

Where Local Good Grows

# Hendricks County Community Foundation



Spring seems to be springing early this year. I spent part of the weekend mulching – something I usually don't do until March. I know better than to think winter is over though: the boys high school basketball state finals are still to come!

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming ["Meet the Candidates"](#) events on March 5 and 7. This is a great opportunity to engage with the individuals who are running for office in our community. The events will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex from 5:30 to 8:30 each evening. This event will provide an informal setting for you to meet the candidates, ask questions, and learn about their visions for our community.

March 5 will feature legislative races and governor, and March 7 will feature statewide and federal races. Candidates in contested races will have an opportunity to speak, answering prescreened questions in a forum setting. All candidates will have the opportunity to have a display table to interact with attendees. We encourage you to attend, engage with the candidates, and make your voice heard in shaping the future of our community.

You can submit questions and RSVP by following [this link](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



Yours in Philanthropy,  
[William Rhodehamel](#)  
President & CEO

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## Register to Vote!

Check out the first video in our 8-part Voter Education Series supporting civic engagement in Hendricks County, produced in partnership with [The Republican Newspaper](#), the [Hendricks County Republican Party](#) and the [Hendricks County Democratic Party](#).

Don't miss your chance to voice your opinion - register to vote at [this link](#).



## Diversity Awareness Series



Davyd Hall of I.D.E.A.L. Consulting Group presenting at the Diversity Awareness Lunch & Learn

The Community Foundation hosted the first of a free 4-part lunch & learn Diversity Awareness Series this month with over 40 community members in attendance.

HCCF is seeking to build community unity through this program and giving residents the opportunity to learn about people and cultures that are different from their own.

Register [here](#) for the next DEI lunch & learn Thursday, May 16th.

## Stronger Together



We are excited to announce our “Stronger Together: Building a Better Community” Campaign!

Between now and December 31, 2025, you can **triple your donations** to any new or existing [Family Legacy Fund](#) or [Community Enhancement Fund](#). When you donate **\$1**, we’ll match it with **\$2**! Your contribution to the Stronger Together campaign is an investment in Hendricks County's resilience, unity, and lasting prosperity.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Stronger Together.

We are excited to introduce our new series - My Family Legacy Story - highlighting the generous families in our community who have started a Family Legacy Fund at HCCF!

There are [67 Family Legacy Funds](#) at the Community Foundation, each started by a local family who wants to leave a legacy for good. One of those incredible families is the Comer family who have made their home in Hendricks County for many generations.

Click the link below to hear the Comers share their Family Legacy Story.



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## Grants at a Glance

Our vision is to make Hendricks County a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together.

[HCCF grantmaking](#) is the heartbeat of that vision! We are excited to share with you our latest month of grants, building a stronger future for our community.

[Contact us](#) to find out how you can be a part of this vision and partner with us!

| Fund Name  | Grantee                                | Amount    |
|--|--|-----------|
| Anderson Family Fund   | Level Two Inc.                         | \$ 5,000  |
| Anonymous Fund   | Shepherd's Pathway                     | \$ 13,943 |
| Behavioral Health Needs Assessment and Community Planning Fund | Hendricks College Network              | \$ 40,000 |
| Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition ARPA Fund               | Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition | \$ 15,604 |
| Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund            | North Salem Elementary                 | \$ 1,000  |
| Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund            | Project A.N.G.E.L                      | \$ 1,000  |
| Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund            | St. Malachy School                     | \$ 1,000  |
| TOTAL  |  | \$ 77,547 |

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## HCCF Volunteer Highlight

Mark Kugar is a Commercial Banking Market Executive at BMO Harris Bank in Indianapolis and serves on the HCCF Finance Committee. Read what Mark has to say in his own words about his service for the Community Foundation:

"It has been a rewarding experience to see the impact HCCF's grants have had in our community.

Having served on the Finance Committee for 15+ years, I have witnessed first-hand how our generous donors, strategic partners and dedicated staff have all aligned to grow the Community Foundation and make Hendricks County a better place to live."

- Mark Kugar



[www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org)

## Check out dozens of great events in our community on the [Hendricks Community Calendar!](#)



### Community Connections

HCCF is committed to building community unity and creating a welcoming community for all our residents. Every month we are spotlighting community leaders who help make Hendricks County a great place to live, work and play.

This month we are highlighting Brandy Wethington Perrill, Executive Director of [Hendricks College Network](#).

**What book are you reading right now or have recently read?** I am happiest when amongst nature. I enjoy reading field guides and articles about mushrooms, trees, and foraging. I often refer to a fun book I was gifted, "The Wildcrafted Cocktail." It shares recipes for foraged ingredient simple syrups. I am also obsessed with a guide called "The Lost Art of Reading Natures Signs."

**Name one thing still on your bucket list:** Oh, it's climbing the mountains of Patagonia!

**If you could have dinner with someone from the past, who would it be?** I have always admired the accomplishments of Amelia Earhart. She was an explorer and a pioneer. She was brave and adventurous. Her story was an inspiration for me to pursue aviation at Purdue, as she worked there to help encourage women in an industry that wasn't traditionally pursued. I would ask her about where she found her confidence.

**What is one need identified in HCCF's countywide assessment that we are addressing? How can we continue to improve?**

I certainly understand that life in Hendricks County is often privileged. Although unhealthy addictions are hard to overcome, no matter your social or financial standing, we are a community

that can take steps to make behavioral health education more accessible. One way we are working to address availability of behavioral health resources, is to work toward reinforcing the pipeline of working professionals in our community. We know the power of partnership and therefore are working alongside the Hendricks County Healthcare Partnership supported by the Community Foundation to map out the healthcare career pathways for our current and future students while connecting them to those career opportunities here at home. Stay tuned, there is progress ahead.

**Why do you do what you do ?** I am a people person. I love to meet, greet and get to know the people around me wherever I go. Working in the nonprofit/workforce development world has given me the freedom to network, navigate and create strategies that lead to a vibrant community. We are proud to be trusted and fortunate that the community has supported our work in such a way that allows us to address the needs and concerns of our neighbors.

## Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

Could you use a mid-week pump-me-up? Here are your Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings around the community:



### Fave Five #1: Owen Carr is Avon's Oriole Mascot!

The Indy Star highlighted Avon's very own Owen Carr who has been Avon's Oriole Mascot since 7th grade. [Click here](#) to read about Owen's amazing journey despite many physical and mental challenges.



### Fave Five #2: Sign Up for the Bicentennial Newsletter

This year is Hendricks County's Bicentennial and some great celebrations are in the works! Keep informed by subscribing to the Bicentennial monthly email newsletter.

If you sign up by today, you will be entered into a drawing for two free tickets to the Bicentennial Kick Off Event! [Subscribe here](#).



### Fave Five #3: Brownsburg Schools Honored for High IREAD Scores

Governor Holcomb and other state leaders recently recognized top-performing schools in the state with IREAD scores of 95% or above. [Brownsburg Community School Corporation](#) was among the top dozen school districts in the state with 96% of third graders displaying passing reading skills. Congrats Brownsburg schools!



### Fave Five #4: Hendricks County Public Policy Series

Community leaders recently attended another session of the Hendricks County Public Policy Series on Housing, presented by **Avon Chamber of Commerce**, **Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce**, **Danville Chamber of Commerce**, **Plainfield Chamber of Commerce**, and funded by **Duke Energy** and the **Community Foundation**.



From left: Josephine Cialkowski, Michaela Di Palmo, and Amanda Fulcher

### Fave Five #5: Three Hendricks County Women Selected at 500 Princesses

Three women from our community were selected to be the **2024 500 Festival Princesses**: **Josephine Cialkowski**, Pittsboro, a graduate of Tri-West Hendricks High School, and a senior at Ball State University; **Michaela Di Palmo**, Avon, a graduate of Avon High School, and a senior at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; and **Amanda Fulcher**, Clayton, a graduate of Indiana Connections Academy, and a sophomore at Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis. Congrats!



Hendricks County Community Foundation

# Thank You to Our 2024 Corporate Partners

Thank you to our outstanding corporate partners! The support of these community-minded organizations is vital to realizing our vision of Hendricks County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together. Please consider patronizing these local businesses for all they do for HCCF and our community!

## Platinum Partners



**Hendricks**  
Regional Health



**STATE BANK**  
Indiana strong. Locally loved.

## Gold Partners



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4-H Fairgrounds and  
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## Silver Partners



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All people. Always.



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INSTITUTIONAL INVESTING MADE PERSONAL



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Hendricks County Community  
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## Bronze Partner



TKO  
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**Hendricks County Bank**  
and Trust Company

## Foundation Friends

Elliott Company | Estep Burkey Simmons, LLC | Photography by Sarah Crail

Is your organization looking to expand your customer base? Join this group of community-minded organizations and become a HCCF Corporate Partner! Contact us to learn more.

Where Local Good Grows



**Hendricks County  
Community Foundation**

www.hendrickscountycf.org | 317.268.6240

Hendricks County Community Foundation | 6319 East US Highway 36, Suite 211, Avon, IN 46123

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