

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation



Like many of us during these hot summer days, Moose has discovered the perfect place to be: lounging in the pool and staying cool. Looking at his picture, it's hard not to think about the things that contribute to a good quality of life—comfort, security, opportunity, and a place where you feel at home. As I looked at him, I found myself wishing community challenges were as easy to solve as a hot puppy's need for a cool down. Unfortunately, building a stronger community takes a little more work.

One of the most important things we do at HCCF is listen. That's why every few years we conduct a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment, giving residents the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, hopes, and priorities for Hendricks County. This month, we're excited to release the results of our [2025 Community Needs Assessment](#).

The report provides a statistically valid snapshot of life in Hendricks County today. It highlights many of our community's strengths while also identifying challenges that deserve our attention, including housing affordability, childcare availability, and access to mental health services.

Data alone doesn't solve problems, but it helps us understand them. The Needs Assessment will help guide HCCF's grantmaking, community leadership efforts, and partnerships in the years ahead. More importantly, it provides a roadmap for all of us who care about the future of Hendricks County.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to explore the report [here](#) and see what your neighbors had to say. Together, we can use these insights—and the resources made possible through Stronger Together—to build an even stronger Hendricks County.



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

The Needs Assessment Report is Here!

The Hendricks County Community Foundation has officially completed its [2025 Community Needs Assessment](#), marking our third major data-driven deep dive into the priorities and challenges of our county.

This latest update provides a statistically valid look at what it means to live and work here today. While our core county assets remain strong, the data reveals significant shifts in community urgency, particularly regarding housing, childcare, and the effects of adverse childhood experiences.

Read the report [here](#) or call our office at 317-268-6240 to request a print copy.



HCCF Awards Grant to Sycamore Services

We were honored to recently visit our partners at [Sycamore Services](#) and present them with a \$46,200 Stronger Together grant. During our visit to their Danville campus, the Sycamore team gave us a tour and shared a heartwarming homemade thank-you card created by the folks there at the facility.

This funding represents a strategic investment in Sycamore's capacity, designed to strengthen their organization and expand their daily impact. We are proud to support the critical work they do serving individuals with disabilities in our community.



HCCF grant presentation to Sycamore Services

Women's Giving Circle Awards \$21,000 in Grants

This month, the Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle celebrated its first grant award night of 2026, awarding \$21,000 to local nonprofits serving women and children in Hendricks County:

[Sycamore Services, Inc.](#)— \$10,500
[Family Promise Hendricks County](#)— \$6,500
[Firefly Children & Family Alliance](#)— \$4,000



Women's Giving Circle Grant Award Presentation, June 3

As a program of the Hendricks County Community Foundation, the Women's Giving Circle shows the power of collective giving and the commitment of the Giving Circle members to creating lasting change in Hendricks County.

Congratulations to these outstanding organizations! To learn more about the Women's Giving Circle, visit the HCCF website [here](#).

Lilly Scholars on Tour!

We were so excited to take our 2026 Lilly Scholars out on a special community tour, which we designed to give them a firsthand look at the incredible nonprofits making a difference right here in Hendricks County.

We stopped by [Hendricks County Senior Services](#), where the scholars got to hang out with local seniors, tour the building, and learn all about the center's amazing transportation and in-home care programs. It was wonderful to watch these different generations connect and to see our future leaders truly appreciate how our community takes care of its own. [Watch the tour video here](#).

This experience reflects HCCF's commitment to supporting local nonprofits while actively lifting up philanthropy in our community through inspiring the next generation to get involved.



2026 Lilly Scholars (from left): Isaiah Gray, Ifeoluwa Olokode, and Dheer Pandya

The Fund Raising School

Earlier this month, we were honored to host **The Fund Raising School's *Fundraising for Small Nonprofits* program** at MADE@Plainfield.

Our local nonprofits do incredible work every day, but finding the sustainable funding to keep things growing can be a unique challenge. To help bridge that gap, HCCF offered this intensive two-day program focused on practical, effective ways to grow support for their organizations—without burning out.

One graduate said, "Thank you Hendricks County Community Foundation for offering such a great opportunity to learn and help non-profits grow. I am very appreciative."

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We provide these tools because we want our local nonprofit sector to thrive, and we can't wait to see



2026 Fundraising for Small Nonprofits Graduates

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 Fund	LifeWise Academy (Mill Creek)	\$ 10,000
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	\$ 6,925
Directors' Unrestricted Fund	Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund	\$ 200
Hancel and Dorothea Owens Sycamore Services Day Program Fund	Sycamore Services, Inc.	\$ 2,844
Harold Schooler & Virginia Schooler Morrison Memorial Fund	Discover Downtown Plainfield	\$ 526
HCFC Libby Hammond Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	\$ 14,534
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	\$ 4,266
North West Hendricks Education Foundation Fund	North West Hendricks Education Foundation	\$ 731
North West Hendricks Education Foundation Fund	North West Hendricks School Corporation	\$ 2,010
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Avon High School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Avon Middle School North	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Avon Middle School South	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Avon Middle School West	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Avon Schools OASIS	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Cedar Elementary	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Evergreen Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Hickory Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Maple Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Pine Tree Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	River Birch Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Sycamore Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	White Oak Elementary School	\$ 250
Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund	Willow Elementary School	\$ 250
TOTAL		\$ 45,536

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

Now that summer is officially in full swing, we're all looking for ways to make the most of these long, sunny days.

This month, we've rounded up five of our favorite community events and happenings - great ways to stay informed and get involved in Hendricks County!



Jaime Bohler Smith, Danielle Bell

Fave Five #1: Two Leaders Recognized

Jaime Bohler Smith, Executive Director of Visit Hendricks County, has earned the tourism industry's highest individual educational achievement by receiving the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) designation. This certification builds upon her long-standing efforts to drive local economic growth and community development, following VHC's recent "For Real" rebranding initiative.

Congratulations to Danielle Bell, Executive Director of Level Two, for being selected to the 2026 class of Indy's Most Pivotal Leaders! This exclusive honor recognizes emerging and established leaders from across Central Indiana who are making a meaningful impact in their communities and organizations.

Congrats Jaime and Danielle!



Fave Five #2: Brownsburg Girls Lacrosse Wins State

Huge congratulations to the Brownsburg High School girls lacrosse team on capturing the Class 1A state championship with a 12-11 victory over Crown Point! The Bulldogs overcame a three-goal deficit to cap off an incredible 16-3 season. We love seeing our local youth athletes excel and wish the team the best of luck as they head into the 2A bracket next year.



Fave Five #3: NextGen Chamber Program Receives Innovative Award

We are proud to celebrate our partners at the Hendricks College Network and the Danville, Avon, and Plainfield Chambers of Commerce for receiving an Innovative Award from the Indiana Chamber Executives Association. This well-deserved honor highlights their collaboration on the NextGen Chamber Program, which connects local high school students with real-world business leadership and workforce opportunities in our local Chambers. Congrats to all!

A poster for the WorkOne Job Fair. It features the WorkOne logo at the top left, followed by "JOB FAIR" in large letters. Below that, it says "July 1, 2026" and "11 AM - 1 PM". The location is "1610 Reeves Rd. Plainfield, IN 46168". There is a section for "Participating Employers" with logos for BrightStarCare, Accurate, MASIS, and Heartland. It also mentions "Resume Building Workshop" and "Interviewing Skills Workshop". At the bottom, there is a small section about the WorkOne A/C system.

Fave Five #4: WorkOne Job Fair

WorkOne Central Indiana is hosting a Job Fair on Wednesday, July 1 from 11 AM to 1 PM at MADE@Plainfield. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with multiple participating employers to explore roles ranging from home health care to manufacturing. In addition to meeting employers, job seekers can learn about WorkOne Plainfield's upcoming workshops designed to help them refine their resumes and polish their interviewing skills. Learn more [here](#).



Fave Five #5: 4H Fair Coming Soon!

The Hendricks County 4-H Fair returns July 19-25 in Danville, bringing a week of family-friendly fun packed with carnival rides, farm animals, and classic fair food! Check the official fair website [here](#) for the full schedule of events and activities. You can also



Hendricks County Community Foundation

Thank You to Our 2026 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



Hendricks
Regional Health

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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