Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

As 2025 begins, we're excited to embrace the opportunities and challenges a fresh start brings. Even on these chilly, gray days, the warmth and strength of our Hendricks County community shines through. Thank you for being a part of this special place.

This month, we're proud to celebrate our 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars. These three remarkable students exemplify the power of education and the potential for young people to shape a brighter future for us all.

Looking ahead, 2025 also marks the final year of our Stronger Together matching campaign—a once-in-a-lifetime chance to triple the impact of gifts to our unrestricted funds. The $2-to-$1 match from the Lilly Endowment won't last forever, and we don't want anyone to miss this opportunity to transform lives right here in Hendricks County. Contact me today to learn how your gift can make an even greater difference!

On a personal note, the new year has brought extra joy to my home in the form of Moose, our 10-week-old golden retriever puppy. Much like a new puppy, this year is full of promise, energy, and a touch of chaos—but it's always a reminder of the love and care we share as a community.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we'll make 2025 another incredible year for Hendricks County.

Warmly,

Yours in Philanthropy,
William Rhodehamel
President & CEO

HCCF's Announces the 2025 Lilly Scholars!

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship:

- Heiabeal Ainom, Avon High School
- Graci O'Neal, Danville High School
- Whitney Smith, Cascade High School

HCCF received more than 400 scholarship applications from Hendricks County students. After the applications were reviewed, ten students were chosen to be interviewed. Finalists included:

- Jackson Aldridge, Plainfield High School
- Lena Hammersley, Brownsburg High School
- Colton McClure, Plainfield High School
- Ria Merkle, Brownsburg High School
- Adelynne Paschal, Cascade High School
- Saavan Patel, Avon High School
- Rylee Smith, Cascade High School

Congratulations scholars!

From top: Heiabeal Ainom, Graci O'Neal, Whitney Smith

New HCCF Board Members and New Roles

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

Lisa Imlay, Chase Slaughter and Mary Zigler are new to the HCCF Board this year, and current Board member Tim Whicker is transitioning to Board Chair. Drew Feutz, new to the Board in 2024, is transitioning to Treasurer.

We are grateful for the visionary leadership of our Board!

Click here for more information on the HCCF Board of Directors.

Clockwise from top left: Tim Whicker, Chase Slaughter, Mary Zigler, Lisa Imlay, Drew Feutz

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HCCF Grant Applications Live!

HCCF's Community Impact Grant program is now live and accepting applications.

Community Impact Grants offer financial assistance for charitable programs and projects serving Hendricks County. This responsive grant program is designed to be open-ended allowing for nonprofits and charitable groups to apply for funding to help meet the needs of

their organization in service to the needs of Hendricks County.

Applications and further information on these programs can be found on the HCCF's website. Community Impact Grant applications are due no later than Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 3 pm.

HCCF Grant presentation to the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County

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Religious Diversity Workshop Series

Join us for HCCF's 2025 Religious Diversity Workshop Series, presented in collaboration with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC).

These free monthly workshops will explore and celebrate the core beliefs and unique practices of different religions, creating space for understanding and meaningful conversations. The sessions will feature engaging speakers, panel discussions and opportunities for attendees to gain knowledge and appreciation for the diverse religious traditions that enrich our community.

The workshops will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, from February through November of 2025, at MADE@Plainfield, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Click this link to register for any or all of the workshops. The first workshop is February 5th on Hinduism - sign up today!

HCCF Announces New Staff Hires and Roles

From left: Deb Rotman, Frances Mock

We are pleased to announce two exciting staffing updates: Deb Rotman joins HCCF as Accounting & Database Manager and Frances Mock has been promoted to Director of Community Relations.

Coming to HCCF with over 20 years experience in nonprofit administration, Deb will oversee the foundation's financial records and database management, ensuring smooth operations to support HCCF's growing impact.

Frances, who has been with the Foundation for over 12 years, will spearhead HCCF's efforts to strengthen relationships with donors, grantees, and community members while driving marketing, communications, events, and fundraising initiatives. Read more here.

Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle launches with 174 Members!

The first ever Women's Giving Circle in Hendricks County will launch in March with **174** Founding Members!

Each member donated $300 to the Women's Giving Circle Fund to allow the group to award grants to nonprofits serving the needs of women and children in our community. Membership has closed for this year, but 2026 memberships will open in November 2025. Click here to learn more.

Giving Circle Information Session

Hendricks County's Bicentennial Celebration

Hendricks County concluded its year-long Bicentennial celebration with a community event held on January 24th at Hendricks Live! in Plainfield. The event showcased the achievements of the Bicentennial Committee and recognized the valuable contributions of many nonprofits, organizations, and individuals who played a role in commemorating our county's rich history. Check out the Bicentennial Year-in-Review video below!

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! We are excited to share with you our latest month of grants, building a stronger future for our community.

Fund Name	Grantee	Grant Amount
Anderson Family Fund	Level Two Inc.	$ 5,000.00
Benson Fund	Hendricks County Parks and Recreation	$ 3,333.00
Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund	Center for Interfaith Cooperation	$ 10,000.00
Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund	Sheltering Wings	$ 3,600.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Becky's Place	$ 2,000.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Community Kitchen	$ 2,000.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Family Promise of Hendricks County, Inc.	$ 2,500.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Lafayette Urban Ministry	$ 5,000.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Middle Way House, Inc.	$ 1,500.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Pathways/Monroe County United Ministries	$ 1,500.00
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Project A.N.G.E.L	$ 2,500.00
Hendricks County Bicentennial Celebration Fund	Hendricks County Bicentennial Celebration	$ 26.50
Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	$ 7,177.56
Hendricks Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up Fund	Just Be Kind Club	$ 2,000.00
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Avon-Washington Township Public Library	$ 140.94
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	$ 2,760.70
Indiana University Health West Hospital Cancer Center Fund	Indiana University Health	$ 407.12
Russell Kirts Memorial Fund	Danville Community School Corporation	$ 1,600.00
Susan & Beverly Memorial Fund	Hendricks County Parks and Recreation	$ 2,043.81
TOTAL		**$ 55,089.63**

Contact us to find out how you can be a part of this vision and partner with us.

Check out dozens of great events in our community on the Hendricks Community Calendar!

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

It might be the middle of winter, but there are still lots of great things to celebrate in Hendricks County! Here are your Community Foundation staff's favorite picks for happenings around the community:

Fave Five #1: Brent Schwanekamp Wins Lilly Grant

Congratulations to Plainfield High School assistant principal/incoming principal, Brent Schwanekamp, who was selected as a recipient of a 2025 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program Grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.
The grants fund renewal projects designed by the recipients with the goal of enhancing the educational experiences of their students. Brent was also HCCF's FIRST Lilly Scholar. Congrats Brent!

Fave Five #2: Matt Howrey Named Chairman of IBA Board

Matthew Howrey, President and CEO of North Salem State Bank (an HCCF Corporate Partner) has been named the 2025 Chairman of the Indiana Bankers Association (IBA) Board of Directors. In addition to his more than 20 years of work in the banking industry, Matt has served his community well in many capacities, including as Board Chair at HCCF.

Congrats Matt!

Fave Five #3: New Kitty City

Join the celebration of the Grand Opening of Kitty City! Kitty City is a beautiful new facility in Avon that will hold up to 50 cats in colorfully decorated, stress-free suites until they are placed in forever homes. Come out to the Open House today from 4-7! Read more here.

Fave Five #4: Coin Toss Girl from Coatesville

Ellie Zuver, a 5-year-old from Coatesville, was the Coin Toss Kid for a recent Colts game and got to enter the field of play at the beginning of the game. Ellie is a patient at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, which is partnering with the Colts to give kids a chance to interact with professional ball players. Way to go Ellie!

Fave Five #5: Don't Miss Hendricks County's Flavor Fest!

Mark your calendar for a new culinary event highlighting all the wonderful food and flavors west of Indy - "Hendricks County Flavor Fest!"

Hendricks County Flavor Fest will run from Feb. 17 to March 17. During that time, diners will be rewarded for dining locally with a chance to win one of ten $50 gift cards throughout the event. Restaurants in all corners of the county are participating and each is local to our community. Read more here.

Hendricks County Community Foundation

Thank You to Our 2025 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 Partners

Hendricks Regional Health

STATE BANK
Indiana strong. Locally loved.

Gold Partners

BF&S Butler Fairman Seufert Civil Engineers

4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex

The Residences

Hendricks Power Cooperative

Electric Plus

Silver Partners

Abstract & Title

Capital Cities
Institutional Investing Made Personal

Hendricks County Community CONNECT

NSSB North Salem State Bank

First Merchants Bank

Bronze Partner

TKO Graphix

HCBT Hendricks County Bank and Trust Company

Whicker Construction

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
www.hendrickscountycf.org | 317.268.6240

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