

# 2024

## Annual Report Transforming Passion into Action



 Fayette  
Community  
Foundation

*Inspire. Give. Grow.*

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*Inspire. Give. Grow.*

**The Fayette Community Foundations's mission is to inspire a spirit of philanthropy and leadership in Fayette County to enhance the quality of life.**

For 38 years now, we have been dedicated to cultivating reliable resources for charitable giving and leading philanthropic initiatives in Fayette County. Currently, the Foundation manages over \$15 million in assets and oversees 199 total funds that further our mission and enrich our community.



**Abi Roszell**  
Executive Director



**Nyah Frank**  
Program Officer



**Sheila Groce**  
Office & Communications  
Coordinator

## Meet Our Team

At the Fayette Community Foundation, we believe that the potential for greatness is all around us—in the people, places, and possibilities that make Fayette County extraordinary. Our team is dedicated to turning that potential into reality, working tirelessly to connect the passions of our donors with opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all.

This group of visionary leaders, collaborators, and advocates recognizes the unique strengths of our community and is committed to aligning them with the aspirations of those who care deeply about making a difference. Together, we are **transforming passion into action**, one meaningful connection at a time.

## Our Board

**Abby Stanek**, Chair

**Clayton Judd**, Vice Chair

**Greg O'Brien**, Treasurer

**Carol Hunter**, Secretary

**Dr. Jay Bernzott**, Board Member

**Colin Judd**, Board Member

**Honorable Paul Freed**, Board Member

**Devin Hornsby**, Board Member

**Billie Kester**, Board Member

**Matt Watkins**, Board Member

**Andrew Bernzott**, Board Member

**Steve Dice**, Board Member

# Fayette Community Foundation by the Numbers

**185**  
DONORS



Gifted over

**\$493,367**

and your generosity created...

**\$312,566.35**

in community grants

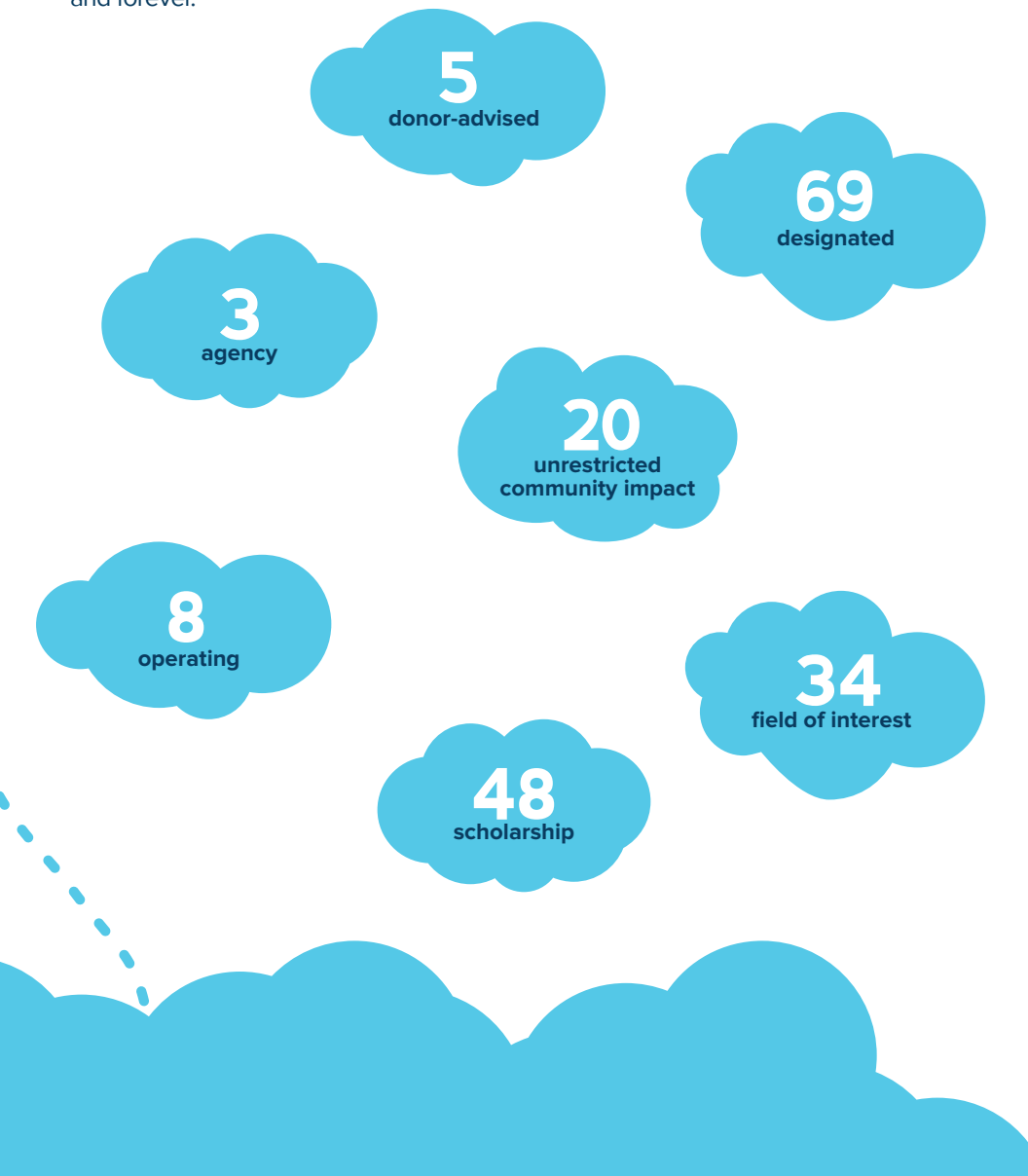
**\$106,516.42**

in student scholarships

# Endowed Funds

FCF proudly stewards **187** endowed funds, each designed to create lasting impact. When a fund is established, its principal balance is carefully invested, generating interest that supports our annual grantmaking. This approach ensures that the fund continues to grow and provide resources for generations to come.

Gifts made to our endowments are directly added to the fund's principal, increasing the grant amounts available each year. These contributions help transform the passion of our donors into sustainable action, strengthening our community now and forever.



# Community Impact Fund Highlight

Community Impact funds allow for unrestricted grant-making, providing support for some of the community's greatest needs. These funds are usually established by visionary philanthropists who wish to make an impact beyond their own lifetime.

The Fayette Community Foundation's unrestricted endowments, known as Community Impact Funds, play a pivotal role in addressing the dynamic and ever-changing needs of our community. These funds provide essential flexibility, enabling the Foundation to make grants that respond directly to the community's most pressing issues at any given time. By maintaining this adaptability, the Foundation can swiftly and effectively allocate resources to where they are most needed, ensuring a timely and impactful response to the evolving challenges and opportunities within Fayette County. In essence, Community Impact funds empower the Foundation to be a proactive and responsive force for positive change within the community.

Of the 23 grant requests the Foundation approved last year, 18 were at least partially funded by a Community Impact endowment, amounting to over \$121,082.98 in community grants supported by this fund type alone.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Anna Dungan Family Community Impact               | Hackleman Community Investment Fund                       |
| Anonymous 2019 Community Impact Fund              | Jean & Leo Risch Community Impact                         |
| Brad Wilson Memorial Community Impact             | John & Bea McFarlan Unrestricted                          |
| Brett & Brook Adams Community Impact              | Juanita Hornsby Community Impact                          |
| Charles & Jackie Heck Family Community Impact     | Justin & Alexandra (Holliday) Pflug Community Impact Fund |
| Class of 1994 Community Impact                    | O'Brien Family Community Impact                           |
| Duane & Patti Keaffaber & Family Community Impact | Ohio Valley Gas Community Impact                          |
| Fayette County Foundation Unrestricted Endowment  | Pete & Ruth Ann Gulley Community Impact                   |
| Gene & Jane Guttman Unrestricted                  | Roszell Family Community Impact                           |
| Groce Family Community Impact                     | Yaryan Family Community Impact                            |



Greg O'Brien & Family

### Greg O'Brien's Story

## From Laying Bricks to Building Legacy

I became aware of the Foundation back in the 2000's when the family business O'Brien Masonry was hired to lay the brick and marble facade on the building of the current office. My dad Donald O'Brien, Uncle Joseph O'Brien and I laid the brick and marble facade. I remember that there were several bricks that were engraved with the names of various donors to the Foundation. I felt it was such an honor to be able to help preserve the legacy of these donors through a project that will last for decades. I dreamed that one day I would be in a position to help our community in a similar way.

In 2020, I was asked to join the FCF board and am currently serving as treasurer. Through this volunteer position I was able to see the great benefit of the Foundation and the positive community impact it makes through grants and scholarships.

When the Lilly Endowment Inc's GIFT VIII initiative was announced, I knew it was the perfect time for my wife Ruth and I to give back to the community. As a result, we started the O'Brien Family Community Impact Fund. This fund along with the other funds and community donations will help the FCF continue to provide a positive impact to Fayette County. Like the named bricks on the facade of the office building, the O'Brien Family Community Impact Fund and all of the other named funds will help preserve a legacy and provide a great benefit to the Fayette County community.

**There is no better time than the present to preserve your legacy or make a donation. Every dollar counts.**

**Greg O'Brien, Board Member**

# 2024 Unrestricted Grantmaking Highlights: Transforming Passion into Action

In 2024, funds from our unrestricted endowments directly supported 18 impactful projects across Fayette County.

These grants empowered local organizations to address critical needs, enhance community resources, and improve quality of life. Some of the projects made possible through this funding include:

**Mount Zion Baptist Church of  
Connersville, Inc.**

Expanding opportunities at  
Zion's Cupboard Food Pantry

**Alquina Blue Arrows Park, Inc.**

Constructing public restrooms  
for greater accessibility

**Connersville Band Boosters**

Revitalizing the CHS Color Guard Team

**Fayette County Sheriff's Department**

Enhancing safety and security at the  
Fayette County Jail

**Love Makes Cent, Inc.**

Establishing a Barrier Reduction Fund  
to support the local workforce

**Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department**

Implementing the Control the Carcinogens  
project to improve firefighter health

**Fayette County Department of Homeland  
Security & Emergency Management**

Launching Ember Control for fire  
prevention and safety

**Imagine Performing Arts**

Repairing the roof of the new Imagine  
Performing Arts Community Arts Center  
in downtown Connersville

**Neighborhood Health Center,  
Fayette County Medical Center**

Providing transportation assistance  
for patients in need

Each of these projects has the potential to impact hundreds of Fayette County residents, creating lasting change. We hope you find inspiration in the transformative power of these grants- made possible by the generosity of our donors.

**Together, we are turning passion into action.**



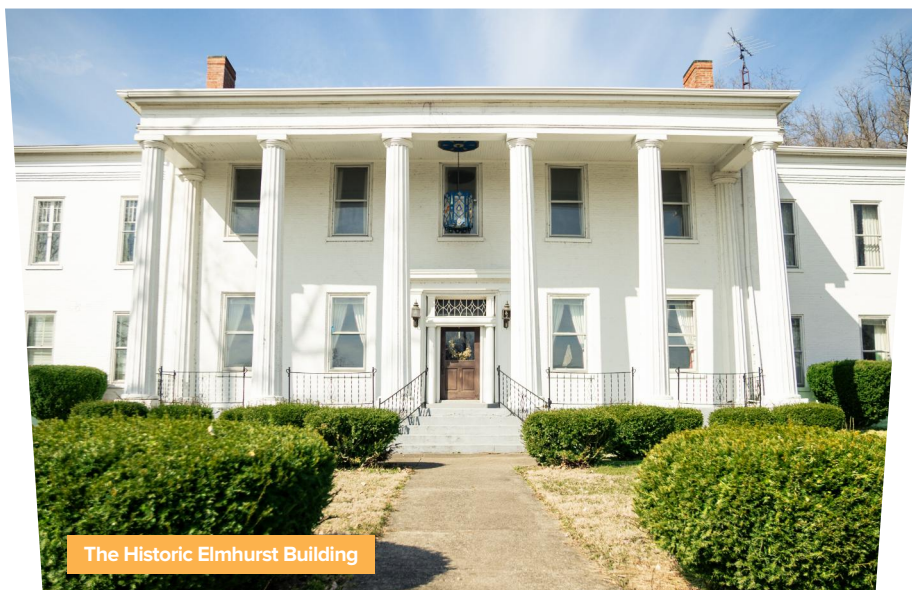


// Creating an unrestricted endowment was an easy choice. Thanks to Lilly Endowment's 2:1 match, I had the unique opportunity to start a fund at a 'discount' while also honoring my family's legacy. This fund ensures that the Foundation can continue supporting our community's greatest needs for generations to come, and I look forward to seeing the impactful projects it will help fund in the near future.

*Abigail Roszell, Executive Director  
of the Fayette Community Foundation*



The Fayette Community Foundation Team



## Designated Fund Highlight

**Designated funds provide grants to charitable organizations named by the donor, making them the perfect giving option for donors interested in supporting the sustainability and longevity of a specific organization.**

// The building known as Elmhurst is supported by the "Historic Elmhurst" fund that was created in 1995 within the Fayette Community Foundation. The earnings from these funds partially assist us in maintaining this beautiful Historic building that was recognized on the "National Register of Historic Places" in 1977. In the early days Elmhurst property was known as the "Old Elm Farm", the main building was erected in 1831 by Oliver H. Smith a member of Congress from Indiana. Later occupied by Caleb B. Smith who was Secretary of the Interior under President Abraham Lincoln. In 1941 it was restored to its current grandeur by the local Masonic bodies.

*Larry Wysong*

39

**organizations supported  
by designated grants**

31

**of those organizations  
are in Fayette County**

# Field of Interest Fund Highlight

If you're passionate about supporting a broad spectrum of interests, a Field of Interest fund might be the perfect fit for you.

These funds are strategically allocated to the most relevant programs within the specific field chosen by the donor.

Our Field of Interest funds support the following categories:

- 1

Animals, Nature, and Wildlife
- 2

Arts
- 3

Community Enhancement and Quality of Place
- 4

Education
- 5

Health, Wellness, and Community Care
- 6

Youth

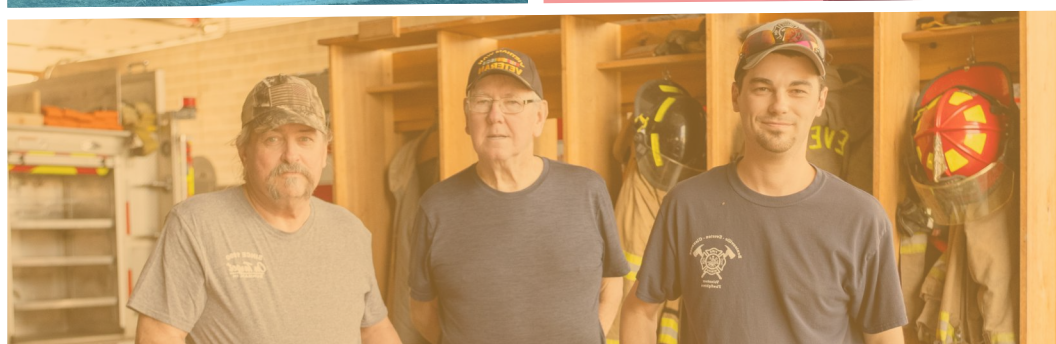
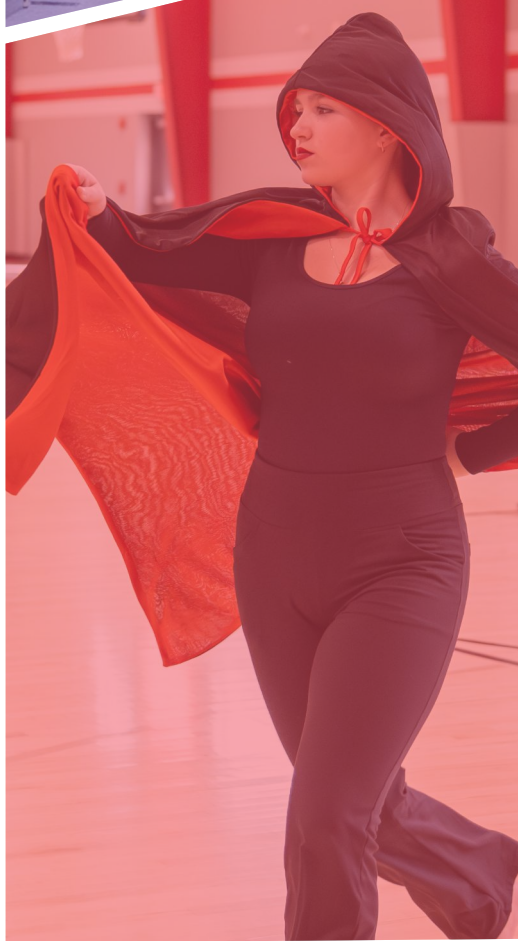
These funds play a crucial role in supporting grant requests from local organizations, whether it's supporting updates at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary or refurbishing the new home of Imagine Performing Arts. **Your donations to a field of interest fund can make a meaningful difference in these vital areas.**



Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Education Center







# 2024 Grants Highlight

The Foundation disbursed grants to the following organizations through our mini grant program and our 2024 competitive grant cycle.

It is both an honor and privilege to support the impactful work they do. We remain dedicated to fostering collaboration and positive change within our community through our strategic grantmaking.

## 2024 Mini Grant

### City of Connersville

CITV24 Scavenger Hunt

### Connersville Parks Department

Robert's Park Family Aquatic Center  
Updates

### Connersville Youth Football League, Inc.

Equipment Updates and Costs

### Crossroads Council Boy Scouts of America

To create opportunities for youth in  
Fayette County to join the Boy Scouts

### Healthy Fayette County

Develop a community health focused  
collaboration

### Higher Praise Worship Center

Electronic equipment (iPad, laptop, scanner/  
printer) to place orders, pay invoices, fill out  
reports and transfer needed  
documentations

### Mount Zion Baptist Church of Connersville, Inc.

Zions Cupboard Food Pantry

### St. Gabriel Catholic School

Leadership Development

### Whole Family Community Initiative, Inc.

Open House for Pathway to Damascus  
Recovery Center for Men

## 2024 Grant Cycle

### Alquina Blue Arrows Park

Public Restroom Construction Project

### Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department

Control the Carcinogens

### City of Connersville

Commercial Grade Tree and Branded  
Elements Expansion

### Connersville Band Boosters

CHS Color Guard Team  
Revitalization Project

### Discover Connersville

Concrete Foundation for Future Shelter  
Pavillion in the Oasis Garden

### Fayette County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Ember Control

### Fayette County Sheriff's Department

Safety and Security of the Fayette  
County Jail

### Firefly Children & Family Alliance

Fayette County Car Seat Clinic

### Grandview Elementary School

Grandview Nonfiction Library Updates

### Imagine Performing Arts

IPA Community Arts Center Safety Updates





Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department's Upgraded PPE Dryer

// The purchase of this equipment has been a long-time need for our department. If your need is real, stay after it-don't just consider and try once. Thanks to the Fayette Community Foundation for making this possible!

*John Clarke,  
President of Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department*

#### **Indiana Audubon**

Mary Gray Educational Campus Expansion

#### **Love Makes Cents, Inc.**

Barrier Reduction Fund

#### **Neighborhood Health Center, Fayette County Medical Center**

Transportation Assistance

#### **New Horizons Rehabilitation, Inc.**

Connersville Life Skills Sensory Room

#### **Other 2024 Grants**

##### **Higher Praise Worship Center Youth Group**

DAF Payout

##### **Oakwood Foundation**

DAF Grant Recommendation



# Looking Ahead: A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we step into 2025, I find myself reflecting on the incredible generosity, vision, and dedication that define our community. Over the past year, we have witnessed firsthand how philanthropy rooted in passion can transform lives. Whether through scholarships that empower our students, grants that strengthen local organizations, or historic investments in community spaces, our collective efforts are shaping a brighter future for Fayette County.

Looking ahead, my hope is that we continue this momentum, working together to build a community where opportunity, connection, and innovation thrive. In 2025, the Fayette Community Foundation will remain focused on:

- **Completing our GIFT VIII Matching Grant Challenge** - Unlocking the full \$1.125 million in unrestricted funding will allow us to support even more impactful programs every year, forever. This is an extraordinary opportunity, and we need your help to make it happen!
- **Bringing Big Ideas to Life** - With \$5 million in new funding, we will work closely with community partners to turn the vision for an inclusive playground, expanded trails, and other transformational projects into reality.
- **Strengthening Local Nonprofits** - Through nonprofit meet-ups, educational workshops, and funding opportunities, we will continue to invest in the organizations that serve Fayette County every day.
- **Fostering a Culture of Giving** - Whether you're a lifelong donor or considering your first gift, know that every contribution big or small—has the power to create lasting change. Together, we can ensure that the generosity of today fuels the progress of tomorrow.

My greatest hope for 2025 is that we continue to believe in the power of community. That we lift each other up, dream boldly, and work tirelessly to make Fayette County the best it can be. Your passion, generosity, and vision make all the difference.



Thank you for being a part of this journey. I can't wait to see all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abigail Roszell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Abigail Roszell, Executive Director,  
Fayette Community Foundation**





# How to Give: Transforming Passion into Action

## Give to a Brighter Future

At the Fayette Community Foundation, we strive to be your trusted partner in philanthropy, making giving easy, meaningful, and impactful. Whether you're looking to support immediate community needs or build a legacy of lasting change, we are here to help.

**Support Community Impact Funds** - A gift to our unrestricted endowments allows you to invest alongside fellow community partners, ensuring flexible, sustainable funding for the most pressing needs in Fayette County-now and in the future.

**Create a Named Endowment** - For those seeking a more personalized philanthropic approach, our team will work with you to establish a fund that aligns with your values and vision. Together, we can build a legacy of generosity that lasts for generations.

Donate today! [givetofcf.com/donate-now](https://givetofcf.com/donate-now)

## Leave a Legacy

Creating a fund with the Fayette Community Foundation is a powerful way to make a difference today and leave a lasting impact for decades to come. Whether through planned giving, estate gifts, or charitable bequests, your generosity can shape the future of Fayette County. **Planned Giving & Estate Gifts** - Many donors choose to maximize tax advantages while ensuring their philanthropic impact extends beyond their lifetime. You can include a charitable endowment in your will, trust, or retirement plan, ensuring your values continue to benefit our community for generations.

**Start Your Legacy Today** - Establishing a fund now allows you to witness the impact of your generosity while creating a foundation for continued giving. Our dedicated team is ready to help you craft a giving strategy that aligns with your passion and financial goals.

**Interested in creating a fund today or leaving a gift in your estate plans?**  
**Let's start the conversation. Contact us today!**

**Learn more:** [givetofcf.com/your-giving/planned-giving](https://givetofcf.com/your-giving/planned-giving)

# Investing in the Future: 2024 Scholarship Impact

In 2024, the Fayette Community Foundation awarded 46 scholarships to 37 outstanding high school seniors in Fayette County— an investment of more than \$100,000 in the future of our community.

These scholarships, made possible by the generosity of visionary donors like you, help ensure that local students have the support they need to pursue their dreams. We are honored to play a role in empowering the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers in Fayette County.

Together, we are transforming passion into action—one scholarship at a time.



## 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program Highlight

Since the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) was first offered in 1998, Lilly Endowment Inc. has remained steadfast in its belief that education at all levels is indispensable to the personal, civic, and economic well-being of Indiana's residents and communities.

Lilly Endowment provides funding to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) to enable eligible Indiana community foundations to facilitate the program. FCF was proud to identify Harley Morris as this year's LECSP recipient.



This scholarship has had a huge impact on my education and future. As a junior finishing my bachelor's degree in criminal justice, it has allowed me to focus on my studies without the added stress of financial burdens. Thanks to this support, I've been able to pursue my dream of working a career with the Indiana State Police at just 19 years old. It has strengthened my commitment to making a positive impact in the criminal justice field, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to continue working towards my goals. This scholarship has truly been a steppingstone to my future.

**Allison Edwards**  
**2024 FCF Scholarship Recipient**



I am beyond excited to be chosen for this scholarship. I am extremely grateful for all the people who have supported me in this process and helped me get to where I am today. This scholarship will help kick-start my academic journey to becoming a physical therapist.

**Harley Morris, 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar**



# Our Supporters

The community-building and life-changing grants shared in this report owe their existence to the unwavering support of our donors. Your continued dedication and generosity to the Foundation's mission have a lasting impact on countless lives.

“ Giving back to our community is one of my ways to show my gratitude for the support this community has given me and my family over the 50 plus years I have been in business.

Dr. Duane Keaffaber



## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

Remembering our loved ones through giving offers us a way to celebrate their life in deep and meaningful ways. Honorary gifts recognize a person who has had special significance in your life and/or the lives of others. The Foundation was honored to steward the following memorial and honorary gifts in 2023.

### In Memoriam

Audra Ross	Chuck Clark	Donald McFee
Barb Bowden	Connie Tatman	Fletcher Frank
Betty Eldridge	Dale Thomas	Gary O'Neil
Betty Wilson	David E. Gettinger	Gene & Jeanne Krepp
Bill Wilson	Debra Soliday	George S. Tatman Jr.
BJ Adams	Della King	Gerald C. Rose
Brad Wilson	Dewey Foster & Virginia June Baldwin	Gina Hornung Turner
Brenda Moster	Don Avery	Henry D. Orschell
Charles F. Clark		Howard Eldridge

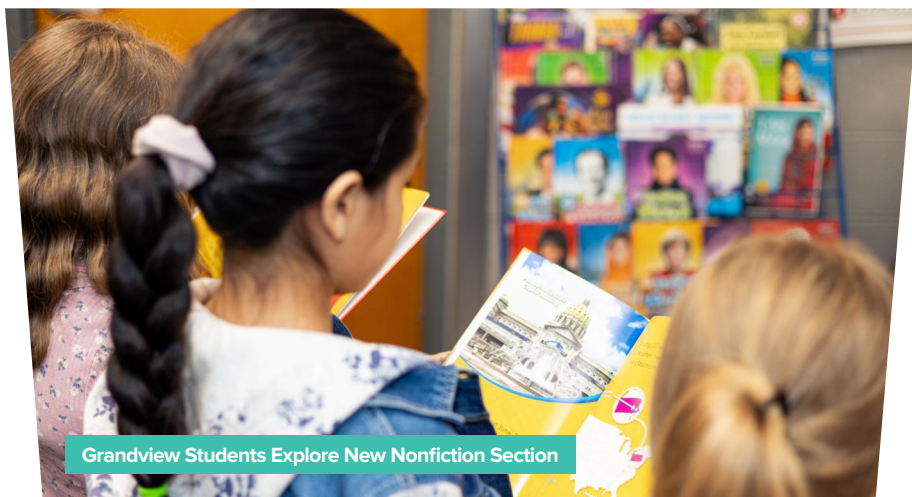
Hursel Joe Hoffman	Linda Girot	Norma & Lloyd Cullison
Jack Patterson	Louis Glaub	Oscar & Ruth Riker
Jacob Patterson	Lucille McIntyre	Oscar Schonfeld
James "Jack" Ledford	Margaret Bentley	Pete & Ruth Ann Gulley
James E. "Jim" Thompson	Marjorie Metz	Ralph & Mary Jo Underwood
Jane Wilson	Mary H. & Leslie D. Wilhite	Rhonda Eldridge
Janet Steinar	Merle & Wilma Studt	Rose Phillips
Jerry Quyle	Melvin & Sue Dice	Ruth Sparks Taxes
Jerome Pflug	Michel Steward	Saranne Peak
JJ Reidman	Michelle Robinson	Shirley Hendry
JoAnn Ledford	Mike Ledford	Shirley Lakes
Joy Quyle	Mildred Rose	Thomas Stine
Junie Gross	Mona Wedding	Virginia Vaughn
Kelly Renee Windhorst Smith	Nancy Phillips	Willard & Thelma Patterson
Kenneth Caldwell	Nancy Wilson	Wilma Studt
Leota King	Nicole Riggs Simpson	William (Bill) Ott

## In Honor

Abi Roszell	Howard Pletcher	Richard & Carol Stanley
Alexandra Pflug	John Nichols	Sara Durant
Dolly Creck	John Steward	Stan & Linda Howard
Edwin Ray Hollowell	Poppy & Kylo Roszell	

**Interested in creating a lasting legacy through gifts of remembrance?  
We're here to help. Connect with us today!**

**Learn more: [givetofcf.com/your-giving/memorials/](https://givetofcf.com/your-giving/memorials/)**



## Gift VIII Grants: Transforming Vision into Action

In 2023, Lilly Endowment Inc. launched the eighth phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for tomorrow (GIFT) initiative, committing up to \$210 million to strengthen Indiana communities.

Through this initiative, the Fayette Community Foundation has secured three grants to enhance quality of life in Fayette County.

### 1 Matching Fund Grant: Our Biggest Fundraising Opportunity Yet

Lilly Endowment is providing a \$2 match for every \$1 donated to our unrestricted (Community Impact) endowments between October 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025. This means:

- In 2024, we received a \$750,000 grant from Lilly Endowment.
- To unlock the full matching amount, we must raise \$375,000 by the end of the year.
- As of January 1, 2025, we have raised approximately \$100,000—just 27% of our goal.

If we reach our goal, \$1,125,000 will be permanently added to our unrestricted grantmaking funds, generating \$45,000 in additional grants every year forever. These grants will directly support essential programs and initiatives right here in Fayette County.

**This is our most ambitious fundraising campaign yet, and we need your help to make it happen!**

## 2 Planning Grant: Laying the Groundwork for Community Growth

In 2023, FCF received a \$50,000 planning grant to support the creation of a strategic plan for the City of Connersville's Parks and Recreation Department. This plan became the foundation for a larger grant request aimed at bringing transformational improvements to our community.

## 3 Implementation Grant: A Historic \$5 Million Investment

In December 2024, FCF and the City of Connersville were awarded a combined \$5 million through Lilly Endowment's GIFT VIII Community Leadership Implementation Grant program.

- \$2.5 million was granted to FCF.
- \$2.5 million was granted to the City of Connersville.

These funds will support major enhancements at Roberts Park and beyond, including:

- An inclusive playground where children of all abilities can play together.
- An accessible loop trail for safe and enjoyable walking.
- New trail segments to improve connectivity and health throughout Connersville.

This achievement is the result of nearly a year of collaboration between FCF, the City of Connersville, and the Connersville Parks & Recreation Department. These grants represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a stronger, more inclusive, and more connected community. **Together, we are transforming passion into action building a better future for Fayette County.**

To learn more about Gift VIII, please visit Lilly Endowment's website:  
[lillyendowment.org/gift-viii-2/](https://lillyendowment.org/gift-viii-2/)



Your gift triples the impact. Help unlock \$1.125 million in funding for Fayette County. Give today and be part of something lasting.

[givetofcf.com/gift-viii-match/](https://givetofcf.com/gift-viii-match/)





**Fayette Community Foundation**

521 Central Ave, Suite A  
Connersville, Indiana 47331  
765.827.9966 | [givetofcf.com](http://givetofcf.com)