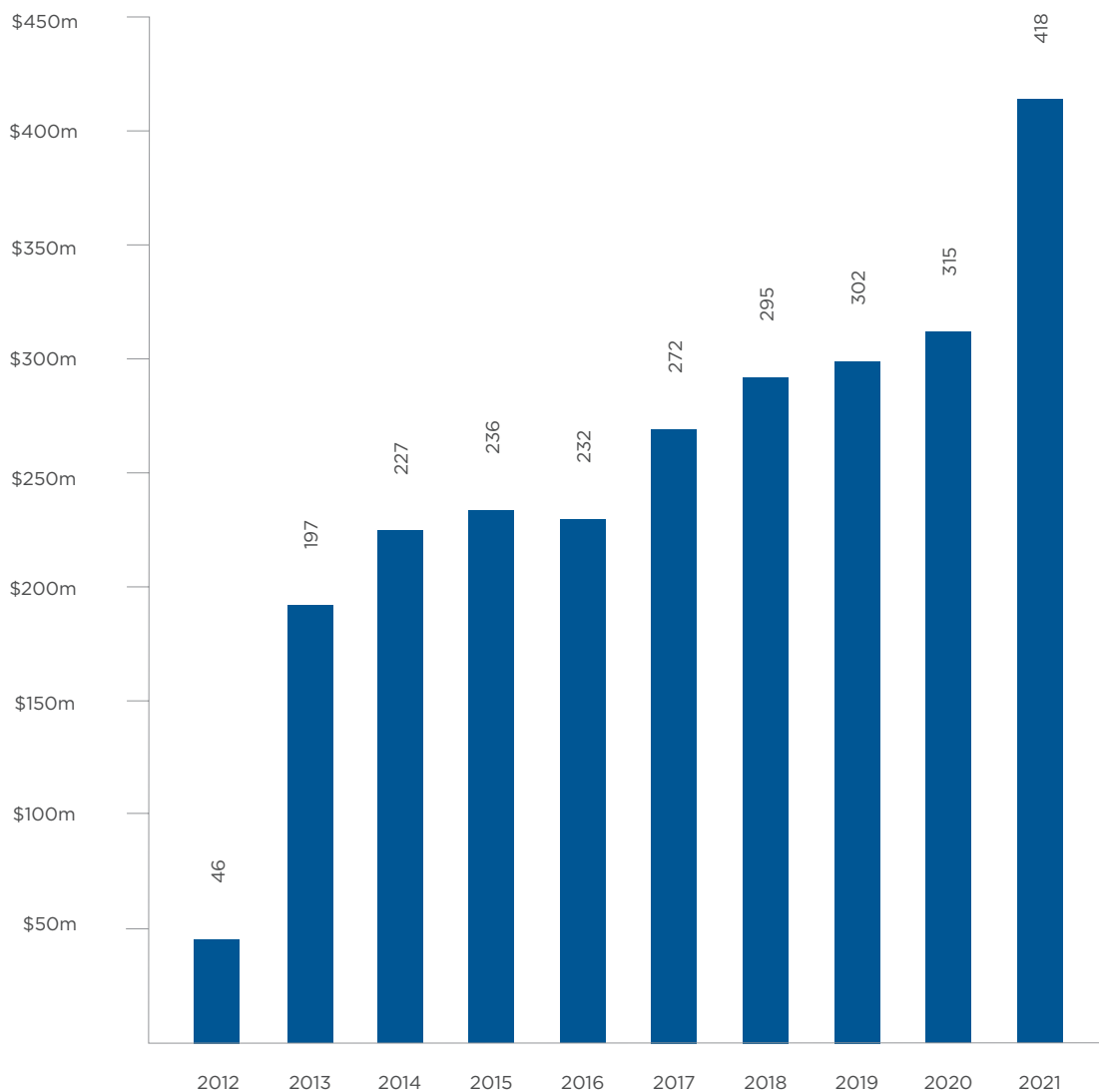
**TOTAL ASSETS**

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## Historical

# ASSETS BY YEAR

In 2013, the community received a wildly generous gift from Elkhart native Guy David Gundlach. The Gundlach gift was the start of a new era for the Community Foundation as other donors have become partners or deepened relationships to make our community stronger. Since 2013, over \$175 million in additional gifts have been invested for the betterment of Elkhart County.

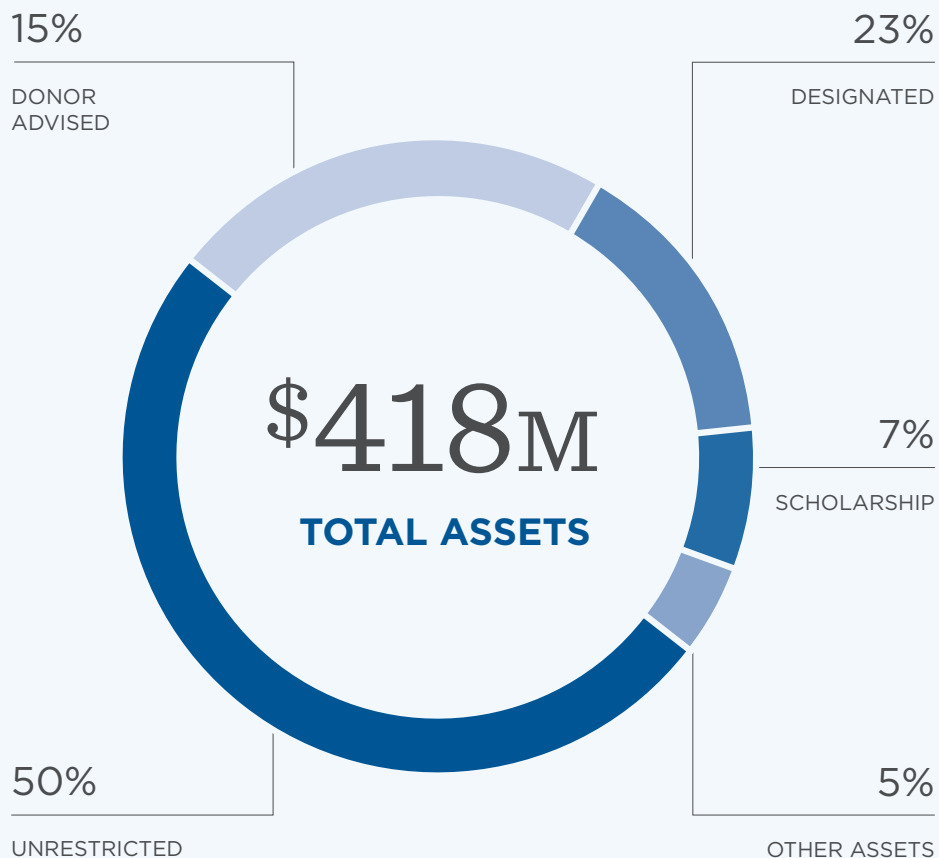




2021

## ASSETS BY FUND TYPE

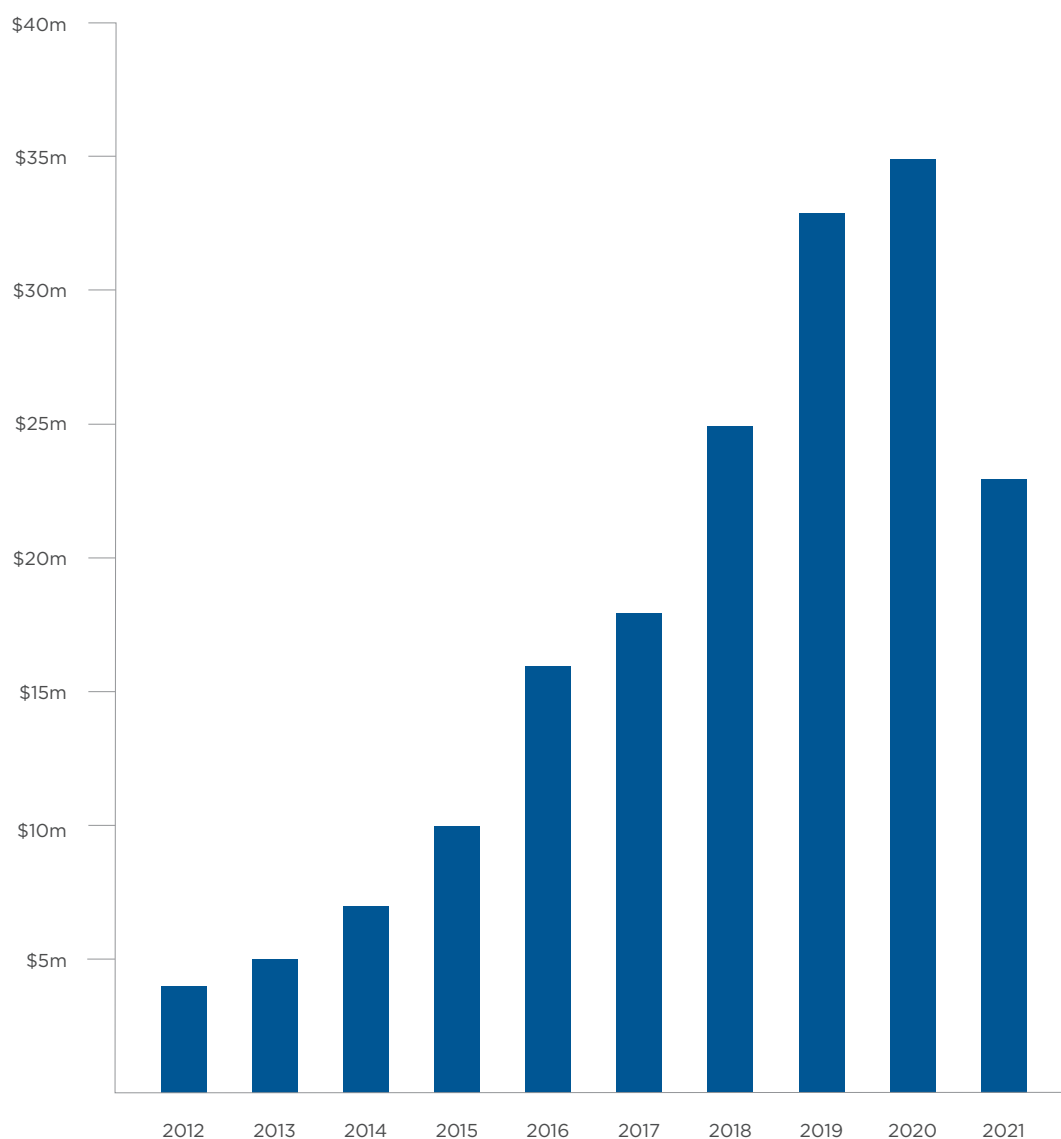
Since 1989 we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor's goals and establish their intent, we work with them to decide on which funding option best brings their vision to life.



## Historical

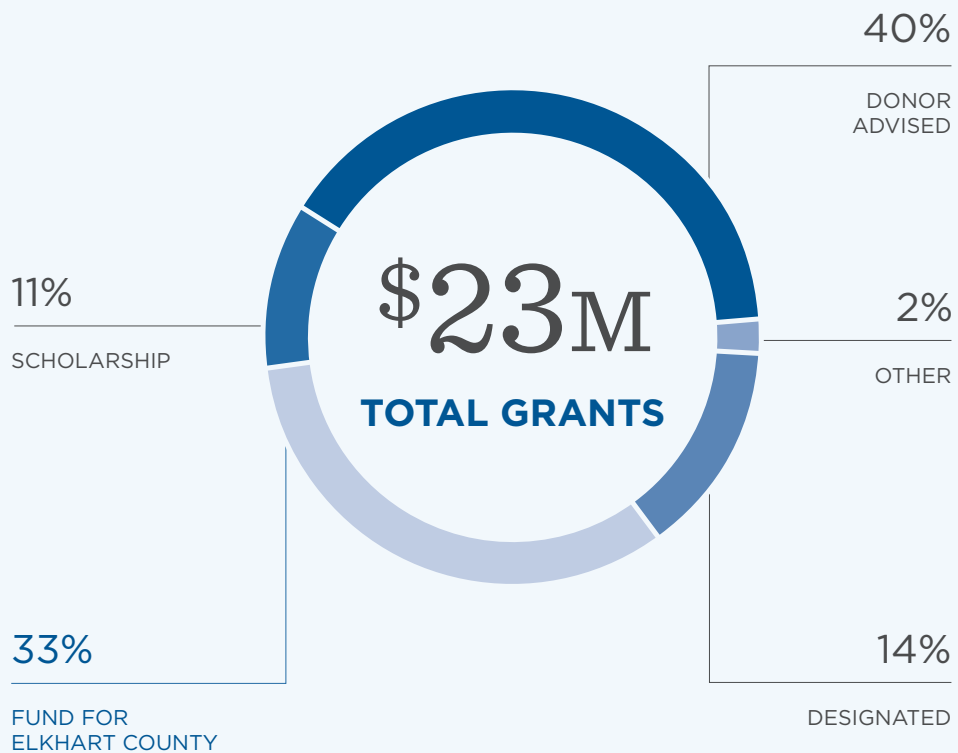
# GRANTS BY YEAR

Most of the grants that the Community Foundation is trusted to manage are for specific areas designated by donors. Some of the grants are unrestricted, empowering the Community Foundation to respond to needs and make strategic grants to better our quality of life. A description of how these unrestricted grants were used to improve our communities is found on pages 42–75 of this report.



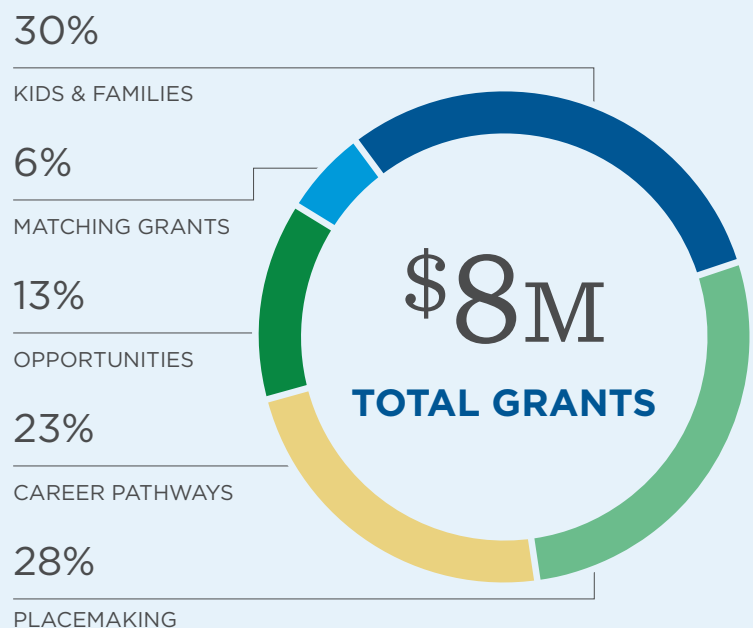
2021

## GRANTS BY FUND TYPE



### FUND FOR ELKHART COUNTY

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our communities' greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$8 million in grants were awarded in areas of emphasis for the Community Foundation.





# Statements of

## FINANCIAL POSITION

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021 and 2020.

	JUNE 30, 2021	JUNE 30, 2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,164,000	\$1,087,000
Investments	\$414,040,000	\$312,651,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	\$407,000	\$423,000
Other assets	\$539,000	\$644,000
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$418,150,000</b>	<b>\$314,805,000</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable	\$111,000	\$51,000
Grants payable	\$5,020,000	\$5,623,000
Gift annuities payable	\$435,000	\$458,000
Custodial funds	\$39,763,000	\$27,449,000
Other liabilities	\$589,000	\$493,000
Net assets - without donor restrictions	\$4,575,000	\$3,519,000
Net assets - with donor restrictions	\$367,657,000	\$277,212,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$418,150,000</b>	<b>\$314,805,000</b>

# Statements of

# ACTIVITIES

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021 and 2020.

\* Accounting standards require certain incoming monies to be presented as a change in the Custodial Funds liability. For the Annual Report, these monies are reported as gifts. As such, gift activity reflected throughout the report varies from Contributions and Grants reflected in the Statements of Activities.

\*\* The Annual Report is designed to showcase the grant recommendations received from fundholders and the commitments made by the Board of Directors. Accounting standards, which stipulate what qualifies as a grant for financial reporting purposes, do not fully capture the recommendations received and commitments made. As such, grant activity reflected throughout the report varies from the grant expense amount reported as a component of Program Services on the Statements of Activities.

	JUNE 30, 2021	JUNE 30, 2020
<b>SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		
Contributions and grants*	\$17,347,000	\$26,715,000
Investment return, net	\$90,626,000	\$10,251,000
Fund administrative fees	\$2,477,000	\$2,176,000
Other	\$(31,000)	\$61,000
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES</b>	<b>\$110,419,000</b>	<b>\$39,203,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services**	\$17,181,000	\$31,447,000
General & administrative	\$1,254,000	\$1,234,000
Fundraising	\$ 483,000	\$515,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,918,000</b>	<b>\$33,196,000</b>
Change in net assets	\$91,501,000	\$6,007,000
Net assets, beginning of year	\$280,731,000	\$274,724,000
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$372,232,000</b>	<b>\$280,731,000</b>

## CHANGING INVESTMENT APPROACH FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HAS BEEN PAYING OFF

The Community Foundation's assets have been growing at a rate that puts it among some of the top foundations in the United States in terms of investment performance.

In August 2019, the Community Foundation's Investment Committee comprised of seasoned investment professionals agreed to shift the investment portfolio from roughly 70 percent equities and 30 percent fixed income investments to 80 percent equities and 20 percent fixed. Though equities are riskier, the foundation can withstand the risk as it holds and invests the endowment for the long term. "Since we manage endowment funds and those should be there for perpetuity, there's an argument that we can sustain more volatility if the return is there," said Cole Patuzzi, Chief Financial Officer for the Community Foundation.

The plan was to shift the investments 1 percent per quarter unless the market had a significant drawback. When the Covid-19 pandemic created that drawback in March 2020, the portfolio was shifted more quickly toward the 80-20 goal.

As the stock market rebounded, the returns quickly rose.

The Community Foundation saw a 29.8 percent rate of return for the Fiscal Year 2020-21, putting it near the middle of 63 other foundations in its peer group with assets from \$250 million to \$1 billion. When it comes to the three-year and five-year returns, the results are much better with higher rates of return and rankings near the top of the group.

"We are extremely pleased with the results from the change in strategy," said President Pete McCown. The Investment Committee's work meshes with the great support from

Elkhart's Stifel Group, The Investment Fund For Foundations and Mercer Investment Advisors. "We are grateful for our committee members and investment partners who help us be good stewards of these community resources," said McCown.

While fund holders and the Fund For Elkhart County benefited from the strong market rebound, the Community Foundation continues to take a conservative approach to its operating finances. "The annual budget is built based on numbers from the third quarter of each fiscal year. That approach was particularly helpful during the initial uncertainty of the pandemic. In addition, the Community Foundation maintains a rainy day fund," said Patuzzi.

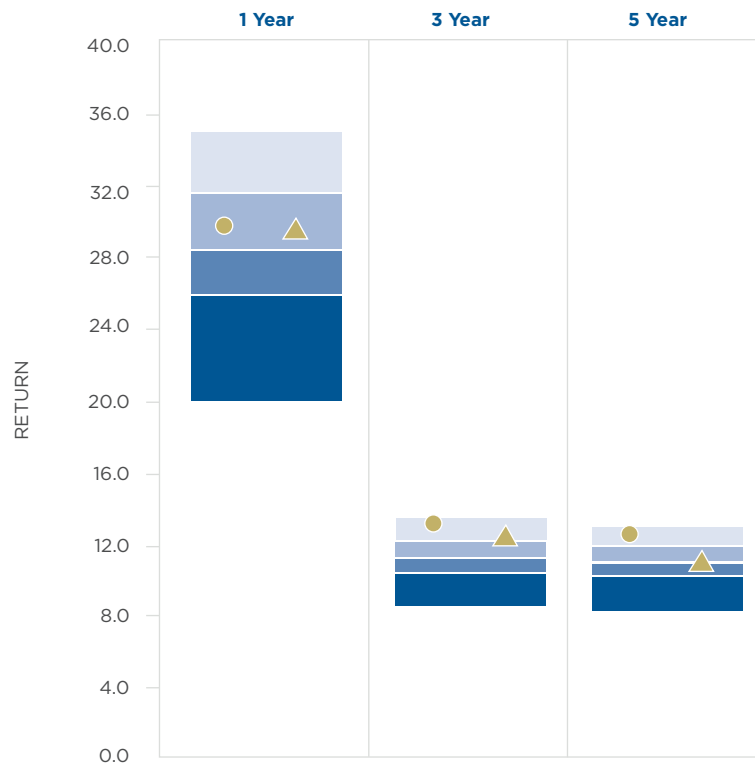
### ASSET ALLOCATION

Asset Class	Consolidated Fund
Public Equity	63%
Private Equity	14%
<b>GLOBAL EQUITY</b>	<b>77%</b>
Diversifying Strategies	6%
<b>DIVERSIFYING STRATEGIES</b>	<b>6%</b>
Fixed Income	10%
<b>GLOBAL FIXED INCOME</b>	<b>10%</b>
Public Real Assets	2%
Private Real Assets	1%
<b>REAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4%</b>
Cash & Equivalents	3%
<b>CASH &amp; EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TOTAL CONSOLIDATED FUND</b>	<b>100%</b>



## PERFORMANCE OF PEER ENDOWMENTS BY QUARTILE

as of 6/30/2021 (Peer Group \$250M-\$1B)



	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
● Consolidated Fund	29.78 (39)	13.21 (10)	12.65 (9)
▲ CFEC Blended Benchmark	29.62 (42)	12.57 (19)	11.07 (49)
5th percentile	35.02	13.55	13.04
1st Quartile	31.64	12.18	11.95
Median	28.47	11.30	11.06
3rd Quartile	25.90	10.42	10.31
95th Percentile	20.02	8.57	8.18
Peer Group Population	63	62	61

## CONSOLIDATED PORTFOLIO & BENCHMARK PERFORMANCE

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
<b>Consolidated Fund</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>
CFEC Blended Benchmark	29.6	12.6	11.1	8.1
CPI + 5%	10.7	7.7	7.5	7.0
70% MSCI ACWI IMI(net)/ 30% Barclays Aggregate	27.4	11.9	11.2	8.2

*Charting a new course*

## STABLE GROUNDS TO HELP MIDDLEBURY YOUTH COPE

Jane Allen remembers when she started seeing students with a new set of issues.

They were running down the hall screaming to get out of the building.

Some were hiding under desks or in lockers.

Not every Middlebury Community School building had its own counselor and students who had access to counselors in their building were limited to three visits a year.

Jane, the superintendent of Middlebury Community Schools, talked with Kori Cripe, then a counselor at Northridge Middle School, about how to help these students who were dealing with mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression and anger.

“We knew a lot was going on in their heads that needed some counselor support that we were not able to give on a regular basis,” says Kori.

Kori and counselor Becca Snider were trained in equine therapy and saw what horses could do to help kids.

As students came to Kori’s home she watched them find solutions to problems as they interacted with animals or worked in the stable.

In a one-hour session, a student may work with a horse to navigate obstacles or walk the area.

She has seen therapy with horses work when talk therapy doesn’t. Sometimes a young person will find a way to relate to a challenging horse that Kori can’t. She has seen young people find their way back to mental health with the help of a small horse they can’t ride as they name the animal, as they braid its hair, or as they dress it up in costumes. Without saying a word, the animals help the humans work through their emotions.

Jane and Kori devised a program using miniature horses as therapy animals to help students. They put the dream on paper, hoping for funding someday, but both believed it wouldn’t happen until after they had died.





**LEFT:**  
Jane Allen  
and others  
are estab-  
lishing Stable  
Grounds as  
a place for  
young people  
to work with  
miniature  
horses as a  
form of therapy.

***“That’s this community.  
They just jump. You ask,  
‘Can we do this?’ and they  
say yes.”***

**— JANE ALLEN**

*Retired Superintendent of Middlebury  
Community Schools*

At Kori’s farm, she worked with students and others in a therapeutic setting, but they had a dream for a stable of horses that would help students who came from Middlebury schools. (That’s a different approach than LoveWay, which is a riding stable for children with disabilities.)

In 2018, Jane was in the auditorium at Northridge High School when someone asked the 900 students if they knew anyone who had attempted suicide. Three-fourths of the students raised their hands.

Jane knew they had to do something.

In early 2019, she and a few others met with Kevin Deary, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, to see if their stable could be included in a capital campaign for a new Middlebury clubhouse. She didn’t want to do a capital campaign that would compete, but also didn’t want to wait.



**BELOW:**

Kahlil Shertz, Jane Allen and Kori Cripe are helping put Stable Grounds on firm footing as it begins.



Kevin isn't a huge fan of animals, but said he would help as long as they someday named a donkey after him. He was willing to include the stable in the capital campaign if the Middlebury board approved. Will Weed, who had three friends commit suicide while he was a student at Northridge High School, was at that meeting. He knew the young people of the Middlebury community needed help. "Even though it's a great community, we still have challenges to sort through," Will says.

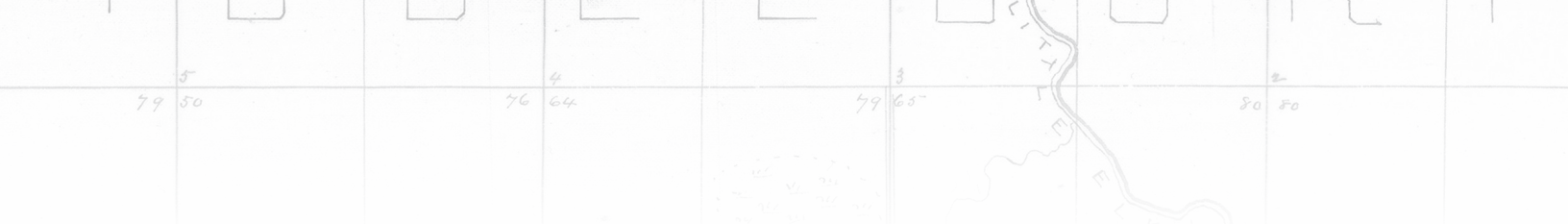
He guaranteed that someone in the community would fund Stable Grounds. Jane and Kori were soon meeting with his family, including his father David and grandmother Peggy Weed.

The Weed family members discussed it with each other and with the Community Foundation staff. The family agreed to give \$500,000 for construction from the Robert and Peggy Weed Foundation, a family foundation Peggy and her late husband Robert established at the Community Foundation. The family foundation helps continue the Weed family tradition of philanthropy and generosity.

**RIGHT:**

Stable Grounds is on property donated by the Miller family adjacent to the Middlebury Community Schools that includes two schools and other buildings.





Jane kept working to put other pieces in place. She called Lance Miller, part of the family that owns and operates Das Dutchman Essenhaus. “I said, ‘Lance, we need some land.’” Stable Grounds had money to purchase land from the family north of the restaurant adjacent to the school campus that includes the administration office, two schools and the Boys & Girls Club.

Lance called back a week later and said the family wanted to donate the land.

“That’s this community,” says Jane. “They just jump. You ask, ‘Can we do this?’ and they say yes.”

A 100 Women Who Care, a giving circle that meets quarterly, picked Stable Grounds for a \$10,000 grant. Jane and others from the Middlebury community were there that night to pitch both the needs and how Stable Grounds would meet them.

Others in the community donated feed, vet services and labor to build the stable. Jane said the way the pieces came together amazes her. “It’s a God thing. It was meant to be,” she says.

Stable Grounds became a nonprofit supporting the facility and animals. Middlebury Community Schools supports the personnel, utilities and insurance. It’s a public-private partnership that is the first of its kind in the state of Indiana and could become a model for other communities.

Jane has retired as superintendent, but she isn’t done helping kids. Stable Grounds is a passion project, where she is a helper and part of the board.

She’s supporting the others on staff. Kahlil Schertz, who retired after 30 years as a fourth-grade teacher, is a program assistant. Kori and Becca are conducting the therapy sessions with the students and horses.

Stable Grounds is getting referrals from Middlebury schools for students to get individual or group sessions with the horses. Jane is hoping

that rather than spending time in detention, students will come to the stable to muck a stall and get their hands a little dirty.

The 22 horses on Kori’s farm will rotate in and out of Stable Grounds as they spend their days helping students. Stable Grounds’ organizers are fielding requests from local Amish bishops and other school systems wanting to utilize services, but the priority will be Middlebury Community Schools students.

All those who have contributed expect big things from the interaction between students and little horses. Mental health has a huge impact on every aspect of a students’ life, particularly academics.

The community wasn’t doing enough, said Will Weed. “I think a community model that centralizes around a community and its schools just makes sense. At first glance, Middlebury is going to work very hard to harness this and reduce the stigma around mental health,” he says.

At the ribbon-cutting for the building earlier this summer, 200 people came to celebrate the new stable. The animals were the stars of the show. Kevin Deary met the donkey named Kevin. The human squatted down to talk to the animal. They have a lot in common. They’re both survivors and are giving back. A teddy bear can’t give unconditional love back to a young person, but animals can, says Kevin. “That donkey is going to give and receive unconditional love,” says Kevin.

As the school year starts, so does a new era of helping students find their way.

“We can’t wait to give our kids hope,” says Jane. “That’s the key. They have to have hope for the future.”





*Tales from an old homestead*

## HELEN MISHLER'S GIFT ASSURES A LEGACY

Tucked in a cornfield near Nappanee, an old homestead whispers its stories to those who will listen.

Helen Mishler wanted to make sure those tales from the Daniel Stump Homestead would keep being heard, that those who came to visit would get a sense of the history of this place and those who lived here.

Helen died a few days before Christmas 2020, but because of her gift to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, those stories will be heard for years to come.

Daniel and Salome "Sally" Stump moved to this plot of land from Canada in the late 1830s. They were seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity and settled in a place that had become Union Township in Elkhart County in 1837.

The family built the first buildings between 1838 and 1840, including a log cabin that included a kitchen and space for the 13 children to grow up.

Nearby is an Apple Butter House that provided space for weaving, butchering, shoeing horses, storing grain and more. Barns, an orchard and a cemetery all became part of the homestead. The family legend was that the apple trees on the property grew from seeds provided by Johnny Appleseed, according to Helen in a 2009 newspaper article.

The dominant tree on the property now is a large majestic one jutting up dozens of feet above the corn. The family planted a ginkgo tree soon after it arrived in the United States. It's now likely one of the largest ginkgo biloba trees in the state, according to Chris Gillam.





**ABOVE:**

Chris Gillam will assure that Helen Mishler's wishes are carried out in regards to her estate.

***"It was really important to her that 100 years from now, these buildings still be here."***

**— CHRIS GILLAM**

*Advisor of Helen Mishler's legacy fund*

The homestead stayed in the family, but the buildings were run down and needed attention by the time Helen and her sisters June and LaVonne Mishler Amo bought it in 1983 from their cousins who were some of the thousands of descendants of the Stumps.

No one had lived there since World War II, about the same time Helen had gone to work for CTS in Elkhart, where she was part of the effort to make items for the troops overseas. She lived nearby and attended Union Center Church of the Brethren.

The buildings that were still standing were in rough shape. The small farmhouse, with original siding, roof and windows, has gotten some attention and has two communion benches inside that were part of the church down the road.

Using old photos, the Mishler sisters oversaw the construction of two barns using pieces from other historic barns in the area. The story of the pieces that were collected, of the 100-year-old trees that provided the siding, of the Amish craftsman who raised the barn in 1987 are all



**ABOVE:**  
Helen Mishler  
and her sister  
June stand  
on the front  
porch of  
one of the  
buildings at  
the Stump  
homestead.

part of the lore that Helen loved telling and wants others to keep retelling.

The buildings on the homestead with their stories are characters in this story, but none of them are as important as Helen, Chris Gillam and attorney-now-judge Mike Christofeno.

Helen had grown up nearby and lived in the same house nearly all her life. She and her sister June never married, never had children.

Helen rented space on their farm to Chris Gillam, who brought cattle to her woods from May 1 to November 1 each year. If he was a day late in coming to load them, she called Chris. “She was particular,” Chris says. Even in the last decade of her life, she insisted on helping him load them onto the trailer. “They know me,” she told him.

She maintained her property, picking up sticks and mowing her lawn. “You just do a little bit every day and you get the job done,” she told Chris.

Even a few years before her death, she rode a four-wheeler side-saddle — because she could no longer get her leg over the seat. She insisted on continuing to mow her lawn, though Chris would also come and help. “I would mow with her a lot.

I’d call it mowing ballet,” he says.

She loved nature and worried about the critters. She nursed raccoons back to health and once told Chris that possums couldn’t help it if they are ugly.

She loved her family and history even more, but didn’t know how to pass on that legacy to others in the community. Her attorney, who was still in private practice, was Mike Christofeno. She had definite ideas about what she wanted. “Helen, like many of my elderly clients, knew what she wanted to do and had to make some decisions about how to do it,” Mike says.

They met at her home over refreshments. She drove to his office in Elkhart. They chatted not just about her will and legal affairs, but about their lives. Over time, they built trust and he presented options, including the Community Foundation, to help preserve her legacy.

She wanted control over how her family would be honored after her death. As they worked through the options, Helen saw the Community Foundation’s logo of a ginkgo leaf, which affirmed her choice to utilize what the foundation could offer.



Her sisters had all passed away, as well as many of her friends. She didn't understand why she was living so long and said, "My grave keeps calling me and wondering where I am."

She couldn't grasp how her frugal life of saving and sharing meant that she had big decisions to make about how to provide direction after her death. Chris and Mike walked alongside, helping Helen understand that by giving to the Community Foundation, it would remain there forever and could support both the homestead and others in the community.

Though she declared, sometimes loudly and publicly, that Mike is "the best attorney in the world," she had to turn to his son Jon after he became a judge. The first will that Mike drew up was witnessed by Dr. Robert Abel.

Jon Christofeno, with Carrie Berghoff and Jodi Spataro from the Community Foundation's advancement team, set up a legacy fund.

Helen chose Chris to be her advisor on her legacy fund and to be the caretaker for the homestead. This means he is responsible for granting to nonprofits within the criteria she set. The purpose of the Mishler Brown Foundation is to honor Helen's life by granting to nonprofits that support her interests of farming, agriculture, historic preservation of farms, barns and equipment.

After her peaceful death at home, some of her estate went to Union City Church of the Brethren and much of it to the Community Foundation. Her planning and work prior to her death meant that the homestead can become a place where people learn about the past and perhaps a way to live more simply in a world that is increasingly complicated. Though the homestead has never had running water or electricity, it has been used for reunions, weddings and other gatherings and Chris is looking at how to help others use it responsibly in the coming years.

"It was really important to her that 100 years from now, these buildings still be here," says Chris. "She taught me to respect the past and make sure it's passed on to future generations. She wanted us to know where we came from."

The buildings on these five acres have tales to tell, lessons to teach.



**ABOVE:**  
Aerial view of the  
Mishler homestead

2021

## LEGACY SOCIETY LIST

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who believe(d) in impacting their community. Their stories and hearts are inspiring! The following list includes the names of those past and present who have informed us of bequests, policies, trusts, and other end-of-life planned gifts, for the purpose of encouraging others. This list also includes members of society that have a donor advised fund with us, where they are living out their legacy during their lifetime. Some members of the Legacy Society, however, have chosen to inform us but otherwise keep their decision confidential.

*Names in italics  
are deceased  
Legacy Members*

*Charles and Dorothy Ainlay*  
Dick and Linda Armstrong  
Janet Arnold  
Tom and Dot Arnold  
*Harold "Doc" and Jane Atkins*  
Steve and Julie Bachman  
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller  
*Glenn and Joan Banks*  
John and Nancy Banks  
Stephen and Holli Banks  
Leon Bauman and Char Yutzy  
David and Deborah Beaverson  
William and Linda Beier  
Al and Rebecca Benham  
George and Mona Biddlecome  
Jim and Joan Bock  
Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes  
Derald and Cindy Bontrager  
Tyson and Sarah Bontrager  
Wilbur and Sarah Bontrager  
*Dorothy Borger*  
*Thomas Borger* and Elizabeth  
Naquin Borger  
Mary Jean Borneman  
Carl Bossung  
Brian and Jeannelle Brady  
Patty and Coley Brady  
Susan Branson  
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*  
Alan and Nancy Burbano  
Robert Burger  
B. Jane Burns

Bill Caldwell  
*John Calvert*  
*Mary Ann Carroll*  
Bill and Anita Cast  
James and Anke Chandler  
*Brantly and Katie Chappell*  
Betty Chatten  
Jack and Karen Cittadine  
Brian and Diana Clark  
Todd and Missy Cleveland  
Richard and Kathy Collins  
Alex and Natalie Cook  
Brian and Traci Cook  
*Tom and Dot Corson*  
*Donald and Margaret Covert*  
Barbara Cowles  
Betty Cox  
Robert E. and Betty Cripe  
Rob and Vicki Cripe  
Kelly L. Cummins  
Richard W. Davis, Jr. and Mary  
E. Davis  
Richard and Shane Davisson  
*June Deal*  
*Arthur and Patricia Decio*  
*Elizabeth DeFries*  
Donald and Melanie DeGroff  
Bob and Mary Pat Deputy  
Lawrence and Sherrod Deputy  
Michael and Mandi Deputy  
Mike Dibley  
Terry and Julie Diener  
Todd W. A. Driver  
*Thomas and Lois Dusthimer*  
Tom and Sara Elkin  
Kay Ann Eller  
*Sharlene Eller-Preston*  
*Susan P. Ellington*  
Jane Eslick

*Ned and Agda Farber*  
Janice Farron  
*Frederick and Dorothy Feick*  
Bill and Kristin Fenech  
John and Lois Fidler  
*Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler*  
David and Susan Findlay  
Richard and Marlene  
Finnigan  
*Ivan Fisher*  
Robert and Dawn Fisher  
*John and Margaret Foreman*  
Martha Foreman  
James Foster Shea Jr.  
Andrew and Kathy Frech  
George and Katherine Freese  
Daniel Fulmer  
*L. Craig and Connie Fulmer*  
John and Therese Gardner  
Bill and Sue Garvey  
Dan and Suzanne George  
Bob and Stevie Giel  
John and Gwen Gildea  
Gary and Debra Gilot  
John and Judith Goebel  
Joe and *Rita* Gold  
William Goodsene  
*Christiana Graham*  
Doug and Barbara Grant  
*Ralph and Opal E. Gunden*  
*Guy David Gundlach*  
Steven Haines  
*John Harman*  
Cindy and Dave Hawkins  
Vernon and Diane Heacock  
*Dan and Mary Henkin*  
Steven Herendeen  
Stan and Sharon Hess  
Leon and Pam Hluchota




Terry and Lu Hoogenboom  
 Floyd and *Esther Hoover*  
*Mary E. Hoover*  
 Shirley Hoover  
*Joyce Hultin*  
 Eugene W. and *Barbara Hungate*  
 Tom Irions  
 Randall Jacobs and Rachel Miller Jacobs  
 Melvin and Deborah Jacobson  
 Moe Jacobson  
 Brian and Amanda Jamison  
 Rick and Sandy Jenkins  
 Levon and Dorrene Johnson  
 William P. and Toni Johnson  
 Stephen Kash  
*Carolyn Keefe*  
*Thomas and Suzanne Keene*  
 Donna Kercher Schrock  
 Robert and Kristy King  
 Chris and Gretchen Kingsley  
 Richard and Susan Klepinger  
*Ted and Diane Kolodziej*  
*Don L. and Jurate Krabill*  
 Mark and Diane Kritzman  
 Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklau  
 Michael L. and Rebecca Kubacki  
 Mark and Karen Kurtz  
 Chuck and Betty Lamb  
 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  
 Stephen and Maralee Macumber  
 Tony and Tammy Magaldi  
*Joseph Manfredi*  
 Frank and Marsha Martin  
 Rex and *Alice Martin*  
 Robert W. and Gail T. Martin  
*William and Margaret Martin*  
*Irma Mast*  
 Pete and Wendy McCown  
 Kathleen McCoy-Royer  
*Betty Jean McKeever*  
*James and Ann McNamee*  
 James and Janet Mellott  
 Bob and Sue Miller  
*Ruth Miller*  
*S. Ray* and Linda Miller  
 Marcus and Debra Miller  
 Ronald and Connie Minzey  
*Helen Mishler*  
 Gordon and Marie Moore  
 Michelle Moore

G. Lynn and Linda Morris  
 Dan and Jan Morrison  
 James and Karla Morton  
*Don and Jane Mossey*  
 Thomas and Barbra Murphy  
 Neal and Dianne Myers  
 Tim and Sarah Myers  
*William and Patricia Myers*  
 Thad and Rachelle Naquin  
 Thomas and Mary Naquin  
 James and Joyce Nelson  
 Sam and Kristina Newlands  
 Dzung and Francoise Nguyen  
 Mike Nicolini  
 Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger  
 Quinton and Shannon Oakes  
*Virginia J. Pardee*  
 Barbra Parker  
 Cole Patuzzi  
 Edward and Patricia Patzer  
 Jeffrey and Diana Peat  
 Richard and Suzanne Peterson  
*William O. and Loretha Phillips*  
 Mike and Judy Pianowski  
 Frank and Barbara Piskowsky  
 James and Sharon Piechorowski  
 Mac Pierce  
 Donald Pletcher  
 Kenneth and *Jean Pletcher*  
 Phillip and Nancy Pletcher  
 Richard and Susan Pletcher  
 Thomas and Dana Pletcher  
 John and Kathy Postle  
 Doug and *Mary Putnam*  
*Clayton and Carol Quimbach*  
 Paul and Sheela Reasoner  
 Larry and Elizabeth Renbarger  
*Florence Richardson*  
*Robert E. and Sandy Richardson*  
 Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke  
 Steven G. and Lynda Van Scoik  
 Mary Jane Rieth  
 J. Douglas and Sharon Risser  
*Lucille Risser*  
 Andrew and Billie Roeder  
 Kelly and Karen Rose  
 Charlene Rule  
*Keith E. Rupel*  
 Marly and *Laura Rydson*  
 Matthew and Tricia Rydson  
 Janet Elaine Ryman  
 Carl and Andrea Sartorius  
*Vernon and Doris Sailor*  
 George and Terri Schmidt, II  
 William and Lorette Schmuhl, Jr.  
 Doug Schnell  
 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 Schrock* and Donna Kercher  
 Schrock  
 Janet Rae Scribner  
 Amish and Amy Shah  
 James Foster Shea, Jr.  
*Daniel and Josephine Sherman*  
 Joseph and Angela Shoemaker  
*John Shoup*  
 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  
 Mark and Vicki Smucker  
 F. Richard and Josephine Snyder  
 Christopher and Jodi Spataro  
 Bruce and Barbara Stahly  
*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  
 George and Karen Thompson  
 Richard M. and *Anne K. Treckelo*  
*Gerald A. and Barbara J. Trolz*  
 John and Carole Ulmer  
*Adrian and Treva Vaksvik*  
*Richard and Bellodene Van Der Karr*  
 Steven G. and Lynda Van Scoik  
*Michael* and Meredith Vickrey  
 Anne Von Der Vellen  
*Mary Elizabeth Walker*  
 Thomas and *Patricia Warrick*  
 David Weaver  
*Laveta Weaver*  
*David and Dottie Webster*  
 David Weed  
 Donald Weed  
*Robert* and Peggy Weed  
 William and Sarah Weed  
 Chris and Jenny Welch  
 M. Scott and Kimberlee Welch  
 Ross and Linda Weldy  
 Jeff and Phid Wells  
 Karen R. Wesdorp  
 Aaron and Stephanie Wieand  
 Matthew and Jill Windy  
 John and Carolyn Wolf  
*Chris Wolfe*  
 Wen and Susan Wu  
 Al and Marie Yoder  
 Candy and Darrel Yoder  
 Ola and Vera Yoder  
*Dorothy Zimmerman*

Four donors asked to remain anonymous.





*The Joy of Giving*

# THE MAGALDIS INVEST THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES IN OTHERS

As a young boy, Tony Magaldi watched his father buy a new television set for a local laundromat attendant who was also a widow and mother. “He always tried to help people. That spurred me on too,” Tony says.

“My parents lived paycheck to paycheck. My dad was a steelworker on the south side of Chicago,” recalls Tammy Magaldi, Tony’s wife. “While they didn’t give cash, they gave of themselves.”

Now decades later, the couple says their parents’ small acts of kindness unleashed a passion for philanthropy that continues to grow. Like the single spark that ignites an autumn bonfire or a handful of loaves and fishes that grew to feed 5,000, one generous gesture leads to another.

Sitting on their porch on a sunny July afternoon, the pair allows themselves a brief moment in the limelight. They are eager to share the rewards of living with open hands.

By describing the deep joys of giving, Tony and Tammy hope others will feel inspired to freely give of their time, talents, and treasures as well.

## TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES

“Tammy and I both come from nothing. God put money in our hands, and if we start clenching our fists, it could be taken away in an instant,” Tony says. “We feel so fortunate that he has put this in our hands to give.”







**LEFT:**  
Tony and Tammy  
Magaldi hope others  
will feel inspired to  
freely give.

Besides strengthening their faith, philanthropy brings the couple closer together. Giving readily multiplies their joy and strengthens their bond.

Years ago, the couple set up a donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. The setup streamlines donations and vets charities and nonprofits to help guide their giving and make it easier to focus on giving to nonprofits, schools and ministries in Elkhart County and the surrounding community. They chose the Community Foundation to aid their generosity.

“We place money there knowing we’re going to get rid of it,” Tammy says. Each year, the Magaldis aim to empty the account. This goal keeps them tuned in to their community, available to offer help for urgent needs both great and small.

“The account is there whenever a need arises,” Tony says. “Because God puts the money there, if he brings someone across my path who

*“Our goal is to be involved  
in organizations  
that change people’s lives,  
whether it’s literally  
providing food or food for  
the soul.”*

— TAMMY MAGALDI

*Philanthropist*



#### LEFT:

Tony and Tammy Magaldi talk about their philanthropy with Pete McCown, Community Foundation president, and others in their home.

needs it, that's God tapping us on the shoulder. So we pray about it, I come up with a number, and Tammy will add to it."

"It's really awesome to be on the same page about generosity," she adds with a smile.

Philanthropy can take many forms. For busy business owners like the Magaldis, writing a check is often easier than volunteering. Tammy says she feels challenged and inspired by people who give generously of their time. Since the couple knows financial donations can become mechanical over the years, they strive to slow down enough to listen to people's stories and map out a course for lasting impact. The reward is worth the wait.

Whenever possible, the pair seeks opportunities to both give and serve. They like to understand and connect deeply with the organization's mission. Tammy is often drawn to helping women and children, while Tony enjoys supporting startups and pouring his time into men's discipleship groups. If the couple can combine their talents to help a family flourish, they dive in.

Giving their time and talents doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it is Tony inviting men recently released from prison to help him renovate houses. Other times, they've helped struggling parents make car payments, raked

leaves, or delivered home-cooked meals. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the family donated food from Golden Corral, one of their businesses, to essential workers. And each December, the pair dresses up as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to volunteer at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center toy store.

"When you can see the impact, those tend to be the initiatives we give to most. Our goal is to be involved in organizations that change people's lives, whether it's literally providing food or food for the soul," Tammy says.

Like the urge to give, the desire to change lives can be traced back to the family's faith. They give because they've received. They give quietly, hoping to quietly make an impact, but letting God do the work.

"It's not us. It's God through us," Tony says.

The Magaldis' generosity blossomed from the seeds of their parents' generosity. Now they hope their story will inspire others to map out their own unique philanthropic plans.

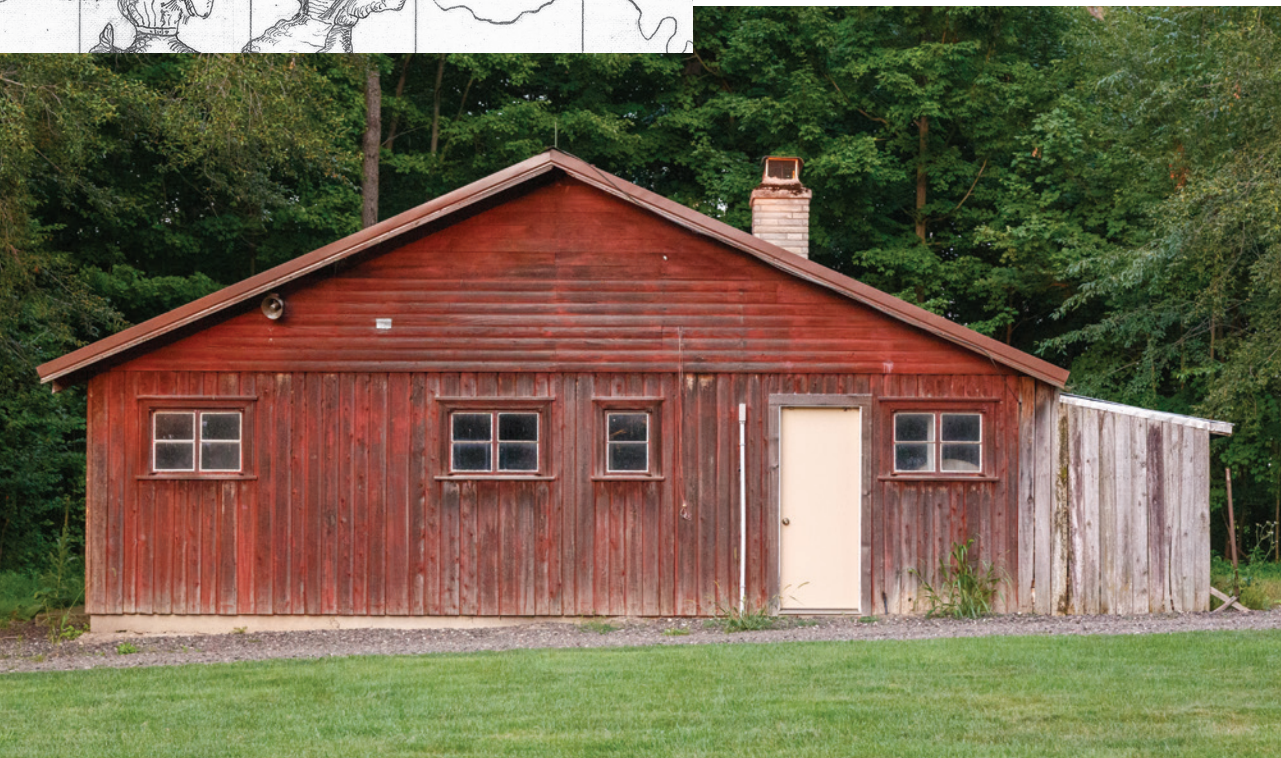
"Everybody can be generous," Tammy says. "You don't have to have money. You can give of your time and talents. Even just a kind word can make a difference."



**RIGHT:**  
Donor advised  
funds impact  
nonprofits, schools  
and ministries in  
Elkhart County and  
the surrounding  
community







**LEFT:**  
The Abel family's pool house is a model for a new community gathering place.

## DOC'S PAVILION WILL CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY HE LOVED

In the first few years after moving to Wakarusa in the 1950s, Robert "Doc" Abel built a community swimming pool and pool house in his backyard.

Wakarusa, a town of 1,100 at the time, didn't have a community pool, so Doc Abel's new one attracted large crowds of kids and adults. To this day, Wakarusa residents remember the good times in and around that pool from the 1950s to the 1970s.

After he died in 2017, people who came to his viewing said one of two things.

"So many people either said, 'he delivered me, or I swam in his pool.'" Nancy Roeder, Doc's daughter says.

When Doc first came to Wakarusa,

there were no family physicians in the town. Over a career spanning 66 years, Doc Abel delivered more than 10,000 babies and not only established a family medical practice in the community but became a fixture. Doc Abel rarely took a break. He always seemed to be doing something to help the community.

On top of having his own medical practice and making house calls, Doc was the team doctor for the Jimtown High School and Northwood High School football teams. He was a member of Wakarusa Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Historical Society, and Friends of the Wakarusa Public Library. He was also a board



member for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair and WaNee Community Schools.

His final house call was made just weeks prior to his passing in 2017 at the age of 92. Since then, there has been a void in the community where Doc's presence once was.

Nancy and the Roeder family knew Doc's legacy had to be honored and continued in some capacity. "The community was important to him," she says. "We wanted to do something

that would honor him – Something he would be pleased with."

### HONORING DOC

Doc's oldest Roeder grandchild, Andy, was put in touch with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County when they wanted to get started. "At that point, we just had ideas," Andy says.

The Roeder family and Jodi Spataro, Chief Advancement Officer

for the Community Foundation, set up a foundational agreement with a broad mission to "further Doc's legacy."

To hear from the businesses and individuals in Wakarusa, they held a town hall where people came and shared memories of Doc as well as ideas they had for a community project. They formed a committee to digest the feedback given and started brainstorming the different avenues the project could go.

They deliberated over ideas like a statue to honor Doc, an ice skating rink, and a park, before settling on "Doc's Pavilion," an outdoor shelter for group gatherings, local events – and where people can remember Doc's contribution to the community.

Once the Roeder family finalized their decision, they went back to the Community Foundation to establish the project's budget and certain fundraising goals.

"The Community Foundation has experience. They're bringing knowledge to the table regarding fundraising," says Billie Roeder, Andy's spouse.



**LEFT:**  
Doctor Robert  
Abel touched  
many in our  
community  
(Goshen News  
photo)



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*Doc's Pavilion*

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jolinda Lengacher  
*President*

Andy Roeder  
*Finance*

Billie Roeder/Natalie Abel  
*Design*

Brad Neely  
*Construction*

Jenny Neely  
*Events*

Alex Cook  
*Security*

Nancy Roeder  
*Abel Family*

Rocco Rigsby/Holly Landis  
*Town Board*

Deb Shively  
*Secretarial/Media*

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## DOC'S PAVILION 2.0

Building Doc's Pavilion will cost an estimated \$1.2 million. The Roeder family committed \$250,000. The Community Foundation matched it with a grant.

The fundraising campaign currently sits at around \$800,000. To attain the last bit of money, the Roeder family is continuing to spread the word about the fund to local businesses and are applying for various grants.

The pavilion will be located on the corner of Olive and Waterford Street in Wakarusa. The exterior of the open-air pavilion will be lined with brick donated by Jolinda Lengacher and

J&N Stone. Two large garage doors will open the building to the public to come in for a range of events and activities. Inside, there will be a stage for festivals and concerts, as well as a concession stand, benches, picnic tables, and restrooms.

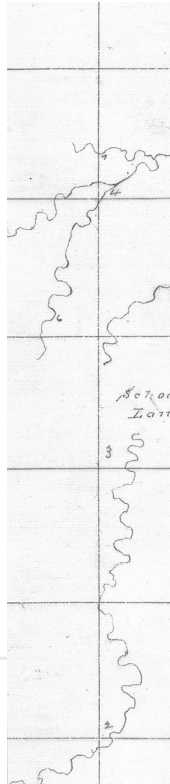
The 4,500-square-foot space will host town events like the town's historic Maple Syrup Festival, the Halloween party, and Christmas Around the Tree. The maximum capacity will be 300 people. The building will also be available for rental year-round with the potential for wedding receptions, graduation parties, and class reunions.



**RIGHT:**  
Doc's Pavilion  
will provide a  
gathering space  
in southern  
Elkhart County



**RIGHT:**  
The Roeder family  
knew Doc's legacy  
should be honored.



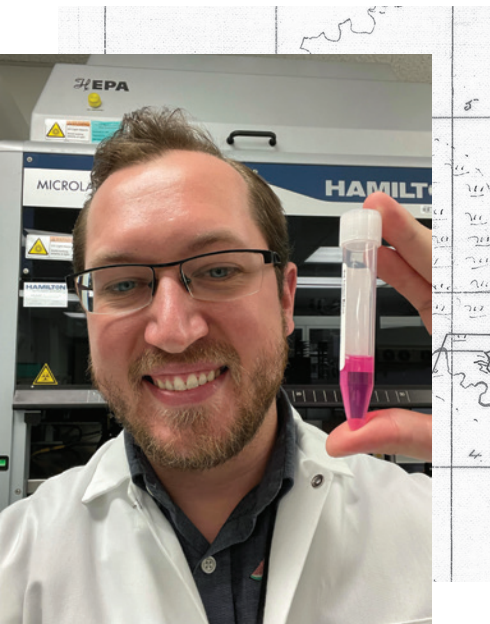
*“To me, if this is a tenth of what  
he gave to us and gave to the  
community, I think we’re doing  
something good”*

— **CHARLIE ROEDER**  
*Grandson*

In a lot of ways, the Roeder family’s dream for Doc’s Pavilion is the same as Doc’s was 60 years ago when he built the swimming pool: To provide a unique gathering place for the people of Wakarusa.

“To me, if this is a tenth of what he gave to us and gave to the community, I think we’re doing something good,” says Charlie Roeder, Doc’s youngest Roeder grandson. “He always taught us to put other people and the community first.”





**ABOVE:**  
Colin Gregory took on a key role in helping develop tubes for Covid testing.

*Career path sometimes surprises*

## FORMER LILLY SCHOLAR HELPS ELI LILLY RAMP UP FOR COVID TESTING

Colin Gregory didn't expect an emergency work call on his way home from his job.

As a contractor for Advanced Testing Laboratory, a company that provides lab-based contract work for Eli Lilly, he was teaching himself new skills. His love for learning had been recognized a decade ago when he received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, funded by Lilly Endowment and administered locally by the Community Foundation.

Colin became one of the scientists who could help respond to a growing pandemic.

"Our team was being asked by the clinical diagnostics laboratory [at Eli Lilly] if we could come in the next day, on a Saturday, and set up some automated equipment for them," he says. "They had been in contact with the Indiana State Board of Health, and Lilly was going to become the reference lab for the state of Indiana for their COVID-19 response."

That weekend, Colin and others worked to automate the pharmaceutical company's entire

Covid response. People were pushing equipment from building to building going through restricted areas, setting off alarms. Some people were even pulling multiple, 24-hour shifts attempting to set up liquid-handler automation processes.

"It was just really surreal. We had people sleeping in arm chairs in lounges, you had the alarms going off constantly. It was a really, really unique situation," he says. "It's definitely something I'm never going to forget."

Colin was busy in a sub-basement 3-D printing adapters that allowed tubes used for viral transport media to fit onto liquid handlers better. After a few days, his boss – the head of the automation team – came down and asked Colin to be the lead operator for the test kit production.

Colin moved upstairs and got to work. He got the word from Dave Ricks, the CEO of Eli Lilly, to do whatever he needed to make the project happen, he was even willing to send the corporate jet to Europe for parts if need be.





“It was a really incredible thing to be a part of. The sense of urgency, teamwork, camaraderie,” Colin says. “You had me, who was just a contractor – and not even a particularly experienced one at that – working side-by-side with senior directors trying to get this stuff done. Everyone just put their egos aside to work together. It was really amazing to be a part of.”

He set up instruments, created protocols and trained staff. Ultimately, Colin got a staff of Lilly employees mostly from the oncology department who had been sent home because of the pandemic.

He trained about 50 operators initially and they began producing as many as 5,000 test PCR test kits – the nasopharyngeal swabs – a day. They ramped up production and a growing number of people worked together to help Eli Lilly and the state respond to a need for Covid testing. “It was this sense of deep focus on the goal. You’re surrounded by all these strange circumstances, but there’s just such an energy and such

an excitement. The feeling that we were making a difference to the state, and even to the country at-large, was palpable. Everyone was willing to put in the work. Everyone was willing to do whatever it took.”

Colin’s team had a huge impact. About 75 percent of the tests given in the state up to the beginning of July had come out of his laboratory. About two thirds of the tests given in the state were sent back to Lilly to be analyzed in those labs that he helped set up in the early days.

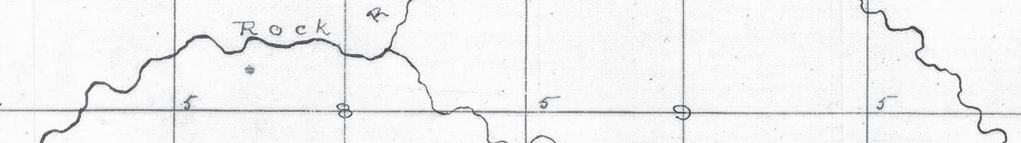
“Lilly is actually the only pharmaceutical company in America, and maybe in the world, definitely in America that has its own clinical diagnostics to run clinical trials, all the other pharma companies ship that out to third parties,” Colin says. “Our clinical diagnostics lab went from running about 2,000 patient samples a year in that lab, and in four days we transformed that lab space so they were able to run over 10,000 COVID patient samples in one day, versus 2,000 in one year.”

*“It’s kind of what inspired me to want to work for Lilly in the first place, to give something back to the company that gave me so much.”*

— COLIN GREGORY  
2010 Lilly Endowment  
Community Scholar



**LEFT:** Helping a pharmaceutical company respond to Covid took work.

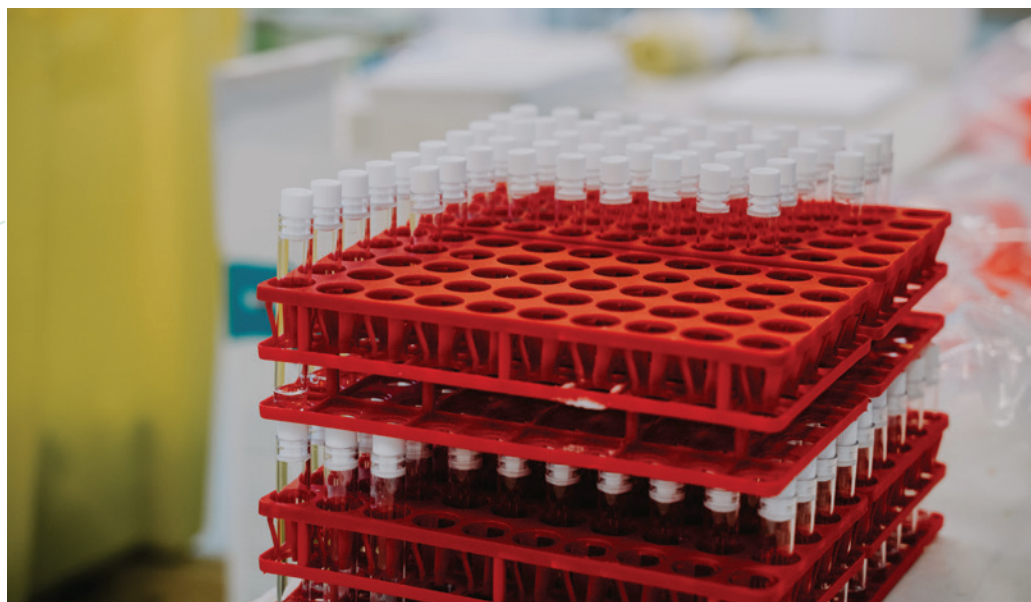


**RIGHT:**  
A Goshen High  
School graduate  
helped Eli Lilly Co.  
respond to Covid.

Eventually, Eli Lilly stopped producing the majority of kits for the state, and there was a question about where the kits would continue coming from. IU Health was one to take up the mantle. Eli Lilly loaned one of Colin's robotic tube filling systems to IU Health. He ended up spending a week helping them get the system set up and the staff trained. Not long after IU Health bought a robot to match the loaned one. They ended up producing about 10,000 to 12,000 tests a week for the IU Health system and the state board of health to be distributed to hospitals around the state.

Colin's success at the project led to him receiving a job offer from Eli Lilly, and he's now a senior scientist in laboratory technology and automation.

The 29-year-old's journey with Eli Lilly actually began back in 2010. As a student at Goshen High School, he was awarded a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. The scholarship pays full tuition, fees, and offers a stipend for books and equipment to recipients to be used at any accredited public or private nonprofit college or university within Indiana.



"Going into my senior year there was a little bit of doubt over what I'd be able to do for college—how much I'd get in scholarships; how much I'd be able to take out in loans," he says. "There was a bit of uncertainty there. When I found out I got the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, that was just such a huge relief, knowing that I could go wherever I wanted within the state of Indiana."

Colin used the scholarship to first attend Goshen College before transferring to IU Bloomington, where he graduated with a degree in biology.

"The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship has impacted me tremendously," Colin says. "It provided a huge boost to my career. I'm in the process of founding a new, automated core lab that's going to serve all of Lilly research laboratories here in Indianapolis. The scholarship is really

what made all of this possible. It's kind of what inspired me to want to work for Lilly in the first place, to give something back to the company that gave me so much. It's taken me a really long way in the last few years, but at the same time I feel like my journey with the company is just beginning."







**LEFT:**  
Sheila Terlep (left) and Jenny Welch founded 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County in 2014. (Photo by Jillian Woolsey Photography)

## 100 WOMEN WHO CARE CREATES A CIRCLE OF GIVING

At her first 100 Women Who Care meeting, Kris Mueller saw how the giving circle can truly empower other organizations.

“In the bigger picture, my hundred dollars doesn’t seem like much but in fifteen minutes you can completely change an organization’s function. That ten thousand dollars can make or break them, the thought that my little vote can do that was elating,” says Mueller.

Kris Mueller joined 100 Women four years ago after being encouraged to go by some friends. She was hooked from the beginning. This group gathers four times a year for a one-hour meeting, and each participant writes a \$100 check to the CFEC. A \$10,000 check is later given to the charity the group selects.

Sheila Terlep and Jenny Welch founded the local giving circle in 2014 and collectively the women have given away more than \$300,000. At each quarterly meeting, three women present an organization they would like

to help. The first time Mueller pitched an organization that was selected empowered her as well. She chose Middlebury Community Schools.

“I was on cloud nine that night knowing that I was a part of 100 Women and was able to help those high school students,” she says.

Empowering women is one of the most motivating things for Mueller and so many others in the organization. 100 Women Who Care gives women a voice and collective impact, according to Mueller. She said it helps everyone to be more involved within their community.

Mueller describes the process as “quick and easy” but something that makes a huge difference. The women who join the group lean in toward carefully giving their collective gift.

“In my day to day life, 100 Women has made me realize a little bit can go a long way. A little amount can still make a difference, either by a donation or time a difference is still being made.” Mueller says.

Leaving each meeting knowing that a contribution will change lives gives Mueller joy. “It’s amazing to watch the whole process work and to know my vote counts. I may never meet the people our money is going to but I know that by gathering, voting and contributing that we were able to help someone. It pushes me to know that I can make a difference. It’s the hope I hold onto to know that every little bit counts,” says Mueller.

100 Women Who Care is always accepting more members. For more information, use the QR code with your smartphone or go to [www.100WomenWhoCareElkhart.com](http://www.100WomenWhoCareElkhart.com).





**LEFT:**  
Welch Pack-  
aging asso-  
ciates give  
of their time  
through Acts  
of Service.

## AT WELCH PACKAGING, CHARITY IS JUST PART OF DOING BUSINESS

At Welch Packaging, doing the right thing is just part of doing business.

The company founded in 1985 by Scott Welch and silent partner Don Kindt continues to grow and continues to give in a huge variety of ways.

President Scott Welch views himself as the quarterback of a team that gives time and money to improve the communities in which the company does business, particularly Elkhart County.

“My belief is that God gave me a purpose in life and I’ve had a lot of lucky things happen to me. I’m a conduit, in a sense, if good things happen we shouldn’t just bestow it on ourselves,” says Scott.

The company gave an amount in the low seven figures to charity in 2020 and has given even more in 2021. Scott and his wife, Kim, are also generous personally, using their Donor Advised Fund with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to support more

than 150 different nonprofits and faith-based organizations.

Yet generosity goes beyond that. “It’s not just giving away money. It’s touching people,” says Scott, who wants Welch Packaging to make a difference in their customers’ businesses, their communities, and their associates’ lives.

The 1,500 associates working together at businesses across the Midwest not only help customers who need corrugated packaging, but also the community. “We’re much more powerful together and people’s lives mean more together,” says Scott.

The associates gave more than 9,000 hours in 2020 via Acts of Service, the Community Foundation’s program to connect volunteers with the needs of nonprofits.

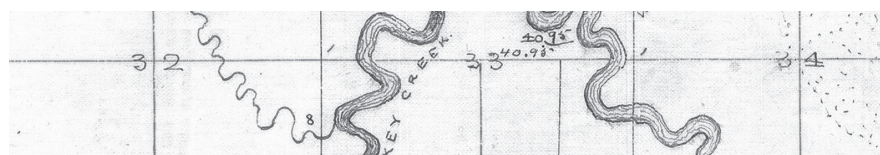
When the need is within the Welch Packaging family, the company has several ways to support the employee and his or her family. Associates can borrow money interest-free,

based on seniority. The company provides short-term disability pay when emergencies arise. The Make a Difference Fund, established with the Community Foundation, is available when calamity strikes. The company supports the fund as part of its budgeting process and the money is there to help associates who have needs in their lives, including housing, transportation, or medical bills.

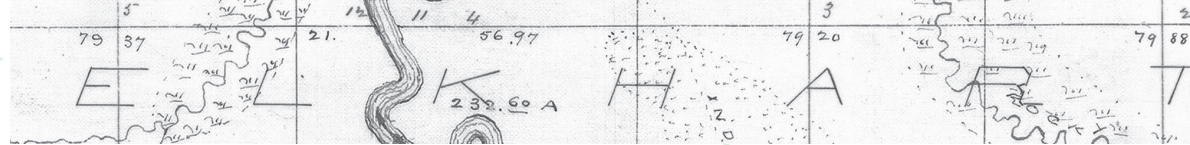
Scott Welch models philanthropy and generosity — to other business leaders in the community, to his family members who are part of the business, and to Welch’s associates.

He watched others in the Elkhart community give back. “I really believe Elkhart has always had something special,” he says.

His Christian faith is part of what motivates him to give. He also aspires to spark change. “I always wanted to be somebody that made a difference,” he says.







*“We’re much more powerful  
together and people’s lives mean  
more together.”*

— SCOTT WELCH

*President, Welch Packaging*

The Community Foundation helps the Welch family be generous with its flexibility and support. That helps the family both now and as the Welches look toward future generations becoming philanthropists. “My goal is for Welch to be a 100-year-old sustainable company,” he says.

Giving back is the “why of Welch,” says Scott. “We are passionate about what we do, but more importantly is the impact that our company can have when people attach to something bigger than a job, or bigger than us.”



**ABOVE:**  
The Scott and Kim Welch family is committed to giving back.



**LEFT:** Mick Luce volunteers in the kitchen at Bashor Children's Home named for his late wife, Connie.

## A SPARK OF GENEROSITY IS GROWING TO HONOR CONNIE LUCE

Connie Luce made sure that the young people at Bashor Children's Home got a great Thanksgiving meal.

Donors have made sure that the tradition will continue for years to come and that every meal, not just the one at the holiday, comes out of Connie's Kitchen.

Connie was a volunteer at Bashor for more than 30 years and the head cook and decorator for the holiday for 27 years. Connie died August 13, 2020, after living with a glioblastoma brain tumor for more than one and a half years.

A couple, who wishes to remain anonymous, honored her by creating an endowed fund at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to cover the costs for the meal annually, as well as upgrading the kitchen. That bit of generosity has sparked giving of time and money that continues to grow exponentially — the same way Connie's love for others grew.

"She was a remarkable person. She touched people others couldn't," says one of the donors of their longtime friend. "We need more Connies. We really do."

She had combined her love of cooking with her passion for helping young people. Her calling was to help kids through tough situations, says Mick Luce, her husband of 46 years. That meant regularly visiting the Bashor campus to be with the young

people and supporting the staff who helped them on a daily basis. It was just one of the places she gave of herself and her time.

She started the Thanksgiving meal when she saw a need. Over time, the meal with all the traditional fixings grew to feed 150 people. The young people at Bashor can even go up for seconds — something that isn't usually allowed.

In 2020, Mick and their son,

*"She was a remarkable person. She touched people others couldn't. We need more Connies. We really do."*

— ANONYMOUS DONOR HONORING CONNIE LUCE'S LEGACY



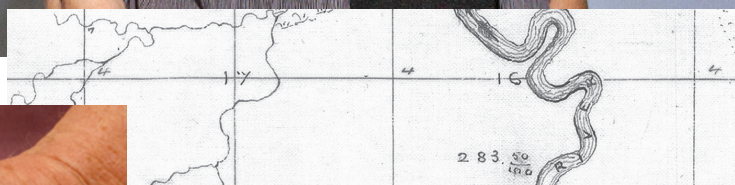


**RIGHT:**  
Connie Luce was a volunteer at Bashor for more than 30 year (Goshen News photo)



**BELOW:**

Young people at Bashor Children's Home continue to benefit from Connie Luce's legacy of giving.



Matthew, went to help Marty Blenner, the chef for Bashor, prepare and serve in shifts to smaller groups due to the pandemic.

In February, Matthew came home from work and found his father puttering in their den. He told his father to get out of the recliner and go help at Bashor. So now, on Saturdays and Sundays, Mick is usually in

Connie's Kitchen at Bashor helping serve lunch and dinner.

The son reminded the father of the need to show up, to keep helping others the way their mom and wife did. "I'm glad Matthew came home and yelled at me that day," says Mick.

The generosity of the donor setting up the endowed fund and the ongoing involvement at Bashor led Mick and

Matthew to set up the Connie Luce Aftercare Fund at KeyBank. When a young person leaves Bashor, they often need a few things to help them get settled and the fund covers those purchases. Connie assured those expenses were covered the last few years of her life and now the fund will help that continue.

Matthew and Mick seeded the fund at her birthday in May 2021 and other donors have helped it grow four-fold.

In her 66 years, Connie showed her family and friends how to help others. They continue to find their way by giving back.



**ABOVE:**

Jim coached the Concord High School boy's basketball team from 1983 to 1994. (Goshen News photo)

## A LIFE FULL OF IMPACT BECOMES A LEGACY FOR JIM HAHN

When Jim Hahn was first diagnosed with cancer in October 2020, his reaction was calm. His wife Cindy says, "He would tell me, 'God gave me this to make a difference.'"

While he battled seven rounds of chemotherapy in the Elkhart General Hospital, Jim kept a small, spiral notebook by his side. In it, were the names of all the nurses, receptionists and other caretakers he came in contact with at the oncology clinic. He knew who their spouses were, where they lived and whether they had kids or pets.

Cindy recalls him being able to hold a conversation with each member of the staff. "If you were having a bad day, he was going to hone in on you until you were having a good day. He was relentless about it... He was everyone's cheerleader."

In April 2021, Jim was diagnosed with Covid-induced pneumonia and passed away shortly after on April 29.

Jim will largely be remembered in the Elkhart community for his

success on the basketball court as a player at Ball State and as head coach for the Concord High School boy's basketball team from 1983 to 1994. In his 11-year campaign, he led the team to two state runner-up finishes, set the home game winning streak at 61 games, a record that still stands, and coached six-time NBA All-Star Shawn Kemp.

His coaching career made him a local celebrity. His next venture helped him transcend X's and O's.

Following his time with Concord, Jim continued his legacy at Welch Packaging, where he worked in sales for 27 years. Cindy, who also works in sales for Welch, saw first-hand his impact while with the company.

"To Jim everyone was a human and a friend, not just a customer," Cindy says. "And I think that's the way he left everybody – feeling like they were his friend."

At the first corporate-wide sales meeting following his death, everybody felt his absence. "You

*"To Jim everyone was a human and a friend ...that's the way he left everybody — feeling like they were his friend."*

— CINDY HAHN

*Sales, Welch Packaging*





could tell he wasn't there," Cindy says. "He's always one of those people in our sales meeting that is going to ask or say what you're thinking and too scared to say."

Following his death on April 29, 2021, Cindy felt an overwhelming amount of support from those who were impacted by Jim's life. The abundance of flowers she received was a sign to her that Jim's legacy needed to be honored in some way.

And starting this fund was a way of giving back to the community Jim loved. "Because that's what he was all about," Cindy says.

The balance of the fund is growing. High school seniors will likely be one of the beneficiaries, but like one of the plays Hahn used to draw up for his players, exactly how it will look

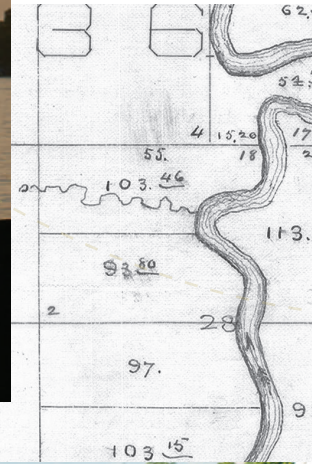
is still taking shape. Cindy says Jim recognized the high school students who often receive scholarships like these already have financial backing in the first place. "He always felt like, 'What about those kids that are good students that maybe can't get into college?'" she says.

Jim made an impact with his life. Cindy hopes a fund in his honor can do the same.

**RIGHT:**  
Jim and Cindy  
Hahn have long  
been dedicated  
to the community.







#### ALL PHOTOS:

The annual CEO Retreat was delayed from May to August, when dozens of leaders of nonprofits gathered at Oakwood Retreat to learn, connect and rejuvenate. The two-day event included a dinner cruise on Lake Wawasee.



## THE LEARNING CENTER HELPS NONPROFITS KEEP MOVING FORWARD

The Learning Center offers leadership development and continuous improvement programs to those in the Elkhart County nonprofit community. Our goal is to elevate all our nonprofit organizations into well-managed, collaborative agencies by providing resources and learning opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations, thus helping them realize – and sustain – their missions. A number of events are being planned for 2021-22 and the Community Foundation is excited to help organizations achieve excellence. For more information, use the QR code with your smartphone or go to [www.inspiringgood.org/tlc](http://www.inspiringgood.org/tlc).



## TOLSON FORMATION IS “A PRETTY AMAZING PROCESS”

The effort to build the new Tolson Center for Community Excellence should result in an exciting groundbreaking in the near future.

Since summer 2018, members of the community have rallied to create a more vibrant hub on the south side of Elkhart. The Elkhart City Council defunding Tolson resulted first in a task force and then a larger effort to build a new facility that will serve the neighborhood and beyond with spaces for youth development and recreation as well as community gatherings, sports and educational opportunities. The center at 1320 Benham Avenue is expected to open in its new form in July 2023 with a new 30,000-square-foot building and athletic fields.

“It’s been a pretty amazing process,” said Candy Yoder, the Community Foundation’s Chief Program Officer and one of 15 members on the board established in summer 2020 after a community nomination process.

The board filed articles of incorporation with the state of Indiana and for 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service.

The board members, some of whom had not served in this way before, are working together to learn and become a unified group to create a Tolson that inspires pride. Other volunteers have joined the effort as committee members to assist the board’s work. Jan Oostland, vice president

and co-owner of Nuway Construction, is leading the building committee.

Jan Farron, who serves on both the Tolson and Community Foundation boards, said that everyone is both excited and collaborating on the massive task of building processes and creating plans for a new Tolson.

The funding for the projects includes \$5 million from the City of Elkhart, \$2 million from the Community Foundation and more than \$1 million from private donors. The Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded a \$2 million grant toward the project as well. Other grants are also being sought as well as ongoing funding for operations from the city and other sources.

“It is nothing short of impressive what has happened to this point,” Farron said.

A search committee is starting to look for an executive director. The groundbreaking was hoped for this fall and is likely by the end of 2021. “By spring 2023, we are going to have a beautiful building,” said Farron.

The Community Foundation, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce and City of Elkhart came together to create a new Tolson that will serve the community for generations to come. Tolson Center for Community Excellence is poised to help thousands of families by offering inclusive learning, recreation and cultural exchange.



**ABOVE:** Tolson Center for Community Excellence has strong support as it reemerges in a new way in Elkhart.





**LEFT:**  
A project is underway to knit together Elkhart County's network of beloved trails.

## MAPPING A FUTURE WITH FULLY CONNECTED TRAILS

Elkhart County's trails and pathways wind through the community, affording runners, cyclists and walkers the opportunity to enjoy nature as they exercise or commute.

When the various trails connect so that one can move across the entire community safely, the community is tighter-knit and even stronger.

As the Placemaking Committee of the Community Foundation began working with the emphasis on trails and parks for Community Investment Grants, it wanted to bring people across the community together to do more planning for the future.

The Community Foundation and its Placemaking Committee work to create open communities in Elkhart County which inspire, attract, engage, and connect people, to enrich their living experience. Pathways,

trails and parks, as well as vibrant downtowns, are key building blocks of this work.

The Community Foundation enlisted Yard & Company to help with the initiative dubbed Connect in Elkhart County. The firm based in Cincinnati solves problems with design, experience management and development. In Elkhart County, the problem is that the trails and pathways are disconnected and people are not fully aware of how to make the most of them.



*“All of us are working towards the same goal from different angles, which is what makes this planning initiative so exciting.”*

— **BRITTANY SHORT**

*President of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail*

Yard & Co. spent four days in June biking, driving and listening in Elkhart County and is helping the Community Foundation create a plan to engage the community. This countywide planning process will include gathering and testing ideas, unique group rides, and demonstration projects. “Our amazing community has a strong network of trails and pathways and we can’t wait to gather more people from across our county to discuss how to better knit them together and extend them into more neighborhoods,” said Becky Bontreger, chairwoman of Placemaking Committee.

Networks and pathways help shape a community and connecting them and the people who use them is an area of focus for the Community Foundation’s grantmaking and inspiring generosity of others. “We believe having well-connected trails and paths in Elkhart County will increase the quality of life for Elkhart County and having a master plan across the county will help direct investments to make this possible,” said Ray Caldwell, the program officer for the Community Foundation who focuses on placemaking and is managing this project.

Local public officials and others working to improve trails in our county are joining the planning process. “All of us are working towards the same goal from different angles, which is what makes this planning initiative so exciting,” said Brittany Short, president of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. “We want to see Elkhart

County become an example of how communities thrive when they consider active transportation in their infrastructure planning.

You can sign up by using the QR code with your smartphone or at [www.ConnectInElkhartCounty.com](http://www.ConnectInElkhartCounty.com). The website will have updates and be a hub for the plan.




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*By the Numbers*  
**TRAILS IN  
 ELKHART COUNTY**  
*(Biking, Running & Walking)*

*Total Trails & Routes*

**11**

*Total Miles of Trails*

**149.7**

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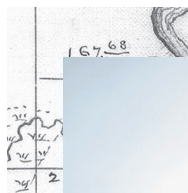


**ABOVE:**  
 The team from Yard & Co. has been gathering information on Elkhart County’s trails, often first-hand on e-bikes.

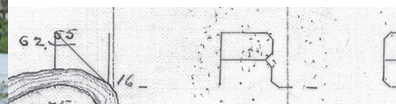


## ACTS OF SERVICE CONTINUES TO PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteers in our community continue to show resilience as they support nonprofit organizations and offer work and skills. Acts of Service continues to match helping hands with nonprofits in need of volunteers, as well as promote volunteerism in our community. Acts of Service has dozens of business partners that encourage and even organize employees serving in the community. Several of them spent days serving in the community. Key Club members at Concord High School also made cards to encourage others. To learn more about Acts of Service, use the QR code with your smartphone or go to [www.ActsofService.com](http://www.ActsofService.com).



**ABOVE  
& LEFT:**  
Volunteers  
get their  
hands dirty  
to help local  
agencies  
through Acts  
of Service.







**LEFT:**  
Volunteers  
from Genesis  
Products help  
build a wheel-  
chair ramp.

**BELOW:**  
Concord High  
School Key  
Club members  
made dog  
toys from  
repurposed  
t-shirts.



**ABOVE:**  
Volunteers  
from Interra  
Credit Union  
and Genesis  
Products gave  
significant  
time at the  
Elkhart County  
Fairgrounds.





**LEFT:**  
Community Investment Grants are supporting local education efforts.

## DATA WILL HELP GUIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

The village is gathering around the children of Elkhart County with some new ways to help raise them to be lifelong learners.

The Kids and Families Committee of the Community Foundation is focused on awarding grants to empower early childhood development and education. Helping children from birth to age eight is one of the areas of emphasis for Community Investment Grants.

Data and Results-Based Accountability will be key components of the effort to help address areas of need and improve performance.

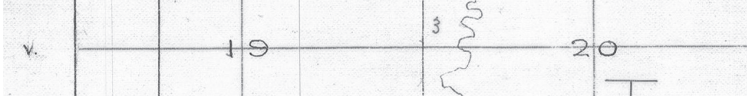
Since identifying the area of emphasis in 2020, the Kids and Families Committee picked community-level indicators to track over time. Kindergarten readiness will be measured with the Elkhart County Early Skills Inventory assessing social-emotional and physical developmental skills. Reading scores from all of Elkhart County's schools will also provide key

population-level data. The data can help show if trends are improving or declining.

The Community Foundation will continue to engage community leaders to evaluate the reasons behind the trends and identify strategies to move the needle in the desired direction. The Community Foundation will prioritize programs and projects that focus on the period immediately before and after birth and the very early years of childhood.

A foundational framework known as Results-Based Accountability will help agencies assess the impact of their programs and help identify effective strategies. The Community Foundation has been meeting with leaders of organizations in our community about the approach and how it will shape future efforts.

"We are asking nonprofits to work together, to work with the community, to identify ways to change the outcomes," said Candy Yoder, Chief Program Officer for the Community Foundation.



The Harvard University Center for the Developing Child recommends supporting young children by aligning efforts around:

- Supporting Responsive Relationships
- Strengthening Core Skills
- Reducing Sources of Stress

*“We are asking nonprofits to work together, to work with the community, to identify ways to change the outcomes.”*

— CANDY YODER

Chief Program Officer for  
the Community Foundation

These can happen in a number of ways, including coaching parents, training other adults who work with children and assessing the safety of homes where young children live. Activities in the three areas can be measured in a variety of ways and tracked over time. No single program alone can drive significant change in either kindergarten readiness or third grade reading scores, but a collection of targeted interventions can lead to meaningful change.

“We are excited to work with nonprofits to help create and fund strategic projects that will yield better outcomes,” said Vonnice Trumble, Program Officer for the Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation and Horizon Education Alliance are also teaming with the Tamarack Institute to address systems-level resources and opportunities to better support early childhood development. The goal will be to understand the early childhood system, build deeper connections between organizations serving children and their families, and facilitate the alignment of priorities and activities. Together we can create a community where children thrive.



**LEFT:**

Early childhood  
initiatives help raise  
lifelong learners.



## Grants

# CAREER PATHWAYS

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County residents.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County ensures young people have mental health and wellness support through prevention programs, small groups, and one-on-one mentoring relationships.



enFocus empowers talent to build better communities through its fellowship and internship program.

<b>BAUGO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</b> Health Science Certifications	\$16,184
<b>BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUBS OF ELKHART COUNTY</b> Social Emotional Learning Initiative	\$40,000
<b>CLINTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b> Technology Upgrade Initiative	\$15,000
<b>CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</b> East Side Elementary Leader in Me	\$10,350
<b>CORVILLA</b> Pre-Employment Transition Program Curriculum	\$3,750
<b>ELKHART COUNTY 4-H SADDLE CLUB</b> Box Stalls	\$38,533
<b>ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</b> Little Kids Rock Modern Band Program	\$7,000
<b>ENFOCUS</b> Talent Attraction and Civic Innovation	\$50,000
<b>ETHOS</b> STEM Activation Education & Operational Support <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	\$85,000
<b>FEED THE CHILDREN</b> Teacher Store Equipment Upgrades 1:1 Challenge*	\$4,500
<b>GOSHEN COLLEGE</b> Expanding Inclusive Education in Elkhart County <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	\$159,700





Horizon Education Alliance's CareerWise Elkhart County provides opportunities for high school juniors and seniors to gain work experience through paid employment while earning credits and certifications.

<b>GOSHEN COLLEGE</b> Teach Elkhart County	\$17,000
<b>HOLY CROSS COLLEGE</b> Careers for the Formerly Incarcerated	\$15,000
<b>HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE</b> CareerWise Elkhart County <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	\$250,000
<b>HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE</b> Operational Support	\$200,000
<b>HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE</b> Countywide Gallup Student Poll	\$20,606
<b>INDIANA 4-H FOUNDATION</b> Juntos 4-H	\$12,000
<b>INDIANA BLACK EXPO</b> Social Justice for Elkhart	\$4,000
<b>INDIANA BLACK EXPO</b> Northern Region Youth Retreat	\$5,000
<b>INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND</b> Elkhart Center Directorship Position <i>Year 1 of 3</i>	\$58,426
<b>IVY TECH FOUNDATION</b> Nursing Expansion Project	\$24,554
<b>JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTHERN INDIANA</b> JA BizTown Elkhart County <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	\$152,179
<b>MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</b> Advanced Manufacturing Program	\$24,673



## Career Pathways, Continued



WNIT Public Television's "Education Counts Michiana" Education Counts Michiana explores learning across our region.

<b>SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION</b>	\$100,000
Startup South Bend - Elkhart <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	
<b>TOLSON CENTER &amp; PARK</b>	\$417,482
Project Fund	
<b>UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME</b>	\$75,361
Center for Civic Innovation Internships <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	
<b>WNIT</b>	\$10,000
Education Counts Michiana	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,816,298</b>

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

## Grants

# KIDS AND FAMILIES

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County citizens.

<b>ADEC</b> Summer Program	\$6,690
<b>AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS</b> Elkhart County Home Fire Relief <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$5,000
<b>CANCER RESOURCES</b> Operational Support	\$40,000
<b>CAPS</b> Child Abuse Prevention Education	\$23,493
<b>CAPS</b> Primary Prevention Expansion <i>Year 1 of 3</i>	\$150,000
<b>CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE</b> The Village Community Center	\$25,000
<b>CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES</b> Latinx Outreach <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	\$60,000
<b>CITY OF ELKHART</b> Tolson Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway	\$1,000
<b>CROSSROADS UNITED WAY</b> On My Way Pre-K 2019-2021	\$11,211
<b>CULTIVATE CULINARY SCHOOL AND CATERING</b> Refrigerated Trailer	\$10,000
<b>EIGHTH STREET MENNONITE CHURCH</b> Preschool Minds in Motion Training	\$6,542



Eighth Street Mennonite Church hosted a two-day training for four preschools on Minds in Motion, which helps those with learning and behavioral challenges.

## Kids & Families, Continued



Lexington House is a new center in Elkhart for people with mental illness to achieve their social, financial, and vocational goals.



Elkhart County Jail Ministry offers housing for people released from incarceration as they reintegrate into the community.

### ELKHART CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

\$11,900

Security Cameras and Fire Alarm Upgrade

### ELKHART COUNTY CLUBHOUSE

\$100,000

Lexington House-A Clubhouse for Elkhart

*Year 1 of 3, 1:1 Challenge\**

### ELKHART COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

\$150,000

Supportive Housing for the Formerly Incarcerated

### FOUNDATION FOR THE CENTER FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

\$5,000

Advance Care Planning for Elkhart County

### GOSHEN INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

\$16,650

Men's Low Barrier Shelter

### GUIDANCE MINISTRIES

\$5,855

Operational Support

### HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE

\$150,000

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program

*Year 1 of 3, 1:1 Challenge\**

### HOOSIERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

\$15,000

Meat the Need

### INDIANA IMMUNIZATION COALITION

\$5,000

Mobile Immunization Clinics in Elkhart County

### JEFFERSON COMMUNITY CHURCH

\$150,000

Community Activity Center

### LACASA

\$60,000

Community Development Planning  
and Continuity

### MAD ANTHONY'S CHILDREN'S HOPE HOUSE

\$3,500

Elkhart County Support







Spa Women's Ministry Homes offers residential counseling for women seeking freedom from destructive life issues such as addictions and domestic violence.



Women's Care Center provides free confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women as well as bilingual parenting classes.

<b>MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER</b> OB/GYN Care	\$50,000
<b>REAL SERVICES</b> Elkhart County Meals on Wheels	\$30,000
<b>RETA</b> Building Support <i>Year 1 &amp; 2 of 3, 1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$700,000
<b>RYAN'S PLACE</b> Children's Grief Support Program <i>Year 2 of 2, 1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$40,000
<b>SHEPHERD'S COVE CLOTHING PANTRY</b> Furnace Replacement	\$11,900
<b>SPA WOMEN'S MINISTRY HOMES</b> Hope House Repairs	\$7,500
<b>TOLSON CENTER &amp; PARK</b> Project Fund <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$362,948
<b>WOMEN'S CARE CENTER</b> Operational Support	\$98,000
<b>YWCA NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA</b> Lethality Project <i>Year 3 of 3</i>	\$51,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,363,689</b>

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

## Grants

# OPPORTUNITY FUND

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to improve the quality of life in our communities. This applies to all the grants, and more specific detail is found in the descriptions.

<b>MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS</b>	\$229,467
<b>ACTS OF SERVICE</b> Program Support	\$100,000
<b>CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY</b> Tolson Residents Engagement	\$24,420
<b>CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY</b> Collaborative Community Training	\$14,000
<b>ELKHART HEALTH &amp; AQUATICS</b> Operational Support	\$200,000
<b>GOSHEN COLLEGE</b> Community Engaged Learning <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	\$103,680
<b>GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b> Minority Business Initiative	\$9,030
<b>INDIANA GOLF FOUNDATION/FIRST TEE OF NORTHERN INDIANA</b> John & Kathy Postle Golf Learning Center	\$200,000
<b>LACASA</b> Tolson Neighborhood Development	\$25,000
<b>SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP</b> Operational Support	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,005,597</b>



## Grants

# PLACEMAKING

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County citizens.



First Fridays is a monthly downtown festival highlighting Goshen's downtown business, culture and arts scene.



Arts on the Millrace is an annual juried event in downtown Goshen featuring local artists and musicians.

<b>CITY OF ELKHART</b> River District Wooden Bridge	\$100,000
<b>CONCORD LITTLE LEAGUE</b> Field Maintenance Equipment <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$6,250
<b>DOWNTOWN GOSHEN</b> First Fridays	\$12,000
<b>DOWNTOWN GOSHEN</b> Arts on the Millrace	\$2,500
<b>ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE</b> Mission Review and Strategic Planning	\$5,000
<b>ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE</b> Seasonal Support	\$10,000
<b>ELKHART COUNTY 4-H &amp; AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION</b> Elkhart County 4-H Fair	\$10,000
<b>ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION &amp; VISITORS BUREAU</b> Vibrant Communities of Elkhart County	\$200,000
<b>ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION &amp; VISITORS BUREAU</b> Heritage Trail Quilt Gardens & Murals	\$15,000



## Placemaking, Continued

<b>ELKHART COUNTY PARKS</b>	\$64,000
Ox Bow Co Park Wetland Exploration Boardwalk	
<b>ELKHART COUNTY PLANNING (LACASA)</b>	\$100,000
Prairie Creek Run Water Utility Project	
<b>ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY</b>	\$50,000
Building Capacity for Sustainability <i>Year 3 of 3</i>	
<b>ELKHART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER</b>	\$2,000
EnviroFest	
<b>ELKHART FESTIVALS</b>	\$10,000
Jazz Festival	
<b>FRIENDS OF THE LERNER</b>	\$10,000
Seasonal Support	
<b>GOSHEN ART HOUSE</b>	\$5,000
Seasonal Support	
<b>GOSHEN COLLEGE MUSIC CENTER</b>	\$10,000
Seasonal Support	
<b>GOSHEN FARMER'S MARKET</b>	\$5,000
Fresh Food project	
<b>GOSHEN LITTLE LEAGUE</b>	\$7,000
Sprinkler System and Field Grooming Equipment	
<b>GOSHEN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION</b>	\$500,000
Capital Campaign for Goshen Health <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	
<b>GOSHEN THEATER</b>	\$80,000
Operating Support and Salaries <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	



Nappanee Arts Council offers a working studio for the creation of art pieces while promoting educational opportunities through the teaching of classes and private sessions.



Potawatomi Zoo is planning Giraffe Feeding Adventure, a habitat that will include a mixed herd of giraffes cohabitating with other species.

<b>GOSHEN THEATER</b> Seasonal Support	\$10,000
<b>MID AMERICA FILMAKERS</b> River Bend Film Festival	\$15,000
<b>MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b> Summer & Fall Festivals	\$5,000
<b>MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW</b> Seasonal Support	\$1,000
<b>MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART FOUNDATION</b> Seasonal Support	\$5,000
<b>NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL</b> The Bike Rack Art Pods <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$15,000
<b>OSOLO LITTLE LEAGUE</b> Bathroom Restoration <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$6,800
<b>POTAWATOMI ZOO</b> Giraffe Feeding Adventure	\$100,000
<b>PREMIER ARTS</b> Seasonal Support	\$10,000
<b>RUTHMERE FOUNDATION</b> Fitness Hike Through History	\$1,010
<b>RUTHMERE FOUNDATION</b> Seasonal Support	\$5,000
<b>TOLSON CENTER &amp; PARK</b> Project Fund <i>Year 2 &amp; 3 of 3</i>	\$325,000

## Placemaking, Continued

<b>VISIT NAPPANEE</b> Friday Fest	\$3,000
<b>WAKARUSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b> Doc's Downtown Pavilion	\$250,000
<b>WELLFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS</b> Seasonal Support	\$15,000
<b>WNIT</b> St. Joseph River Documentary	\$20,000
<b>YARD &amp; COMPANY - CFEC STRATEGIC INITIATIVE</b> Elkhart County Pathways/Trails Network Plan	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,190,560</b>

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

## Grants

### MATCHING GRANT

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County increases the impact of giving by matching 25 percent of contributions to endowment funds. All cumulative gifts made by individuals totaling \$100,000 were matched in this fiscal year with an additional \$25,000 to the corresponding fund. Your generosity created more and improved pathways in our community.

<b>25% MATCHING GRANT</b>	\$445,227
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$445,227</b>





# IN LOVING MEMORY

*Two people who played key roles in the formation of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County passed away this year.*



## Arthur J. Decio

Arthur J. Decio died November 6, 2020, at the age of 90 in Elkhart. Mr. Decio became one of the most successful businessmen in Indiana and was on the cover of "Time" magazine because of his work in the mobile home industry. He inspired others to follow his example of philanthropy and generosity. Mr. Decio was one of the founding members of the Community Foundation and with his late wife, Patricia, was also a founding donor.

## Laura Rydson

Laura Rydson, 81, died on Aug. 4, 2021 at her residence in Palm Bay, Florida. Her husband of 59 years, Marlyn Dean Rydson, was at her side. She loved Elkhart and was active in the community. She was a founding director and the first woman to serve on the board of the Community Foundation. She and her husband were founding donors of the foundation. She served on the board of directors of CAPS and was a court appointed special advocate (CASA) for Elkhart County children.



*Both of these people worked at helping others in Elkhart County by giving of themselves and inspiring generosity. We are grateful to them and will miss them.*

# STAFF

## PRESIDENT AND OPERATIONS



**PETE MCCOWN**

*President*



**TRESSA HUDDLESTON**

*Executive Assistant/  
Office Manager*

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



**COLE PATUZZI**

*Chief Financial Officer*



**DALLIS MILLER**

*Controller*



**BENJAMYN WIELER**

*Staff Accountant*

## ADVANCEMENT: DEVELOPMENT & PHILANTHROPY



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*Chief Advancement  
Officer*



**CARRIE BERGHOFF**

*Donor Engagement  
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**ASHLEY JORDAN**

*Director of Acts  
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**LEAH BENAVENTE**

*Special Events  
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**JANE TROUP**

*Donor Services  
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## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



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*Director of Marketing*



**MARSHALL V. KING**  
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**ALYSSA BOSSE**  
*Marketing Intern*

## PROGRAM: GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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*Chief Program Officer*



**AMANDA JAMISON**  
*Senior Program Officer*



**RAY CALDWELL**  
*Program Officer*



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*Program Officer*



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