

ANNUAL 2019 REPORT

OPENING DOORS



“

*When we share, we open
doors to a new beginning.*

—PAUL BRADLEY SMITH





A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

We often open a door almost without thinking. We reach for a knob and swing open a piece of wood between us and where we want to go. Or we push on the handle to push open the glass. A man opening a door for a woman is considered chivalrous. Helping someone who needs a hand is an act of kindness. In our roles with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, we're aware of how often thoughtful, generous people open a door for others. Again and again, we see people opening doors for others with gifts of time or money. Often we're able to assist folks so that their gifts will help others for generations to come. We remain truly humbled by your invitations to lend a hand to that process.

We've had another remarkable year at the Community Foundation due to your generosity. We received a total of \$22.3 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2018-19. Because of past giving and investment, we were able to give \$33 million in grants. The doors opened to the public at the Elkhart Health & Aquatic Center. The gorgeous building in the heart of Elkhart will soon host large swimming and diving competitions, but we're thrilled to see families coming to free open swimming nights and several thousand people sign up as members to further their health. The equipment and fencing is in front of the doors at the Goshen Theater, where a long-awaited renovation is underway of the beloved old theater.

In Nappanee, the WaNee 2020 project is progressing after hundreds of people gave contributions to the \$5.75 million capital campaign. The doors of the new Boys & Girls Club are swinging open to welcome children and families and the next phase will begin with renovation of the new Family Christian Development Center.

For those who prefer to head outdoors, another section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail opened between Goshen and Middlebury.

By any measure, it was a remarkable year in Elkhart County. So much happens because of the impressive work of local nonprofit organizations who tend to so many aspects of our community. They are our partners in improving the quality of life for people in Elkhart County and we are fortunate to have such an array of services from the agencies and their employees and volunteers. We remain awed as well by the people who give of their time, talent and treasure so generously to others. In big and small ways, the people of Elkhart County share what they have so others can also thrive and go through doors that will give them greater opportunities.

Lilly Endowment Inc. continues to help Elkhart County and other communities thrive with generous gifts. The Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) grants (see pages 52-63) and the one resulting in South Bend - Elkhart Region's Labs for Industry Futures and Transformation (LIFT) Network & iNDustry Labs will both help us continue to grow. Part of the GIFT funds will help the Community Foundation work in new ways with partners in three Elkhart County neighborhoods to identify assets and leadership.

We take delight when the elevator doors open into our third-floor office at 300 Nibco Parkway. We never know who will step into our space and engage us in conversation or ask us to become a partner and we're delighted to be part of this community and it's ongoing progress, come visit!

Pete McCown
President

Mike Schoeffler
Board Chair

IN LOVING MEMORY

*Two men who worked to make Elkhart County
stronger both passed away in late August.*



Phil Penn died on August 29 at the age of 76. He led the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce and played other roles in the city. We were able to interview him two weeks prior to his death about his friendship with Joyce Gerber and his role as executor of her estate. He asked that memorial contributions be given to the Elkhart Municipal Band Foundation tended by the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. See the full story on page 12.



Al Ludwig, 80, died after a long battle with cancer on August 30. He had begun developing Elkhart County properties in the mid-1960s and over the decades was both a successful, respected businessman and humble philanthropist. Al was one of the men who created the trust for Aux Chandelles that is described on pages 27 and 28.

*Both men worked at furthering the economic growth
and well-being of Elkhart County and its residents.
We are grateful to them and will miss them.*

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2018-2019 Board of Directors

Mike Schoeffler <i>Chairperson</i>	Dick Armington Megan Baughman Deb Beaverson Becky Bontrager Todd Cleveland Rob Cripe Steve Fidler Ken Julian Del King	John Liechty Sharon Liegl Galen Miller Thomas Pletcher Kerri Ritchie Isaac Torres David Weed Ola Yoder
David Findlay <i>Vice Chair & Treasurer</i>		
Dave Weaver <i>Treasurer</i>		
Cien Asoera <i>Secretary</i>		

Founding Members *Italicized: Deceased*

Charles Ainlay Jon Armstrong Lehman Beardsley Wilbert H. Budd Arthur J. Decio	Dr. John Foreman Samuel Hoover William Johnson Lee Martin James McNamee	William Myers Richard Pletcher Laura Rydson Oscar Schricker Thomas Warrick
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Founding Donors

Founding Donors are those individuals or organizations that contributed \$50,000 or more from the inception of the Foundation in 1989 through June 30, 1995. The names of the donors will always be prominently displayed in the Foundation's Annual Report as the original endowment builders and supporters of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

Bashor Home Endowment Fund Boys & Girls Club of Greater Goshen Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert H. Budd Charitable Fund of the First Congregational Church Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Corson Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deahl Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Decio The Decio Family: Terrence Decio, Jamee Decio, Lindy Decio Reilly, Jay Decio Christman, Leigh Decio Laird Sherrill and Helen Deputy Family Elkhart County Council on Aging Elkhart County 4-H Endowment Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fidler	Dr. and Mrs. John Foreman Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hartman Mr. F. L. Hascall Goshen College Goshen Rotary Club Scholarship Fund Greencroft Foundation Gunden Family Fund Paul and Joyce Hultin Family Fund KeyBank LaCasa of Goshen Lilly Endowment, Inc. Mervin D. Lung Family Martin Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin Mr. William F. Martin Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Naquin Northridge HS Dollars for Scholars	Oaklawn Foundation Mrs. Lee A. Rieth Ms. Martha Rieth Mr. and Mrs. Marly Rydson Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sailor Salvation Army Elkhart Corps Endowment Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sherman Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Schricker Ina L. Strasser Endowment Trinity United Methodist Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Basil S. Turner United Way of Elkhart County Mr. and Mrs. Richard VanDerKarr Maynard W. Wells Family YMCA/YWCA Joint Community Project
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Our Mission

TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE IN
ELKHART COUNTY

by inspiring generosity.



2018 - 2019

DONOR STORIES



FOR THE LOVE *of* MUSIC

the story of Joyce Gerber



The
LEGACY SOCIETY

Joyce Gerber lived a simple life full of music.



She grew up in Elkhart and graduated from Elkhart High School in 1947. Not long after that, she joined the Elkhart Municipal Band. She found the love of her life. The band became the thing she loved most on this earth.

“The band was her life, essentially,” says Phil Penn, who played with her in the band and got to know her over the decades. “She loved the Municipal Band.

She played cornet. She played it in practice after practice, concert after concert. Joyce was a member of the band for 67 years. She was honored for 50 years by Mayor Jim Perron in 1998, 55 years by Mayor Dave Miller and given the Honorary Lifetime Member Award by Mayor Dick Moore in 2012, when she was still an active member. Members get a pin to wear on the lapel of their black tuxedos they wear in concert for every five years of membership. Joyce ended up with 13 stars on her lapel and more in her figurative crown.

In a video on the band’s 75th anniversary, Joyce showed the stars and told the videographer, “Each year we end our summer series playing the ‘Stars and Stripes Forever’ by John Philip Sousa. That’s the best time of the year that I enjoy. I always feel proud when I can still go out front and still play.”

She was also the band’s secretary/treasurer for 42 years, meticulously managing the details of the city-funded band. She also worked in the accounting department at Miles Laboratories for 37 years. She lived in a modest Elkhart home and drove a small Chevy car. She traveled by bus with her friends and belonged to Riverside Bible Church. They knew her as being generous and good at conversation. What they didn’t know is how good she was at financial planning. Perhaps Joyce had a dollar for every time someone called her instrument a trumpet.

She had asked Penn to be her executor since she had no other family. He said he’d be honored.

After her death on January 29, 2018 at the age of 88, she was buried in her band uniform with her cornet at her side. When Phil met with attorney Richard Noser about her estate,

“We sat down and went through her assets and I thought my goodness,” says Phil. “She was a very generous person. She wanted to contribute to the community. She wanted to contribute to the band.”

She had investments and savings. “She saved her money and was able to donate it through her will to a number of charitable organizations, including the community foundation,” he says.

The gift to the Community Foundation, just one of several large donations, went to the Elkhart Municipal Band Designated Fund.

The band Joyce loved is funded entirely by the city, but the fund supports the band programs in Elkhart and Concord schools and band directors have used the annual gifts for instrument maintenance, purchasing equipment and paying



for private lessons for students in need. “We have so much more money now thanks to Joyce,” says David Swihart, the Municipal Band director.

Kate Irelan, who took over as secretary/treasurer and has now been in the band 43 years, would take flowers on Saturdays to the East Lake Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility, where Joyce lived her last few years. They had a great time talking and became friends. So when Kate heard about Joyce’s gift that will help students in the former band instrument capital of the world, she wasn’t shocked. “I think anybody who knew her and who knew how important the band was to her would not be surprised by this. I was surprised by the amount of money, but not surprised that we would be a recipient of her generosity,” says Kate.

Allen Strike, longtime WTRC radio personality and emcee for the band’s concerts, used to call the group “The Joyce Gerber Municipal Band.” She would call him on his birthday. He took her Gerber daisies for hers in 2016. Strike became a regular visitor when Joyce was at East Lake Rehabilitation Center, taking her favorite foods: cherry Pop Tarts and

popcorn purchased at The Dollar Store. She would tell him stories about the band. He would update her on their recent accomplishments. “She didn’t have a regular family, a family as we would describe it,” he says. “The family she loved, consisting of the people she loved, was the Elkhart Municipal Band.”

Now that family has more resources to open doors for others who may want to join. 🌱

The family she loved, consisting of the people she loved, was the Elkhart Municipal Band.

— ALLEN STRIKE

Legacy Society List 2019

Italicized: Deceased

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who believe in impacting their community. Their stories and hearts are inspiring! The following list includes the names of those who have informed us of bequests, policies, trusts, and other end-of-life planned gifts, for the purpose of encouraging others. This list also includes members of society that have a donor advised fund with us, where they are living out their legacy during their lifetime. Some members of the Legacy Society, however, have chosen to inform us but otherwise keep their decision confidential.

Anonymous 1	<i>Wilbert and Alice Budd</i>
Anonymous 2	Robert Burger
Anonymous 3	B. Jane Burns
Anonymous 4	Bill Caldwell
<i>Charles and Dorothy Ainlay</i>	<i>John Calvert</i>
Dick and Linda Armstrong	Bill and Anita Cast
Janet Arnold	James and Anke Chandler
Tom and Dot Arnold	<i>Brantly and Katie Chappell</i>
Harold “Doc” and Jane Atkins	Betty Chatten
Steve and Julie Bachman	Jack and Karen Cittadine
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller	Brian and Diana Clark
<i>Glenn and Joan Banks</i>	Todd and Missy Cleveland
John and Nancy Banks	Richard and Kathy Collins
Stephen and Holli Banks	Tom and <i>Dot</i> Corson
Leon Bauman and Char Yutzy	<i>Donald and Margaret Covert</i>
William and Linda Beier	Barbara Cowles
Al and Rebecca Benham	Betty Cox
George and Mona Biddlecome	Robert and Betty Cripe
Jim and Joan Bock	Rick W. and Mary David, Jr.
Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes	<i>June Deal</i>
Derald and Cindy Bontrager	Arthur and Patricia Decio
Tyson and Sarah Bontrager	<i>Elizabeth DeFries</i>
Wilbur and Sarah Bontrager	Donald and Melanie DeGroff
<i>Dorothy Borger</i>	Bob and Mary Pat Deputy
<i>Thomas and Elizabeth Borger</i>	Lawrence and Sherrod Deputy
Mary Jean Borneman	Michael and <i>Mandi</i> Deputy
Brian and Jeannelle Brady	Mike Dibley
Patty and Coley Brady	Terry and Julie Diener
Susan Branson	Todd W. A. Driver
Terrence and Kathy Brennan	<i>Thomas and Lois Dusthimer</i>
Michael P. Bristol	Tom and Sara Elkin
<i>James and Patty Brotherson</i>	Kay Ann Eller
George and Martha Buckingham	<i>Sharlene Eller-Preston</i>
George and Patricia Bucklen	<i>Susan P. Ellington</i>
<i>Justine Sparks Budd</i>	Jane Eslick

<i>Ned and Agda Farber</i>
Janice Farron
<i>Frederick and Dorothy Feick</i>
Bill and Kristin Fenech
John and Lois Fidler
<i>Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler</i>
Richard and Marlene Finnigan
<i>Ivan Fisher</i>
<i>John and Margaret Foreman</i>
Martha Foreman
James Foster Shea Jr.
Andrew and Kathy Frech
Daniel Fulmer
<i>L. Craig and Connie Fulmer</i>
Bill and Sue Garvey
Dan and Suzanne George
Bob and Stevie Giel
John and Gwen Gildea
Gary and Debra Gilot
John and Judith Goebel
Joe and <i>Rita</i> Gold
William Goodsene
<i>Christiana Graham</i>
Doug and <i>Barbara</i> Grant
<i>Ralph and Opal E. Gunden</i>
<i>Guy David Gundlach</i>
Steven Haines
<i>John Harman</i>
Cindy and Dave Hawkins
<i>Dan and Mary Henkin</i>
Steven Herendeen
Stan and Sharon Hess
Terry and Lu Hoogenboom
Floyd and <i>Esther</i> Hoover
Mary E. Hoover

Shirley Hoover
<i>Joyce Hultin</i>
Eugene W. and <i>Barbara</i> Hungate
Tom Irions
Randall Jacobs and Rachel Miller Jacobs
Brian and Amanda Jamison
Rick and Sandy Jenkins
Levon and Dorrene Johnson
William P. and Toni Johnson
Stephen Kash
<i>Carolyn Keefe</i>
<i>Thomas and Suzanne Keene</i>
Donna Kercher Schrock
Robert and Kristy King
Richard and Susan Klepinger
<i>Ted</i> and Diane Kolodziej
<i>Don L.</i> and Jurate Krabill
Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklus
Michael L. and Rebecca Kubacki
Mark and Karen Kurtz
Chuck and Betty Lamb
James A. Leaverton
John and Jane Leavitt
Merritt and Dierra Lehman
Robert and Carolyn LeMaster
<i>Walter and Jane Lerner</i>
John and Dianne Letherman
John and Joy Liechty
The Liegl Family Foundation
Tom and Marianne Lilly
<i>Ralph</i> and Rita Lockerbie
Mary Jo Ludwick
<i>Allan</i> and Karon Ludwig
<i>Mervin</i> and Dorothy Lung
Philip and Jeannette Lux
Tony and Tammy Magaldi
<i>Joseph Manfredi</i>
Frank and Marsha Martin
Rex and <i>Alice</i> Martin
Robert W. and Gail T. Martin
<i>William</i> and Margaret Martin
<i>Irma Mast</i>
Pete and Wendy McCown
Kathleen McCoy-Royer
<i>Betty Jean McKeever</i>
<i>James and Ann McNamee</i>
Bob and Sue Miller
<i>Ruth Miller</i>
<i>S. Ray and Linda Miller</i>
Ronald and Connie Minzey
Gordon and Marie Moore
Michelle Moore
G. Lynn and Linda Morris

Dan and Jan Morrison
James and Karla Morton
<i>Don and Jane Mossey</i>
Tim and Sarah Myers
<i>William and Patricia Myers</i>
Thad and Rachelle Naquin
<i>Thomas</i> and Mary Naquin
James and Joyce Nelson
Sam and Kristina Newlands
Dzung and Francoise Nguyen
Mike Nicolini
Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger
Quinton and Shannon Oakes
<i>Virginia J. Pardee</i>
Cole Patuzzi
Jeffrey and Diana Peat
Richard and Suzanne Peterson
<i>William O. and Loretha Phillips</i>
Mike and Judy Pianowski
Frank and Barbara Piaskowy
James and Sharon Piechorowski
Mac Pierce
Donald Pletcher
Kenneth and <i>Jean</i> Pletcher
Phillip and Nancy Pletcher
Richard and Susan Pletcher
Thomas and Dana Pletcher
John and Kathy Postle
Doug and <i>Mary</i> Putnam
<i>Clayton and Carol Quimbach</i>
Larry and Elizabeth Renbarger
<i>Florence Richardson</i>
Robert E. and Sandy Richardson
Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke
<i>Mary Jane Rieth</i>
J. Douglas and Sharon Risser
<i>Lucille Risser</i>
Kelly and Karen Rose
Charlene Rule
Marly and Laura Rydson
Matthew and Tricia Rydson
Janet Elaine Ryman
<i>Vernon and Doris Sailor</i>
George and Terri Schmidt, II
William and Lorette Schmuhl, Jr.
Doug Schnell
Michael and Vickie Schoeffler
Kenneth and Doris Ann Schrad
<i>Barbara Schricker</i>
Oscar W. and <i>Marilyn</i> Schricker
Nancy Schricker
Susan A. Schricker
Bob and Marie Schrock

<i>Harold Schrock</i> and
Donna Kercher Schrock
Janet Rae Scribner
Amy and Amish Shah
James Foster Shea, Jr.
<i>Daniel and Josephine Sherman</i>
Stuart W. and Shirley H. Showalter
James and <i>LaRayne</i> Siegmann
<i>William</i> and Bernice Simms
Brian and Lauri Smith
David and Nancy Smith, Jr.
<i>Harold</i> and Patricia Smith
Mark and Vicki Smucker
F. Richard and Josephine Snyder
Christopher and Jodi Spataro
Bruce and Barbara Stahly
<i>William D. Stimpson</i>
Donald and Claudia Stohler
Tim and Christy Stonger
Dick and Kay Stout
<i>Marjorie M. Swift</i>
W. Earl and Linda Taylor
Michael and Sheila Terlep
Dr. Michael and Carole Thomas
George and Karen Thompson
Richard M. and Anne K. Treckelo
Gerald A. and <i>Barbara J.</i> Trolz
John and Carole Ulmer
<i>Adrian</i> and Treva Vaksvik
<i>Richard and Bellodene Van Der Karr</i>
<i>Michael</i> and Meredith Vickrey
<i>Mary Elizabeth Walker</i>
Thomas and <i>Patricia</i> Warrick
David Weaver
<i>Laveta Weaver</i>
<i>David</i> and Dottie Webster
David Weed
Donald Weed
<i>Robert</i> and Peggy Weed
William and Sarah Weed
Chris and Jenny Welch
M. Scott and Kimberlee Welch
Ross and Linda Weldy
Jeff and Phid Wells
Karen R. Wesdorp
Aaron and Stephanie Wieand
John and Carolyn Wolf
Chris Wolfe
Wen and Susan Wu
<i>Al</i> and Marie Yoder
Candy and Darrel Yoder
Ola and Vera Yoder
Dorothy Zimmerman



SETTING *the* TABLE

Branching out to the next generation




Donor
ADVISED FUNDS

The Bontrager children learned to expect strangers at their dinner table and staying in their home.



Lloyd, who with his wife Bertha built Jayco Inc. and a multi-generation legacy of generosity, would invite people home for dinner, but it wasn't limited to that. "There was always a place at our table for whomever knocked on our door," says daughter Cindy Hawkins, who now lives in the original family home in rural Middlebury.

She sat at the dining room table with a dozen other family members, recalling not just her father's generosity, but how giving has been foundational for the family. Lloyd believed in the best of people and wouldn't just invite someone for a meal, but to stay with the family if it was needed.

There was that college student he met on a mission trip to whom he gave lodging, a job and a car to drive. There was the guy from North Carolina invited to use a bedroom instead of sleeping in his car as he was in Middlebury learning from Lloyd how to make recreational vehicles.

After Lloyd's death in a plane crash on Easter Sunday in 1985, Bertha continued that tradition and offered Lloyd's old Mercedes if someone needed it.

The door was always open and the generosity was in place to meet any need. The Bontrager Family Donor Advised Fund, established in 2016 after the Bontragers sold their company to Thor Industries, puts a structure in place that opens the door for multi-generational generosity.

The Bontragers started tithing as Lloyd worked in the recreational vehicle industry. After he started Jayco in their barn and chicken houses and patented a mechanism that made lifting the roof of a camper easier, they also tithed from the business as well. "Ten percent of what we earned, we gave to the Lord," says Bertha.

Personally and from the company, they supported children and an international hospital. They gave money toward Bible translation and built campers that had secret compartments for Bibles to be smuggled across the Iron Curtain.

The first two years of the family fund, Bertha Bontrager Rhodes and her children were at the table for the twice-a-year gatherings to review grant applications and make recommendations to give money from the fund's earnings.





*Wilbur Bontrager and others
gather as family around
the table to talk about their
mission of giving.*

There was always a place at our table for whomever knocked on our door.

– DAUGHTER CINDY HAWKINS

This year, a grandchild from each family was also invited to participate, bringing in a third generation of family philanthropy.

The Bontrager siblings initially weren’t sure if their children in the third generation would want to be involved in a fund moving forward. “It’s almost irritating that they didn’t think we’d want to,” says Kim Huffman, whose father Wilbur is the oldest of Lloyd and Bertha’s six children. “It’s amazing how good it makes you feel when you’re able to give.”

Just as Wilbur and his siblings grew up watching Lloyd and Bertha give in a wide range of ways, his daughter Kim and her siblings and cousins saw the same thing from their parents. Jason Bontrager, Wilbur and Sarah’s son and the oldest grandson, remembers watching his parents put money in the offering plate at church on Sundays.

Now Jaydn Huffman, Kim’s oldest daughter, says she’s never known anything different than giving to others. Jaydn

represents the fourth generation and she’s gone to Ethiopia three times on mission trips and worked at a school. That giving nature that is part of her family and has always been part of her life is expressed through her passion for the children in this African country. Her cousin Casey Diener regularly makes trips overseas to volunteer for a month at a time as a nurse in a mission organization.

The 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren in the family follow the example and reputation that was one tithe and one generous act at a time. Their life has never been dull, says Wilbur.

Bertha, Wilbur and others wanted to get younger generations involved in giving. They were inspired by the John and Lois Fidler family to set up a fund that would make it easy for that to happen for years to come. Jodi Spataro, Chief Advancement Officer for the Community Foundation, met with them and helped make their giving easy, though the decisions on what to fund aren’t always simple.

As the family grows, the range of causes its members are interested in does too. So as the family gathers around the table to make decisions on how to give, greater discussions take place, making unified decisions more challenging. Several family units have their own foundations from which they can support their personal passions.

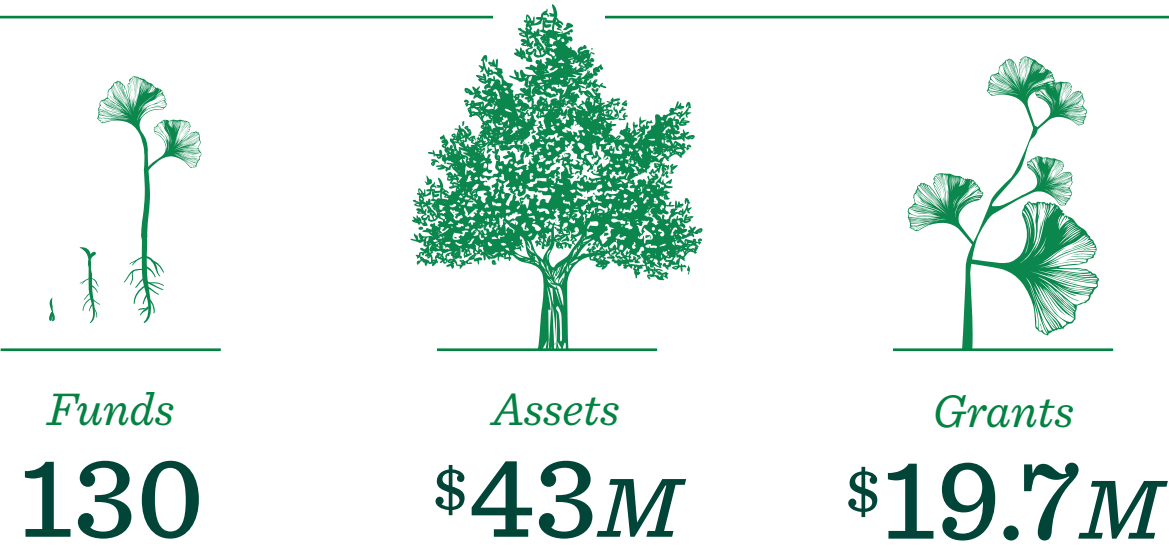
Whether it’s a gift from the fund or lending a car to someone in need, the Bontragers continue helping others. The older Bontragers are pleased with how younger generations are opening doors with their giving.

It’s become a family tradition that is almost second nature. The Bontrager family’s legacy of giving unfolds into new generations like the campers Lloyd created at the inception of Jayco. 🌱

DID YOU KNOW?

A donor advised fund can be one of the most effective ways for a family to bond in an expression of their common values. When family members are directly involved in grant making, their participation can act as a family statement saying, “This is who we are.”

Donor-Advised Funds by the Numbers
FUNDS HELD AT YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



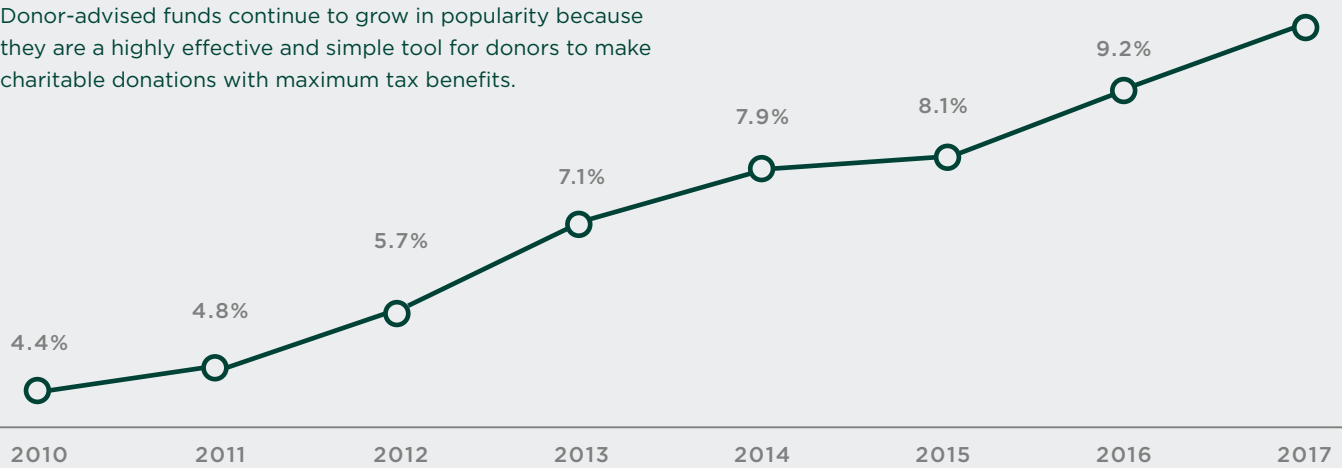
FUNDS HELD NATIONALLY



National Philanthropic Trust – Donor Advised Fund Report 2018

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Expressed as % of Total Individual Giving



Arthur Decio remembers his wife Patricia volunteering at Aux Chandelle Development Center.



She loved the children with special needs whom she helped while their children were at school, he says. That building along Hively Avenue opened in 1966 after a countywide capital campaign.

As the love of Art’s life talked about her volunteer work, he got to know the agency.

In the 1950s, Aux Chandelle, which means “into the light,” started as a way to help children with disabilities. In the 1960s and 1970s, programs grew to include a broader range of ages and offerings of services such as rehabilitation and assistance for the blind.

In 1974, after the Decios donated 35 acres where they planned to one day build a home for their family, the Association for the Disabled of Elkhart County opened the first licensed group home in the state of Indiana at 19670 S.R. 120. The master plan from 1973 still hangs on the wall at ADEC. “ADEC would not be here today if that group had not had the foresight to pull together and put it here,” says Donna Belusar, ADEC president/CEO.

The Decios and others were involved along the way as organizations and individuals came together to build a better Elkhart and Elkhart County. Decio got a reputation as being the guy who could raise needed money for a range of efforts, including Elkhart General Hospital, United Way of Elkhart County and what came to be known as ADEC.

Kids needed love and care. Decio saw a way to help assure that the doors would stay open for years to come. “Some of these big community needs, they don’t go away,” says Decio. In the 1980s, the sale of a property resulted in money for the agency and Decio had an idea. He gathered a group of men to create a trust whose earnings would fund ADEC. Frank Martin, founder of Martin Capital Management, became the guy who handled the money. Al Ludwig, Frank Vite, Glen Banks became fellows. Decio became chairman of the group, which took

shape before the Community Foundation of Elkhart County was formed.

Martin was the first to turn in a personal contribution and the other men soon followed. Others in the community, including Walter Wells and Jack Feddersen, also contributed. Chuck Seavers, who had become the director of the agency that resulted from several mergers and name changes, would make an annual request to the group for funds. The fellows would meet and approve it.

In 2010, Martin became a non-voting member of the board, but kept managing the funds. The other men involved were aging and a conversation began about how to assure that the fund continue.

In 2015, the trust found a new home as a donor-designated fund at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. ADEC now gets much of its funding from state grants for the services it provides people with disabilities, but Donna Belusar finds extraordinary ways to use the donor-designated funds. The dollars help open doors for young



INTO *the* LIGHT

Forging a new path to honor and educate



Designated
FUNDS



men and women as they finish high school and find a perch in the community. In past years, it's gone toward lighting and signage that emphasizes the ways Aux Chandelles has brought the community into the light of better understanding the personalities and contributions of people with disabilities.

Though the fund has a long history, not many know the story of the way a few people came together to assure that ADEC would have a bright future by opening doors. "When the Aux Chandelle center needed private funding, it was men like Arthur Decio and his fellows who really made it possible," says Frank Martin. "And that's why Elkhart, unlike so many towns our size, have a viable program

for disabled children and adults. This all came together because of some smart, human-oriented men like Art."

Martin says he learned about caring for others, about sharing what you have, from Decio, who gave himself and then called others to do so. "I think you have mentored so many of us, Art," he told Decio as they sat around a table, recalling the history of this trust and other community efforts.

Decio would rather talk about the goodness in Elkhart County and the community as a whole. "If you have success, no single person is responsible," he says. 🌱

A PLACE FOR PASSION

Perhaps you have developed a passion for specific nonprofit programs or initiatives through volunteering, support of annual fund drives or a personal interest. No matter what your motivation is, a designated fund ensures ongoing, reliable support for the nonprofit organizations you care about.

Designated Funds by the Numbers FUNDS HELD AT YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



As Bob and Betty Cripe sit on the couch of their apartment, their hands nearly touching, they look at each other sweetly.



They smile readily as they talk about their life together, their family and how they're able to give.

It is Bob's 93rd birthday. His children had come for a surprise lunch before his interview and a few photos for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. He had prepared a typed list of some thoughts before the interview about their family's scholarship fund.

Once the interview started, he made it clear that he doesn't want attention. He just believes in how well his family's scholarship fund works and how much he wants others to know about that.

It was a day like this in the summer of 2017 that a representative from Huntington University was visiting with them. The man suggested establishing a fund that would continue their legacy of generosity. The Cripes were thinking of doing something, but not what the development officer was thinking.

"We're not into buildings. We're into people," says Betty. They have always loved learning. They have always loved giving. The two came together in their new scholarship fund at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

The couple has tithed since they married 68 years ago. Bob grew up Mennonite and Betty was Methodist, but after they married, they started giving at least 10 percent away. They taught their four children — Rob, Melodie, Marcia and Marileah — that as well.

One year, as Betty sat in the pew with the four children, Bob gave a stewardship sermon and told the congregation that

he'd make up any financials losses for anyone who started tithing. Betty's eyes widened, but he wasn't asked for a dime. Five years later, Rob was giving a similar sermon and told the congregation that if someone tithed and felt like it cost them, his dad would make up the difference. The family laughs as they tell that story. "You never lose when you tithe," says Bob. "It's amazing how it works."

Bob and Rob both earn money from the family businesses. Bob had worked more than 60 years with other family members making and selling lightning protection systems through Independent Protection Co. in Goshen and and buses through Turtle Top in Goshen and New Paris. His son Rob is now president and CEO of IPC/Turtle Top.

The two men are committed to operating their business with Christian principles and the family believes Huntington is a Christian college educating others on how to do that. A dozen of Bob and Betty's children and grandchildren have been students or worked at Huntington. Bob was a trustee on the board.

Rob, a board member for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and chairman of its Career Pathways committee, urged them to talk to the local foundation about a fund that would help students at Huntington. He became the matchmaker between his parents and the foundation. Soon Chief Advancement Officer Jodi Spataro was in their living room helping them set up a scholarship fund to help students getting a Huntington MBA.

Bob says they were blown away by what the Community Foundation was willing to do. "So we said we want to use the foundation as the vehicle," he says.

That's no small thing. Bob, after all, is a guy who helped run a company that builds vehicles from the ground up so that they work well and are safe over time. The lightning protection side of the business puts systems in place that are grounded to protect what you've built against the unexpected lightning strike.

What they liked about using the Community Foundation to manage their scholarship fund is that they could establish the terms for the scholarship at Huntington and the

A SMOOTH ROAD to HIGHER EDUCATION

the story of Bob and Betty Cripe



SCHOLARSHIPS

*We're not into buildings.
We're into people.*

— BETTY CRIFE



funds are managed locally. Though they were using the Foundation for the first time, they liked that it was started 30 years ago by men Bob had grown up with and done business alongside in the community.

Two weeks after Jodi visited them at their home, they signed the paperwork. It was simple and easy.

As they gave the money to set up the scholarship fund, the Community Foundation matched 25 percent of the gift. “That’s like finding money,” he says, noting that it’s the icing on the cake.

This past year, the Cripes came across more icing to put on their cake. As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, the Community Foundation was matching gifts up to 30

percent, so the Cripes gave more money. “That was too good to pass up,” says Betty.

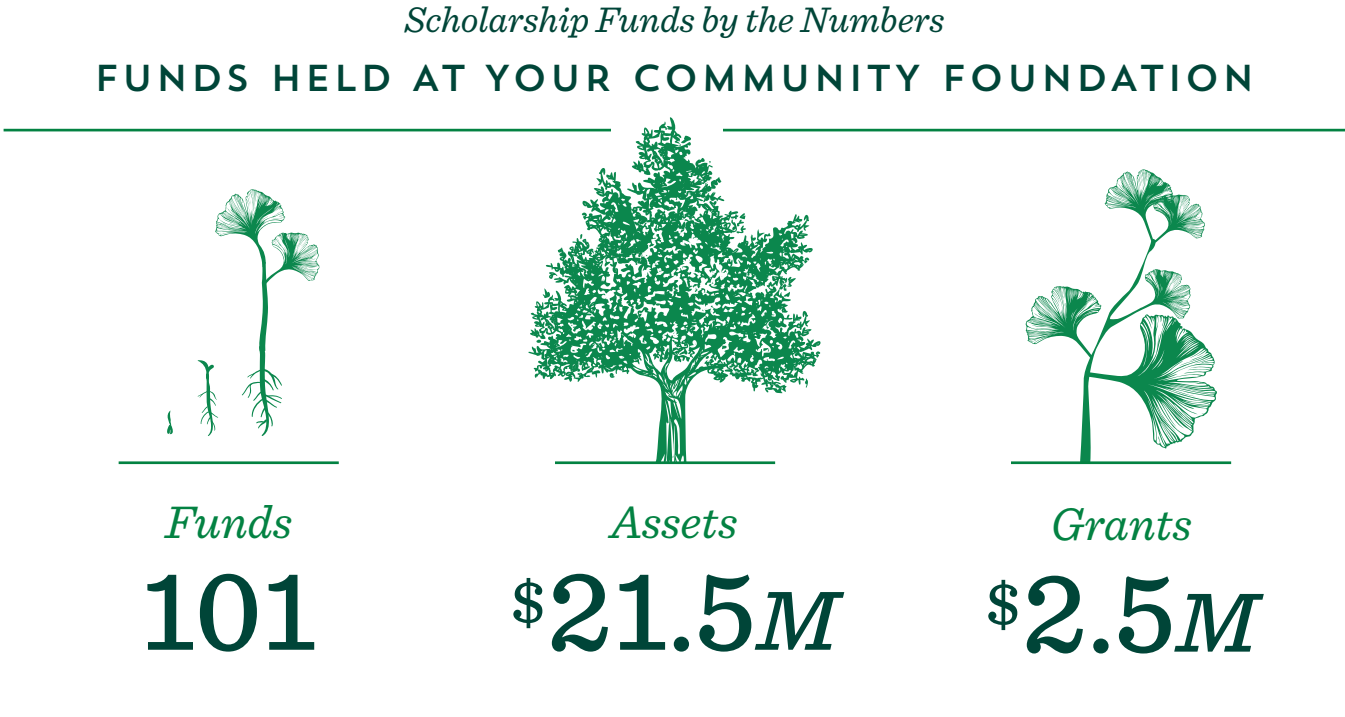
In addition to their generous giving, Bob and Betty are giving a lot of free advice to their friends and even other Huntington alums. They have urged them to use the Community Foundation of Elkhart County to set up vehicles that help them give away money. They explain that there are wise people overseeing the foundation and making good decisions.

But aside from what they’re telling people, something else is clear: They delighted in doing this. They just loved every part of this act that will open doors for students for years to come as their family continues the tradition of generosity. 🌱

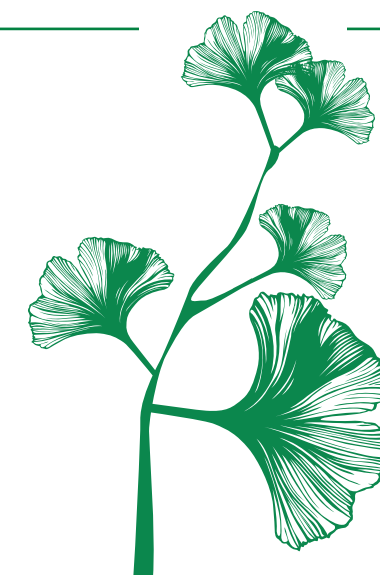
DID YOU KNOW?

You can invest your gift in your community’s future and show students you care with the guidance and personal services of the Community Foundation. You determine the criteria students must meet to receive the scholarship you establish. With your assistance, students achieve their academic and career-oriented goals – from preschool to postgraduate work.

The universal application for the 2019-2020 scholarships, including all graduating high school seniors and adult scholarship opportunities, can be found at InspiringGood.org/Scholarships



Your Community Foundation
AT A GLANCE



Grants

\$33M



Total assets

\$302M



Total funds

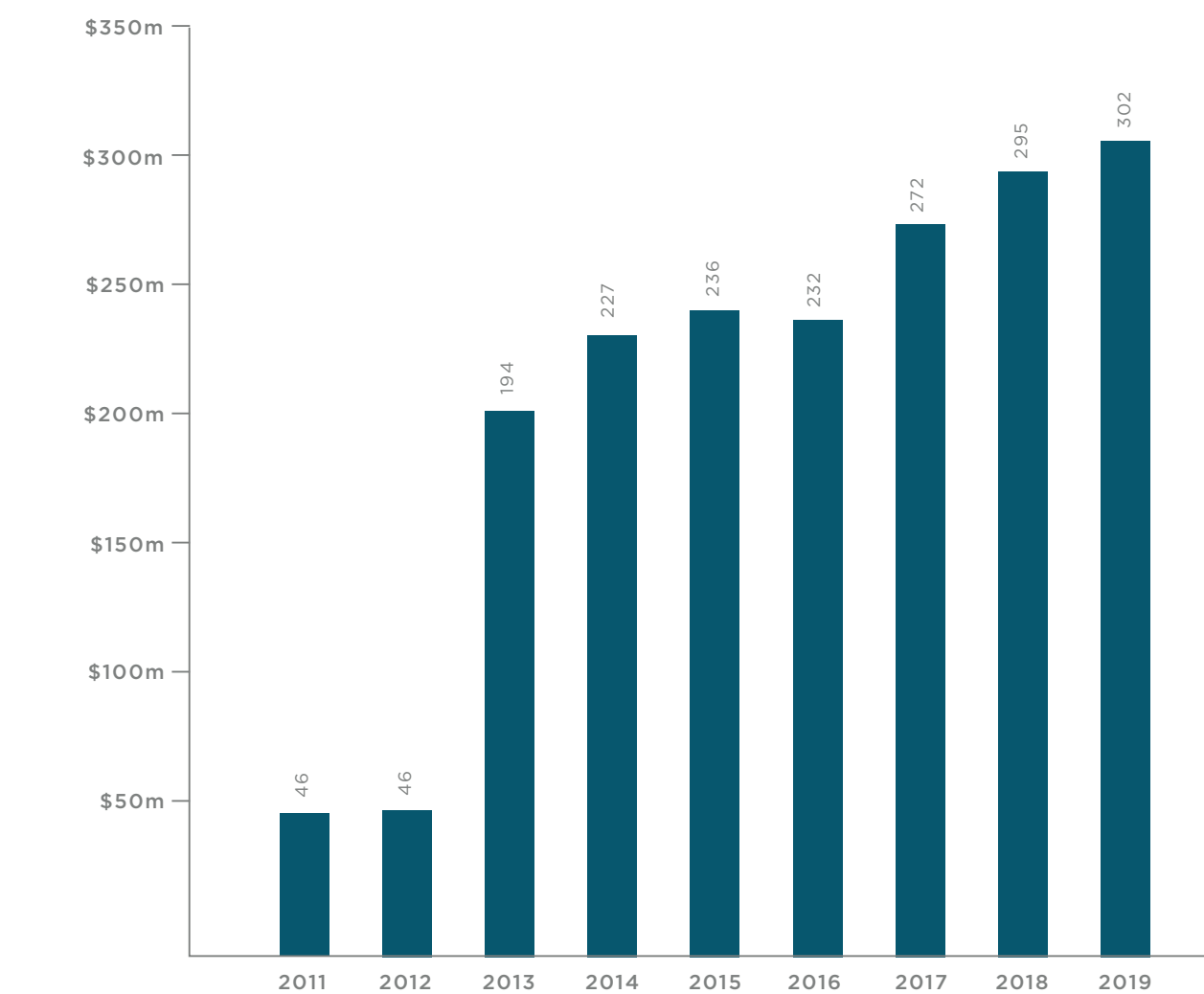
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2018 - 2019

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

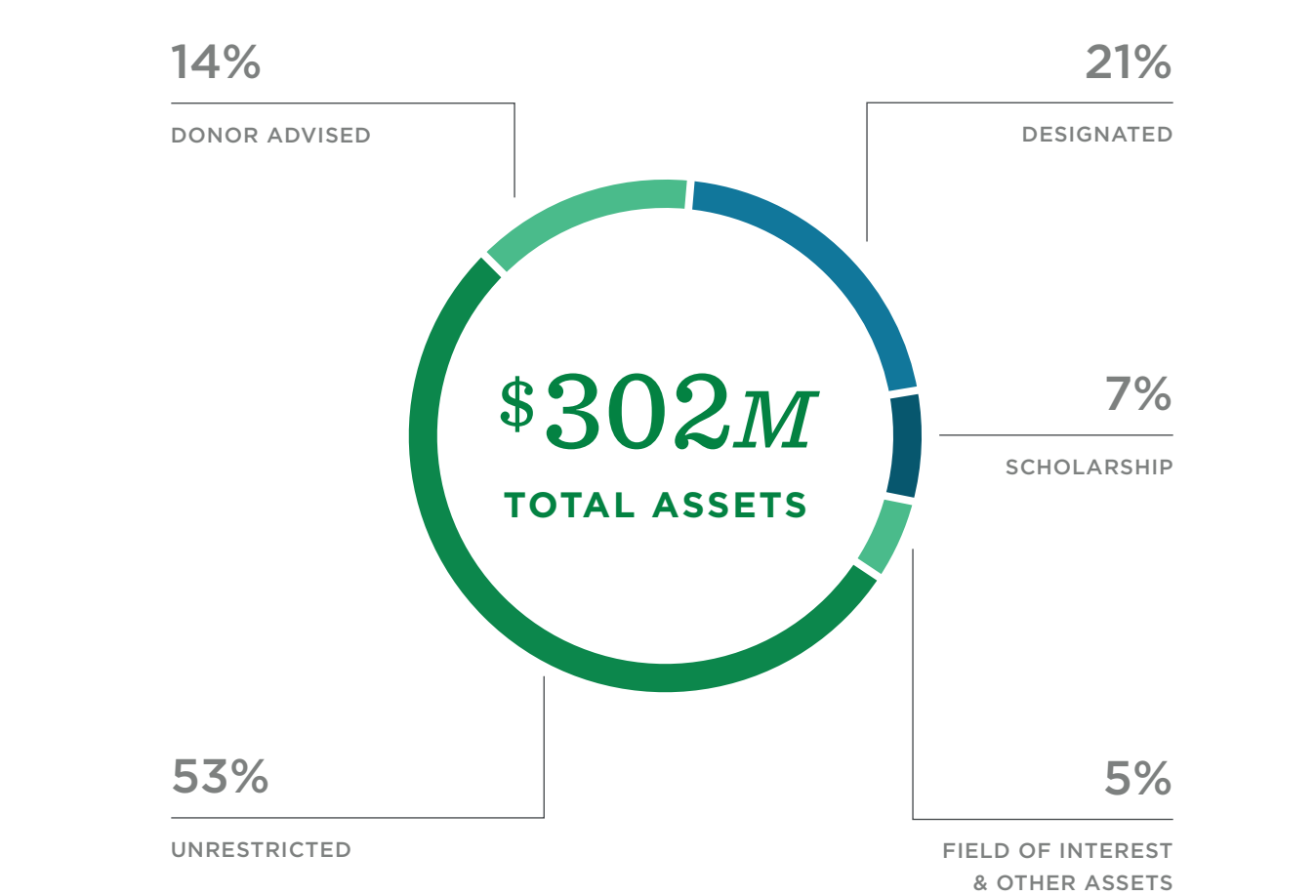


Assets *by year*



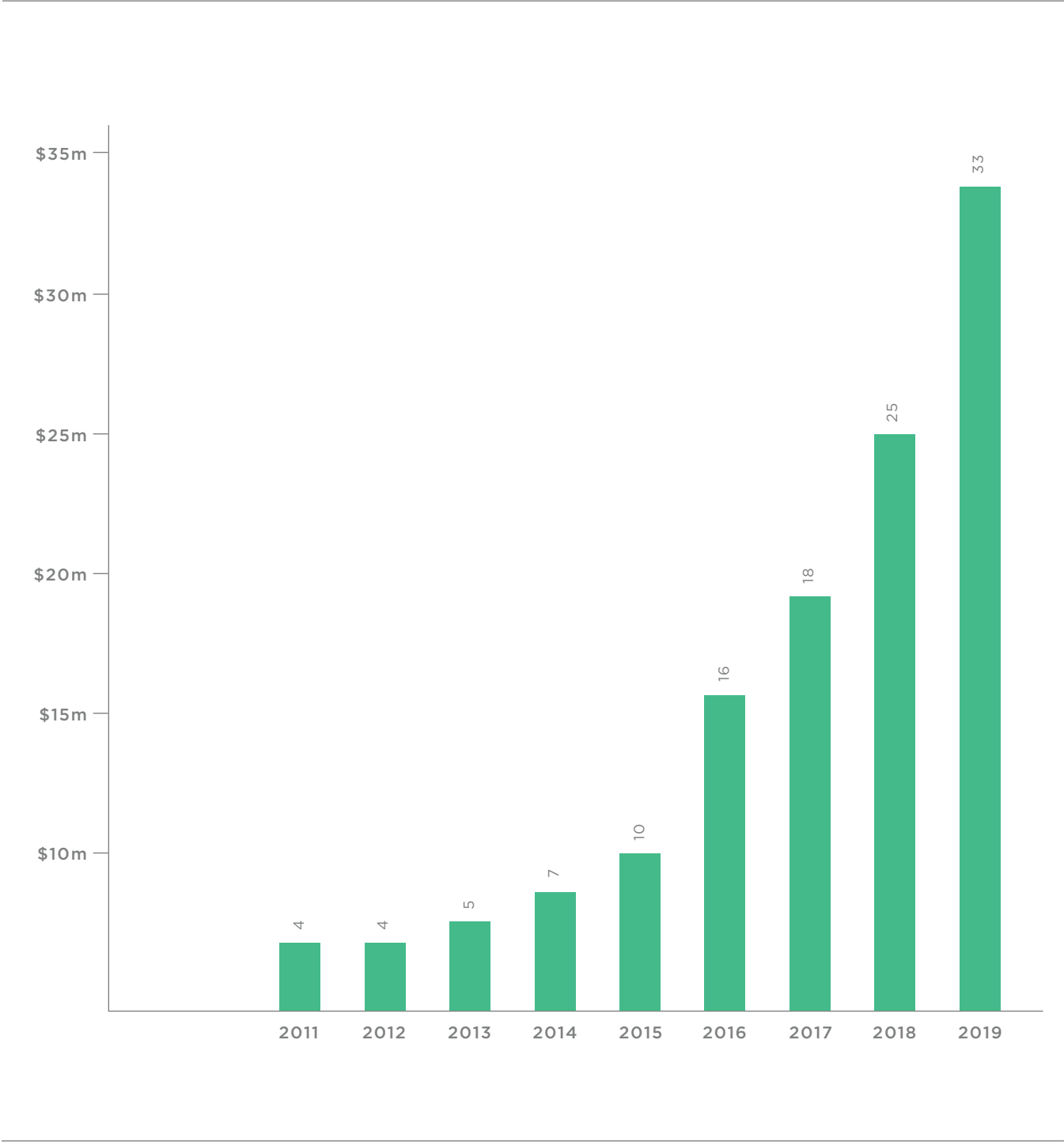
In 2013, the community received a wildly generous gift from Elkhart native Guy David Gundlach. The Gundlach gift was the start of a new era for the Community Foundation as other donors have become partners or deepened relationships to make our community stronger. Since 2013, over \$100 million in additional gifts have been invested for the betterment of Elkhart County.

Assets *by fund type*



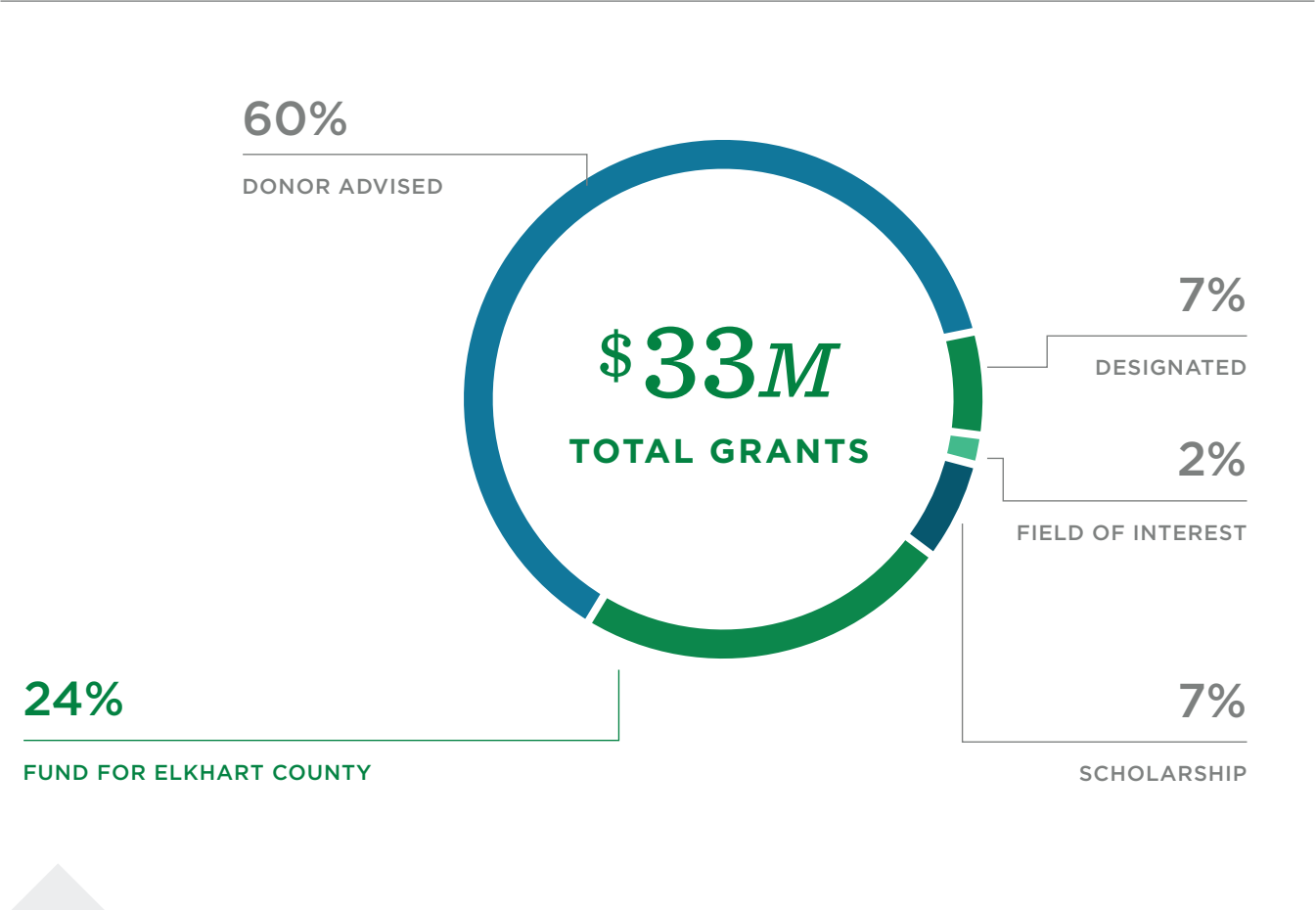
Since 1989 we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor’s goals through giving and establish their intent, we work with them to decide on which funding option best brings their vision to life.

Grants *by year*



Most of the grants that the Community Foundation is trusted to manage are for specific areas designated by donors. Some of the grants are unrestricted, empowering the Community Foundation to respond to needs and make strategic grants to better our quality of life. A description of how these unrestricted grants were used to improve our communities is found on pages 39-51 of this report.

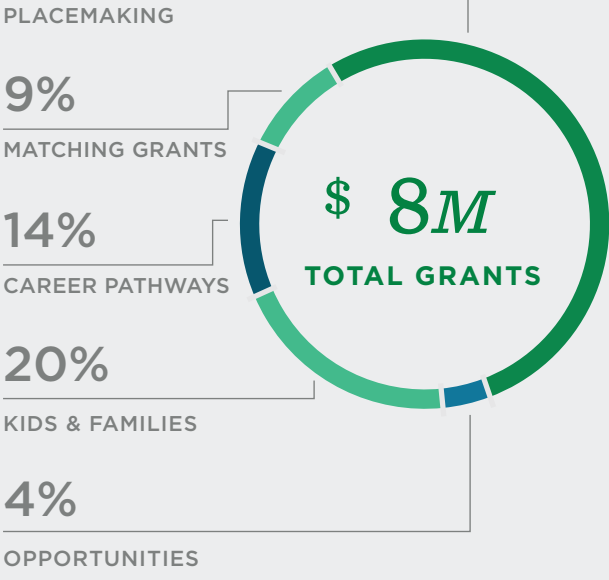
Grants *by fund type*



FUND FOR ELKHART COUNTY

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our communities' greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$8 million in grants were awarded in the three ongoing areas of priority for the Community Foundation.

\$ 8M TOTAL GRANTS



Statements of Financial Position

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2019 and 2018.

	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$614,000	\$335,000
Notes receivable	-	\$595,000
Investments	\$299,726,000	\$292,627,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	\$614,000	\$506,000
Other assets	\$706,000	\$556,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$301,660,000	\$294,619,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$17,000	\$63,000
Grants payable	\$2,278,000	\$3,865,000
Deferred revenue	\$317,000	-
Gift annuities payable	\$480,000	\$502,000
Custodial funds	\$23,688,000	\$23,731,000
Other liabilities	\$156,000	\$128,000
Net assets	\$274,724,000	\$266,330,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$301,660,000	\$294,619,000

Statements of Activities

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2019 and 2018.

	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES		
Contributions and grants*	\$18,299,000	\$17,472,000
Investment return, net	\$14,105,000	\$24,492,000
Fund administrative fees	\$2,123,000	\$2,138,000
Other	\$-125,000	\$-89,000
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES	\$34,402,000	\$44,013,000
EXPENSES		
Program services**	\$24,402,000	\$24,852,000
General & administrative	\$1,140,000	\$1,069,000
Fundraising	\$466,000	\$488,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,008,000	\$26,409,000
Change in net assets	\$8,394,000	\$17,604,000
Net assets, beginning of year	\$266,330,000	\$248,726,000
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$274,724,000	\$266,330,000

* Accounting standards require certain incoming monies to be presented as a change in the Custodial Fund liability. For the Annual Report, these monies have been reported as gifts. As such, gift activity reflected throughout the report varies from Contributions and Grants reflected in the Statements of Activities.

**The Annual Report is designed to showcase the recommendations received from fundholders and the commitments made by the Board of Directors. Accounting standards, which stipulate what qualifies as a grant for financial reporting purposes, do not fully capture the recommendations received and commitments made. As such grant activity reflected throughout the report varies from the grant activity reflected on the Statements of Activities.

Opportunity Fund

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to improve the quality of life in our communities. This applies to all the grants, and more specific detail is found in the descriptions.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS	\$148,050
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Tolson Center Planning Support	\$20,000
INDIANA GRANTMAKERS ALLIANCE Strategic Planning Efforts	\$15,000
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP Program Support	\$120,000
WNIT Elkhart Health & Aquatics Center Documentary	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$323,050

Match Grant

In celebration of our 30th year, we increased the impact of your giving by matching 30% of your dollars placed into endowment funds. All cumulative gifts made by individuals totaling \$100,000 were matched with an additional \$30,000 to the corresponding fund. Your generosity opened the door for \$747,009 in matching dollars.

30% MATCHING GRANT 30th Anniversary	\$747,009
TOTAL	\$747,009

Kids and Families Grants

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County citizens.

ADEC Staff Development	\$2,700
AGAPE MINISTRY 20th Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway	\$3,000
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ELKHART COUNTY Strategy Consultant	\$6,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ELKHART COUNTY Middlebury Capital Campaign	\$350,000
CAMPUS CENTER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Music Together	\$6,750
CAMPUS CENTER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Dishwasher Replacement	\$5,000
CANCER RESOURCES FOR ELKHART COUNTY Operating Support	\$40,000
CAPS Staff Development	\$2,700
CAPS Building Blocks Program	\$100,000
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE YR1 of 2: Victim Offender Reconciliation Program 1:1 Challenge*	\$50,000
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Diabetes Program	\$5,000
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Staff Development	\$1,000
CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Cervical Cancer Prevention	\$5,160

Kids and Families, Continued

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Child Care Ministry Building Improvements	\$50,172
CHILDREN'S HOPE HOUSE Operating Support	\$3,000
CHRIST'S COMMISSARY Freezer Replacement	\$970
CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES Greenhouse Move and Improvements	\$14,000
CITY OF ELKHART PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT Gym Rental - Gym Rats	\$4,560
COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC Strategic Planning Retreat	\$500
COUNCIL ON AGING OF ELKHART COUNTY Computer Upgrade	\$4,100
ELKHART CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Hot Water Heater	\$5,500
ELKHART COUNTY CLUBHOUSE Staff Development	\$6,095
ELKHART COUNTY DRUG-FREE PARTNERSHIP Elkhart & Goshen Schools Staff Training	\$15,000
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION Mobile Eye Exam Unit	\$46,199
ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY Summer Reading Kickoff	\$10,000
FAMILY CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER Client Outreach/Event Coordinator	\$12,000

FIVE STAR LIFE Event Sponsor	\$800
GIRLS ON THE RUN MICHIANA 5k Support	\$5,000
GOOD SHEPHERD MONTESSORI SCHOOL YR1 of 2: Preschool Expansion in Elkhart County	\$50,000
GROWING ABEL DBA ELIZABETH ABEL FOOD PANTRY Technology Upgrades	\$1,114
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ELKHART COUNTY Staff Development	\$804
HEART CITY HEALTH CENTER Dental Center Expansion and Renovation	\$100,000
HOOSIERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY Meat the Need	\$15,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE ECoSistema & Goshen Boys & Girls Clubs Partnership	\$25,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE YR2 of 2: Triple P Positive Parenting Program	\$145,000
LACASA Youth Summer Academy at Roosevelt Center	\$20,000
LACASA Financial Freedom Fair	\$2,000
LOVEWAY INCORPORATED YR2 of 2: Volunteer Coordinator	\$24,500
MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER Staff Training - Bridges Out of Poverty	\$5,775

Kids and Families, Continued

MDC GOLDENROD Middlebury HVAC Unit Repair	\$2,396
MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Reading Initiative-Heritage Intermediate	\$5,000
NAPPANEE OPEN DOOR Additional Freezer	\$500
NORTHERN INDIANA HISPANIC HEALTH COALITION YR2 of 2: Healthy Hearts Program	\$25,000
OAKLAWN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER YR2 of 2: Partnership for Children	\$150,000
OPERATION 6:12, BEREAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 15 Passenger Van	\$2,500
PRAIRIE STREET MENNONITE CHURCH Renovations to Jubilee House	\$15,000
RIBBON OF HOPE Volunteer Training Program Expansion	\$4,000
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF MICHIANA Strategic Planning	\$4,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION YR2 of 2: Elkhart County Field Trips 1:1 Challenge*	\$12,500
RYAN'S PLACE Grief Support Seminar Sponsor	\$5,000
RYAN'S PLACE YR2 of 2: Operating Support	\$30,000
RYAN'S PLACE Staff Development	\$3,323

RYAN'S PLACE YR1 of 2: Children's Grief Support Programs 1:1 Challenge*	\$40,000
SERVANTS AT WORK - SAWS Handicap Ramps	\$3,500
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Saving Grace Tea Sponsor	\$500
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Christmas Shoppe	\$500
THE POST Staff Development	\$1,900
ULEAD Staff Development	\$6,000
UNITED WAY OF ELKHART COUNTY Event Sponsor	\$250
VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL SERVICES Early Childhood Intervention Program	\$2,000
WAKARUSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Educational Days	\$300
WALNUT HILL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Early Childhood Literacy Program	\$10,000
WOMEN'S CARE CENTER Operating Support	\$98,000
YWCA NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA Domestic Violence Awareness Event	\$3,500
TOTAL	\$1,570,068

* Challenge grants awarded, full funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of the challenge.

Career Pathways

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County citizens.

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY Advancing Intercultural Leadership	\$5,000
BAUGO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Baugo Promise 1:1 Challenge	\$10,000
CLINTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Event Sponsor	\$2,500
CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Leader in Me Intermediate Program	\$10,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Elkhart Art Cafe	\$10,000
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Thought Leadership Conference	\$2,500
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS YR1 of 2: Engineering, Technology & Innovation Building Project	\$284,500
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION Presenting Sponsorship	\$10,000
ENFOCUS Baugo Schools IT & Process Improvement	\$20,000
ENFOCUS Fellowship and Internship Program	\$100,000
ENFOCUS Elkhart County Downtown Vibrancy Assessment	\$20,000
ENFOCUS Elkhart Community Schools Food Services Efficiencies	\$20,000
ENFOCUS Elkhart Community Schools Teacher & Administrator Retention	\$15,000

ENFOCUS WorkHere Youth Retention Program	\$15,000
ENFOCUS ETHOS Growth and Sustainability	\$10,000
ETHOS Robotics Program Support	\$50,000
ETHOS YR2 of 2: STEM Coordinator	\$50,000
FIVE STAR LIFE Learning Management System	\$7,500
GOSHEN COLLEGE YR1 of 2: Recruiting & Retaining Diverse Teachers	\$28,500
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE What’s Next	\$10,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YR1 of 2: Startup Moxie Elkhart County	\$20,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Gallup Student Poll	\$18,250
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE YR1 of 2: Operational Support	\$300,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE CareerWise Elkhart County	\$25,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Community Conversation	\$2,500
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Trailblazer Awards	\$1,000

Career Pathways, Continued

INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Historical Black College Tour	\$3,830
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER Youth Leadership Summit	\$3,000
JAIL MINISTRY OF ELKHART COUNTY Tattoo Removal Machine	\$25,000
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTHERN INDIANA Lemonade Day Elkhart County	\$3,500
MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Leader in Me Elementary Program	\$16,750
SCORE Monthly Entrepreneur Workshops	\$5,000
THE CROSSING NATIONAL Staff Development	\$10,285
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME Elkhart Catalyst	\$23,500
WNIT Education Counts Michiana	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$1,148,115

* Challenge grants awarded, full funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of the challenge.

Placemaking

The following Community Investment Grants were awarded from the Fund for Elkhart County to organizations or programs serving our Elkhart County citizens.

BAUGO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS District Wide Free Wifi Pilot	\$21,500
BEACON HEALTH FOUNDATION Elkhart General Hospital Training Center Relocation	\$100,000
BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS Great Strides Campaign 1:1 Challenge*	\$390,000
BIKE MICHIANA COALITION Michiana Bike to Work Week	\$500
CHAIN REACTION BICYCLE PROJECT Building Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$2,500
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GOSHEN Annual Membership 2018-2019	\$5,000
CITY OF ELKHART Restoration of the Beardsley Monument	\$17,400
CONCORD LITTLE LEAGUE Building & Grounds Improvements	\$6,000
CREEKSIDE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN Container Gardens	\$5,000
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN First Fridays	\$10,000
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN River Bend Film Festival Capacity Building	\$2,500
ELEVATE VENTURES YR3 of 3: Northern Indiana RDA Partnership	\$75,000
ELKHART CIVICTHEATRE Seasonal Support	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H & AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION Elkhart County 4-H Fair Sponsor	\$10,000

Placemaking, Continued

ELKHART COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE YR2 of 2: Operating Support	\$30,000
ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS County Courthouse Clock Tower Restoration	\$40,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Little Big Idea Program	\$25,000
ELKHART COUNTY FERAL CAT COALITION Building Project	\$15,000
ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Capacity Building	\$7,500
ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Research Trip	\$1,300
ELKHART COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT Seasonal Support	\$5,000
ELKHART COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT Crisis Intervention Team Training	\$1,650
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION Seasonal Support	\$5,000
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION YR1 of 3: Capacity Building	\$100,000
ELKHART COUNTY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES YR2 of 3: Partnership (CFEC/ECCVB)	\$60,000
ELKHART ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER Envirofest	\$1,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Jazz Festival	\$50,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Hall of Heroes Comic Con	\$5,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Downtown Soul Art and Music Series	\$3,500
ELKHART FOP 52 LITTLE LEAGUE Field and Fencing 1:1 Challenge*	\$12,000

ELKHART HEALTH & AQUATICS CENTER Building Construction	\$2,000,000
ELKHART LODGE 599 MOOSE Rugby Grounds Improvement Project 1:1 Challenge	\$5,000
FRIENDS OF THE LERNER Endowment Fund	\$500,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Seasonal Support	\$5,000
GOSHEN ART HOUSE Regional Artist DocuSeries	\$4,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Music Center Seasonal Support	\$10,000
GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Outreach Efforts	\$2,000
GOSHEN THEATER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
GOSHEN THEATER YR1 of 2: Programming Development	\$50,000
GOSHEN YOUTH ARTS Art Annex Renovation and Expansion	\$100,000
GOSHEN YOUTH ARTS Segura Studios	\$5,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Event Sponsor	\$2,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Annual Membership 2018-2019	\$5,000
GUIDANCE MINISTRIES Homeless Program Expansion	\$10,000
HISTORIC ELKHART RIVER QUEEN New Windows and Canopy	\$10,000
INDIANA BLACK EXPO - ELKHART CHAPTER 45th Anniversary Celebration	\$3,000

Placemaking, Continued

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND Elkhart County Quality of Place Survey	\$11,735
LACASA Help-A-House Event	\$5,000
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA Meet the Candidate Forums	\$4,000
MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Elkhart County Garden Expo	\$5,000
MID AMERICA FILMMAKERS River Bend Film Festival	\$10,000
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Summer and Fall Festivals	\$5,000
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Technology Upgrades	\$1,000
MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY Middlebury Literary Carousel	\$2,000
MIDDLEBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Seasonal Support	\$1,000
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Pumpkin Races	\$1,500
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Trail Tales	\$1,500
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Hometown Happenings	\$200
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART FOUNDATION Seasonal Support	\$5,000
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART FOUNDATION Strategic Plan	\$5,000
NAPPANEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Apple Festival	\$10,000
NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL The Art Path Project	\$15,000

NAPPANEE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION Seasonal Support	\$4,000
NAPPANEE POWER FROM THE PAST The Farm Grounds	\$187,200
PREMIER ARTS Seasonal Support	\$10,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Holiday Tour Season	\$5,000
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION Tournament Sponsor	\$1,000
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Stained Glass Windows Preservation Project	\$15,000
THE LERNER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
TOWN OF MILLERSBURG Community Pocket Park	\$21,300
VISIT NAPPANEE Nappanee Friday Fest Series	\$3,000
WAKARUSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Ag Days	\$350
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Maple Syrup Festival	\$5,000
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Town Center Pumpkin Tree	\$500
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Seasonal Support	\$30,000
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS Origami in the Garden2	\$50,000
WNIT PBS Kids 24/7 Channel	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$4,213,635

* Challenge grants awarded, full funding is dependent on the organization's fulfillment of the challenge.

2018 - 2019

LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.

widens foundation's outreach



LEADERSHIP, IMAGINATION AND GENEROSITY



The Community Foundation of Elkhart County is again partnering with Lilly Endowment Inc. to make Elkhart County stronger.

In 1990, Lilly Endowment created Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) and invited the state's community foundations to apply for funds. There were less than 12 at the time with a combined \$100 million in total assets. Now a community foundation or affiliate fund serves every community and assets in 2017 totaled nearly \$3.6 billion. For the seventh time Lilly Endowment is using GIFT to again help community foundations "enhance the quality of life in their communities by convening conversations among people of diverse ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, occupations, races and cultural traditions about their communities' most compelling needs and opportunities as well as the best ways to address them."

In 2018, Lilly Endowment offered the Community Foundation of Elkhart County \$1.9 million as part of GIFT VII.

It will result in \$3.4 million of new assets for the Community Foundation when matching is completed and falls into four categories:

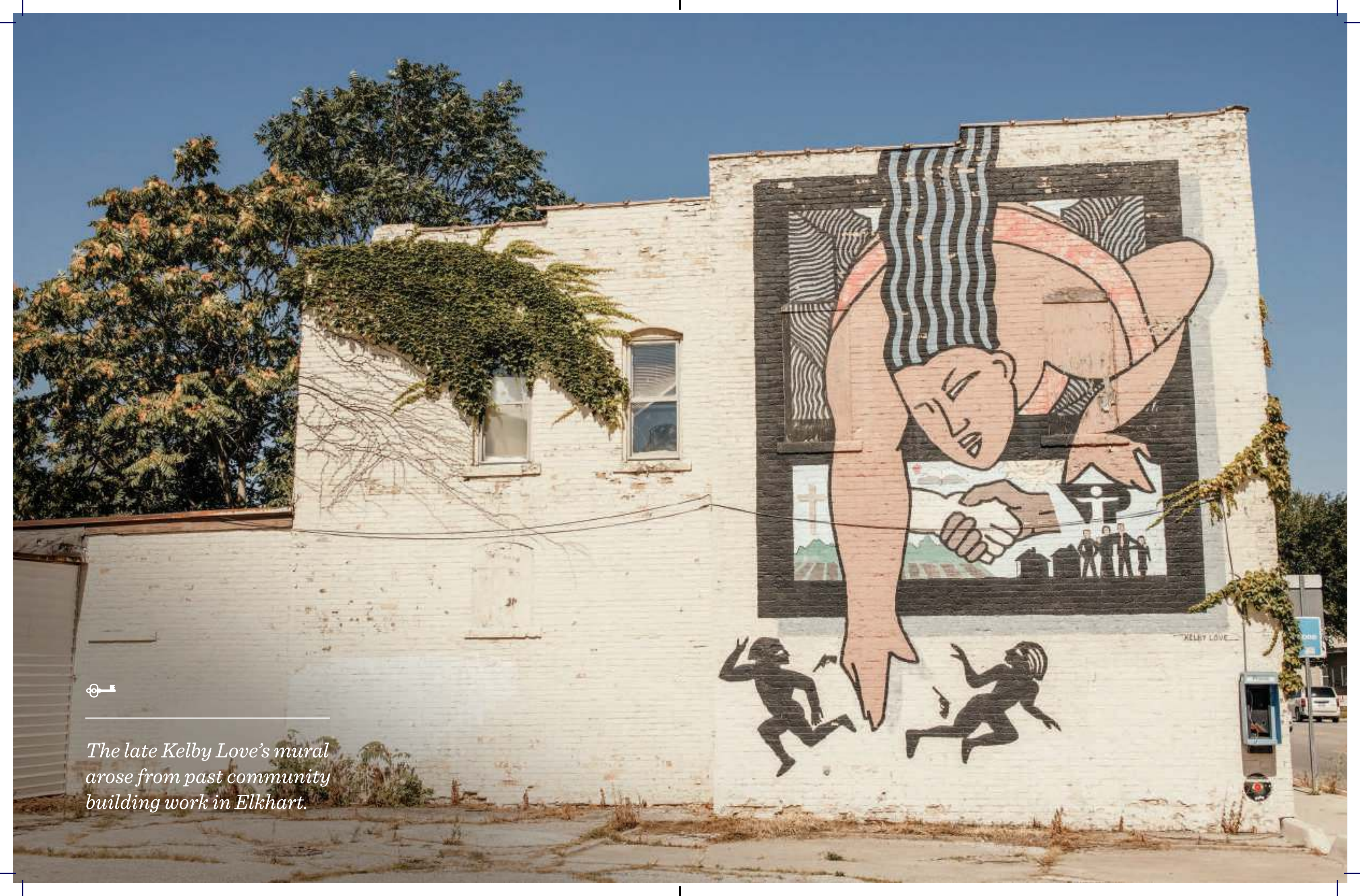
- \$300,000 is a grant with no needed match to fund community leadership initiatives in three Elkhart County neighborhoods.
- \$1 million from Lilly if the Community Foundation can raise \$500,000 in local donations to go into the Fund For Excellence established by GIFT Phase VI.
- \$500,000 from Lilly as a 1-to-2 match of local contributions toward the Elkhart Health & Aquatics Center. That \$1.5 million a year ago helped inspire giving at the end of the capital campaign to get the fundraising push for the center across the line.

Lilly offered a final \$100,000 to the unrestricted Fund for Elkhart County if the Community Foundation could get 100 percent participation from board members giving toward challenge grants. "Our board members and their generosity has qualified us for that \$100,000," says Pete McCown, Community Foundation president.

In past GIFT cycles, Lilly helped establish the Fund For Excellence (see pages 58-59) and helped the Community Foundation of Elkhart County thrive in and engage its community in key ways.

"We continue to be grateful for the support of Lilly Endowment Inc.," says McCown. "Indiana and Elkhart County are better because of the leadership, imagination and generosity of this institution and we are so fortunate to receive assistance and funding."





*The late Kelby Love's mural
arose from past community
building work in Elkhart.*

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Awarding a grant is often an answer to a question.

When someone asks for funding, staff members and committee members review grant applications and look at whether the proposal can make an impact. They make a decision on whether and how much to invest in the agency, person or program wanting to make Elkhart County stronger. It answers the question.

However, a GIFT VII grant from Lilly Endowment to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County is raising a different set of questions whose answers could have far-reaching implications.

The Community Foundation received a Community Leadership Grant for planning, including \$100,000 for a planning process and \$200,000 for implementation of ideas. The Community Foundation is taking a multi-pronged approach. The first step involves looking internally. What capabilities and assets does the Community Foundation have, and where is the opportunity to grow as a community leader? The exploration and strategizing about these questions is taking place within the staff as well as the board of directors.

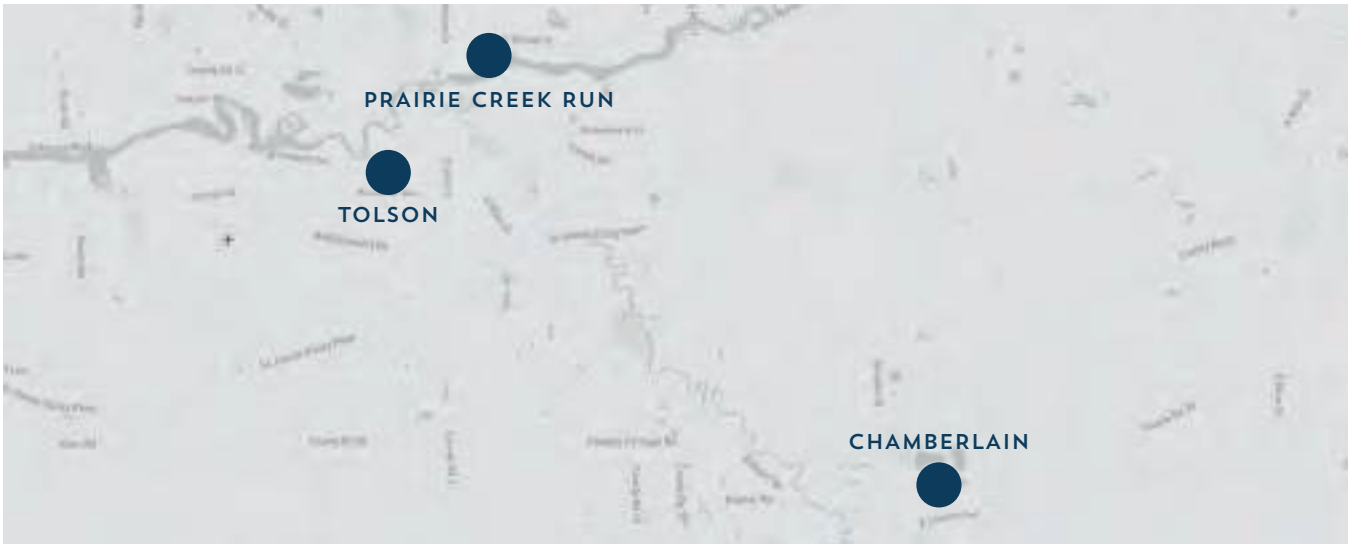
Secondly, the Community Foundation will actively engage three Elkhart County neighborhoods. Conversations are underway to look at the assets in the three neighborhoods, get to know residents and stakeholders, and listen as they determine what would help the neighborhoods.

The primary goal of the grant is to better understand the issues in the three areas by engaging residents. Action is only one part of the efforts. Relationships, processes and thinking also matter, according to Candy Yoder, Chief Program Officer for the Community Foundation. She's eager to work with others to focus on identifying assets in each community by listening, learning about potential change, and thinking strategically once assets are identified. In the Chamberlain Neighborhood, this means exploring ways to identify and grow a culture of abundance, belonging and imaginative vision. It could look different in the other neighborhoods, but the key question is the same: "Are we positioned well to be leading in the community?" asks Candy, who is hopeful that the grant spurs conversations and relationships rather than quick fixes. This will be a slow process focused on people more than predetermined outcomes.

The Community Foundation could opt to apply for a \$5 million grant from Lilly Endowment for future initiatives.

Are we positioned well to be leading in the community?

— CANDY YODER, CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER
for COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of ELKHART COUNTY



My hope is that we can together build some capacity and give the neighborhoods support in any way. My hope is that we can create some structure for neighborhood sustainability

— DANIELA PANETTA OF LACASA INC.

That's a competitive process resulting in 30 awards across the state as part of GIFT VII. Daniela Panetta, community building specialist with Lacasa Inc., is working most closely with the Prairie Creek Run neighborhood as part of the contract with Elkhart County to create a redevelopment plan. She has listened as neighbors talked about what hasn't worked in the past and asked them what they would like to see. At a neighborhood gathering on August 3, she watched as those in attendance bypassed face-painting and other booths to talk about their neighborhood with some of the resident leaders, who became the hit of the event, according Daniela. "My hope is that we can together build some capacity and give them support in any way. My hope is that we can create some structure for neighborhood sustainability," she added.

As that work takes shape in the coming months, staff members and board members are having conversations about the processes that are part of the ongoing work of the Community Foundation and undergoing training on how to think more strategically. Community Foundation President Pete McCown and Board Chair Mike Schoeffler attended the Community Foundation Leads conference in Chicago in July and board members are going through a CF Leads training this fall.

Yoder expects any change, either on the process or community levels, will take time. Phil Metzler with the Community Resilience Guild said using the conversations in the neighborhoods are like laboratories for potential larger implementation. "Process matters," he says. "How we go about it is going to inform the future."

So why tackle the hard questions? Community matters now more than ever. In a fractured world, neighborhoods can be key places for connection and even positive change. Investing time in relationships and conversation will open doors that the Community Foundation may not have known even existed in this community. 🌱

THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Chamberlain neighborhood in north Goshen is home to Chamberlain Elementary School, the Goshen clubhouse for the Boys & Girls Club, and Maple City Health Care Center/Vista Community Health Center, and Lacasa

The Prairie Creek Run neighborhood in northeast Elkhart is a residential area with 400 homes near Osolo Elementary School, but not in the city limits. Elkhart County government, Lacasa Inc. and social research company Dovetail Projects are working in the neighborhood.

The Tolson neighborhood has been the focus of more attention since the city of Elkhart defunded Tolson Center in the summer of 2018. A number of conversations are underway about the future of Tolson and the surrounding area.

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE



Sometimes grants from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County help build playgrounds or buildings, but the Fund for Excellence invests directly in people.

Our goal is to create a community of well-managed, collaborative nonprofit agencies by providing resources and development opportunities for their employees.

As they learn and grow, the agencies and those they serve benefit.

“The Fund for Excellence allows us to play an active role in providing our nonprofit partners with leadership development and educational opportunities,” according to Jodi Spataro, Chief Advancement Officer for the Foundation.

Initially the umbrella these efforts were under was called the Organizational Effectiveness Resource Center, but the name has become The Learning Center (TLC). As Jodi likes to say, this is how the Community Foundation shows tender, loving care to our organizations.

Since its inception in 2016, the fund helps underwrite the cost of our CEO Roundtables where leaders of nonprofits serving Elkhart County regularly gather to both get to know each other and learn from each other. Once a year, the CEOs come together for an annual Nonprofit Leadership Retreat with even more networking and educational opportunities. Workshops on writing grants, strategic planning and storytelling in the last two years have been attended by hundreds of people.

In addition, the Fund For Excellence has provided opportunities for employees of nonprofits to earn certifications at the University of Notre Dame.

Nonprofit leaders in the community often tout how meaningful it is for them and their team members to come together for these events. In addition, the Fund for Excellence helps nonprofits get specialized training. In June, a grant allowed three senior staff members from Ryan’s Place, an organization focused on helping families with grief, to attend the National Symposium on Grieving Children. “We were with our specific tribe,” said Aileac Deegan, president/CEO. She attended with Laureenne Hamlin, program director, and Peyton Petty, program coordinator.

The trio was able to plan how to attend as many workshops as possible to meet their educational goals. Because of what they learned, they are planning how to evaluate their programs in new ways, says Aileac.

Attending would have been difficult without the financial assistance from the Community Foundation. “It was a great opportunity for us. More than any conference we attend because it’s so specific to our work,” says Aileac, who also participates regularly in CEO Roundtables, the retreat and other workshops.

The TLC activities help donations and grant dollars become better investments in our community. Dr. Pete McCown believes, “The rationale behind The Learning Center is this premise that if we invest in the efficacy of our nonprofits, the other grantmaking we and other respective institutions make goes farther.”. The Learning Center is opening new doors for greater impact. 🌸



Lilly Stories

Fund for Excellence
FOUNDING DONORS



Founding Donors are those individuals or organizations that contributed to the Fund for Excellence through the Lilly Gift VI Initiative from 2014 through 2016. The names of the donors will be prominently displayed in the Community Foundation’s Annual Report as the original endowment builders and supporters.

Gary and Connie Adamson	Gordon McCormick Corporation	MutualBank Charitable Foundation, Inc
Dick and Deb Armington	Joseph and Holly Hosinski	Dzung and Francoise Nguyen
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller	Dean and Ruth Hupp	Myrl and Phyllis Nofziger
Megan and Troy Baughman	Irions Foundation	Mike and Judy Pianowski
Deborah and David Beaverson	Jayco	Donald Pletcher
Roy Beck	Rick and Sandy Jenkins	Marly and Laura Rydson
Bill Deputy Foundation	Bill and Toni Johnson	Mike and Vicki Schoeffler
Brian and Margot Borger	Thomas and Donna Kauffman	Oscar and <i>Marilyn</i> Schricker
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Corson Family Foundation	Levi and Joanna King	Brian and Lauri Smith
Rob and Vicki Cripe	Delmar and Sherri King	Carl and Emilie Tiedemann
Cripe Family Foundation	Richard and Susan Klepinger	Thomas and <i>Patricia</i> Warrick
Arthur J. Decio	Chuck and Betty Lamb	David Weed
Lois Dusthimer	John and Jane Leavitt	Jeff and Phid Wells
Estate of Guy David Gundlach	<i>Allan</i> and Karon Ludwig	<i>Madelon Wells</i>
John and Lois Fidler	Pete and Wendy McCown	Welter Foundation
David and Susan Findlay	Bob and Sue Miller	John and Carolyn Wolf
John and Gwen Gildea	Gordon and Marie Moore	<i>*Names in italics are deceased Founding Donors</i>



HISTORIC GIVING FLOWS INTO NEW FACILITY



Until you walk through the doors of the Elkhart Health & Aquatics Center it's not really possible to imagine the scale. The light streaming into the building illuminates two full-size gymnasiums, the running track and the areas where people perch on a machine for a workout. The largest of the pools holds 1.1 million gallons of water. The seating area a story above it will hold 1,200 people. But then there's also a commons area that will have a fireplace, a library and an outdoor terrace. There's a lot to take in as you walk through the 170,000 square-foot building.

The process to build this started years ago when the YMCA of Elkhart County building was still standing at 200 E. Jackson Boulevard. The structure and facilities were showing their age and volunteer board members were discussing what could come next.

When unexpected maintenance costs prompted the closure, the conversation became more urgent. Sharon Liegl was one of a number of people who transitioned from a board member to become part of the fundraising and planning steering committees. Her husband Pete Liegl, founder of Forest River, made his voice heard as well.

"Pete was the visionary. He really was," says Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

"His challenge to us was to make the facility a world-class swimming centerpiece. He wanted the facility to make a statement about Elkhart County."

It was Liegl who thought the community could mount the effort to build such a place. It was Liegl who first wanted Elkhart to have a place that you'd be more likely to find in a bigger community.

The project grew in scale, both in collaboration and the money being raised. The list of partner organizations grew to include Elkhart Community Schools, Beacon Health System/Elkhart General Hospital and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

The fundraising effort also swelled as the conversation opened doors with more donors. The Regional Cities project of the Indiana Economic Development Corp. contributed \$9 million. Perhaps the bigger story is how personal philanthropy helped this facility become reality.

More than 100 families, businesses or organizations gave at least \$10,000 in what was the largest capital campaign in Elkhart County history. Half of the cost of the \$70 million raised, including \$10 million for endowment to maintain the facility, came from local people and institutions.

When the finish line was in sight for fundraising, Lilly Endowment's GIFT VII offered \$500,000 if the local community would contribute \$1 million. That helped spur the final gifts to complete the fundraising.

Now that the facility is open, health memberships are being purchased rapidly, but as important is the way in which community programs are growing, according to Paul Sharbaugh, director of health and fitness at the facility.

The free open swims are popular. Middle school students are learning to swim and high school and Bethel University swim teams are practicing. The Boys & Girls Club of Elkhart County Brian and Jeannelle Brady Center is starting a traveling basketball team to practice at the facility. Beacon Health anchors the west wing by offering physical therapy and rehab services. The east wing is anchored by the Community Commons, a space where nonprofits and other groups are being invited to offer programs.

The size of the building is impressive. The way the facility works appeals to people. How the community enters the doors to utilize it will be the legacy of these generous people to current and future generations. 🌿

FUNDRAISERS

Bob Deputy	Pete McCown
Sharon Liegl	Jodi Spataro
Joel Duthie	Shelley Moore
Tom Housand	Mel Jacobson
Dave Weaver	Tom Pletcher
Dianne Benko	

BOARD

Michael Schoeffler, Chairman & Secretary	Karen Carter
	Cole Patuzzi
	Carl Risk
	Jill Sigsbee
Jeffrey Costello, President & Treasurer	Brian Smith
	Doug Weaver

The new center BY THE NUMBERS



1.1M

Gallons of water in the competition swimming pool



100+

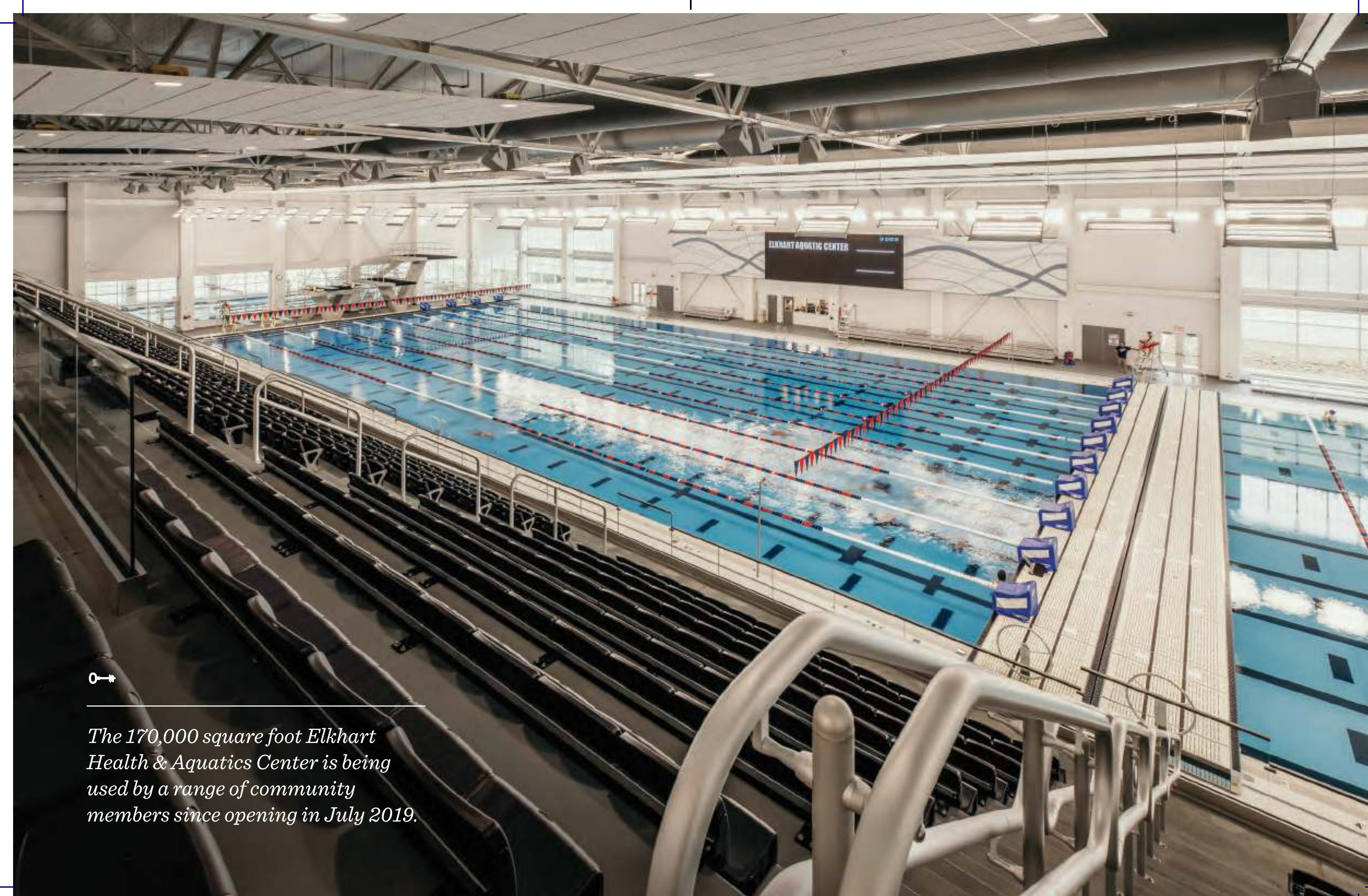
Pieces of strength and cardio equipment

03

Large regional swimming events scheduled starting this fall in that pool

2,400

Fitness members as of the end of August



The 170,000 square foot Elkhardt Health & Aquatics Center is being used by a range of community members since opening in July 2019.

2018 - 2019

FUND FOR ELKHART COUNTY



FORGING A NEW PATH
to Honor and Educate



Fund for
ELKHART COUNTY

Since her husband Tom died in 2010, Charlotte Mittler had been on a search.



She wanted to find a way to honor his work and life. It had to be distinctive and full of life, the way he was before his death at the age of 67 related to a stroke. As his obituary stated, Tom Mittler was a “lucky son of a gun who did the things he wanted, his way.”

He joined his father’s business in 1969, two years after he married. He built Mittler Supply, a little mom & pop business, into one of the country’s largest independently owned gas and welding supply chains. It had more than 200 employees and locations in three states when the family sold it to Praxair in 2007.

Charlotte is a member of the Greenleaf family, a distinctive group that helped shape the city’s future. Her father was an engineer who would talk regularly about how difficult it was to get skilled employees.

Tom loved engines, vintage cars and speed, but what developed in his memory took time to develop. After trying a scholarship fund, Charlotte still longed for something bigger to honor Tom’s legacy.

In May 2019, Charlotte was touring the Elkhart Area

Career Center with some others. She knew the late Basil Turner from CTS Corp. and remembers when the center that teaches vocational skills to students from about 20 high schools was constructed. The welding area made an impression, but more for what it wasn’t. As she walked out, she told Kerri Ritchie, who oversees Corey Partners (the Mittler family office) to ask the administrators what their wish list included.

At a lunch that followed, career center administrators told of how Elkhart Community Schools’ new strategic plan included an Engineering, Technology and Innovation track and a new building between the career center and Memorial High School, which will become the new Elkhart High School building for 10th through 12th graders.

Charlotte got excited. She’d found what would honor Tom. “I was happy to give some money,” she says.

Alongside her significant gift, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County awarded a \$500,000 grant. Other grants, donations and public funding total nearly \$10 million for the project. If the school system and Elkhart Education Foundation can raise an additional \$1.6 million by the end

of 2019, the building’s second phase can be included in the initial construction for a total of \$14 million.

Initial plans were to retrofit the existing administrative offices into classrooms. Charlotte’s gift, which those involved say was part of a perfect alignment of interests and timing, resulted in quick plans to make it modern and state of the art. “As long as we’re doing it, let’s do it right,” says Charlotte.

Construction has just begun on the beautiful new Mittler Engineering, Technology and Innovation Center. It’s scheduled for completion in summer 2020 for use next school year and full usage starting in August 2021.

Welding, machining, logistics, data analysis, robotics and other skills will all be taught in the new center, which will include labs, classrooms and a gathering space for 300. Mechatronics, the management of advanced manufacturing robotic devices, will be a new program offered.

In addition to dual-credit classes for high school students, school officials are planning evening classes for adults wanting to learn new skills, according to Superintendent Steve Thalheimer. The Mittler Center will also adapt as jobs change in this global economy and how things are made in Elkhart County evolves. “The world is moving on. If we’re not moving with it, we’ll be in trouble,” say Charlotte.

“We’re a manufacturing county,” says Brandon Eakins, director of the career center. “If we don’t find a way to not only engage students in advanced manufacturing, what does that mean for the longevity of our county? This is long overdue. This is paramount to making sure we don’t re-experience 2008.”

This will change the way students of all ages experience school, the ways they gain expertise. The doors will swing open for them as education connects them with their futures. Charlotte believes her late husband, who supplied the materials to help welders connect metal, would be proud. 🌿

As long as we are doing it, let’s do it right.

– CHARLOTTE MITTLER

Fund for Elkhart County CAREER PATHWAYS



14%

CAREER PATHWAYS

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our communities’ greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$8 million in grants were awarded in the three ongoing areas of priority for the Community Foundation.





REMOVING BARRIERS

by Erasing Ink



Fund for
ELKHART COUNTY

James Wright made a strong first impression on people.



It wasn't the best impression though. The tattoo of a handgun on his left temple made him memorable.

He'd gotten his first tattoo at the age of 12 and over time covered his chest, arms and neck. Yet the one that got attention was the handgun above his eye that a tattoo artist in Westville Correctional Facility gave him in 2017. The tattoo literally was a gift on a "free face Friday" that the man offered to James to help advertise his work.

When James got out of prison, the tattoo limited his job options. Even after he got a job in the recreational vehicle industry, his supervisor asked him to avoid being seen during public tours. "It definitely closed a lot of doors," says James. "It definitely wasn't the smartest thing to do."

He had gone to a tattoo artist in Elkhart to try to get the gun tattoo removed, but the process was cumbersome and expensive. He continued to carry the gun he no longer wanted.

In 2018, he was arrested and once again came through the doors of the Elkhart County Jail. As he was being booked, he encountered Chaplain Cory Martin, who asked if he wanted to get that tattoo removed. James got excited and still talks about that conversation as "an appointment with God."

Soon, he had an appointment with Holly Young, the tattoo removal technician for the Elkhart County Jail Ministry. On August 1, 2018, she started wielding a powerful laser to break up the ink particles in someone's skin. As she points the wand at an embedded image or word, that ink absorbs the energy and literally explodes. After six to 10 treatments, the tattoo fades to near invisibility. James' gun is now a faint shadow on his smiling face and he is getting others removed. As Holly works on a tattoo on his hand, he winces and squeezes a stress ball with his other hand.

In the first year, Holly and volunteer assistants treated numerous tattoos on 343 inmates in the medical ward at the jail. That pace is among the top five percent in the country among those using the Astanza brand of laser machines. "Every day I come here I can't believe I get to come here," says Holly, something few would say of jail. "I'm just amazed and just humbled I get to do this."

The free service, supported by donations to the jail ministry and grants from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, removes face, neck and hand tattoos and with special attention being paid to gang tattoos. If someone is heading from jail to prison with a gang tattoo, they're automatically in.

One of the tattoos was a 35-year-old swastika. An inmate who had Aryan views but now has biracial grandchildren has good reason to want those tattoos gone.





Chaplain Cory Martin got the idea for the machine at the jail from Homeboy Industries, which removes tattoos from former gang members in Los Angeles. After raising the \$55,000 for the machine, Holly and others went through training and started erasing those moments. The late Carolyn Schrock-Shenk raised the money for a machine that super cools air to lessen the intense pain that is part of the removal.

The program to remove tattoos while someone is on the “inside” had gone so well, Cory eyed the next step. Because the removal process takes time and treatments are needed after someone is released from jail, Cory looked for partners to get another machine for the “outside,” as those in the jail ministry refer to the alternative to incarceration.

Dr. James Nelson Gingerich and the staff at Maple City Health Care Center in Goshen were eager for the chance to become partners. “This is how we welcome reentering citizens and hear their stories and have them feel welcome. This is how we tell them they belong,” says James.

Maple City hired Bobby and Lisa Gunnoe as part-time technicians. They are available for appointments four days a week and one Saturday a month and also work full-time elsewhere. The tattoo removal is the job these former inmates would do even if they weren’t getting paid money. They get paid in smiles and gratitude as people’s lives are being changed, says Lisa.

Not having to explain your past is a huge step in changing. Getting rid of gang tattoos can save someone’s life and help them find a job. As Bobby and Lisa remove tattoos from themselves and others, they wince and then heal. That process repeats itself as they find more and more wholeness.

The process opens doors as the visible reminders of bad decisions disappear. “It’s hard to move forward when the worst moments of your life are tattooed all over your body,” says Cory.

Removing permanent ink from someone changes how they’re viewed. Their mothers are thrilled. They get a chance to change.

“We can give them that chance to change,” adds Bobby. “They don’t have to explain themselves anymore. Our whole goal is to change not just our community, but people’s lives.” 🌱

Fund for Elkhart County
KIDS & FAMILIES



20%

KIDS & FAMILIES

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our communities’ greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$8 million in grants were awarded in the three ongoing areas of priority for the Community Foundation.





Every group has its stories.



While fishermen tell tales of the ones they landed and the one that got away, farmers tell of the animal that escaped from the pasture or how hot it was when they got the hay in the barn.

The stories farmers tell, often laced with humility and humor, often include a dose of history and tradition. A group of men in Nappanee are making sure the stories of the last century keep getting told, even as farming and the tools change.

Nappanee Power from the Past, which has about 150 members and continues to grow, has a new 57-acre plot of land it purchased from Amish Acres, the tourist attraction in Nappanee created to tell the story of the Amish and years gone by.

The new home for the club of antique power enthusiasts, which incorporated in 2010, means that its early summer and fall shows have a permanent location. That has spurred increased interest and the tractor pull that was part of the Nappanee Apple Festival Antique Tractor, Engine, and Toy show needed four additional classes to accommodate all the entries, according to Brian Metzler, president of the

organization. The Indiana Pullers Association is returning to the competition which tests the power of tractors by attaching a weighted sled. People in this part of the world love this sporting competition that tests the limits of machines.

The group started when a few men displayed some equipment downtown during the city’s Apple Festival. That grew into more displays and a sawmill demonstration at the sports complex. Starting in 2010, the group used a field near Dutch Village.

The purchase of the Amish Acres property, which includes farm buildings, pasture and wetlands, gives the group a chance to grow on a permanent location into an educational showcase. School field trips and regular public events will offer a chance to tell the story of Nappanee and Elkhart County as a farming community, not just a manufacturing hub.

The group submitted a grant application to the Community Foundation of Elkhart County for \$187,000. The grant committee was impressed with personal commitment from the group’s members, both in gifts of time and money, and

their commitment to long-term success. It awarded the full amount to help the group get closer to its vision for the new property. “I was pleasantly surprised. And very thankful,” says Brian.

The money helps the group rebuild a maple sugar camp, construct new bathrooms, create the pulling track and add other infrastructure to accommodate crowds. It will also help restore a still used to turn mint plants into oil, an activity common in the area for decades.

“Nappanee has a great agriculture heritage,” says Brian. His ancestors and others came for the fertile land. An Amish community settled here and its members continue to farm with horses. Historically, tractors have been forbidden for farming, though it varies a bit by community. Delbert Borkholder, one of those Amish members, explains that it’s OK for him to have the old equipment. “I got four threshing machines. I got two corn shredders. A stationary baler. This is all old equipment that does work,” he says, continuing to add to the list.

In Nappanee, about 40 percent of the club’s membership is Amish. Borkholder and other Amish and non-Amish have Rumelys, a kerosene-powered machine that was built in LaPorte in the early 1900s.

Lamar “Popcorn” Slabaugh has the Rumely his Amish grandfather bought at the factory in 1929 and drove home to Nappanee, finishing the trip on a gravel road called U.S. 6. Popcorn was 7 years old when he first said he wanted that tractor and now he’s talking about recreating the trip in 2020 when Nappanee Power from the Past’s fall show featured Rumelys. Now his son wants the machine that has a rumbling, putt-putt sound.

In five or 10 years, the group may build a heritage center. Some of the members talk longingly of storage buildings so they can move some of the machines out of their own. Yet this plot is also likely to be used in a variety of other ways. “I want to see this property used for all sorts of community events and it doesn’t have to be agriculture-related,” says Brian.

Even when horsepower only came from horses, farmers would compare notes and shoot the breeze as they stood in the sun on a summer evening. They talk about how they want to teach young people about how farming used to be so that they better understand where to go from here. They talk about opening doors to the past so that we can together create a better future. 🌱

Fund for Elkhart County
PLACEMAKING



53%

PLACEMAKING

The Fund for Elkhart County, our unrestricted fund, supports our communities’ greatest opportunities and emerging needs with responsive contributions. This year, \$8 million in grants were awarded in the three ongoing areas of priority for the Community Foundation.



*Nappanee Power From the Past
showcases agricultural heritage.*

2018 - 2019

FOUNDATION STAFF



Community Foundation Staff



Carrie Berghoff
Donor Engagement Specialist



Karla Copenhaver
Grants Administrator



Tressa Huddleston
*Executive Assistant
& Office Manager*



Amanda Jamison
Senior Program Officer



Samantha Lambert
Associate Program Officer



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Associate Program Officer



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Staff Accountant



Candy Yoder
Chief Program Officer



300 Nibco Parkway, Suite 301, Elkhart, IN 46516



