

Where Local Good Grows



Hendricks County Community Foundation

Spring in Indiana always keeps us guessing. One day feels like winter hasn't loosened its grip, and the next hints at warmer days ahead. It's a season of transition—and a reminder that change, even when unpredictable, often brings new opportunities.

We have two important opportunities to share this month.

First, we're proud to announce the first grant from our \$3 million Lilly Endowment Community Support Grant (read more below). This funding will support the [Republican Newspaper's Voter's Guide](#), which will be sent to every household in Hendricks County—so watch for yours in the coming weeks. It's an important step in strengthening civic engagement and ensuring our community has access to clear, reliable information ahead of upcoming elections.

Second, we're honored to share news of the [largest bequest in our history](#)—a \$1.74 million gift from the estate of Joyce Huron Hutchens Trent (read more below). Through the newly established Huron Family Fund, Joyce's legacy will support students, preserve local history, and provide flexible resources to meet our community's needs for generations to come. It's a powerful example of how thoughtful planning can create lasting impact right here at home.

And finally, Moose loves this time of year—mostly because it gives him an excuse to dress up. He hopes you had a Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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

HCCF Awards \$777,775 in Community Support Grants

We're excited to share the first **\$777,775** in non-competitive grants from our new **\$3 million GIFT IX initiative, supported by Lilly Endowment Inc.** This initial funding will help address community issues you told us matter most in the 2025 Community Needs Assessment, like expanding transportation and increasing childcare options for local families. By partnering up with nonprofits across the county, we're ensuring these funds create a real, lasting difference for our neighbors.

GIFT IX Grant Recipients:

- **Child Care Answers:** Helping local families find and access high-quality, affordable childcare.
- **Hendricks County Senior Services:** Adding a new vehicle and staff to the LINK transportation system.
- **Hendricks Live!:** Continuing the "Opening Doors" series to bring diverse cultural programming to our community.
- **Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center:** Supporting a new Director of Development to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **The Republican Newspaper:** Delivering comprehensive voter guides to every household in the county.



HCCF Awards \$90,000 for Voter Guides

We are excited to continue our partnership with **The Republican Newspaper** to make sure every resident in Hendricks County feels empowered when they head to the polls. Through a **\$90,000** Community Support grant from GIFT IX, we are supporting the production and distribution of voter guides to every single household in the county for both primary and general elections over the next three years. Read more [here](#).

We believe that a stronger community starts with an informed and active electorate, and we're honored to help provide the tools you need to make your voice heard. Look for your copy of the Voter's Guide coming soon to your mailbox!



William Rhodehamel, HCCF CEO, presenting grant check to Jerry Vornholt of The Republican, with Dave Winters of the HC Republican Party, and Linda Lasiter from the HC Democratic Party.

Historic Gift Establishes Huron Family Fund at HCCF

We're honored to share some historic news. HCCF has received a \$1.74 million bequest from the estate of Joyce Huron Hutchens Trent—the largest bequest in our history!

Raised in Avon with deep pioneer roots, Joyce overcame early hardships to build a successful 45-year career in banking, always remaining a devoted champion for local education and heritage.

Through the newly established Huron Family Fund, Joyce's legacy will support students, preserve local history, and respond to the evolving needs of our community for many years to come.

From a remarkable life rooted in Avon to a vision that continues to give back, this is community philanthropy at its very best. Read more about this amazing gift [here](#).

Please [contact HCCF](#) if you are interested in setting up a planned gift to benefit your community.



Joyce Huron Hutchens Trent

Nonprofit Learning Event: Language Access

We were excited to host over 20 local nonprofit organizations at MADE at Plainfield for a deep dive into community language access. Led by Irene Paxia and The Language Access Lab, the session provided vital strategies to ensure every member of our community can access essential services in the language they understand best.

Here are the other opportunities coming up - [registrations](#) required for the learning sessions.

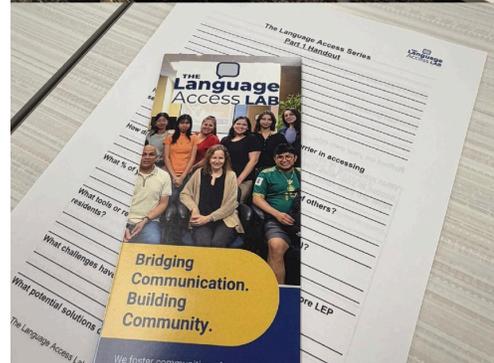
Nonprofit Networking Opportunities:

- May 19 from 4:00pm - 6:00p: The Coachman (Plainfield)
- August 18 from 8:00am - 10:00am: MOTW Coffee (Avon)
- December 1 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Pinheads (Brownsburg)

Nonprofit Learning

Opportunities: (MADE@Plainfield):

- June 16 & 17 from 8:00am -5:00pm: The Fund Raising School: Fundraising for Small Nonprofits
- October 27 8:00am - 12:00pm & November 17 8:30am - 3:30pm: Storytelling for Impact



We are Hiring!

HCCF is excited to offer a paid, part-time internship opportunity for an undergraduate or graduate student interested in nonprofit leadership and community impact. This hands-on role provides meaningful experience supporting key initiatives like our Stronger Together campaign, strategic planning, and grantmaking efforts through the Lilly Endowment’s GIFT program.



Interns will gain valuable skills in research, communications, event support, and donor engagement while working alongside a team dedicated to strengthening Hendricks County.

This is an excellent opportunity for students who want to make a difference locally while building real-world experience in philanthropy. Positions are available for summer 2026 and beyond. To learn more visit our [website here](#).

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

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! Below are the grants awarded last month, building a stronger future for our community.

Fund	Grantee	Grant Amount
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (1)	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 49,747
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (1)	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 1,158
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (1)	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 575
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (1)	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 10,174
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (2)	Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church	\$ 50,000
GIFT IX Community Support Regranting Fund	Child Care Answers	\$ 150,000
GIFT IX Community Support Regranting Fund	Hendricks County Senior Services	\$ 375,000
GIFT IX Community Support Regranting Fund	Plainfield Performing and Fine Arts Council/Hendricks Live!	\$ 60,000
GIFT IX Community Support Regranting Fund	Susie's Place - The Hendricks County Child Advocacy Center	\$ 52,775
GIFT IX Community Support Regranting Fund	The Republican	\$ 90,000
HCCF Inclusive Philanthropy Fund	Hendricks County International Festival (\$15,000 over 5 years)	\$ 15,000
HCFPC Libby Hammond Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	\$ 16,180
HCFPC Libby Hammond Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	\$ 13,820
Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition Fund	Abundant Life Food Pantry	\$ 703
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	\$ 3,546
TOTAL		\$ 888,678

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

March is here, and with it, a first look at spring across Hendricks County. This month is packed with opportunities to connect that help our county thrive.

Check out our Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for local happenings and ways to engage!



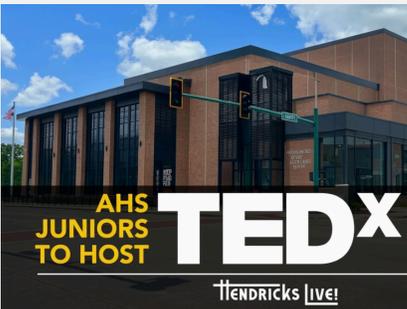
Fave Five #1: Veteran Glen Nulty Honored

Brownsburg recently honored 40-year resident and veteran Glenn Nulty as the inaugural recipient of the Community Impact Award for his exceptional leadership in launching the town's first Field of Honor. Nulty dedicated dozens of hours to coordinating the patriotic display, which raised funds for the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund and featured rows of memorial flags at Town Hall. Congrats Glen!



Fave Five #2: Visitor Spending in Hendricks County Climbs Past \$400 Million Milestone

It's fantastic to see our community thriving! This \$400 million milestone is a testament to the hard work of many people - local business owners and leaders in government, education, and the nonprofit sector - that create the vibrant culture that makes Hendricks County a place people want to visit. Congratulations to our partners at [Visit Hendricks County](#) on this record-breaking achievement!



Fave Five #3: Avon High School Juniors to Host TedX Event

Join the AHS TEDx Club on Wednesday, April 15, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at Hendricks Live! for an evening of student-led talks designed to spark community engagement and fresh perspectives. Supported by a grant from HCCF's Hendricks County Youth Philanthropy Fund, this event provides a unique platform for students to share their passions beyond the classroom. Register [here](#).



Fave Five #4: Main Street Plainfield Accepted into Aspiring Indiana Program

Main Street Plainfield has officially been accepted into the Aspiring Indiana Accredited Main Street program! This prestigious one-year residency provides specialized training and resources to help build an even more vibrant, economically strong, and welcoming downtown. Congrats, Main Street Plainfield!



Fave Five #5: The Great Egg Hunt is back!

Get ready to hop over to Washington Township Park on April 4 for the 2026 Great Egg Hunt! This free community event features age-specific hunts, family-friendly activities, and professional photos with the Bunny starting at 9:30 AM. [Click here](#) for more information.



Hendricks County Community Foundation

Thank You to Our 2026 Corporate Partners

Thank you to our incredible corporate partners! Their generous support is essential to making our vision for Hendricks County a reality – a place where everyone has the chance to thrive and build a brighter future. We encourage you to show your appreciation for these community-minded businesses by supporting them in return.

Platinum Partner



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



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
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