



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*Generosity, Leadership
and Service*



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Remembering our Mission

GENEROSITY, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

It's hard to believe that we entered our 30th year in 2021. After experiencing the year of unknown in 2020, it was a record year. We continued and pressed on toward our original mission of inspiring and sustaining generosity, leadership and service. Our community continues to be generous and think of others.

“Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off of their goals,” said Gene Mory Jr., one of the Foundation’s original board members. “In 1991, we set a goal to create a countywide community foundation that would benefit the citizens of LaGrange County,” Mory shared in an archived interview. That dream and goal is now realized.

A community foundation is a vehicle for people of all means to contribute to their community. A community foundation represents a wide variety of ideas and interests of individual donors who all have a united purpose – they want to help make a community better. Throughout the past 30 years, the LaGrange County Community Foundation has been helping the community in many ways. Whether it has been through grants for organizations, setting up a memorial fund in honor of someone or giving a scholarship to help further education, our mission is the mission of the community. We are the conduits for the Foundation in this moment.

The Founding Donors accomplished their mission and we continue and press on with the same mission. We are honored by the countless volunteers who have helped the Foundation grow to where it is today. It is because of those volunteers and staff members who have served the Foundation in the past 30 years, we continue our mission. It is our responsibility to continue wisely stewarding the assets entrusted to the Foundation and preparing things so the next volunteer and staff member will be up to the challenge.

The Community Foundation belongs to our community.

We pressed on during the uncertainty of the pandemic. We kept on toward the goal and ended 2020 in a strong position financially. So, we proceed with the same goal, as when we were established in 1991 to “create a countywide organization to benefit the citizens of LaGrange County.” That is our mission and what drives us daily.

Octavia Yoder
Octavia Yoder
Executive Director



Community Impact Grants

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS are awarded based on a competitive grant application process to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. The Community Foundation seeks to fund innovative or creative projects with significant benefit to LaGrange County. These grants are made possible by donors who support our unrestricted funds. Nonprofit organization serving LaGrange County are eligible to apply in six areas of interest: arts & culture, health & human services, recreation, community development, environment and education.

2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Agape Child Care Ministry Professional Development & Classroom Materials	\$2,500
Brightpoint Covering Kids and Families of Brightpoint	\$5,000
Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana Client Advocate and Client Services Program	\$3,500
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana Inc. LaGrange County Farm Wagon Mobile Pantry Program	\$1,500
Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry "Meat" the Need	\$1,500
Junior Achievement of LaGrange County Junior Achievement Capstone Experiences	\$5,000
Kate's Kart Book distribution at Parkview LaGrange Hospital	\$1,500
LaGrange Baseball League Spreuer Park Development (baseball/softball field)	\$10,000
LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation Delt Church Park Playground equipment.	\$7,439
LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity A Brush with Kindness	\$10,000
LaGrange County Miracle Tree Stock the Storage.	\$2,000
LaGrange County Trails Inc. The Hawpatch Trail, development of the trail	\$40,000
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky Hands-free drinking water station.	\$2,000
Mad Anthonys Children's Hope House Overnight Accommodations for LaGrange Families	\$5,000
McMillen Health Preventive Health Education for LaGrange County Youth	\$5,000
Science Central Science4U Outreach, IVC Programs and study trips	\$5,000
Stroh Volunteer Fire Department Audio Video Technology Advancement	\$13,000
The Farm Place, Inc. Animal Companionship Supervised Visitation Center	\$20,000
Veterans Headstone Project American Flag Holder Program / 19th-21st Century Military Service Project	\$3,500
TOTAL	\$143,439



LaGrange Baseball League

SPREUER PARK DEVELOPMENT (BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD) \$10,000

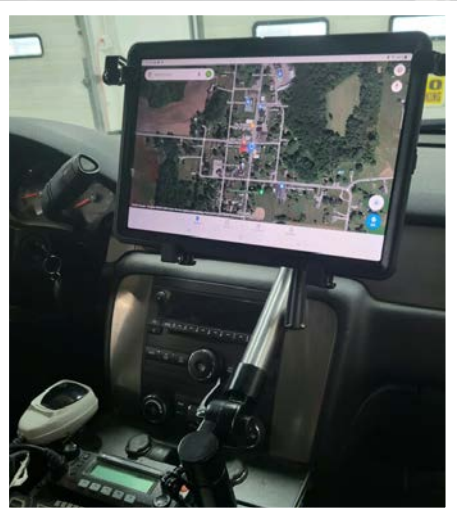
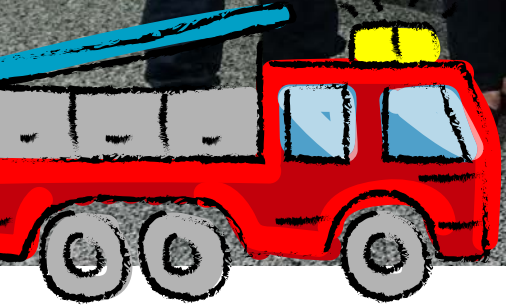
THE LAGRANGE BASEBALL LEAGUE began in 2017 with a mission to provide youth with developmental, fun and appropriate competitive enjoyment of the game of baseball and softball. Serving 350 youth between the ages of 3 and 14, they outgrew the use of one diamond.

LaGrange Communities Youth Centers partnered with the LaGrange Baseball League, providing them with the much needed landscape, Spreuer Park. Located on the north side of LaGrange, Spreuer Park, is the perfect

greenspace to house baseball and softball diamonds. The project, estimated to cost \$300,000, includes bleachers, scoreboards, and a concession stand. The LaGrange Baseball League received a \$10,000 grant toward the development of Spreuer Park.

"The grant will make a significant impact on the overall project. This will go directly to infrastructure needs for the ball fields," said Brett Bateman, president of LaGrange Baseball League.





Stroh Volunteer Fire Department

AUDIO VIDEO TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT
\$13,000

THE STROH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT provides emergency fire and medical services to the residents of Milford Township. The department needed an update to their technology. A grant award of \$13,000 allowed for an upgrade of conferencing equipment, computers, TV and a wireless presentation system for conferencing. The upgraded technology will allow

volunteer firemen to attend vital training sessions as well as complete state required reports. "I'm excited that as a department, we will be able to broaden our training and learn new techniques, thanks to the upgraded technology," said Blaine Williams, Stroh Volunteer Fire Department training officer.

Agape Child Care Ministry

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CLASSROOM MATERIALS
\$2,500

Located on the edge of Stroh, Agape Child Care Ministry brings a Montessori approach to education, which allows students to explore their own talents and interests. Agape Ministry serves children early as six weeks. The grant supporting professional development gave teachers a higher level of understanding needed to help children flourish.

LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity

A BRUSH WITH KINDNESS
\$10,000

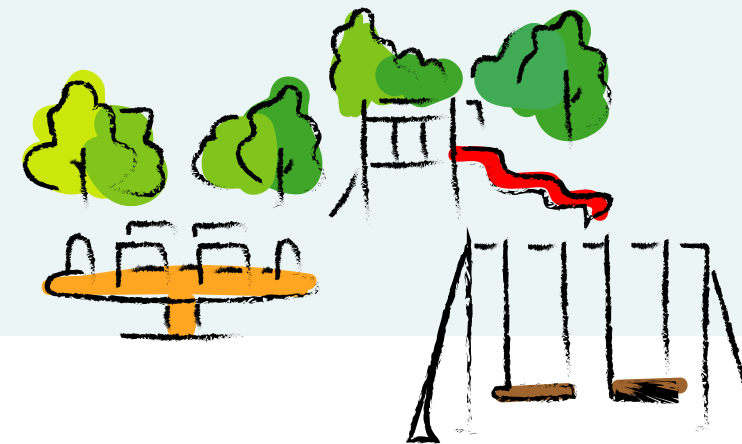
Since 1995, LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity has been working to build, renovate, and repair homes for community members to grow and live. A Brush with Kindness assisted families and individuals with weatherization needs who would have been unable to perform needed repairs on their own.



LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation

DELT CHURCH PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
\$7,439

With 119 acres of land, Delt Church Park provides children with the developmental benefits that are obtained by playing outside. The upgraded playground equipment will allow Delt Church Park to continue to present kids and families with the opportunity to connect, build friendships, and memories that will last.



Donors

INDIVIDUALS

Andrew and Laura Hunter
Andrew Ault
Brook and Barbra Frymier
Bruce and Madeline Bornmann
Bryan and Amy Self
Carl and Denise Scott
Christina Battell
Christine Miller
Christine Rohrer-Hueser
Chris and Monica Keil
Dalton Sprunger
Dana Reed
Daniel and Jennifer Mains
David and Karen Kauffman
Deb Lambright
Dean and Angela Reeve
Dean and Vicki Domer
Deanna Chrisman
Deann Knepp
Dr. Rhonda and Eric Sharp
Dr. Trinity Arver
Edgar and Jacqueline Evans
Ed and Judy Keil
Fay Sturtz
Howard and Mary Petersen
Gary and Elma Chapman
Gabrielle Hartman
Gary Rawlings
Gene and Tracy Gall
Gloria Sherwood
Gordon and Margaret Swartzentruber
Isaiah Hostetler
James Kennah
Jamie Shields
Jeff and Marilyn Wingstrom
Jennifer Neff
Jeffrey Nicoloni
Jim Joseph
Kathy Hopper
Ken and Kathy Sherry
Kent and Ruth Ihrle
Larry and Marge Fetters
Larry and Coralu Pearson

Laurie Sherck
Linda Gilchrist
Lynn and Trena Bowen
Lynn and Laura Weaver
Lauri Couture
Mandy Williams
Mahlon and Terri Bontrager
Mark and Dana Alleshouse
Mark and Lisa Clemens
Mark McClish
Mary Beth Hostetler
Matthew and Heather Frost
Michelle Schmidt
Michael and Suzanne Zehr
Miles and Judith Perkins
Miriam Carnahan
Miriam Smith
Mont and Connie Arnold
Neal and Lydia Wolheter
Pat Fry
Patrick and LaDonna Wiltshire
Perry Bontrager
Phyllis Youga
Ralph and Sherlyn Wilson
Richard and Mary Arend
Richard and Kay Rhodes
Richard Long
Rick and Lou Ann Sherck
Robert and Deborah Schlemmer
Robert and Sandra Allread
Russell and Ardala Hepler
Ryan Gaynor
Sally Fuller
Samarah Orr
Shawn and Octavia Yoder
Sharon Perkins
Sherrie Young
Steve and LuAnn Gage
Tracie Disher
Vincent and Ellen Heiny
Willie and Tonya Rich
Zach and Miranda Bolla

ORGANIZATIONS

ACRES Land Trust
Auditor of State of Indiana
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Brethren Retreat Ministries
Burnworth – Zollars Automotive Group
Christner's Catering
Emerick, Diggins & Zabona
Ernsberger & Helmer
Fidelity Charitable
Fruvip-May Funeral Home
Fry, Trowbridge & Associates, PC
Grand Design RV LLC
Independent Colleges of Indiana
Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
Jerry's Standard
LaGrange County Treasurer
LaGrange De Lafayette Chapter NSDAR
LaGrange Communities Youth Centers Inc.
LaGrange County Council on Aging
Lake Area Veterinary Group
Lakeland Youth Basketball Association
Maple Lane Farm
Milford Township Trustee
National Fish and Wildlife Federation
Olive B. Cole Foundation
Obeco, Inc.
Smart Cabinetry
The Howe School
Town of LaGrange
Town of Shipshewana
Westview School Corporation
Wolcottville Lions Club
Whitney Remodel

Gifts

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Jean Seagly Crouse Mont and Connie Arnold
In Memory of Dana Martin Gordon and Margaret Swartzentruber
Beverly J. Todd Memorial Scholarship
In Memory of Beverly Todd Gloria Sherwood
Chase E. Scott Memorial Football Scholarship
In Memory of Chase Scott Deb Lambright
Dale Sturtz Memorial Fund
In Memory of Dale Sturtz Fay Sturtz
Delores McNett and Talmage Family PH FFA WLC Fund
In Memory of Michael McNett Christina Battell Christine Rohrer-Hueser Sherrie Young
In Memory of Michael McNett and Bob McNett Dana Reed
Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Holly Petersen The Honorable Judge Howard and Mary Petersen
Kevin Lewis Purdue Agricultural Memorial Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Marilyn Lewis Bruce and Madeline Bornmann
In Memory of Kathryn and Marilyn Lewis Sharon Perkins

Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Morgan Hunter Chris and Monica Keil Christner's Catering Inc. Ed and Judy Keil Emerick, Diggins and Zabona Ernsberger and Helmer Fruvip-May Funeral Home Grand Design RV LLC Jamie Shields Jeffery Nicolini Larry and Coralu Pearson Mahlon and Terri Bontrager Mark and Lisa Clemens Obeco Inc. Rick and Lou Ann Sherck Whitney Remodel
Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Terry Schmidt Michelle Schmidt
Veterans Headstone Project Fund
In Memory of Donna and Leonard Lambright Tracie Disher
In Memory of Chuck McCuen Richard and Kay Rhodes
In Memory of Murlyn Wilson, Robert Rhodes, and Wilfred Dunkel Richard and Kay Rhodes
In Memory of Fred Pfenning Mark McClish

GIFTS IN HONOR

Delores McNett and Talmage Family PH FFA WLC Fund
In Honor of Michael McNett Bryan and Amy Self
Judy Gage Keenan Scholarship Fund
In Honor of Kari Reynolds Steve and LuAnn Gage
In Honor of Erin Nulf Steve and LuAnn Gage
LaGrange County Youth
In Honor of Kadish Evans Jennifer Neff
Lakeland Scholarship Fund
In Honor of Steven Sherck Laurinda Sherck
Veterans Headstone Project Fund
In Honor of Murlyn Wilson and Wilfred Dunkel Richard and Kay Rhodes
In Honor of William "Bill" Cooper Lake Area Veterinary Group
Westview Scholarship Fund
In Honor of Taylor and Brandon Eash Lauri Couture

Funds

The Community Foundation offers a variety of fund types to suit each donor's personal philanthropic goals.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:

Donors who establish Unrestricted Funds understand these funds are key to the Community Foundation's ability to meet emerging needs. Community Funds provide flexible resources to address the needs and opportunities of our beloved communities as they change over time. Income from these funds is granted in response to grant applications from LaGrange County nonprofit organizations. The Board of Directors can also direct funds to be used for specific Foundation initiatives and desired community outcomes.

- Caring Community Fund
- Dale Sturtz Memorial Fund
- Dekko Enhancement Fund
- Education Fund
- Founders Community Fund
- Knights of Pythias LaGrange Lodge No. 144 Fund
- Lambright Charitable Fund
- Lambright Leadership Unrestricted Fund
- McKenzie Family Fund
- R.E. Lee Family Fund
- Sharp Family Fund
- Stanley "Chip" Krugh Memorial Fund
- Willard Family Community Fund

AGENCY FUNDS:

Created by nonprofit organizations to provide a stream of income for their organization.

- LaGrange Communities Youth Centers Agency Fund
- Northeastern Center Agency Fund
- Questa Education Foundation Fund
- Scott Cemetery Fund
- Topeka Area Historical Society Fund

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Designated Funds benefit a specific nonprofit organization for as long as that organization is in existence and is fulfilling its intended purpose. Typically, a donor establishes a designated fund to benefit a favorite organization or church.

- ACRES Nature Preservation & Education Fund
- Brethren Retreat Ministries, Inc. Fund
- Community Dental Clinic Fund
- Delores McNett & Talmage Family Prairie Heights FFA Washington Leadership Conference Fund
- Elijah Haven Fund
- Jack L. Stark ACRES Property Fund
- Junior Achievement of LaGrange County Fund
- Kenny Burkett Health Fund
- LaGrange County 4-H Association Fund
- LaGrange County Amish Schools Fund
- LaGrange County Council on Aging Program Fund
- LaGrange County Endowment Fund
- LaGrange County Public Library Fund
- Lakeland School Corporation Fund
- Lima United Methodist Church Fund
- LIFE Operating Fund
- Menno-Hof Fund
- Northeastern Center Community Mental Health Fund
- Rainbow Years Learning Center Fund

- Scott United Methodist Church Fund
- Topeka Civic Endowment Fund
- United Fund of LaGrange County Fund
- Westview Scholarship Pretzel Fund
- Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana Fund

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS:

Donor Advised Funds enable donors to achieve their personal charitable goals. Individuals, families, organizations often establish these funds to direct grants to their favorite organization. These funds enable donors the ability to give like an independent Foundation with the guidance and support of the Community Foundation.

- DeWayne and Mertice Bontrager Memorial Fund
- E. Marie Dwight Community Fund
- George O. Witwer Advised Fund
- Huggins Family Fund
- Keith and Doreen Lambright Family Fund
- Kerm Troyer Charitable Advised Fund
- LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce
- Petersen Advised Fund
- Zehr Family Advised Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Field of Interest Funds specify that income from the fund is to support a donor's particular area of concern, such as the arts, education, care of the elderly or environment without naming a specific organization to which grants will be made.

- CAPE II Endowment
- CenturyLink Economic Community Development Fund
- Cultural Arts Council of LaGrange County, Inc. Fund
- Emergency Relief Fund

- Good Samaritan Fund
- Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
- LaGrange County Animal Welfare Fund
- LaGrange County Promise Fund
- LaGrange County Senior Citizens Fund
- LaGrange County Youth Fund
- Leadership Development Fund
- LIFE Grants Fund
- Quality Child Care Endowment Fund
- Shipshewana Community Fund
- Stroh Community Fund

OPERATING FUNDS:

Operating Funds are the engines that keep the Community Foundation going. By contributing to these funds, you are helping the Foundation grow faster to improve the quality of life for all of LaGrange County. These funds support the day-to-day operations of the Community Foundation.

- Operating Fund
- LCCF Support Organization, Inc.
- LCCF Operating Endowment
- Cole Foundation Administrative Fund
- NIPSCO Fund: LCCF Operating Endowment

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS:

Community Project Funds are temporary funds held at the LaGrange County Community Foundation for various projects and groups within LaGrange County. They provide an opportunity for the Community Foundation to offer service and leadership to the community. In some agreements, the LaGrange County Community Foundation also becomes the fiscal sponsor for the organization.

- College Success Coalition Fund
- Council for Drug Free LaGrange County Fund

- Friends of the LaGrange County Parks Fund
- LaGrange County Drug Court Fund
- LaGrange County Health Coalition Fund
- Veterans Headstone Project Fund

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

Scholarship Funds enable students to achieve their educational dreams. Individuals, families, organizations, or businesses often establish these funds.

- Allread-Rife Family Scholarship
- Amanda Lou Crofts Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Beverly J. Todd Memorial Scholarship
- Brian J. Evans Memorial Scholarship
- Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Bulldog Spirit Scholarship Fund
- Chase E. Scott Memorial Football Scholarship
- Community Scholarship Fund
- Craig D. Neff & Ronda S. Neff Memorial Scholarship Fund
- D & H Rheinheimer Scholastic Fund
- Ellsworth Fanning Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Farmwald Scholarship Fund
- Florence E. & Virgil L. Hardin Memorial Scholarship Fund
- George O. Witwer News-Sun Journalism Scholarship Fund
- Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship Fund
- Hope Nursing Scholarship Fund
- James F. Kalb Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Jim Marks Scholarship Fund
- J.O. Mory Company Scholarship Fund
- Joseph J. Willard Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Judy Gage Keenan Scholarship Fund
- Keith & Arline Davis Scholarship Fund
- Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Kevin Lewis Purdue Agriculture Memorial Scholarship Fund
- LaGrange County Farm Bureau Coop Scholarship
- Lakeland High School Alumni Scholarship Fund
- Lakeland Scholarship Fund
- Lambright Leadership Scholarship
- LIFE Endowment Fund
- Lyle Smith Discretionary Scholarship Fund
- Mary E. McGawn Future Teacher Scholarship
- Mattea Hope Holton Memorial Scholarship
- Matthew Terry Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Melvin & Marjorie Bricker Memorial Scholarship
- Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship
- Mory Family Scholarship Fund
- Natalie Kauffman Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Ned Stump Scholarship Fund
- Olive B. Cole Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Olivia Bay Lemings Scholarship Fund
- Paul & Marian Krebs Scholarship Fund
- Peggy Messer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Perkins Scholarship Fund
- Prairie Heights Band Scholarship Fund
- Prairie Heights Scholarship Fund
- Prairie Heights Student Council Leadership Scholarship Fund
- Ray and Ruth Culp Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Rheinheimer Scholastic Fund
- Russell Hepler Telecommunication Scholarship
- Schlemmer Scholarship Fund
- Stan Anderson Memorial Golf Scholarship Fund
- Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund
- Waddell Scholarship Fund
- Westview Scholarship Fund

New Funds

Established in 2021

CHILDREN'S HOPE FUND

The Children's Hope Fund provides support to nonprofit organizations meeting the basic needs of LaGrange County's most vulnerable children (age 18 and under). Basic needs include shelter, food, clothing, medical care, and protection from harm.

ELDON HOSTETLER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Eldon Hostetler Family Scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Eldon Hostetler, a longtime supporter of the Town of Shipshewana. The scholarship supports a student planning a degree in business, automotive, or engineering fields.

LAGRANGE COUNTY EARLY LEARNING COALITION FUND

The LaGrange County Early Learning Coalition works to address the needs of early learning and childcare opportunities in LaGrange County.

HOWE LEGACY FUND

The Howe Legacy Fund supports community development and nonprofit charitable projects in the community of Howe, in honor of the Howe Military School.

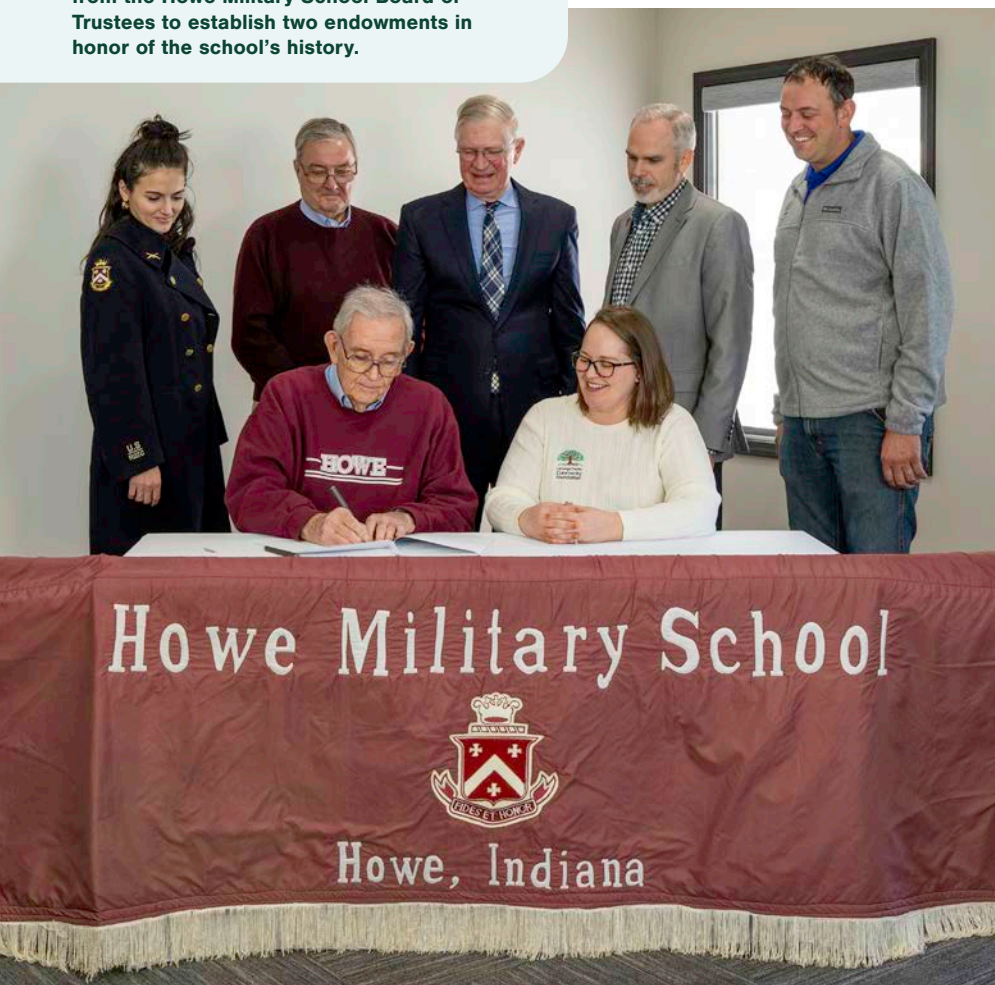
HOWE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Howe Legacy Scholarship Fund supports higher education in honor of the Howe School, which closed its doors in 2019. This Fund allows the legacy of the Howe Military School to persevere.

HOWE MILITARY SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FUND

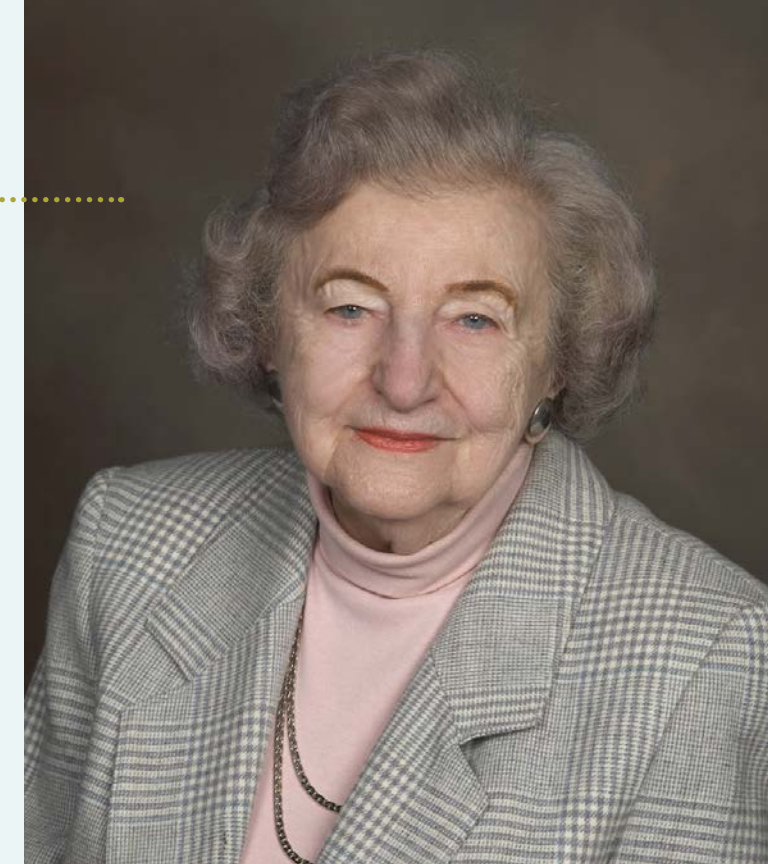
The Howe Military School Alumni Association Fund provides support to the Howe Military School Alumni Association. The Association works to build connections between previous cadets to continue the legacy of the Howe School.

The Foundation receives \$2.5 million gift from the Howe Military School Board of Trustees to establish two endowments in honor of the school's history.



"Keep your chin up and eyes ahead."

— ELSIE WILLARD



Elsie Willard

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DURING ITS CONCEPTION, the idea of a community foundation was mystical. Few people knew about the concept and even fewer fully understood the means to make it happen. LaGrange County needed someone with tenacity, energy, knowledge, and a vision on how to begin a community foundation. LaGrange County needed Elsie Willard.

In 1974, Elsie made the move to LaGrange County to serve as the hospital administrator of LaGrange County Hospital. Coming from Chicago, she was used to a faster pace. She did not anticipate how challenging this idea of a community foundation would be. Many community members were somewhat reluctant to the idea simply out of fear or lack of knowledge. Elsie could feel that change was needed. She could feel that LaGrange was alive.

"[There] has to be a solution for everything, you may not like it, but there is a solution," said Elsie Willard. Elsie envisioned LaGrange County as a thriving, successful community on the cusp of change. She envisioned the potential. She was up for a challenge and it was time for her to embark on the adventure of forming a community foundation.

After much convincing, Elsie traveled with Miles Perkins and Paul Hostetler to the Lilly Endowment GIFT program conference in Plymouth. It was there they learned how to create a community foundation and the potential to receive grant funding. Elsie's vision for a community foundation had legs and she hit the ground running.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation began in August 1991 and found a home in the basement of Farmers State Bank. Nine community leaders who believed in the importance of building long-term permanent funds formed the board, and Elsie secured a \$500,000 grant from Lilly's GIFT initiative. Elsie served as the first Community Foundation's Executive Director. True to her philanthropic heart and passion for LaGrange County, she donated back her salary to the Foundation for three years. She served as the Executive Director until 1994, helping to establish numerous fields of interest funds for health care, the arts, the public library and youth.

Elsie demonstrated that one person can make a difference.

Following Elsie's death in 2010, the Community Foundation received a gift from her estate: the Elsie and Joseph Willard home. The home was built in 1905 by Carl Willard, Joseph's father and is located on Townline Road south of Parkview LaGrange Hospital. In 2015, the home was sold to Parkview LaGrange and the proceeds from the sale were used to create the Willard Family Community Fund in honor of Joseph and Elsie Willard.

The Willard Family Community Fund is an unrestricted fund which supports the most pressing needs in our community. The seed that Elsie helped plant and nourish 30 years ago has blossomed into a lasting legacy for LaGrange County.

30 years of Generosity, Leadership and Service

1991

Nine LaGrange County residents form the LaGrange County Community Foundation with the motto: "People Helping People."

Founding Board

Members: Elsie Willard, Paul Hostetler, Larry Jackson, Kevin Lambricht, Kenneth Lehman, Gene Mory, Miles Perkins, LeRoy Schultess and Philip Yunker

1996

The Foundation, with the help of the Dekko Foundation start LIFE – a youth philanthropy program. LIFE empowers young people to serve their community and school through grantmaking.

2003

Foundation assets reach \$8.7 million.

2007

New website launches – www.lccf.net – which includes grant & scholarship applications.

2009

Heart of Gold Award Program begins, honoring volunteers in LaGrange County.

2016

Foundation meets Lilly Endowment GIFT VI Matching Challenge, raising \$1.5 million. Assets reach \$14 million.

2020

Community Foundation assets grow to \$19.2 million.

1995

Community Foundation moves into the old Bir Hotel in LaGrange.

1995

LaGrange County Commissioners and Council Members establish the LaGrange County Endowment Fund with \$800,000 from the LaGrange County Hospital Trust Fund.

1998

Community Foundation holds fundraising gala "Puttin' on the Ritz," netting \$17,000.

2004

Foundation adopts new mission statement: "It is the mission of LaGrange County Community Foundation to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership and service in our community."

2008

Foundation purchases property adjacent to Pine Knob Park on Meter Lake, giving the LaGrange County Parks Department enough time to fundraise and purchase the property and expand the park.

2012

Foundation becomes fiscal sponsor for Veterans Headstone Project – a program preserving veteran headstones in the county and documenting history of county veterans.

2017

Executive Director Laura Lemings retires after 15 years of service

2021

Foundation moves to new headquarters on the west side of LaGrange.

2021

Howe Military School Board of Trustees donate \$2.5 million to establish the Howe Legacy Fund and Howe Legacy Scholarship Fund after the closing of the school in 2019.

30 Years of Philanthropy:

THE HISTORY OF THE LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Since 1991, the LaGrange County Community Foundation has been a charitable partner in LaGrange County, helping connect donors to their charitable dreams and building permanent community funds.

A community foundation is a tax-exempt public charity serving thousands of people who share a common interest – improving the quality of life in a geographic region. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations create charitable funds that help meet those local challenges.

The Foundation began with a group of community leaders who believed in the importance of building long-term permanent funds for LaGrange County.

Governed by volunteer committee members from across the county, the Board of Directors oversee strategic planning, establish policy and set priorities.

“Our responsibility is be a wise steward of the assets entrusted in our care. The Foundation works on behalf of donors who want to do charitable good in LaGrange County,” said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director.

The Foundation began humbly in the basement of Farmers State Bank in LaGrange. The first director, Elsie Willard, donated her salary back to the Foundation, and under her direction encouraged the start of a community arts fund.

Today, the Foundation manages 150 unique funds and has grown to \$24 million in assets, with three full-time staff. While the Foundation focuses on building permanent funds for charitable efforts, the organization also support funds for short-term community projects.

After occupying the old Bir Hotel near the intersection of SR 9 and US 20 in LaGrange for nearly 25 years, the Foundation moved its offices a few miles outside of LaGrange in April 2021, to a location near the intersection of US 20 and 250 W. The facility includes

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS:

Paul Hostetler
Larry Jackson
Kevin Lambricht
Kenneth Lehman
Gene Mory
Miles Perkins
LeRoy Schultess
Elsie Willard
Philip Yunker

a community room available to nonprofits for meetings, trainings or events.

In 30 years, the Foundation has granted more than \$3.3 million from its unrestricted funds to support local charitable needs. The Foundation's Caring Community Fund provides grants to local agencies seeking funding through its Community Impact Grants Program. Nonprofits apply and a committee reviews the applications.

The Caring Community Fund is an unrestricted fund, which allows it to be used for any community need. “Some donors create funds for a specific nonprofit or a type of cause. The flexibility of an unrestricted fund is important,” said Yoder, “because the needs in LaGrange County can change over time.”

“When a donor supports the Caring Community Fund, they are supporting grants to local agencies. Donations of all sizes – big, small – are pooled together in the fund and support a robust grant program,” Yoder added.

Nonprofits such as Elijah Haven, LaGrange County Trails, Rainbow Years Learning Ministry, and the Ark Animal Shelter are just a few of the beneficiaries.

In 2019, the Foundation awarded LaGrange County Trails \$25,000 to support the development of the Hawpatch Trail. The 17-mile bike/pedestrian recreation trail will connect Wolcottville, Topeka, and Millersburg. The grant supported operational startup expenses, which included legal fees, title research and appraisals.

Connecting donors to charitable opportunities like the LaGrange County Trails is changing the landscape of the community for the good.

“The Foundation recognizes the power of community philanthropy and what can happen when a generous community gives. It’s neighbors helping neighbors,” Yoder added.



New headquarters

LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S NEW HEADQUARTERS

“We are thrilled to be able to increase the visibility and accessibility of the Community Foundation,” said Neal Wolheter, Board President. “We set aside funds for several years, which allowed us to purchase the property using available cash – no mortgage was required.”

The new Community Foundation headquarters contains over 3,000 square feet of space along with a state-of-the-art community room available to nonprofits; a parking lot of 6,000 square feet is a welcome addition. The new building will be more accessible to elderly and disabled patrons.

“We are thrilled to be able to increase the visibility and accessibility of the Community Foundation.”

— NEAL WOLHETER



“If you never start, you can never grow.”

—KEVIN LAMBRIGHT

Kevin Lambright

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH, GIVING AND FAMILY

A LIFETIME RESIDENT of Shipshewana, Kevin Lambright is homegrown.

The small community of Shipshewana holds a special place for Kevin. It's where he and his wife of 41 years, Carrie, live and have raised their two children. Most recognize the Lambright family for the Shipshewana Trading Place, also known as the Flea Market. Kevin spent many years building the Shipshewana business, along with his brother, Keith Lambright.

When Kevin saw an opportunity to help the entire community, he was curious and excited to see the fruition of a community foundation. The idea of a community foundation was an easy one for him to grasp. He was the youngest founding board member in 1991. It was a natural fit for him to serve.

Kevin and Carrie saw a need to support LaGrange County high school seniors who applied to the Lilly Scholarship program, but were not selected. In 2013, Kevin and Carrie established the Lambright Leadership Scholarship, to honor those finalists with a four-year scholarship.

Kevin and Carrie felt that other participants worked just as hard and were just as qualified, “a way of doing a little something for the community,” he added. The scholarship fund has provided \$114,000 in scholarships in the last five years to 32 students.

Kevin worked for 34 ½ years in the auction and popular tourist destination of the Shipshewana Trading Place. In 2015, Kevin sold his share to his brother, and returned to his roots – farming.

Today, Kevin is most often seen on a tractor tending to a cornfield. Back to his roots, he is farming with his son, Kurt. The president of KC Squared Farms, he runs the operation with Kurt.

Lambright wanted to be a part of the development of the community foundation because he recognized how big of an opportunity it was to help a whole community. From a young age, his parents instilled giving in him and it went beyond the monetary point of giving-it is a way of life for him.

He encourages other to give while they are here to enjoy giving. “Do it while you're alive to see the benefits. To see how that is helping and working, and see others be blessed by it.”

Looking back on 30 years of the Community Foundation, he encourages others to get involved earlier. He loves seeing people grow and succeed.

“We all can give in some given time – in monetary or voluntary ways,” Kevin said. “It's hard to pass up opportunities to help a community that much. Everything starts somewhere. If you never start, you can never grow.”



The Hearts of our Communities

SINCE 2010, the Foundation has honored individuals in LaGrange County who go beyond the call and embrace a commitment to service with the Heart of Gold award. The award recognizes individuals who have made an extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and serving others. The selection committee considers qualities that reflect their selfless acts of kindness, even in challenging situations, to help individuals and the community take advantage of opportunities and create positive change.

For the 2021 award, the Foundation received nine nominations: **Brett Bateman** of LaGrange; **Carolyn Hostetler** of LaGrange; **Dean Domer** of Wolcottville; **Jamelle Godlewski** of LaGrange; **Lauri Couture** of Shipshewana; **Linda Simmons** of Howe; **Matt Gingerich** of Shipshewana; **Melissa Bateman** of LaGrange and **Shanan Staton** of Mongo.

HEART OF GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2010 — David Clark
- 2011 — Rhonda Bartlett
- 2012 — Colton Strawser
- 2013 — Randall Packer
- 2014 — Jack Miller
- 2015 — Sue Keenan
- 2016 — Steve Sherck
- 2017 — Kevin Lambright
- 2018 — Larry Strayer
- 2019 — Richard Yoder
- 2020 — Erica Cook
- 2021 — Shanan Staton and Dean Domer

DEAN DOMER AND SHANAN STATON RECEIVE HEART OF GOLD AWARDS

DEAN DOMER was nominated by Sherri Johnston, a longtime friend.

“His passion is taking care of people as he has shown his whole life through youth sports and service to the Town of Wolcottville. He is willing to ask the hard questions, listen and find solutions, help the underdog and stand up for what he believes is right. Dean is an example of someone working relentlessly his whole life to build a better community. We should all follow his example to help build better and stronger communities here in LaGrange County. He is the definition of a humble servant leader,” Johnston said.

Dean gives his time to help individuals in need and offers his knowledge to community boards and youth sports. Many remember him as their little league baseball coach.

Dean and his wife are lifelong residents of Wolcottville. He has served on the Lakeland School board, the Wolcottville Town Board and the LaGrange County Economic Development Board.

SHANAN STATON was nominated by Cheri Bovee, a longtime friend.

“Shanan has, for as long as I can remember, volunteered for several things including Relay for Life, starting the Mongo Food Pantry and hours of helping kids at Prairie Heights. She opens her home and heart to so many. Words cannot begin to describe how much she gives,” Bovee said.

Shanan devotes most of her time at the Mongo Food Pantry, she created the pantry in 2018. She also volunteers her time for Reason 4 Hope, summer park programs, Stroh Little League, Mongo Community Development, and Relay for Life.

When asked what she loves about serving, she shared: “If you have extra, you gave extra, just do it. There is no wrong way to give or serve.”



2021 COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Scholarships

THE LAGRANGE COUNTY Community Foundation administers scholarship funds established by individuals, families, corporations and organizations to assist graduating high school students and other students in pursuit of educational expenses. With more than 45 scholarship funds under management, the Community Foundation enables students to achieve their educational

goals. Each scholarship fund has its own individual criteria and requirements. Our volunteer Scholarship Advisory Committee reviews applications from qualified candidates and makes award recommendations to our Board of Directors. These awards are charitable grants that the recipient is not required to pay. Scholarships may be used for any educational expense.

Allread-Rife Family Scholarship

Ava Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Nicole Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Amanda Lou Crofts Memorial Scholarship

Madelyn Wylie
Anderson University
\$1,000

Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Jennings
Purdue University
\$500

Beverly Todd Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Jennings
Purdue University
\$500

Craig D. and Ronda S. Neff Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Hantz
Purdue University
\$1,000

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,000

Ellsworth Fanning Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Hantz
Purdue University
\$1,000

Collin Keeslar
Michigan State University
\$1,000

Farmwald Scholarship

Nicole Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$2,000

Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,000

Haylee Henderson
Purdue University
\$1,000

HOPE Nursing Scholarship

Madison Keil
Valparaiso University
\$500

James F. Kalb Memorial Scholarship

Nicole Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Joseph Willard Memorial Scholarship

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,000

Judy Gage-Keenan Scholarship

Madison Keil
Valparaiso University
\$1,000

Keith and Arline Davis Memorial Scholarship

William Clark
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$500

Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial Scholarship

Alexis Miller
University of Tampa
\$1,250

Kevin Lewis Purdue Agriculture Scholarship

Abigail Hantz
Purdue University
\$1,000

LaGrange County Farm Bureau Coop Scholarship

Collin Keeslar
Michigan State University
\$500

Lambright Leadership Scholarship

Alexis Miller
University of Tampa
\$1,000

William Clark
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Hailee Mast
Grace College & Seminary
\$1,000

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,000

LIFE Scholarship

William Clark
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Lyle Smith Scholarship

William Clark
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Melvin and Majorie Bricker Memorial Scholarship

Nicole Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,500

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,500

Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Ava Miller
Indiana Wesleyan University
\$1,000

Ned Stump Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Hantz
Purdue University
\$750

Olivia Bay Lemings Memorial Scholarship

Madison Keil
Valparaiso University
\$1,000

Paul and Marian Krebs Scholarship

Madison Keil
Valparaiso University
\$1,500

Peggy Messer Scholarship

Kiana Allshouse
Purdue University
\$500

Perkins Scholarship

Madelyn Wylie
Anderson University
\$1,000

Prairie Heights Band Scholarship

Madelyn Wylie
Anderson University
\$500

Prairie Heights Scholarship

Madelyn Wylie
Anderson University
\$1,000

Amelia Johnston
Purdue University
\$1,000

Raegan Moore
Huntington University
\$1,000

Haylee Henderson
Purdue University
\$1,000

Ray and Ruth Culp Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Jennings
Purdue University
\$2,000

Rheinheimer Scholarship

Timothy Brandenberger
University of Arizona
\$1,375

Nicole Stutzman
Grace College & Seminary
\$1,375

Schlemmer Scholarship

Tatum Retterbush
Purdue University
\$500

Stan Anderson Golf Scholarship

Collin Keeslar
Michigan State University
\$500

Virgil and Florence Hardin Memorial Scholarship

Madison Keil
Valparaiso University
\$1,000

Waddell Scholarship

Tatum Retterbush
Purdue University
\$1,000

Wolcott Mills Bulldog Scholarship

Catelyn McNamara
Vincennes University
\$600

Above photos, left to right:
Kiana Allshouse
Tim Brandenberger
Will Clark
Abby Hantz
Haylee Henderson
Elizabeth Jennings
Amelia Johnston
Collin Keeslar
Madison Keil
Hallie Mast
Catelyn McNamara
Alexis Miller
Ava Miller
Nicole Miller
Reagan Moore
Tatum Retterbush
Nicole Stutzman
Madelyn Wylie



Youth Philanthropy

THE LAGRANGE COUNTY Community Foundation's youth philanthropy program – LIFE – provides an opportunity for youth to gain experience and knowledge in grantmaking, charitable giving and volunteering.

LIFE is made up of representatives from grades 8-12 from LaGrange County's public high schools: Lakeland, Westview and Prairie Heights. Students serve as advisors for youth funding decisions at the Community Foundation. LIFE members review applications for education and youth projects serving LaGrange County and grant philanthropic dollars to organizations making an impact.

LIFE awards an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from LaGrange County involved in community service and participates in community service projects throughout the school year.

DURING THE 2021-2022 school year LIFE offered two grant cycles, awarding \$11,926 to youth-serving organizations and school projects.

We began our community service projects in November, serving lunch to seniors at the LaGrange County Council on Aging. In December, members adopted a family for Christmas through LaGrange County Miracle Tree. LIFE members gave their own funds to support a child in need, along with Community Foundation funds. In the spirit of Christmas, members also passed out cookies and thanked the LaGrange County Sheriff's department and local police departments.

In March, LIFE members attended Dekko Foundation's Philpressionism, a youth pod retreat, in Kendallville. The retreat lasted two days and was packed full of community service ideas, leadership, and relationship building. They also performed a skit sharing the mission and purpose of the LIFE program.

Members visited Miller's Merry Manor for their final community service project. Cleaning the courtyard and outdoor area of the facility.

2021-22 GRANT AWARDS

Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Safe Dates/Healthy Relationships	\$1,500.00
Prairie Heights Emotional Handicapped Classroom Panther Press	\$1,172.00
Westview High School Applied Skills Program Oakley's Squad Store	\$1,704.00
Lakeland School Corporation Dynamic Decodables for Diverse Readers	\$1,250.00
Jr. High Art Club from Lakeland Jr./Sr. High School Junior High Art Development	\$1,300.00
LaGrange County Department of Parks & Recreation Maple Syrup Days 2022	\$1,500.00
Reason 4 Hope Operational Support Reason 4 Hope	\$2,500.00
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana Inc Kids BackPack/TeenPak Weekend Hunger-Relief Program	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$11,926.00

Legacy Society

THE LEGACY SOCIETY of the LaGrange County Community Foundation recognizes donors who believe in leaving a lasting charitable legacy in LaGrange County through a planned gift in their estate plans.

Those who remember the Foundation through a will, trust, designation, or other planned gift, are invited to inform us of their intentions and join in the Foundation's Legacy Society.

Too often, these gifts are unrecognized because we are unaware of these special gifts until the donor has passed away. At these times, proper appreciation cannot be expressed and questions regarding the specific purpose of the gift may remain unanswered. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank donors during their lifetime and ensure that your wishes are properly documented.

You may always choose to remain anonymous in your philanthropy. However, participation in The Legacy Society can be an inspirational experience and may encourage others to look toward the future and how they too may have an enduring impact on the causes they care about.

Only a statement of intent to leave a gift to the LaGrange County Community Foundation is required. No documentation of gift amount or type is necessary. Legacy Society members may designate the use of the distributions from their future gifts or may leave the distributions to the discretion of our Board of Directors. A Legacy Society gift may be used to establish a new fund or may be added to any of the Foundation's existing funds.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Burvel and Laura Lemmings
- Keith and Linda Stanton
- Jack Stark
- Katie Kirtley-Yoder

Recognizing donors who believe in leaving a lasting charitable legacy through a planned gift in their estate plans.

2021

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Sylvia Hyde
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Tim Cleveland

Connecting YOU to Opportunities

EVERY DAY YOU make the choice about how to use your time, talent, and resources. Our staff is here to help you as you navigate fulfilling a dream, a passion, or leaving your mark in your community. Our mission is to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership and service in LaGrange County. We connect people to charitable causes and are here to help you make a meaningful gift.

The power of the Community Foundation is the ability to bring together people and their resources to make a difference. You do not have to be a wealthy individual, nor do you need to start a fund to make a difference. Through our Caring Community Fund, \$50 gifts are pooled with \$100, \$1000 and \$5000 gifts, so that everyone plays a role in helping LaGrange County nonprofits change the lives of our community members.

If you would like more information about how LaGrange County Community Foundation can help you achieve more impact, greater purpose, and endless possibilities, contact us at 260.463.4363.

WHY GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- We work diligently to build strong relationships with the nonprofit community
- We serve as a facilitator between people and organizations to promote partnerships that will create vibrant communities
- We connect donors to projects and causes they value
- We provide professional expertise in managing and investing your gift to support long-term needs
- We provide flexibility in giving and can accept a wide variety of tax-deductible assets

WAYS TO GIVE

- Cash
- Life insurance
- Appreciated assets such as stock or property
- Beneficiary designation on a retirement account or pension plan
- Estate gift (in your will)
- Private Foundation transfers

Financial Position

\$3,474,851 TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$405,696 GRANTS AWARDED

	Dec. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2020
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,161,713	\$ 429,340
Investments	20,544,379	18,225,640
Property and equipment, net	584,696	592,076
Other assets	5,605	830
Total assets	\$ 24,296,393	\$ 19,247,886
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts and other payables	\$ 30,569	\$ 20,837
Funds held for others	234,776	203,937
Total liabilities	\$ 265,345	\$ 224,774
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 8,844,668	\$ 8,206,855
With donor restrictions	15,186,380	10,816,257
Total net assets	24,031,048	19,023,112
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 24,296,393	\$ 19,247,886

*Inspiring and sustaining
generosity, leadership
and service in
LaGrange County*



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