





 President Pete McCown smiles as he holds his granddaughter, Atara.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN ELKHART COUNTY

ne of the activities in which I delight the most is helping in the room for infants and toddlers at church. Parents bring their children for care during the service so they can focus on worship. I get to focus on their beautiful children. It gives me great joy to get down on the floor and play with these young, vulnerable children. I have been called "The Baby Whisperer."

A series of connections over the last seven years or more in our community has resulted in an initiative called Building Strong Brains to ensure that our youngest residents of Elkhart County are ready to learn and thrive when they arrive at kindergarten. Only 42% of children in Elkhart County possess the skills they need when they arrive the first week of kindergarten, which is alarming. The Community Foundation of Elkhart County and other community partners are coming together to commit to changing these outcomes for the better.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Our work at the Community Foundation continues to evolve and we are now in the position of convening and providing support for Building Strong Brains, as well as the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition, which has evolved out of collective efforts to finish the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and to grow and connect other trails.

As we look around the community, we see people building connections. Friends in Nappanee came together to honor Dr. Walter Anglemeyer with a scholarship fund. Elkhart Community Schools is partnering with Five Star Life to teach kids in outdoor settings. The John and Lois Fidler family works together across several generations to give generously to others in our community. Those are just a few examples of powerful connections being forged and fostered.

The Community Foundation's assets are now more than \$450 million. Our staff, board members, and committee members serve as stewards of the community's 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 \$38.6 million in gifts

in the Fiscal Year 2023-24. We are also delighted to report the investment portfolio produced an annual return of 12.2 percent. We were able to distribute \$31 million in grants.

Together, we are building connections that make our community stronger and more vibrant. We are grateful to do this work with you to enhance the places we live, the communities we love, and the people who proudly call themselves residents of Elkhart County, Indiana.

By the Numbers

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Total Assets

\$461m

**Total Gifts** 

\$39<sub>m</sub>

Grants

\$31m

Warmly,

PETE MCCOWN
President

Only 42% of children in Elkhart County possess the skills they need when they arrive the first week of kindergarten, which is alarming.



### 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cien Asoera Chairman

David Weaver Vice Chairman Todd Cleveland Treasurer

Deborah Beaverson

Secretary

Derald Bontrager Becky Bontreger Amy Brown Angie Eggering Raquel Espinosa Jan Farron Theresa Gunden Eric Ivory Kurt Janowsky Ken Julian John Liechty Galen Miller Dan Morrison 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

Mr. and Mrs. Marly Rydson Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sailor

Salvation Army Elkhart Corps Endowment

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sherman Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Schricker Ina L. Strasser Endowment

Trinity United Methodist Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Basil S. Turner United Way of Elkhart County Mr. and Mrs. Richard VanDerKarr Maynard W. Wells Family

YMCA/YWCA Joint Community Project

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## MISSION AND VALUES

## Mission

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

### Values

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

- Integrity: An abiding pledge to honesty, professionalism, humility, and respect.
- Inclusion: We seek and elevate diverse voices. We are most impactful when our organization and deliberations include people from varied backgrounds, opinions, and perspectives.
- Excellence: In our every endeavor.
- Collaboration: We believe in teamwork, both internally and externally.
   We desire to be trusted partners with community members, civic leaders, and nonprofit organizations to provide high-impact programs and services benefiting the broadest possible constituency.

#### FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

# **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
Dick and Deb Armington
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller
Megan and Troy Baughman
Deborah and David Beaverson

Roy Beck

Bill Deputy Foundation

Brian and Margot Borger

George and Marty Buckingham

Corson Family Foundation

Rob and Vicki Cripe

Cripe Family Foundation

Arthur J. Decio

Lois Dusthimer

Estate of Guy David Gundlach

John and Lois Fidler

David Findlay Susan Findlay

John and Gwen Gildea

Gordon McCormick Corporation Joseph and Holly Hosinski Dean and Ruth Hupp Irions Foundation

Rick and Sandy Jenkins

Javco

William P. and Toni Johnson
Thomas and Donna Kauffman

Donna Kercher Schrock Levi and Joanna King Delmar and Sherri King

Richard and Susan Klepinger

Chuck and Betty Lamb
John and Jane Leavitt
Allan and Karon Ludwig

Pete and Wendy McCown

Bob and Sue Miller

Gordon and Marie Moore
MutualBank Charitable
Foundation, Inc

Dzung and Francoise Nguyen Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger Mike and Judy Pianowski

Donald Pletcher

Marly and Laura Rydson

Mike and Vicki Schoeffler

Oscar and Marilyn Schricker

Bob and Marie Schrock
Brian and Lauri Smith

Carl and Emilie Tiedemann

Thomas and *Patricia* Warrick

David Weed

Jeff and Phid Wells

Madelon Wells

Welter Foundation

John and Carolyn Wolf

### 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 the tree represents many of the traits the organization 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.



## FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

We are pleased to report that the Community Foundation of Elkhart County had a good year. The Community Foundation received a total of \$38.6 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and because of past giving and investments, we were able to give \$31 million in grants. We are committed to stewarding the community's assets. Thank you for your generous gifts of time and resources to help us tend the community's assets.

Your Community Foundation

**AT A GLANCE** 

662

\$31m

\$461m

**TOTAL FUNDS** 

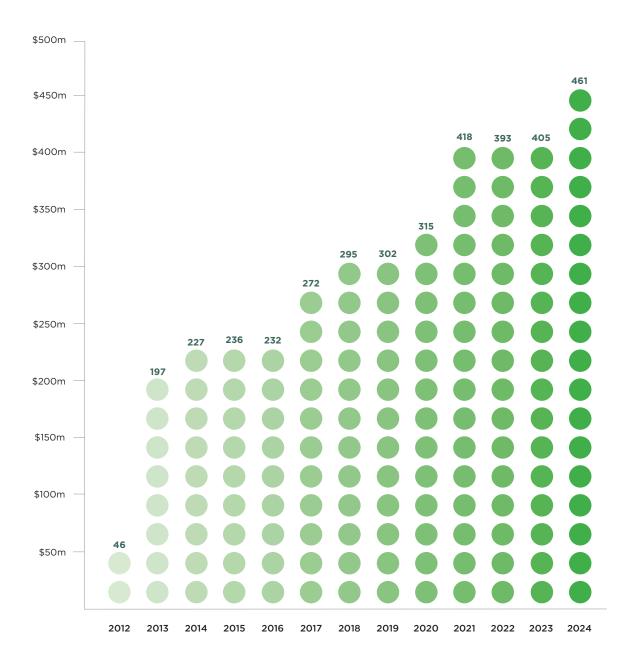
**TOTAL GRANTS** 

**TOTAL ASSETS** 

### HISTORICAL

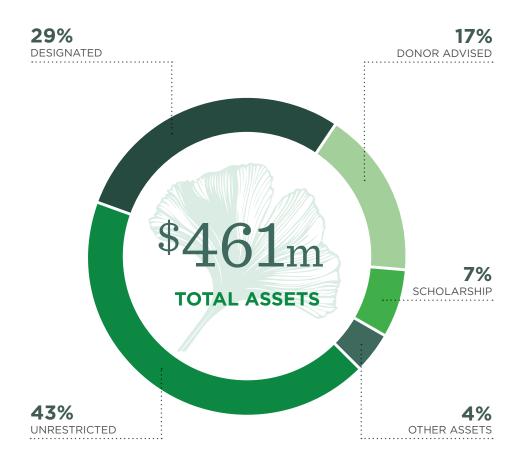
# **ASSETS BY YEAR**

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.



## **ASSETS BY FUND TYPE**

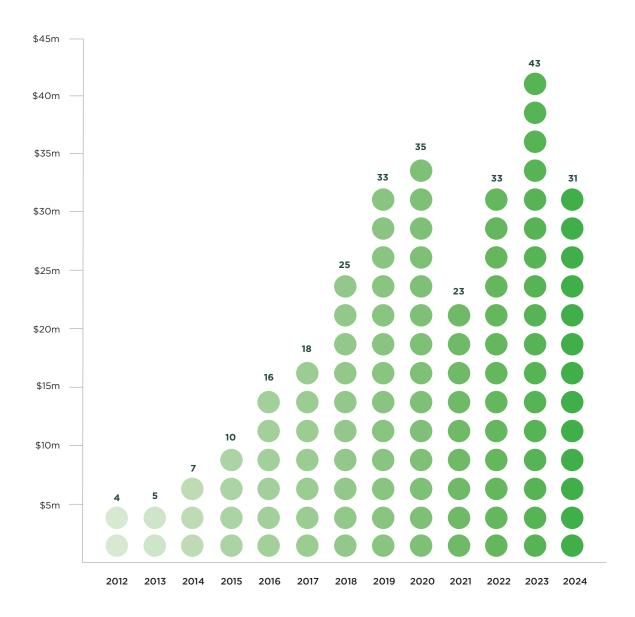
Since 1989 we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor's goals and establish their intent, we work with them to decide which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



### HISTORICAL

## **GRANTS BY YEAR**

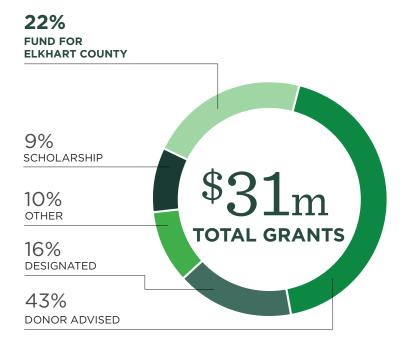
Most of the grants that the Community Foundation are trusted to manage are for specific areas designated by donors. Some of the grants are unrestricted, empowering the Community Foundation to respond to needs and make strategic grants to better our quality of life. A description of how these unrestricted grants were used to improve our community is found on pages 57–67 of this report.



### 2023-2024

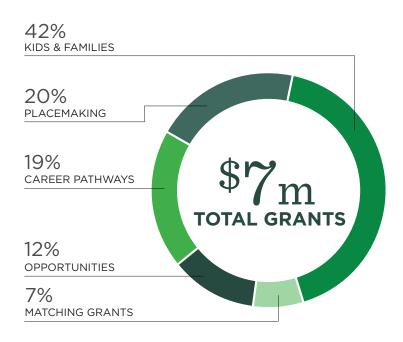
## **GRANT DISTRIBUTION**

The Community Foundation awards a range of grants, including distributions to agencies; grants directed by donors; and partnerships, projects and initiatives. Some of these are not reflected in the Program Services line in the Statements of Activities on page 14.



# FUND FOR ELKHART COUNTY

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our community's greatest opportunities and emerging needs. This year, \$7 million in grants were awarded in areas of emphasis for the Community Foundation.



### STATEMENTS OF

# **FINANCIAL POSITION**

 $Unaudited\ Financial\ Statements\ for\ Fiscal\ Years\ Ending\ June\ 30,\ 2024\ and\ 2023.$ 

	JUNE 30, 2024	JUNE 30, 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,572,000	\$2,162,000
Investments	\$455,805,000	\$399,896,000
Property and equipment	\$856,000	\$912,000
Right-of-use asset	\$1,400,000	\$1,507,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	\$274,000	\$279,000
Other assets	\$1,410,000	\$331,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$461,317,000	\$405,087,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$69,000	\$70,000
Accounts payable  Grants payable	\$69,000 \$2,752,000	\$70,000 \$3,906,000
Grants payable	\$2,752,000	\$3,906,000
Grants payable  Gift annuities payable	\$2,752,000 \$387,000	\$3,906,000 \$411,000
Grants payable  Gift annuities payable  Operating lease liability	\$2,752,000 \$387,000 \$1,418,000	\$3,906,000 \$411,000 \$1,518,000
Grants payable  Gift annuities payable  Operating lease liability  Custodial funds	\$2,752,000 \$387,000 \$1,418,000 \$43,842,000	\$3,906,000 \$411,000 \$1,518,000 \$40,344,000
Grants payable  Gift annuities payable  Operating lease liability  Custodial funds  Other liabilities	\$2,752,000 \$387,000 \$1,418,000 \$43,842,000 \$357,000	\$3,906,000 \$411,000 \$1,518,000 \$40,344,000 \$282,000

### STATEMENTS OF

# **ACTIVITIES**

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and 2023.

	JUNE 30, 2024	JUNE 30, 2023
SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES		
Contributions and grants*	\$33,813,000	\$20,322,000
Investment return, net	\$45,637,000	\$25,560,000
Fund administrative fees	\$2,640,000	\$2,566,000
Other	\$129,000	\$(36,000)
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES	\$82,219,000	\$48,412,000
EXPENSES		
Program services**	\$26,017,000	\$27,298,000
General & administrative	\$1,567,000	\$1,554,000
Fundraising	\$699,000	\$735,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,283,000	\$29,587,000
Change in net assets	\$53,936,000	\$18,825,000
Net assets, beginning of year	\$358,556,000	\$339,731,000
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$412,492,000	\$358,556,000

<sup>\*</sup>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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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.





### 100 Women Who Care Celebrates Giving More Than \$425,000

enny Welch got the idea from a book and will tell you that God was moving between the lines of text.

100 Women Who Care Elkhart County started in 2014 after she and her friend Sheila Terlep partnered with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to create a giving circle. Four times a year, women across Elkhart County gather and contribute \$100 each, 100 (Nomen (Nho Care resulting in a \$10,000 gift to a local nonprofit.

The group celebrated its tenth anniversary in July 2024 and has given away more than \$425,000 to nonprofits.

The group originated when an idea sparked from Welch reading the book "Be The Miracle" by

Regina Brett. The book shared the experience of another 100 Women giving circle. Welch felt a calling to create a similar local giving circle, so she called her dear friend asking her to consider founding this group with her.

> The ladies spread the word to everyone they knew, encouraging others to join. They were determined to create something bigger than themselves that would make an impact.

> > "I wanted to see women coming together, working together to make this community better," says Welch.

Welch and Terlep met with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County from the start to create a fund so that everything is housed in one place and donations and checks can be administered efficiently.

"It's a very efficient group. They bring us in for an hour, we have three presentations, we vote, and someone walks out with \$10,000 dollars."

Elkhart 😈 County

SHARON HIRSTEIN. 100 Women Who Care member





Sheila Terlep (left) and Jenny Welch speak at the July 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County event, which resulted in a \$10,000 grant. Samaritan Center gratefully received the award (shown at right).

The first meeting in 2014 was a hit and the start of what was all to come.

At the July 2024 meeting, the group hosted a huge celebration to commemorate and reminisce on the past ten years. The meeting was full, with past CEO recipients, current members, new women looking to join the group, and Community Foundation staff.

At a traditional meeting, once a woman has paid her \$100 contribution, she nominates a local nonprofit of her choosing. The only restriction is that it must be a nonprofit serving Elkhart County that hasn't been chosen in the past three years. All nominations go into a fishbowl to be drawn. Three will be chosen at random, and a five-minute speech will be given advocating for that nonprofit. After the presentations are done, women present at the meeting vote for one nonprofit. The one with the most votes receives \$10,000.

The July 2024 meeting had a special twist. The meeting occurred in its normal process, but Welch and Terlep went to the podium to announce the chosen recipient. They surprised the crowd by granting \$10,000 to all three nominations and everyone in the room applauded loudly. For the first time, \$30,000 was going to be given away at one meeting. The recipients were The Front Porch Foundation, the Silent Samaritan fund at the Samaritan Center, and Saving Grace Advocacy.

A week or so after the meeting, a check presentation follows at the site of the selected nonprofit. This allows the women to hand off the check and learn a little more about the nonprofit, which is the group's favorite part of the whole process.

To watch the video featured at the 10-year anniversary meeting or to learn more, please scan the QR code.







▲ Jenny Welch gathers nominations during a July 100 Women Who Care event, which was the only time men have been invited to attend this gathering.

Saving Grace Advocacy has received the \$10,000 check from 100 Women multiple times. Their mission is to "support the community of Elkhart County by assisting individuals with employment resources, life coaching, mental health counseling, family resources, and food aid."

Chris Ulery, director of Saving Grace Advocacy attended the 100 Women ten-year celebration meeting as a past recipient winner and was surprised to hear her organization's nomination that evening.

"I was completely shocked when all three nominations won, but it was very cool. When I first heard our name, I didn't think we would win because the other two organizations were also so deserving, but when I heard all three of us were receiving it, I started to cry. Our budget is not very big; we're a very small agency. So \$10,000 to us is crazy. It's an amazing amount that will help us provide more acts of services for people in our community," says Ulery.

Chief Development Officer
 Carrie Berghoff speaks during
 a 100 Women Who Care event.





▲ 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County has given more than \$425,000 in grants during its first ten years, including Susanna's Kitchen (left), Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County (right), and Saving Grace Advocacy (below).

Welch and Terlep ended the meeting with full hearts and were excited about what the future holds.

"I think the vision of 100 Women Who Care will continue to grow, maybe even within our own community. What's really neat is that between Jenny and I, I think we know three or four other 100 Women's organizations that have started up in other states, because they have reached out to us to ask about what we do and how we do it. It's cool to know that it didn't stop just here and I am excited to see how this group continues to grow and make an impact," says Terlep.

The generous members of 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County are delighted to have met needs including fighting homelessness, helping animals, and supporting children and families. This group is growing and welcomes all women in the county.



# "I think the vision of 100 Women Who Care will continue to grow, maybe even within our own community."

SHEILA TERLEP, 100 Women Who Care Elkhart County co-founder



# BERNICE SIMMS GAVE UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR FURRY FRIENDS

### Estate Gift Extends Her Generosity

hey say Bernice Simms was the first one in the office and the last one to leave.

Fred Lamble, who worked with her at Key Bank, tried to beat her into the office and got there at 7 a.m. one morning. She was there.

He got there at 6:30 the next morning. She was there. And he gave up.

"She just worked and earned money and saved it," says Pam Hluchota, another coworker at the bank. Simms died in 2022 at the age of 81 and left her estate to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. The money will support the Humane Society of Elkhart County, which she loved.

Simms grew up in South Bend and married William F. Simms Jr. in 1960. They never had children.

"So in essence, her whole world became about the Humane Society and animals, and those were her children in her life," says Hluchota.

Simms loved animals and had cats and dogs at home. Her obituary stated: "Her forever love of animals was hard-wired in her DNA. Dogs. She just never met a dog she didn't like. So it is not surprising

that she was totally devoted to the Humane

Society of Elkhart County serving in

a variety of volunteer capacities -

board of directors, chair of the

Volunteer Association, helping with community adoption events, working at the Red Barn Resale Shop, and supporting in any way that she could." She was also active at Hillcrest United Methodist Church, serving

on committees and as a greeter on

Sunday mornings.

In her 20s, she became a bank vice president and remained that for the rest of her career. "She didn't consider it work. It wasn't work for her. A lot of us felt that way," says Lamble.

"Since money was her world, she knew what it took to accumulate money, and that's what she helped thousands of people do in Elkhart County."

FRED LAMBLE, coworker of Bernice Simms



▲ Bernice Simms loved animals and extended her legacy of love with an estate gift to the Humane Society of Elkhart County.

She worked in employee benefits, which at the bank meant handling pensions and 401k funds. Lamble would go out and sell companies on Key Bank's services. Simms would make the funds work for companies and individuals. "Bernice was the glue because the face of the 401k business was really changing with technology and everything was becoming automated, online access, and you either had to be on the cutting edge of that or get out of the business. We were on the cutting edge for a while," says Lamble.

Colleagues described Simms as someone who didn't get mad, but would take an employee aside to address an issue. "She was a taskmaster, a quiet, quiet taskmaster," says Lamble.

Simms had navigated a number of bank mergers in her career and would suddenly be working for a new employer. She prepared and calculated details as she did her work and was able to navigate the changes. "I think the reason she held her own is that she believed in preparation," says Lamble.

# "Her whole world became about the Humane Society and animals, and those were her children in her life."

#### PAM HLUCHOTA, former coworker

But in 2002, she wasn't prepared for what came next. After another merger, Key Bank's employee benefits department closed. Simms was given a buyout and forced to retire. Just two years earlier, her husband had died and she missed him.

She didn't like retirement, but spent more time helping her church and the humane society.

Rob LaRoy, executive director of the humane society, said she would speed into the parking lot nearly every day as a volunteer. She was outgoing, kind, and very funny. "She was just a hoot," he says. "She was so much fun."

Prior to her death in October 2022 at the age of 81, she prepared her estate. A \$2 million gift from her

estate went directly to the humane society, giving it a cushion and allowing the start of a capital campaign for a clinic at the shelter. An additional gift is coming to the Community Foundation to help the humane society.

Simms helped thousands of others along the way, whether they knew it or not.

"Since money was her world, she knew what it took to accumulate money," says
Lamble. "And that's what she helped thousands of people do in Elkhart County. They may not have

realized it, right? But somebody's behind that curtain and the person behind the curtain was pretty simple."



 Bernice Simms (right) pauses for a photo with Heide Bennett while volunteering at the Humane Society of Elkhart County.

# GIFT VIII EXTENDS LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.'S TRANSFORMATIVE GENEROSITY

In 1990, Lilly Endowment Inc. offered the first Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) grants to Indiana's 12 community foundations, which had combined total assets of \$100 million.

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County got \$410,040.50 from what is now known as GIFT I for Elkhart's East Bank project downtown.

That was only the beginning.

The second, third, fourth, and fifth rounds of GIFT brought \$3.8 million from Lilly Endowment, matching local giving in most cases.

A dozen years later, GIFT VI raised \$1.5 million from Lilly Endowment to support Wellfield Botanic Gardens, Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, and the Humane Society of Elkhart County.

GIFT VII in 2018 helped support Tolson Center for Community Excellence and Elkhart Health & Aquatics with \$3.9 million.

GIFT VIII is underway. The Community
Foundation raised \$1 million for Tolson Center,
which the Lilly Endowment matched. As part of
this process, Lilly Endowment awarded another
\$2.75 million to the Community Foundation's Fund
for Elkhart County and another \$90,000 came as a
planning grant for a larger application to support
Building Strong Brains.

Lilly Endowment gave nearly \$1 billion to the state of Indiana through community foundations in the first seven cycles of GIFT. More than \$13 million flowed to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to support capital campaigns, work in neighborhoods, and a fund that supports the training efforts of The Learning Center to help local nonprofits. A bulk of the money has gone to the Fund For Elkhart County, the unrestricted fund from



which the community's volunteer committee and board members approve grants to nonprofits in collaboration with the foundation's Program team.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is one of the largest donors to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and is now one of the largest foundations in the world. It is a massive force for philanthropy, according to Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation.

"Lilly Endowment has incentivized the growth of one of our most important tools, which is the unrestricted funds so that we can do discretionary grantmaking in our community," says McCown.
Lilly's support of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholars program has allowed around 100 Elkhart County students to attend an Indiana college or university with full tuition covered. Lilly also plays a big role in supporting the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, which supports and convenes the 94 community foundations in the state.

Lilly Endowment's philanthropy will continue — as will the work that the Community Foundation does with its support. ◀





### Family Members Give Together

nce a year, the Fidler family gathers around John and Lois Fidler's dining room table for an important conversation.

Those who reside in northern Indiana come together to give away money from the family's donor advised fund. Over the last 23 years, the family has given generously to 65 local organizations. The collective impact of their donations is significant.

"It's fun to give money away," said Karen Lacounte, one of John and Lois Fidler's daughters.

The Fidler name is well-known in Goshen. The Fidler family owned and operated a ready-mix concrete company for decades. Lewis Fidler started a small filling station after returning from naval service in World War II. Lewis intended to sell land on the southeast side of Goshen for development, but when that didn't work out he started a sand and gravel business in 1946.

That struggled until 1955 when Lewis bought a ready-mix company and then a concrete block company. Over the years, he acquired other ready-mix companies as their owners retired. At one time,

Fidler Inc. had 110 cement trucks with the

red and white candy stripe design and

13 ready-mix plants in northern

Indiana. John, who had started

cleaning railroad cars as
a boy, ran the company.
His son, Steve, joined the
company by doing similar

manual labor.

In 1988, the Fidlers sold
their company to Evered &
Co. in Britain. That company
was actually the one that ended
up donating the pond and property
where the business had been to the City of

Goshen for Fidler Pond Park.

The Fidlers continued to own and operate Kuert Concrete, the oldest ready-mix company in the state of Indiana, which they sold in 2023 but continue to be involved in operating.



▲ The Fidler family's legacy of giving extends across generations. Lois (center) and John (second from right) are shown here with their children (from left) Steve Fidler, Kelley Fidler, and Karen LaCounte.

Lewis believed in helping others and taught that ethic to his family. "He did a lot of things for a lot of people," says John. Some of his philanthropic and volunteer activities with Goshen Rotary and local boards were well known, but at Lewis' funeral in 2003, a man walked up and told John that Lewis had paid to put the man through college.

After the company sold in 1988, John and Lewis wanted to help the community in new ways. They gave toward the construction of a pavilion at Pringle Park and other local projects. "Obviously

we couldn't have gotten where we did without customers and employees. Both are very important to us, particularly. We tried to treat people as family," says John. "We wanted a way to give back to the community and set up a way to help our employees and help our contractors who made us what we were."

Kelley Fidler, John and Lois' daughter, adds, "We wouldn't have gotten where we are without our community."

In loving memory: Lois Fidler passed away August 22, 2024, at the age of 84. She and John, her high school sweetheart and husband of 65 years, have given so much to Goshen and Elkhart County. We were able to interview her in June for this story. We are grateful for Lois and her legacy of kindness, service, and generosity and will miss her dearly.





In 2001, they set up a donor advised fund to help formalize how the family gives charitably. Starting in 10th grade, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Fidler family get a set amount to give away to a nonprofit. Once they graduate from college or turn 25, they join the family table to discuss how to split up the earnings from the endowed fund. The decision-making and conversation have plenty of banter and dry Fidler wit. That's part of the family tradition too.

"I don't think I've really understood the magnitude of it until I was able to sit down at the table," says Shelby Downing, Karen's daughter and one of the grandchildren. "You always have some sort of idea of what goes on. Obviously it's not a secret. Then just to sit down with my family and have discussions about the list of things that we had donated to the year before and discuss new ideas? It was cool. It was cool to be a part of that."

John and his wife Lois served on local boards, so they learned of community needs. John and Steve have also served on the Community Foundation's board and grant committees.

Through that, they learned more about organizations such as Cora Dale House, which supports people with mental health challenges.

Their service has shaped how the family gives together. "They've got this attitude of servitude and gratitude and they're living it out in their lives and really involved in these organizations beyond just giving money," said Brad Webb, Kelley's son and one of the grandsons. "I think obviously, anytime you can help or uplift anybody in your community and have a small part of that, it's pretty rewarding."

Sarah Kupke, Steve's daughter and one of the granddaughters, said as they gave money away, they couldn't always see its impact. Then her husband and the father of her children died. She took them to Ryan's Place, which the family had supported, to help them deal with the grief. "Being on the receiving end of this really helped me be able to see," she says.



"They've got this attitude of servitude and gratitude and they're living it out in their lives and really involved in these organizations beyond just giving money."

BRAD WEBB, a grandson describing the Fidler family members



▲ The Fidler family involves three generations in helping others. They gather as a family for a lot of the same reasons other families do, but also to do charitable giving and host a Christmas party for others.

Giving time, in addition to money, is important to those in the family. "You really get a lot more meaning out of it when you're putting your time into it rather than just your dollars," Steve says.

Twenty-five years ago, the family started a tradition of hosting a Christmas party at the Goshen Boys & Girls Club. "We were just thinking so hard about what to get our kids for Christmas and they were trying to figure out what to get us for Christmas," says Lois. "We all agreed there's

nothing that any of us really need. Why don't we pool our money we would spend on each other and do something right? That's a great party for the Boys and Girls Club. And it's amazing."

Lois is the one who reminds her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, "It's how you live your life. It's not the special one thing that you're giving money away. But I hope we're living lives that they can be proud of."



# MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LIFELONG CONSERVATION ADVOCATE

# Honoring Dr. Walter Anglemeyer

memorial scholarship fund at the Community Foundation started with a letter and then a phone call.

Dr. Walter Anglemeyer wrote a letter to the
Nappanee Conservation Club. He was in his early
90s and had been a longtime member of the club
that formed in the 1930s to promote
conservation and shooting sports.
His letter stated how much he

appreciated the club as a longtime hunter and gun collector.

Gus Feiler, a Nappanee
businessman who
respected Dr.
Anglemeyer, had
the idea of doing a
competitive shoot at the
club. He called Kenny Yoder
and Dan Hummel to help him
put it together.

Dr. Anglemeyer, age 93, was at the first shoot in 2021. He gave a rousing speech and fired the first magazine. Each of the 10 shots from the pistol hit the target. Then others, including Dr. Anglemeyer's son Wally, competed in rifle and pistol shooting and shotgun shooting of clay pigeons on the 11 acres of the club.

"We pulled it off," says Feiler.

After the shoot, he and Dr. Anglemeyer met to discuss what to do with the money raised by the shoot. "We talked for a long time," says Feiler.

The two agreed that a scholarship to a local student interested in pursuing a vocation related to conservation would be a good way to use the money.

Dr. Anglemeyer died in
October 2022, a few
months after the second
Dr. Walter Anglemeyer
Shooting Classic. He
had delivered more
than 3,000 babies
during his time as a
family doctor, starting in
1959 and retiring in 2007.

The shooting competition is raising money for scholarships, as well as the Nappanee Boys & Girls

Club, young people attending C.O. Mollenhour Conservation Camp, a pheasant farm youth shoot, and the NorthWood High School Trap Team that now competes in shooting as a varsity sport. The money supports local students.

Gus Feiler shows the target to Dr. Anglemeyer at the first shooting classic. Dr. Anglemeyer, in the months before his death, hit the target with all 10 shots.



A participant in the Dr. Walter Anglemeyer Shooting Classic fires a shotgun at the event in June.

The competition is likely to continue funding a scholarship or two every year, but Feiler wanted to ensure that Dr. Anglemeyer's legacy continues in other ways.

After a conversation with Community Foundation board member Todd Cleveland, Feiler and Wally Anglemeyer contacted the foundation for help in setting up a scholarship fund that would endow annual awards to local students.

The fund is growing. Those on the Dr. Walter Anglemeyer Scholarship committee, including Feiler, Yoder, Hummel, and Wally Anglemeyer, hope it can soon support two more scholarship awards annually, in addition to ones funded by the shooting competition. "If we can get the fund built to \$100,000, it will be self-funding for two scholarships a year," says Feiler. "The generosity of people has certainly helped a lot."

"If we can get the fund built to \$100,000, it will be selffunding for two scholarships a year. The generosity of people has certainly helped a lot."

GUS FEILER, philanthropist and friend of Dr. Anglemeyer



▲ Participants in the Dr. Walter Anglemeyer Shooting Classic compete annually in clay and target shooting.



A clay target thrower sits ready for the Anglemeyer Classic.

The conversation about scholarships excited Dr. Anglemeyer.

Awarding scholarships is also a rewarding outcome for those who work so hard to put together the shooting competition.

Hummel and Yoder, in particular, spend hours planning and staging the shooting classic. Yoder admits that he thought Feiler's idea of a competitive shoot was crazy when the first call happened.

After four years, and with all of the money raised going to help young people, they laugh about it together. All involved are pleased with how effort is connected to generous results. The event and the scholarship take a lot of work. "It does feel good," says Feiler.



▲ The first winners of the Dr. Walter Anglemeyer Scholarship are (holding checks) Isaac Simmons and Kate Wendzonka. Also shown (from left) are Kenny Yoder, Wally Anglemeyer, Mark Hummel, and Gus Feiler.

Hummel is proud of how the conservation club is helping support the trap team at NorthWood. The club and team both emphasize safety and responsibility in a fun activity. "It's got to be fun or they don't do it," says Hummel.

Mark Miller, a Nappanee metalworker participating in the shoot, calls shooting and hunting "clean fun." Dr. Anglemeyer was his doctor and mentor and he's pleased with how the event honors him. "I think about Doc all the time," says Miller.

The Nappanee Conservation Club promotes safety as it provides a place for shooting sports.







### Initiative Expected to Have Long-Term Impact on Success

he effort to help children and families in Elkhart County has deep roots over decades, but doing it this way is new.

Bringing organizations together to collaborate and work at the systems level to prepare children for kindergarten under an umbrella called Building Strong Brains is a recent effort that's quickly gaining momentum.

Building Strong Brains has a simple goal that will require a decade or more of work to shift systems.

Candy Yoder, the Community Elkhart County's Earl Foundation's chief program officer, has spent most of her four-decade career supporting children and their families in Elkhart County. "In all of my work with families over the years, I found parents who wanted the best possible outcomes for their kids and a number of parents who didn't have access to the resources or had other issues that

got in the way of doing what they wanted to do for their children," she says. "It's not because parents don't care. It's not because of potential. It's because there are a lot of barriers and burdens."

Kimberly Boynton, coalition director of Building Strong Brains, adds, "Every parent and caregiver wants the best for their child.

Accessibility is a huge component to consider. Community support is needed for children and families."

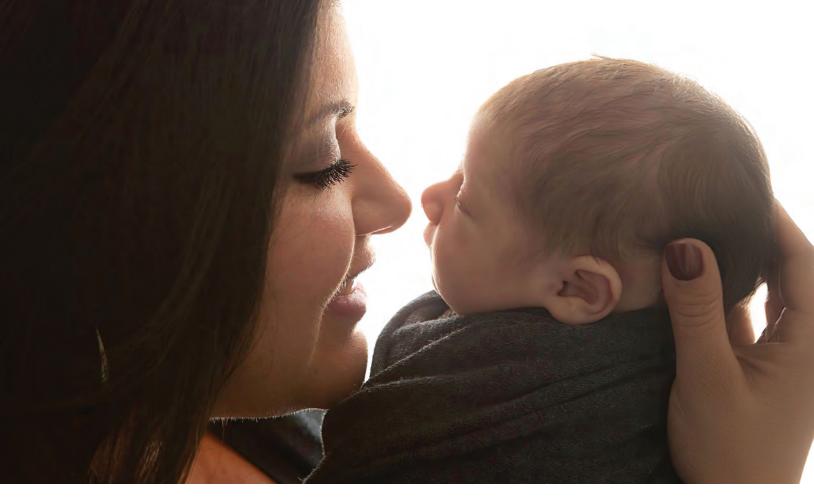
Elkhart County has a number of organizations supporting children and families, but there are things that a school or nonprofit can't do on their own.

Building Strong Brains is about approaching the work differently and doing it together. "The power of convening has been shown over and over again," says Boynton. "There's been a real power and leveraging that has come out of people convening together."



"Without our young children being healthy and literally building strong brains, we have a diminished future."

DR. REBECCA STOLTZFUS, Goshen College president



▲ Rocio Diaz snuggles her infant. Diaz is part of Building Strong Brains and is working to help all parents in the community ensure their children are poised for success.

After several years of careful work to build a coalition, Building Strong Brains launched in 2022. Less than two years later, it is seeing "astonishing growth," according to Rebecca Stoltzfus, president of Goshen College and a leader in Building Strong Brains as cochair of the Leadership Table, convener of the Health Systems Alignment Team, and a member of the steering team.

Stoltzfus said anchor institutions in our county are coming together to address an issue for vulnerable children who would otherwise be voiceless. There's a moral foundation for the work, as well as a practical economic and social one. "Without our young children being healthy and literally building strong brains, we have a diminished future," she says.

The structure of the coalition continues to grow and evolve from the initial five organizations of the Community Foundation, Horizon Education Alliance, CAPS, Crossroads United Way, and The SOURCE (Oaklawn). Representatives from more than 50 organizations are now engaged in the work.

EARRES, NOLBELTRUSSEES

Being ready for kindergarten includes having social skills and a sense of language.



# "There is momentum around this work being done where conversations are happening so that things do look different in the future."

KIMBERLY BOYNTON, Building Strong Brains coalition director

Sometimes, those organizations are competitors on other fronts, but joining to work together on this one. Backbone support, which connects, communicates, and convenes, is what's different from the past.

"Because of backbone support training,

and education on working as a system, we are seeing some changes in mindsets and belief that we all win if we make this change together," says Yoder.

Executives from the four major medical providers in Elkhart

County are gathering to work on early childhood success together.

Information is flowing between executives and the Maternal and Child Health Action Team.

Elkhart County lags in the state and nationally on infant mortality and maternal health, which health systems can address. A growing body of data being collected will help inform other decisions.

Childcare in Elkhart County isn't accessible or affordable — as in other communities — so networking opportunities and professional development are being offered for childcare directors, but policy change and more money available at the state level would have a bigger impact than local efforts, says Yoder.

How someone shared a kindergarten readiness checklist illustrates the level of collaboration. A school social worker in Bristol asked in an action team meeting if someone had one and someone responded that Sonya Overman, Growing Readers supervisor at Elkhart Public Library, had one. Soon it was available in

both English and Spanish in this network.

That grassroots work will soon change how ready students are to learn and succeed as they enter school. "There is momentum around this work being done where conversations are happening so that things do look different in the future," says Boynton.



A growing number of people and organizations are collaborating to prepare students for success in Elkhart County.



▲ Building Strong Brains is supporting Elkhart County's parents and children.

#### **CANDY YODER "RETIRING" BUT CONTINUING**

On December 31, Candy Yoder will transition from chief program officer at the Community Foundation to co-leader of Building Strong Brains.

Yoder has spent her career helping children, much of that at Child And Parent
Services, a nonprofit fighting child abuse and supporting children and families
in Elkhart County. She transitioned from CAPS to the Community Foundation in
2018. Her first major assignment was identifying priorities for the three grantmaking
committees of the foundation. At the end of that 18-month project, the committees and
board approved those priorities and early childhood was one for the Kids & Families Committee.

As Building Strong Brains has evolved from an idea into a collaborative initiative, Yoder has been central to the work of engaging stakeholders and aligning efforts.

"This is the best chance we have of making a difference and it is too exciting to walk away from," she says.

Kimberly Boynton will continue as coalition director and co-lead with Yoder, who says, "I think my work will continue connecting with other leaders in Elkhart County and having conversations about solving problems."



## **BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TIMELINE**

## 2017

Horizon Education Alliance starts gathering data on kindergarten readiness in Elkhart County. Over the first six years of collection, only 42 percent of students entered school with all six skills.



## 2020

Community conversations led by Indiana Philanthropy Institute's Tony Macklin result in a Results-Based Accountability framework for a systems change initiative.

## 2021

HEA's Impact Committee, of which Candy Yoder is a member, does a book study on systems change and collective impact.

Tamarack Institute is hired to help determine a path forward.

2019

The Community Foundation establishes "early childhood" as one of its five grantmaking priorities.

## 2022

Five agencies come together to launch Building Strong Brains to the public in November with author/expert Dr. Dana Suskind. Parent listening sessions and three action teams begin meeting before the launch.



2023

Kimberly Boynton is hired as coalition director. The Community Foundation's backbone support for the work grows.



2024

BSB grows to have 11 sponsoring organizations and around 250 people involved in the collective work.





# FROM CHALLENGES TO CHANCES: FIFTH GRADERS GOING ON A COLLECTIVE JOURNEY

#### Elkhart Community Schools and Five Star Life Collaborating

lkhart Community Schools administrators were watching students struggling in the years since the COVID-19 pandemic to make needed connections. Administrators were seeing kids struggling with motivation, respect, and wanting to be in the classroom.

Seth Maust, co-founder and president of Five Star Life, wanted to bus students out to the 350-acre property in southern Michigan for several hours of programming.

The goal was to try something different than traditional classroom programming, says Aubrey Danielson, executive director of Five Star Life, a program that teaches character, leadership, and mindset changes. "And so we said, well, why don't we figure out a way to align what we do out here at Summit with all of our experiential learning opportunities with academic state standards so that kids learn

state standards so that kids learn in an innovative way."

Transportation was a challenge. Funding was an issue. Yet Tonda Hines, manager of community and family engagement with Elkhart Community Schools, was determined. She pointed out that all ECS fourth graders go to Elkhart Health &

Aquatics for swimming lessons and asked if the school system could do something similar with fifth graders and Five Star Life.

ECS's top administrators said yes. Six of the 13 elementary principals said they wanted to participate in a pilot program in spring 2024. The school system funded the pilot and the Community Foundation's Career Pathways Committee approved a \$405,000 grant to help fund the next three years of the program.

"It definitely is a collaborative community. Everyone's bringing something to the table to make

this happen," Hines says.

Once a week for six weeks this past spring, fifth graders traveled by bus to Five Star Life's property that it purchased in 2014. One building at a time, Five

Star's staff and volunteers have transformed the former YMCA camp

into a hub for teaching leadership skills.

As she gives a tour of the property where the students rode horses, went fishing, and hiked, Danielson explains how she started as a volunteer in Five Star's programs when she was a high school student. Then she helped write grants during college. In 2022, she became executive director.



▲ Working with animals in a stable helps students gain a different skill set than those learned in the classroom.

In that role, she's navigated what the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources want for the elk and other animals they raise. The Five Star team is in the process of completing an indoor archery range near the outdoor archery and hatchet throwing areas. She points to the blacksmith area where elementary students make S-hooks aided by 1,200-degree heat.

Whether it's at the daycare in Osceola, in northern Indiana's largest traveling basketball league, or at the property in Union, Five Star's mission is to change kids' mindsets. Every activity has a core lesson.

Five Star specializes in using experiences to spur learning. Lindsey Brander, Elkhart Community Schools assistant superintendent of student services, said that's just as important as academic learning. Because of the pandemic, early adolescents have felt more isolated and weren't able to build skill sets that include collaboration and perseverance. Over the six weeks of the pilot program, Brander and other educators saw a difference. "When you're talking about what we

need to support the whole child, the programming offered here at Five Star is really a godsend for our students," she says.

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Working with horses and other farm animals is part of the program at Five Star Life, which is partnering with Elkhart Community Schools and other organizations.



Kelly Carmichael, principal of Cleveland Elementary School, said giving students the opportunity to have experiences such as petting horses or getting in a boat was a big deal. "In the classroom kids are struggling with learning. Doing that over and over again isn't producing the results that we're looking for," she says.

Jeremy Bechtel, principal of Woodland Elementary School, watched students' willingness to tackle hard things in the classroom improve. "Just the things that we want them to do and be successful during the school day were becoming easier for them to do," he says.

Helenia Robinson, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, said attendance was better on days classes were going to Five Star. Teachers and students were excited by the opportunity.

Other administrators watched students work together in new ways or teachers bond with students more deeply. They expected the little things like applying bug spray and sunscreen to be challenges and they weren't. They simply saw kids learning and going home happy and tired.

Danielson wasn't surprised. She's accustomed to seeing the impact of Five Star's experiences.

"I am so lucky that I get to be a part of a mission where I get to see kids grow, I get to see them change, I get to see these kids that were closed off, all of a sudden, they come out here and they come alive," she says.



▲ A student shares with a group during the pilot program of Elkhart Community Schools fifth graders at Five Star Life.



▲ Elkhart Community Schools principals are excited about the partnership with Five Star Life. From left are Jeremy Bechtel, Woodland; Victoria Hayes, Mary Beck; Kelly Carmichael, Cleveland; Travonda Goins, Pinewood; Helenia Robinson, Roosevelt; and Tim Pedley, Bristol.

The challenge is now for Five Star and Elkhart Community Schools to grow and sustain the successful program.

The six elementaries will send students for six weeks again this fall and again in the spring. There are now discussions about having fifth graders from all 13 of Elkhart Community Schools elementaries take part in the program. That will take more funding.

There's a commitment to find it.

"If this is an effective program, we're seeing the gains for students, we're providing these opportunities, how can we scale it up for the other schools but also continuing on?" says Brander.



Community Foundation support is helping ECS fifth graders at Five Star Life.



#### CREATING AND CONNECTING TRAILS

## CRAFTING SAFE PASSAGES AND STRONGER BONDS

#### Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition Builds On Connect In Elkhart County

ou will often see families enjoying a sunny afternoon biking, strolling, or simply taking in the scenery on Elkhart County's trails. And in the early morning dawn, many weekday commuters frequent the same paths. More than 250,000 trips like these are made annually, according to Michiana Council of Government's trail usage counters.

The Connect in Elkhart County stakeholders are working hard to build a world-class network of trails that connect our communities. In 2022, representatives from across the county gathered to put their mark on a developing county-wide trails master plan. Residents, health sector leaders, urban planners, engineers and many others engaged in a process that produced the plan we now call Connect in Elkhart County. Later that year, with a plan vetted by the community, the Community Foundation hired Brittany Short as director for the initiative and convened a steering committee to strategically plan next steps. The committee determined that a plan of this magnitude needed staff to operationalize, and that the foundation should take the lead in establishing that structure.

Now, several years later, a coalition made up of governmental partners, nonprofits and residents is emerging in order

> to build out and advocate for this vision. A key partner — the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail — is reorganizing and reinventing itself to align with the Connect plan. The timing is fortuitous as the organization just completed its final

development project on the 17-mile trail that connects Shipshewana, Goshen and Middlebury. The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is the backbone of the county's trail network and the



namesake of the evolving coalition.

"We're really focusing on building better recreation and transportation options for residents, while also creating incredible opportunities for economic development."

BRITTANY SHORT, Trails Coalition director





▲ Horse-and-buggies and bicycles share roadways with motorized vehicles, but the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition is working to connect and create more trails as safe pathways free of motorized vehicles.

An interlaced operating entity called the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition has a board of directors guiding the evolution and execution of the plan. The board features representatives from Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, community members, and both the Community Foundation's Board and Placemaking Committee. "It's exciting to see entities and organizations that wouldn't normally work together, coming together and making breakthroughs around this vision," says Short, adding that the collaboration is unprecedented.

Over the last two years the initiative's impact can be seen through hard-earned successes in trail development, fundraising and event participation. When work began in 2022, there were 68 miles of multi-use paths in Elkhart County. That number has now grown to 71, not including a mile of River Mill Trail likely to be done in Middlebury this season. Plans for another 13.5 miles of new trail are underway. Included in that figure is a six-mile trail from Wakarusa to Nappanee which will eventually provide a safe route for student travel to Wa-Nee schools. "Having a connected community is good for everyone," says Short. "A strongly connected trail network means that kids can safely ride or walk to school and those without access to a reliable vehicle or who can't obtain a driver's license can get where they need to go. We're really focusing on building better recreation and transportation options for residents, while also creating incredible opportunities for economic development." A trail that will connect downtown Elkhart to Mishawaka is also being planned with support from a federal grant.



▲ Bicyclists at the Pedal Party in southern Elkhart County prepare for the ride.

Additionally 1.8 miles of Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, the only crushed limestone section in the network, is being paved later this fall. This unique collaboration between governmental and nonprofit entities saved both donors and taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars off the original price tag.



In addition to trail development, the coalition is also focused on encouraging trail usage through marketing, communications, and events. Various volunteer groups organize events to highlight existing trails and fundraise for advocacy and development activities. During a ceremony honoring the completion of the Pumpkinvine, Goshen Mayor Gina Liechty emphasized the trail's role as an economic driver.

"What was once a highly controversial initiative has now become a model that communities across the state and nation would love to have."

GOSHEN MAYOR GINA LIECHTY on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail



▲ Founders, volunteers, and partners who helped start and complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail gathered to celebrate in June.

"What was once a highly controversial initiative has now become a model that communities across the state and nation would love to have. This success is the result of a grassroots effort by a dedicated group of people who, through years of persistence and countless hours of volunteer service, made this vision a reality," she said. These events garnered substantial contributions, showcasing the community's commitment to this cause.

Regionally, Elkhart County is setting the bar for collaboration and creativity around the development of bike and pedestrian pathways. The coalition's dedication to creating a vibrant, accessible place for everyone is tangible. But these efforts go beyond building physical paths; they create connections across the community, linking neighbors, enhancing quality of life, and paving the way for a more connected future. Through this initiative, the community is investing in a legacy of togetherness and civic pride that will last generations.

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Elkhart County has idyllic country settings for some of its trails.



## MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER CARING FOR COMMUNITY

#### Grants and Generosity Propel Healthcare Forward

aple City Health Care Center's growth spurt is being aided by a connection between a landlord, a mayor, and a new executive director.

In January 2022, Todd Lederman learned from the television news that the Veterans Administration would be leaving the space he rented to the federal agency. The VA had been there seven years and was promising a 10-year contract

when he learned of the surprising change of events.

He purchased the medical
equipment and was
shopping the building to
local healthcare agencies,
including Maple City Health
Care Center, which was going
through a leadership transition.

After months of struggling to find a tenant, he told Jeremy Stutsman, then mayor of Goshen, who shortly thereafter met with Paul Shetler Fast, the new executive director of the community health care center.

Soon, Lederman and Shetler Fast were talking.
"We just had marvelous conversations with Paul,"
Lederman says.

Shetler Fast had worked for the VA after graduate school and before he came back to Goshen with his family. He was hired as the new leader of the community health organization, which he saw as needing more space. "We knew we were busting at

the seams and we hadn't taken new patients for two or three years during COVID,"

he says. "And so we knew that

for our mission we needed to

be opening up for patients,
which means we needed
a new space so we were
starting the process of
looking around for new
space."

Historically, Maple City Health Care Center had been a neighborhood clinic. It started in 1989 in an unused

Goshen fire station. The center and founder James Nelson Gingerich got national attention for how it offered high-quality medical care on an affordable sliding scale and harnessed Medicaid and Medicare payments to support growth. In 2015, it added Vista Community Health Care Center and in 2021, opened a dental clinic.



▲ Paul Shetler Fast (right) talks with an employee in the new Westend Community Health Center.

The new Westend Community Health Center is in a building constructed in the 1990s and purchased by Todd and Cindy Lederman in 2006. It is near U.S. 33, closer to Elkhart, and a bus stop is nearby. It's adjacent to Brookside Manor, where a growing number of Haitian immigrants are living as they seek asylum. "It was just a miracle for both sides," says Lederman. "It was just what they needed. It was a location advantageous to them. It was Godordained, I believe. We are grateful to partner with them basically in the work of the kingdom."

The organization needed \$2 million to make the leap. Some of that money covered the lag in Medicaid reimbursements and the addition of staff, as well as other expenses. The Community Foundation gave \$150,000 to add maternal and child health staff and another \$500,000 grant for the new location. "The grants from the Community Foundation helped unlock other funds to be able to get to that \$2 million and make this possible," says Shetler Fast.

## "I definitely see us filling in the gaps of what healthcare is needed."

ROCIO DIAZ, community outreach coordinator for Maple City Health Care Center The organization's leaders made the decision in May 2023 to proceed and things moved quickly. In order to qualify for additional Medicaid funding for 2023's work, MCHCC needed to demonstrate more than six months of service at the site in the calendar year. So in late June 2023, Shetler Fast became patient number one in the facility, where lights were still being installed and paint was going on walls. Dr. Margaret Loewen ran labs and prescribed medication. Other staff members, nearly all of whom are patients at the clinic, also saw a doctor.

Maple City Health Care Center had 6,000 patients for a number of years and couldn't accept more. Yet the demand for services was high, in part because they don't turn anyone away for inability to pay, medications are offered at cost to patients, and labs and mental health needs are offered onsite.

The organization that had stayed small isn't any longer. Staff has grown from 100 to more than 150 with the addition of the new location. The number of patients may reach 10,000 this year.

Eleven staff members offer mental health services in multiple languages. About half of Maple City's patients speak Spanish and Haitian Creole is the second most common language. Patients who speak Spanish, Haitian Creole, Ukrainian, Russian, Arabic, and a range of other languages can speak their language to a staff member or translator, as 92 percent of the staff are bilingual.

In immigrant communities, mental health care often carries a stigma. Maple City can offer it as part of a wide array of integrated services without others becoming aware.

Prenatal care is offered, along with delivery at Goshen Hospital, as well as pregnancy and parenting groups. Pediatric professionals can do screenings for autism. Nutrition professionals are on staff. The dental clinic helps those in need. Tattoo removal is offered at Vista in partnership with the Elkhart County Jail Ministry. The suite of services is broader than nearly anywhere in the community, says Shetler Fast.



▲ Employees at the Westend Community Health Center offer a spectrum of health services in a range of languages.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



▲ Prenatal care is a key service offered by Westend Community Health Center.

Patients are coming from Elkhart and across the county. "We have the highest uninsured rate in the state," says Shetler Fast. "So more than a third of our patients are completely uninsured. We have the highest percentage of people who speak a language other than English in the state, and we have the highest percentage who identify as Hispanic in the state. Those are all somewhat connected, but not entirely overlapping."

The clinic is partnering with other clinics and local health systems. "I definitely see us filling in the gaps of what healthcare is needed," says Rocio Diaz, community outreach coordinator.

The clinic's work is recognized for its quality, with it recently earning the distinction of being in the top 10 percent in the nation among clinics of its type.

With the addition of the Westend Community Health Clinic, MCHCC is able to help even more kids and families in Elkhart County. "Because if we can address mental health issues for a kid or we can address obesity or diabetes or hypertension in a kid, you've really altered the course of their life in a really profound way," says Shetler Fast.

### NEWS FROM 2023-2024

#### The Learning Center Booms with Strong Participation at Nonprofit Training Events

The Learning Center continues to grow.

Attendance is higher at free training events for those involved with nonprofits in Elkhart County. A record number of chief executive officers are involved in CEO Roundtables and participating in the annual CEO Retreat. Programs are even expanding to involve Kosciusko County.

Kevin Deary, director of professional & organizational development, is excited about the growth. "I am just so pleased that our local nonprofits are taking advantage of the support we're offering at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County," he says. "We work hard to offer meaningful educational opportunities and coaching to make our nonprofits stronger and more vibrant."

Deary is offering a CEO Roundtable for partners of the Community Foundation of Kosciusko County and K21 Health Foundation. The two organizations are paying a fee to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County rather than create their own programming. In addition, the organizations can send participants to TLC events that are usually limited to people from Elkhart County.

Ten events a year are being offered to nonprofits. The focus this year is on development and fundraising, though sessions in the series will also cover marketing and communications, cyber security, and human resources. "I'm so excited about our schedule of TLC classes this year," says Deary.

To learn more, go to *https://inspiringgood.org/the-learning-center* or contact **Kevin Deary** at *kevin@inspiringgood.org*.



#### The Inspiring Good Podcast: Elkhart's New Beacon of Wisdom from Community Leaders

In late 2023, Kevin Deary had an idea.

He wanted to record some of the wisdom he was hearing from nonprofit leaders in Elkhart County and share it with others.

Though he wasn't a heavy consumer of podcasts, he pitched the idea for one hosted by the Community Foundation and the Inspiring Good Podcast was born.



The episodes are roughly 30 minutes and listenership continues to grow. You can hear a range of interesting and wise local people sharing about their work, their passions, and our community on your favorite podcast platform, including Spotify, Apple, or Amazon Music. You can also learn more and listen at https://inspiringgood.org/podcast.



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#### Pioneering a New Era of Service: Reinventing Volunteerism for Tomorrow

Volunteering is different since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the global crisis, Ashley Jordan, director of Acts of Service, could put out the call for volunteers and people would show up as individuals or part of a business or school group.



Acts of Service is the program of the Community Foundation to spur people to share time and talent along with their treasure. Jordan continues to work with business partners, many of whom create a single day of service rather than urging employees to take work-time to serve throughout the year. That makes it more challenging for Jordan to find volunteers for daytime needs at nonprofit organizations.

Enthusiasm for volunteering is growing again, especially among the youth and seniors within our community. Students from Concord, NorthWood, and other schools across the county are embracing the joy and fulfillment that come from serving others. "I remain hopeful and committed to helping people find ways to serve their community," Jordan says. "While it's a challenge to match volunteers with needs, the success stories we witness daily are nothing short of inspiring, especially the energy brought forth by our young volunteers."

This past year Jordan began attending neighborhood socials orchestrated with the Elkhart Parks & Recreation Department. Spanning six vibrant gatherings in parks around Elkhart, these events have become a fantastic venue for connecting with families and fostering a shared commitment to community involvement.

Jordan is heartened by the impact of these interactions. "We've discovered that approaching community members in their familiar spaces is incredibly effective and builds strong, lasting connections," she says. "Encouraging community involvement has never been more rewarding. We are thrilled by the active participation and eagerness we see, and we're eager to continue nurturing these vital community relationships."

https://actsofservice.com





Volunteers from Edward Jones offices in Indiana help make cards.

#### Building Tomorrow Together: Building Blocks Talks Is Helping Plan Our Future

A collaborative effort is bringing thought leaders in civic planning and urban design to Elkhart County.

In March, Chuck Marohn, the founder and leader of the Strong Towns movement, toured the cities in the county, spoke to about 200 members of the public, and met with government, business, and civic leaders.

In September, Jim Brainard, a Bristol, Indiana, native and former mayor of Carmel, Indiana was slated to speak in Goshen on what he would recommend to improve the quality of place in this community.



Two speakers a year are likely to be brought as part of the series, which is dubbed "Building Blocks Talks." The effort is a collaboration of weIMPACT, Connect in Elkhart County, Community Foundation, and the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"Most of us want similar outcomes in our community, particularly high-functioning neighborhoods," said Dave Weaver, founder of weIMPACT Group and the current chairman of the Community Foundation board. "We want great education systems, top-notch local retail, comfortable and professional work environments, housing that suits many, and cultural and civic buildings that instill pride of place. Are our actions leading to these outcomes? Elkhart County has all the necessary attributes to be a vibrant and aspirational community to invest in, educate in, and thrive."

## Advancing Expertise: Elkhart's Estate Planning Council Offers Key Networking and Educational Opportunities

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, including continuing education events that offer needed credits for maintaining professional credentials. However, the meetings are often over lunch and become a place for accountants, attorneys, bank officers, wealth/trust advisors, and other professionals who work within estate planning to network with each other.

Annual membership is \$100.

To learn more about how to visit a meeting and join this group, visit https://inspiringgood.org/estate-planning-council-membership or contact Kim Miller, director of donor services and human resources, at kim@inspiringgood.org.



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## **LEGACY SOCIETY LIST 2023-2024**

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

Terrance Baugher

Leon Bauman and Char Yutzy

David and Deborah Beaverson

William and Linda Beier

Al and Rebecca Benham

Stephen and Ruth Ann Berger

Carrie and Drake Berghoff

Sadie Berkshire

George and Mona Biddlecome

Jim and Joan Bock

Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes

Derald and Cindy Bontrager

Tyson and Sarah Bontrager

Wilbur and Sarah Bontrager

 $Wendall\,Bontrager$ 

Dorothy Borger

Thomas Borger and Elizabeth

Naquin Borger

Mary Jean Borneman

Carl and Susan Bossung

Brian and Jeannelle Brady

Coley and Patty Brady

Susan Branson

Tim Braun and Alysha Liljeqvist

Terrence and Kathy Brennan

Conrad and Debra Brenneman

Michael P. Bristol

George and Martha Buckingham

George and Patricia Bucklen

Justine Sparks Budd

Wilbert and Alice Budd

Alan and Nancy Burbano

Robert and Barbara Burger

B. Jane Burns

Andrew and Cindy Carpenter

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

Barbara Collins

Richard and Kathy Collins

Brian and Traci Cook

Tom and Dot Corson

Donald and Margaret Covert

Barbara Cowles

Betty Cox

Michael and Teri Crabill

Douglas Cripe

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

Jean and Kevin Deary

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

Joel and Amy Duthie

William and Jeanie Eastman

Marcus and Robin Ebright Zehr

Arthur Eby and Janet Eby

Todd Ebv

Troy and Darlene Eichelberger

Tom and Sara Elkin

Kav Ann Eller

Sharlene Eller-Preston

Susan P. Ellington

Jane Eslick

Ned and Agda Farber

Jan Farron

Frederick and Dorothy Feick

Gus and Teri Feiler

Bill and Kristin Fenech

John and Lois Fidler

Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler

#### **LEGACY SOCIETY LIST 2023-2024**

Stephen and Shelly Fidler

David 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

Richard and Tracey Hertling

Alan Hess

Stan and Sharon Hess

Leon and Pam Hluchota

Larry and Lucretia Hochstetler

Nicholas Hochstetler

Reuben Hochstetler

Theodore Hochstetler

Terry and Lu Hoogenboom

Floyd and Esther Hoover

Mary E. Hoover

Shirley Hoover

Joyce Hultin

Jean Heminger

Eugene W. and Barbara Hungate

Jane Hunter

Tom and Jennifer Irions

Randall Jacobs and Rachel

Miller Jacobs

Melvin and Deborah Jacobson

Moe and Beverly Jacobson

Brian and Amanda Jamison

Rick and Sandy Jenkins

Levon Johnson

William P. and Toni Johnson

Ashley Jordan

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

 $\mathit{Ted}$  and Diane Kolodziei

Don L. and Jurate Krabill

Richard and Joleen Krause

Mark and Diane Kritzman

Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklaus

Michael L. and Rebecca Kubacki

Mark and Karen Kurtz

Chuck and Betty Lamb

Mark and Carolyn Landis

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

Molly Livengood

Ralph and Rita Lockerbie

Frank and Tonja Lucchese

Mary Jo Ludwick

Allan and Karon Ludwig

Mervin and Dorothy Lung

Philip and Jeannette Lux

Stephen and Maralee

Macumber

Tony and Tammy Magaldi

Joseph Manfredi

Frank and Marsha Martin

Rex and Alice Martin

Ashley Martin and Bernerd

Haskins

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

Charlotte Miller

Dallis 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

Mike Nicolini

Vaughn and Cynthia Nickell

Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger

Quinton and Shannon Oakes

Robert Oldenburg

Donna Palacios

Marie 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
Matthew and Patricia 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

 ${\it Matthew} \ {\it and} \ {\it Susan} \ {\it Richardson} \\ {\it Robert} \ {\it E.} \ {\it and} \ {\it Sandy} \ {\it Richardson} \\$ 

Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke Steven G. and Lynda Van Scoik

James Rieckhoff 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 and Jackie 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

Jonathan Schrock and Amanda

Yoder

Janet Rae Scribner

Kris and Elizabeth Seymore

Amy and Amish Shah

Paul Shannon

James Foster Shea, Jr.

Damian Sherck Jonah Sherck Ron Sherck

Daniel and Josephine Sherman Joseph and Angela Shoemaker

Dan Shoup

John Shoup

Margaret Shoup

Matt Shoup

Claire Skinner

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 Alexander Strati

Larry and Susan Struble Doyle and Ann Stump

Mary Sutter

Larry and Sherry Swank

Dean Swihart

Marjorie M. Swift

W. Earl and Linda Taylor

Michael and Sheila Terlep

Dr. Michael and Carole Thomas George and Karen Thompson Phillip and Jeannine Tom David and Peggy Tompos

David and Peggy Tompo Richard M. and *Anne K*.

Treckelo

 $Gerald\,A.\,and\,Barbara\,J.\,Trolz$ 

Eric Trotter

Donald and Beth Troyer Scott and Vonnie Trumble

Nura Turner

John and Carole Ulmer Adrian and Treva Vaksvik Richard and Bellodene Van Der

Karr

David and Alisa Van Ryn Steven G. and Lynda Van Scoik

*Michael* and Meredith Vickrey Anne Von Der Vellen

Mary Elizabeth Walker Martha Walorski

Martina waiorski

Thomas and Patricia Warrick

David Weaver Laveta Weaver

David and Dottie Webster David and Dawn 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 Weldy Jeff and Phid Wells Karen R. Wesdorp

Aaron and Stephanie Wieand Matthew and Jill Windy John and Carolyn Wolf

Chris Wolfe

Charles and Sheryl Wortinger

Wen and Susan Wu

Jim Yager

Al and Marie Yoder Candy and Darrel Yoder Ola and Vera Yoder Randi and Anita Yoder Rhonda and Roger Yoder Dorothy Zimmerman

### **STAFF**

#### PRESIDENT AND OPERATIONS



President



TRESSA HUDDLESTON  $Executive\ Assistant/$   $Office\ Manager$ 



LAUREN KING Front Desk Receptionist

#### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{COLE PATUZZI} \\ \textbf{Chief Financial Officer} \\ \end{tabular}$ 



JENNIFER DEFREES
Controller



MICHELLE DAVIS
Staff Accountant

**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
and Human Resources



DANIELLE BURTCH

Donor Services

Coordinator



KIMBERLY GLICK Information Systems Manager

#### PROGRAM: GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



CANDY YODER

Chief Program Officer



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{VONNIE TRUMBLE}\\ Program Officer \end{tabular}$ 



RAY CALDWELL

Program Officer



**GUY FISHER**Program Officer



JACKIE RODRIGUEZ

Associate Program

Officer



ANNE HORST HANBY

Grants and Scholarship

Administrator



BRITTANY SHORT

Coalition Director,
Trails Coalition



KIMBERLY BOYNTON

Coalition Director,
Building Strong Brains



MELINDA FREEZE

Administrative Coordinator for Program Initiatives



BRIAN REPLOGLE

Assistant Director,

Early Childhood Coalition

## 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



ALYSSA GILBERT

Digital Marketing

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. (All grants and totals are rounded, possibly resulting in slight discrepancies.)

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN REGION The Big Reach: Elkhart	\$10,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ELKHART COUNTY Staff Training	\$20,000
E3 ROBOTICS CENTER Technology Enhancement	\$15,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Capital Project: Surgical Technology	\$250,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  Experiential Learning with Five Star Life, Year 1 of 3	\$130,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 21st Century Scholarship Night	\$1,500
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Officiating 101 Programming	\$3,600
ENFOCUS Civic Innovation Fellowships & Internships	\$25,000
ETHOS Operational Support	\$250,000
FIVE STAR LIFE Summit Upgrade, 1:1 Challenge	\$10,000
GENAI EXCELLENCE ACADEMY Youth-Preneur Camp	\$8,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Midwest Chamber Percussion Camp	\$1,000

	TOTAL	\$1,307,192
EXPENSES FOR STUDENT PATHWAYS INITIATIV	VΕ	\$18,018
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME Center for Civic Innovation, Elkhart Catalyst Interns	hips	\$50,000
Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Expansion		
NORTHERN INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD		\$25,000
KIWANIS CLUB OF ELKHART - NOON K.I.D. Day		\$3,000
INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND Elkhart Center Directorship Position, Year 3 of 3		\$26,051
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Leroy Robinson Week		\$5,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER 2024 Historical Black College Tour		\$9,850
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER 2024 Trailblazer Awards		\$9,600
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Circle City Classic Education Conference		\$2,500
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Operational Support, <i>Year 3 of 3</i>		\$150,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Startup Moxie Operational Support		\$24,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Expanding Inclusive Education in Elkhart County, Ye	ear 2 of 2	\$162,894
Capital Campaign: Nursing & Health Sciences		

## **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. (All grants and totals are rounded, possibly resulting in slight discrepancies.)

ADEC Resource Center Capital Campaign	\$250,000
ADVOCACY LINKS RESOURCE AND ADVOCACY CENTER 2024 Disability Resource Fair	\$650
AGAPE MINISTRY Small Miracles Learning Ministry	\$15,000
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS Home Fire Relief Financial Assistance	\$5,000
ASSEMBLY MENNONITE CHURCH - GOSHEN MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL Expansion of Preschool Program	\$15,000
CHILD AND PARENT SERVICES Growing Healthy Families, Year 3 of 3	\$140,000
CARING HANDS SPECIAL NEEDS CARE Passenger Bus	\$10,000
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE Victim Offender Reconciliation Program; 1:1 Challenge	\$50,000
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE Operational Support	\$12,500
CORA DALE HOUSE Crisis Intervention Team Training	\$1,400
CORA DALE HOUSE Capital Improvements, 1:1 Challenge	\$53,000
CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI Air Conditioner	\$6,600
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Kindergarten Readiness Pilot	\$7,110

CULTIVATE CULINARY SCHOOL AND CATERING Elkhart Facility	\$250,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Reading Initiative for Elkhart Elementary Schools	\$15,000
ELKHART COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY Reentry Home Improvements	\$17,000
EMERGE MINISTRIES Capital Renovations, 1:1 Challenge	\$10,000
FAITH MISSION OF ELKHART Maintenance Vehicle	\$7,000
FAMILY CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER Strategic Planning 2024	\$3,000
FIRST LIGHT MISSION Operational Support	\$135,000
FIRST LIGHT MISSION  Main Water Line Burst	\$9,260
FISCHOFF NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION Arts-in-Education Residency	\$8,000
GENAI EXCELLENCE ACADEMY Program Expansion	\$85,000
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MICHIANA Elkhart Veteran Stand Down	\$3,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE NAFCC Annual Conference	\$4,093
GOSHEN COLLEGE ECoSistema Music Program, Year 3 of 3	\$25,000
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY Latinx and Hispanic Outreach, Year 2 of 2	\$35,560
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Operational Support, Year 3 of 3	\$150,000

## Kids & Families, continued

HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Triple P- Positive Parenting Program, Year 3 of 3, 1:1 Challenge	\$150,000
HONOR FLIGHT NORTHEAST INDIANA Flight #49	\$7,500
IN*SOURCE Hoops with Heart	\$500
INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE Thought Leadership Conference	\$2,500
LACASA Operational Support: South Central Elkhart	\$110,000
LITTLE SAINTS CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES Boiler Replacement	\$22,418
LOGAN CENTER First Steps	\$5,000
LOVEWAY Transitional Housing	\$12,500
MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER Operational Support: Westend Expansion	\$500,000
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS OF MICHIANA Operational Support	\$20,000
MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY Family Concert with Jim Gill	\$1,000
NAPPANEE OPEN DOOR Updated Technology	\$3,000
NORTHERN INDIANA HISPANIC HEALTH COALITION Operational Support - Program Expansion	\$150,000
OAKLAWN FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH NATCON 24 Professional Development	\$5,635
OAKLAWN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER The SOURCE, Year 1 of 3	\$200,000

OWLS CLUB Operational Support, 1:1 Challenge	\$100,000
RIVER OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ELKHART Elkhart Campus Playground Improvements	\$8,000
RIVERVIEW ADULT DAY CENTER  Marketing Plan	\$7,400
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF MICHIANA Donor Stewardship Program	\$6,000
ROSE GARDEN RECOVERY COMMUNITY  Kitchen addition/remodel/patio for recovery home	\$8,000
SAVING GRACE ADVOCACY Week of Compassion Event	\$2,500
VILLAGE TO VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL Trust-Based Relational Intervention Summit	\$5,000
WALNUT HILL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Operational Support	\$23,300
WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Nappanee Elementary Playground	\$50,000
WNIT-MICHIANA PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION Education Counts Michiana	\$10,000
WOMEN'S CARE CENTER Operational Support, 1:1 Challenge	\$75,000
EXPENSES FOR BUILDING STRONG BRAINS EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE	\$51,527
<ul> <li>Consulting services (Tamarack Institute), \$6,000</li> <li>Marketing and communications services, \$2,424</li> <li>Network evaluation platform, \$12,420</li> <li>Coalition personnel, \$25,000</li> <li>Meeting and mileage expenses, \$5,683</li> </ul>	
TOTAL	\$2,859,953

 $<sup>{\</sup>it ^*Challenge\ grants\ awarded; full\ funding\ is\ dependent\ on\ the\ organization's\ fulfillment\ of\ the\ challenge.}$ 

#### 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.

	TOTAL	\$820,674
Operational Support, Year 2 of 4		
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP		\$100,000
Startup South Bend - Elkhart 2.0, Year 1 of 3		
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP		\$100,000
MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS		\$620,674

#### Grants

## **PLACEMAKING**

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County residents. (All grants and totals are rounded, possibly resulting in slight discrepancies.)

BRISTOL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL 2024 Festival	\$3,000
CAMERATA SINGERS Performance Series 2023-2024	\$3,000
CITY OF ELKHART Riverwalk Grande Prix 2024	\$5,000
CITY OF ELKHART PARKS DEPARTMENT Walker Park Accessibility Improvements	\$75,000
CITY OF ELKHART PARKS DEPARTMENT Downtown Disc Golf Course	\$7,500
CITY OF GOSHEN FLOCK Cameras, Year 2 of 3	\$25,000
CITY OF NAPPANEE Promenade on the Path	\$3,000
CITY OF NAPPANEE Pedal Party 2023	\$1,689
COMMUNITY PRO-EDUCATION Third Grand Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration	\$5,500
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN First Fridays	\$10,000
ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE Seasonal Support	\$10,000
ELKHART CONSERVATION CLUB Fish Hatchery Upgrade & Sustainability Project	\$7,700

## Placemaking, continued

ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR Seasonal Support	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Vibrant Communities, Year 3 of 3	\$60,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Leadership Site Visit, Hamilton County, IN	\$21,750
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Support for City Nation Place Conference	\$18,500
ELKHART COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT Ox Bow Flying Disc Sanctuary Renovation	\$10,200
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION Operational Support	\$70,000
ELKHART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER EnviroFest	\$2,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Jazz Festival	\$50,000
FRIENDS OF THE LERNER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Goshen & Dragons	\$500
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Seasonal Support	\$5,000
GOSHEN ARTS AND EVENTS Arts on the Millrace	\$3,500
GOSHEN COLLEGE Seasonal Support: Music Center	\$10,000
GOSHEN COMMUNITY CHORALE Spring Concert Series	\$1,750
GOSHEN FARMER'S MARKET Share the Bounty	\$5,000

GOSHEN THEATER	Ф4.000
Concert Performance of "The Music Man"	\$4,000
GOSHEN THEATER	\$10,000
Seasonal Support	
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$100,000
Benham Neighborhood Implementation Plan, Year 1 of 3	
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ELKHART COUNTY	\$250,000
Capital Campaign	
HALL OF HEROES SUPER HERO MUSEUM	\$5,000
Comic Con	
HISTORIC ELKHART RIVER QUEEN	\$25,000
Parking Lot Engineering	
MAPLE CITY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA	\$5,000
Seasonal Support	
MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION	\$1,000
Garden EXPO	
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$5,000
Summer and Fall Festivals	
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW	\$5,000
Seasonal Support	
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART	\$5,000
Seasonal Support	
NAPPANEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$10,000
Apple Festival	
NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL	\$20,000
Outta This World Art Pod	
NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY ALLIANCE	\$5,000
Michiana Pottery Tour	

## Placemaking, continued

OSOLO LITTLE LEAGUE Field Maintenance Heavy Equipment	\$12,000
PHOENIX PERFORMING ARTS Phoenix Youth Theatre Engagement - Taking Flight	\$5,000
PREMIER ARTS Seasonal Support	\$10,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Capital Campaign: Discovery Center	\$100,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Seasonal Support	\$5,000
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Middlebury Riverfest	\$2,500
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Ridge Run & Roll	\$1,100
VISIT NAPPANEE Friday Fest	\$2,000
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Maple Syrup Festival	\$5,000
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Seasonal Support	\$15,000
WNIT-MICHIANA PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORP. Equipment Upgrade	\$50,000
EXPENSES FOR CONNECT IN ELKHART COUNTY TRAILS INITIATIVE	\$255,819
<ul> <li>Trail paving (Elkhart County Highway), \$54,865</li> <li>Planning Wakarusa-Nappanee trail, \$15,800</li> <li>Feasibility study - Mishawaka-Elkhart trail (Abonmarche), \$45,000</li> <li>Engagement and education events, \$31,579</li> <li>Operations, marketing, lending library, \$102,515</li> <li>Trail network development, \$6,060</li> </ul>	

TOTAL

\$1,348,008

#### Grants

## **MATCHING GRANT**

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County inspires generosity by matching 25 percent of contributions to endowments, up to \$25,000 per year. Your generosity nurtures growth in our community.

25% MATCHING GRANT \$490,076

TOTAL \$490,076

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

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

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