



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HCCF Awards \$52,775 Community Support Grant to Susie's Place

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) is proud to announce a significant investment to secure the future of child advocacy in our community. Through a \$52,775 Community Support Grant, HCCF is supporting Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center in the hiring of a new Director of Development. This proactive grant, funded through Lilly Endowment's GIFT IX initiative, is designed to increase the organizational capacity of Susie's Place by establishing a dedicated leadership role for fundraising and community partnerships.

Bringing this expertise onto the team will help Susie's Place connect more with local donors and businesses, which helps build a more stable and reliable stream of support. The goal is to move away from relying so heavily on unpredictable State and Federal funding, making sure the center can always be there to provide a safe, healing space for children when they need it most. This investment is particularly timely, as addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) ranked in the top 10 needs in the most recent Community Needs Assessment conducted by HCCF.

"This grant is a strategic investment in the future of one of our county's most vital resources," said William Rhodehamel, President and CEO of the Hendricks County Community Foundation. "By funding a Director of Development, we are helping Susie's Place build the infrastructure needed to grow their reach and secure their mission for years to come. This funding allows Susie's Place to focus on its core mission of child advocacy and the critical task of protecting children in crisis."

Leadership at Susie's Place expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity, stating that the new role is a game-changer for the organization. "We are grateful to the Community Foundation for recognizing that organizational capacity is just as vital as direct service," said Emily Perry, Executive Director of Susie's Place. "This investment means our forensic team can stay focused on healing and advocacy, while our new development position builds the sustainable foundation necessary to grow our impact and better protect the most vulnerable members of our community."

You can learn more and give to support HCCF's unrestricted grantmaking—which makes investments like this possible—on their website at www.hendrickscountycf.org.



HCCF Community Support Grant Presentation to Susie's Place

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 \$40 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2025 the Community Foundation gave over \$2.35M 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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