



September Nonprofit Newsletter

As the third quarter of 2026 comes to a close, we're grateful for the work being done every day by nonprofits across Hendricks County. It's been wonderful connecting with many of you throughout the year and learning more about the impact you're making in our community. Your dedication continues to make a meaningful difference, and we're proud to support those efforts through connection, learning, and grantmaking opportunities.

A reminder that Letters of Intent for the \$1 Million Moonshot Grant Opportunity are due September 15. Please submit your LOI to Eric Hessel at his email (eric@hendrickscountycf.org). Be sure to also explore the additional funding opportunities featured below, several of which have upcoming application deadlines.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our August Nonprofit Networking event. It was wonderful to connect, share ideas, and learn more about the important work happening across the county. We look forward to one final networking event later this year on December 2nd and hope you'll join us.

[Visit our Website](#)

Monthly Poll

If applicable, what is the main way you use AI in your work?

General Tasks (i.e. email drafting)

Marketing, Communications, Social Media

Meeting Notes or Summaries

Grant Writing

Research & Information Gathering

Another option not listed

Last Month's Poll Results

33% of respondents said Regular Posts from HCCF would help with storytelling/marketing.

17% said Content Creation,
17% said Skills training,
17% said Templates/toolkits,
17% said Strategy/messaging.

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

Nonprofit Networking

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

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

Training Opportunities

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

Purdue Extension Tools for Effective Facilitation

- **When:** November 10-12, 2026
- **Where:** MADE@Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN 4616
- **Cost:** \$725.00
- **Space is limited, register today!**
- You'll Learn:
 - to develop or enhance your facilitation skills
 - how to foster more inclusive group planning and decision-making

Blue Avocado's Free, On-Demand Nonprofit Webinars

- In case you missed them, use this link to access webinars from the past!

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

What are 5 effective strategies for nonprofit marketing?

An important component of running a successful nonprofit is making sure your nonprofit is reaching the people you're trying to serve while, at the same time, attracting attention from donors and funders who can support your cause. That's why *an effective nonprofit marketing strategy can be one of the best tools in your arsenal.*

Candid.

Whether your organization is new on the block, or you've been around for a while, trying some of these marketing strategies can surely help *elevate your nonprofit's presence in your communities* and help you to make an even bigger impact.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

To keep staff from burning out, close the whole office for a week

June is the busiest month of the year at Keshet.

At this nonprofit, which works to advance equality for LGBTQ+ members of Jewish communities, Pride Month is overflowing with festivities, parades, advocacy, and stories shared on social media. "People are often working in evenings and on weekends to make Pride Month happen for our communities, and then at the end of that, we really need a moment to recharge," says Jaimie Krass, its president and CEO.



In 2025, Keshet began ensuring its entire staff could do that by offering a weeklong, organization-wide shutdown at the beginning of July. That means no one on call, no social-media monitoring, and coordinated *"our offices are closed this week" autoreplies from every employee* — Krass included.

She says she received overwhelmingly positive feedback from peer leaders who are impressed with how Keshet prioritizes rest. "They were looking to us as a role model that we were giving ourselves this time off, especially during such a crucial time for our communities," Krass says.

Keshet is not alone. *More nonprofits are experimenting with paid break weeks following busy seasons, to enable staff to recuperate in a way that offering individual paid time off cannot.*

The Chronicle spoke to three champions of the trend to learn what they're gaining — in morale, and increasingly in recruitment power and retention — and how they make it work. Here are their key insights.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Funding Opportunities

Moonshot LOI's are due Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 at 3:00pm.

Please email Eric Hessel, VP of Programs, at eric@hendrickscountycf.org to submit your LOI.

Pacers Foundation General Grants

- Funding prioritizes *youth-serving work in education, health, and safety.*

- **Interest Form Due: September 15, 2026**

Hendricks County Health Department - Health First Indiana

- Funding focus areas include *chronic disease prevention, trauma and injury prevention/education, maternal and child health, access to clinical care, and school health education.*
- **Applications Due: September 15, 2026**

Hendricks County Recycling District Community Grants Program

- Funding for projects that further the District's mission of *waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.*
- **Applications Due: September 18, 2026 by 4:00 PM**

Indiana Department of Health Injury Prevention Funding

- Funding for programs related to *providing education to families, resource development and dissemination, connecting families to services (swim lessons, safe sleep classes, etc.), and community outreach.*
- **Applications Due: September 19, 2026 by 6:00 PM**
- Email your **Application**, **Budget Spreadsheet**, and **Work Plan** to Allie Houston (AHouston@health.in.gov).

Indiana Humanities - Historic Preservation Education Grant

- Funding for public programs that *educate Hoosiers about historic places and properties.*
- **Applications Due: September 30, 2026**

HCCF Community Unity Grants

- This program is open to projects and programs that meet these priorities: *Increased civic engagement (inclusivity, diversity, equity & accessibility, voter education and engagement, and volunteerism including public and nonprofit Board service) as well as a stronger sense of County pride/brand.*
- **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed monthly, on the first Tuesday of the month.**

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

Aspen Institute Knowledge Exchange Awards

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

Leadership Hendricks County Ignite Community Leaders Class

- Have you or someone you know been thinking about applying to Leadership Hendricks County? Applications for the 2027 Ignite Community Leaders class are open now. The 2027 edition will be the 35th class for adult learners.
- **Register by: November 1, 2026**

United Way of Central Indiana's Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA)

- A new healthcare plan open to human services nonprofits and local United Ways across Indiana.

- Pending approval, the plan goes into effect Jan. 1, 2027
- Weekly virtual information calls beginning **Sept. 10** and open enrollment meetings starting in October.

Fast Forward's Nonprofit AI Policy Builder

- A free, easy-to-use tool designed to help nonprofits generate their own AI usage policy. Craft a custom AI policy that protects sensitive data, aligns with your mission, and ensures AI is working for good.

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

Charitable Advisors (Not-For-Profit News)

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.

Hendricks County Community Foundation

6319 East U.S. Highway 36, Suite 211, Avon, Indiana 46123

Phone 317-268-6240

<https://hendrickscountycf.org/>



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