



## May Nonprofit Newsletter

Spring is in full bloom! Hopefully you have been able to enjoy the change in season and the change in temperatures (although they are not so straightforward some days).

Our next Nonprofit Networking Event is this month, and we hope to see you on May 19th. Please note, we will now be at **The Green Room Cafe** in Plainfield from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Earth Month just passed, but the importance of keeping our home planet and local community clean is never-ending. Did you know the Hendricks County Recycling District has a **portable water bottle filler** that they are happy to loan for your next event? You can find more information below!

Happy May!

[Visit our Website](#)

## Monthly Poll

Would you be interested in HCCF providing a free or discounted "Legal Helpdesk" or support?

Yes

No

## Last Month's Poll Results

**41%** of respondents said *Software & Tech Stacking* would most help their organization right now. **32%** said *Cybersecurity & Data Protection*. **14%** said *Website Support*.

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!

**May 19 - 4 - 6 PM @ The Green Room Cafe in Plainfield **\*\*Location Change****

August 18 - 8 - 10 AM @ MOTW in Avon

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

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## Nonprofit Learning

- June 16 & 17 from 8:00am - 5:00pm: **Fundraising for Small Nonprofits**
  - Use your time and existing resources – including board members and other volunteers – to achieve your fundraising goals. (**Registration Full - Join the Waitlist**)
- October 27 8:00am - 12:00pm & November 17 9:00am - 3:00pm: **Storytelling for Impact**
  - Combine strategic messaging, team building, and sector-specific application to help you harness the power of storytelling. (**RSVP Required**)

## Training Opportunities

- **Candid - Introduction to Measuring Your Impact (click here to sign up)**
    - **When:** Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
    - **Where:** Online
    - **Cost:** Free
    - You'll Learn How to:
      - draft SMART objectives for a program
      - identify the parts of a logic model
      - report the impact on your Candid profile
  - **First Merchants 2026 Nonprofit Training Series - Session 2: Building Corporate Partnerships (click here to sign up)**
    - **When:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
    - **Where:** Online
    - **Cost:** Free
    - You'll Learn About:
      - essential steps to attract the right corporate partners
      - creating a strong foundation for partnership strategies
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If you see a training opportunity that is worth sharing, email it to Skylar Hazlett at her email [skylar@hendrickscountycf.org](mailto:skylar@hendrickscountycf.org) with "Nonprofit News Training Opportunity" in the subject line!

## Articles for Reading

### 5 Branding Mistakes Nonprofits Should Avoid in 2026

Branding is not just a logo. It is the articulation of your identity across every touch point. Done well, it differentiates your organization from others, shapes first impressions, and reinforces long-term perception. It's no wonder that when branding is unclear or inconsistent, it weakens your connection to your supporters and erodes fundraising results.

As your organization navigates an increasingly competitive landscape, avoiding these core branding mistakes can significantly strengthen how your work and worthiness are perceived. Here are five branding mistakes nonprofits should avoid in 2026.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



### First-Time Donor Retention: 3 Best Practices for Nonprofits

The most fragile relationships you have are those with first-time donors. They've shown enough interest in your cause to give once, but it's up to you to convince them your organization is worth supporting long-term.

Many organizations think their job is done once they've acquired these supporters. But smart nonprofits know that retaining donors is more cost-effective than acquiring new ones and enables them to build thriving communities passionate about advancing their causes.

In this guide, we'll discuss the importance of retaining first-time donors and explore strategies to strengthen your relationships with these new supporters.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### 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 Due: May 6, 2026 (cycle 1) & September 3, 2026 (cycle 2)**

### Faith in Place - Tree Canopy & Workforce Community Grant

- "Money to non-profit organizations and Houses of Worship to help plant more trees and build a stronger forestry workforce in places that need it the most."
- **Application Due: May 14, 2026**

### Indiana Historical Society Heritage Support Grants

- Developed to advance the care of and access to *history in Indiana*.
- Funding priorities are: *Collections Stewardship, Capacity Building, Sustainability, and Planning*
- Mini Grant (projects of \$500 to \$4,999) Cycle D
  - **Proposal due July 31, 2026**

### American Honda Foundation Grant

- Honda funds *education* programs, especially *STEM-based initiatives, youth development, and workforce readiness programs* that prepare the next generation.
- Contact info: [ahfgrant@na.honda.com](mailto:ahfgrant@na.honda.com)

- **Application Due: August 1, 2026**

### **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**

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

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

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Firefly Children & Family Alliance - 2026 Provider Fair**

- **What:** Regional Provider Fair
- **When:** May 22, 2026, 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM
- **Register now!**
- **Where:** Hendricks County Fairgrounds (1900 E Main St, Danville, IN 46122)

### **Recycle & Refill at Your Next Event!**

- The Hendricks County Recycling District is happy to help make your next event more environmentally-friendly!
- **Request *Recycling Stations* and *Water Bottle Fillers* for FREE!**
- Contact Leen Detwiler at [ldetwiler@hendrickssolidwaste.com](mailto:ldetwiler@hendrickssolidwaste.com) for more information.

### **Value of Volunteer Time**

- The Current Estimated National Value of Each Volunteer Hour is: \$36.14
- **Download the report and explore the map here**

## **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 Community Resource Guide

Charitable Advisors (Not-For-Profit News)

Blue Avocado's Free, On-Demand Nonprofit Webinars

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**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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