



# CONNECTION

Spring 2011

## LCCF awards scholarships to graduating seniors

LaGrange County Community Foundation (LCCF) will award 30 scholarships, which are provided by generous donors, to 20 LaGrange County young people. Recipients include: **Tiffany Bontrager**, Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship, Olive B. Cole Foundation Scholarship; **Jamie Coffman**, J. O. Mory Company Scholarship; **Cierra Domer**, Prairie Heights Student Council Leadership Scholarship; **Brooke Durnell**, Kevin Lewis Purdue Agriculture Scholarship; **Elizabeth Engleking**, LIFE Scholarship, Ned H. Stump Memorial Scholarship; **Tiffanie Harvey**, Farmers State

Bank Scholarship; **Cory Hopper**, Schlemmer Scholarship; **Taylor Jantzi**, LIFE Scholarship; **Lindsey Johnson**, Olive B. Cole Foundation Scholarship; **Caleb Lehman**, Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship; **Kaitlyn Mast**, Farmwald, Duane & Heide Rheinheimer Scholarship, Joseph J. Willard Memorial Scholarship; **Scott McKibben**, LIFE Scholarship, Craig D. and Ronda S. Neff Scholarship, Terry Schmidt Basketball Scholarship; **Erica Montague**, HOPE Nursing Scholarship; **Brennan North**, Stan Anderson Memorial Golf Scholarship; **Kurstin Oesch**, Olive B. Cole

Foundation Scholarship, Duane and Heide Rheinheimer Scholarship; **Jennifer Raber**, Paul & Marian Krebs Scholarship; **Zachary Stanley**, Matthew Terry Memorial Scholarship; **Kristin Steider**, Farmers State Bank Scholarship; **Carley Thompson**, Olive B. Cole Foundation Scholarship, Virgil E. & Florence O. Hardin Scholarship, Judy Gage Keenan Scholarship, Olivia Bay Lemings Memorial Scholarship; **Aaron Young**, Ellsworth Fanning Memorial Scholarship.

These scholarships provide community support for young people preparing for the future.



**Tiffany Bontrager**      **Jamie Coffman**      **Elizabeth Engleking**      **Cory Hopper**      **Taylor Jantzi**      **Caleb Lehman**      **Kaitlyn Mast**      **Scott McKibben**

## Gift of Willard home highlight of 20th year

At nearly the midpoint of our 20th Anniversary year, the LaGrange County Community Foundation received notice that the home of long time foundation friend, founder, and first executive director, Elsie Willard, and her husband, Joseph, will be gifted to the organization. The Willards renovated Joseph's family home when they moved to LaGrange County in 1978.

It was more than 20 years ago when Elsie and other community leaders began attending meetings with representatives of Lilly Endowment explaining the benefit Indiana communities would reap through establishing community foundations.

In 1991 the LaGrange County Community Foundation was

(Continued on p. 3)



Page 2  
Annual Meeting

Page 3  
LIFE News

Page 4  
Grant Cycle

*Inspiring & sustaining generosity, leadership & service*

# 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting will kick-off 2011 Heart of Gold Award nominations



*Selecting one recipient from the dedicated volunteers nominated for the first Heart of Gold Award was a difficult decision for the committee. Nominated from the community in 2010 were (left to right): Mim Smith, Colton Strawser, David Clark, Marilyn Grossman and Madonna Price. The other nominee, Nathan Wisler, was unable to attend the event.*

The 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting of LaGrange County Community Foundation, to be held June 30, 2011, will launch the search for nominees for the 2011 Heart of Gold Award.

The award was established in 2010 to recognize “ordinary citizens” of LaGrange County who have touched the hearts of others. LCCF is seeking those who give unselfishly of themselves to serve others, either individually or collectively, with volunteer acts of service and/or kindness which go beyond the call of duty.

Community residents are invited to nominate individuals they believe meet the criteria. Nomination forms will be available at the Annual Meeting, on line, and at the foundation office.

## LCCF & United Fund partner to support clinic

LaGrange County Community Foundation and United Fund of LaGrange County recently joined together to better serve people of our county. LCCF offered a \$6000 match to attract new donors to the United Fund campaign. The over \$12,000 collected by United Fund through the match opportunity enabled them to receive a match of \$11,175 from the Indiana Association of United Ways (IAUW.)

The grant from the foundation plus community donations will support operations of the newly established Kenny-Burkett Health Clinic in LaGrange, while part of the IAUW

grant will provide direct assistance to county citizens through the Parkview LaGrange Foundation’s Medical Assistance Program.

LCCF is pleased to have an opportunity to support United Fund in its mission to improve life for citizens of LaGrange County, and the LCCF Board of Directors and Staff believe the effort fits well with the foundations’ mission of inspiring and sustaining generosity, leadership and service in our community.

## A face of the foundation

The community foundation’s board secretary, Jeff Wible, is LaGrange County’s prosecuting Attorney. He has been a member of the volunteer LCCF board of directors since says he enjoys serving in a role which is a change of pace from his role as prosecutor where the focus is often on difficult situations in county life. He likes being part of a group of representative of a wide cross section of the population—people with different perspectives on issues facing the county.



Prosecutor where individuals on issues facing the

Wible grew up on the south side of South Milford, graduated from East Noble High School, and studied business during his first two years of college. He then decided to pursue a degree in law and later chose to come back to the area to live. “The natural resources of LaGrange County are abundant and we have an excellent parks system,” Wible said. He appreciates the cultural mix in the county. He believes LCCF is doing much to enhance the community, and is especially proud of the fact that the foundation has continued to fulfill its mission of inspiring and sustaining generosity, leadership and service during the tough economy of the past three years.

Former president Becky Yoder asked Wible to join the foundation board and he agreed, seeing service on the board as an opportunity to make a contribution to the welfare of people in the county. “It was an opportunity to give back,” he said. Wible likes the community foundation’s investment in youth, through scholarships and the LIFE Youth Philanthropy Group. “It is important to invest in young people,” he says, “and, hopefully, some of them will choose to come back and participate in the community to benefit the community of the future.”

## LIFE officers elected at retreat



*L.I.F.E. Officers for the 2011-12 school year include (left to right): Skyler Carpenter, Westview, president; Rebecca Kain, Prairie Heights, vice president; Colton Strawser, Lakeland, treasurer; Crystal Vaughn, Howe School, secretary; Bethany Foley, Prairie Heights, recorder.*

The LaGrange Independent Foundation for Endowments (LIFE) Youth Philanthropy Group held their annual retreat at The Trading Post in Mongo.

This was the first meeting for newly selected members who will join the group next year.

Officers for the 2011-12 school year were chosen.

Rhonda Bartlett and Marcia Crow from the Mongo Community As-

sociation spoke to the group as the “community connection” which the group has included in most meetings, and LIFE members assisted in cleaning up flower beds in the town park for their May community service.



*New members of the LIFE Youth Group who will serve for the next five years include (left to right): Makai Gingerich, Westview; Mitch Perkins, Prairie Heights; Holey Bock, Lakeland; and Raul Cabrera, Howe School.*

## New LCCF fund established

As a way to honor his mother, Robert McNett has founded a designated fund at LCCF. The Delores McNett and Talmage Family Prairie Heights FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) Fund is a new fund to finance scholarships for Prairie Heights FFA members to attend the Washington Leadership Conference held annually in Washington, D.C.

Prairie Heights FFA advisors Ben Leu and Ron Noll will establish a committee to select the recipient.

Delores McNett maintained her LaGrange County farm while working a full time job to support four children. The Talmage family farmed the ground and became loyal friends who supported McNett through the years.

### House donation (continued from p. 1)

established. Elsie served as executive director until 1994, and remained a member of the board of directors until 1997.

Through the years the Willards were faithful friends of the foundation and the foundation community is thankful for their foresight in valuing the impact the foundation would have in the future of the county.

## Lakeland graduating senior impacted by LIFE



Caleb Lehman, chairman of the LIFE Youth Philanthropy Group Marketing Committee, says his initial foray into LIFE as an 8th grader was scary. “In the beginning I was shy and didn’t say much,” he said. “I didn’t really know what LIFE was, but there was an orientation period and encouragement to observe and learn from mentors.”

Lehman’s years in LIFE introduced him to problems that exist in the community as the group sought to award grants that would change lives for others.

He is appreciative of opportunities he had to work with students from Howe School, Prairie Heights and Westview.

In addition to leadership skills, LIFE provided him with experience meeting deadlines and taking responsibility, as well as involvement in community service, which the group tries to make part of each LIFE meeting.

“I learned to divide my time wisely, especially during sports season, and never once, even when the schedule got hectic, did I want to quit.” he said.

Caleb, who is the 2011 LaGrange County LCCF Lilly Endowment Community Scholar, plans to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and study economics and management in preparation for a career in sports management.

He believes skills learned through his 5 years as a LIFE member will serve him well during his college years and in his future career.



**109 E. Central Ave., Ste. 3, LaGrange, IN 46761**  
**Ph. 260-463-4363, Fx. 260-463-4856, [www.lccf.net](http://www.lccf.net)**

*The LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to serve residents of LaGrange County. The foundation assists donors from all walks of life who want to create interest earning funds to improve the community they care about. The foundation currently manages assets of nearly \$10 million and awards grants and scholarships to local non-profit organizations and individuals (scholarships only).*

### **Volunteer Board of Directors**

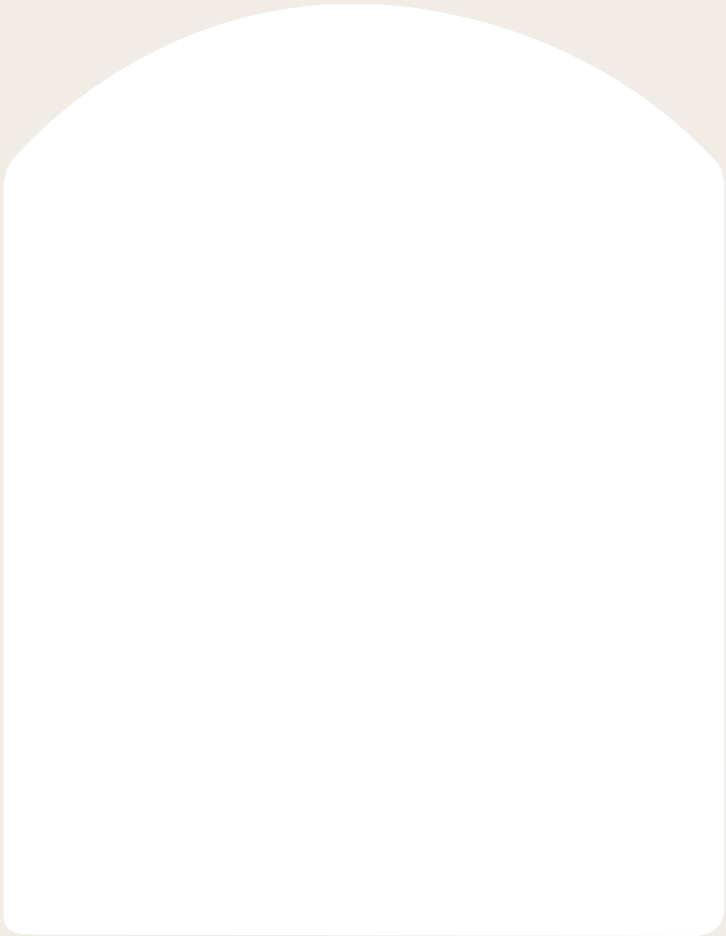
- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Paul Johnston, President</i>        | <i>Mahlon Bontrager</i> |
| <i>Steve Scott-Welty, V. President</i> | <i>Dr. John Egli</i>    |
| <i>Jeff Wible, Secretary</i>           | <i>Steve Gage</i>       |
| <i>Rhonda Sharp, Treasurer</i>         | <i>Steve Longfellow</i> |
| <i>Gene Mory, Senior Advisor</i>       |                         |

### **Staff**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Laura Lemings, Executive Director</i> | <i>Jan Pilgrim, Executive Assistant</i>   |
| <i>Loren Heinlen, Program Officer</i>    | <i>Jennifer Tuttle, Financial Officer</i> |
| <i>Laney Kratz, Student Intern</i>       | <i>Rebecca Ramer, Communications</i>      |



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations



## **Remembering** (Feb. 1—April 30, 2011)

### **Stan Anderson**

Ms. Tracy Anderson

### **Ray E. Culp**

Estate of Ray E. Culp

### **Virgil E. & Florence O Hardin**

Mr. John T. Hardin

### **Kerry Wilt Spradlin**

Ms. Karen Reinking

## **Donors** (Feb. 1—April 30, 2011)

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Anonymous Donations               | Mr. & Mrs. Burvel Lemings      |
| Eden Worship Center                 | Mr. & Mrs. Elmore Lemings      |
| First Church of God                 | Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Lewis     |
| First Presbyterian Church           | Mr. & Mrs. John Mullen         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gage               | Phillip & Rebecca Ramer        |
| Ms. Bess Gallagher                  | Eric & Rhonda Sharp            |
| Ms. Iola Gardner                    | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schrock        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Loren Heinlen, Jr.       | Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Scott-Welty |
| Indiana Grantmakers Alliance        | Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Schrader       |
| Ms. Laney Kratz                     | Ms. Candice Trapp              |
| LaGrange Community Youth Centers    | United Fund of LaGrange County |
| LaGrange County Remote Control Club | Ms. Lori White                 |
|                                     | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wiley       |

## **LCCF announces competitive grant cycle**

LCCF will be accepting applications for a competitive grant cycle. Applications will be posted on the web site at [www.lccf.net](http://www.lccf.net) the first week in June, and Monday, August 1, 2011, is the deadline.

This will be the first competitive cycle since spring 2008 when the LCCF Board of Directors responded to the economic recession by awarding proactive grants (grants initiated by the board after careful consideration of community situations and needs) to existing organizations meeting basic needs for county residents impacted by the down economy.

## **LCCF Calendar**

- |                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>June 30</i>     | <b>Annual Meeting</b>             |
| <i>July 4-8</i>    | <b>Office Closed</b>              |
| <i>August 1</i>    | <b>Competitive Grant Deadline</b> |
| <i>August 16</i>   | <b>Investment Committee—noon</b>  |
| <i>August 23</i>   | <b>Executive Committee—5 p.m.</b> |
|                    | <b>Board Meeting—6 p.m.</b>       |
| <i>September 5</i> | <b>Office Closed—Labor Day</b>    |