

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

NURTURING GROWTH









Cien Asoera and Pete McCown

Letter from the President and Board Chair

NURTURING GROWTH

In the late 1980s, our founders planted the seeds to establish your Community Foundation. Lilly Endowment Inc. and others nurtured those seeds. The generosity of thousands of others has helped the Community Foundation grow into a thriving organization that has an impact on the community.

As we prepared this annual report, Joel Duthie, board member of Wellfield Botanical Gardens, told us how the gardens represent all the aspects of our lives as people celebrate births and birthdays there,

as they get married at Wellfield, and even as they honor a life well-lived. At Wellfield, trees grow from saplings, flowers take root, and community ties are strengthened.

Our community, particularly the nonprofit sector, could be viewed as a garden. New organizations sometimes sprout up alongside the sturdy oaks that are well-established. Donors seed new programs. New donors demonstrate by example how generosity keeps roots strong and the soil vibrant.

As we look around the community, we see people creating paths such as the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and Nappanee Art Path for people to enjoy. We see the roots deepening as historic buildings such as the Jintown Community Center are restored and given new life. We walk alongside families honoring loved ones by creating the Walorski Memorial Scholarships and a new visitors center at Wellfield.

The Community Foundation is sometimes asked to help envision a new section of the garden. Sometimes we provide fertilizer, tools, and connections to volunteers. Other times, we offer training through The Learning Center for our nonprofit partners to thrive. We are thrilled to work alongside all those, particularly nonprofit staff, board, and volunteers who do so much to help our community.

The Community Foundation's assets are now more than \$400 million. Our staff, board, and committee members serve as stewards of the community resources. 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 the Community Foundation received a total of \$25.6 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2022-23. We are also delighted to report the investment portfolio produced an annual return of 8.5 percent. We were able to distribute \$42.7 million in grants.

As we nurture growth in our community, we are amazed to see all the ways generosity impacts the places we live, the communities we love, and the people with whom we work at making our garden beautiful. 🌱

Warmly,



PETE MCCOWN
President



CIEN ASOERA
Board Chair

By the Numbers

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Total Assets
\$405m

Total Gifts
\$26m

Grants
\$43m



2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cien Asoera
Chairman

Dave Weaver
Vice Chairman

Todd Cleveland
Treasurer

Deborah Beaverson
Secretary

Becky Bontreger
Angie Eggering
Raquel Espinosa
Jan Farron
Theresa Gunden
Eric Ivory
Kurt Janowsky
Ken Julian
John Liechty

Sharon Liegl
Galen Miller
Dan Morrison
Tom Pletcher
Kerri Ritchie
BJ Thompson
Isaac Torres
Ola Yoder

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

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, Inc.
(formerly 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 High School 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

Table of CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

From the President and Board Chair	1
Board and Founders.....	3
Mission and Values.....	5
Founding Donors.....	6

FINANCIALS

At a Glance.....	8
Assets by Year.....	9
Assets by Fund Type.....	10
Grants by Year.....	11
Grants by Fund Type.....	12
Statements of Financial Position.....	13
Statements of Activities.....	14

FEATURES

Marly's Gift	15
Honoring U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski.....	21
Sophie's Smile.....	25
Betty Chatten.....	28
Jimtown Community Center.....	30
Nappanee Art Path	33
Connect in Elkhart County.....	37

IMPACT

Health Education Programs	39
Building Strong Brains	42
News from 2022-2023	43
Join Us on the Journey.....	45

GRANTING

Career Pathways Grants.....	51
Kids and Families Grants.....	53
Opportunity Fund Grants.....	57
Placemaking Grants.....	58
Matching Grants.....	62

KEY PEOPLE

Legacy Society.....	46
Staff.....	49

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



WHAT WE STAND FOR

We are Part of the Unfolding Story of Generosity in Elkhart County

In 2015, the Community Foundation chose to identify itself with the ginkgo tree as it represents many of the traits it values. The ginkgo is distinctive, has a remarkably strong root system, offers beauty to the landscape, and has the ability to survive harsh circumstances. The ginkgo is also tenacious and is one of the longest-living species.

Its leaves have been used for remedies, just as the Community Foundation strives to support nonprofits and various endeavors that improve the health of our community, our businesses, and our people.

2022-2023

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

Though the year presented a range of financial challenges, we are pleased to report that the Community Foundation of Elkhart County had a good year. The Community Foundation received a total of \$25.6 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and because of past giving and investment, we were able to give \$42.7 million in grants. We are committed to stewarding the community's assets even during challenging times. Thank you for your generous gifts of time and resources to help us tend the community's assets.

Your Community Foundation **AT A GLANCE**

644

TOTAL FUNDS

\$43m

TOTAL GRANTS

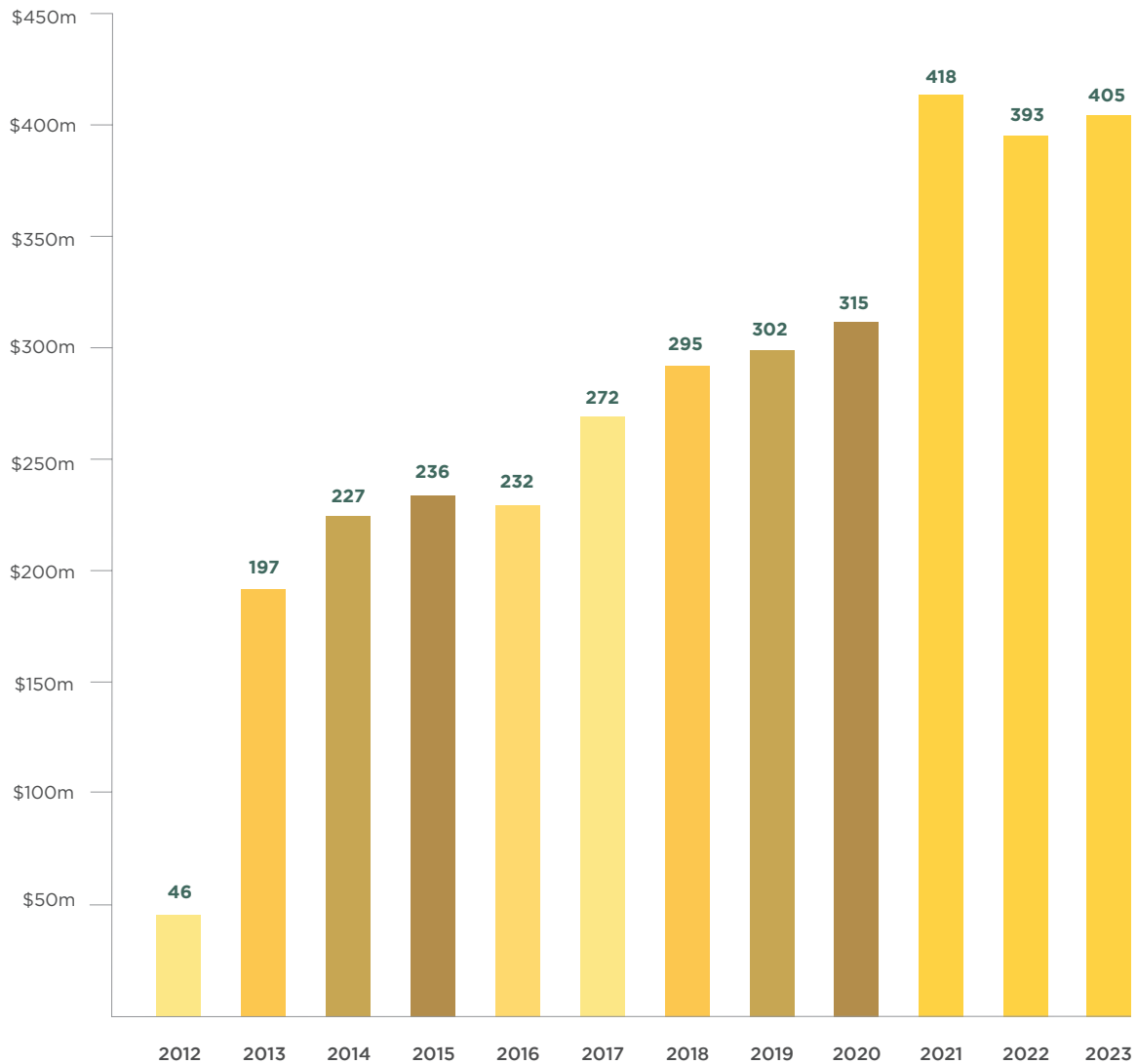
\$405m

TOTAL ASSETS

Historical

Assets By Year

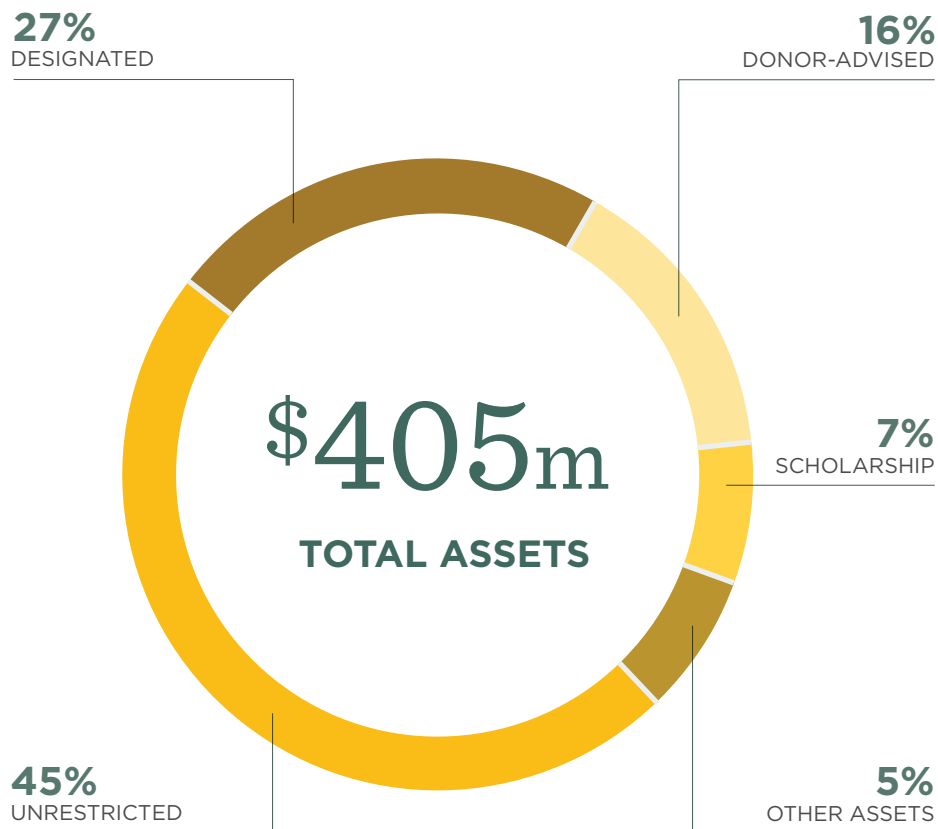
The Community Foundation's assets grow from gifts and investment management. Donors continue to deepen their relationships with the foundation as partners to make the community stronger.



2022-2023

Assets By Fund Type

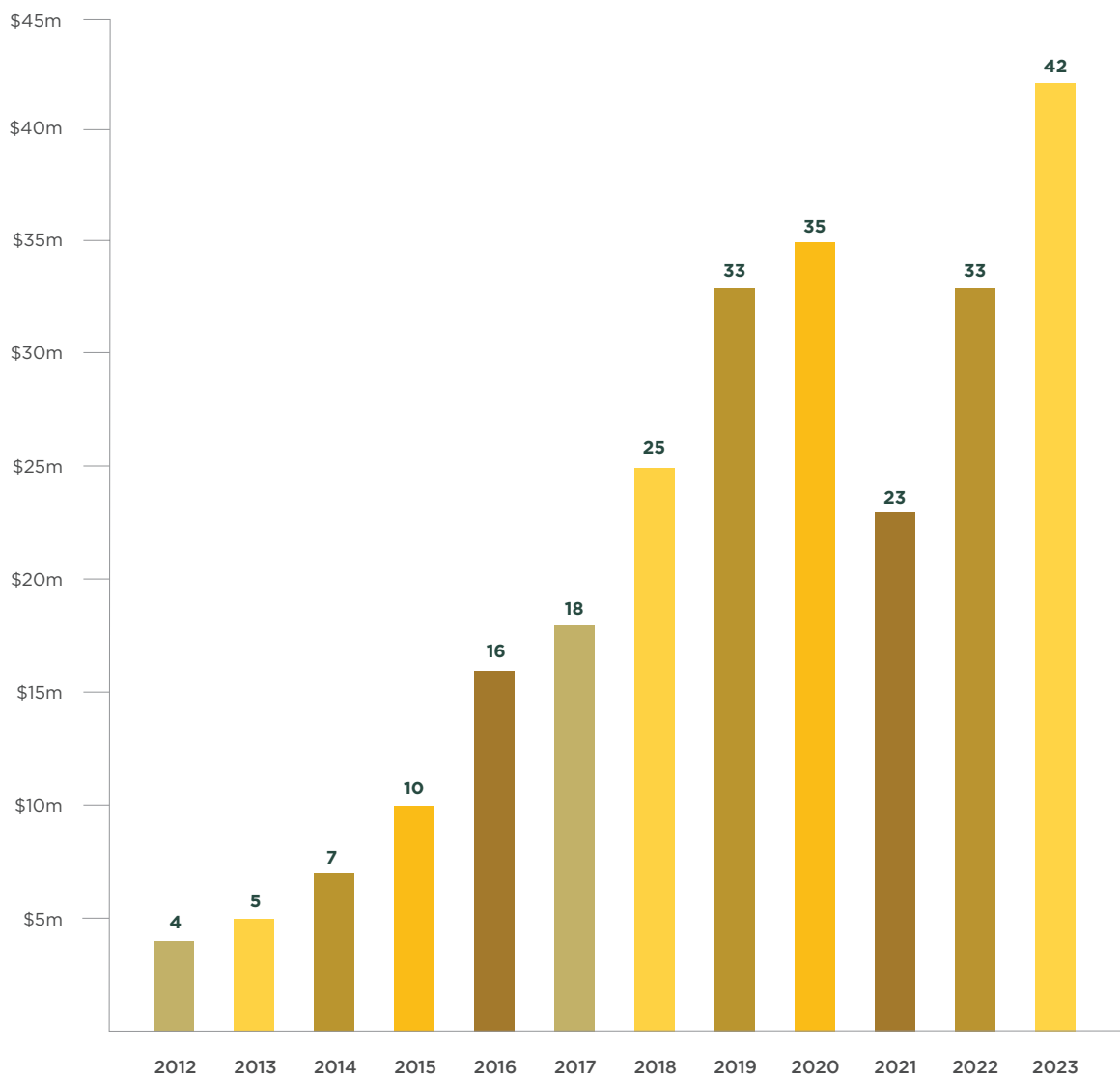
Since 1989 we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor's goals and establish their intent, we work with them to decide which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



Historical

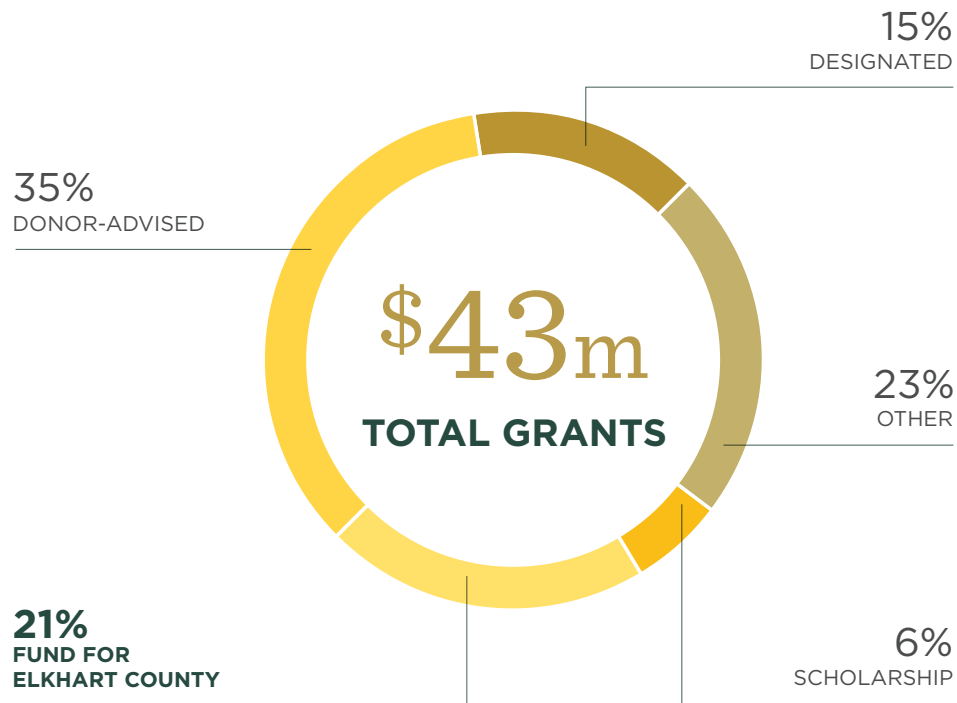
GRANTS BY YEAR

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 community is found on pages 51–62 of this report.



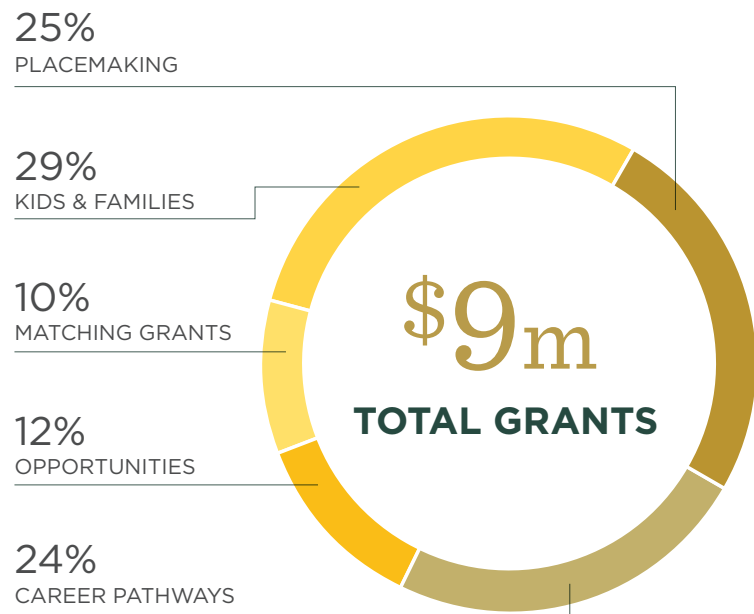
2022-2023

GRANTS BY FUND TYPE



FUND FOR ELKHART COUNTY

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our community's greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$9.1 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, 2023 and 2022.

	JUNE 30, 2023	JUNE 30, 2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,162,000	\$1,240,000
Investments	\$399,896,000	\$388,275,000
Property and equipment	\$912,000	\$964,000
Right of use asset	\$1,507,000	\$1,612,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	\$279,000	\$345,000
Other assets	\$331,000	\$423,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$405,087,000	\$392,859,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$70,000	\$167,000
Grants payable	\$3,906,000	\$5,275,000
Gift annuities payable	\$411,000	\$435,000
Operating lease liability	\$1,518,000	\$1,612,000
Custodial funds	\$40,344,000	\$45,377,000
Other liabilities	\$282,000	\$262,000
Net assets - without donor restrictions	\$4,523,000	\$4,725,000
Net assets - with donor restrictions	\$354,033,000	\$335,006,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$405,087,000	\$392,859,000

Statements of ACTIVITIES

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023 and 2022.

	JUNE 30, 2023	JUNE 30, 2022
SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES		
Contributions and grants*	\$20,322,000	\$27,893,000
Investment return, net	\$25,560,000	(\$31,905,000)
Fund administrative fees	\$2,566,000	\$2,878,000
Other	(\$36,000)	(\$106,000)
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES	\$48,412,000	(\$1,240,000)
EXPENSES		
Program services**	\$27,298,000	\$29,074,000
General & administrative	\$1,503,000	\$1,503,000
Fundraising	\$735,000	\$684,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29,587,000	\$31,261,000
Change in net assets	\$18,825,000	(\$32,501,000)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$339,731,000	\$372,232,000
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$358,556,000	\$339,731,000

* 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.

Cultivating gardens

Marly's Gift

His generosity created a “wonderful problem” for Wellfield Botanic Gardens

You never know what will result when the phone rings at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

Marlyn “Marly” Rydson had an idea for a way to honor the woman he loved in a place he loved and picked up the phone one day in early 2021.

Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation, warmly greeted Marly and learned he wanted to honor Laura, whom he’d married 59 years earlier, with a donation for a new visitors center at Wellfield Botanic Gardens.

Marly encouraged the Community Foundation to also make a donation and then Wellfield’s board and staff could raise more money to construct the building.

Pete was soon on a call with Joel Duthie, Wellfield’s board chairman, and Eric Garton, the Robert and

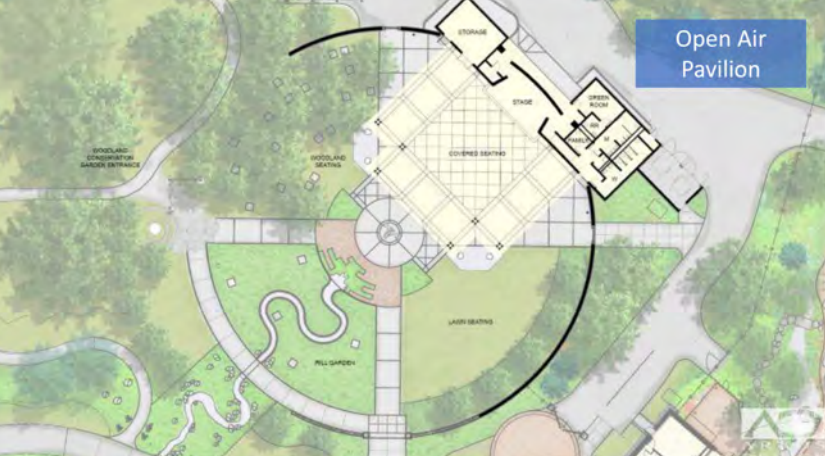
Peggy Weed Executive Director of the garden. He told them what Marly wanted to do and said, “This gives you a wonderful problem.”

The challenge was that the master plan for the garden didn’t call for a visitors center at this point. An outdoor pavilion was the next priority in the plan.

As a member of the Elkhart Rotary Club, Marly had been involved in the botanic gardens’ creation. Construction began in 2006 on the 36-acre site, half of which is covered by water. Since the 1800s, the site’s 13 wells have provided much of the Elkhart’s drinking water. Ponds became water features. As dirt moved, gardens emerged. Now Wellfield has more than 20 different features and spaces with just a few left to be constructed. More than 75,000 people visit

A photograph of Eric Garton, the Robert and Peggy Weed Executive Director, sitting on a wooden bench in a lush garden. He is wearing a blue shirt, a grey blazer, and jeans. The background shows green foliage and a large tree trunk on the right.

Eric Garton, the Robert and Peggy Weed Executive Director, is guiding Wellfield Botanic Gardens as it grows and evolves.



Architectural renderings of the new visitors center and outdoor pavilion show how the new structures will transform Wellfield Botanic Gardens.

the living museum each year, with more than 25,000 people alone coming through to see the holiday lights.

Eric Garton says, “The advice we’ve been given from the very beginning is don’t forget you’re a garden. Our motto is ‘world class and homegrown.’”

Wellfield’s growth followed the master plan created in the early 2000s. Replacing the cottage at the front of the gardens with a visitors center was estimated to cost up to \$6 million for an organization with an annual budget of just over \$1 million.

Then Marly called.

“Someone told us we’d be fools if we didn’t do this,” says Eric Amt, the first Wellfield executive director and an ongoing volunteer and ambassador.

Two days later, Marly gave \$2 million to the project he initiated.

At the next meeting of the Community Foundation’s board, it agreed to give \$2 million to the project.

With strong support from the Wellfield’s board of directors, Eric Garton started fundraising. Because of the garden’s agreement with the city of Elkhart,

construction couldn’t begin until he and the board had raised the entire amount. Like the flowers sprouting in the garden, the project grew to include a 12,000-square-foot visitors center that hovers over and overlooks the main pond. It will include

event spaces, a cafe, and tributes to the Rydsons and David Gundlach, whose donation to the Community Foundation made the \$2 million gift possible.

A pavilion was needed for concerts, weddings and other events. Constructing a space for more than 500 people as part of the visitor’s center project made sense and was good stewardship, says Joel Duthie, who remains on the board. The pavilion will have space for more than 500 guests. Parking expansion,



Marly and Laura Rydson

"It's much more than gardens. It's every sort of lifecycle of our community here in the gardens..."

Joel Duthie, Board President of Wellfield Botanic Gardens

Joel Duthie (left), former board president of Wellfield Botanic Gardens, and Eric Amt, former executive director, walk a path in the gardens they love and work alongside others to improve.



MARLY'S GIFT

relocation of the cottage and endowment to help pay ongoing expenses bring the project total to \$16.5 million.

Vendors who have worked on the garden have been generous over the years. Hundreds of volunteers give time. Donors have given, often not even asking for recognition. Would this be different?

Not at all. Large donations rolled in during the quiet phase of a capital campaign. One donor told Joel, "We love the gardens. We love Elkhart. We love giving back to the community."

The South Bend - Elkhart Regional Development Authority gave \$1.3 million toward the project from Indiana's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative.

Site preparation started this summer and DJ Construction is expected to be completed with its work in late 2024 or early 2025.

Marly is thrilled. Years ago, he helped do the

electrical wiring for a new bathroom at the garden to replace thousands of feet of extension cords for events. It was the first building constructed at Wellfield. Now another will bear his and Laura's name.

Laura had been a founding board member of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, which was called the Elkhart County Community Foundation when it was founded in 1989. For those first ten years or so, she volunteered as a secretary and office manager. As Marly tells it, "She was the chief cook and I was the bottle washer." The couple had always been generous with both time and money for community causes. He would go with her to Nappanee to help produce and print the foundation's annual reports, he says.

Marly's gift is foundational for how Wellfield Botanic Gardens will grow and how visitors will enter and experience it. "At the end of the day, we wanted to make sure our visitors are getting out in the spaces and this is a way to facilitate that," says Joel.

Eric Garton is excited about how the new visitor's center and amphitheater will allow Wellfield Botanic Gardens to grow its offerings.





Joel Duthie (right) and Eric Amt explain how the board, staff and volunteers are working together to grow Wellfield and create natural spaces for visitors.

But when rain falls, outdoor weddings can move indoors rather than under a tent, saving thousands of dollars annually. Additional events can be planned. Revenue is expected to grow.

Communities need beautiful spaces. Wellfield Botanic Gardens' beauty becomes part of so many lives. "I love everything that it means to our community,"

says Joel. "It's much more than gardens. It's every sort of lifecycle of our community here in the gardens — from bringing kids out to the Children's Garden, to when people are getting married, to having memorial services here. The full journey of one's life is encapsulated here in the gardens." 🌿

"The advice we've been given from the very beginning is don't forget you're a garden. Our motto is 'world class and homegrown.'"

Eric Garton, the Robert and Peggy Weed Executive Director of Wellfield Botanic Gardens

Tending a legacy

Honoring the life of U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski by helping others

Scholarships will help students embrace public service, journalism, and ministry



U.S. Rep Jackie Walorski

Martha Walorski and Dean Swihart have sat through a year of ceremonies and events honoring their beloved daughter and wife.

People also still walk up to Martha, Jackie's mother, in the grocery store, give her a hug, and tell her a story about Jackie Walorski, who died tragically in a car crash at age 58 on Aug. 3, 2022.

They have sought their own way to honor her legacy of faith and service, as well as her love for education. They believe she would want them to get to work helping others even as they honor her.

She wanted you to call her "Jackie," despite the fact that she may have been your State Representative in the Indiana General Assembly or your Congresswoman in the U.S. Congress. In the Statehouse from 2005 to 2010 and in Congress from 2012 to 2022, she participated in the formality required of lawmakers, but what she loved was interacting with her constituents.

"She enjoyed being close to the people," Martha says.

She was the only one of three siblings to go to college. After graduating from Taylor University in 1985, she came back to northern Indiana and worked in journalism and then moved into nonprofit, development and public policy roles.

She met Dean Swihart in the singles group at Calvary Temple and they married in 1995. Publicly, she was known as Jackie Walorski. Privately, she was Mrs. Swihart. "Been called Mr. Walorski many times. I just smile," he says.

As she worked at the South Bend Chamber of Commerce and he as a musician and music teacher, they went on short-term missions trips in 1997 and again in 1998. They felt called to be Christian missionaries and left in June 1999. They were planning to go to Ukraine and ended up in Romania, where they worked with children in a burn unit or living on the street. They were church planters and supported a bible college. They navigated a world changed by 9/11. When Raymond Walorski, Jackie's father, got cancer and she was having back problems, they returned to Indiana in 2003.

"We decided we needed to do something," Dean says.

"She enjoyed being close to the people."

Martha Walorski, Mother of Jackie Walorski



Dean Swihart and Martha "Mert" Walorski are honoring the legacy of the late Jackie Walorski by creating scholarship funds to help students in her congressional district.

She had been interested in politics and sought out State Rep. Richard Mangus. He was retiring due to his own cancer diagnosis and said that she would be his choice to take his seat, says Dean. He took Jackie under his wing, teaching her how to work a room and dress for the occasion and type of voters to whom she was speaking.

She won the election handily and then won two more terms.

In 2009 and 2010, she ran against U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly and narrowly lost. After redistricting and Donnelly running for Senate, Jackie won a seat in Congress in 2012.

She became an advocate for veterans in her work as a lawmaker. "She loved doing things for people," says Martha.

She got a servicemember reunited with his dog to help with post-traumatic stress disorder. She told the head of the Veterans Administration how a veteran who had been misdiagnosed needed their help.

"She didn't want to hear no," Martha says.

Nor could she sit still. Though she often had back pain, she would tell her husband and mother, "I'm not just going to sit here," and off they'd go to do something.

She could speed-read books and proposed bills, but also retain what she read. She remembered the

names of nearly everyone she encountered. “With Jackie, everybody thought they were her best friend,” says her mother.

You could also count on her word. “She saw her position in Congress as a ministry opportunity,” Dean says. “I can’t tell you how many times we prayed that her job would be used for the gospel, more than anything else.” Few people knew how she worked across the political aisle, devout in her own beliefs, but working with those with whom she disagreed, he says.

Her death on S.R. 19 south of Wakarusa in 2022 was a deep loss for many. The last year has been

“hell,” Martha says.

As she and Dean wrestled with how to honor Jackie, they were having dinner with several family friends, including Tim Portolese. Tim urged Dean and Martha to seek the Community Foundation’s help. “There are a lot of people who want to do something for a loved one who has passed or a child who has a disease,” he says. “A lot of people struggle to make it happen. The foundation has succeeded in helping people do that and is a great way to make such things happen.” He helped connect Dean and Martha with people at the foundation and discuss

Martha Walorski hopes young people will be inspired by Jackie Walorski’s career of ministry and public service.





The walls of the home office of Jackie Walorski and her husband, Dean Swihart, are full of mementos from her political career.

how to establish the scholarship.

After several conversations, the Jackie Walorski Memorial Scholarships were created to go to students from the Second Congressional District, currently spanning all or part of 10 counties. The scholarships will be given to those pursuing a four-year degree as full-time college students. The Memorial Scholarship will be given to students in programs related to public affairs, politics, or journalism. The Memorial Ministry Scholarship will be for those in ministry- or mission-related fields.

Both will honor a woman of deep faith and commitment to others.

Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation, says, “Jackie was unapologetically a woman of faith.” Her character, patriotism, and faith were interwoven, he added.

Those who wish to honor her legacy can contribute funds toward the scholarships. Students who apply can learn from her example of service to others. 🌻

*“She saw her position in Congress
as a ministry opportunity.”*

Dean Swihart, husband of the late Jackie Walorski

Facing adversity with generosity

Sophie's Smile inspiring others to give as she grows

Emily and Joe Stiglitz find hope for their daughter, Sophie

Emily Stiglitz sat with her five-month-old daughter, Sophie, in a room at Riley Hospital for Children after an MRI.

Sophie had awakened from sedation for the MRI on that day in January 2021. Emily thought the worst was over.

A young doctor came into the room and was obviously uncomfortable. He told Emily that the MRI showed a rare brain condition. Emily got her husband, Joe, on the phone since he was waiting downstairs due to COVID restrictions.

He told them Sophie's cerebellum and pons, part of her brainstem, were smaller and underdeveloped. He told them she wouldn't have normal development and they should see a geneticist.

When he left the room, Emily sobbed. "I just bawled. I was in shock," she says.

She wanted answers and not to lose hold of all the dreams for her daughter and their family. Within days, Joe and Emily were with their daughter and all their questions at an appointment with a geneticist in Chicago.

More appointments followed, with blood draws and gene sequencing. They waited months for answers.

Ten months after Sophie's birth in August 2020, they finally received the dire diagnosis of microcephaly with pontine and cerebellar hypoplasia caused by Sophie missing a part of her CASK gene, which likely plays a role in brain development during infancy.

Sophie isn't just one in a million with the condition. She's one of only 254 in the world known to have it, though it's likely others go undiagnosed. Because of it, her brain and motor skills develop slower than average.

Many of Sophie's doctors hadn't encountered her condition before. It's not curable. And the outcome is unclear. What is evident is the deep love of her family and her parents' commitment to not only her future but that of others who have CASK-related disorders.

Emily had worked in human relations at Welch Packaging, her family's company, prior to Sophie's birth. Joe helps oversee the company's finances. As young, married professionals, they had moved back from Indianapolis to Emily's hometown of Elkhart. Her pregnancy had been smooth. Now they were facing questions about what kind of life Sophie would have, what kind they would have.

As Sophie Stiglitz battles a rare genetic disorder, her family is both helping her grow and raising funds for research and other families like theirs.



Sophie Stiglitz, who has an extremely rare genetic disorder, inspires her family and others. Her family created a fund with the Community Foundation to support research and other families who have children with the disorder.

“While that phone call wasn’t one we were expecting, and to be frank wasn’t one we wanted to hear, we at least have an answer now,” Emily wrote in a piece she called “Serendipitously Sophie.” “Whether it’s the answer we wanted or not, we now know why Sophie’s head is smaller and why her brain MRI looked the way it did. Even though we can’t ‘cure’ Sophie’s condition (yet), we are now able to identify therapy programs to try and intervene with Sophie’s development early on. We’re able to be proactive and to get her necessary doctor’s appointments scheduled.

This is the good that comes from the earlier diagnosis.”

They immersed themselves in research and tackling the questions. They joined a Facebook support group for people whose kids have CASK-related conditions. They found researchers at Virginia Tech University who help Sophie with intensive therapy sessions. The first year she went for four weeks, she was able to crawl. The second year, she was walking and using utensils to eat, Joe says.

As they love on their daughter and explore ways to improve her quality of life, Joe and Emily started a fund

SOPHIE'S SMILE



Sophie Stiglitz and her family take life one day at a time. She is shown here with her parents, Emily and Joe, and brother, Sammy.

with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

They learned how Amish and Amy Shah created a fund called Sydney's Secret Rainbows to support children in Riley's neonatal intensive care unit, where their daughter had been after childbirth.

Joe and Emily created Sophie's Smile at the Community Foundation and invited others to contribute. Emily wrote a heartfelt letter inviting contributions to the Donor Advised Fund and local friends and family responded with kindness and generosity. They want to raise \$1 million to support CASK research and other children and their families. They will be able to help others from the fund others have supported. "I truly think it is so amazing what we have here," Emily says. "Elkhart is truly special."

Their daughter is also special and continues to amaze them. She smiles often, flashing her perfect teeth.

In late summer, she wasn't yet verbal, though the three-year-old could communicate with simple sign language and her broad smile. "She's going to show us and write her own story," says Emily.

She seems to be doing very well. She learns at a different rate, has rigid movements, and is at risk for seizures, yet succeeded in a preschool setting. "She learned so much from those children," Emily says.

Sophie has taught her parents a different perspective on life. They have learned to enjoy today and see it as a gift. A coworker of Joe's told him, "Worry about tomorrow tomorrow," and they try to live that way.

They navigated a second pregnancy, with Samson being born in 2022. They were worried during pregnancy, but he was born without CASK-related issues. He teaches his sister as well as they both develop.

"We just want Sophie and Sammy to be happy and have all the opportunities," says Joe.

They have watched her learn to walk, something that first doctor said may not happen. Now she's starting to give hugs and even kisses. Joe and Emily are choosing to be hopeful and those moments are full of joy. 🌿



Betty Chatten's 100th birthday party was like her life: simple and joyful. (Photo courtesy of WNDU-TV)

Steady growth

Betty Chatten quietly grew wealth to share with others

Her legacy gift is a story of kindness, contentment, and philanthropy

For her 100th birthday party, Betty Chatten wanted three things: pizza, wine, and lots of people.

She sported a sparkly pink hat with “100” on the front. Mayor Rod Roberson stopped by Brentwood at Elkhart Independent Living to celebrate a woman who was described as easygoing and kind.

She was born January 21, 1920 in Milford, Indiana. During World War II, Betty helped make bandages for soldiers. From 1949 to 1959, she worked for Chatten Motor Sales, which her father Merrill owned, operated, and then sold. She went

to work at First National Bank (now KeyBank) and later retired from there.

In the mid-1960s, her parents, Merrill and Netta started a trust to help nonprofit organizations and also support their daughter. Betty didn’t seem to worry much about money, according to those who knew Betty late in life.

When KeyBank had events at Elcona Country Club for some of their private banking clients, Betty would be the first to arrive and sit with a drink in her hand and a big smile. “Every single time, she was there,”

BETTY CHATTEN

says Dawn Fisher, who worked for KeyBank at the time. “She liked people.”

Sean McCrindle, president/CEO of Bashor Children’s Home, remembers Betty listening to presentations at Trinity United Methodist Church and asking questions. He knew of her interest in Bashor, but not her intent to leave a legacy gift. This is Bashor’s 100th anniversary of work in Elkhart County, whose initial funding came from a legacy gift. “Legacy gifts can be a springboard for nonprofits to do things they wouldn’t otherwise be able to do,” Sean says.

Greg Turner and Andrew Asma both helped Betty when they worked at KeyBank. Greg was her investment officer and Andrew her trust officer. They would go visit her at Brentwood to talk about the portfolio that provided her monthly income.

They would sit in her apartment furnished simply with furniture from the 1970s era. Late in life, she drove a 10-year-old Ford Taurus. She would tell them about the bus trips she’d been on and they could see the magnets on her refrigerator, humble souvenirs she bought in the places she visited.

Greg remembers showing her the statements from the trusts and that she wasn’t using all the income due to her. “She barely said anything. She’d smile and nod. Say thank you,” he says.

In many of those meetings with clients, he expected pushback or critique. Betty never did that, nor did she elevate her lifestyle. In the final years of her life,

the trust helped pay for additional medical care. Even lying in a hospital bed, she was still smiling.

“The one word that sums Betty up for me is ‘content.’ She was just a content person,” says Dawn.

In 2001, Betty signed paperwork with the Elkhart County Community Foundation to create the Betty Chatten Fund from the trust her parents had created. The 81-year-old established that proceeds from her estate would support ADEC, Bashor Children’s Home, and Trinity United Methodist Church following her death. Her parents had taught her about planning for the future and helping others. She had nurtured those seeds and her own investments grew. Following her death on March 22, 2022, Dave Beaverson handled her estate. He cleaned out her humble apartment, which included boxes of financial papers and a bit of whiskey. Over the last 18 months, he has directed a multi-million gift from her total estate to the Community Foundation. It is one of the largest gifts in the foundation’s history.

Betty and her family had quietly amassed wealth that provided for her until she was 102 — and now it will help organizations help others.

“People like Betty who decide they’re going to do something have a really powerful impact when they follow their faith and God’s leading,” says Sean. “Betty’s contributions are going to be seeds that are planted and grow amazing programs to help provide services for kids who otherwise couldn’t access them.” 🌱

“Legacy gifts can be a springboard for nonprofits to do things they wouldn’t otherwise be able to do.”

Sean McCrindle, President/CEO of Bashor Children’s Home



The Jimtown Community Center will bear the name of donors Craig and Teneen Dobbs, Jimtown alums who love the community and want to help its children succeed.

Restoring fertile soil

Jimtown Community Center restoration revives beloved building

New generations will be able to connect with community in historic space

Bruce Clark looked up toward the rafters in the old gymnasium with a slight smile and a twinkle in his eye.

This gym has sat near the corner of county roads 22 and 3 for all of Bruce's life. A building went up there in the 1920s, but without a gym. "The joke in town was we were the gymless Jimmies," says Byron Sanders, current superintendent of Baugo Community Schools.

Following a fire, the building was saved and the community constructed a gym in 1929 for basketball games, but also choir concerts, pageants, and even the formation of the Baugo Lions Club, the primary service club in the community.

Growing up, Bruce would often sneak into the building with friends to play basketball without the crowd. "There was always a window open

JIMTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER



Left: The former gymnasium will be restored in the community center.



Right: The community is coming together to restore the historic building. From left are donors Bruce and Sandy Clark, Baugo Superintendent Byron Sanders, Director of Finance and Transportation Zachary Quiett and architect Chip Coleman Jr.

somewhere,” he said.

When the Jimtown Jimmies played basketball in the building, Bruce was one of the youngsters on the stage of the building watching his Cook uncles play basketball. Sandy Plotner watched her uncles on the same teams. A few years later, she moved to the district across the street from the school building — where her mother had attended. Jimtown High School opened in the mid-1960s and neither attended school in the building as some of their parents, aunts, and uncles had, but they were fond of that building. Bruce says, “Every time I watch the movie ‘Hoosiers,’ when you say a crackerbox gym, I know that’s what ours was.”

Sandy remembers going to a sock hop in the gym and climbing on the roof with friends. It seems as if many folks who went to school in the small, rural district that has 18 square miles have similar memories.

For a time, the building was where the high school wrestling team practiced. Then starting in the late 1990s, it sat mostly unused — except for storage.

The memories people had of the building and their hopes for what it could be again never waned. In 2017, Bruce and Sandy took their wedding pictures in the old gym. They’d reunited at a class reunion in 2014. The crush she’d had on him years ago was fanned into

a flame and they started dating. “It’s really nice being with someone you’ve known 60 years,” she says.

Byron Sanders kept hearing people express hope that it would become usable. “You just couldn’t dismiss this building,” he says. A decade ago, a blue-ribbon committee explored how the building, which is on national and state historic registries, could be returned to glory.

When Byron became superintendent in 2019, school board members moved forward with him to find a way to restore the old building. A feasibility study followed and then conversations with how to follow through on turning the building into a community center. Community Foundation staff joined conversations about potential funding and made connections to Kevin Deary, then president/CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, about putting programming into a possible community center.

“That resonated in the community as well,” says Byron. “Ultimately we wanted the community center to be a place to belong.”

Craig and Teneen Dobbs, who both graduated from Jimtown in 1982, have fond memories of their time as Jimmies. Her father, Jack Davis, was the high school baseball coach who brought Ernie Banks to Jimtown

and hosted him at their home. When the Cubs star spoke to the community, he pulled Teneen out of the crowd to demonstrate a proper swing.

Teneen was a cheerleader and the homecoming queen. They ran against each other for the class presidency. After college, they started dating and got married. They live in Carmel, but “our heart’s here,” she says.

They also have a heart for children. The Children’s TherAplay Foundation, which they started, helps provide play-based therapy for children with spina bifida in central Indiana, where they live.

They wanted to assure that Jimtown kids stay engaged in activities — and belong as they did.

The school board committed money via a bond issue. Byron Sanders developed a pitch touting the 1929 building with its salt-glazed brick, hanging balcony, and fixed bleachers, but also adding modern amenities such as a warming kitchen for events and accessibility via ramps and lifts.

The Community Foundation’s Career Pathways Committee approved a \$350,000 for the project, which is expected to cost \$3.5 million. Byron approached the Clarks, who quickly gave a lead gift. Bruce says that he always thought that if they did something with the building, he’d want to support the effort. “I really didn’t want to see it torn down,” he says. The two former locker rooms in the building will be conference spaces that honor the four families — Cook, Clark, Plotner



The historic building in the heart of Jimtown southeast of Elkhart is being restored for modern use.

and England — in which Bruce and Sandy are rooted.

Their gift opened the floodgates and many people gave generously. Craig and Teneen matched the lead gift and the new building will be called the Craig and Teneen Dobbs Jimtown Community Center. They are also creating an endowment fund at the Community Foundation to support the building.

Chip Coleman Jr., senior project architect for Arkos Design, has the challenge of honoring the history while updating the building. Preparation for the project cleared out the space and putting on a new roof showed how well the building was constructed. He said it will have the appearance of an older building, but be able to host a range of events in the 21st century.

“We’re grabbing every space we can and making it usable space,” he says.

The building, like the Jimtown community, is sturdy and full of memories. By the end of 2024, it could again be a place where children make new memories and where they are nurtured to belong. 🌿

“Ultimately we wanted the community center to be a place to belong.”

Byron Sanders, Superintendent - Baugo Community Schools



Khenan Mitchell walks the Nappanee Art Path daily and is shown here with a sculpture of a fox that he particularly enjoys.

Growing imagination

Nappanee Art Path fosters community through art

A growing collection of sculptures by local artists is becoming increasingly popular

As Khenan Mitchell walks the Nappanee Art Path, the two-year-old picks up pine cones or other debris from the trail that winds past 125 sculptures. If something is out of place, he puts it back. He greets the sculpture of a fox, one of his favorite sculptures.

“He knows when he wakes up, he gets some waffles in a cup, and takes a walk in the woods,” said his mother, Kaci, who moved back to her hometown in May 2023 with her son and her husband, Vincent.

She never expected to come back to Nappanee from Indianapolis, but returned to be close to her family, including her parents, Mark and Jenni Heeter.

This summer, the Heeters started walking from their nearby home with Khenan to the path. It soon became not just a daily routine, but something they would do multiple times a day. “We come every day, morning and night,” says Jenni.

Khenan knows the path well and tends it on the walks. “When I do walk with him, it’s definitely a blessing to find joy as he’s excited to be outside,” says Kaci.

He usually doesn’t stay in the stroller as they follow their routine of walking through the woods to see the Woodland Creatures. The stretch through the woods on the north side of McCormick Creek Golf Course



Khenen Mitchell walks the art path with his family, including mother, Kaci (kneeling), grandparents Mark and Jenni Heeter (center), and artist Abby Morgenthaler (right).

includes sculptures of critters and creatures. Paved portions wind past the original apple sculptures, the Flower Garden, Junkyard Dogs, Tour de Nappanee, and through the Tunnel of Love.

Jeff Stillson, a graphic designer, artist, and photographer, was inspired by sculptures of cows in Chicago and elk in Elkhart to create a public art installation in Nappanee. With a historic apple festival happening each September, he enlisted artists to paint 24 half-apples. Sponsors helped pay for the art that was in downtown Nappanee from 2013 to 2016.

Mayor Phil Jenkins asked Jeff to create the Nappanee Arts Council to decide what to do with the apples and work on future projects. Chris Davis, superintendent of the Nappanee Park and Recreation Department, and Jeff found the spot on the path along C.R. 7 on the east

side of town and for the collection of the three-foot-high sculptures called The Apple Orchard.

Jeff and the other members of the arts council proceeded to enlist artists and sponsors for installations of flowers and dogs and kept going. Each series becomes a group of sculptures along the path, which stretches over a mile.

The 100th sculpture was installed in May 2023. Jeff's butterfly, created with artist Jennifer Tompos, is in a water feature along the path. The Tunnel of Love features sculptures around the theme of love. This fall, metal butterflies are expected to migrate from downtown to the Art Path.

The Community Foundation has given nearly \$150,000 in grants to support the path since 2018. Those match contributions from donors to help art

NAPPANEE ART PATH



Khenen Mitchell loves the sculptures along the Nappanee Art Path and visits them daily.

spring forth in the city in southern Elkhart County.

Artists receive \$1,500 to envision and enact a metal sculpture. Abby Morganthaler, an arts council member and art teacher at NorthWood Middle School, created the fox Khenen loves by drawing it to scale and having a welder construct it. She then painted and sealed the sculpture.

Goshen artist Sunday Mahaja is a metal sculptor and welder who often contributes pieces, but Abby and Jeff hire welders, even Amish ones, to help create their works.

“I think 2D and these are very 3D,” says Abby.

Her students tell her, “Mrs. Morganthaler, I saw your piece on the Art Path.” Making public art is exciting for her and engages her students to think about how their creativity may be displayed. “You want people to see

your work,” she says.

The path often has walkers, runners or bicyclists, but the popularity of the trail was made most apparent by the response to the “Trails and Treats” event the arts council planned in October 2022. More than a thousand people came to see sculptures, now lit at night thanks in part to a Community Foundation grant, and get a bit of candy. Arts council members were both thrilled and overwhelmed.

In addition to the invitation to create sculptures, artists are invited to create other types of work at the new Nappanee Arts Center downtown. The arts council opened a gallery and creator space at 253 W. Market St. Like the path, the arts center grew from community and Community Foundation support. “I am overwhelmed with the response in Nappanee



Abby Morganthaler is an artist whose creations are among those along the Nappanee Art Path. She is also a member of the Nappanee Arts Council.

in terms of support,” Jeff says. “This is a tight-knit community and it’s been very easy. We also couldn’t do it without the grants from the Community Foundation or the support of the city and parks department.”

The art scene in Nappanee is thriving and the public art makes the city more vibrant.

The path continues to grow and nurture those who walk it, including Khenen and his family. 🍁

“We also couldn’t do it without the grants from the Community Foundation or the support of the city and parks department.”

Jeff Stillson, Graphic designer, artist and photographer



Supporters of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail gather for the event announcing the project to complete the trail (above) and break ground for the final stretch (below).

Crafting a trail

Connect in Elkhart County growing and connecting trails

Elkhart County initiative is thriving

The goal of Connect in Elkhart County is for trails and pathways to spread throughout the county like a well-planned vine.

More than 30 years ago, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail started as a wild idea and over the last three decades has become one of the county's most-loved and best-used trails. The former railroad corridor from Goshen to Shipshewana has a trail that is used by several hundred thousand people a year.

The final stretch of the trail is being completed this fall, allowing runners, walkers and bicyclists to traverse the 17-mile trail without riding on county roads south of Middlebury.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Board is working on strategic planning alongside Connect in Elkhart County for what happens next. Momentum from



the completion of the original Pumpkinvine trail is fueling additional conversations about trail growth across Elkhart County.

Connect in Elkhart County is an initiative of the Community Foundation to connect and grow the trails in our community. The success of the



Bicyclists (along with walkers and runners) are seeking out pathways in Elkhart County and excited as they grow, evolve and connect.

Pumpkinvine and the partnerships that created it have created fertile ground out of which additional efforts, in partnership with municipalities and other organizations, can grow.

The Placemaking Committee of the Community Foundation has contributed significant dollars to build trails in our community, but over the last several years, the efforts grew to create Connect in Elkhart County and hire Brittany Short as the initiative director in 2022.

Over the last year, the River Greenway Trail opened in Elkhart from the Elkhart Environmental Center to the River District downtown. The Community Foundation contributed \$205,000 alongside city and state funds to create the beautiful, 1.86-mile stretch of trail along the Elkhart River. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 11 included Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and Elkhart Mayor Rod Roberson, who touted the economic value of trails in the state and this community.

“Great things are happening,” says Short, who also spoke at the event opening the trail. “We have connection and collaboration and the initiative is slowly growing. That allows the work to gain speed.”

Nonprofits are working with municipal highway

departments to advocate for trail projects. Planners and engineers who work on plans for their community are now more aware of what similar folks are doing in neighboring communities.

New sections of trail are underway in Elkhart County.

The River Mill Trail in Middlebury is under construction in Middlebury. A mile-long stretch near downtown is expected to be done in 2024. Middlebury received just over \$700,000 in state funding and the Community Foundation granted \$212,125 toward that effort.

One of the most exciting possibilities is a trail connecting the town of Wakarusa and the city of Nappanee. The idea sprouted from Vibrant Communities conversations. Now, residents from both communities are working to promote the idea of a six-mile trail. It could be used recreationally, but also by young people who want to safely ride bicycle to a WaNee school. “It’s really a grassroots thing,” says Short. “It’s just a matter of bringing it to life.”

The Community Foundation is helping trails grow and intertwine with each other. “We’re gaining momentum and it’s super exciting,” says Short. 🍂

Helping programs grow

Health education programs in region are producing needed professionals

GC, IUSB, and Ivy Tech are expanding offerings

Every community needs people willing to provide medical care, which requires more specialized education than many other fields.

In the South Bend - Elkhart Region, a number of educational institutions have strong nursing programs and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County is helping them expand, as well as associated programs.

Here's how three local colleges and universities are expanding offerings, with Community Foundation support, so that more local students have opportunities to learn and then serve others in the community.



Speech language pathology students at Indiana University South Bend's Elkhart Center pose for a photo in the simulation lab.

Ivy Tech Community College, South Bend/Elkhart campus

Nursing program expansion in 2021, \$24,554, Dental Lab Capital Project in 2022, \$125,000

Ivy Tech Community College had 300 applications for 60 seats in the nursing program in late 2019 and its administrators saw an opportunity to expand.

"Students wanted to be nurses but we just didn't have the capacity to enroll more than we were taking in," said Sharvon D. Robinson, dean of the School of Nursing for the South Bend/Elkhart campus.

Ivy Tech got a matching grant from the Judd Leighton Foundation and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County was one of the partners who stepped up. "We were able to expand our lab and increase our enrollment by 50 percent, which was great and awesome," said Robinson.

With support from the Community Foundation, Ivy Tech partnered with Beacon Health System to help remove barriers for students by offering tuition support, stipends, a job after graduation and a state board review course.

Ivy Tech offers a two-year associate degree program for registered nurses and a three-semester program

for licensed practical nurses. A transition track helps students merge into the two-year program. Altogether, enrollment has expanded to 160 students a year who can seek nursing degrees and the partnership with Goshen College helps them transition easily to a bachelor's program.

Robinson said the community effort and partnerships have helped expand labs and bring in more students. With additional faculty, they could add even more to serve the community.

In Elkhart, Ivy Tech is also offering programs to help students who want degrees and certifications in dental, emergency medical, and respiratory therapy fields. Medical assistant programs are also at the Elkhart location. "We're just looking to partner with others in the area to increase those enrollments as well," Robinson said. 🌱



The first cohort of speech language pathology students graduated from Indiana University South Bend graduated in May 2023.

Indiana University South Bend

Elkhart Center Health Sciences Expansion \$500,000 in 2016-2018

The Elkhart campus of Indiana University South Bend is centered around three master's programs in the health sciences: nursing, speech language pathology, and occupational therapy.

Most undergraduate studies in the nursing program happen in South Bend, but in Elkhart, students can get master's degrees that further their careers in the South Bend - Elkhart Region.

"The three programs receive a lot of applicants from Elkhart County. Most of the students come from the region," said Jesús Garcia-Martinez, dean of the Vera Z. Dwyer College of Health Sciences. "Our students are from the community and then when they graduate they stay here."

The first cohort of 18 students graduated from the speech language pathology program in May 2023. The program started in the Elkhart Center and 100 percent have passed the licensing exam and nearly all of them had jobs awaiting them at graduation, working

in educational or healthcare settings. Students work at a clinic at Elkhart Center, which has a waiting list of children, and helps with screenings in local schools. Two other cohorts are in progress for that 24-month master's program.

Students are required to work in clinics in the community. "All of our community partners tell us how well-prepared our students are. That speaks really well of the program and the program directors," said Garcia-Martinez.

The master of science in occupational therapy impressed accreditors and is graduating its first cohort this fall. A lab in the Elkhart Center helps students learn how to help patients navigate cooking and other tasks that challenge them.

The Elkhart Center is thriving with the new focus on health education. "The investment from the Community Foundation has paid off," he said. 🌱



Goshen College is renovating Westlawn to create new spaces for the nursing and public health programs, among other things. Architectural renderings (above left, above right, and below) show how the exterior and interior will look.

Goshen College

\$1 million grant in 2022 for the Nursing & Health Sciences Capital Campaign

One of the oldest nursing programs in the state of Indiana will get a boost from the renovation of a historic building.

Goshen College's first nurses graduated in 1950, the same year as Indiana University first awarded bachelor's degrees. Even now, 12 to 15 percent of GC's grads leave with nursing degrees. "It's certainly been a strength of ours and consistently one of the best-enrolled programs for us," said Ann Vendrely, academic dean. "Enrollment is really diverse and that really helps us serve the community."

After President Rebecca Stoltzfus arrived in 2017, she began focusing on how to modernize a strong program with great faculty, but cramped, old facilities. Administrators and the board agreed to pursue grants, including a unique one from the federal government, to rehabilitate Westlawn, a building on the most public corner of campus that was underutilized after it stopped being a dorm nearly three decades ago. The Community Foundation's Career Pathways Committee and board awarded a \$1 million grant to the project. A \$4 million grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration is helping fund the \$21 million project.

The project has begun to put an 18,000-square-foot nursing education complex on the second floor, tripling the space of the current program.

The college offers a bachelor of science in nursing, master of science in nursing, and a program for



adults to complete an associate's degree. Students in the public health track are also part of some classes. Students can also come to GC for degree completion to get a bachelor of science in nursing in 18 months, Vendrely said. A partnership with Ivy Tech Community College will allow students from there to transfer credits into GC's bachelor degree programs.

The college has a strong partnership with healthcare providers, particularly Goshen Health, whose hospital is across the street from GC's campus.

"Students often get hired during their clinicals and they stay. And we enroll a lot of local students," said Vendrely. "We are certainly grateful for the Community Foundation's support, but also Ivy Tech, and the hospitals. It really is a connected effort across the community." 🌱

Building Strong Brains is creating system to help children thrive

Initiative expected to have long-term impact on success

Building Strong Brains is focused on helping the youngest members of our community be ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.



The community initiative that launched in November 2022 is taking the long view to get there — both in assessing what we

have and directing where we go as a community.

“The whole point is to look at this from the systems perspective and align the great work already happening in Elkhart County,” says Kimberly Boynton, the first coalition director for Building Strong Brains.

She is employed by the Community Foundation to work in conjunction with Horizon Education Alliance; The Source, hosted by Oaklawn; CAPS – Child and Parent Services; and Crossroads United Way. The five organizations, with guidance from the Tamarack Institute, worked together over the last several years to launch this initiative.

More than 50 percent of children in Elkhart County arrive at kindergarten without the necessary tools to succeed. This initiative is focused on building a comprehensive, systems-based approach to helping them do so.

Boynton joined the team on June 1, though she has been part of the work to help young people in our community succeed for a number of years. She has worked primarily as a speech language pathologist for young children. As her career progressed, it expanded beyond direct services to young children and she has worked for nonprofits, public education, and higher education in the South Bend - Elkhart

Region. As a practitioner in this field, she joined conversations in the early stages of Building Strong Brains. This spring, she was invited to become the coalition director.

“This is an opportunity that is so different than what we’ve done before and we have a real chance to impact the lives of young children and their families,” she says.

She is collaborating with members of a steering team to guide the next phase of the work. Building Strong Brains is seeking grants to help fund this far-reaching change in Elkhart County. Even grant writing is collaborative as entities join together to apply.

She is recruiting and inviting a range of folks from Elkhart County to join a community advisory team that will guide the system-level work. This group of key leaders from business, education, and nonprofit backgrounds will join together with parents and experts in early childhood development to understand our current situation through a system lens and help our community move toward transformative change. Collective efforts across the community will be required to achieve the outcomes all our children deserve.

Boynton and others are pleased with the progress the community is making and also emphasize that this work will take at least a decade and likely longer.

“I think people are excited about the comprehensive systems shift,” she says. “I think people are noticing a difference in a more comprehensive focus. I’ve heard more people say we’re right on the cusp of something because we’re looking at this differently and looking at it together. We are genuinely hopeful.” 🌱

News from 2022-23

Kevin Deary hired as coach for nonprofits



It didn't take long for **Kevin Deary's** phone to start ringing once news got out that he was joining the Community Foundation as its first director of professional and organizational development.

The longtime president/CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County brings four decades of experience working with young people. He oversaw seven successful capital campaigns. He took direction from up to six different boards overseeing aspects of the organization.

"Bringing Kevin on has been a huge win for the Community Foundation," says President Pete McCown. "He is well-known and respected in Elkhart County and helps extend our mission of helping nonprofits be more successful in serving others."

Deary has been expanding the CEO Roundtables that offer support for leaders. He oversaw the planning of the upcoming season of events for The Learning Center, which offers free training to nonprofits.

He also helps nonprofit staff and board members directly as they navigate fundraising and other challenges. He has met with hundreds of people in his first months on the job and often visited their facilities. "As I've toured nonprofits in Elkhart County and those serving our county, I have been amazed at the diversity of what they do and all the amazing ways they enrich the lives of those who live here," Deary says. "It is an utter joy to work with them to be stronger and better equipped."

You can reach Kevin at Kevin@inspiringgood.org or (574) 295-8761.

Tolson expected to open in November



Tolson Center for Community Excellence is set to open to the public in early November.

Construction has progressed well this spring and summer, says Breanna Allen, executive director. "We're on track to open in November," she says.

As the building has moved toward completion, the nonprofit organization has been hiring staff. Four full-time staff, three part-time staff, and an intern are making plans for programming, including music classes for young people, life enrichment for seniors, financial empowerment for adults, and recreation for a cross-section of the community.

The center has historic roots along Benham Avenue in Elkhart. The reimagining and construction of a new center has strong community support. A team including Tolson staff and board, and the Community Foundation have secured more than \$16 million in pledges and contributions for construction. Rising construction costs have prompted a second phase of fundraising to complete outside amenities at Tolson.

Allen is thrilled with the progress. "This is the community's center. This is theirs. It will have something for everybody," she says. "We're going to be ready to welcome the community in early November when we open. That's humbling, remarkable, and so exciting."

Acts of Service helping fill volunteer needs

Acts of Service continues to find ways to match volunteers with places in the community where they can serve.

Acts of Service became a program of the Community Foundation in 2019 with the focus of encouraging generosity of time and talent, alongside financial giving. Since that time, Ashley Jordan, director of the program, has worked to help nonprofit partners fill volunteer needs. Often that is through local companies who believe that community service is part of a healthy business operation.

The last number of years have been challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic changed how people volunteer and continues to affect service. A rollercoaster economy is changing the rhythm of how people work in our community. Yet, we are being successful in helping connect people willing to serve with areas of need.

In April, more than 70 people attended a training on “The Many Hats of a Volunteer Manager” provided by The Learning Center. This free workshop provided by the Community Foundation brought together business and nonprofit partners to learn together and collaborate on how to support volunteerism in our community.

Acts of Service can help nonprofits find volunteers and help businesses connect their employees to volunteer opportunities. For more information, contact **Ashley Jordan**, ashley@inspiringgood.org or (574) 295-8761.



Community Foundation ranked among top in country

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County continues to be among the top-ranked foundations in the United States, according to the latest CF Insights Annual Survey.

The annual survey, which in the past was called the Columbus Survey, gathers information from nearly 200 community foundations. Half of those are in the Midwest.

The most recent survey covers Fiscal Year 21, which for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County was July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The rankings were:

- 31st in per capita giving. The figure of \$122.68 was calculated by dividing the \$25.4 million in received giving by the county’s population.
- 43rd for the number of transactions (7,496)
- 64th in total assets (\$418 million)
- 103rd in distribution rate (6 percent. Twenty other community foundations also awarded 6 percent of asset totals annually.)

“If you add these metrics together, we believe we rank in the top 50 community foundations in the country and that is simply remarkable, particularly for a community of our size,” says President Pete McCown.



JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY

THE LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center of the Community Foundation has a mission to provide learning opportunities for area nonprofits so they can continue to successfully serve Elkhart County. The events are meant to inform as well as inspire and reinvigorate nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers by providing opportunities for leadership, development, continuing education, and occasions to network and collaborate. In addition to workshops and CEO roundtables, TLC also offers an annual two-day retreat for nonprofit CEOs to network and reflect on their contributions to Elkhart County.

To learn more, visit inspiringgood.org/the-learning-center or reach out to **Kevin Deary**, Director of Professional & Organizational Development, at kevin@inspiringgood.org



ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL OF ELKHART COUNTY

Staying on top of the latest information in estate planning is not always easy. The Elkhart County Estate Planning Council is open to professionals who advise their clients on all facets of planning their estates. The Estate Planning Council, which meets quarterly, provides multidisciplinary education and a place for accountants, attorneys, bank officers, wealth, trust advisors, and other professionals who work within estate planning to network with each other. Participants are able to earn Continuing Education Unit Credits for continued professional education. Annual membership is \$100.

To learn more, visit inspiringgood.org/estate-planning-council-membership or contact **Kim Miller**, Director of Donor Services, at kim@inspiringgood.org



100 WOMEN WHO CARE ELKHART COUNTY

More than 100 women giving \$100 each. That's the simple concept of 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County. If you are looking for a way to give generously in a fun social setting, consider 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County. Four times a year, the organization gathers at the Matterhorn Conference Center. Women give \$100 individually or can split the cost with a friend; \$100 equals one vote. Members nominate local nonprofits and pick one each meeting to receive that quarter's \$10,000 contribution. This incredible group of women has given away nearly \$400,000 to local nonprofits.

For more information visit inspiringgood.org/organization/100-women-elkhart-county



LEGACY SOCIETY LIST 2022-2023

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who believe in impacting their community. Their stories and hearts are inspiring! The following list includes the names of those who have left us estate gifts or have informed us of bequests, policies, trusts, and other end-of-life planned gifts, for the purpose of encouraging others. This list also includes people

who 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 Society members

Anonymous 1
Anonymous 2
Anonymous 3
Charles and Dorothy Ainlay
Dick and Linda Armstrong
Janet Arnold
Matt 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
Drake and Carrie Berghoff
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 and Susan Bossung
Brian and Jeannelle Brady

Patty and Coley Brady
Susan Branson
Tim Braun and Alysha Liljeqvist
Terrence and Kathy Brennan
Conrad and Debra Brenneman
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

Michael and Teri Crabill
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
Dean and Jane DeVoe
Mike Dibley
Terry and Julie Diener
Todd W. A. Driver
Thomas and Lois Dusthimer
Arthur Eby
Janet Eby
Todd Eby
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

LEGACY SOCIETY LIST 2022-2023

John and Lois Fidler
Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler
Stephen and Shelly Fidler
David and Susan Findlay
Richard and Marlene Finnigan
Ivan Fisher
Robert and Dawn Fisher
William and Kristine Flora
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
Sandra Gentry
Dan and *Suzanne* George
Bob and Stevie Giel
John and Gwen Gildea
Gary and Debra Gilot
John and Judith Goebel
Joe and *Rita* Gold
Sharon Ann Gongwer
William and Violet Goodsene
Christiana Graham
Doug and *Barbara* Grant
Robert B. Grant
Ralph and Opal E. Gunden
Don and Theresa Gunden
Guy David Gundlach
Lisa Haines
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
Larry and Lucretia Hochstetler
Terry and Lu Hoogenboom
Floyd and *Esther* Hoover

Mary E. Hoover
Shirley Hoover
Joyce Hultin
Eugene W. and *Barbara* Hungate
Jane Hunter
Tom and Jennifer 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
Marshall King and Bethany Swope
Chris and Gretchen Kingsley
Richard and Susan Klepinger
Ted and Diane Kolodziej
Don L. and Jurate Krabill
Richard and Joleen Krause
Mark and Diane Kritzman
Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklau
Michael L. and Rebecca Kubacki
Mark and Karen Kurtz
Chuck and Betty Lamb
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
Ashley Martin and Bernerd Haskins
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
Devon and Diane Miller
Ruth Miller
S. Ray and Linda Miller
Marcus and Debra Miller
Ronald and Connie Minzey
Helen Mishler
Michael Moloney and *Penny Free*
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 Barbara 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
Vaughn and Cynthia Nickell
Mike Nicolini
Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger
Quinton and Shannon Oakes
Donna Palacios
Virginia J. Pardee
Barbara Parker
Cole Patuzzi

Edward and Patricia Patzer
 Jeffrey and Diana Peat
 Darrell and Leslie Peterson
 Richard and Suzanne Peterson
William O. and Loretha Phillips
 Mike and Judy Pianowski
 Frank and Barbara Piaskowy
 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
 Sharman Reimer
Larry and Elizabeth Renbarger
Florence Richardson
 Matthew and Susan 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
 Judy Ross
 Charlene Rule
Keith and Imogene Rupel
 Marly and *Laura* Rydson
 Matthew and Tricia Rydson
 Janet Elaine Ryman
 Carl and Andrea Sartorius
 Mary Jo Sartorius
Vernon and Doris Sailor
 George and Terri Schmidt, II
 Rebecca Schowe
 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
 Kris and Elizabeth Seymore
 Amy and Amish Shah
 Paul Shannon
 James Foster Shea, Jr.
 Beverly Sherck Charitable
 Education Fund
Daniel and Josephine Sherman
 Joseph and Angela Shoemaker
John Shoup
 Dan Shoup
 Matt 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
 Joe and Emily Stiglitz
William D. Stimpson
 Ellen Stenberg
 Donald and Claudia Stohler
 Tim and Christy Stonger
Dick and Kay Stout
Larry and Susan Struble
 Doyle and Ann Stump
Marjorie M. Swift
 W. Earl and Linda Taylor
 Michael and Sheila Terlep
 Dr. Michael and Carole Thomas

George and Karen Thompson
 David and Peggy Tompos
 Richard M. and
 Anne K. Treckelo
Gerald A. and Barbara J. Trolz
 Donald and Beth Troyer
 Scott and Vonnie Trumble
 John and *Carole* Ulmer
Adrian and Treva Vaksvik
Richard and Bellodene Van Der
 Karr
 Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke
 Steven G. and Lynda Van Scoik
Michael and Meredith Vickrey
 Anne Von Der Vellen
Mary Elizabeth Walker
 Martha Walorski
 Thomas and *Patricia* Warrick
 David Weaver
Laveta Weaver
David and Dottie Webster
 David Weed
 Donald Weed
Robert and Peggy Weed
 William and Sarah Weed
 Keith and Leslie Weirich
 Chris and Jenny Welch
 M. Scott and Kimberlee Welch
 Ross and Linda Weldy
 Timothy and Ruth 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
 Jim Yager
 Al and Marie Yoder
 Candy and Darrel Yoder
 Ola and Vera Yoder
 Randi and Anita Yoder
Dorothy Zimmerman

STAFF

PRESIDENT AND OPERATIONS



PETE MCCOWN

President



TRESSA HUDDLESTON

*Executive Assistant/
Office Manager*



LAUREN KING

*Front Desk
Receptionist*

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



COLE PATUZZI

Chief Financial Officer



DALLIS MILLER

Controller

ACTS OF SERVICE: VOLUNTEERISM



ASHLEY JORDAN

*Director of
Acts of Service*

DEVELOPMENT: PHILANTHROPY AND DONOR SERVICES



CARRIE BERGHOFF

*Chief Development
Officer*



KIM MILLER

*Director of
Donor Services*



BILLIE EUBANKS

*Donor Services
Coordinator*

PROGRAM: GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



CANDY YODER
Chief Program Officer



AMANDA JAMISON
Senior Program Officer



RAY CALDWELL
Program Officer



VONNIE TRUMBLE
Program Officer



ANNE HORST HANBY
*Grants and Scholarship
Administrator*



BRITTANY SHORT
*Project Director,
Connect in Elkhart County*



KIMBERLY BOYNTON
*Coalition Director,
Building Strong Brains*

PROFESSIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: NONPROFIT COACHING, THE LEARNING CENTER



KEVIN DEARY
*Director of Professional &
Organizational Development*

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



BRIAN D. COOK
*Chief Marketing and
Communications Officer*



MARSHALL V. KING
*Director of
Communications*



BEKAH HOUFF
Special Events Manager

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 CLUB OF ELKHART COUNTY Jintown Community Center	\$75,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ELKHART COUNTY Strategic Plan	\$15,000
BUSHEL CRAFT FARM Fall Internships	\$10,000
CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Concord High School Reset Room	\$8,500
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION Summerscape	\$50,000
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION SPARK STEAM Pilot program	\$20,000
ENFOCUS Civic Innovation Fellowships & Internships	\$50,000
ETHOS Operational Support	\$200,000
GIRLS ON THE RUN MICHIANA Operational Support	\$9,500
GOSHEN COLLEGE Capital Campaign: Nursing & Health Sciences	\$902,821
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Gallup Student Engagement Poll	\$24,856

HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Operational Support, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$150,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC-ELKHART CHAPTER College and Career Fair	\$2,500
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC-ELKHART CHAPTER Trail Blazer Awards	\$10,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC-ELKHART CHAPTER The Black Womens Expo and Conference	\$5,000
INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND Elkhart Center Directorship Position, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$42,568
IVY TECH FOUNDATION Dental Lab	\$125,000
LIFELINE MINISTRIES Capital Campaign: Phase II	\$300,000
ULEAD Leadership Pilot with Elkhart Schools	\$50,538
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME Center for Civic Innovation Internships	\$63,355
WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Middle School Robotics Class	\$24,630
WNIT - MICHIANA PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORP. Education Counts Michiana	\$10,000
EXPENSES FOR STUDENT PATHWAYS INITIATIVE Consulting, training	\$40,839
TOTAL	\$2,190,107

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 residents.

ADEC Executive Leadership Search	\$10,000
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS Home Fire Relief in Elkhart County	\$5,000
BAUGO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Jimtown Early Learning Center	\$24,400
BEULAH MISSIONARY CHURCH Safety/Security Update of LIFE Preschool Facility	\$5,700
CANCER RESOURCES FOR ELKHART COUNTY Operational Support	\$25,000
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE Operational Support, <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	\$50,000
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Natural Helpers Expansion	\$10,000
CHILD AND PARENT SERVICES Primary Prevention Expansion, <i>Year 3 of 3</i>	\$150,000
CHILD AND PARENT SERVICES Growing Healthy Families, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$140,000
CHILD AND PARENT SERVICES Capacity Building	\$25,000
CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES Executive Director Leadership Development	\$5,250
CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES Latinx Outreach, <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	\$40,000

Kids & Families, continued

CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Accelerated Reader Program	\$8,000
COUNCIL ON AGING Life Enrichment Activity Center, <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$47,000
CROSSROADS UNITED WAY On My Way Pre-K	\$5,269
DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES OF GOSHEN 2023 Capital Campaign	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT Block Party	\$500
CORA DALE HOUSE Crisis Intervention Training	\$2,200
CORA DALE HOUSE Lexington House - A Clubhouse for Elkhart, <i>Year 3 of 3, 1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$100,000
ELKHART NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Baby Room Plus Update	\$2,000
FAITH MISSION OF ELKHART Family Shelter - 525 Middlebury Street	\$157,000
FIRST LIGHT MISSION Capital Campaign	\$75,000
FISCHOFF NATION CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION Arts-in-Education Residency	\$15,523
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MICHIANA Nurse Family Partnership, <i>Year 1 of 2</i>	\$88,345
GOSHEN COLLEGE ECoSistema Music Program, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$30,000
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY <i>Parent Nation</i> Book	\$4,200
GUIDANCE MINISTRIES Emergency - hot water heater/boiler tank	\$4,409

Kids & Families, continued

NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER Operational Support	\$20,000
HOOSIERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY Operational Support	\$15,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Operational Support, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$150,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Triple P- Positive Parenting Program, <i>Year 2 of 3, 1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$150,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC. - ELKHART CHAPTER Mental Wellness Conference and Health Fair	\$6,000
LA POSADA IMMIGRANT AID Operational Support	\$7,000
LACASA Building Community in South Central Elkhart	\$100,000
LACASA CEO Search	\$12,500
LACASA Roosevelt Center Roof	\$17,000
MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER Expanding Maternal and Children's Health Services	\$150,000
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS OF MICHIANA Operational Support	\$15,000
OAKLAWN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER Youth Mental Health Network, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$250,000
A ROSIE PLACE Training and Education Program, <i>1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$5,000
RETA Building Support, <i>Year 3 of 3, 1:1 Challenge*</i>	\$300,000
RYAN'S PLACE Capital Campaign, <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	\$200,000

SUSANNA'S KITCHEN	\$55,000
Relocation Project	
THE LIFE CENTER	\$5,000
Willing Hands	
VILLAGE TO VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL	\$5,000
Halo Program Training	
WALNUT HILL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	\$20,000
Operational Support	
WHEELCHAIR HELP	\$5,000
New Van, 1:1 Challenge*	
WOMEN'S CARE CENTER	\$100,000
Operational Support	
EXPENSES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE	\$79,325
Consulting services, marketing, Parent Nation books, Dr. Suskind event, etc.	
	TOTAL
	\$2,706,621

**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 organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County residents.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS	\$680,618
ACTS OF SERVICE	\$100,000
Program Support	
BETHEL UNIVERSITY	\$10,000
Student Support of RV Open House	
GOSHEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$2,500
Goshen Emerging Leaders Sponsorship	
GOSHEN COLLEGE	\$105,054
Community Engaged Learning, <i>Year 2 of 2</i>	
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$30,000
Business Diversity Initiative	
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF N. INDIANA	\$25,000
Business Legacy Hall of Fame Gala	
LATINOS PRO EDUCATION	\$5,000
Grand Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration	
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP	\$100,000
Operational Support, <i>Year 1 of 4</i>	
TOTAL	\$1,058,172

Grants

PLACEMAKING

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

CITY OF ELKHART Elkhart Sister Cities Hispanic Heritage Festival	\$3,500
CITY OF ELKHART Grand Prix	\$5,000
CITY OF ELKHART PARKS DEPARTMENT New River Greenway Trail	\$100,000
CITY OF GOSHEN FLOCK cameras, <i>Year 1 of 3</i>	\$25,000
CITY OF NAPPANEE Pedal Party Community Bike Ride	\$1,483
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN First Fridays	\$10,000
ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE Seasonal Support	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR Seasonal Support	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Vibrant Communities, <i>Year 2 of 3</i>	\$53,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Support for City Nation Place Conference	\$18,500
ELKHART COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Dunlap Roundabout: Trail Engineering	\$105,000
ELKHART COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT Sweet Cycle Rides	\$598

Placemaking, continued

ELKHART COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT Corson Riverwoods	\$203,000
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION Operational Support	\$80,000
ELKHART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER Envirofest	\$2,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Jazz Festival	\$50,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Veterans WWII Airshow	\$20,000
ENFOCUS Operational Support: Institute for Entrepreneurial Communities	\$50,000
FRIENDS OF THE LERNER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLEBURY PARKS Celebrating 90 Years of Krider World's Fair Garden	\$4,000
FRIENDS OF THE NYC RAILROAD MUSEUM INC Century Flyer Expansion and Renovation	\$5,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Seasonal Support	\$5,000
GOSHEN ARTS AND EVENTS GoFest	\$5,000
GOSHEN ARTS AND EVENTS Arts on the Millrace	\$3,500
GOSHEN COLLEGE Seasonal Support: Music Center	\$10,000
GOSHEN COMMUNITY CHORALE The Big Sing	\$3,000
GOSHEN FARMER'S MARKET Share the Bounty	\$5,000

GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Capital Campaign – Renovation Phase II	\$75,000
GOSHEN THEATER Strategic Planning	\$23,200
GOSHEN THEATER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
HALL OF HEROES SUPER HERO MUSEUM Comic Con	\$5,000
HISTORIC ELKHART RIVER QUEEN Boat Renovation	\$50,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC-ELKHART CHAPTER The Leroy Robinson Community Week	\$5,000
MAPLE CITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SOCIETY April Concert	\$2,500
MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Think Spring Garden EXPO	\$1,000
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Summer and Fall Festivals	\$5,000
MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY Let's Talk About It	\$1,500
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Seasonal Support	\$5,000
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART Seasonal Support	\$5,000
NAPPANEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Apple Festival	\$10,000
NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL Trails and Treats	\$3,000
NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL The Butterfly Trail	\$20,000

Placemaking, continued

POTAWATOMI ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY The Concession Lodge and Bear Habitat	\$100,000
PREMIER ARTS New Theatre Space	\$140,000
PREMIER ARTS Seasonal Support	\$10,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Seasonal Support	\$5,000
TOWN OF BRISTOL Corn Dog Festival	\$2,500
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Art Sculptures and Brick Path at Krider Garden	\$17,000
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Ridge Run and Roll	\$1,100
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY River Mill Trail Supplemental	\$96,125
TOWN OF WAKARUSA Wa-Nee Pedal Party	\$164
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Maple Syrup Festival	\$5,000
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Visitors Center, final payments	\$823,089
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Seasonal Support	\$15,000
EXPENSES FOR TRAILS INITIATIVE Connect in Elkhart County marketing, events, etc.	\$57,879
TOTAL	\$2,291,638

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 establishes more milestones as we progress together in our community.

25% MATCHING GRANT	\$928,933
TOTAL	\$928,933

THERE’S MORE OF THE STORY TO TELL

To see additional content from this year’s stories, including video and photo galleries, go to inspiringgood.org/ar2023



CONTRIBUTORS

A heartfelt thank you to the many contributors who helped put together this report, including:

WRITERS

Marshall V. King

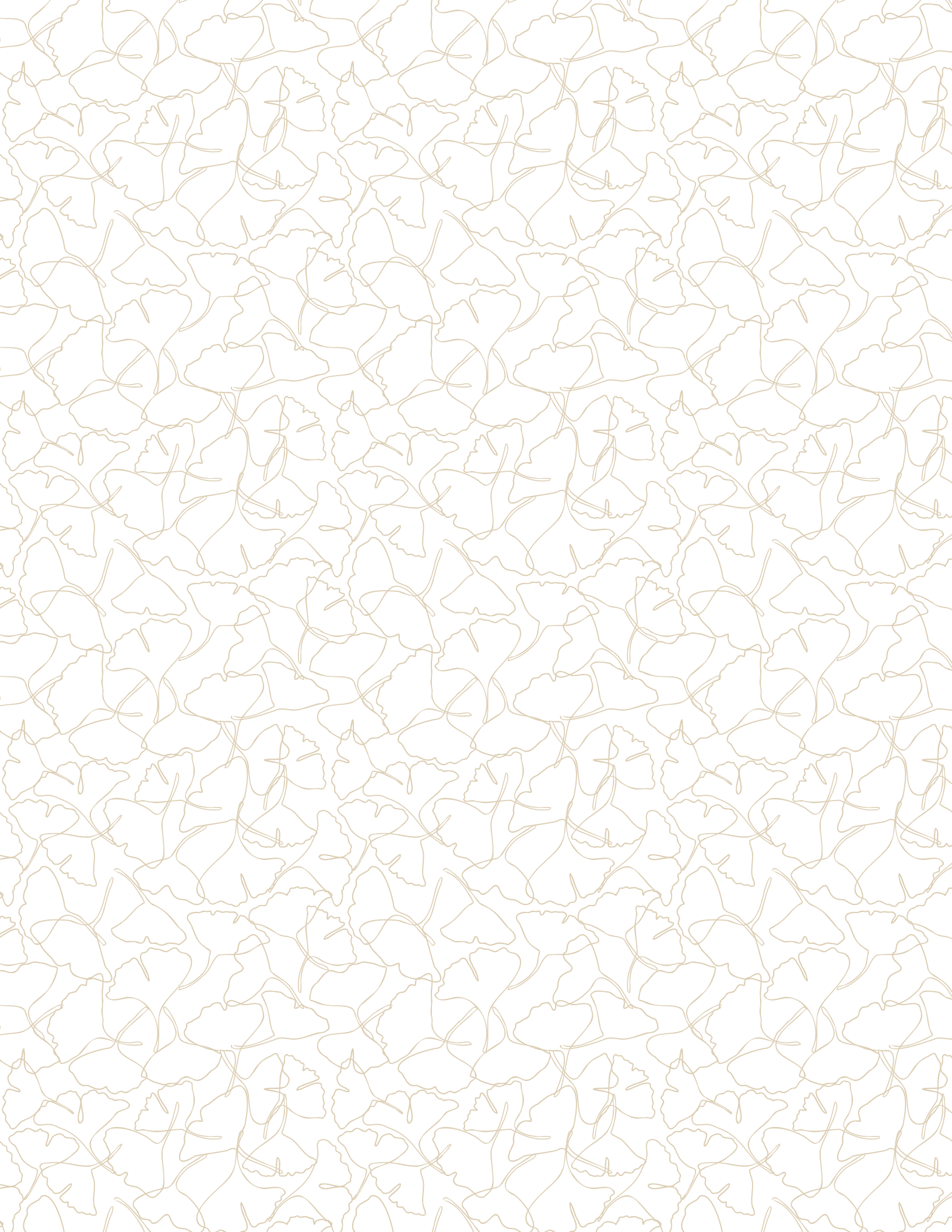
PHOTOGRAPHY

Bryan Chris
WNDU-TV
Indiana University South Bend

DESIGN

Kruse Design LLC







240 E. JACKSON BLVD.
SUITE 104
ELKHART, IN 46516

(574) 295-8761
INSPIRINGGOOD.ORG
INFO@INSPIRINGGOOD.ORG

