Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 6, 2026
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Hendricks County Community Foundation Announces Finalists for $1 Million Moonshot Grant

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) has moved one step closer to awarding its landmark $1 Million "Moonshot" Grant, officially announcing six local non-profit organizations as finalists for the historic funding opportunity.

Made possible through a $3 million Community Support grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX initiative, the one-time Moonshot Grant challenges community leaders and organizations to propose visionary solutions to Hendricks County's most significant challenges. Designed to fund a single transformational project spanning one to three years, the initiative supports cross-sector collaborations focused on creating new systems, removing longstanding barriers, or building community-wide infrastructure.

The grant program officially launched on July 30, when over 100 community and non-profit leaders gathered at MADE at Plainfield to explore collaborative opportunities. Following an initial Letter of Intent phase reviewed by the HCCF Grants Committee on October 8 and approved by the HCCF Board of Directors on October 22, six inspiring non-profit proposals were selected to advance to the final round:

- **AYS, Inc.** – Countywide Childcare Access Network
- **Cummins Behavioral Health Systems** – Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Center
- **Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity** – Affordable Homeownership and Housing Preservation
- **Hendricks College Network** – Countywide Career-Connected Learning
- **Hendricks County Senior Services** – Adult Day and Caregiver Support Center
- **Sheltering Wings** and **Susie's Place** – Countywide Trauma Prevention and Resilience

"We're incredibly excited to see these six organizations advance to the next phase, but what inspires me most is the strength of all the ideas that emerged through this process," said Eric Hessel, Vice President of Programs at HCCF. "Along the way, we've seen new connections formed, partnerships sparked, and a shared commitment to thinking boldly about our community's future. While six finalists will continue in pursuit of this transformational investment, our community is walking away with 22 million-dollar ideas that are ready for the next opportunity, wherever it comes from. That's a remarkable outcome in itself, and it gives me great confidence in what's possible when people are encouraged to shoot for the moon."

The six finalists will prepare and submit their full grant applications by January 26, 2027. Following final evaluations, HCCF will announce the selected recipient in March 2027, with project implementation set to begin between March 2027 and January 2028.

For more information on the Moonshot Grant or the finalist selection process, visit **www.hendrickscountycf.org/for-nonprofits/apply-for-a-grant/moonshot-grant**.

The Mission of the Hendricks County Community Foundation: To be a trusted community partner in understanding needs, aligning resources, and empowering people to address today's priorities and create lasting impact. Our vision is Hendricks County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together. The Community Foundation manages assets of over $40 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2025 the Community Foundation gave over $2.35M in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to local students. For more information, call 317-268-6240 or visit **www.hendrickscountycf.org**.

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