

October Nonprofit Newsletter

Happy Autumn! October is an exciting and favorite month, with the crisp air, changing leaves, and comfort foods starting to hit the table, there is so much yum to enjoy.

In addition to the changing leaves, this month we're looking forward to part one of our final **Nonprofit Learning of 2026--Storytelling for Impact**. Make sure to register by Thursday, October 15th if you're interested in attending. We're also continuing to build momentum around the **\$1 Million Moonshot Grant Opportunity** with the introduction of a **Moonshot Microgrants Opportunity**. Designed to spark creativity, engagement, and excitement, these microgrants offer another way for organizations and community members to participate in this transformative initiative. Be sure to check out the details below and on our website.

As always, there are two articles below worth checking out and several miscellaneous opportunities. Be sure to look into **The Journey Fellowship** for Indiana Youth Workers and think about applying for **Leadership Hendricks County Class of 2027**.

[Visit our Website](#)

Monthly Poll

When do you do your end-of-year appeal?

September

October

November

December

None of the Above

Last Month's Poll Results

39% of respondents said they used AI for Marketing, Communications, and Social Media.
29% said General Tasks,
24% said Meeting Notes or Summaries,
6% said Research & Information Gathering,
2% said Grant Writing.

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 Tuesday!

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 by *Thursday, October 15, 2026*

Training Opportunities

Supporting Immigrant and International Communities: Legal Rights & Responsibilities for Nonprofits

- **When/Where:** Video Recording, Email Diana Coyle at dianac@cicf.org
- **Cost:** Free
- You'll Hear About:
 - practical legal guidance for nonprofits serving immigrant and international communities, with a focus on government interactions, policy enforcement, and supporting community members while meeting legal responsibilities.

First Merchants 2026 Nonprofit Training Series

- Session 4: Creating Competitive Grant Proposals
 - **When:** November 10, 2026 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
 - **Where:** Online
 - **Cost:** Free, Registration Required
 - **You'll Learn:**
 - Strategies for writing clear, persuasive, and competitive grant proposals.
 - Key components including problem statements, program descriptions, outcomes, and budgets.
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Articles for Reading

How Nonprofits Can Post Less and Reach More on Social Media

Social media can be exhaustingly difficult for nonprofit teams to manage. It seems impossible to keep up with, unless your organization is big enough to allocate a few team members purely to posting content. Not to mention the constant advice that's thrown around, like:

- You need to post 3x per day and repurpose your posts to optimize every platform!
- Respond to every comment instantly to get a boost in engagement!
- Stop posting x in 2026! Post a, b and c instead!

Such advice is not sustainable long-term. In fact, it discourages many nonprofits from posting entirely. Thankfully, *none of it is necessary*.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

If You've Seen One Board, You've Seen One Board: Why Governance Has No Single Blueprint



Over the past 18 months, social impact organizations across the sector have increasingly turned their focus inward to evaluate and maximize one of their most valuable assets: their board of directors. Driven by a desire to future-proof their missions, fuel sustainable growth and elevate governance, a growing number of institutions are turning to peer benchmarking to uncover what makes a board high-performing. Yet, while organizations often equate high performance with adopting industry "best practices," true governance excellence is not found in a standardized template. While baseline practices provide essential fiduciary scaffolding, a truly high-performing board requires an intentional, fit-for-purpose alignment tailored to an organization's unique culture, strategic life cycle, and future direction.

When organizations think about board development, the first question is often, what are other organizations doing? It's a natural place to start. Benchmarking offers valuable perspectives, introduces new ideas, validates existing practices, and helps organizations identify opportunities for improvement. *The goal shouldn't be to build the same board everyone else has. It should be to build the board your organization needs next.*

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Funding Opportunities

Moonshot Microgrants Opportunity

- Funding available for projects/programs that *engage the community, bring creativity and enthusiasm, and incorporate the theme of "shoot for the moon."*
- This opportunity is designed and intended to build excitement and awareness surrounding the \$1 Million Moonshot Grant opportunity.

- Applications will be accepted online and reviewed monthly starting **October 20, 2026**.

[Learn more here](#)

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

Hendricks Regional Health - Health and Wellness Fair

- This interactive health fair explores wellness through the pillars of movement, nutrition, prevention, connection, and stress management. Enjoy live performances, demos, healthy food, wellness resources, and hands-on activities designed to help you thrive.
- **When:** October 8, 2026 4:00 - 6:00 PM -- RSVP Now
- **Where:** Hendricks Live!
- **Cost:** Free

Indiana Youth Services Association - The 2027 Journey Fellowship

- This transformative opportunity is designed for youth workers across Indiana who are committed to making a lasting impact in the lives of young people. Focused on supporting *youth work professionals*. Their intention is to transform the profession and field of youth work by grounding leaders in who they are, building professional community, and inspiring the beliefs of those who dream and do on behalf of young people.
- **Who Should Apply?** Individuals working full-time in Indiana in a role dedicated to improving the lives of youth—whether through direct service, advocacy, or policy—may be eligible.
- **Apply by: October 16, 2026**
- If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Eric at eric@hendrickscountycf.org

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.
- **Apply by: November 1, 2026**

Cascade High School Career Conversations

- **Would you like to....**
 - talk to the next generation about your career?
 - share what a typical day is like in your field?
 - talk to students about what it takes to thrive in your field?
- **When, pick one of following:**
 - Thursday, November 12, 2026
 - Wednesday, February 10, 2027
 - Wednesday, April 14, 2027

Indiana United Way - Making Tough Choices in Indiana

- An online, Interactive ALICE Experience that allows participants to experience the difficult choices that can come with financial hardship of an ALICE household.

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.

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