

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation



After a very cold and snowy January, February feels like a welcome invitation to slow down, look around, and reconnect. Even on the chilliest days, the generosity and spirit of Hendricks County continue to bring us warmth—and this month's stories are a wonderful reminder of that.

In this issue, we're excited to welcome six new members to our Board of Directors, each bringing unique experiences and perspectives from across the county. We're also celebrating the second year of our [Women's Giving Circle](#), now more than 200 members strong, and sharing the impact of more than \$900,000 in recent grants made through our Lilly Endowment Community Support grant and our [Unrestricted](#) and [Designated Funds](#).

Did you know a Designated Fund at HCCF can turn annual giving into forever giving for an organization you love? I'd be glad to share more.

And if you need a little extra warmth, Moose and Bonnie are happy to help—braving the snow together, offering plenty of smiles, and reminding us that community is built through care, connection, and showing up for one another.

We're glad you're here with us. Read on for more good news from across Hendricks County.



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

HCCF Awards over \$180,000 in Designated Grants

HCCF awarded **\$180,385** in designated grants this month to organizations all over the county - from North Salem to Plainfield, and everywhere in between. These annual grants support education, agriculture, health and human services, parks and recreation, senior services and more! These grants were made by funds established by donors with a passion to support an organization important to them.

Here's just a few of these impactful grants:

- **\$1,752** grant to **Plainfield High School** from the Ray and Carolyn Saxman Student Assistance Fund to support the student emergency fund
- **\$5,169** grant to the **Avon-Washington Township Library** from the Avon-Washington Township Library Fund to support operating
- **\$4,019** grant to **Sheltering Wings** from the Greg Hylton Children's Endowment Fund to support children's programming with a particular emphasis on music

Do you want to make a difference by supporting an organization you care about? [Contact us today](#) about starting a Designated Fund that will give back to your chosen organization every year!



HCCF Grantees from top: Plainfield High School, Avon Washington Township Pubic Library, Sheltering Wings

HCCF Welcomes New Board Members

HCCF is excited to announce new Board Members and new roles for our current members.

New members for 2026 are Jeremy Gooch, Linda Langford, Scott Slavens, Chris Tincher, Renea Whicker and Melissa Yetter. Current Board member Amy Comer Elliott is transitioning to Vice Chair, and Shariq Siddiqui is transitioning to Secretary.

We are grateful for the visionary leadership of our Board!



New HCCF Board Members (from left): Scott Slavens, Renea Whicker, Melissa Yetter, Linda Langford, Chris Tincher and Jeremy Gooch

Women's Giving Circle Grant Applications Open

Nonprofits, if you serve women and children in Hendricks County, you are invited to apply for funding from the [Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle](#), a women's philanthropy group and program of HCCF. This group provides financial support for local nonprofit organizations while encouraging women to get involved and engaged in local philanthropy.

Applications and further information on the Women's Giving Circle grant program can be found on the [HCCF's website](#). Grant applications are due no later than March 12, 2026 at 3 pm.



Nonprofit Learning & Networking Events for 2026

HCCF is proud to offer several growth and connection opportunities for our local nonprofit partners in 2026 (see below). Don't miss our first 2026 learning session - [The Language Access Lab](#) on March 17—a deep dive into inclusive communication for local nonprofit leaders.

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):

- March 17 from 8:30am - 4:30pm: The Language Access Lab
- 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 – A Leadership Workshop

Registration is required for the workshops—click here to [learn more and register](#).



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.

In January 2026, HCCF awarded **\$180,385** in Designated and Agency Advised Grants ([click here](#)) to see listing of designated grants), as well as **\$288,185** in Donor Advised, Field of Interest and Unrestricted Grants (see listing below) for a grand total of **\$468,570** in grants to make our community better!

Fund	Grantee	Amount
Amo High School Alumni Association Education Fund	Amo High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund	\$8,000
Directors' Unrestricted Fund	Hendricks County Tricentennial Fund	\$1,000
HC Health Partnership Community Project Fund	Hendricks County Health Partnership Community Project	\$169
HCFPC Libby Hammond Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	\$14,881
Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition Fund	Member Pantries of the Coalition	\$65,000
Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition Fund	Dollywood Foundation	\$3,645
Hendricks County Women and Children's Fund	Habit of the Heart, Inc.	\$25,980
Hendricks County Youth Philanthropy Fund	Avon High School	\$2,000
Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund	Danville Little House Foundation, Inc.	\$2,000
Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund	Hazelwood Christian Church	\$1,000
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	\$3,645
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	Amo First Baptist Church	\$700
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	Light and Life Free Methodist Church Food Pantry	\$744
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	Mill Creek Christian Support Center	\$700
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	North Salem Christian Church	\$700
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	Shared Blessings Food Pantry	\$700
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	Shared Blessings Food Pantry	\$700
North Salem State Bank Community Fund	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	\$700
Operating Endowment Fund	General Operating Fund	\$47,203
Robert G. Porter Thank You Fund	North Salem United Methodist Church	\$718
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Avon Education Foundation	\$16,021
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Brownsburg Education Foundation	\$15,664
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Danville Community Education Foundation	\$4,169
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Mill Creek Community School Corporation	\$2,401
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	North West Hendricks Education Foundation	\$2,920
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Plainfield Community Schools Education Foundation	\$8,825
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Leadership Hendricks County	\$5,000
Stronger Together Grantmaking Fund	Parks Foundation of Hendricks County	\$53,000
TOTAL		\$288,185

[Click here](#) for a listing of the individual food pantries receiving grants from the Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition Fund.

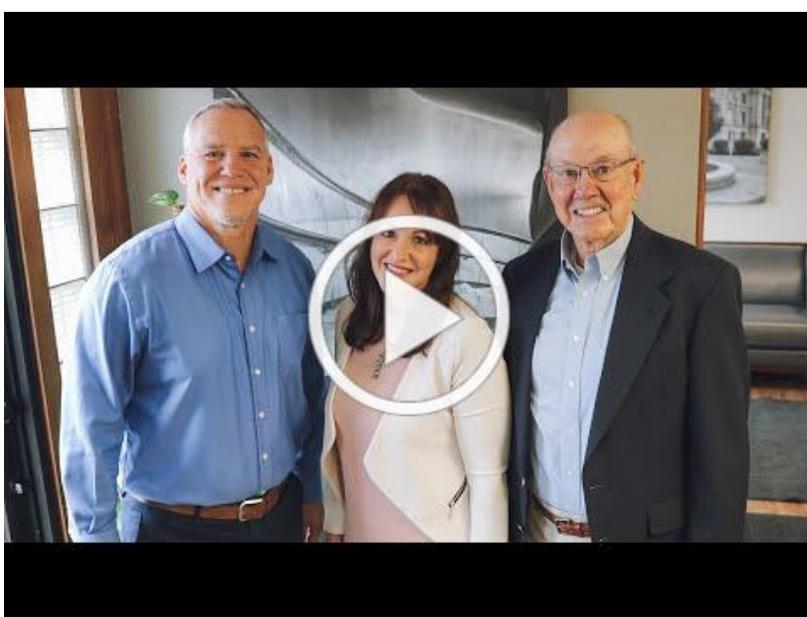
Your Gift to a Family Legacy Fund will be Matched 2-to-1

After HCCF successfully made the Lilly GIFT VIII Match last year, Lilly announced the next match - GIFT IX! As a result, HCCF's Stronger Together Campaign is continuing, meaning that any gift to a [Family Legacy Fund](#) or other unrestricted fund is matched **2-to-1!**

Family Legacy Funds (FLF) are permanent, unrestricted funds invested at HCCF that are used to meet our community's greatest challenges when and where they arise. By starting this fund, you ensure your family name is memorialized while making a positive impact on Hendricks County, forever.

Check out this video where the Comer family shares why they started a FLF at the Community Foundation!

[Contact us today](#) to build your family's permanent legacy in Hendricks County.



Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

As we head into February, we're shifting our focus from the new year's rush to the heart of what matters: community connection here in Hendricks County. The cold winter air may be lingering but our local calendar is heating up with plenty of ways to engage and get involved this month!

Check out our Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings around the county this month.



Fave Five #1: Men in Action Read

Make a lasting impact on a child's future by joining [Men IN Action READ](#), sponsored by Sheltering Wings, on Thursday, March 19. Spend just a few hours of your morning reading to an elementary classroom and showing local students that their community cares. Register [here](#).



Fave Five #2: Hendricks County Flavor Fest

A new culinary event highlighting all the wonderful food and flavors west of Indy, [Hendricks County Flavor Fest](#) invites you to "Dine, Check-In & Win!" Simply scan the QR code during your visit to enter for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards awarded weekly. Click [here](#) to learn more!

SHAMROCK EXTRAVAGANZA CRAFT FAIR

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CRAFT VENDORS, FACE PAINT,
FOOD TRUCKS, AND MORE!



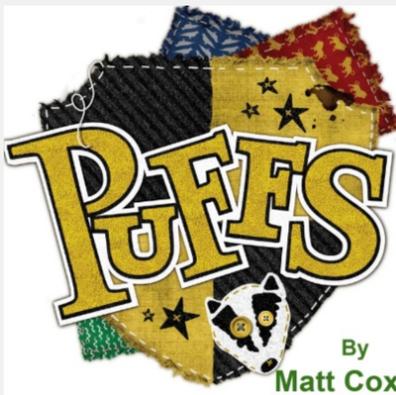
Fave Five #3: Craft Fair at Cascade High School

Celebrate St. Patty's Day at the [Shamrock Extravaganza Craft Fair](#), a fun-filled day featuring craft vendors, food trucks, face painting, and more! Hosted by Share the Dress at Cascade High School on March 14th, 10 am- 4 pm, this event supports their mission of providing prom dresses to high school girls at no cost.



Fave Five #4: Tune in to the Danville Chamber Chat

You are invited to join the conversation with the [Danville Chamber of Commerce](#) by tuning in to the latest episodes of [Chamber Chat](#). This podcast brings together local business owners, nonprofits leaders, aspiring students, and neighbors to share the stories and insights that are fun and informative. Find all episodes of Chamber Chat on YouTube and Spotify.



Fave Five #5: Hendricks Civic Theatre Performs Puffs!

Hendricks Civic Theatre presents Puffs!, a funny story of a group of well-meaning underdogs at a magic school were just trying to get through class. See it live at Hendricks Live! from February 27 – March 8. Get tickets [here](#).



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
Hendricks County Community Foundation
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