

Helping Good Take Shape

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ELKHART COUNTY







Every piece of pottery starts as something soft and shapeless, worked patiently until it holds a form that will last. That is this year's theme: *Helping Good Take Shape*.

Northern Indiana has been shaping clay for generations. Potters such as Marvin Bartel and Dick Lehman created, taught, and inspired other potters, creating a community of artists. The Goshen Clay Artists Guild brought potters together, and now the Northern Indiana Clay Alliance is advancing such efforts.

This year's cover grew out of this same tradition. Justin Rothshank (shown above), a Goshen potter known for his decorated tableware, worked with photographer Bryan Chris and the Community Foundation to create it.

The tradition reaches our own board table, too. BJ Thompson throws pots as a hobby, one more example of how good work in Elkhart County often comes from people willing to keep at something, patiently, with their hands.

Good takes shape the way clay does: slowly, with care, and with people who know the material well enough to trust it.



LETTER FROM THE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Shaping Our Future as a Community

In 1989, a handful of Elkhart County residents set out to give local generosity a lasting form. They believed that if enough people invested in this community over time, that generosity would take a shape strong enough to outlast any single gift, year, or giver.

That shape keeps growing. Today, the Community Foundation holds more than $581 million in charitable assets, all of it community money held in trust for the causes and neighbors we all care about. More than 10,000 individuals and organizations have given to make that possible, in gifts ranging from a few dollars to several million.

This past fiscal year, generous people and organizations gave $41.5 million to the Community Foundation, and we returned $38 million in grants to nonprofits doing the daily work of strengthening Elkhart County. Careful investing, guided by staff and a team of experienced investment professionals, added still more, with a return of 15.5 percent. Hundreds more have committed future gifts to the Community Foundation through their estates, shaping a future they will not live to see but trust us to carry forward.

None of this is really about the foundation. It is about the people behind it: donors who give because they love this place, volunteers who show up because they believe change is possible here, board and committee members who spend their time helping the rest of us decide where the money can do the most good, and a staff of hard-working, committed people who help donors and volunteers turn their generosity into real results. We are grateful for every one of them, and for a community generous enough to keep this work going for the last 37 years.

The pages that follow tell some of those stories: a company building generosity into its business model, trails growing mile by mile, and children arriving at kindergarten a little more ready to learn. Good work, happening because people decided to help.

We don't know exactly what Elkhart County will need next year, or in twenty years. But we know this: when good people put their resources and their trust into something larger than themselves, good takes shape. We are honored to keep helping that happen.

By The Numbers
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Total Assets
$581m

Total Gifts
$42m

Grants
$38m

Number of Gifts
1,897

Unique Donors
1,134

"We are grateful for all the donors, volunteers, and staff members, and for a community generous enough to keep this work going for the last 37 years."

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Dave Weaver
Chair

John Liechty
Vice Chair

Todd Cleveland
Treasurer

Ken Julian
Secretary

Derald Bontrager
Becky Bontreger
Amy Brown
Denise Davis
Angie Eggering
Raquel Espinosa
Jan Farron
Theresa Gunden
Eric Ivory

Kurt Janowsky
Bruce Korenstra
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
Ms. Martha Rieth
Mr. and Mrs. Marly Rydson
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sailor
Salvation Army Elkhart Corps Endowment
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Schricker
Ina L. Strasser Endowment
Trinity United Methodist Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Basil S. Turner
United Way of Elkhart County
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Van Der Karr
Maynard W. Wells Family
YMCA/YWCA Joint Community Project

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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

These are 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 Jr.
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
Jayco
Rick and Sandy Jenkins
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 Françoise Nguyen
Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger
Mike and Judy Pianowski
Donald Pletcher
Marly and Laura Rydson
Mike and Vickie 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

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.

2025-2026

Financial Documentation

We are pleased to report the Community Foundation of Elkhart County had a remarkable year. The Community Foundation surpassed $581 million in assets and received $41.5 million in gifts in Fiscal Year 2025–26. We were able to give $37.8 million in grants. We are committed to inspiring generosity and stewarding the community's assets. Thank you for your generous gifts of time, money, and talents.

Your Community Foundation

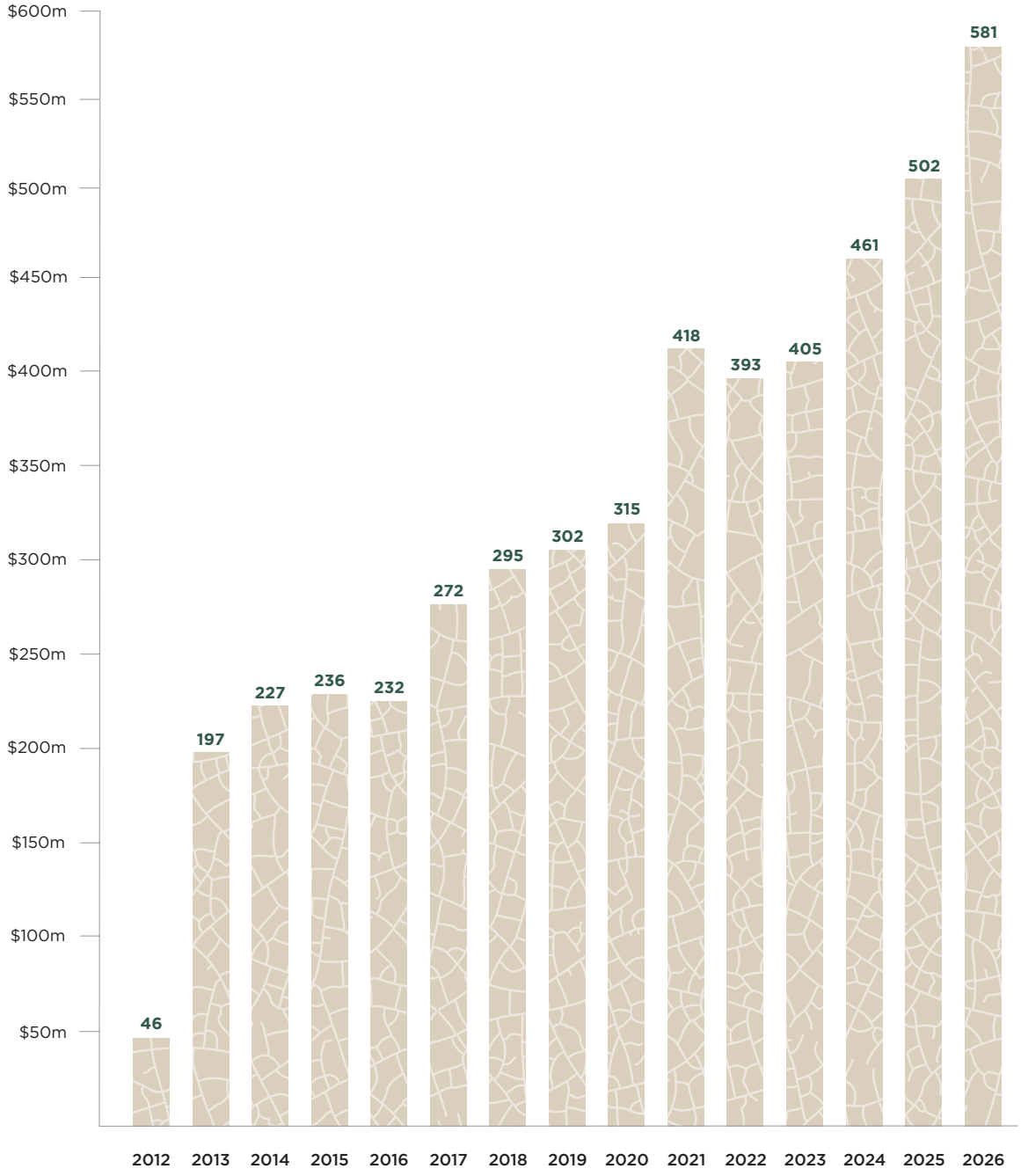
At A Glance

746	$38m	$581m
TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GRANTS	TOTAL ASSETS

HISTORICAL

Assets By Year

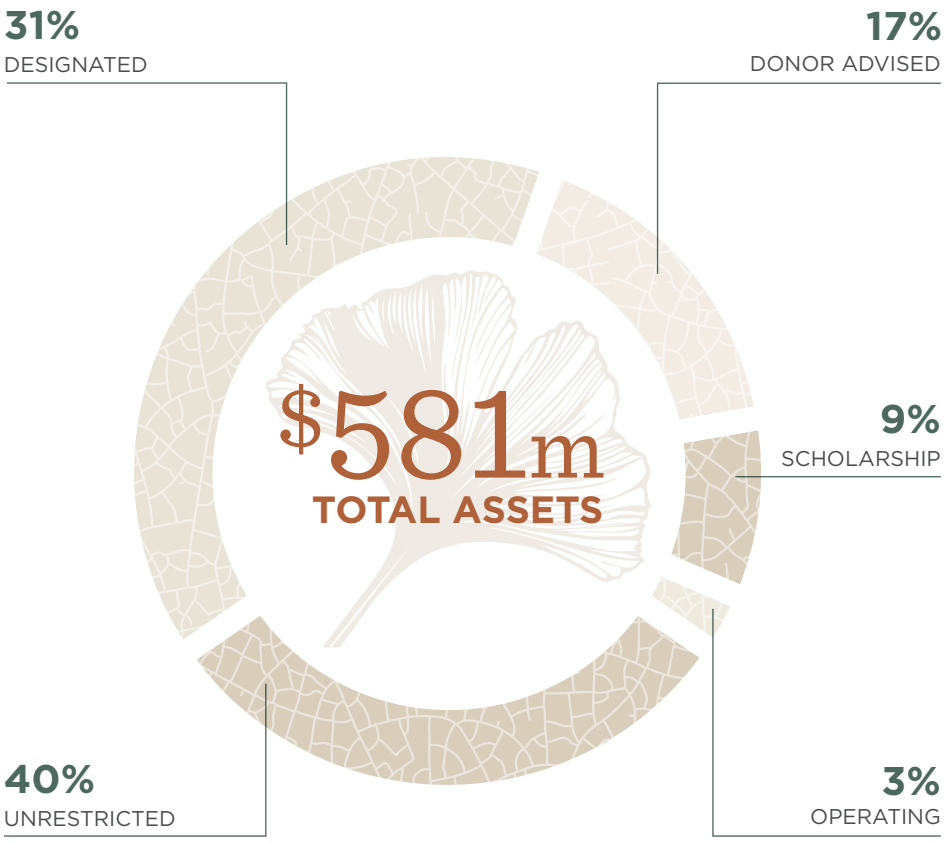
The Community Foundation's assets grow from gifts and investment management. Donors continue to deepen their relationships with the foundation as partners to make the community stronger.



2025-2026

Assets By Fund Type

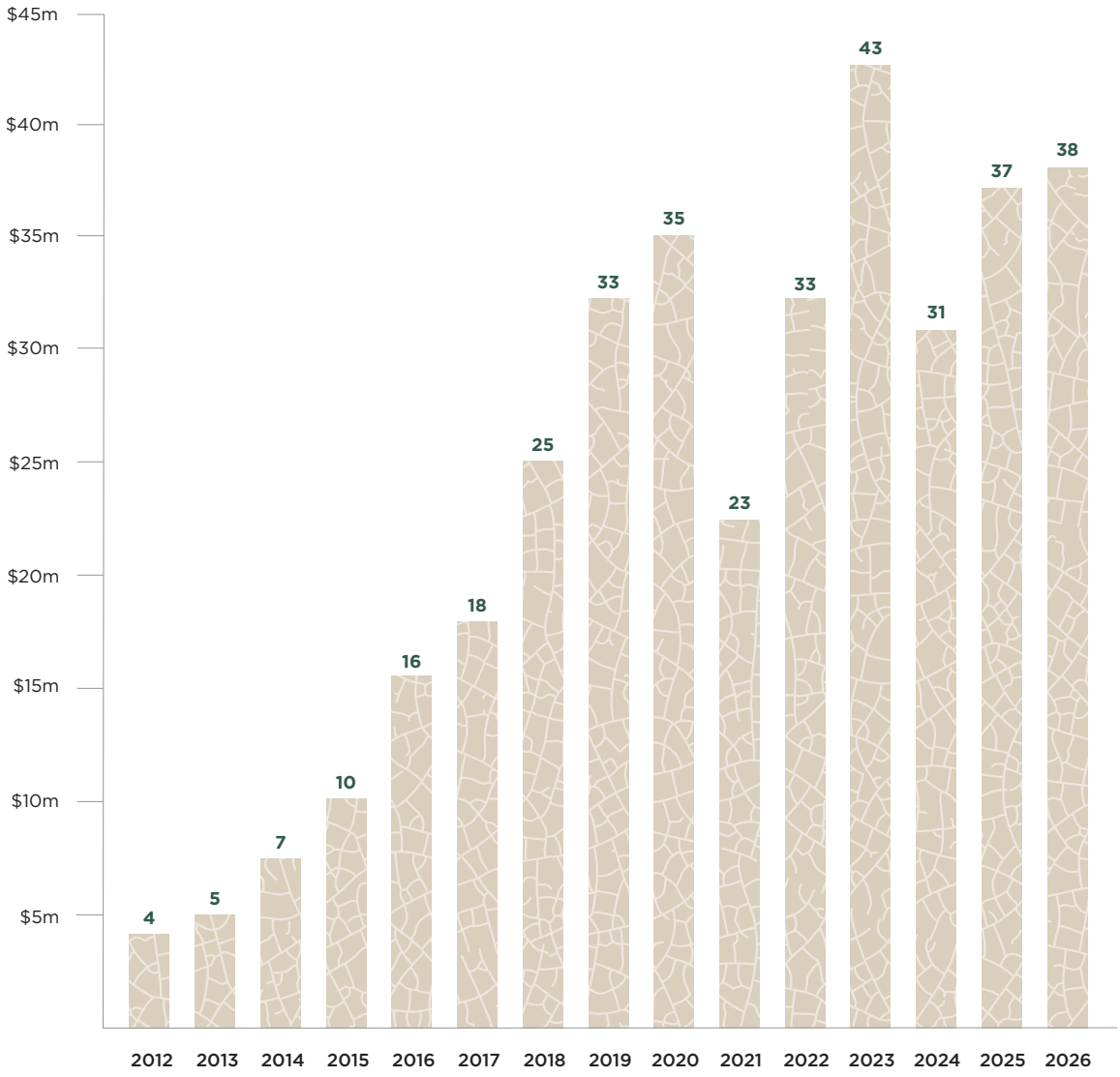
Since 1989, we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor's goals and establish their intent, we work with them to decide which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



HISTORICAL

Grants By Year

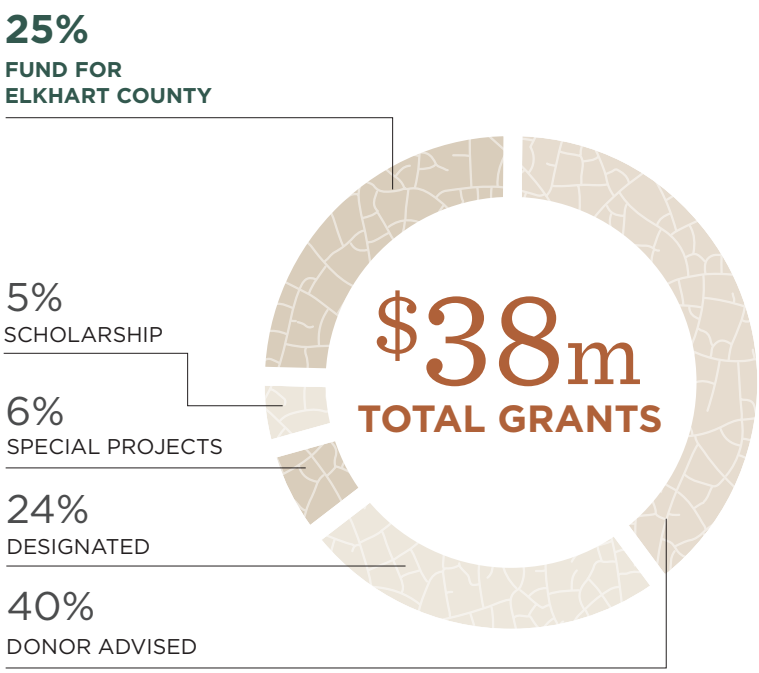
Most of the grants that the Community Foundation are trusted to manage are for specific causes designated by donors. Some of the grants are unrestricted, empowering the Community Foundation to respond to needs and make strategic grants to better our quality of life. A description of how these unrestricted grants were used to improve our community is found on pages 49-59 of this report.



2025-2026

Grant Distribution

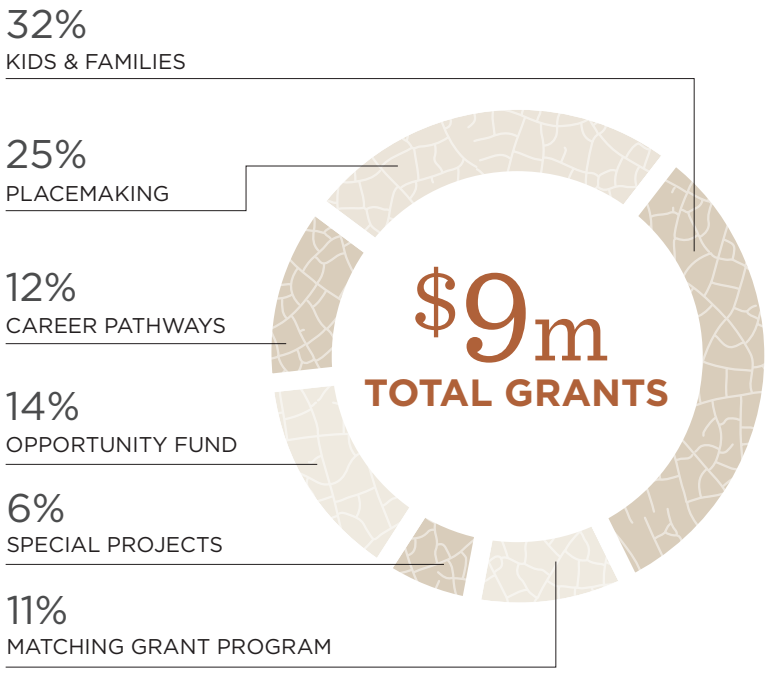
The Community Foundation awards a range of grants, including distributions to agencies; grants directed by donors; and partnerships, projects and initiatives. Some of these are not reflected in the Program Services line in the Statements of Activities on page 14.



Fund for Elkhart County

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our community's greatest opportunities and emerging needs. This year, $9 million in grants were awarded in areas of emphasis for the Community Foundation.

More details about how this money was allocated are on pages 49-59.



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF

Financial Position

Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2025.

	JUNE 30, 2026	JUNE 30, 2025
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$1,493,000	$1,578,000
Investments	$574,864,000	$494,859,000
Property and equipment	$1,015,000	$872,000
Right-of-use asset	$2,532,000	$2,759,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	$201,000	$215,000
Other assets	$1,222,000	$1,427,000
TOTAL ASSETS	**$581,327,000**	**$501,710,000**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	$170,000	$178,000
Grants payable	$5,506,000	$6,852,000
Gift annuities payable	$344,000	$381,000
Operating lease liability	$2,583,000	$2,784,000
Custodial funds	$54,793,000	$45,199,000
Other liabilities	$561,000	$482,000
Net assets - without donor restrictions	$6,448,000	$5,331,000
Net assets - with donor restrictions	$510,922,000	$440,503,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$581,327,000**	**$501,710,000**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF

Activities

Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2025.

	JUNE 30, 2026	JUNE 30, 2025
SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES*		
Contributions and grants**	$34,564,000	$23,967,000
Investment return, net	$70,915,000	$45,681,000
Fund administrative fees	$3,706,000	$3,388,000
Other	$129,000	$85,000
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES	**$109,314,000**	**$73,121,000**
EXPENSES		
Program services***	$33,184,000	$36,380,000
General & administrative	$3,834,000	$2,823,000
Fundraising	$760,000	$576,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$37,778,000**	**$39,779,000**
Change in net assets	$71,536,000	$33,342,000
Net assets, beginning of year	$445,834,000	$412,492,000
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**$517,370,000**	**$445,834,000**

** Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the financial statements are presented on a consolidated basis, reporting on both the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Inc. and the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition. While the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition work is a valued initiative that the Community Foundation is prioritizing, the focus of the Annual Report centers on the traditional work of the Community Foundation (i.e., administering charitable funds). Therefore, the numbers listed throughout the Annual Report are typically in reference to activity stemming from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Inc. and will not directly tie to the consolidated financial statements.*

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

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

Ready, Set, Kindergarten

Through Building Strong Brains' Countdown to Kindergarten, small moments of practice and support are adding up to a big head start for local kids.

In late May, one little girl arrived at Model Elementary School in tears.

She missed her dad. She wasn't sure about this new classroom, the unfamiliar adults or the other children around her. For Alicia Malone, her teacher in the Countdown to Kindergarten program, moments like this were just as important as learning letters, numbers or how to write a name.

Eight weeks later, that same little girl was writing her name and confidently told Miss Alicia that her dad could wait to pick her up.

That's what eight weeks of Countdown to Kindergarten is meant to do.



A student writes her name at Countdown to Kindergarten.

The program gives children who are preparing to enter kindergarten a chance to practice what it means to be a student before the first day of school. They learn early academic skills, but they also practice walking in a line, following routines, eating in a cafeteria, separating from caregivers, making friends, talking with teachers and gaining confidence in a school building.

"It's not all about ABCs. You've got to be a kid," Malone says.

Lindsay Aguilar, coalition director since early 2026, says the program exists to make that first day feel smaller. "Can you imagine if you had joined a soccer team and you showed up on day one and had to get in the game?" she says. "It'd be very, very overwhelming. Countdown to Kindergarten gives children the opportunity to build the skills they need to feel confident and ready to enter the classroom."

The bigger goal behind Building Strong Brains is the same one: every child in Elkhart County starting kindergarten ready to learn.

Kindergarten readiness has been a central focus of the coalition since it began. Local data showed too many children arriving at school without the foundational skills they needed to thrive. Kindergarten may be the first time the education system sees every child, but a child's development starts long before that first day.

Watch *"Countdown to Kindergarten: Getting Elkhart County's Youngest Learners Ready."*



Students learn a range of social and intellectual skills in the eight-week Countdown to Kindergarten.

"Getting kids to arrive at kindergarten ready to learn is one of our earliest possible intervention points," says Andy Murray, chief strategic initiatives officer for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. "Not every family can afford daycare or preschool."

After a 50-child pilot in 2025 that showed meaningful gains in readiness skills, Building Strong Brains and its partners expanded the program to 300 students in 2026, and have plans to expand further.

The classroom was only one piece of what children and families needed. Kids needed transportation, breakfast, lunch and snacks. Some families needed care before and after the school day. Others needed connections to health services or food to take home for the weekend.

Meeting those needs took the whole community. School districts opened elementary schools and helped with transportation. Penn-Harris-Madison Community Schools provided breakfast and lunch. Cultivate Food Rescue supplied snacks and weekend food backpacks. Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County offered care before and after the program. CAPS and Maple City connected children to additional health services. Head Start anchored the classrooms.

"We could not have done this without the partners who stepped up," Murray says.

Building Strong Brains has grown to include more than 70 partner organizations since the Community Foundation of Elkhart County convened it in 2022. A $7.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. is funding the coalition's work through 2030, including Countdown to Kindergarten.

Countdown to Kindergarten is one piece of what Building Strong Brains does. The coalition also convenes action teams working on specific pieces of the puzzle, including a group of community resource navigators who help clients across a range of agencies find the services they need.

Naomi Sterling saw it up close. Her son, Josiah, started the summer timid, a hard adjustment from the pace of his previous preschool. But the classes at Concord West Side Elementary were small enough that teachers could build a real rapport with him, and it showed. Partway through, he started coming home talking about his day and showing off his work: his name, and then his first and last name together. He started counting past 20. By the end of the eight weeks, he wasn't reluctant to go anymore. He was looking forward to it.

Concord West Side turned out to be a familiar place before he ever started kindergarten there. Josiah's two older siblings already attend Concord schools, so he'd already seen the playground and sat in the audience for a school play.

"I would encourage other parents to consider a program like this," Sterling says. "It's financially friendly. It was a blessing for us. And it's rewarding for kids to have a leg up going into a whole unknown world. Going into a school is scary, terrifying. So just giving them that confidence."

Countdown to Kindergarten will keep evolving as Building Strong Brains and its school and early childhood partners study what children need, learn from program data, and work toward a shared way of measuring kindergarten readiness across Elkhart County.

The measure that matters most, though, might be the one Malone saw between May and July: a girl who once cried for her dad, telling him by summer's end that he could wait.

Learning to walk in a line is a skill taught in Countdown to Kindergarten.



What One Scholarship Made Possible

How $2,500 a year gave Eric Firstenberger room to pursue two degrees, take a chance on himself, and return to Elkhart County to teach.

As told to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County

My name is Eric Firstenberger, and I teach algebra to freshmen at Jimtown High School. Most afternoons, I'm on the tennis courts there too, coaching the same kids I had in class that morning. None of it would look quite like this without a scholarship I received from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County back in high school, one that gave me room to become someone I might not have become otherwise.

My dad, Bill, took a job as director of Ruthmere Museum in 2010, and our family moved to Middlebury a year later. I attended Northridge Middle School and Northridge High School, graduating in 2018 as part of a 10-person International Baccalaureate diploma cohort. That program has since been discontinued, and I'm the only one from that group still living in Elkhart County.

I was a good math student, though I'll say it plainly: I was never going to be a math professor or write a book on theory. I was trainable. Show me a process once, and I could repeat it again and again, through problems that grew more complex. When I applied for the Blakesley Scholarship for Mathematical Excellence, I figured a few classmates were more qualified than I was. I got the call from Samantha Lambert at the Community Foundation while standing on the second floor of Northridge High School, the only spot with cell reception. I'd never taken a call quite like that before, and I was so happy and grateful.



Eric is a 2022 graduate from Purdue University.



Eric Firstenberger cares greatly about his students and the community of Elkhart County.

That $2,500 a year made Purdue affordable in a way that changed what I could pursue. Without it, I would have taken on more loans and felt more pressure to finish one degree and get out with a job in hand. Instead, I had room to be curious. In my sophomore year, a professor pulled me aside after reading an essay I wrote for his American Environmental History elective and told me about Degree Plus, a program that waived the general liberal arts core and let me apply my Northridge IB credits toward a second bachelor's degree, in history, alongside my math degree. I would not have found that path on my own.

Purdue's math program tested me. In my sophomore year, I had to choose between retaking a failed actuarial exam or training as a resident assistant. I chose the RA job, and passed the exam later, in 2020, but recruiters weren't interested in the RA experience at all. One told me, "We don't really care about that. We just want you to pass your exams." I never landed a second interview with an insurance company, but I didn't quit. I finished both degrees. My motto at graduation: With a strong understanding of numbers, you can find any pattern you want; with strong contextual knowledge, you can make meaning out of any pattern you want.

To see a list of this year's scholarship winners, see pages 41-42.

After Purdue, I worked as a data analyst monitoring debit card fraud for 1st Source Bank, then became the manager at the Elkhart North branch inside Martin's Supermarket. Two years ago, I took a week off for five teaching interviews and had offers from Concord, Lafayette Jefferson, South Bend Washington, and Jimtown. My grandmother, Fran, the school nurse at Jimtown in the 1990s, had just entered hospice, and my family needed someone to stay with her. I chose Jimtown and moved into her house, which is in close proximity to the Jimtown school campus. She passed away that November.

Jimtown hired me on an emergency permit, without a teaching degree, which isn't something most schools are eager to do. I finished my teaching certification a month ago and am working toward a master's in curriculum design at Indiana University Bloomington, on track to finish in spring 2027. A professor there, Dr. Lara Christoun, who grew up in Elkhart and attended Jimtown herself, recruited me into the program and made sure every credit I was already earning toward my license would count toward the master's program.

Many of the freshmen I teach algebra to arrive with real gaps in their math background. My first year teaching was rough, as I constantly adjusted my teaching to cater to my students' abilities. After I spent last summer redesigning my course, my second year went much more smoothly, and I have established myself as a strong relationship-builder with students and parents. My approach to teaching borrows from how I learned it myself: Can you see the pattern? Can you translate it into numbers and symbols? I'm not chasing theory. I'm building a structure that kids can stand on. A structure that, if followed, will provide learners with a successful result that emulates what I know they can achieve beyond my classroom. I also coach boys' and girls' tennis at Jimtown and offer free lessons because many of my players can't afford outside training. I care as much about their character as I do about their backhand.

What keeps me here is Elkhart County itself, a blue-collar manufacturing community with more diversity of background and perspective than people give it credit for.

The Blakesley Scholarship didn't just help pay for college. It gave me room to pursue two degrees instead of one, to take a chance on an RA job instead of playing it safe, and to find my way back to this community to teach. That's helping good take shape from where I stand: one phone call on the second floor of a high school, and everything that followed.

"I received a scholarship from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County back in high school, one that gave me room to become someone I might not have become otherwise."

ERIC FIRSTENBERGER, *Blakesley Scholarship recipient and math teacher*

Eric Firstenberger coaches Jimtown's boys and girls tennis teams.



Building Trails, Building Trust

In Elkhart County, good takes shape when residents and officials plan, communicate, and coordinate as one.

Building trails means connecting one spot to another with a path, but first, you need people to connect with each other in human ways.

In both the town of Middlebury and the city of Goshen, groups of citizens are showing up to help town and city officials and the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition to plan, communicate, and coordinate efforts to grow the trail network in Elkhart County.

More Walkable, More Rideable, More Home

In Middlebury, trails have been part of the town's structure for 25 years. John McKee recalls early conversations about the value of trails as the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail was being built through town. He had moved from Minnesota and was a fan of trails from his experience there. In Middlebury, he met resistance stemming from fear of what such a pathway could bring to a town. When they built the first section near Main Street around 2000, that faded quickly. "Once people see a section, they are not as afraid of it," he says.

Middlebury has become nationally known for the Pumpkinvine Trail, which, in 2026, was named the Best Recreational Trail in the United States by voters in USA Today's 10Best contest. Thousands of people arrive as tourists, some to have their recreational vehicles serviced and others to ride the trail that links Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana. They enjoy Krider Gardens with its quilt garden and its century-old trestle bridge. A trail counter in town has registered more than 1,000 users in a day. The Amish community and others rely on the trails to get places.



The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail was voted Best Recreational Trail by the readers of USA Today.

"We've been pretty intentional about trying to get the next generation invested and involved."

BARB SPICE, *Chairwoman of the Middlebury Trails Committee*



Volunteers help with trail maintenance.



The Goshen advocacy group in action.

The town, aided by the park board's Trails Committee, has been working for the last several years to connect the larger trail to other parts of town. The Ridge Run Trail connects the Pumpkinvine to the Das Dutchman Essenhaus complex. The town completed the $1.5 million River Mill Trail in 2025, connecting the town's biggest park with some grant assistance from the Community Foundation. "We're working at being a more walkable, more rideable, more accessible community," says Barb Spice, chairwoman of the trails committee. "I'm really big right now on helping trails and parks be gathering places."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, trail usage spiked in Middlebury, and town employees struggled to manage all the trash. Four or five trail users started reporting conditions as they walked, biked, or ran their regular routes. That led the town to establish a Trail Stewards program to formally leverage the eyes and hands of those caring for the trail, she says.

Over time, the young parents who use the trails with their families are also getting involved as stewards and in advocacy work. "We've been pretty intentional about trying to get the next generation invested and involved," says Spice.

At the same time, Tom Enright, the parks department superintendent, says it feels as if the town has an older sibling helping with the trail-building. The Community Foundation offers steady support, ranging from funding for maintenance to guidance on dreaming and planning. Program Officer Ray Caldwell and the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition staff are great partners and "a huge support," Enright says, adding that most towns don't have access to such assets and resources.

Watch *"Building Trails and Changing Lives"* about users of the network of trails in our community.





Sports teams and individuals use Elkhart County's trails for exercise, recreation, and transportation.

Bike-friendly and encouraging a culture

At a Goshen bike advocate group meeting with Dustin Sailor, the city engineer and director of public works, other city staff joined the conversation. Mayor Gina Leichty came into the room and sat down.

"It's been really nice to hear that officials and the people in charge are thinking about this stuff like we are," says Dirk Oyer, who has joined the group of people gathering monthly to discuss such issues.

Goshen was one of the first communities in Indiana to receive a state trail grant, which created the Mill Race Canal Trail. Connecting that trail and others is in the works, but it is taking time. Oyer, who often attends meetings of the Goshen Traffic Commission and the Indiana Department of Transportation, now understands what could happen over the coming decade based on the city's plans.

When the city's Redevelopment Commission was preparing to vote on a proposal to widen sidewalks and encourage outdoor dining in a "restaurant row" concept on Lincoln Avenue downtown, Nick Bouwman used his Substack newsletter/blog to spread the word. He writes "I Get Around: My Butt on a Bike" and is part of the advocacy group, and works at Lincoln Avenue Cycling.

"It's really just about making the connections, you know, and keeping the communication lines open," he says.

Citizen advocates have been part of Goshen's civic conversation on bicycling and trails over the years, but this new iteration, convened by the Community Foundation's Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition, is taking a new form. "The quality and the caring, compassionate people that show up for these meetings, you'll see a difference," says Karla Beasley, assistant director of the trails coalition. "It's bridging the gap of people who care about this, and we care about it, and the city cares about it."

"Build for people. Accommodate cars."

NICK BOUWMAN, *Goshen bike advocate*



PTC is working to enhance the trail experiences for users of all ages.

Sailor, who has been with the city for 22 years, appreciates having advocates who can help the community and shape what happens. Doing nothing is often the easiest thing for officials, and the advocacy group can help build community backing for initiatives such as Restaurant Row.

The slow pace of progress is sometimes hard for Bouwman, but he says knowing the city has a long-term vision helps. He pointed out that the city learned from a previous failed effort to make Lincoln Avenue more bike-friendly and used that experience to create this new version. He's pitching neighborhood greenways to the advocacy group and city officials as a way to create bike routes with less automobile traffic without building more infrastructure. "Build for people. Accommodate cars," he says of his preferred approach. "We'd be a little bit ahead of the curve and make it a destination point."

While Bouwman tries to bike everywhere he can, Oyer has recently started biking more for transportation. Riding the streets has been better than expected, but he loves a good trail. "The trails, the Pumpkinvine especially, make Goshen a much better place to live," he says.

Sailor would love to see the city advance in the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community designations, but it takes certified trainers, committee work, and programming. Bouwman is certified as a Smart Cycling trainer, so the work is progressing.

The communication lines are open. "I've just been really pleasantly surprised and happy about the work that you guys are doing," says Beasley.

Advice for Communities Just Starting Out

From Middlebury's Trails Committee

- Find change advocates with a long-term vision who can clearly communicate the goals.
- There are more like-minded people out there than you think, but you have to ask the questions to find them.
- Expect an intergenerational mix. Young families and retirees want different things from a trail; a good trail can serve both.
- Recruit the next generation on purpose. People won't surface on their own, and they won't stick with it unless the work actually affects them.
- Find a municipal partner who will at least listen, ideally one willing to cooperate and help fund.
- A strong community foundation is a rare asset. If you have one, lean into it.

When a Community Says Yes, Good Things Take Shape

How community generosity is reshaping the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds for the next generation.

They've been talking about a new arena at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds for a long time. The 4-H livestock club leaders, particularly in the Swine Club, have dreamed about a new place for their 4-H'ers to parade their animals before judges.

Sometimes dreams take a long time to become reality. And sometimes even big dreams do come true. This one is suddenly taking shape due to a fast and successful capital campaign.



The 4-H Swine Club has a rich tradition at the fair.

Elkhart County 4-H and Agricultural Exposition, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that operates the fair, is beginning construction on a new arena and much more. The Forest River Inc. and Peter J. Liegl Ag & Community Expo could be ready for the 2027 fair in July. In addition, a new health and wellness center is being constructed, the 4-H Rabbit and Poultry barns are being expanded, and more full-service campsites are being added.

The fair has a long, rich history in Elkhart County, dating back to the Elkhart County Courthouse lawn in 1851. Not every summer had a fair until 1908, when it moved to its current location at 17746 C.R. 34 in Goshen.

The county fair grew into one of the largest county fairs in the United States and one of the largest events in Indiana, now attracting around 200,000 visitors over nine days. Over the last two decades, what happens at the fairgrounds on the other 356 days of the year has become more significant, with a number of rallies for recreational vehicle owners and community events such as the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, BBQ & Brew, and Holiday Lights, according to Shelly Steury, general manager of the fair and fairgrounds.

In 2012, as the Forest River Owners Group brought its rally to the fairgrounds, Mark Kritzman was there as an employee of Forest River and as a member of the fair board. He asked Pete Liegl, founder, president, and CEO, how the fairgrounds did as host. Liegl, known for his direct manner, looked at Kritzman and said, "If you want to keep us out there, you need a big air-conditioned building." On a hot August day, 1,600 people had been in Building A, the largest building on the fairgrounds, without air conditioning.

The fair had just purchased 253 acres for $1.4 million in 2011, securing a major loan for the first time in its history. A donation helped pay that off within a year, and the fair had land to the east to expand as needed. Kritzman says, “A pretty massive check showed up in the mailbox one day that nobody knew was coming. And as I described, those are pennies from heaven.”

Kritzman and others serve on the executive committee, which helps guide the fairgrounds and fair, and serves as a board of more than 130 volunteers. After serving as the fair president in 2018, he took over the 4-H Fair Foundation, which was started in the early 1990s by Kenny Pletcher, Steve Himes, and Bob Hepler via a fund with the Community Foundation. The fund was intended as a rainy-day fund for the fair. The fair committed to contributing $25,000 per year for 20 years, starting in 1993, and, with other donations, the fund grew slowly over the years to about $850,000 by the time Kritzman took on the role. He began fundraising, and the foundation had $2 million in 2022 as it marked its 30th anniversary. By this summer, the fund had more than $3 million, and the fair is drawing annual distributions from the earnings to help pay for maintenance of about 70 buildings on the 380-acre fairgrounds, Kritzman says.

The Elkhart County Community Center on the grounds was outdated and in need of renovation. After much discussion, the board approved a $1.9 million expansion, and then another $1.3 million. Ancon Construction completed the project in 2025, creating a large, modern event center.

Mark Kritzman, Shelly Steury and Kelly Ropp are among the leaders working on a capital campaign for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair and its grounds.





A rendering of the new medical building at the fairgrounds, which will expand services available there.

In late 2025, the request to expand the space for the 4-H Swine Club was approved, prompting Kritzman to lead a capital campaign that began in February 2026. He began making asks, and Forest River and the Liegl family quickly made pledges to secure naming rights for the 47,000-square-foot building. Kritzman worked with Community Foundation President Pete McCown on how to conduct the campaign, which quickly gained momentum. Others in the RV industry and throughout the community made commitments. "They see the value," says Kritzman, noting a $40 million economic impact on Elkhart County from the fair, 12 rallies, and other events at the fairgrounds each year.

During this year's fair, the public was invited to contribute to help fund the projects. "We want the community to have ownership in this project," says Steury. "It isn't just available to the Pete Liegls of the community. There's a place for everybody in this facility."

"We are bringing the community together at the fairgrounds. That's what we want to do every single day in many different forms."

SHELLY STEURY, *general manager of the fairgrounds*



A rendering of the fair's new expo center, which is projected to be completed in 2027.

Kelly Ropp, a longtime 4-H and fair board leader, said it is hard for people to understand the generosity and level of commitment to the fair in Elkhart County. "There's no better place people could choose to live and raise a family," she says.

The new expo center will be used in a variety of ways, including possibly trade shows. Steury expects growth of 4-H clubs. The 50 or so nonprofits that benefit from the fair in terms of exposure, fundraising, or even use of the grounds are likely to gain even more, she says.

"We are bringing the community together at the fairgrounds. That's what we want to do every single day in many different forms," says Steury.

Funds Help Fair Excel

The 4-H Fair Foundation is an endowed agency fund at the Community Foundation, through which a nonprofit may elect to receive an annual distribution to support its mission. Established in 1993, this fund has grown significantly and can now pay for operating costs. Gifts from donors to endowed funds receive a 25% match from the Community Foundation.

The fair has other funds with the Community Foundation. The fair expansion fund is an example of a non-endowed agency fund, where the fair has access to the full amount of the fund for its capital campaign.

Built to Give

Inside Brinkley RV's funds, culture, and the people turning charity into a company blueprint.

Brinkley RV's philanthropy started when the first unit rolled off the line. It was as much a part of building a new company as designing models and hiring employees.

The co-founders, Micah Staley, Nate Goldenberg, and Ryan Thwaits, agreed to give a designated amount to charity for every unit shipped. As the company has grown, so have the donations. The Community Foundation helps the company through two funds, both established in 2024:

The charitable giving fund grants money to nonprofits, with decisions mostly guided by employee suggestions.

The hardship fund grants to Brinkley employees and their families.

They worked for a corporate-owned recreational vehicle company before they established Brinkley. "We just were never proud of the impact we had," says Goldenberg, adding that the giving was driven from the top, and the community impact was difficult to measure.



Brinkley RV's manufacturing facility.

As they established a new company with older industry mentors, they wanted to be different. All of them believe in tithing, so giving has become part of their company culture.

"We were just like, 'Hey, we want to leave this community a better place,'" says Staley. "We all personally are very charitable, and it's just part of our DNA."

The founders and their top staff wanted giving to feel natural, not forced. "When it's forced, it doesn't feel like giving," says Brinkley's Chief Financial Officer John Schmidlin.

They want every employee to be part of the generosity. "We wanted everyone to be inspired," says Derek Yoder, director of human resources. "If they have a cause they feel we should donate to, they have a voice to speak up."

"We all personally are very charitable, and it's just part of our DNA."

MICAH STALEY, *co-founder of Brinkley RV*



The Brinkley RV leadership team includes (from left) Nate Goldenberg, Derek Yoder, Micah Staley, John Schmidlin, Megan Bailey, and Ryan Thwaits.

Employees are submitting suggestions for local nonprofits and sports teams.

"Our employees come first," says Thwaits, adding that they usually find a way to affirm what employees suggest. Megan Bailey, director of purchasing, noted that they assess nonprofit organizations before making corporate donations. "We are always taking tours of those facilities so that we can vet them well and feel like we're more a part of that organization," she says.

"There's a lot of kid-oriented giving," says Goldenberg, adding that he loves it when they can support underfunded organizations rather than well-resourced ones. Company leaders work to respond quickly to requests and also spark giving based on their own passions. Helping people get needed food or housing is important to them, says Yoder.

The company's reputation for charitable giving has others taking notice. Employees from a competing RV company even reached out asking Brinkley to give to a kids' cheer team.

Additionally, employee groups volunteer to help organizations. Brinkley also offers financial empowerment and leadership classes, as well as Bible studies, that workers can attend while on the clock.

The company gave five hardship grants to employees in the past year via the Community Foundation. As an HR director, Yoder was convinced by the fund's early uses that it was easy to help an employee without tax implications for the company or the individual.



Brinkley RV employees volunteer for a range of community events, including the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.

The company also worked with an employee whose father had cancer and who needed a 30-day leave from work. Employees helped raise $37,000 for an employee who had a health crisis. All of this only reinforced the company's belief in philanthropy and helping others.

At the CAPS gala in August 2025, before the organization merged with Maple City Health Care Center, members of the leadership team were at a table, and Micah Staley was bidding at the auction. After hearing a heartwarming story about a woman seeking a degree, he announced to the crowd that they would pay for her education. Schmidlin, separate from other charitable activities, now sends checks to Bethel University. "That was really cool," Staley says of the evening and what has followed.

Some on the leadership team also have personal donor advised funds with the Community Foundation, which simplifies their giving. Goldenberg met Carrie Berghoff, director of development, through Andy Murray, an RV industry veteran who now works at the foundation. After learning about how the foundation could help, he signed on. "I used to spend so much time tracking paperwork and tax ID numbers," he says. "It was a burden, and now it's like a blessing."

The RV industry ebbs and flows, but Brinkley's commitment to generosity and helping good happen doesn't. The owners hope the company and their giving continue to grow exponentially. Yoder also hopes the company's giving inspires employees to give themselves because they've seen or felt the impact on their lives and the community.

Turning a Vacant Alley Into A Shared Legacy

In Nappanee, a Community Foundation grant helped transform a forgotten alley into a vibrant tribute to the city's cartooning legacy.

The creation of Cartoon Alley in Nappanee turned a vacant spot into a mirror of the city's history.

The murals tell stories. The lighting illuminates the murals. The benches give people a spot to sit and ponder. And a QR code to a website with more information demonstrates that people care, as it's been scanned more than 10,000 times since its September 2025 debut at the annual Apple Festival.



Center photo: Mark Collins, (left) and Jeff Stillson walk Cartoon Alley.

Cartoon Alley tells the story of Nappanee being home to six nationally syndicated cartoon artists in the 1900s. Merrill Blosser, Bill Holman, Fred Neher, Max Gwin, Henry Maust, and Francis "Mike" Parks all lived and worked in Nappanee. Some drew cartoon strips for the comic pages, and others drew editorial cartoons for the opinion pages. Gwin, inspired by Blosser, was the last of the lot, dying in 2014. Millions of newspaper and magazine readers across the United States saw their work, which syndication networks distributed to publications.

Nappanee excels at honoring its history and at incorporating art into daily life. Jeff Stillson, a graphic designer, artist, and photographer, helps orchestrate the sculptures downtown that then become part of the city's Art Path sculpture park. The Nappanee Arts Center downtown helps provide resources for aspiring and accomplished artists.

The master plan for the city of Nappanee, completed in 2025, listed the activation of its alleys as a high priority, according to Mark Collins, the city director of development.

"We wanted to do something to honor our heritage, so we came up with the idea of Cartoon Alley since we were famous for our cartoonists."

MARK COLLINS, *Nappanee director of development*



Cartoon Alley tells the story of Nappanee being home to six nationally syndicated cartoon artists in the 1900s.

"We wanted to do something to honor our heritage, so we came up with the idea of Cartoon Alley since we were famous for our cartoonists," he says.

Collins talked to Stillson and showed him a drawing of the concept. Stillson found cartoons from four of the artists and, with intern Addison Holmes, painted them in the summer of 2025. His artistic touches expanded on the original vision, and their work honored the artistic trailblazers who came before them.

The large cartoons were put in steel frames and mounted on the walls of the alley half a block south of the intersection of Main and Market streets in the center of downtown.

Cartoon Alley cost the city $150,000, including a $25,000 grant from the Community Foundation's Placemaking Committee, which had also granted to the Art Path and Arts Center. Collins considers it a great investment. On a summer evening, he saw an alley full of people. They sat on the benches, chatted with each other, and ate ice cream from a downtown business. "Just seeing people using that space for more than just a place to sit, but to look at and read the cartoons, see Nappanee's heritage, was pretty cool," he says. "It's all about connectivity. We want people to feel like they're connected from one side of the city to the next."

The city is planning an even larger placemaking project to create themed alleys extending east, add parking, and beautify the area between Main Street and Coppes Commons. The Community Foundation granted $125,000 toward the $3.2 million project. Stillson has been working on Shoe Alley across the street from Cartoon Alley. Artists are creating shoes to be mounted in the alley as a tribute to Metzler Shoe Company and Blosser Shoe Store, where Merrill Blosser began drawing cartoon signs as a young man.

Shoes will be part of the next art alley project.





Mark Collins (left), Jeff Stillson and others are collaborating to create a number of interesting alleys in Nappanee.

Nappanee had one or both operating from the early 1900s until 2015, when Metzler closed. After that debuts this fall, work will begin on Jewel Alley, which will honor 145-year-old Newcomer Jewelry.

Stillson is thrilled with the artistic progression. "First, we are so lucky that our city embraces the arts. And then it is such a great partner with us in letting us take their ideas and bring them to life," he says. "What's really also very cool about what we're doing is that we are honoring our past. These aren't just random pieces of art. They're honoring our history, but making it interesting to outsiders."

"...we are so lucky that our city embraces the arts."

JEFF STILLSON, *graphic designer*

How A Small Town Filled the Funny Pages

Six men from one small Elkhart County town left an outsized mark on the comics page. Merrill Blosser started it, drawing signs for his father's shoe store before creating *Freckles and His Friends*, available to 22 million people in nearly 500 newspapers over nearly 60 years. Bill Holman's *Smokey Stover* made "Foo" a national catchphrase, one that Nappanee's firefighters still claim proudly. Fred Neher, inspired by Blosser, filled *Life's Like That* with characters named after his neighbors. Max Gwin, the only one who never left town, drew Slim and Spud for Prairie Farmer for 40-plus years. Henry Maust and Francis "Mike" Parks rounded out the six, working as editorial cartoonists.

Hunger Ends Here

How an upstart effort is transforming hunger in Elkhart County and bringing the community along with them.

For decades, dozens of food pantries in Elkhart County offered help to hungry people. For the last year, they've done it together.

In early 2025, three men gathered for breakfast to talk about how to help fight hunger in Elkhart County. Andy Murray, chief strategic initiatives officer for the Community Foundation, sat with "Irish" Dave O'Connor, who works in nonprofit communications, and Jim Conklin, who co-founded Cultivate Food Rescue.



Pam Bingaman of Middlebury Food Bank is one of many partners in Hunger Ends Here.

Murray had realized through his work with Building Strong Brains that economic self-sufficiency was a fourth piece of the puzzle for helping children and families thrive, alongside maternal and child health, community supports, and quality child care/early learning environments. Conklin, whose organization rescues food and repurposes it to fight food insecurity, knew there was no collective effort to maximize coverage and minimize cost.

The men agreed to invite some food pantries to the table and ask what would help them. The response was outreach and awareness. The initiative launched in September 2025 with the name Hunger Ends Here.

Soon, representatives from a dozen organizations were gathering as a formal advisory council to share information about the work of the 50 or so pantries in the county. A new countywide food assistance directory cataloged the agencies offering help.

Then came the first crisis.

Funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits ended in early November 2025 because of the federal government shutdown, leaving millions of Americans without help buying food. Scott Griffey, a Jimtown resident who had started delivering food to people during the COVID-19 pandemic, was preparing to open Gymtown Food Bank. Hunger Ends Here, and a $120,000 grant from the Kids & Families Committee of the Community Foundation helped it open more quickly. Milford Food Bank helped the Community Foundation buy $200,000 of food, including a semi-load of 30,000 jars of peanut butter at a deep discount. As Elkhart County's first independent food bank opened, it had more than $500,000 in food to help pantries withstand increased demand due to reduced federal help.



The team at Hunger Ends Here is devoted to ending hunger in Elkhart County.

Within a few months, 60 organizations were using the food bank to obtain and distribute free food to those in need, according to Griffey. In summer 2026, more than 9,000 families per month were receiving food from the food bank.

At the Community Foundation's Annual Celebration in October 2025, President Pete McCown touted the work of Hunger Ends Here and said no child in Elkhart County should be hungry. As the Community Foundation gathers people around the table, it can convene without triggering competition for resources. The resulting collaboration is "the most productive thing the community can do to fight food insecurity," according to Conklin.

The collaboration is helping Cultivate save, repurpose, and distribute millions of pounds of food. One pantry that didn't need a donated forklift paved the way for another organization to get it.

The collective is also generating donations. Thor Industries donated two vans to help move food within the county. Sugar Grove Church brought a $10,000 check, which can buy $100,000 worth of food.

Relationships lead to easier conversations and quicker action. When strong storms, including a tornado, hit Elkhart County in early June 2026, Hunger Ends Here improvised a quick response to pack and distribute 500 food boxes within 48 hours. People who had never used a food pantry before received food to replace losses from power outages or other challenges.

"People want to make Elkhart County a better, vibrant place to live and work."

ASHLEY JORDAN, *director of Acts of Service*

The everyday reality is that in Elkhart County, many families don't get to choose what they eat. They have to choose between buying food or paying for other costs, such as housing or transportation, Murray says. Housing costs consume three times as much of household income as they did two decades ago. "Food insecurity, or not knowing where your next meal is coming from, is largely a housing cost crisis," he says. "Food pantries are serving people who paid their rent and now can't afford food."

Hunger Ends Here is working to reduce the stigma for those who need food by putting it in a broader context, such as increased housing costs. In addition, it highlights that the effort to keep each other fed is community work that brings people together. New billboards tout, "You come for food, you leave with community."

Volunteers at Gymtown and other pantries are key to fighting hunger. Ashley Jordan, director of Acts of Service at the Community Foundation, says that finding volunteers in some areas can be difficult, but people often want to give their time to combat hunger, improve mental health, or respond to disasters. "That's been a trend for a while now, and I think it's because more people are being affected by it post-COVID," she says.

Cultivate was supported by more than 12,000 volunteers in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties from April 2025 to April 2026, according to Conklin. When the mission is clear, people respond. "People want to make Elkhart County a better, vibrant place to live and work," says Jordan.

Matt Sigsbee has been a regular volunteer in the community since his retirement. He didn't want to sit on the bench and, after encouragement from McCown, he started volunteering not just at Wellfield Botanical Gardens, where he is on the board, but also at the NAIA Swimming and Diving Championships. Even that was a one-time event. He wanted to do more, so Jordan connected him with the Middlebury Food Pantry, where he helps once a week. He enjoys helping meet community needs. "Knowing these people will get their groceries for the week. That's a good thing," he says.

A range of partner agencies and volunteers are collaborating to help Hunger Ends Here reduce hunger in Elkhart County.





Projects Underway, Funded in Part by Lilly Endowment's GIFT Grants:

Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) VIII was fully received in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and provided $7.5 million to invest in strategies that strengthen families and support children from pregnancy through age five.

In December 2025, the Community Foundation received an additional $3.75 million through GIFT IX, helping expand countywide strategies including Countdown to Kindergarten, Hunger Ends Here and prenatal care vouchers. Additional funding through GIFT IX's matching grant program will be received in early Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Together, these resources support programs and partnerships that help move toward lasting change for young children and families and create vibrant places where Elkhart County residents can thrive.

Initiatives Supported Through GIFT VIII and GIFT IX:

- **Findhelp, Building Strong Brains**
  Findhelp is an online hub connecting families to free and reduced-cost health, food, housing, child care and other community resources.
- **Prenatal Care vouchers, Building Strong Brains**
  Helping uninsured pregnant women access prenatal care and supporting healthier beginnings for babies and families.
- **Countdown to Kindergarten, Head Start of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties**
  An eight-week summer program preparing children for kindergarten.
- **Nurturing Care Groups, CAPS and Maple City**
  Volunteer-led groups offering education, encouragement and connection for new parents and caregivers.
- **Community Resource Navigator Cohort, Building Strong Brains**
  Trusted community navigators helping families in high-need neighborhoods connect with local resources and services.
- **Case Management, Elkhart County Health Department**
  Expanded support for families from pregnancy through age 2 to improve health and development outcomes.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Services, The SOURCE**
  Supporting young children and educators to strengthen social-emotional development and reduce preschool suspensions and expulsions.
- **River District Placemaking, multiple partners**
  Supporting collaborative placemaking in the Elkhart River District through public art, beautification and cultural programming that create vibrant gathering spaces, strengthen community identity and foster pride of place.

News from 2025-2026

Voices of Elkhart County: A Season on the Inspiring Good Podcast

The Inspiring Good podcast, hosted by Marshall King and Kevin Deary, continues to build a record of nonprofit work, philanthropy, and generosity across Elkhart County. This fiscal year, a dozen conversations carried that mission forward.

Listeners heard from Kris Weimer on Startup Moxie's work with student entrepreneurs, Andy Murray on kindergarten readiness and food access, and Jim Conklin on Cultivate Food Rescue, alongside conversations on retirement and legacy, faith and broadcasting, nonprofit leadership transitions, and more.

One episode stood apart: Board Chair Dave Weaver's remarks at the foundation's 2025 Annual Celebration, where he spoke to nearly 400 people about growth, stewardship, and the courage to try bold ideas at home.

A few lines stayed with us:

"We have received far more than we've ever given." — Vince Turner

"Don't hold back love. Don't hold back your faith. Don't hold back on hope." — Scott Griffey

"We don't need someone else's permission or model. We have the capacity, the creativity, and the courage right here." — Dave Weaver

"My hope is the Owls Club is showing our community that our seniors exist and are worth paying attention to." — Maggie Okponobi

Find every episode at inspiringgood.org or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Helping Advisors Inspire Generosity, at Every Level

Hundreds of attorneys, accountants, financial planners, and insurance professionals in Elkhart County help families plan their estates. The Community Foundation supports that work through the Estate Planning Council. Estate planning can help every family, not just those with significant means, and supported advisors are equipped to help clients plan and give back. As Alex Strati, director of professional advisors, says, "It's not just a slogan. We're trying to inspire generosity. At every level."

Strati, a retired banker, works with a council committee to plan continuing education and networking events based on what advisors are facing: legislative updates, technical issues, and new technology. A $100 annual membership fee covers all events, including a continuing education workshop with accreditation credits.

Membership is growing, but it isn't about numbers. Strati fields calls from advisors solving specific client challenges, and introduces younger advisors to community members who can help them build their careers. That's the work: making sure the professionals who guide our neighbors through some of their biggest decisions have what they need, so that generosity, in any form, keeps helping good take shape here.

Building Capacity, for Local Nonprofits

Nonprofits across Elkhart County have long worked together, a tradition that continues through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. "CNE's sole goal is to help organizations build capacity and learn how to be sustainable," says Kevin Deary, chief professional & organizational development officer. "We are saturating the area with knowledge and wisdom."

CNE does this through CEO roundtables, Learning Center workshops, coaching, consulting, and the Inspiring Good podcast. Eight CEO roundtables, each with about 14 or 15 leaders, meet regularly: six in Elkhart County, two in neighboring Kosciusko County, where nonprofits contract with the foundation in CNE's absence.

At the annual CEO Retreat, speakers enrich around 100 attendees, though many simply value the chance to unwind together at Oakwood Resort on Lake Wawasee. This year also brought two new roundtables for development and advancement staff, split between newer and senior professionals.

In general, nonprofits in Elkhart County are healthy and delivering on their missions. Deary compared CNE's work to a family practice doctor who offers health advice to individuals. "We offer advice and methods to have a healthier organization so that we can create a better community," he says.

Three Checks, One Big Surprise: Galentine's Giveback

100 Women Who Care Elkhart County keeps proving what a room full of generous women can do four times a year. Members meet each January, April, July, and October at the Matterhorn Conference Center, and any woman who lives or works in Elkhart County is welcome. This fiscal year, the group awarded quarterly grants of $10,000 each to Cultivate Food Rescue, Joy Blooms, Isaiah 117 House, and Child and Parent Services for its CASA program.

The group also tried something new: a Galentine's Giveback event in February, a night of fashion, food, and connection for women across the county. Three $10,000 checks went to First Light Mission, Center for Healing and Hope, and Church Community Services' Soup of Success program. Living In Yellow and the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds partnered with the foundation on the event.

"I love 100 Women Who Care, both for how it brings women together and empowers them, but also for the cumulative impact it is having to shape good in our community," says Carrie Berghoff, chief development officer for the Community Foundation.

With this year's grants, 100 Women Who Care has now given more than $500,000 to local nonprofits since it began.

2026 Scholarship Recipients

Ashli Hepler Memorial Scholarship
Axel Coronado Fernandez

Austin Weirich Memorial Scholarship
Jetcimani Cid
Olivia Goertz

Basil and Ethel Turner Scholarship
Maria Aguilera
Alison Alarcon-Santillan
Maria Artigas
Emerson Avara
Laynee Budreau
Teressa Campanello
Dayana Carrillo
Katie Chrobot
Kendra Derrington
Zachary Fall
Melany Vera Garcia
Karley Greenway
Emma Heintzelman
Sisavath Luangasa
Leah Miller
Kyla Mishler
Jordan Mitchell
Mayrin Orellana
Samuel Linares Parra
Serena Poindexter
Nathalia Carrillo Romero
Eleanor Studi
Chloe Tebo
Kyndra Umbaugh
Lily Vasil
Josefina Velasquez
Milton Watt
Samantha Wensel
Seth Werntz
Parker Wiggs

Baugo Promise: Alumni and Friends of Jimtown Scholarship
Elliott DiPiro

Bristol Little League Scholarship
Olivia Eversole
Evan Gutierrez
Natalie Middleton
Max Shreiner

Catherine Wolf Scholarship
Ava Decker
Adley Keim
Shaniyah Stout
Elizabeth Higgins

Charles Milton and M. Nance Miller Nursing Scholarship
Isabella Blosser
Bailey Burkholder
Hadassah Herbert
Abigail Sanders

Claude S. and Hanna M. Kegerreis Scholarship
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Andrew Deal
Mackenzie Dominy
Cole Hively
Taylor Kuehne
Brady Park
Javier Reyes
Juliana Shiveley
Alice Snavely
Natalie Yoder

Coach Tom Kurth Scholarship
Taylor Higgins

Community Impact Scholarship
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Jordan Bronke
Daisy Campos-Reyes
Samantha Carter
Yessenia Cisneros
Chelsey Deppe
Ashley Garber
Jordyn Hile
Alexander Hofer
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Elizabeth Myers
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Estela Olvera
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Cullen Schrock
Aliyah Sledge
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Brandon Ulloa
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Dorothy Zimmerman Vocal Music Scholarship
Jackson Birch

Dr. John M. and Margaret B. Foreman Scholarship for DePauw University
Rachel Schrock

Dzung Nguyen Educational Scholarship
Oscar Diaz

Ed Bradford Family Health Care 4-H Scholarship
Aiden Kelly
Joshua Narayan

Elizabeth D. Thorne AAUW Memorial Scholarship
Payton Dikes

Elkhart High School Bias Commemorative Scholarship
Zahir Aydogdiyev

Elkhart High School Scholarship Foundation
Chase Bussard
Jayanna Crump
Brayden Hernandez-Bolen
Kyle Sommer

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Ashley Davis

GDC Corp Scholarship Fund
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Great Lakes Forest Products Scholarship
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Greg Longbrake Memorial Scholarship
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Guy David Gundlach Memorial Scholarship
Mariah Beachey
Sage Borkholder
Jose Cervantes
Aubree Ellis
Ethan Henriquez
Janiece Herrera
Madison Lehman
Emmanuel Martinez
Chloe McMullin
James Ramirez
Jennifer Rios
Nancy Sanchez-Perez
Jayden Schlabach
Ella Troyer
Kairi Vanest
Nathaly Araujo Vera
Jacob Whitlow

Henry and Alice Pederson Educational Scholarship
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Paige Cronkright
Briza Tayagua-Delgado
Jordyn Hile
Haley Imus
Kara Hively
Maegan Schoenherr
Ella Yoder

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Lacey Cline
Zachary Fall
Braiden Wallace

Hursh Family Music Scholarship
Nevaeh Link

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Sharon Gonzalez Cruz
Rheagan Stafford

INSPIRE Scholarship (4 Year)
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Caleb Becker
Daisy Campos-Reyes
Leighton Gingerich
Ethan Hausbach
Lauren Hainlin
Oliver Kauffman
Toriana Kidder
Bryce Knepp
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Legacy Society List 2025-2026

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who believe in impacting their community. The following list includes the names of those who have informed us of bequests, policies, trusts, and other end-of-life planned gifts, for the purpose of encouraging others. Others have established an endowed or donor advised fund with us. 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.

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Legacy Society List 2025-2026

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**Names in italics are deceased Legacy Members.*

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President



KEN JULIAN
Chief Operating Officer



TRESSA HUDDLESTON
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LAUREN KING
First Impressions Specialist

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Staff Accountant

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Director of Information Technology

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GUY FISHER
Chief Program Officer



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Program Officer



RAY CALDWELL
Program Officer



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Assistant Director, Early Learning Environments



PATTY ROSE
Assistant Director, Early Childhood Health and Community Supports



HOLLY LANDIS
Operations Coordinator



CANDY YODER
Senior Advisor

GRANTS

Career Pathways

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

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY Community Conversations Video Docuseries	$2,500
BAUGO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Young Adult Learning Center	$24,750
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ELKHART COUNTY Strategic Planning	$13,000
BRING CHANGE 2 MIND BC2M School Mental Health Program, *Part 2 of 2*	$6,650
BUSHELCRAFT FARM CORPORATION High School Internships and Apprenticeships	$8,000
CORVILLA Elkhart Young Adult Afternoon Service	$8,000
E3 ROBOTICS CENTER Science Spooktacular	$2,500
EDVARD GRIEG SOCIETY OF THE GREAT LAKES Music Conference and Competition	$1,500
ELCONA COUNTRY CLUB Elcona/4-H Golf Management Academy	$6,550
ELKHART AREA CAREER CENTER Mock Interview Day	$1,250
ELKHART CHAPTER OF INDIANA BLACK EXPO Operational Support	$25,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Athletic Physicals for Student Athletes	$5,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Supporting Families through School Transitions	$5,000
ELKHART COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Emergency Weather Radio Distribution	$2,500

ENFOCUS Innovation Fellowships & Internships	$150,000
ETHOS Hands-On STEM for All	$200,000
FRIENDS OF STARTUP MOXIE ELKHART COUNTY Startup Moxie, *Year 2 of 3*	$30,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Expanding Inclusive Education Phase 3, *Year 2 of 2*	$205,735
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE LEAD Dashboard	$7,800
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Career Quest/Manufacturing Days	$20,000
NORTHERN INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD Elkhart County Work-Based Learning Collaborative	$25,000
PREMIER ARTS Premier Arts Academy: Full STEAM Ahead	$50,000
PROJECT SCOPE Second Chance Expansion	$12,500
PURDUE EXTENSION ELKHART COUNTY Cobot Showcase	$2,000
REGALITY INC. Girls With Altitude: Aviation Day for Teen Girls	$1,500
STEM IN AVIATION YOUTH INDIANA Teen Airplane Build Expansion	$24,500
THE CROSSING NATIONAL Capital Campaign: Center for Work-Based Learning, *Year 1 of 3*	$250,000
THE EXCEL CENTER SOUTH BEND Elkhart Excel Center-Catapult	$20,000
THE FISCHOFF NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION Fischoff Education Programs	$12,500
THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ELKHART Knowledge is Dynamite (K.I.D.) Day 2025 Event	$3,000
WYRED ROBOTICS WYRED Robotics Expansion Grant	$9,000
TOTAL	**$1,135,735**

GRANTS

Kids and Families

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

ADEC Day Program Community Opportunities	$14,263
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS Disaster Relief / Home Fires	$7,500
BASHOR CHILDREN'S HOME Capital Campaign: Emergency Shelter, *Year 1 of 2*	$200,000
BRING CHANGE 2 MIND School Mental Health Program	$7,199
CAMP FRIEDENSWALD Health Center Renovation	$20,000
CAMPUS CENTER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Computer and Security Upgrades	$6,000
CAPS & MAPLE CITY Maple City Health Care Center and CAPS Merger	$500,000
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, *Year 2 of 2*	$50,000
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Celebration of Hope Event	$2,600
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Operational Support, *Year 2 of 2*	$35,000
CHILD AND PARENT SERVICES CAPS and Maple City Health Care Center Preparation	$25,000
CROSSROADS UNITED WAY On My Way Pre-K	$25,000
CULTIVATE FOOD RESCUE Operational Support, *Year 1 of 3*	$100,000
EIGHTH STREET PRESCHOOL Teacher Training	$2,000

ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT Freezer for Distributing Cultivate Meals at Healthy Beginnings	$599
ELKHART COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION Getting Real: Suicide Prevention Event	$1,000
EPIC DANCE STUDIOS Operational Support for Community Outreach	$5,400
FAITH MISSION OF MICHIANA Backup Generator	$55,000
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELKHART Woodland Community Space	$175,000
FIRST LIGHT MISSION Operational Support, *1:1 Challenge*	$200,000
GENAI EXCELLENCE ACADEMY Commercial Refrigerator	$3,800
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MICHIANA NFP-Elkhart Home Nurse Visitor, *Year 1 of 2*	$45,050
GOSHEN COLLEGE ECoSistema	$25,000
GOSHEN MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL The Universal Village Project	$10,000
GREENCROFT COMMUNITIES Greencroft Goshen Transportation	$4,325
GREENCROFT COMMUNITIES Connected by Nature: Woodland and Shoreline Trails	$14,370
GYMTOWN FOOD BANK Food Bank Expansion	$120,000
HELLO GORGEOUS OF HOPE 2026 R.E.D. Event	$2,500
INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE Thought Leadership Conference	$2,500
JAIL MINISTRY OF ELKHART COUNTY Holy Alliance Community Center	$100,000

Kids & Families, continued

JOE'S KIDS Children's Therapy	$25,000
KINGDOM KIDS DAYCARE MINISTRY Early Learning Upgrades	$4,500
LEXINGTON HOUSE OF ELKHART Capital Campaign: Kitchen	$25,000
LIFE CENTER OF ELKHART COUNTY LOVE IN ACTION Car Care	$15,000
LITTLE ELKHART CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED Reel Recovery Retreat	$1,000
LIVING FAITH FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES Pantry Flooring	$13,636
MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER Community Vaccination Clinics	$15,000
MICHIANA FAMILY CENTER Resource Fair and Expansion of Services	$4,000
MIDDLEBURY FOOD PANTRY Box Truck, *1:1 Challenge**	$10,000
MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY Countywide Adult Spelling Bee	$1,000
MILFORD FOOD BANK Marketing Tools	$6,000
NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER Operational Support, *Year 1 of 2*	$100,000
NEST & GROW CO. Motherhood Summit	$2,000
OAKLAWN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER The SOURCE: Operational Support, *Year 3 of 3*	$229,000
OPEN GATE PRAISE & DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES Freezer for Distributing Cultivate Meals	$848
PRAIRIE CAMP Security Gates	$25,000
RETA Family Empowerment Initiative	$160,000

RIBBON OF HOPE Operational Support	$25,000
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF INDIANA-MICHIANA Rooftop Backyard Capital Campaign, *1:1 Challenge**	$200,000
RYAN'S PLACE Grief Seminar	$1,000
RYAN'S PLACE Operational Support, *1:1 Challenge**	$70,000
SAINT JOSEPH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Forensics Department	$7,000
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOOD PANTRY Freezer for Distributing Cultivate Meals	$896
THE CENTER Accessibility and Security	$21,138
THE HUB: HEARTS UNITED FOR BRISTOL Family Empowerment and Resilience Trainings	$17,000
THE SALVATION ARMY ELKHART Household Stability Initiative, *1:1 Challenge**	$80,000
THE VILLAGE INITIATIVE Volunteer Retreat	$1,000
THE WINDOW Community Connections, *Year 1 of 2*	$55,000
THE WINDOW Air conditioning Replacement and Repair	$8,000
TOLSON CENTER Healthy Community Wellness Day	$10,000
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME Veldman Family Psychology Clinic, Youth Mental Health Summit	$1,900
WALNUT HILL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Capacity Expansion for Toddler Room	$14,500
WOMEN'S CARE CENTER Operational Support, *Year 1 of 3*	$100,000
TOTAL	**$3,008,524**

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

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.)

BEACON HEALTH FOUNDATION Elkhart General Emergency & Trauma Expansion	$1,000,000
BRISTOL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL Bristol Homecoming Festival	$3,000
BRISTOL ON THE RIVER Corn Dog Festival	$7,500
BRISTOL ON THE RIVER Bristol Mobile Food Support Trailer	$20,000
BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY Capital Campaign	$25,000
CAMERATA SINGERS Camerata Singers Seasonal Support	$5,000
CAMERATA SINGERS Chorus America Conference	$1,500
CITY OF ELKHART Kids Free Fishing Clinic	$1,500
CITY OF ELKHART PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT Ullery Park Revitalization	$150,000
CITY OF NAPPANEE Nappanee PACE Connection Trail	$150,000
CITY OF NAPPANEE Promenade on the Path	$1,500
COMMUNITY PRO-EDUCATION Grand Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration	$5,000
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN First Fridays	$15,000
ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE Seasonal Support	$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR Elkhart County 4-H Fair	$10,000

ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR Mistletoe Market	$3,500
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H FAIR Youth & Family Community Space Enhancements	$15,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Vibrant Communities Implementation Partnership	$35,000
ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Our Waters: Past, Present, Future	$3,000
ELKHART COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT Historic Log Cabin Restoration Project	$25,000
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION Operational Support	$65,000
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION Executive Director Transition Plan	$5,000
ELKHART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER EnviroFest	$2,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Jazz Festival	$50,000
FIVE MEDALS LIVING HISTORY Five Medals: A Living History Experience 2026-2027	$7,000
FRIENDS OF THE LERNER Seasonal Support	$10,000
FRIENDS OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD MUSEUM Caboose Protection Pavilion	$5,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Arts on the Millrace	$3,500
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Goshen & Dragons Event Season	$3,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Seasonal Support	$5,000
GOSHEN ARTS AND EVENTS Riverbend Film Festival 2025-2026	$10,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Musical Center Seasonal Support	$10,000
GOSHEN COMMUNITY CHORALE Spring Concert	$1,000

Placemaking, continued

GOSHEN THEATER Seasonal Support	$10,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Benham Neighborhood Implementation Plan, *Year 3 of 3*	$100,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Future Makers of Elkhart	$25,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Furnace Replacement	$10,000
HALL OF HEROES SUPER HERO MUSEUM Garden of Villains	$5,000
HALL OF HEROES SUPER HERO MUSEUM Comic Con	$5,000
LACASA Sustaining Capacity to Advance Affordable Housing	$250,000
MAPLE CITY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA Annual Concert Series	$5,000
MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Garden Expo	$1,000
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Summer and Fall Festivals	$5,000
MIDDLEBURY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT River Fest	$2,000
MIDDLEBURY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT Music in the Parks Series	$1,500
MIDDLEBURY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT Riverbend Park Pedestrian Bridge Engineering	$5,000
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Middlebury Pumpkin Race	$2,000
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART Seasonal Support	$5,000
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART North Wall Stabilization Project	$45,000
NAPPANEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Apple Festival	$10,000
NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL The Core of Nappanee	$10,000

NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY ALLIANCE Michiana Pottery Tour		$5,000
NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY ALLIANCE Ceramic Equipment		$25,000
NORTHERN INDIANA CLAY ALLIANCE Preview Events		$7,500
PHOENIX PERFORMING ARTS Seasonal Support		$10,000
PREMIER ARTS Seasonal Support		$10,000
PUMPKINVINE TRAILS COALITION Pumpkinvine Nature Trail Storm Clean-up		$12,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Seasonal Support		$5,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Museum Campus Utility Task Vehicle		$3,000
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Veterans Memorial Wall - Grace Lawn Cemetery		$75,000
TOWN OF MILLERSBURG Millersburg Fall Fest		$1,200
TOWN OF WAKARUSA Quilt Garden Patio		$25,000
TOWN OF WAKARUSA Celebration of America		$2,000
VISIT NAPPANEE Experience Nappanee and Christmas Market		$3,500
WAKARUSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Maple Festival		$5,000
WAKARUSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Wakarusa Community Connection Programming		$3,000
WAKARUSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Event Communications Equipment		$1,000
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Seasonal Support		$15,000
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Children's Garden and Cottage Improvements		$8,300
	TOTAL	**$2,376,000**

GRANTS

Opportunity Fund

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

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS		$980,379
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP Startup South Bend - Elkhart 2.0, *Year 3 of 3*		$100,000
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP Operational Support, *Year 4 of 4*		$100,000
	TOTAL	**$1,180,379**

Fund for Elkhart County

ELKHART HEALTH FITNESS AND AQUATICS Operational Support		$150,000
	TOTAL	**$150,000**

Matching Grant Program

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 GRANTS		$974,436
	TOTAL	**$974,436**

Contributors

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

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