



2009 Annual Report

# What *is* a community foundation?

The LaGrange County Community Foundation (LCCF) has served people of LaGrange County for 19 years. Still, we are often asked, “What does a community foundation do?”

We can write a definition (similar to Purdue’s printed in the adjoining box) and use it in publications and ads. We can include our mission statement—“Our mission is to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership and service in our community”—on everything we print. (We have done both.) Still, we get the question.

There is truth in the old adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” We’ve all seen pictures which we

remember forever in our minds. But words can also convey a picture when used to tell a meaningful story.

Community Foundation:  
“An organization which builds endowments and/or donor advised funds through contributions from multiple donors, often within a geographic region. It supports charitable activities focused primarily on the needs of an identified county, city or state.”

*Purdue University*

In the midst of one of the most challenging economic times since LCCF was founded, the board and staff have found innovative, creative ways to serve the community we all care about.

We have partnered with community organizations to provide ongoing support for local nonprofits faithfully meeting basic human needs. We have supported young people seeking further education through numerous scholarships and a concentrated focus on the 21st Century

Scholar Program. And we have diligently sought new ways (beyond our ongoing task of providing grant funding) to stand strong with the nonprofit community—especially in feeding the hungry.

In this 2009 Annual Report, we want to give you an accurate idea of what LCCF has been doing over the past twelve months. To create this picture, we will use both photos and words.



Executive Director  
*Laura Lemings*



Board President  
*Steve Gage*

*“There’s a way to do it better — find it.”* **Thomas Edison**

## The community foundation responds in tough times



One “better way” found in 2009 by people of LaGrange County was working together in unprecedented ways to meet food and clothing needs for neighbors affected by the economic downturn. For some residents waiting in line for food distribution became a regular part of life.

The initial cooperative effort was a partnership of LCCF and United Fund of LaGrange County in seeking grant funding from Indiana Association of United Ways. The community foundation also established the Good Samaritan fund to provide a way to support those already involved in providing food and other necessities. The Olive B. Cole Foundation, Howe Military School, LIFE Youth Pod, Parkview LaGrange Hospital, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Miller, Mrs. Jewell Wolfe, and other donors quickly joined the effort. Shipshewana Retail Merchants got involved, and individual businesses, like Garden Gate Cafe and Shipshewana Fitness Center, participated in fundraising.

LCCF grantmaking funds were used to provide matches for many contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund which then awarded grants to support: Berea Missionary Church, Community Harvest Food Bank, LaGrange County Clothes and Food Basket, LaGrange County Council on Aging, LaGrange Ministerial Society, Lima-Scott Food Pantry and Topeka Ministerial Society. These organizations provided prepared lunches and dinners, bags of groceries and clothing for families facing difficult times. Individuals and groups found new ways of working together during a time when an unusually large number of residents needed assistance.

# The foundation assists students seeking college funds

*"Finding the better way"*

can sometimes mean doing something that has been done long enough to become a tradition, even when circumstances make the task more difficult than usual.

The scholarship program at LaGrange County Community Foundation is one aspect of our work that most people in the county are very familiar with. Establishing a scholarship honoring a friend or family member is a way many individuals and families facing grief over the loss of a loved one have found comfort.

Involvement in assisting county young people committed to obtaining further education to prepare themselves to make positive contributions in the lives of their neighbors is something many find rewarding.

In 2009 LCCF awarded 34 scholarships to a long list of students. In addition to contributions to build endowments, many generous donors provided funds necessary to enable the scholarships to be awarded in a year when endowment earnings were not as substantial as in most years.

## 2009 LCCF Scholarships and Recipients:

BANI.....Ethan Young  
 Bruce Brown Memorial.....Randon McMaster  
 Alice Carney-LeRoque Memorial.....Jessica Oster  
 Cole Foundation.....Claudia Aguilar  
 Lori Richardson  
 Catherine Wingstrom

Cole Foundation (cont.)  
 Ellsworth Fanning Memorial.....Tyler Young  
 Luke Kaiser  
 Trevor Perkins  
 Farmers State Bank.....Mark Deroshia  
 Jessica Oster  
 Farmwald.....Catherine Wingstrom  
 Virgil/Florence Hardin Memorial.....Amy Young  
 H.O.P.E. Nursing.....Catherine Wingstrom  
 Judy Gage Keenan Memorial.....Kailie Cross  
 Krebs Memorial.....Kailie Cross  
 Lilly Endowment Community  
 Scholarship.....Ericka Gilliland  
 Rachel Grossman  
 L.I.F.E.....Ethan Prough  
 Randon McMaster  
 Kylie Yoder  
 Marks Fine Art.....Ashley Roth  
 Mory Company.....Ethan Young  
 Mory Family.....Ethan Young  
 Craig & Ronda Neff Memorial.....Kylie Yoder  
 Holly Petersen Memorial.....Claudia Aguilar  
 Rheinheimer.....Ashley Roth  
 Lori Richardson  
 Schlemmer.....Ethan Young  
 Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball.....Nicholas Pechin  
 Ned Stump Memorial.....Christina Bontrager  
 Matthew Terry Memorial.....Benjamin Kelly  
 Joseph J. Willard Memorial.....Ethan Young

## Scholarship workshops prepare students to apply

Sometimes the *"better way"* does not include eliminating an old way that is working, but, instead, means adding a new focus to increase effectiveness in accomplishing the goal. As we continue to emphasize the LCCF scholarship program, the board and staff have realized that offering scholarship workshops and partnering with county schools in support of the



21st Century Scholars Program can make a significant increase in the number of county students obtaining further education.

For 15 years, since 1995 when the first group of 21st Century Scholars began college, students from low to moderate income families have been able to attend a participating public college or university in Indiana with four years of tuition guaranteed as long as they comply with terms of an agreement signed in middle school.



*The community foundation sponsored SAT and scholarship workshops for students attending county high schools as one way to assist them in preparing for further education and in seeking scholarships to help provide funding.*



109 E. Central Ave., Ste. 3  
LaGrange, IN 46761

Our 2009 financial report is available in the office, online at [www.lccf.net](http://www.lccf.net) or by mail. Call 463-4363 for more information.

## 2009 Volunteer Board of Directors

Steven Gage, Pres.	Jan Olinger, V.Pres.
Paul Johnston, Sec.	Jeff Wible, Treas.
Gene Mory, Sr. Advisor	Charles Ashcraft
Mahlon Bontrager	Dr. John Egli
Colleen Hostetler	Ryan Riegsecker
Stephan Scott-Welty	Dr. Rhonda Sharp

## 2009 Staff

Laura Lemings, Ex. Director	Jennifer Tuttle, Financial Officer
Jan Pilgrim, Ex. Assistant	Rebecca Ramer, Communications
Loren Heinlen, Program Officer	



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. Community Foundations



## Innovative actions in 2009

LCCF can provide *"better ways"* that are often not seen and never make the news headlines.

- In late 2008 a field of interest endowment fund, the Shishewana Community Fund, was established. The town donated \$11,000 to the fund. In February 2009 \$10,000 was granted back to the town to be used to help fund the Shishewana water tower project. This assisted the town in obtaining a Community Focus Fund Grant to finance the project.
- In August of 2009 the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation was granted its own 501(c)3 status. LCCF helped this organization get established by serving as fiscal agent while it developed by-laws, began functioning, and hired an executive director.
- The Board of Directors of LaGrange County Community Foundation in late 2009 provided a matching grant incentive which enabled existing designated funds to build their endowments. LaGrange County Junior Achievement, Westview Dollars for Scholars, Pretzels, Inc., Westview Dollars for Scholars, LaGrange County United Fund and Brethren Retreat Center all seized this opportunity.

*The complete 2009 LaGrange County Community Foundation financial summary can be viewed online at [www.lccf.net](http://www.lccf.net). Click "About Us" and then "Financial Review." A printed copy of the statement can be viewed at our office at 109 E. Central Ave., Ste. 3, LaGrange, IN, 46761.*

### Tax Deductible Contribution

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to  
LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

My gift is in (honor/memory) of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following that a gift has been  
made in his or her name(s):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to go into the following  
fund:

Caring Community Grant Making Fund

LCCF Operating Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ (specify fund)

**Mail to: LaGrange Co. Community Foundation  
109 E. Central Ave., Ste. 3, LaGrange, IN 46761**