Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 1, 2023
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Hendricks County Community Foundation Awards Grant to WYRZ for Emergency Alert System

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) recently awarded a grant to "The Voice of Hendricks County," also known as 98.9FM, WYRZ in Brownsburg Indiana. Earlier this year, the local radio station found themselves in the dark for close to an hour during a severe thunderstorm. The power was out and the battery backup died after about 30 minutes. When power was restored, the station found that the Emergency Alert System unit had been damaged due to a power surge most likely brought on by lightning.

The FCC requires all broadcast stations to install and maintain FCC-certified EAS decoders and encoders. In practice, television and radio stations withlocal news departments will usually interrupt regularly-scheduled programming during newsworthy situations (such as severe weather) to provide extended coverage.

After estimates and professional evaluations, it was decided that the entire unit would need to be replaced. The Brownsburg radio station turned to the Hendricks County Community Foundation, and applied for and received a grant from the Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund in the amount of $2,700 which fully covered the cost of the unit's replacement. In a short amount of time the new EAS unit was purchased, installed, and operational.

Shane Ray, Executive Director of WYRZ at that time, said "We can't thank the Hendricks County Community Foundation enough for helping us through this ordeal. Our listeners can once again rely on WYRZ to provide emergency information during hazardous weather conditions. Having the EAS unit in operation also brings us back into FCC compliance."

HCCF President & CEO William Rhodehamel commented, "We're so pleased to be able to help WYRZ replace this critical piece of infrastructure to help keep county residents informed during emergencies. WYRZ is an important community partner to many listeners and residents."

WYRZ is listener-supported and a non-profit radio station whose mission is to inform and entertain listeners while providing educational opportunities in radio broadcasting.

For more information about WYRZ, visit the radio station's website at wyrz.org.
Questions can be addressed by emailing info@wyrz.org or by calling (317) 852-1610.

The Mission of the Hendricks County Community Foundation: To be a trusted community partner in understanding needs, aligning resources, and empowering people to address today's priorities and create lasting impact. Our vision is 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. The Community Foundation manages assets of over $18 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2022 the Community Foundation gave over $1.5M 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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