

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation



As we step into a new year, we're filled with gratitude for what our community accomplished together in 2025. We closed out the Stronger Together matching campaign, reached a new high in total grantmaking, and experienced incredible generosity from donors who believe deeply in Hendricks County and its future. It was a year that affirmed the power of philanthropy to strengthen lives, organizations, and communities.

That momentum is already carrying us forward. Our [2026 Community Impact grant cycle](#) is now open – made possible in part by a transformative \$3 million Lilly GIFT IX Community Support grant – and registrations are underway for this year's [Nonprofit Learning Series](#) as we continue to invest in nonprofit capacity and community solutions across the county. We're also proud to recognize the 200 members of the [2026 Women's Giving Circle](#) and to celebrate our newly announced 2026 [Lilly Endowment Community Scholars](#), whose achievements reflect the promise and potential growing right here at home.

Even Moose seems to sense the excitement. His tag hardly stops wagging as he greets each day with enthusiasm and a reminder that optimism – and a little joy – go a long way.

Thank you for being part of such a remarkable year and for helping us begin 2026 with purpose, momentum, and hope.



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

Introducing Our 2026 Lilly Scholars

Congrats to our [2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars](#)!

- Isaiah Gray (Plainfield High School),
- Ifeoluwa Olokode (Brownsburg High School)
- Dheer Pandya (Avon High School)

HCCF is proud to have partnered with Lilly Endowment since 1998 in offering these scholarships to Hendricks County seniors. This scholarship provides full tuition to an accredited public or

private nonprofit college or university in Indiana and a yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

These students were awarded this prestigious scholarship based on significant community service, outstanding academic achievement and leadership skills. Read more about the Lilly Endowment Scholarships on our website [here](#).



Lilly Scholars (from left): Isaiah Gray, Ifeoluwa Olokode, Dheer Pandya

Community Impact Grant Applications Open

The applications for HCCF Community Impact Grants are now open! 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 are due no later than **February 12th at 3 pm**. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply.



200 Members of the Women's Giving Circle!

A BIG thank you to the **200** incredible women who stepped up to join the [Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle](#) for 2026!

By pooling resources, this group provides local nonprofits the vital funding they need to help women and children right here in our backyard. Last year, this Circle awarded \$45,000 in grants; this year, with 200 women voting and giving together, the reach will be even greater. Thank you for investing in our community's future and for proving that together we can do more!



Members of the Giving Circle at a Grant Award Night

Nonprofit Learning & Networking Events for 2026

HCCF is proud to offer seven growth and connection opportunities for our local nonprofit partners in 2026:

Nonprofit Networking Opportunities:

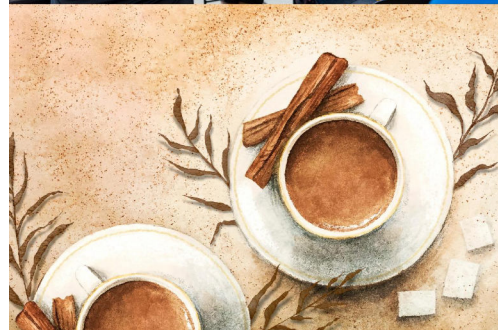
- February 17 from 8:00am - 10:00am: The Beehive (Danville)
- May 19 from 4:00pm - 6:00p: The Coachman (Plainfield)
- August 18 from 8:00am - 10:00am: MOTW Coffee (Avon)
- December 1 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Pinheads (Brownsburg)

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.

Fund	Grantee	Grant Amount
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Friends of the Lab	\$ 5,000
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Plainfield Community School Corporation	\$ 4,500
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Plainfield Community School Corporation	\$ 5,000
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Plainfield High School	\$ 5,500
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 2,287
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 277
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 590
Electric Plus Cares Fund	Community Kitchen	\$ 2,500
HC Health Partnership 2025 Resource Guide Fund	Hendricks County Health Department	\$ 2,262
HC Health Partnership Community Project Fund	Hendricks County Health Partnership Community Project	\$ 284
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	\$ 3,461
Indiana University Health West Hospital Cancer Center Fund	Indiana University Health West Hospital	\$ 96
Project Blue Light Ceremony Fund	Indiana Law Enforcement Academy	\$ 575
TOTAL		\$ 32,333

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

HCCF's Stronger Together Campaign is continuing through the latest Lilly Endowment matching grant, GIFT IX. That means 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 Jaworski 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 the calendar turns to January, we're shifting our focus from holiday bustle to fresh starts and community connection right here in Hendricks County. The winter air may be cold, but the local calendar is already heating up!

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



Fave Five #1: Brownsburg and Cascade Win State Titles in Football

The Brownsburg Bulldogs and Cascade Cadets capped off historic, undefeated seasons by recently capturing IHSAA state titles at Lucas Oil Stadium. While Brownsburg fought and won a second consecutive 6A championship, Cascade made history by securing the school's first-ever 3A state trophy. Congrats Brownsburg and Cascade!



Fave Five #2: Brownsburg Resident Selected for Iditarod

The Iditarod Trail Committee has appointed Brownsburg resident and race veteran Dan Carter as the Race Marshal for the 2026 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Dan brings extensive experience as both a professional musher and a longtime race judge to the leadership role, where he will oversee the event's safety and integrity. Congrats Dan!



Fave Five #3: Jeff Banning Recognized by Parks Foundation

Jeff Banning has been named the recipient of the 2026 Park Leadership Award from the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC). Jeff's leadership and passion for local parks has helped shape park resources that will benefit Hendricks County for years to come. Jeff will be recognized at the PFOHC [Picnic for the Parks](#) on March 6th. Congrats Jeff!



Fave Five #4: New Brownsburg Chamber Director

The Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce has appointed Kiley Chandler as its new director to lead the organization's outreach and engagement efforts with local businesses. Kiley transitions from her previous role at the OneZone Chamber, where she managed extensive event strategies and community partnerships. Welcome Kiley!



Fave Five #5: Teddy Bear Concert for Kids

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra presents the [Teddy Bear Series concert](#) at the Plainfield Library! Enjoy narrated storytelling and live music during this interactive, child-friendly performance. Young children are invited to move along to live music as they listen to the story of four string instruments. At the end of the program, children will have the opportunity to try real violins.



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 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.

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**Hendricks County
Community Foundation**

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