Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

I always find February exciting. First off, I'm one of "those people" who like winter, so a winter storm like the one we had at the beginning of the month is fun for me. I bundle up, go out and tromp around in the snow, play with the dogs, and generally have a great time. Secondly, February is always a big grantmaking month here at HCCF, and that's always exciting.

In February we have the privilege of processing and sending grant payments for all of our permanent Designated Funds. Designated Funds are those that donors create to support a specific nonprofit organization. With these funds, you can make your monthly or annual giving to your favorite nonprofit, forever. So HCCF sends checks to those nonprofits – over $280,000 in 2022 – to support their work in our community. **Our donors have started funds to support a wide-range of community organizations, almost 60 of them this year, ranging from our libraries, to our schools, to our churches, to our youth organizations.**

If you could support an organization in our community forever, what would it be? Would you like to learn about creative ways to leverage your gifts? Contact me today!

In the meantime, I am so thankful for the generous folks who created our Designated Funds, and for the community nonprofits doing such important work in our community. HCCF is blessed to be able to support them!

Here's hoping for more snow!

Yours in Philanthropy,
William Rhodehamel
President & CEO

Grant presentation to the Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition

HCCF Awards over $280,000 in Designated Grants

HCCF awarded over **$280,000** in grants this month to organizations in every corner of Hendricks County to support education, agriculture, health and human services, parks and recreation, senior services and more! These grants were made by our Designated Funds, funds established by donors with a passion to support an organization important to them.

Here's a small sample of these impactful grants:

$16,993 to the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County from the **Glen & Mildred Harlos Fund**

$2,534 grant to Mill Creek Community Schools from the **Jackie Eggers Memorial Fund for Children**

$2,202 grant to Leadership Hendricks County from the **Comer Family Leadership Fund**

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!

William Rhodehamel, HCCF's President & CEO, presenting a grant check to Theresa Brandon and Kathy Spangler of the CIK9 Association.

Community Enhancement Grant to Central Indiana K9 Association

We are proud to support Central Indiana K9 Association (CIK9), a recent recipient of an HCCF Community Impact Grant. Our Community Enhancement funds, including the Family Legacy Funds, give HCCF the ability to pivot grantmaking as new issues and needs emerge in the community.

CIK9's Board Chair Theresa Brandon said "We are so thankful for the support from HCCF for CIK9's training program. **We enjoy a stronger connection to our community as a direct result of their efforts.** The $5,200 for the Training Program will help us to continue the important work we do for the K9 Teams."

Read more about our Community Enhancement grants here.

Jim Diagostino, Superintendent of Mill Creek Schools and Frances Mock, HCCF

The Community Foundation Supports Hendricks County Schools

In HCCF's 2019 Community Needs Assessment, a strong K-12 education system was ranked as the second most important asset in our community. We are grateful to have amazing schools in each of our county school districts, and HCCF is showing our support by awarding grants to each schools' education foundation.

Each school will receive a proportional amount of a **$25,250** grant to be used to support their staff and students!

Watch for grant presentations coming soon!

A Board to Brag About

Libby Whipple, an artist and a new grandmother, joined the HCCF Board of Directors in 2020 and has served on the Program Committee and the DEI Task Force. Read what Libby has to say in her own words about her service for the Community Foundation.

"The Community Foundation is all about improving Hendricks County by being the link between charitable dollars and innovative non-profits, large and small. As a board member, it's so encouraging to be a part of HCCF's **force for good**."

- Libby Whipple

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 **Chris Petrelli**, Executive Director of the Plainfield Performing & Fine Arts Center.

What is your favorite movie? Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
What book are you reading right now? "You're Not Listening" by Kate Murphy
What advice would you give your younger self? Invest your high school graduation money in Apple stock.
What do you love most about our community? The sense of pride it gives to all who know it.
What is one need identified in HCCF's countywide assessment that we are addressing? How can we continue to improve?
As the executive director of a new arts, culture and community space being built in Plainfield, I am excited to be working to expand the community's arts and culture options. The new arts center aims to be the premiere performance and community venue in the region, showcasing the best of Hendricks County while bringing the best to Hendricks County. One way we can continue to improve is by supporting local arts and artists with our patronage and philanthropy. The Hendricks County Arts Council, the Hendricks Symphony, the Hendricks Civic Theatre and the Children's Ballet are all exceptional organizations that were greatly impacted by the pandemic. I would encourage everyone in the community to purchase a ticket to an upcoming performance, buy some artwork from a local artist, get involved as a volunteer and/or donate to these organizations so that we can ensure they will be creating great art for the community.
Why do you do what you do? It's my firm conviction that the arts are essential to our quality of life. They provide us with beauty, modes of expression, new perspectives, a sense of identity and a sense of community. I do what I do because I believe the arts can help us realize our potential and make our world better.

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

It may be a little dreary outside but we've got some good news to share that will cheer your heart! Here are your Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings around the community:

Fav Five #1: Jeff Banning is LHC Leader of the

Jeff Banning

Year

Jeff Banning, President & Founder of Banning Engineering, was named the 2022 Leader of the Year at Leadership Hendricks County's Celebration of Leaders event. Through his professional and volunteer work, Jeff has made a significant impact for good on our community. Congrats Jeff!

Lori Lee

Fav Five #2: Lori Lee is named ICON of the Month

Lori Lee of Plainfield was named February's ICON of the month! Lori volunteers her time and talents in multiple capacities in the community, including serving as a HCCF Board Member. Congrats Lori! Read the full story here .

Brownsburg High School's "Leaders of Tomorrow"

Fav Five #3: Local High Schools Create a Culture of Belonging

Two new groups have started at Avon and Brownsburg High School. Brownsburg's "Leaders of Tomorrow" and Avon's "Men of Purpose" are groups of black students whose goal is to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures in the high school. To learn more about each group, click here for Avon and here for Brownsburg.

African Plum Home Owners Suzanne & Elhadj with their Family

Fav Five #4: Black-Owned Businesses in Hendricks County

February is Black History Month, and what better way to celebrate than to visit a Black-owned business in your community! For a list of Black-owned businesses in Hendricks County, click here

Fav Five #5: Fun Things To Do in Winter

It may be cold outside, but there are still lots of fun things to do in Hendricks County! Visit Hendricks County has some great ideas to get outside and enjoy the winter - check them out on their website here.

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Where Local Good Grows
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