

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation



Since March is Women's History month, you may find a theme in this month's e-newsletter. Women have played a critical role in our community and in the formation and success of the Community Foundation. Founding HCCF Executive Director, Deedee Daniel, led HCCF for over 13 years from our start to a sophisticated and vital community resource. Her building of this organization is a testament to her good sense and better heart. Deedee and her husband Mel are also two of the kindest and most generous people I know. Deedee continues to serve Hendricks County in so many ways. Listen to their HCCF Story below!

Our former Board Chair, Alice McColgin, who led the Board during the transition from Executive Director Janet Haley's tenure through my hiring, is an exemplar of the strong and foresighted women who have served – and continue to serve! – HCCF in many volunteer capacities, helping create an impact for good in our community. See more on Alice below.

Our newest staff member, Emma Keicher, continues the theme. Emma is joining us as our intern, a position supported through a grant from Lilly Endowment. She is a senior at Butler studying neuropsychology and during high school she worked with the community foundation in her hometown of DeKalb, Illinois.

Just a few examples of the wonderful women who make Hendricks County a better place. Thank you all!



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

HCCF Awards Grant to the Parks Foundation



Grant Presentation to PHOHC

HCCF began a new [strategic partnership](#) last year with the [Parks Foundation of Hendricks County \(PFOHC\)](#) to maximize our collective impact to better support parks, trails and outdoor spaces.

As part of this partnership, HCCF awarded **\$26,500** last month to PFOHC which will go into the Gary Emsweller Parks & Trails Fund to support public parks and trails across the county.

All public parks and trails have the opportunity to apply for grants from this fund to support their outdoor spaces and programs. Grant requests will

be accepted until April 3, 2023, with grants being distributed in May. If you have questions or would like to apply for a grant, please contact [PFOHC Executive Director Katy Cummings](#).

HCCF has a new intern!



Emma Keicher

We are excited to welcome Emma Keicher as our new intern. Emma is currently studying psychology and neuroscience at Butler University and will graduate in December. She grew up in Sycamore, Illinois and has always had a love of nonprofits. She spent time at DeKalb County Community Foundation in Illinois and also interned with Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic. In her free time, she loves to travel, read, be outside, and spend time with family and friends.

Welcome Emma!

HCCF Brand Guide Review



We want to know what you think! HCCF is reviewing our brand guidelines to ensure that we are clearly communicating our mission, vision and values to Hendricks County.

We would like your input to help guide our review and inform us on how our organization and our work is perceived in the community.

Please take this quick [2-question survey](#) to share your thoughts. Thank you!

A Board to Brag About

Alice McColgin, retired from Indianapolis Power & Light Company, served on the HCCF Board from 2004 -2015 and as HCCF Board Chair and Chair of the Executive Committee from 2012-2013. Alice currently serves on the HCCF Awareness Committee. Read what Alice has to say in her own words about her service for the Community Foundation.

"It's exciting to see the Community Foundation serving as such an able convener, bringing together people from all walks of life to explore new ways to enrich the quality of life across our communities. It's an honor to volunteer and give back with so many others helping improve Hendricks County."

- Alice McColgin



What new and exciting community events are you planning this year? Add them to our [Hendricks Community Calendar!](#)

My HCCF Story - Mel & Deedee Daniel

We are excited to continue our series of stories shared by our generous donors, supporters, grantees and volunteers who make our good work in this community possible! Click the link below to hear Mel & Deedee Daniel share their story of playing an integral role in establishing the Community Foundation back in 1993!



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 **Cheryl Koch-Martinez**, Consumer Advocacy Project Director/Senior Attorney at Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

What is your favorite movie? It's a tie between "Breaking Away" and "Hoosiers"

What book are you reading right now or have recently read? "Go Up for Glory", by Bill Russell, Legend of the Boston Celtics.

If you could have dinner with someone from the past, who would it be? A dinner conversation with Cesar Chavez would be fascinating, as earlier in my career I advocated on behalf of migrant farmworkers. His labor union organizing and nonviolent activism on behalf of migrant farmworkers brought about significant positive change for the working class.

What piece of advice would you give your younger self? Live in the moment & take time to celebrate the victories, no matter how small, instead of rushing to the next task on your list.

What is one need identified in HCCF's countywide assessment that we are addressing? How can we continue to improve? There is no county in Indiana - or the US - where a renter working full-time at minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment. This is because worker's wages have not kept pace over time with the increasing cost of housing. Having affordable housing reduces childhood poverty, increases economic mobility, and bolsters a community's economic growth. A community that supports an increase in available rental units that are habitable and affordable and also helps to reduce barriers to homeownership is off to a good start in addressing the affordability crisis locally. A recent example I am aware of involved the town recognizing the need for affordable rental units: Plainfield supported a mixed-use downtown project that included some affordable rental units

Why do you do what you do? I have the amazing privilege of helping individuals improve their lives through my work with Indiana Legal Services, which provides no-cost legal representation in civil cases to low-income Hoosiers. As a result, clients gain increased access to better jobs/career-building, more housing options and other opportunities, making the future brighter for themselves and their families.

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

Springtime fun is just around the corner! Check out your Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings in Hendricks County:



Fave Five #1: Distinguished Young Woman from Tri-West

Congratulations to Madison Parker on being named the new Distinguished Young Woman of Indiana for 2023! Madison is the local representative from Tri-West High School and will be traveling to Mobile, Alabama in June to represent Indiana at Nationals.

Fave Five #2: Four Hendricks County Women Named 500 Princesses



Last month the [500 Festival](#) announced four college-aged women from Hendricks County have been selected as 500 Festival Princesses! The princesses are: Shylah Beauchamp–Avon, Lauren Coffey–Plainfield, Grace Gliva–Brownsburg, and Elizabeth Wetzel-Avon. The 500 Festival Princess program celebrates Indiana’s most civic-minded, academically driven young women. Congratulations!



Fave Five #3: Plainfield Fire Department Makes History

February 27th was a historic day at the [Plainfield Fire Territory](#). For the first time in the department's 100-year history, an all-female crew staffed a 24-hour duty shift at one of Plainfield Fire Territory's stations. Joining Captain Kathy Pennington were Firefighter Carole Klinger, Firefighter Wendy Whitaker, Paramedics Abi Boylan & Savannah Feldmanis. They are hoping that they can portray to other young women that career options in this space are open to them.



Fave Five #4: Hendricks County Businesses Named Best places to Work

Four Hendricks County companies are among the 125 Hoosier businesses represented on the "[2023 Best Places to Work in Indiana](#)" list. The four organizations were Electric Plus, Banning Engineering, Magnum Logistics and Integrity Learning Center. Congratulations!



Fave Five #5: Top 5 Spring Break Options in Hendricks County

Spring Break is almost here, and if you haven't made travel plans, take advantage all the fun things you can do right here in Hendricks County!

The county has many interesting and unique shops, a variety of parks and trails and plenty of restaurant options to satisfy anyone's culinary tastes. Check out the [list on Visit Hendricks County's website!](#)

Thank You to Our 2023 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



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partner



Foundation Friends

Capital Cities | 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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