



Spring 2009

CONNECTION

Generosity, Leadership & Service

Opportunity for “Good Samaritans”



Volunteers at Scott Food Pantry assist families hard hit by the economic downturn.

Could LaGrange County be facing what has been called “an incredible opportunity brilliantly disguised as an impossible situation?”

It is difficult to imagine an 18% unemployment rate, second only to Elkhart among Indiana counties, as an “incredible opportunity.” If you are one of the more than 3,000 people out of work, that statement could rouse your irritation or incite your anger. There could be reasons to be irritated or angry. The debate over a fair way to trim the budget could continue forever. There is no simple solution.

Are there ways LaGrange County could be facing “incredible opportunities?”

If 82% of us are still working, might there be lifestyle choices that could free some of our income to meet the needs of friends, neighbors, or family members facing

hard times? Could this be the time for local “Good Samaritans” to exhibit the compassion and support for one another for which rural communities have long been noted?

At LaGrange County Community Foundation we believe the response has already begun. A large crew of workers and donors has made it possible for the Clothes and Food Basket, Lima Scott Food Pantry, the Topeka community, and others to serve ever-growing numbers of families; churches are finding ways to meet needs of those hard hit by job loss; unemployed families are “getting by” with help from family members and neighbors.

(Continued on page 2)



Stacks of canned items in preparation for increased requests at the Clothes and Food Basket.

Changing to meet challenges

Times of challenge often result in changes for organizations as well as individuals. As with most grant making institutions, LaGrange County Community Foundation has taken major setbacks in interest earned on endowed funds in 2008. Following the conservative policies which have always been the foundation’s forte, the investment committee and the board of directors have made some difficult decisions for 2009.

The nonprofit world has been heavily impacted by the struggling economy at the very time when many people of the community need assistance as never before. In recognition of this, the biggest change implemented by the LCCF Board is: **no competitive grant applications will be accepted in 2009.** Instead, available grant money will support established nonprofits which provide necessities—food, clothing and shelter—for those facing difficulties.

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Board & staff examine role at evening retreat



Construction of the Pine Knob Lodge and increase of park grounds were mentioned by board members as projects they were proud to have been involved with.

Pine Knob Park Lodge was the sight of an evening meeting of the board and staff of LCCF. “What does the community need us to be?” and “What do we have the capacity to be?” were two of the questions considered by the group, facilitated by Mike Stone of Impact Strategies.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by LCCF Executive Director Laura Lemings and Program Officer Loren Heinlen explaining events leading up to, details, and progress of a community effort being spearheaded by a coalition led by LCCF and United Way of LaGrange County to assist individuals and families hard hit by the economic slump affecting LaGrange County residents.

Changes (Continued from page 1)

The move of the office of United Fund of LaGrange County (UFLC) into unused offices on the third floor of the renovated Bir Hotel building has resulted in cost savings for both LCCF and UFLC and has made it more convenient to work together for the good of LaGrange County.

Keith Stanton, part time LaGrange County Community Foundation Development Officer retired in January 2009. Stanton joined the foundation staff August 21, 2007 following retirement from 40 years in the banking industry. Due to the current economic situation, the position will not be filled at this time.

Hours of other part time staff members (Financial Officer and Communications) were reduced as part of overall budget reductions.

As another aspect of budget reductions at LCCF, this may be the final copy of *Connection* to be mailed to your home, organization or business. The mailing list for the next issue will include those who have donated to the foundation within the past three years. If you do not receive a print issue and would like to remain on the list, please contact the office at 260-463-4363.

A PDF of *Connection* is available for download or online reading at our website, www.lccf.net.

If the Spring 2009 edition of *Connection* looks or feels slightly different from past issues, you may be detecting the change in paper. In an effort to observe good conservation practices, we are now printing on 50% recycled paper which is FSC Certified and endorsed by the Rainforest Alliance. Cost-trimming was an additional factor in the change.

Swift donor response

LCCF donors have proven once again that they are responsive to changing situations and the climate of the community. The challenge of the economic crisis adversely affected several of the scholarship funds administered by the foundation.

When donors were contacted to decide if they wanted to wait until a recovery occurred before awarding the scholarships, many opted to provide pass through money in order to award the same scholarship amount as in other years.

The following scholarships were partially or totally funded in order to be awarded to assist students in 2009: Craig D. and Ronda S. Neff Memorial Scholarship; Jim Marks Scholarship; Judy Gage Keenan Memorial Scholarship; J.O. Mory Company Scholarship; Schlemmer Scholarship; Alice Carney LeRoque Memorial Scholarship; Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship; and Virgil and Florence Hardin Memorial Scholarship.

Good Samaritan Fund (Continued from page 1)



Towels and bedding are ongoing needs provided for clients at the LaGrange County Clothes & Food Basket.

Individual contributions to the task vary—time, skills, goods, services, encouragement. What matters is the realization that we are in it together. Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller said, “For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people’s love and concern for each other.”

LCCF Board of Directors recently agreed to help provide the local match for a planning grant awarded to United Fund of LaGrange (UFLC) County in order to join United Fund in providing leadership for an ambitious project to assure there will be food, shelter and clothing for children and adults of our county.

The Good Samaritan Fund, a non endowed (pass through) fund has been established at the foundation using donations from Parkview Hospital, Cole Foundation, Howe Military School and LIFE Youth Pod. The fund will serve as the collection point for the local match for an implementation grant which is being offered by Indiana Association of United Ways and for other possible grants. LCCF and UFLC are aggressively working to pursue funds from a variety of sources to provide money to support established non profits meeting basic needs

Matching funds may be available for up to \$11,000 in donations to the Good Samaritan Fund, increasing the impact donors can make. Contact the office of LCCF for details.

This is *YOUR* LIFE

LIFE group first to use Topeka Library Community Room



Members of the youth philanthropy LIFE group, met for their March meeting in the community room at the new Topeka Branch Library. They were the first group to hold a meeting in the new room which LaGrange County librarian Mary Hooley believes will be used regularly by those living in the Topeka area.



2009 LIFE grants awarded:

■ Bowling lessons for LCYC students



Middle and high school student participants in LaGrange Communities Youth Center's after school programs will have an opportunity for free bowling lessons and open bowling thanks to a grant from LIFE.

■ Disability Awareness Walk



A LIFE grant will assist with funding of the Functional Skills Relay for Life Disability Awareness Walk 2009. The event provides an opportunity for students of the functional skills class to be involved in service to others in the community.

■ Dual credit high school physics

A LIFE grant will fund a program allowing Prairie Heights students to receive college credit for a physics class taken while still in high school.

■ Junior Achievement Finance Park trip

Prairie Heights eighth grade students will have the opportunity to get a preview of what life as an adult may be like through participation in Junior Achievement's Finance Park, a financial curriculum followed by a field day experience.

■ Library programs for young adults

LaGrange County Library will use LIFE grant funding to provide learning opportunities for young adults of the community including a self defense clinic for pre-teens, a baby-sitter licensing program, and author talks and writer's workshops.

■ Lima-Brighton body safe workshop

Students of Lakeland and Westview School Corporations will hear presentations by Terry Hall on "Body Safety". These will be age appropriate lessons on body safety and good touches/bad touches, ranging from molestation to date rape.

■ Parks summer programs

LIFE will support the 2009 summer parks programs which serves 100-200 young people annually at summer day camps.

■ Prairie Heights abstinence project

LIFE opted to support the Peers Project of Prairie Heights School Corporation. 6th, 7th and 8th graders as well as freshmen will be presented by a message from upper class mentors encouraging abstinence from alcohol, drugs, tobacco and pre-marital sex.

■ Books for Mentor Moms

As part of an effort to improve literacy, funds were provided for Mentor Moms to provide books to mothers at monthly meetings.



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The LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit 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 \$7.5 million and in 2008 awarded over \$270,000 in grants and scholarships to local non-profit organizations and individuals (scholarships only).

Volunteer Board of Directors

Steve Gage, President	Jan Olinger, Vice President
Paul Johnston, Secretary	Jeff Wible, Treasurer
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Mahlon Bontrager	Dr. John Egli
Colleen Hostetler	Ryan Riegsecker
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Laura Lemings, Executive Director	Loren Heinlen, Program Officer
Jennifer Tuttle, Financial Officer	Jan Pilgrim, Exec. Assistant
Rebecca Ramer, Communications	

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 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hall
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hostetler
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Albert Parsley

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Donors (Nov. 21, 2008—Feb. 28, 2009)

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(Donors continued)

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Harp
 Mr. & Mrs. Loren Heinlen, Jr.
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 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Marks
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Honoring (Nov. 21, 2008—Feb. 28, 2009)

Valerie Heinlen

Mr. Loren Heinlen

Lucas & Missy Heinlen

Emily Heinlen & Nate & Tim Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Loren Heinlen

Loren Heinlen, Sr.

Ms. Emily Heinlen

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Mr. & Mrs. Lucas Heinlen

Colleen & Richard Thatcher

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Miller

Morag & Tom Miller

Dr. & Mrs. John Egli

Sandra Allread

Ms. Brenda Kaiser

LCCF Calendar

April 10, 2009 Office Closed, Good Friday
 April 28, 2009 Finance Committee, 5 p.m., Board, 6:30 p.m.
 May 26, 2009 Board, 6:30 p.m.
 June 23, 2009 Annual Meeting