

**LaGrange
County
Community
Foundation**
2016
Annual
Report



www.lccf.net

Why I Serve

"When I was first asked if I would be interested,

I did not know much about the community foundation except their commitment to improving the lives of LaGrange County residents. That in itself was enough for me to say yes. Each year we fund scholarships for students and grant money to numerous nonprofit organizations that do good works in our county and beyond.

Our foundation has come a long way in 25 years. I look forward to see where the next 25 years will take us!

Jan Olinger
Board Treasurer



Jan Olinger
Board Treasurer



Sue Keenan
Board Secretary



Tony Bontrager
Director



Jordi Disler
Director



Randy Fry
Director



Ron Hostetler
Director



Ryne Krock
Director



Neal Wolheter
Director



Carlos Olivares
Director



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead



A Letter to Our Community

In 2016, the LaGrange County Community Foundation reached the exciting milestone of completing 25 years of philanthropic service in our community.

This milestone has opened a time for reflection to remind ourselves how far we have come from the day the decision to start a community foundation was made.

Today, we hold \$14.3 million in assets, which is a representation of the wonderful community in which we live. We are always, both honored and inspired by the generosity of the citizens of LaGrange County and by the dedication to make our community a better place to live.

Looking into the future, we want to have an even bigger impact in the next 25 years by being a resource to reach your philanthropic goals.

We will continue to focus on our mission at LCCF, which has three important components: generosity, leadership and service.

We will inspire **generosity** by being a bridge that connects donors with the causes they love.

We will inspire **leadership** in LaGrange County by supporting ideas and programs that help our community thrive.

We will be of **service** to our community by providing information, support or training to local not-for-profits.



George Brown
Board President

George Brown

Board President

Jennifer Tuttle

Executive Director



Crystal Leu
Board Vice-President

Through the Years

A group of nine visionary leaders started the LaGrange County Community Foundation in 1991 to make a lasting difference in the community.

In 1995, LaGrange County invested \$800,000 toward the Lilly Endowment match and created the Caring Community Fund.

Over the years, the concept for the foundation has remained the same: build substantial endowment funds for the community through contributions large and small.

A generous spirit

Elsie Willard envisioned LaGrange County as a thriving, successful community and she worked to achieve that goal.



her salary back to the foundation each year.

Elsie founded the LaGrange County Public Library Fund, the Cultural Arts of LaGrange County Fund, and the LaGrange County Youth Fund.

With a bequest from the Elsie Willard estate, the community foundation created the Willard Family Community Fund.

A founding board member, Elsie served as the first Executive Director. During her tenure from 1991 through 1994, she donated



A Partner for Good

Community Foundations are among the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy in the United States. A community foundation or affiliate fund exists in every one of Indiana's 92 counties.

Community foundation

(Continued from page 1)

program include: a legally established community foundation with tax-exempt status, community involvement in fund-raising and activities, compliance with the financial parameters of the grant program, and employment by the community foundation of a least one half-time staff person.

The Community Foundation Gift program will provide \$1 for every \$2 raised locally for asset building or community project grants. Both minimum and maximum funding levels have been established for the asset building and community project grants. For community foundation operating expenses Lilly Endowment, Inc. will provide up to one-third of documented operating expenses.

A second noon luncheon meeting, to continue the process of establishing a local community foundation, will be held on Monday, July 11, 1991, at the LaGrange County Country Club.

Area

LaGrange gets grant: The LaGrange County Community Foundation has received a \$500,000 challenge grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Under conditions of the grant, the foundation will receive \$1 from Lilly for every \$2 raised during the next five years. The grant is for the foundation's operating expenses and will be distributed to various charitable organizations in LaGrange County.

Endowment for library established

LAGRANGE — An anonymous donor has given \$5,000 to the LaGrange County Community foundation, Inc. to establish a permanent endowment for the library.

Steps

Comm

Steps to establish a community foundation in LaGrange County have been outlined in recent weeks, and the work then completed was highlighted at a luncheon meeting Monday at the LaGrange County Country Club. William Myers of the Lilly Endowment Foundation said he believes how fast this process is moving is a tremendous effort on the part of the county community foundation. He said the incentives are so good that many people are contributing to the fund in the future years. Through the fund-raising efforts, the foundation will take place in the next few months to improve the quality of life in LaGrange County.

Foundation: The foundation grant under conditions of the grant, the foundation will receive \$1 from Lilly for every \$2 raised during the next five years. The grant is for the foundation's operating expenses and will be distributed to various charitable organizations in LaGrange County.

Foundation. The interest on the Scott United Fund of LaGrange County is being distributed annually to the community foundation.

Members in LaGrange County are encouraged to contribute to the fund. Recently that Robert [Name] was appointed a member of the board of directors of the foundation.

The marketing committee of the foundation includes past president of the board of directors, a board commissioner, a board member, and four children of the foundation.



Supporting Our Parks

Since 1994, we have awarded \$233,235.97 to the LaGrange County Parks Department.



Keeping History Alive

In 1995, LCCF assisted the Topeka Area Historical Society as they saved and restored the historic train depot.



Growing Our Assets

Since 1997, the foundation has increased in assets from \$4,051,087 to \$14,347,974.

Strategic Grantmaking

From protecting land to purchasing materials for a daycare program, the community foundation supports innovative and creative projects in LaGrange County. In 2016, we awarded \$370,000 in grants to support arts and culture, health and human services, recreation, environment and education programs.

Quog Lake Preserve

ACRES Land Trust received \$25,000 to purchase and protect the 126-acre property surrounding Quog Lake, an important corridor of land previously used as a waterfowl hunting ground.

Located west of Oliver Lake, the nature preserve features a quaking bog with unique fauna and vegetation.

The preserve also provides habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl and forest birds.

"It's a significant natural area that needs to be preserved," said Mike Metz, LaGrange County's parks and recreation director.

"It's great that ACRES has taken on doing that," Metz added.





Quog Lake

A quaking bog - the origin of the lake's name - describes the floating mat of sphagnum moss along the shore. Cranberry, highbush blueberry, water willow and tamarack form the dominant cover on the wetland area of the preserve.

Photo © The Conservation Fund by Ivan LaBianca



LaGrange County Food and Clothes Basket

The county's main provider of food relief, was awarded \$125,000 in grant money to build a new center. With the new facility, the agency expanded its storage, increased services and, most importantly, provided better access for individuals with disabilities.



Mongo Community Development Association

Led by a few dedicated individuals, the MCDA provides activities for youth in Mongo year-round. With a \$1,535 grant from LCCF, the group has special fun with its summer park programs that keep children active while they are out of school.



Save the Wolcott House Project

Built circa 1837 by George Wolcott, the founder of Wolcottville, the home is one of the oldest in the county. The Wolcott House Fund, held by LCCF, financed the purchase of the property, and it was then donated to Indiana Landmarks for preservation.



Grant Spotlight

With \$7,747.21 from the Community Foundation in 2016, Agape Childcare Ministry purchased Montessori materials that included building blocks, wooden trucks, bells and books to spur each child's development.

Agape

Agape Childcare Ministry in Stroh provides quality childcare to children in northeast Indiana from infant to 12 years.

The childcare center is a ministry of Stroh Church of Christ. Straddled just beyond the county line, 45 percent of the students come from LaGrange County.

Teachers and staff are trained in the Montessori model and guide students through independent learning. The Montessori learning model emphasizes self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play.



Leaving a Legacy

Morgan Hunter radiated kindness and love. She had a contagious laugh and giving spirit that made all who knew her love her. As a seventh-grader at Westview Jr.-Sr. High School, Morgan played volleyball and was a member of 4-H and AWANA Youth Group. Following her passing in 2015, Morgan's family and friends wanted to see her spirit of generosity and love carried on.



The Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship was awarded for the first time to Logan Lewton. From left, are Isaac Hunter, Logan Lewton, Laura Hunter and Andrew

Establishing a Fund

The Hunter's, with the help of a whole host of friends and family, established an endowment with LCCF and named it the Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship.

Continuing a Legacy

On May 3, 2017 the first scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded in memory of Morgan to Westview senior Logan Lewton, a 4-H member planning a career in agriculture.

It All Makes Cents

During 2015, the investment committee at the community foundation began a comprehensive review of our investments and corresponding fees. With fiscal conservatism in mind and continuing our history of excellent stewardship with the funds entrusted to us from our generous donors, this review led us to speak with many top professionals.

After nearly a year long review and the data collected from this review, our investment committee gave a recommendation to the board of directors to transition to a new investment manager. That transition was made in June of 2016 and, as a result of that change, the community foundation saved significantly in the amount of fees paid, which allows those funds to go back into our community.

This type of change only comes to fruition with the dedication and knowledge of our committee members.

Statement of Financial Position		
Assets	Dec 31, 2016	Dec 31, 2015
Cash and cash equivalents	\$345,536	\$370,767
Pledge receivable	-	25,000
Investments	13,778,463	13,164,425
Interest and dividends receivable	-	26,816
Note receivable	217,873	-
Other assets	6,102	7,796
Total assets	\$14,347,974	\$13,594,804
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts and other payables	\$39,700	\$20,864
Funds held for others	164,865	140,587
Net Assets	14,143,409	13,433,353
Total liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,347,974	\$13,594,804

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

\$10,310,469

What is an endowment?

A fund in which the principle remains intact, and only pays out a small portion of earnings each year which is available to grant.

Agency Endowment Funds are created by charitable organizations as a way to plan for their future. The organization receives an annual payout to sustain operations in perpetuity.

Donor Advised Funds have the flexibility to allow the donor to suggest which charitable organizations, that meet the approval of the Board of Directors, will benefit from their fund.

Designated Funds allow a donor to create permanent income for a charitable organization of their choice.

Field of Interest Funds create a resource in perpetuity to support the causes a donor cares about, such as the arts, education, health and human services or the environment.

Scholarship Funds are established by individuals, organizations, families and schools to assist students pursuing higher education.

Discretionary Funds allow a donor to meet the ever-changing needs of the community beyond their lifetime. The endowed funds enable future generations to address community needs, as identified by the Community Foundation board.

Statement of Activities

Support, Revenue and Gains	Dec 31, 2016	Dec 31, 2015
Contributions	\$291,479	\$655,586
Investment return (net)	1,264,645	(53,872)
Fund administrative fees	268,702	266,018
Other revenue	(4,379)	19,604
Total Support and Revenue	1,820,447	887,336
Expenses		
Grants and programs	\$630,986	\$406,916
Fund administrative fees	274,640	265,441
Operations	204,765	188,200
Total Expenses	1,110,391	860,557
Change in net assets	710,056	26,779
Net assets, beginning of year	13,433,353	13,406,574
Net Assets, End of Year	\$14,143,409	\$13,433,353



The Power of Education

Many of our donors honor loved ones, high schools, colleges and professions by endowing scholarship opportunities.

We administer 53 scholarship funds, with awards ranging from \$300 to \$2,000 per year.

In 2016, we awarded \$78,950 in scholarships to graduating high school students and returning college students.

Chris Janik, a 2016 graduate of Westview Jr.-Sr. High School, received two of those awards: the Duane and Heide Rheinheimer

Scholarship (\$2,000) and Joseph J. Willard Memorial Scholarship (\$500).

The Rheinheimer Scholarship was the first scholarship fund started at the community foundation in 1995 and has provided substantial support to Westview graduates.

Janik is now attending Purdue University pursuing a degree in computer engineering.

"By way of your assistance, both in service and finance, my dreams of obtaining a college degree are now more easily attainable," Janik said.

The 2016 scholarship recipients, clockwise, from top: Chris Janik, Andrea Ledgerwood, Jonathan Anderson, Molly Landers, Heather Krapfl, Andrew Brown, Taylor VanWagner and Austin Hoffelder.

LIFE Youth



LIFE, the LaGrange Independent Foundation for Endowments, gives young people in LaGrange County an opportunity to learn about philanthropy, nonprofit organizations and participate in community service projects. Led by Life Navigator Laney Kratz, the group manages its own grant funds to support youth programs. Members come from Lakeland, Westview, Prairie Heights and Howe Military schools. Students apply at the end of seventh-grade and, if selected, continue through their senior year in high school.



Laney Kratz
LIFE Navigator

In Memoriam

Mattea Holton (1998-2016)

Passionate and competitive are just a few words to describe Mattea Holton. After joining LIFE in eighth-grade, Mattea had high expectations for herself and her peers. She encouraged the younger LIFE members to speak up to let their voices be heard.

While at Lakeland High School, Mattea also excelled on the softball field and participated in Teen Court.

She worked closely with Teen Court director Amy Garl to develop a peer coaching program used by Lakeland High School today.

In March 2016, Mattea passed away in an automobile accident. The day of Mattea's funeral, Ms. Garl received word the peer coaching program received full funding.

While Mattea expected the best, she had patience with others people considered difficult.

"She gave it her whole heart and wanted others to feel the same passion," said Tara Marks, Lakeland High School guidance counselor.

In Mattea's honor, her family started the **Mattea Holton Memorial Scholarship** to support a student at Lakeland High School.



Find Your Passion

Help build a permanent legacy for LaGrange County

Do you have a desire to see your community grow? Do you want to make an impact and leave a legacy for the next generation? Connect with us! We are here to make your charitable dreams a reality.



Give

All gifts, large or small, can have a lasting impact in LaGrange County. We work with you to create a plan that will maximize the benefit of your gift.



Inspire

Do you have an idea or program that will benefit LaGrange County? We want to team up with individuals looking to make a difference in our area.



Serve

From volunteering to read scholarships to connecting you with community projects, if you have a heart for service we can help you find an opportunity.



Connect

Want to learn more about charitable giving? Are you interested in applying for a grant? Visit us online at lccf.net or give us a call today!



Our Team

We are a team who loves where we live and what we do. We care about our community and have a straightforward vision to serve LaGrange County. Contact us with your questions about charitable gifts, endowments, grant funding or scholarships.



Jennifer Tuttle
Executive Director



Jennifer Novak
Office Administrator



Octavia Yoder
Program Officer



Jama Keaffaber
Development Director

LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

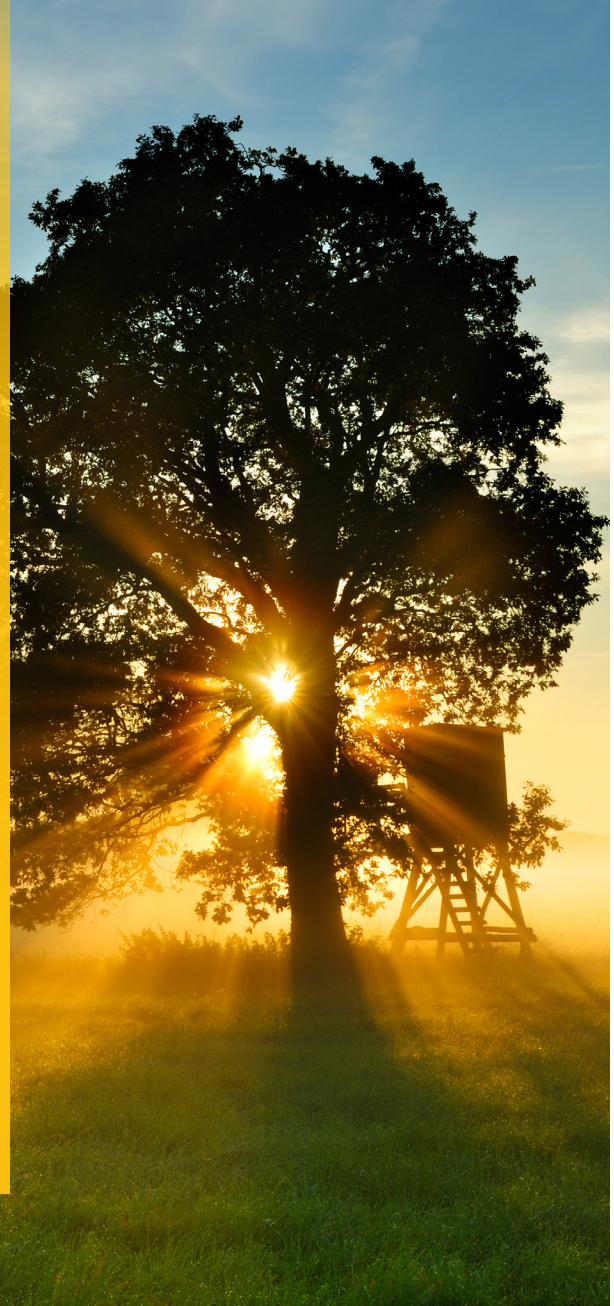
Office: 109 E Central Ave, Suite #3

Phone: (260) 463-4363

Fax: (260) 463-4856

E-mail: lccf@lccf.net

www.lccf.net



www.lccf.net