



**Hendricks County**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Students Receive Aid for Items that are Critical to Succeed in School**

Hendricks County – Eye glass, dental work, prescriptions and hearing aids are just some of the essential items a young student needs in order to succeed in school. The endowed Habit of the Heart Fund is a special initiative in Hendricks County that benefits women and children in emergency need. The Fund assists by providing grants for those essential items which are intended to improve students' ability to learn. The Habit of the Heart advisory committee only works with referrals from the Hendricks County school systems. Since 2005, the Habit of the Heart Committee has awarded grants in excess of \$20,000.

Guidance counselors and school nurses are seeing from students and their families an increasing need for assistance with items that are critical to enabling students to succeed. One large family in our county determined that two of their children needed hearing aids but needed assistance with this significant cost. Another student was in so much pain she could barely open her mouth; her family did not have dental insurance and they could not afford the emergency dental care. Caring guidance counselors and school nurses immediately applied for a grant from the Habit of the Heart Fund.

“Because I work directly with the students, it is heart-wrenching to see students who don't have what they need – school supplies, clothing, etc. It's a joy to be able to tap into resources like the Habit of the Heart Fund that help the students focus on their education. The fund was created by caring people who don't even know the students... it's really coming from people's hearts,” Justene Thompson, Guidance Counselor Plainfield High School

The hard work and dedication from the case will be highlighted on September 19 and 20 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Habit of the Heart Gala Weekend. On Friday, paint the town red with dinner, champagne/diamond raffle, live auction, tablescapes judging and a performance from The Crowdaddys Band. Saturday is the “Ladies in Red!” luncheon which involves the Handbag Habit purse auction, a gourmet coffee bar, necklace raffle, tablescapes viewing, and featured keynote speaker, Dr. Suzanne Metzger, “There's Power in being a Positive Woman”. All proceeds from the weekend will benefit The Habit of the Heart Fund and the Hendricks County Community Foundation.

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