

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation



Hi Friends,

Spring is here! Vaccines are here! It's warming up, spring flowers are blooming, and there seems to be light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. While it is prudent to continue to follow recommendations for limiting the spread of COVID-19 - wear a mask, maintain social distance, wash your hands, get that vaccine when you can! - at least we'll be able to dine outdoors soon. And with the vaccines, there may be times that are more normal on the horizon.

Last month the Community Foundation made our Designated Fund Grants. These annual grants totaled almost **\$330,000** and were started by generous people to support their passions. The Funds support a single organization each year, providing them with guaranteed revenue. Did you know you could make your annual giving to organizations you care about - nonprofits, schools, churches, even the fire department - into forever donations? A Designated Fund is a great way leave a legacy for a project or program you care about. [Contact me](#) today to find out how to make your annual gifts forever gifts!

We're gearing up our work on our Community Unity grant. This work flows from our [2019 Community Needs Assessment](#) and a generous grant from Lilly Endowment. Read on for more on opportunities to get involved with these efforts.

Viva la Spring!



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

Congrats to Our 2021 Lilly Scholars!

We are excited to announce the recipients of the 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship:

Amelia Collier, Avon High School
Caroline Jackson, Avon High School
Julia Muskat, Plainfield High School

These seniors will receive full tuition to an accredited public or private nonprofit college or university in Indiana and a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment. They were awarded this prestigious scholarship based on significant community service, outstanding academic achievement and leadership skills.

HCCF received more than 200 scholarship applications from Hendricks County students. After the applications were reviewed, ten students were chosen to be interviewed. Finalists included:

Anna Chesterson, Plainfield High School
Samuel Crook, Avon High School
Preston Fox, Cascade High School
Sriya Koganti, Avon High School
Elaina Perry, Brownsburg High School
Olivia Ruble, Cardinal Ritter High School
Chase Searcy, Cascade High School

If you'd like to help other Hendricks County seniors obtain a higher education, give to the [HCCF Scholarship Fund](#).



From left: Amelia Collier, Caroline Jackson and Julia Muskat



Brighter Together

Over the weekend, the [Town of Avon](#), the [Town of Brownsburg](#), the [Town of Danville](#), the [Town of Plainfield](#) and the Community Foundation came together to remember the 323 lives lost to COVID-19 in this community since the declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020.

The "Brighter Together" county-wide vigil featured community leaders remembering the challenging year, but also all the ways we have grown closer as a community as our residents stepped up to care for the needs of their friends and neighbors. If you missed it, you can watch the full program [here](#).

HCCF is 25 years old!

We have much to celebrate as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and see so many Hoosiers receive their vaccine. We have one more celebration to add - HCCF turns 25 years old this year!

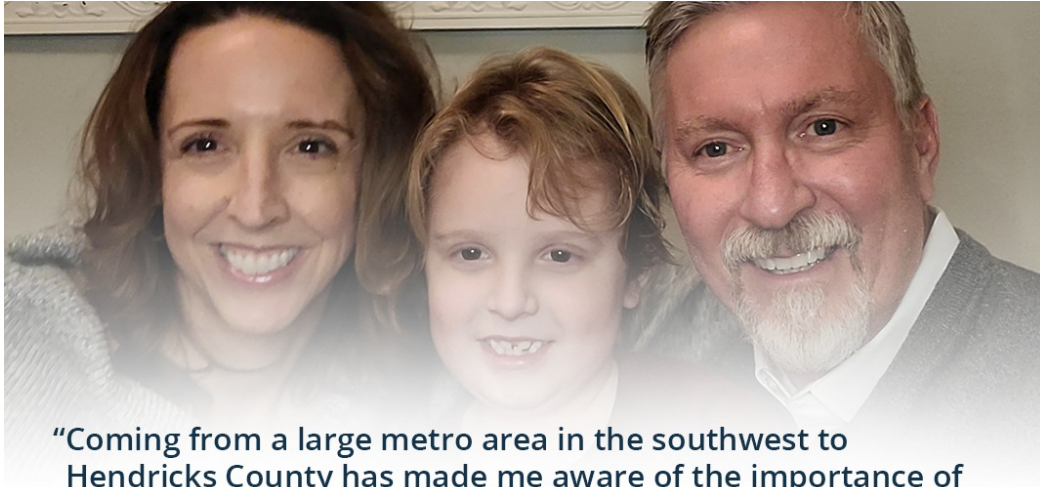
In 1996, HCCF, then known as the While Lick Community Foundation, became a county-wide organization with a new mission and vision to serve all of Hendricks County. Many generous people gave of themselves to found the Community Foundation all those years ago, and we are excited to celebrate our supporters- young and old - and all the good we have accomplished together in this community. Check back in next month when we officially start our silver anniversary celebration!



Do you receive the HCCF print newsletter? Stay up to date with us and all that is happening in our community by signing up [here](#)!

A Board to Brag About

Jennifer Ahles, Treasurer & Financial Controller at Gilliatte General Contractors, joined the HCCF Board of Directors this year and is serving as the Board Treasurer. Read what Jennifer has to say in her own words about her service for the Community Foundation.



“Coming from a large metro area in the southwest to Hendricks County has made me aware of the importance of community and being involved. What better way to serve than be a part of a wonderful organization like the Hendricks County Community Foundation. **They help meet the needs of our community.”**

-Jennifer Ahles

Click [here](#) to see a full listing of the HCCF Board of Directors.

[Memorial](#) and [honorary](#) gifts are a special way to keep your loved one's memory alive or honor a special person. Check out the listings updated quarterly on our website of all those who gave memorial and honorary gifts to HCCF.

Community Connections



Raising Black Voices: Paula Strout

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.

Meet Paula Strout, an Avon resident who travels across the world for her career. Paula was highlighted recently in the "Raising Black Voices" video series produced by the [Hendricks County Alliance for Diversity](#) (HCAD), a fund of the Community Foundation.

Paula says our differences make for a stronger and more connected community. Her hope is that the school systems, police departments and community leadership reflect the changing demographics county-wide. Thank you for sharing your story Paula!

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

Spring is in the air and in our steps as we celebrate the great things going on in Hendricks County! Here are your Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings around the community:



#1: Two rail trails that run through Hendricks County - the [B&O Trail](#) and the [Vandalia Trail](#) - have received \$4.5 million and \$1.7 million respectively for extensions to connect to Indianapolis. Read more [here](#).



#2: [Leadership Hendricks County](#) is offering a Leadership Development Series of half-day workshops designed to provide ongoing, interactive and professional development for Hendricks County residents. Sign up [here](#).



#3: [Hendricks Regional Health](#) is asking for volunteers to staff their vaccine clinics. [Sign up](#) to help our community get vaccinated!



#4: [Brownsburg Parks & Recreation](#) is offering free socially distanced BINGO in Cardinal Park each Tuesday morning through April 13. Sign up [here](#)!



#5: [Plainfield Parks & Recreation](#) is sponsoring an EGG-cellent Easter egg hunt at Talon Stream Park! Find out more [here](#).

Stay COVID Safe: Wash your hands, wear a mask, physically distance and get your vaccine!

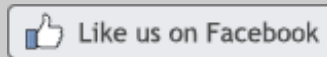
Did you know that Kroger Community Rewards Program allows customers to select a charity of their

choice to receive a percentage of all their purchases? You would be surprised at how those dollars can add up! Visit the [Kroger Community Reward website](#) and select the Hendricks County Community Foundation (Org. # JY399) as your nonprofit of choice and support HCCF every time you buy groceries!



Hendricks County Community Foundation | info@hendrickscountycf.org |

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