



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Community Foundation Awards \$15,000 Grant to Hendricks County Public Schools

On July 10, the Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) made a \$15,000 grant to Hendricks County public schools to support the students' and staff needs as schools reopen. The coronavirus pandemic has created challenges for public education as schools plan to reopen in Hendricks County at the end of July since closing in March to prevent the spread of the virus. Teaching and learning occurred at home for tens of thousands in Hendricks County, requiring a significant investment in technology. As schools begin re-opening their doors in the coming weeks, HCCF recognizes the increased need for school supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other costs associated with the challenges that COVID-19 will bring to the schools. "We are proud to support our local schools in helping keep our community healthy and safe," said William Rhodehamel, HCCF President & CEO. "Education is so important, but so is health and safety--we know our schools will be making tough decisions to balance the two."

Grants were awarded to schools proportionally by the number of enrolled students based on Indiana Department of Education data. Funds may be used at the school's discretion. Amanda Babinec, Executive Director of the Avon Education Foundation, shared, "The Hendricks County Community Foundation has a way of always knowing where help is needed the most. With the current economic situation due to COVID-19, there is a huge need in our county for assistance with school supplies as students and teachers prepare to head back to the classroom. HCCF is stepping up not only to assist Avon, but all schools in the county. The Avon Education Foundation and Avon Community School Corporation thank you for your relentless dedication to our community."

In the 2019 Community Needs Assessment conducted by HCCF, a strong K-12 education system was ranked as the second most important community asset in the county. The Community Foundation is proud to support our top-quality schools and the well-being of their students during this challenging time. COVID-19 continues to affect our community; so, as our schools reopen, it's even more important to wear a mask, keep physical distance (at least 6 feet) and wash your hands and use hand sanitizer routinely.

The Hendricks County Community Foundation partners with generous people to realize their charitable goals while addressing community needs in meaningful and lasting ways. The Community Foundation manages assets of over \$17 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2019, the Community Foundation gave over \$1,600,000 in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to local students. For more information, call 317-268-6240 or visit www.hendrickscountycf.org.

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