



August Nonprofit Newsletter

Happy August!

As we move through the third quarter of the year, we're excited about everything still ahead. From the recently announced **\$1M Moonshot Grant opportunity** to two upcoming **Nonprofit Networking** events and our October **Nonprofit Learning** Series session on Storytelling for Impact, there are still plenty of opportunities to connect, learn, and make an impact in our community.

Our next Nonprofit Networking event will be held on Tuesday, August 18, from 8:00 AM –10:00 AM at **MOTW Coffee** in **Avon**. These gatherings are a great opportunity to build relationships, share ideas, and connect with fellow nonprofit professionals. We hope to see you there!

In addition to the \$1M Moonshot Grant opportunity, we continue to offer grant opportunities throughout the year to support nonprofit work across Hendricks County. Be sure to explore this month's featured funding opportunities, including our **Community Unity Grants**, to see if your organization may be eligible.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen our community! We look forward to connecting with you throughout the coming months.

[Visit our Website](#)

Monthly Poll

We get many storytelling/marketing requests. What type of HCCF support would be most helpful?

Strategy/messaging

Content creation

Planning

Skills training

Templates/toolkits

Regular posts from HCCF

Last Month's Poll Results

31% of respondents said their organization uses Excel as their accounting software.
31% said QuickBooks,
29% said Aplos,
4% said MoneyMinder,
2% said FastFund, and
2% said another option not listed.

Thanks for your feedback!

Community Calendar

Did you know we have a community calendar where you can submit local events and goings-on in the community? Press the button below to submit your event to the community calendar!

[Community Calendar Access](#)

2026 Nonprofit Networking & Learning Dates

Nonprofit Networking

Join us and other Hendricks County Nonprofits for networking on the following Tuesdays!

August 18 - 8 - 10 AM @ MOTW in Avon

December 1, Giving Tuesday - 4 - 6 PM @ Pinheads in Brownsburg

Nonprofit Learning

Join us for **Storytelling for Impact** where you will learn to combine strategic messaging, team building, and sector-specific application to help you harness the power of storytelling. This learning opportunity is two parts over two days:

- Tuesday, October 27 | 8:00am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, November 17 | 9:00am - 3:00pm
 - November 17th is broken into three, 90-minute workshops: 8:30am - 10:00am, 11:00am - 12:30pm, and 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Participants will be assigned a Session 2 workshop at the first session in October.

RSVP Required

Training Opportunities

Get Your Board Fundraising

- **When:** Thursday, August 13, 2026, 2:00-3:30 PM
- **Where:** Online
- **Cost:** Free
- You'll Learn:
 - The board's role in fundraising
 - How to integrate fundraising into your board's roles and responsibilities
 - To identify a range of fundraising activities that can engage your board members

Navigating Grants with Candid

- **When:** Wednesday August 26, 2026, 2:00-3:30 PM

- **Where:** Online
- **Cost:** Free
- You'll Learn:
 - Who funds nonprofits and what motivates their giving
 - What funders truly want to know about the organizations they're considering supporting
 - How to identify potential funders and make a strong first approach.

First Merchants 2026 Nonprofit Training Series

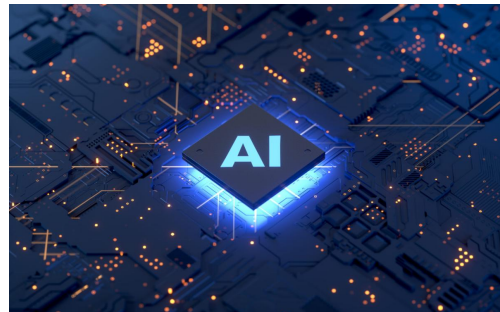
- Session 3: Fundraising Essentials for Board Members | September 15, 2026 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
 - Understand the board's fundraising responsibilities and learn practical ways to engage in the four-part fundraising process.
- Session 4: Creating Competitive Grant Proposals | November 10, 2026 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
 - Gain strategies for writing clear, persuasive, and competitive grant proposals. Learn key components including problem statements, program descriptions, outcomes, and budgets.
- **Where:** Online
- **Cost:** Free, Registration Required

If you see a training opportunity that is worth sharing, email it to Skylar Hazlett at her email skylar@hendrickscountycf.org with "Nonprofit News Training Opportunity" in the subject line!

Articles for Reading

5 Ways to Use AI Without Sabotaging Your Next Grant Application

Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the way the world works, and the nonprofit sector is no exception. For grant writing, it can summarize an RFP, organize program details, sharpen a budget narrative and surface questions your team may not have thought to ask. However, there is a real danger in treating AI like the author of your proposal instead of a thought partner.



When AI first became widely available, I remember people joking that it could replace grant writers. I never believed that. AI can produce words, but it cannot replace human judgment, lived experience, integrity or heart. Used well, it can help grant writers move faster, think more clearly and strengthen the work that can contribute to securing funding. But the value was never just in the tool. The value was in knowing how to use it with strategy and integrity.

The goal is not to sound more like AI. The goal is to use the tool to sound more clearly like yourself.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Making Limited Budgets Go Further Through Stronger Storytelling

Nonprofits are always looking for opportunities to extend their reach and make limited resources go further. Whether the goal is attracting donors, recruiting volunteers, building awareness or advancing a mission, those conversations often focus on distribution:

- How can we reach more people?
- Which channels offer the greatest visibility?
- How can awareness be expanded without dramatically increasing costs?

Those are important questions, but they're only part of the equation. Greater reach creates more opportunities to connect with supporters, yet visibility alone rarely determines whether a campaign succeeds. A message can appear in front of thousands — or even millions — of people and still fail to inspire action if the story behind it doesn't resonate. The organizations that build lasting support are often those that communicate their impact in ways people can understand, remember and connect with emotionally.



[Click Here to Read More](#)

Funding Opportunities

HCCF Community Unity Grants

These grants support projects and programs that:

- Increase civic engagement, including:
 - Inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility
 - Voter education and engagement
 - Volunteerism, including public and nonprofit board service
- Strengthen County pride/brand

Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed monthly on the first Tuesday of each month.

[Click here to learn more](#)

MIBOR Community Impact Initiative

- Each year, MIBOR'S Community Impact Council awards dozens of grants for local projects throughout central Indiana aimed at *job attraction/retention and expansion, workforce development, placemaking, quality of life, affordable housing, tourism, and regional collaboration.*
- **Application Due: August 7, 2026, by 12:00 PM**

Indiana Arts Commission Fiscal Year 2027 Fall Arts Project Support Grant

- Arts Project Support grants provide nonprofit organizations and public entities with funding to support a specific arts activity, such as a *one-time event, a single production, an exhibition, an educational workshop, or a series of related arts activities such as art classes or training sessions.*
- Applicants may request up to \$4,000 to support their project.
- **Application Due: September 3, 2026, at 11:59 PM**

Target Community Engagement Funds

- Target's Community Engagement Funds (CEF) is supporting nonprofits and schools with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 near a Target store or distribution center. They are prioritizing initiatives that align with weaving, including community vitalization and green spaces, youth development, cultural partnerships, and workforce development.

- Application Opens: August 3, 2026
- **Application Due: September 3, 2026 (cycle 2)**

Pacers Foundation General Grants

- Funding prioritizes *youth-serving work in education, health, and safety*.
- **Interest Form Due: September 15, 2026**

Still looking for funding opportunities? Visit your local Hendricks County Library for free *Candid Search* access!

Use the following links to apply to rolling grant funding programs.

Hendricks Power Operation Round-Up || HCCF Community Unity Grants

Indiana Humanities Mini-Grants || Duke Energy Foundation

If you see a funding opportunity that is worth sharing, email it to Skylar Hazlett at her email skylar@hendrickscountycf.org with "Nonprofit News Funding Opportunity" in the subject line!

Miscellaneous

The New Rules of Nonprofit Marketing Guide

- In an era of AI-saturated inboxes and shrinking attention spans, much of nonprofit marketing remains stuck in the past. Relying on generic updates and over-polished corporate campaigns now invites immediate skepticism. The rules of engagement have shifted—and protecting the bottom line requires a new approach.
- This guide breaks down five critical communication shifts designed to cut through the noise, restore authenticity, and build deep, lasting donor trust.

The State of ALICE in Indiana

- Produced by Indiana United Ways and United Way Central Indiana, the latest ALICE report finds that more than *1 million Indiana households struggled to afford basic necessities in 2024*, including many who were working but still unable to make ends meet.

Library of Resources

Use the resources below to stay updated and in-the-know on the goings-on of Hendricks County and beyond!

Hendricks County News

The Republican Newspaper

The Hendricks County Community Connect

Current in Brownsburg

Other Resources

Hendricks County Health Partnership Newsletters

Hendricks County Community Resource Guide

2025 Hendricks County Community Needs Assessment Report

Blue Avocado's Free, On-Demand Nonprofit Webinars

Candid Learning Home Page

- **Training** - browse recorded and **live training** opportunities with various nonprofit topics
- Help and Knowledge - find **articles on common questions**, **sample documents**, and other valuable resources
- **Ask Us** - talk with real librarians (NOT AI) 9 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday

Some tips on using **Candid** at the **Library**:

- When searching the database, go into "Advanced Search" to get more options and specific in your search. Choose "Additional Filters" for even more!
 - Don't fill in every box in your search, as this will narrow the search too small.
 - The "Keyword" search box takes things very literally, so be mindful of your word choice if searching with this box.
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Hendricks County Community Foundation

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