Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

Fall Colors—and Big News at HCCF!

What a beautiful fall we're enjoying in Hendricks County! The cooler mornings, sunny afternoons, and brilliant autumn colors are a welcome reminder of why Indiana is such a wonderful place to call home. And just as the leaves are changing, some exciting changes are underway at HCCF. Last month, I hinted that we had some big things in the works. Well, now we can share them!

First, we're excited to announce the **finalists for our $1 million Moonshot initiative!** These ambitious proposals represent fresh thinking and bold ideas for addressing some of Hendricks County's most important needs and opportunities. We can't wait to see where they lead. See below for the list of finalists.

We're also preparing for a big move! Early next year, HCCF will relocate to the **new Avon Civic Center**, giving us a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our connections with the community and better serve our donors and nonprofit partners. And if you haven't visited our **new website**, please take a look! It's designed to make it easier than ever to learn about our work, explore opportunities, and get involved.

These are exciting steps forward, but our purpose remains the same: connecting generous people with opportunities to make Hendricks County an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

As for Moose, he's thoroughly enjoying the falling leaves. While we're busy planning for the future, he's focused on the important work of chasing, collecting, and occasionally trying to eat autumn's bounty. Different priorities, perhaps, but we're all enjoying the season!

Happy fall!



Yours in Philanthropy,
William Rhodehamel
President & CEO
(and Moose)

Moonshot Finalists



HCCF is one step closer to awarding its big **$1 Million Moonshot Grant**, naming six local non-profits as finalists!

On October 8, the HCCF Grants Committee reviewed all the proposals and narrowed the field down to six inspiring projects moving on to the final round (listed alphabetically):

- **AYS, Inc.** – County-Wide Child Care
- **Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Inc.** – Crisis Stabilization Center
- **Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity** – Housing Ecosystem
- **Hendricks College Network** – Career Connected Learning Network
- **Hendricks County Senior Services** – Adult Day Center
- **Sheltering Wings / Susie's Place** – Preventing Trauma and Building Resilience

These six organizations will submit their full applications by January 26 and the recipient will be announced in March.

Stay tuned to see which big idea will launch and bring $1 million back home to Hendricks County!

Another Launch - the New HCCF Website



We've just launched our new website at **https://hendrickscountycf.org/** built with our incredible donors and supporters in mind.

It's now easier than ever to explore **giving options, apply for grants**, or check our **Community Calenda**r for local events and volunteer opportunities. We've also added enhanced **accessibility** features and a friendly **24/7 AI digital assistant** to help answer your questions anytime.

Take a look around at the refreshed **site**, see what's new and sign up for our newsletters to stay connected!

HCCF Helps Local Nonprofits Tell Their Story



At the beginning of 2026, HCCF launched a new grant program to help local nonprofits get their message out. When asked what they needed besides money, over 70% said they struggled to tell their story and attract community support.

To help, HCCF teamed up with **Ash Interactive** to create high-quality, long-lasting promotional videos for 15 selected nonprofits in 2026 (more in 2027!). These videos focus on each group's mission, giving them an effective tool to catch people's attention, build connections and increase community support.

Watch this video to learn about the **Hendricks County International Festival**, a free, family-friendly event designed to celebrate cultural diversity and foster community inclusion in our county. Attendees can explore traditions from over 20 countries through interactive exhibits, authentic global cuisines from food trucks, live dance and musical performances, and displays of traditional attire.

The event is held every October - if you missed it this year, mark your calendar for next!

Learn more about HCCF's local grantmaking and nonprofit support at **www.hendrickscountycf.org**.

HCCF is Moving!



As HCCF continues to grow, we are excited to share the next major step in our journey—a move to the new **Avon Civic Center**!

This new space is much more than a new address—it's a major step forward in how we connect with our community. This welcoming and accessible environment ensures every member of our community can comfortably visit and participate. It also gives us the room and visibility we need to expand our reach and community connections, with ample space for collaborative meetings and activities. We're thankful to the **Town of Avon** for extending an opportunity to share their new space.

We'll be right here (where we've been since 2012!) until January, so please stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to the move! We can't wait to invite everyone to an open house to tour the new space and celebrate this exciting new chapter together.

Giving Tuesday

This **Giving Tuesday, December 1**, put your generosity to work right here at home by supporting local causes!

Started in 2012 as a simple way to give back after the big holiday shopping days, Giving Tuesday is an international day of giving that takes place every year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

To make giving simple, HCCF is highlighting local nonprofits on our social media pages all day long, complete with direct links so you can easily donate to the local groups helping our neighbors every day.

Give Local on Giving Tuesday!



Check out dozens of great events in our community on the Hendricks Community Calendar!

Grants at a Glance

Our vision is to make Hendricks County a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together.

HCCF grantmaking is the heartbeat of that vision! Below are the grants awarded last month, building a stronger future for our community.

FUND	GRANTEE	GRANT AMOUNT
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 2,517
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 2,250
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 7,005
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 1,229
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 3,500
Anonymous Fund	Shepherd's Pathway/Take Time and Pray Church	$ 28,055
Anonymous Fund	Susie's Place - The Hendricks County Child Advocacy Center	$ 1,000
HCFPC Libby Hammond Fund	Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition	$ 10,242
Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle Fund	Down Syndrome Indiana, Inc.	$ 4,000
Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle Fund	Meals on Wheels of Hendricks County, Inc.	$ 6,500
Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle Fund	Susie's Place - The Hendricks County Child Advocacy Center	$ 10,500
Hendricks County Women's Giving Circle Fund	HCCF Programming Fund	$ 905
Imagination Library of Hendricks County Fund	Dollywood Foundation	$ 4,672
Sports for All Kids Fund	Danville Girls Softball Association	$ 1,603
TOTAL		**$ 83,977**

Our Favorite Five in Hendricks County

No tricks, just local treats: summer is over, but Hendricks County is alive with autumn fun! Here are our favorite happenings this month in our community:

Fave Five #1: Opening Doors Series

Join us on November 8 at Hendricks Live! for the next **Opening Doors Event: Seniors on Seniors, Bridging Generations Through Stories.**

Moderated by reporter Isabella Zarate, this heartfelt event pairs four Hendricks County senior citizens with four local high school seniors for one-on-one conversations. Together, they will share personal milestones and challenges, uncovering unexpected common ground across decades.
Admission is $5, and entry is free for Hendricks County Senior Services members who present their ID at the door. Get tickets **here**.



Fave Five #2: Under the Stars at the Danville Library

Last week, HCCF gathered donors, staff, and nonprofit partners inside Danville-Center Township Public Library's inflatable planetarium to celebrate Space Week. Made possible by HCCF's first **Moonshot Microgrant** awarded to the Danville Library Foundation, the event highlighted the vital role local libraries play as community hubs that inspire curiosity and lifelong learning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us under the stars and to the supporters whose generosity makes innovative grantmaking possible.



Fave Five #3: Can't-Miss Trick or Treats

With Halloween falling on a Saturday, family fun is at an all-time high! While Hendricks County offers corn mazes, night hikes, and spooky movies all October long, **click here** for your go-to guide from **Visit Hendricks County** for trick-or-treating and maxing out your candy haul!



Fave Five #4: Tim Whicker Recognized

Congratulations to Tim Whicker (CEO of Electric Plus and **HCCF Board Chair**) of the Hendricks County 4-H Fair for winning the 2026 IAFE Heritage Award! Having grown from a youth participant to a board member, Tim has spent decades supporting local kids by hosting student farmers on his property and founding the hugely successful 4-H Super Sale. His hands-on dedication and generosity shows just how important local fairs can be in building strong, supportive communities. Way to go Tim!



Fave Five #5: Matt Howery Named Leader in Banking Excellence

Matt Howrey, president and CEO of **North Salem State Bank**, was honored with the Indiana Bankers Association's prestigious Leaders in Banking Excellence award earlier this month at the IBA Annual Convention. As part of the 2026 class of honorees, Howrey was recognized for his exceptional leadership and positive contributions to Indiana's banking industry. The award represents the IBA's highest honor, celebrating distinguished leaders who have made a lasting impact on both their banks and the local communities they serve. Congrats Matt!

Hendricks County Community Foundation

Thank You to Our 2026 Corporate Partners

Thank you to our incredible corporate partners! Their generous support is essential to making our vision for Hendricks County a reality – a place where everyone has the chance to thrive and build a brighter future. We encourage you to show your appreciation for these community-minded businesses by supporting them in return.

Platinum Partner

Hendricks Regional Health

Gold Partners

The Republican Newspaper

BF&S Butler Fairman & Seufert Civil Engineers

4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex

NSSB North Salem State Bank

State Bank – Indiana strong. Locally loved.

Hendricks Power Cooperative

Electric Plus

Silver Partners

Abstract & Title – All people. Always.

Capital Cities – Institutional Investing Made Personal

Hendricks County Community CONNECT

First Merchants Bank

Bronze Partners

TKO Graphix

HCBT Hendricks County Bank and Trust Company

Whicker Construction

Foundation Friends

Elliott Company | Estep Burkey Simmons, LLC | Photography by Sarah Crail

Is your organization looking to expand your customer base? Join this group of community-minded organizations and become a HCCF Corporate Partner! Contact us to learn more.

Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County Community Foundation

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