



**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Generosity, Leadership  
and Service*



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**ON THE COVER:** a LaGrange County sunset as captured by *Keith James Photography*.

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# Setting a New Direction

As a county-wide nonprofit, we're focused on helping charitable people find ways to support their passions. As we encounter people in this community, we're honored to work with people to find new ways to meet community needs and continue pursuing a bigger mission.

We launched our new strategic plan in 2022 to embark on setting new vision for the Community Foundation.

In October of 2021, we conducted focus groups with LaGrange County nonprofit directors and community leaders and surveyed key stakeholders, including donors, board members, nonprofits, community partners, and volunteers.

Our Board of Directors and staff listened to the feedback and ideas from those conversations at our annual Board Retreat in November. We challenged ourselves to be open to new ideas, strive for excellence, and to listen to community needs.

The Board of Directors approved the strategic plan in February 2022. The plan identified four areas of focus: Asset Development, Community Catalyst, Leadership and Strengthening Nonprofits.

The focus areas drive our overall strategy over the next four years. **We strive to proactively raise funds to increase impact around community needs.** With increased assets, we can help support more of the good in our community.

**We will continue to define and understand our role as a community leader.** Our goal is to support initiatives critical to the quality of life and growth in our community, and to provide organizational support where relevant. We championed and worked with partners

to complete LaGrange County Together, the county's new comprehensive plan that will guide community development efforts.

As we seek to support the development of community needs, it's important that we continue to grow the knowledge of our own internal leadership: **we will focus on fostering, recruiting, and retaining people, resources, and knowledge to excel in our mission.**

Lastly, our focus remains on supporting the nonprofit community. Our assets are meant to spark good in our community and support charitable organizations meeting critical needs.

Our partners do the groundwork each day in LaGrange County to improve the quality of life. **We seek to strengthen nonprofits as we align our Foundation grant and education opportunities with nonprofit needs.** This step involves looking at how we can develop programs that help nonprofits beyond grant awards. We want to help develop a strong nonprofit community that is ready to face the issues of tomorrow.

We are energized to move forward and continue serving the people of LaGrange County. We don't do this work alone – we are grateful for the community partners, volunteers and donors that support the mission of the Community Foundation – to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership, and service.

With gratitude,

*Octavia Yoder*

**Octavia Yoder**  
Executive Director



# Community Impact Grants

**COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS** are awarded based on a competitive grant application process to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. The Community Foundation seeks to fund innovative or creative projects with significant benefit to LaGrange County. Donors who support our unrestricted and field of interest funds make these grants possible. Nonprofit organizations serving LaGrange County are eligible to apply in six areas of interest: arts & culture, health & human services, recreation, community development, environment and education.

## 2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Agape Child Care Ministry   Agape Professional Development and Cleaning Support .....	\$10,000
Agape Missions of LaGrange County   Agape House Ministry Recovery .....	\$10,000
Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana   Client Advocate and Services Program .....	\$3,500
Clothes & Food Basket of LaGrange County   Hungry No More .....	\$7,500
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana LaGrange County Farm Wagon (Mobile Food Pantry) .....	\$2,000
Community Health Clinic   Community Health Clinic Building Project, .....	\$40,000
Community Improvement League of South Milford   South Milford Veterans Memorial Project .....	\$10,000
Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center   Amish Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Education .....	\$2,809
Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry   “Meat” The Need .....	\$2,000
Junior Achievement of LaGrange County   Elementary Programs .....	\$3,000
LaGrange County Miracle Tree   Turn up for Teens .....	\$2,000
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District   Conservation Drone Program .....	\$8,000
LaGrange Church of God   LaGrange Night to Shine .....	\$5,000
Mad Anthonys Children’s Hope House   Overnight Accommodations for LaGrange County Families . . .	\$2,000
McMillen Health   Preventive Health Education for LaGrange County Youth .....	\$2,500
Purdue Extension LaGrange County   Blender & Spin-Art Bike .....	\$3,075
RespectTeam   LaGrange County RespectTeam Programming .....	\$3,000
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Indiana Ronald McDonald House Programs for LaGrange County Families .....	\$2,000
Shore Church   Shpshewana Ministerial Association Assistance Fund .....	\$2,500
The ARC of LaGrange County   Summer Discovery Program .....	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$140,884</b>



## COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

### Community Health Clinic Building Project | \$40,000

**THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC** is a non-profit healthcare facility in Topeka that provides specialized genetics care consistent with Amish and Mennonite (Plain) values. The CHC provides clinical genetic services to all individuals, regardless of religion, race or age.

The CHC began in 2008 in a modestly leased space in the basement of a medical building in Topeka. The location was suitable for the first couple of years of operation. However, since seeing their first patient, their staff has grown five-fold, and their patients ten-fold. To sustain Community Health Clinic's mission and further their vision, the time had come to plan, fund, and build a new facility in Shipshewana.

Over the last eight years, the CHC has served over 4,100 patients, both children and adults, with rare genetic and metabolic disorders. The clinic provides medical management of complex diseases and offers genetic counseling, dietary management, and newborn screening. Their patient population continues to grow, both near their clinic and in outlying communities.

The new \$4.6 million clinic is slated to open in the fall of 2023. The 15,000 square-foot facility is designed to allow for efficient future expansion. The CHC will be able to meet current needs and better serve families with an increased number of patient care rooms. These rooms will be significantly larger, providing increased capacity and comfort for patient families with complex medical needs.

The facility will have dedicated rooms for genetic counseling, dietary services for those with metabolic disorders, and spaces to host an increased number of patient-centered research studies. Meeting rooms will accommodate both small and large groups and the walkout lower level features a Community Room that will host education events and disease-specific family gatherings. This much needed additional space will bring families together to cultivate support and learn more from each other.

"Having the first clinic building of our own will enhance our services to better meet the needs of a growing community and help improve the quality of life for those rare genetic conditions through patient care, education, and research," said Blake Andres, Community Health Clinic Director of Development and Planning.





## **LAGRANGE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SWCD Conservation Drone Program | \$8,000**

The LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District began in 1952 to provide leadership and assistance in the proper use and management of soil, water, and related resources in LaGrange County. The district's new drone program will serve local soil and water needs with aerial drone imagery, helping residents address agriculture and natural resource concerns. Issues that can be addressed are building sites, soil

erosion, water quality issues, pasture management, and livestock management. The drone program is also an educational opportunity for high school students to learn about precision agriculture, and how drones are used within the field of conservation and agriculture. The LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District will be the first district in northeast Indiana to provide this service.





## LAGRANGE CHURCH OF GOD Night to Shine | \$5,000

For six years, Night to Shine LaGrange, in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation, has provided a free prom for people with special needs. The night is filled with activities including music and dancing, a game room, karaoke area, sensory room (for those that struggle with over stimulation), a catered meal, limousine services, valet parking, hair salon and shoeshine services. Each guest walks the red carpet and is crowned King and Queen of the prom before the night is over and goes home with a party favor bag filled with numerous treats from the event. The event in February of 2022 served 238 guests; 399 people served as buddies and volunteers.

“We are so grateful to LCCF for the grant in helping to cover the costs of Night to Shine. The community support of volunteerism and gift donations was truly amazing and made Night to Shine 2023 a memorable evening for all involved!” said Allisa Brown, Night to Shine LaGrange Event Coordinator.



# Donors

## INDIVIDUALS

Bailey Riemer	Garry Rawlings	Kari Reynolds	Randy and Stacey Riemer
Ben Thomas	Gary and Linda Zehr	Kathy Hopper	Raymond and Janis Yoder
Carl and Denise Scott	George Witwer Estate	Kent Ihrle	Richard and Kay Rhodes
Carroll and Roberta Miller	Glen and Linda Patterson	Kevin and Carrie Lambright	Richard Long
Chuck and Dawn Miller	Gloria Sherwood	Larry and Coralu Pearson	Robert and Deborah Schlemmer
Craig Bobay	Greg and Pam Wingstrom	Louis C. Zabona	Robert and Sandra Allread
Daniel and Jennifer Mains	Greg Todd	Lynn and Laura Weaver	Steve and LuAnn Gage
Dean and Angela Reeve	Isaac Hunter	Marilyn Graber	Tara Heign
Deann Knepp	Jack and Deborah Gaff	Dr. Mark and Laura O'Shaughnessy	Terrence and Julia Bobay
Deanna Chrisman	James Warrener	Michelle J. Schmidt	Terry and Kathleen Mobley
Deb Lambright	Jeanette Hess	Mike and Debbie Stroup	Terry and Nancy Wehrkamp
Diane Self	Jeff and Marilyn Wingstrom	Miles Perkins	Thomas Beaver
Don Bruce Cleveland	John VanderRoest	Nancy Colter-Appleman	Tim Hudson
Donald and Joyce Bush	Joyce Woodworth	Shawn and Octavia Yoder	Tracie Disher
Douglas W. Maginn	Howard and Mary Petersen	Pamela S. Green	Trenia Bowen
Dr. John S. McKibben	Judith C. Perkins Estate	R. Bruce Brim Revocable Living Trust	
Duane and Heidi Rheinheimer	Judith Wise	R. Stan and Melanie Todd	
Elma and Gary Chapman	Julia Moore	Randy and Peggy Baumgartner	
Floyd and Florence Perkins Heirs	Julianne and Keith Bobay		
	Karen and David Kauffman		

## ORGANIZATIONS

American Online Giving Foundation	Hostetler & Young Insurance Agency	Lewis & Lambright, Inc.	Credit Shelter Trust
Beers Mallers, LLP	Independent Colleges of Indiana	Lewis Quality Homes, Inc.	Robert Adam QTIP Marital Trust
Charities Aid Foundation America	Indiana Philanthropy Alliance	Lolo's Lakeside Retreat LLC	Sons of the American Legion Post #215
Christner's Catering Inc.	Jerry's Standard	Milford Township Trustee	South Milford Grain Company, Inc.
Community Improvement League of South Milford	KZRV, L.P.	Miller Poultry	Stickley's Ace Hardware
Cover Crop Partners, LLC	LaGrange County Economic Development Corp.	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	The Dekko Foundation
Dock Solutions of Indiana, LLC	LaGrange County Treasurer	New Leaves, Inc.	Tire Star of Wolcottville
Ernsberger & Helmer	LaGrange County Treasurer	Olive B. Cole Foundation	Topeka Do It Best Hardware
Farm Credit Mid-America	LaGrange First United Methodist Church	Parkview Health	Total Sports Solutions, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable	LaGrange Monument Works	Plato Home Extension Club	Townline Dental, Inc.
FN Chairs	Lake City Bank	Richard F. Weaver and Janice F. Weaver Educational Trust	Trading Post Outfitters
Fruip-May Funeral Home	Lakeland Title Company	River Woodworking, LLC	Tri-County Insurance Agency
Grand Design RV LLC	Lakeland Youth Basketball Association	Robert Adam Irrevocable	Westview School Corporation



# Gifts

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

### Jean Seagly Crouse Memorial Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Jean Seagly Crouse  
Michael Mikhail and Mary Billings

In Memory of Fannie Zehr  
Raymond and Janis Yoder  
Gary and Linda Zehr  
Chuck and Dawn Miller  
Jeanette Hess  
Marilyn Graber  
Donald and Joyce Bush

### Howe Legacy Fund

In Memory of James Kelly  
Judith Wise

### Chase E. Scott Memorial Football Scholarship

In Memory of Chase Scott  
Carl and Denise Scott

### Stroh Community Fund

In Memory of Judith Perkins  
Howard and Mary Petersen

### Westview Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Phillip R. Self  
Diane Self

### Veterans Headstone Project Fund

In Memory of Donna and Leonard  
Lambright  
Tracie Disher

In Memory of James Franklin Hart  
Mike and Debbie Stroup

In Memory of Murlyn Wilson, Robert  
Rhodes and Wilfred Dunkel  
Richard and Kay Rhodes

## GIFTS IN HONOR

### Judy Gage Keenan Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Kari Reynolds  
Steve and LuAnn Gage

In Honor of Erin Lynn Nuff  
Steve and LuAnn Gage



# LaGrange County Hometown Heroes

## COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

**KEITH JAMES**, Howe, has always been proud of his father's military service. During a Leadership LaGrange County program session, James suggested LaGrange County adopt a Hometown Heroes program he witnessed in Hometown.

There, the banners of men and women who served in the military hang proudly on the utility poles in the community. James wanted to instill that same feeling of community pride in LaGrange.

For a fee, families could pay to sponsor a banner of a loved one or friend. James took the photos submitted to him, touched them up, and in some cases, colorized them.

Through the leadership program, James received a \$2,000 start up grant from the LaGrange County Community Foundation to start LaGrange County Hometown Heroes and created a community project fund at the Foundation.

In the first year, 36 banners were produced and placed on private or LaGrange-owned utility poles in the community.

The banner program honors LaGrange County heroes, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Law Enforcement and Fire Protection personnel.

# Funds

*The Community Foundation offers a variety of fund types to suit each donors' personal philanthropic goals.*

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Donors who establish Unrestricted Funds understand these funds are key to the Community Foundation's ability to meet emerging needs. Community Funds provide flexible resources to address the needs and opportunities of our beloved communities as they change over time. Income from these funds is granted in response to grant applications from LaGrange County nonprofit organizations. The Board of Directors can also direct funds to be used for specific Foundation initiatives and desired community outcomes.

**Caring Community Fund**  
**Dale Sturtz Memorial Fund**  
**Dekko Enhancement Fund**  
**Education Fund**  
**Founders Community Fund**  
**Knights of Pythias LaGrange Lodge No. 144 Fund**  
**Lambright Charitable Fund**  
**McKenzie Family Fund**  
**R.E. Lee Family Fund**  
**Sharp Family Fund**  
**Stanley "Chip" Krugh Memorial Fund**  
**Willard Family Community Fund**

## AGENCY FUNDS

Created by nonprofit organizations to provide a stream of income for their organization.

**LaGrange Communities Youth Centers Agency Fund**  
**Northeastern Center Agency Fund**  
**Questa Education Foundation Fund**  
**Scott Cemetery Fund**  
**Topeka Area Historical Society Fund**

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds benefit a specific nonprofit organization for as long as that organization is in existence and is fulfilling its intended purpose. Typically, a donor establishes a designated fund to benefit a favorite organization or church.

**ACRES Nature Preservation & Education Fund**  
**Brethren Retreat Ministries, Inc. Fund**  
**Community Dental Clinic Fund**  
**Delores McNett & Talmage Family Prairie Heights FFA Washington Leadership Conference Fund**  
**Elijah Haven Fund**  
**Howe Military School Alumni Association Fund**  
**Junior Achievement of LaGrange County Fund**  
**Kenny Burkett Health Fund**  
**LaGrange County 4-H Association Fund**  
**LaGrange County Amish Schools Fund**  
**LaGrange County Council on Aging Program Fund**  
**LaGrange County Endowment Fund**

**LaGrange County Public Library Fund**  
**Lakeland School Corporation Fund**  
**Lima United Methodist Church Fund**  
**Menno-Hof Fund**  
**Northeastern Center Community Mental Health Fund**  
**Rainbow Years Learning Center Fund**  
**Scott United Methodist Church Fund**  
**Topeka Civic Endowment Fund**  
**United Fund of LaGrange County Endowment Fund**  
**Westview Scholarship Pretzel Fund**  
**Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana Fund**

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds enable donors to achieve their personal charitable goals. Individuals, families, organizations often establish these funds to direct grants to their favorite organization. These funds enable donors the ability to give like an independent Foundation with the guidance and support of the Community Foundation.

**E. Marie Dwight Community Fund**  
**George O. Witwer Advised Fund**  
**Keith and Doreen Lambright Family Fund**  
**Kerm Troyer Charitable Advised Fund**  
**LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce Fund**  
**Petersen Advised Fund**  
**Zehr Family Advised Fund**

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Field of Interest Funds specify that income from the fund is to support a donor's particular area of concern, such as the arts, education, care of the elderly or environment without naming a specific organization to which grants will be made.

**CAPE II Endowment Fund**

**CenturyLink Economic Community Development Fund**

**Children's Hope Fund**

**Cultural Arts Council of LaGrange County, Inc. Fund**

**Emergency Relief Fund**

**Good Samaritan Fund**

**Healthcare Foundation, Inc.**

**Howe Legacy Fund**

**LaGrange County Animal Welfare Fund**

**LaGrange County Senior Citizens Fund**

**LaGrange County Youth Fund**

**Leadership Development Fund**

**LIFE Grants Fund**

**Quality Child Care Endowment Fund**

**Shipshewana Community Fund**

**Stroh Community Fund**

## OPERATING FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

Operating Funds are the engines that keep the Community Foundation going. By contributing to these funds, you are helping the Foundation grow faster to improve the quality of life for all of LaGrange County. These funds support the day-to-day operations of the Community Foundation.

**Operating Fund**

**LCCF Operating Endowment**

**Cole Foundation Administrative Fund**

**NIPSCO Fund: LCCF Operating Endowment**

## COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS

Community Project Funds are temporary funds held at the LaGrange County Community Foundation for various projects and groups within LaGrange County. They provide an opportunity for the Community Foundation to offer service and leadership to the community. In some agreements, the LaGrange County Community Foundation also becomes the fiscal sponsor for the organization.

**Carroll and Roberta Miller Shipshewana Park Fund**

**College Success Coalition Fund**

**Council for Drug Free LaGrange County Fund**

**Friends of the LaGrange County Parks Fund**

**LaGrange County Arts Fund**

**LaGrange County Drug Court Fund**

**LaGrange County Early Learning Coalition Fund**

**LaGrange County Health Coalition Fund**

**LaGrange County Hometown Heroes Fund**

**LIFE Fund**

**Veterans Headstone Project Fund**

**Save the Wolcott House Fund**

**South Milford Veterans Memorial Project**

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Scholarship Funds enable students to achieve their educational dreams. Individuals, families, organizations, or businesses often establish these funds.

**Allread-Rife Family Scholarship**

**Amanda Lou Crotts Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Beverly J. Todd Memorial Scholarship**

**Brian J. Evans Memorial Scholarship**

**Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Bulldog Spirit Scholarship Fund**

**Chase E. Scott Memorial Football Scholarship**

**Community Scholarship Fund**

**Craig D. Neff & Ronda S. Neff Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**D & H Rheinheimer Scholarship Fund**

**Eldon Hostetler Family Scholarship Fund**

**Ellsworth Fanning Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Farmwald Scholarship Fund**

**Florence E. & Virgil L. Hardin Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**George O. Witwer News-Sun Journalism Scholarship Fund**

**Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship Fund**

**Hope Nursing Scholarship Fund**

**Howe Legacy Scholarship Fund**

**Huggins Family Scholarship Fund**

**James F. Kalb Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Jean Seagly Crouse Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**J.O. Mory Company Scholarship Fund**

**Joseph J. Willard Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Judy Gage Keenan Scholarship Fund**

**Keith & Arline Davis Scholarship Fund**

**Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Kevin Lewis Purdue Agriculture Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**LaGrange County Farm Bureau Co-op Scholarship**

**Lakeland Scholarship Fund**

**Lambright Leadership Scholarship Fund**

**LIFE Scholarship Fund**

**Lyle Smith Discretionary Scholarship Fund**

**Mary E. McGawn Future Teacher Scholarship**

Mattea Hope Holton Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Terry Memorial Scholarship Fund

Melvin & Marjorie Bricker Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Mory Family Scholarship Fund

Natalie Kauffman Nursing Scholarship Fund

Ned Stump Scholarship Fund

Olivia Bay Lemings Scholarship Fund

Paul & Marian Krebs Scholarship Fund

Perkins Scholarship Fund

Prairie Heights Band Scholarship Fund

Prairie Heights Scholarship Fund

Prairie Heights Student Council Leadership Scholarship Fund

Ray and Ruth Culp Memorial Scholarship Fund

Russell Hepler Telecommunication Scholarship

Schlemmer Scholarship Fund

Stan Anderson Memorial Golf Scholarship Fund

Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball Scholarship Fund

Waddell Scholarship Fund

Westview Scholarship Fund

# New Funds

ESTABLISHED IN 2022

## Carroll and Roberta Miller Shishewana Park Fund

Carroll Miller, a Shishewana native, and his wife created the Shishewana Park Fund to support the redevelopment of the park ball diamonds and other park improvements.

## Huggins Family Scholarship Fund

William and Ruby Huggins established the Huggins Family Scholarship Fund to support a LaGrange County graduating senior pursuing a career in nursing.

## Jean Seagly Crouse Memorial Scholarship Fund

Supports a LaGrange County student pursuing a degree in teaching and education. Honors Jean Seagly Crouse, a fifth-grade teacher at Topeka Elementary School for 25 years. Jean grew up in Topeka and graduated as valedictorian of Topeka High School in 1944. She attended the University of Michigan for two years before marrying Donald Crouse. After their four children were all in the school, she returned to complete her undergraduate degree in education from Goshen College in 1963.

## LaGrange County Arts Fund

LaGrange County Arts is a collective of local artists and art appreciators who believe in promoting, and supporting the literary, musical performance, visual and theatrical arts in LaGrange County. The LaGrange County Arts Fund supports the collective's programming and events.

## LaGrange County Hometown Heroes Fund

Supports the LaGrange County Hometown Heroes Banner Program honoring local LaGrange County heroes including current and former military, first responders and law enforcement. The purpose of the program is to build community pride by highlighting the contributions of those who have served our country and community.

## South Milford Veterans Memorial Project Fund

Supports the South Milford Community Improvement League's Veterans Memorial Project – the reconstruction of the 1923 Soldiers Monument and creating a community park.

# *A Heart for Others*

## **ALLISA BROWN RECEIVES HEART OF GOLD AWARD**

**ALLISA HAS BEEN** involved in the LaGrange community, but her passion is serving adults with developmental disabilities. She led Friendship Bible Study at the LaGrange First Church of God. The program allowed friends with developmental disabilities to get together, worship, learn the word of God and socialize. The church transitioned to a new program – LaGrange All Stars – matching participants with volunteer buddies in monthly program format. Allisa serves as the site director for LaGrange All Stars, coordinating adaptive sports and gym activities, karaoke, projects and crafts, snacks, interactive worship, and chapel.

Most importantly, Allisa brought Night to Shine to LaGrange County in 2019. Sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, Night to Shine is a prom experience for adults ages 14 and older with special needs. Guests are matched with buddies, and enjoy dancing, eating, playing games, and most importantly having fun with their community. Each year, Allisa puts hours into organizing this event so her friends she has grown to love dearly can have a night where they truly shine. Since its beginning, Night to Shine LaGrange County annually hosts more than 150 adults with special needs.

“I’ve had the pleasure to get to know Allisa Brown over the last six years. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Allisa, you are missing out. She is one of the kindest and most selfless people I know,” said Laura Webb.





## THE HEARTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

**SINCE 2010**, the Foundation has honored individuals in LaGrange County who go beyond the call and embrace a commitment to service with the Heart of Gold Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made an extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and serving others. The selection committee considers qualities that reflect their selfless acts of kindness, even in challenging situations, to help individuals and the community take advantage of opportunities and create positive change.

The Community Foundation received four nominations for the 2022 award: **Allisa Brown** of Howe; **Carolyn Hostetler** of Howe; **Chad Miller** of Shipshewana; and **Kailie Snyder-Evard** of Howe.

## HEART OF GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2010 – David Clark
- 2011 – Rhonda Bartlett
- 2012 – Colton Strawser
- 2013 – Randall Packer
- 2014 – Jack Miller
- 2015 – Sue Keenan
- 2016 – Steve Sherck
- 2017 – Kevin Lambright
- 2018 – Larry Strayer
- 2019 – Richard Yoder
- 2020 – Erica Cook
- 2021 – Shanan Staton and Dean Domer
- 2022 – Allisa Brown

# New Grantmaking Initiatives

**THESE GRANTS ARE** made possible through the generosity of donors who have supported the Caring Community Fund and the unrestricted funds of the Community Foundation.

## NONPROFIT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

**NONPROFIT ASSISTANCE GRANTS** are made available to LaGrange County nonprofit organizations and provide support for short-term or emergency needs up to \$2,500. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and organizations are notified within one month. Nonprofit Assistance Grants are accepted for needs in the following areas: technology, training, operations, emergency, and awareness events.

Mongo Community Development Association   Mongo Community Development Safety .....	\$2,000
Agape Missions of LaGrange County   Apartment Refrigerator.....	\$700
Ark Animal Rescue & Adoption, Inc.   Operation Fix It.....	\$2,500
Elijah Haven   Technology .....	\$670
Community Health Clinic   Donor Perfect Software.....	\$2,500
Clothes & Food Basket of LaGrange County   Computer Upgrade .....	\$2,500
Arc of LaGrange County   “Lights, Camera, Action” .....	\$2,255
The Farm Place, Inc.   Technology .....	\$1,300
LaGrange County Historical Society   Operations Grant .....	\$1,000
Rainbow Years Learning Ministry   Technology .....	\$2,450
LaGrange County Council on Aging   Technology .....	\$2,125
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

## FESTIVAL GRANTS

**FESTIVALS PROVIDE VIBRANCY** to our neighborhoods and allow people to join in celebration of their community, fostering pride and a sense of community spirit. The Community Foundations recognizes festivals enhance the quality of life in LaGrange County. These grants strengthen efforts in hosting a stellar community festival that build community pride in our neighborhoods.

Wolcottville Mill Festival.....	\$1,000
Howe Indian Summer Days.....	\$1,000
Mayfest .....	\$500
Topeka 4th of July Celebration .....	\$1,000
Stroh Days.....	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>







## 2022 Lily Endowment Scholarship

**LILLIAN SCHACKOW** of Lakeland High School is the recipient of the 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Lillian attends Indiana Wesleyan University and studies elementary education and special education. She is the daughter of Jason and Elisa Schackow of LaGrange. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are selected for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a bachelor's degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-1999 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling in excess of \$439 million. More than 5,000 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.



## 2022 COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

# Scholarships

**THE LAGRANGE COUNTY** Community Foundation administers scholarship funds established by individuals, families, corporations, and organizations to assist graduating high school students and other students in their educational pursuit. With more than 45 scholarship funds under management, the Community Foundation enables students to achieve their educational goals.

Each scholarship fund has its own individual criteria and requirements. Our volunteer Scholarship Advisory Committee reviews applications from qualified candidates and makes award recommendations to our Board of Directors. These awards are charitable grants that the recipient is not required to pay back. Scholarships may be used for any educational expense.

### Allread-Rife Family Scholarship

**Samarah Orr**  
Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Brooklynn Olinger**  
Lakeland  
\$1,000

### Amanda Lou Crotts Memorial Scholarship

**Samarah Orr**  
Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

### Beverly Todd Memorial Scholarship

**Kirsten Norton**  
Prairie Heights  
\$2,000

### Brian Evans Memorial Scholarship

**Keylee Fleeman**  
Lakeland  
\$500

### Bruce Brown Memorial Scholarship

**Brooklynn Olinger**  
Lakeland  
\$500

### Bulldog Spirit Scholarship

**Lucile Cook**  
Lakeland  
\$1,000

### Chase Scott Memorial Football Scholarship

**Cole Schiffl**  
Lakeland  
\$1,000

### Craig D. and Ronda S. Neff Memorial Scholarship

**Katelyn Eash**  
Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Keylee Fleeman**  
Lakeland  
\$1,000

### Ellsworth Fanning Memorial Scholarship

**Bohdy Bontrager**  
Westview  
\$2,000

### Farmwald Scholarship

**Isaac Rogers**  
Westview  
\$2,000

### George O. Witwer Memorial Scholarship

**Isaac Rogers**  
Westview  
\$1,000

### Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship

**Lillian Eash**  
Westview  
\$2,000

### HOPE Nursing Scholarship

**Katelyn Eash**  
Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

### J.O. Mory Company Scholarship

**Colton Penick**  
Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

### James F. Kalb Memorial Scholarship

**Lillian Eash**  
Westview  
\$2,000

### Joseph Willard Memorial Scholarship

**Cole Schiffl**  
Lakeland  
\$2,000

### Judy Gage-Keenan Scholarship

**Madi Targgart**  
Lakeland  
\$2,000

### Keith and Arline Davis Memorial Scholarship

**Lillian Eash**  
Westview  
\$500



**Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial Scholarship**

**Allie Springer**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Lakeland Scholarship**

**Brooklynn Olinger**

Lakeland  
\$1,000

**Lambright Leadership Scholarship**

**Lillian Eash**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Jackson Minix**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Isaac Rogers**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Kaylyn Gates**

Westview  
\$1,000

**LIFE Scholarship**

**Lillian Eash**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Lyle Smith Scholarship**

**Kaylyn Gates**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Mary McGawn Teaching Scholarship**

**Brooklynn Olinger**

Lakeland  
\$1,000

**Mattea Holton Memorial Scholarship**

**Lucile Cook**

Lakeland  
\$500

**Melvin and Majorie Bricker Memorial Scholarship**

**Lillian Eash**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Jackson Minix**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship**

**Penelope Eash**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Mory Family Scholarship**

**Jaden Soller**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,500

**Ned Stump Memorial Scholarship**

**Lillian Eash**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Olivia Bay Lemings Memorial Scholarship**

**Pilar Canedo**

Lakeland  
\$1,000

**Paul and Marian Krebs Scholarship**

**Pilar Canedo**

Lakeland  
\$3,000

**Perkins Scholarship**

**Katelyn Eash**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Prairie Heights Band Scholarship**

**Brenda Sutton**

Prairie Heights  
\$500

**Prairie Heights Scholarship**

**Samarah Orr**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Alexandrea German**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Jaden Soller**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Colton Penick**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Ray and Ruth Culp Memorial Scholarship**

**Katelyn Eash**

Prairie Heights  
\$2,000

**Rheinheimer Scholarship**

**Brooklyn Lambright**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Bohdy Bontrager**

Westview  
\$1,000

**Schlemmer Scholarship**

**Isabella Rasler**

Lakeland  
\$500

**Terry Schmidt Memorial Basketball Scholarship**

**Jason McBride, Jr**

Lakeland  
\$3,000

**Virgil and Florence Hardin Memorial Scholarship**

**Katelyn Eash**

Prairie Heights  
\$1,000

**Waddell Scholarship**

**Madi Targgart**

Lakeland  
\$2,000

*Above photos, left to right: Brooklynn Olinger, Cole Schiffli, Isabella Rasler, Jason McBride, Alexandra German, Colton Penick, Jaden Soller, Katelyn Eash, Samarah Orr, Brookelyn Lambright, Isaac Rogers, Jackson Minix, Kaylyn Gates, Penelope Eash*



# Life Youth Philanthropy

## 2022-2023 LIFE MEMBERS

### Lakeland:

- Gabrielle Hartman
- Cassidi Parham
- Landon Jaeger
- Hayden Phillips

### Prairie Heights:

- Samuel R.L. Updike
- Emma Crites
- Lexi Keener
- Nevaeh Orr

### Westview:

- Isaiah Hostetler
- Braden Rogers
- Gwendolyn Owsley
- Brina Williams

**THE LAGRANGE COUNTY** Community Foundation’s youth philanthropy program – LIFE – provides an opportunity for youth to gain experience and knowledge in grantmaking, charitable giving and volunteering.

LIFE is made up of representatives from grades 9-12 from LaGrange County’s public high schools: Lakeland, Westview and Prairie Heights. Students serve as advisors for youth funding decisions at the Community

Foundation. LIFE members review applications for education and youth projects serving LaGrange County and grant philanthropic dollars to organizations making a difference.

LIFE awards an annual scholarship to a LaGrange County high school senior involved in community service. The group also actively participates in community service projects throughout the school year.

## LIFE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY GRANTS

Westview Jr.-Sr. High School   Oakley’s Squad Classroom Library .....	\$375
Science Central   Science4U Outreach, IVC Programs, Science2Go Kits, and Study Trips .....	\$2,000
Community Harvest Food Bank   Kids BackPack & TeenPak Weekend Hunger-Relief Program .....	\$2,500
Erin’s House for Grieving Children	
Erin’s House Grief Support Services for Children and Teens in LaGrange County .....	\$2,500
Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center   Teen Dating Violence Program .....	\$600
Lakeland Jr. Sr. High School   Juntos .....	\$800
LaGrange Communities Youth Centers   2022 After School Programming .....	\$1,500
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky   Reading Camp at Camp Lutherwald .....	\$600
Westview Elementary School   Keyboards for Kids .....	\$1,219
Prairie Heights High School   E-Sports Program .....	\$2,500
LaGrange County Department of Parks & Recreation   Maple Syrup Days 2023 .....	\$2,000
Reason 4 Hope   Block Party Backpacks .....	\$2,500
Westview Jr. Sr. High School   Acoustic Guitars .....	\$1,082
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$19,676</b>



# LaGrange County Together

**LAGRANGE COUNTY TOGETHER** is a community-driven process to prepare a comprehensive plan for the County, the towns of LaGrange, Shipshewana, Topeka, and Wolcottville, and all unincorporated areas. The process is designed to last 16 months, beginning in April 2021, and is led by the LaGrange County Plan Commission and the LaGrange County Community Foundation.

The plan must be supported by a clear understanding of the county as it is, with research and data providing a foundation from which to move forward. At the same time, the values and priorities of community members – the real experts on LaGrange County – will supply the guidance and direction that make this not just a plan, but a movement. Everyone who cares about the future of LaGrange County will be given the opportunity to provide their input through community engagement efforts hosted throughout the county. The technical analysis and feedback from the community gathered will then be used to create the final plan.

A comprehensive plan can have far reaching effects in the community and improve the County's potential for growth, talent attraction, and job creation. The

comprehensive plan is the logical tool to move a community forward, to wisely accommodate growth, and to address challenges. Fortunately for LaGrange County, there are important physical assets and personal assets (collaborative leadership). More specifically, the motivation for the plan includes:

- **Evaluating community trends and identifying progress since past plans**
- **Educating the community on the value and use of a comprehensive plan**
- **Coordinating efforts and defining a shared vision for the County, Towns, and unincorporated areas**
- **Engaging a diverse set of citizens to understand the broad range of perspectives in the County**
- **Identifying and capitalizing on existing assets**
- **Preserving agricultural and natural resources while supporting growth**
- **Creating decision making tools and policies for future development**
- **Assuring action plans are implemented**

2022

# Board of Directors



**Neal Wolheter**  
PRESIDENT



**Renea Boots**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Lynn Weaver**  
TREASURER



**Tony Bontrager**  
SECRETARY



**George Brown**



**Randy Zimmerly**



**Trevor Thain**

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is fortunate to participate in the Community Foundation Internships program funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. We offer a paid internship to undergraduate or graduate students during the summer and benefit from a variety of projects they produce. In 2022, we welcomed **Chelsea Weaver** as a summer intern.

## Staff



**Octavia Yoder**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Leanna Martin**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



**Laurie Sherck**  
OFFICE AND SCHOLARSHIP  
MANAGER

# Committees

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Neal Wolheter  
Renea Boots  
Lynn Weaver  
Tony Bontrager

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

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Bob Fanning  
Charlie Ashcraft  
Jeff Wible  
Kevin Myers  
Mahlon Bontrager  
Lynn Weaver  
George Brown

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

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Chuck Christner  
Neal Wolheter  
Lynn Weaver  
Renea Boots  
Tony Bontrager

## GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Lynn Bowen  
Alice Bremer  
Trevor Thain  
Tony Bontrager  
Stan Clark  
Randy Zimmerly

## SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Amy Oberlin  
Brenda Rife  
Cathy Heal  
Christine Yoder  
Christine Mossburg  
Crystal Leu  
David McAlister  
David Schmidt  
Deb Schlemmer  
Debra Lambright  
Eric Yordy

Gail Hollister  
Haley Nickell  
Ian Mullen  
Jennifer McBride  
Jenny Landez  
Joey White  
Julia Rubinstein  
Keith James  
Kimberly Mishler  
Laura James  
Lauri Couture

Lora Stutzman  
Lyle Smith  
Maggie Pechin  
Mareen Barton  
Marianna (Peggy) DeMott  
Megan Simpson  
Melinda West  
Monica Messer  
Patrick Wiltshire  
Peggy Whitlock

Randy Baumgartner  
Rosy O'Brian  
Sarah Bontrager  
Sara Patrick  
Sherilyn Lackey  
Taylor Stidham  
Tim Cleveland  
Tracie Duff  
Trenia Bowen

## LILLY SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Renea Boots  
Trevor Thain  
George Brown  
Sara Patrick

# Financials

LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.  
and Supporting Organization

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

**\$596,931** GRANTS AWARDED

**\$1,641,490** TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

	Dec. 31, 2022	Dec. 31, 2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 746,949	\$ 3,161,713
Promise to give	721,081	–
Investments	19,349,763	20,544,379
Property and equipment, net	562,976	584,696
Other assets	1,609	5,605
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,382,378</b>	<b>\$ 24,296,393</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities:		
Accounts and other payables	\$ 30,662	\$ 30,569
Funds held for others	194,856	234,776
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 225,518</b>	<b>\$ 265,345</b>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 8,173,069	\$ 8,844,668
With donor restrictions	12,983,791	15,186,380
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>21,156,860</b>	<b>24,031,048</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,382,378</b>	<b>\$ 24,296,393</b>

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is supported by individuals and corporate donors and receives no tax support. The financial information presented is extracted from the audit report of Haines, Isenbarger & Skiba, LLC dated March 24, 2023. The complete financial statements and accompanying notes are available by contacting the Foundation office. LCCF also files an IRS Form 990 each year. A copy of our Form 990 is available by contacting the Foundation office or online at [Lccf.net/financial-information](http://Lccf.net/financial-information).



# Recognizing Generosity

**The Legacy Society of the LaGrange County Community Foundation recognizes donors who believe in leaving a lasting charitable legacy in LaGrange County through a planned gift in their estate plans. Society members make a personal imprint and leave a lasting legacy in our community.**

## JOINING THE LEGACY SOCIETY

**THOSE WHO** remember the Foundation through a will, trust, designation, or other planned gift, are invited to inform us of their intentions and join in the Foundation's Legacy Society.

Too often, these gifts are unrecognized because we are unaware of these special gifts until the donor has passed away. At these times, proper appreciation cannot be expressed and questions regarding the specific purpose of the gift may remain unanswered. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank donors during their lifetime and ensure that your wishes are properly documented.

You may always choose to remain anonymous in your philanthropy. However, participation in The Legacy Society can be an inspirational experience and may encourage others to look toward the future and how they too may have an enduring impact on the causes they care about.

Only a statement of intent to leave a gift to the LaGrange County Community Foundation is required. No documentation of gift amount or type is necessary. Legacy Society members may designate the use of the distributions from their future gifts or may leave the distributions to the discretion of our Board of Directors. A Legacy Society gift may be used to establish a new fund or may be added to any of the Foundation's existing funds.

## LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

**Burvel and Laura Lemings**

**George O. Witwer**

**Keith and Linda Stanton**

**Katie Kirtley-Yoder**

**Jack Stark**

**Miles and Judith Perkins**

## ANONYMOUS GIVING

**LCCF LOVES SHARING** stories of our donors and their motivations for giving back to their community so generously. However, we know that some donors wish for their giving to remain private for a variety of reasons. Anonymous donors at LCCF can work with staff to identify needs in the community that match their philanthropic goals while honoring their wish for privacy.

*Inspiring and sustaining  
generosity, leadership  
and service in  
LaGrange County*



LCCF.NET | 260.463.4363

