

# 2023 Impact Report



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*Inspire. Give. Grow.*

The Fayette Community Foundation’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in Fayette County by inspiring a spirit of philanthropy and leadership within our community.

For 37 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 \$14 million in assets and oversees 182 endowed funds that further our mission and enrich our community.



**Abi Roszell**  
*Executive Director*



**Becky Turney**  
*Program Director*



**Sheila Groce**  
*Office & Communications  
Coordinator*

## Meet Our Team

The Fayette Community Foundation is dedicated to highlighting the abundance of wonderful and surprising people, places, and things that make Fayette County a great place to live, learn, and grow — and we don't have to look far to get started.

Here are a group of people who recognize the potential within our community and align it with the visions and aspirations of donors: our dedicated staff and board.

## Our Board

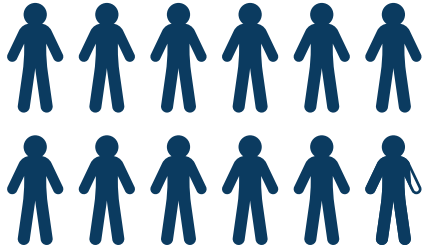
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- Abby Stanek**, Chair
- Clayton Judd**, Vice Chair
- Greg O'Brien**, Treasurer
- Carol Hunter**, Secretary
- Dr. Jay Bernzott**, Board Member
- Colin Judd**, Board Member
- Georgia Green**, Board Member
- Honorable Paul Freed**, Board Member
- Devin 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

238  
DONORS



Gifted over **\$300,000**

and your generosity created...



**\$417,391.45**

in community grants



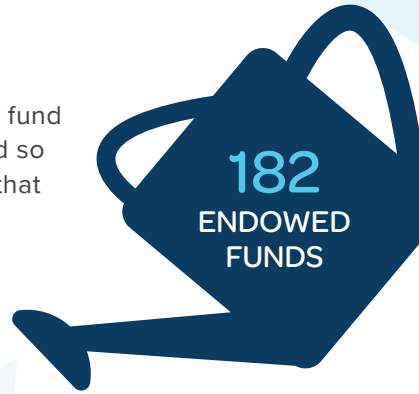
**\$91,782.28**

in student scholarships

# Endowed Funds

FCF stewards 182 endowed funds. When a fund is created, the principal balance is invested so that grants can be made from the interest that is earned, ensuring that the fund will continue to grow and grant for years to come.

Most gifts made to endowments are added to the principle balance of the endowment, increasing the grant amounts that can be awarded each year.



## 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.



*Over \$74,000 in community grants were supported by Community Impact Funds in 2023.*



In essence, Community Impact funds empower the Foundation to be a proactive and responsive force for positive change within the community. Of the 26 grant requests the Foundation approved last year, half were at least partially funded by a Community Impact endowment, amounting to over \$74,000 in community grants supported by this fund type alone.

*The Connersville Fire Department received Community Impact funds for a training mannequin. The mannequin is weighted, allowing firefighters to better experience the strength needed to rescue a member of their team during a fire.*



*Board members, Andrew Bernzott and Matthew Watkins visit the Historical Museum.*

## 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.

Historic Connersville, Inc. is among the dozens of local organizations that receive support through a designated endowment managed by the Fayette Community Foundation. Grants provided from these designated endowments offer organizations the flexibility to bolster their operations as needed, such as funding the ongoing expenses for the Fayette County Historical Museum or undertaking crucial renovations for other historical landmarks, like the Canal House.

**Historic Connersville, Inc. is the designated recipient of the following funds:**

Clifford and Vera Long Ayers Memorial Historic Connersville, Inc. Fund

Elizabeth Holmes Historic Connersville Inc. Fund

Georgina B. Williamson Historic Connersville Inc. Fund

Jerry and Jane Wilson Historic Connersville, Inc. Fund









# 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:

-  Animals, Nature, and Wildlife
-  Arts
-  Community Enhancement and Quality of Place
-  Education
-  Health, Wellness, and Community Care
-  Youth

These funds play a crucial role in supporting grant requests from local organizations, whether it's funding a driving simulator for Teen Link or contributing to renovations in Higher Praise Worship Center's community food pantry. Your donations to a field of interest fund can make a meaningful difference in these vital areas.







*A dedicated volunteer at Higher Praise Worship Center's community food pantry makes a meaningful impact, ensuring every shelf is stocked with care.*



Higher Praise  
Worship Center  
was awarded  
\$15,500 to install  
a cooler add-on  
for their community  
food pantry.

## 2023 Grants Highlight

The Foundation disbursed grants to the following organizations in 2023. 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.

America Press Inc	Fayette County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Boy Scouts of America	Fayette County Extension Office
Calvary Baptist Church	Fayette County Free Fair Association
Central Christian Church	Fayette County Public Library
ChildFund International	Fayette County School Corporation
Cincinnati Public Radio, Inc.	Fayette Senior Center
City of Connersville	First Presbyterian Church
Community Free Clinic	First United Methodist Church
Connersville Baptist Temple	Frazee Elementary School
Connersville High School	Friends of the Fayette Co Public Library
Connersville Jaycees	Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
Connersville Lions Club	Glenwood United Methodist Church
Connersville Rotary Club	Higher Praise Worship Center
Discover Connersville	Historic Connersville, Inc.
Everton Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated	Historic Elmhurst Inc.
EW Tatman Underprivileged Children's Christmas Fund	Hope Center
Families Helping Families Inc.	Indiana Audubon Society
Fayette County	
Fayette County Animal Shelter	

*The Whitewater Valley Arts Association received a designated grant from the Gene and Jané Guttman Whitewater Valley Arts Association fund in 2023.*



Junior Achievement of OKI  
Partners/Eastern Indiana  
Kiwanis Club of Connersville  
Love Makes Cent Inc  
New Horizons Rehabilitation Inc  
Orange Cemetery Association  
Riley Children’s Foundation  
Soldiers In the Army of  
The Lord Ministries Corp  
Springersville Cemetery  
Association  
St. Gabriel Catholic Church  
St. Gabriel Catholic School  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
The Childrens Museum of  
Indianapolis

The Haven  
Tri Kappa Alpha Xi  
Union Cemetery Association  
Wawasee Area Conservancy  
Foundation, Inc  
Wawasee Lakeside Chapel  
Whitewater Adult Education  
Whitewater College Programs Inc  
Whitewater Valley Arts Association  
Whitewater Valley Railroad





*Champions of education,  
gathered in Roberts Park:  
Congratulations to the  
Fayette Community  
Foundation's 2023  
scholarship recipients.*



## FCF Scholarships Highlight

The Foundation awarded 50 scholarships in 2023 to qualifying Connersville High School seniors. We are honored to play a small part in furthering the education of Fayette County's youth!

**The following 38 Connersville High School students received scholarships in 2023:**

Amy Rowe, Braxton Myers, Brayden Burgdoerfer, Brooke Mays, Carter DeBoard, Carter Evans, Catlin Rader, Chance Bentley, Cody Hauger, Eden Judd, Gavin Pearson, Hailey Combs, Hannah Hadler, Harlee Dunaway, Jerra Stanbrough, Jocelyn McClung, Kerstin Ellis, Khrystyna Herasymchuk, Lacy Downard, Laney Bates, Lexi Barr, Lily Burroughs, Lisa Downard, Lucas Barron, Luke Morris, Marilyn Walsh, Matthew Edwards, Olivia Sargent, Owen Nobbe, Paige Dafler, Paige Pierson, Payton Orschell, Riley Steele, Sara Carsey, Sara Ruble, Stella Foster, Sydney Dungan, and Sydney Grounds.

# 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program Highlight

Since the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program 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.



*“This scholarship is a doorway to my lifelong goals...”  
- Kaylee Hauger*

*Connersville High School senior, Kaylee Hauger, recipient of the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program will be studying Biology at Butler University in the fall.*

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 Kaylee Hauger as this year’s LECSP recipient. “I have dreamed about being a Lilly Scholarship recipient since I was a little girl. This scholarship is a doorway to my lifelong goals, and I am extremely grateful for this incredible opportunity this community has given me. I am very excited to see what my future holds and am proud to represent the Fayette County community in such an honorable way!”



Fayette  
Community Foundation

521



Fayette  
Community  
Foundation

WESTLARK APARTS  
COMMUNITY CENTER

Edward Jones  
INVESTMENTS



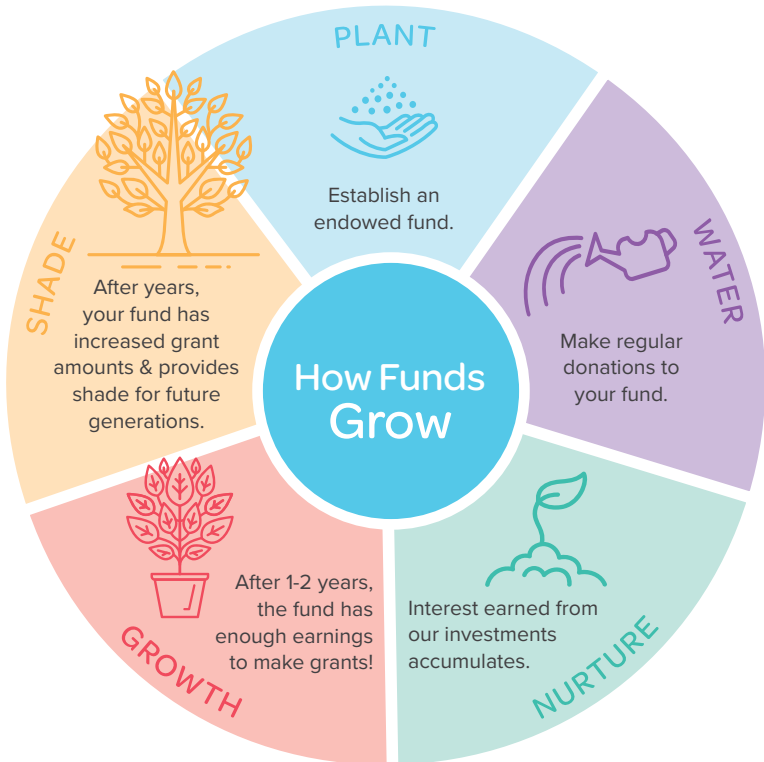


# Operations Fund Highlight

The ongoing support from our eight Operations endowments is integral to sustaining the Foundation's mission of enhancing the quality of life in Fayette County by extending funding and support to a diverse array of local projects and programs.

Contributing to an Operations fund is akin to providing the gift of sustainability, amplifying the impact we can have across all the areas we support.

If you're looking for a way to contribute to multiple causes simultaneously, a donation to an Operations endowment can be one of the best ways to achieve that. Your support ensures a broader reach and deeper impact on the variety of initiatives we champion.





## 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.

### New Funds

We're proud to have assisted donors in establishing the following funds in 2023:

**John D. Wilson From the Ground Up**

**Brad Wilson Memorial Community Impact**

**Justin and Alexandra (Holliday) Pflug Community Impact**

### 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

Betty Eldridge	Russ & Janet Sidell
Howard Eldridge	Wilma Studt
Rhonda Eldridge	Merle Studt
JoAnn Ledford	Louis Glaub
Jim Houser	Mark Hight
Jane Wilson	L and E Smith
Hager Ross	Peggy Guttman van Hulsteyn
Brad Wilson	Betty T. Rose
Lisa Tarvin	Leslie D. and Mary H. Wilhite
Howard & Thelma Frost	Nicole Riggs Simpson

Midge Metz  
John Michael Steward  
Gina Turner  
Brenda Moster  
Arlene Bliven  
Anna Holliday  
Peggy Moster  
Bill Wilson  
Jane Bentley  
Tony Palmieri  
John & Irene Nichols  
Julia Anne Risch  
Nancy Phillips  
Albert Wozniak  
Sharon Scott  
Chuck Clark  
Mona Wedding  
Norma and Lloyd Cullison  
Hursel "Joe" Hoffman  
Henry Orschell

Bill & Lib Crone  
Julia Yake  
Vaughn Metz  
George Tatman Jr  
Lawrence Smith  
Emily Joy Gwinnup Quyle  
Chuck Boulware  
Rev. Ellen Margaret McCarty  
Anderson  
Paul Lane Quyle  
David Young  
George Tatman Jr.  
Braxton Gibson  
DiAnna Hornsby

### **In Honor**

Nate Holmes  
Howard Pletcher  
Abi Roszell  
Kylo Roszell  
Wilma Studt





*A Purdue Extension speaker guides our 'Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing' course, paving the way for a new era of community impact.*

## Fayette County Nonprofit Meet-Ups

In 2022, the Foundation launched monthly Fayette County Nonprofit Meet-ups, and following a positive community response, extended the initiative into 2023.

**8**  
MEET UPS

**147**  
ATTENDEES

**50+**  
NON PROFITS

These gatherings, led by our Program Director, aim to strengthen connections and support for our local nonprofits. Additionally, thanks to the generous support from Kmix 106.9, the Foundation facilitated a two-day grant writing course at a significant discount for our nonprofit leaders.

Over the course of the year, we held 8 Meet-ups, hosted 147 attendees representing over 50 different nonprofits. We look forward to furthering and enhancing our support in 2024!

## GIFT VIII

Lilly Endowment Inc. launched the eighth phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative in 2023, allocating up to \$210 million to help Indiana community foundations strengthen the quality of life in the towns, cities, and counties they serve.

Through this new GIFT phase (GIFT VIII) Lilly Endowment has invited the Fayette Community Foundation and other eligible Indiana community foundations to participate in three funding opportunities:

**Matching Fund Grants** — Lilly Endowment will provide \$2 for every \$1 contributed to the Fayette Community Foundation’s unrestricted (or Community Impact) endowments during GIFT VIII’s matching period, October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025.

**Community Leadership Grants** — 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. In 2024, FCF will have the opportunity to request funding to implement strategic initiatives and activities developed during the planning period that address especially compelling needs in Fayette County.

**Board Engagement Grants** — Each community foundation demonstrating 100 percent board member giving will be eligible to receive a \$100,000 unrestricted grant in 2025.

GIFT is a series of statewide initiatives and programs that began in 1990 as part of Lilly Endowment’s efforts to help establish and strengthen community foundations in Indiana and build their capacity to address the needs of their local communities. The primary aim of GIFT is to help Indiana community foundations in all 92 of Indiana’s counties develop the philanthropic capacity to identify, prioritize and address local opportunities and challenges.



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

# Looking Ahead

## From the Executive Director

While I've had the pleasure of working with the Fayette Community Foundation for almost three years now, 2023 marked the beginning of my tenure as Executive Director — a role I am deeply honored to embrace. Throughout my time with the Foundation, I've engaged with the community in various capacities, from overseeing annual disbursements and managing communications to leading grant cycles and donor relations. As I settle into my new role, I am excited to have the opportunity to contribute even more as a community leader.

Looking ahead to 2024, my primary focus will be on enhancing our current processes and leveraging available technology to adeptly meet the evolving needs of our community. Additionally, I am committed to ensuring that the Foundation maximizes the benefits of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT VIII initiative, fueling positive change within our community. I am genuinely excited to have the opportunity to make a lasting impact in Fayette County alongside my exceptional team.

As we navigate this new year, I am looking forward to deepening collaborations with our community partners and expanding my connections with our donors as you all play a crucial role in our shared mission. Together, I hope we can navigate a path for continued growth, impact, and community betterment.



*Abigail Roszell*

Abigail Roszell, Executive Director



## How to Give

### Give to a Brighter Future

The Fayette Community Foundation aims to be your trusted and knowledgeable ally in achieving your philanthropic goals. We are committed to making giving to your community easy, meaningful, informed, and enjoyable. Contributions to unrestricted, or Community Impact, endowments enable you to invest with fellow community partners in supporting various community projects. For those seeking a more hands-on philanthropic experience, our experienced staff can provide you with the tools and expertise to craft a named endowment that aligns with your goals and vision for our community.

### Leave a Legacy

Establishing a fund with the Fayette Community Foundation creates an opportunity for those with a passion for helping their community to begin making an impact during their lifetime as well as establish a legacy for decades to come.

Planned giving offers our donors a way to both maximize their tax advantages and make a lasting impact on the future of Fayette County. Some donors may also choose to not establish a fund during their lifetime but include a plan to create an endowment as part of their will instead.

Interested in creating a fund that will start benefiting Fayette County today or leaving a gift to the Foundation as you plan your estate? Contact us today! Our dedicated team is here to talk with you about your wishes for the future.

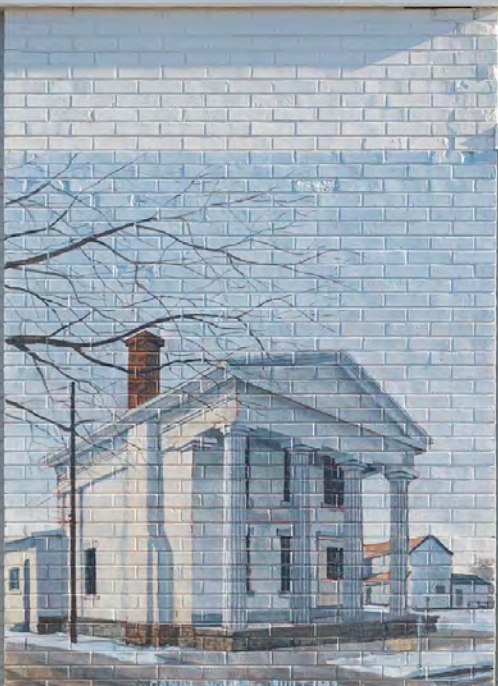


Donate, establish a fund, or plan to give  
Visit [givetofcf.com](https://www.givetofcf.com) or call 765.827.9966





HEIDEMAN CORNER SITE OF JOHN JOHNSON'S 1820 TRADING POST



GRAND HOTEL - JULY 1882



1871 1880





Join us in celebrating and investing  
in the people, places, and organizations that  
make Fayette County a place to be proud of  
— because we're better together.

[givetofcf.com](http://givetofcf.com)





**Fayette Community Foundation**

521 Central Ave, Suite A  
Connersville, Indiana 47331

765.827.9966 | [givetofcf.com](http://givetofcf.com)