

2020 Annual Report

PATHWAYS





*“Pursue some path,
however narrow and
crooked, in which you
can walk with love
and reverence.”*

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Letter from the President

WE REMAIN GRATEFUL, EVEN DURING A CHALLENGING YEAR

Occasionally when you walk a path, the way in front of you is clear. The sky is blue, the birds are singing and the dog beside you is trotting along contentedly.

However, there are many times when the path ahead is unclear and we just hope there will be others to help us navigate it.

2020 will not go down in history as one of my favorite years. I hate this virus and the impact it has had on the way we live. I hope we never see another year like this, yet I am also deeply grateful for the ways some in our community have responded.

When COVID-19 hit our community, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County quickly partnered with United Way of Elkhart & LaGrange Counties to assure that people in our community would have what they needed to be safe and healthy. We kept our office open and also allowed staff members to work at home to assure their safety. As we all learned to Zoom and wear masks, our staff members and those of local nonprofits worked hard to provide food for families, childcare for frontline workers, and masks for thousands of people. We saw individuals and companies go above and beyond so those who had less would have what they needed.

We have an amazing group of nonprofit organizations in Elkhart County and they have shown tremendous resiliency and creativity. We are privileged to partner with them as they work to help others along the path. Their work is made possible by a remarkable and noble group

of people willing to give generously to them both of time and treasure. Though the pandemic slowed our ability to foster even more volunteerism in our community through the Acts of Service program, we look forward to where that path will lead us in the coming months and years as the program and its effect continue to grow.

We continue to be humbled by the ways generous people choose to use the Community Foundation to accomplish their philanthropic goals. The year had its economic challenges, yet the ways in which people gave astounded us. We received a total of \$35.6 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2019-20. Because of past giving and investment, we were able to give \$35.1 million in grants.

Elkhart County is a place where we invite people to join us on the path. It's a place where we encourage others on their own journeys. It's a place that continues to have both tremendous resources to offer and incredible potential to do even more. Thank you for all you do to make this an amazing place and I pray we can do even more together in the future.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Pete L. McCown".

PETE MCCOWN
President

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Galen Miller
Thomas Pletcher
Kerri Ritchie
Isaac Torres
David Weed
Ola Yoder

FOUNDING MEMBERS *Names in italics are deceased*

Charles Ainlay
Jon Armstrong
Lehman Beardsley
Wilbert H. Budd
Arthur J. Decio

Dr. John Foreman
Samuel Hoover
William P. Johnson
Lee Martin
James McNamee

William Myers
Richard Pletcher
Laura Rydson
Oscar Schricker
Thomas Warrick

Community Foundation

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
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The Decio Family:
Terrence Decio
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Leigh Decio Laird
Sherrill and Helen Deputy Family
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Elkhart County 4-H Endowment
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fidler
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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

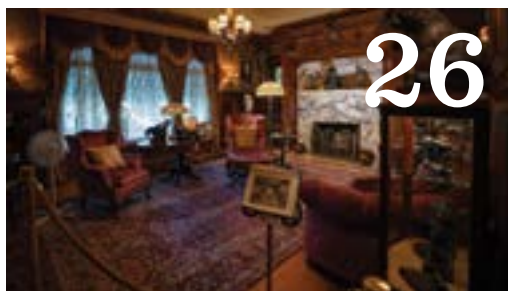


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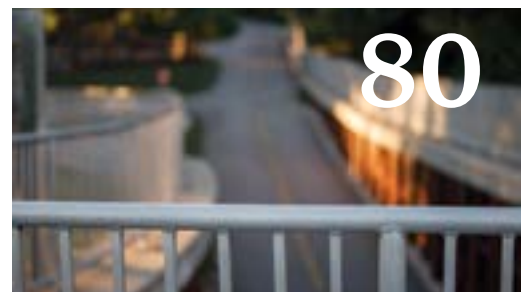
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The beauty of giving

JURATE KRABILL INVESTS IN HER PASSIONS FOR ALL TO ENJOY

LEFT:

Three separate islands compose the Island Garden at Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart and the wooden pavilion sits atop the main island.

Sitting outside on an unusually idyllic August day Krabill is chatting about herself — a subject she’s not afraid to let people know makes her a little uneasy.

“I’m a little uncomfortable,” she says. “I’m not a limelight person.”

She has become a part of a growing area in the United States: female philanthropy.

The path she’s taken to get to where she is has been long and winding, but it’s a story she’s willing to share.

Krabill was born in Lithuania and as a girl moved to Canada with her family following World War II. She studied nursing in Chicago and became a nurse in the United States. She’d end up spending 25 years working in operating rooms and 20 years working in senior citizen nursing homes.

“I loved working in the operating room, so that’s why I did it. Most of it was pure

emotion,” she says. “I didn’t like the thought of doing patient care, because that’s one-on-one. And that wasn’t my thing. I liked the excitement of the operating room.”

She eventually made her way to California. That’s where she met her future husband, Don Krabill.

The pair met on Halloween in 1966 in a bar called the Oar House. As she describes it, it was the kind of place where peanuts would intermittently drop out of a chute into a barrel, and you’d be just as likely to meet a Hollywood actress as you would a group of Australians partying the night away. A year later, she and Don were married.

Don hadn’t finished college (which was a



“There’s a quiet about the Island Garden. I like the sound of the running water, and the waterfall there. It makes me relax.”

— JURATE KRABILL

Wellfield philanthropist

ABOVE:
The Island Garden is a passion of Jurate Krabill.

problem for Jurate’s old-world family). So the pair moved to Goshen where Don attended Goshen College and she worked. She looks back fondly at her time working in Goshen.

“The doctors here in Goshen, back in the old days, they were all Mennonite doctors and they were great to work with,” she says. “They were gentle, kind, and I enjoyed them and I took pride in working with them and trying to stay a step ahead.”

Don attended college on and off, and they eventually decided to move to Iowa where Don would work on his father’s hog and turkey farm.

“I would never, ever live in Iowa now,” Krabill says with a laugh. “Especially out in the boonies.”

Eventually, the pair wanted to set back out on their own so Don took a job in Elkhart selling buildings and grain bins and the pair officially moved here in 1972. He worked at a few other places through the

years, but he eventually decided to start his own company. Don served as president of Geocell in Elkhart for 38 years. Through the ensuing decades, Don was very active in the Elkhart community as a board member of many local organizations, including Women’s Care Center, Stanley Clark, and Elkhart General Hospital.

Then, one day in 2013, Don found out he had cancer.

Don was a steadfast husband, and he knew that he’d want his wife to be able to continue to help the community where they had both made a life. So, as part of his work with Elkhart Rotary Club, he decided to work with the Community Foundation to create a donor-advised fund for her to be able to continue that philanthropic work.

“Don’s life was, he loved, being a part of the community,” she says. “And helping build the community.”

Don knew that his wife had a fascination with Japanese culture and lifestyles and engorged herself with books on the subject. He knew that she also loved their home designs and floral arrangements. The spark hit Don to work with the Community Foundation and Wellfield Botanic Gardens to create a Japanese island garden.

“When he said he donated for that and told me what it was, I was shocked,” she says. “And, basically, probably in tears. Because I’m a good crier.”

This year, Wellfield has completed the work on the island garden and has officially named 2020 “Kisetsu: The Year of the Island

Garden.” Eric Garton, the Robert and Peggy Weed executive director at Wellfield Botanic Gardens, views the island garden as a legacy that countless generations will enjoy.

“Wellfield means many things to many different people. Having community members like Don and Jurate understand the importance of investing in a true ‘quality of life’ amenity like Wellfield Botanic Gardens is a testament to their personal and business success. Improving Wellfield is improving our community,” says Garton. “Though Don was never able to see the Island completed before his passing in 2014, Jurate has continued to steward their shared vision to bring an

BELOW:
Wellfield Botanic Gardens designated 2020 as Kisetsu-The Year of the Island Garden.



By the Numbers
**DONOR ADVISED
FUNDS**

Funds

140

Assets

\$41.8M

Grants

\$16.0M

*Funds held by
your Community
Foundation*

authentic, high-quality Japanese garden experience to Wellfield.”

Krabill says that it’s the peaceful tranquility of the gardens that she enjoys the most.

“There’s a quiet [about the island garden]. I like the sound of the running water, and the waterfall there. [It] makes me relax,” she says. “At home we have a fish pond that the water’s running, and I enjoy that — the peace and quiet. I hate traffic sounds.”

Her philanthropy doesn’t end there. She also gives to Child And Parent Services and has given to the new Elkhart Health and Aquatics center for outdoor beautification.

“I feel that if I can help people in things that I like the sound of, then I’ll do it,” she says. “Not just to be giving, but I have to like the things I’m involved in.”

Krabill says that she likes to understand and know an organization before she gives to

it; she likes to connect with an organization’s mission. And that’s an important part about philanthropy: being able to support things that a person cares about the most — the things that bring people happiness.

She may not view herself as a trailblazing female philanthropist in Elkhart County, but she certainly has the qualities.

“If you need some help with something, ask,” she says. “I may not agree, but if it’s something I like too, I’ll help.” 🌱

THE EASY PATH

Donor Advised Funds offer a hands-on approach to philanthropy and are ideal for those wanting to give to multiple organizations and programs throughout the year.

A Donor Advised Fund is a personalized fund that makes it easy for you to support the issues and organizations you care about in Elkhart County or across the country. You can use cash, stock, or other assets to create a named fund, qualify for an immediate income tax deduction, and when it’s convenient for you, choose the charities you want to support.





A cog in the wheel

SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUES NEAL MYERS' LEGACY OF GIVING BACK

LEFT:

The Myers family has created a scholarship to honor the life of Neal Myers, who died in February 2019.

Neal Myers always said he was just another cog in the wheel, doing his part to help others in need.

The Middlebury man, along with his wife Dianne, helped launch the Boys and Girls Club in Middlebury and donated money to local charities including the Northridge Dollars for Scholars. He volunteered as a pilot for Angel Flight Central, helping sick children and their families travel to receive medical care, as well as for Pilots N Paws Pet Rescue Services.

"He always felt that to those whom much has been given, much will be expected," Dianne says. "That's how he lived."

Neal's untimely passing occurred when his plane went down one evening in February 2019. He was 55 years old.

After the crash, Dianne and their children wanted to keep Neal's legacy of helping others moving forward.

A LIFE SPENT GIVING

The Middlebury community was shocked by the loss of a man who was a true pillar of the community. Neal owned Max Myers Motors for 26 years and while he was known for his successful business, he is most remembered for his philanthropy.

"That's just who he was. Even in college, he was giving back through his fraternity, working on philanthropy projects," Dianne says. The couple met while they were at Purdue University and bonded over their shared passion for helping others. They taught their children to do the same.

When their kids were in elementary school, their neighborhood sponsored a family for Secret Santa during the holiday

By the Numbers
**SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS**

Funds
102

Assets
\$21.8M

Grants
\$2.6M

*Funds held by
your Community
Foundation*

season. Neal and Dianne took their children shopping for the family.

“Then the whole neighborhood would have a pizza party, and we would wrap the gifts at somebody’s house,” Dianne recalls. The children experienced the joy of giving back and bonding with family and friends in the spirit of giving.

Neal also loved flying planes, his hobby for more than 30 years. He owned a small single-engine plane with seven seats, decorated in black and gold with a Purdue ‘P’ emblazoned on the side. When Neal and Dianne learned about the Angel Flight and Pilots N Paws programs, they immediately volunteered. Neal felt especially compelled to help children and animals.

“They were two groups that their voices don’t always get heard,” Dianne says.

“Sometimes they just need someone to believe in them, that they were important enough for us to take our plane and get them where they needed to get that day.”

Neal and Dianne went on about 30 flights for the Angels program and another 30 for Pilots N Paws. Their children were living in Dallas and Florida at the time, and they would often pick up huskies that had been abandoned in the south on their way home to take to a husky rescue in northern Michigan.

“We were down there visiting our kids anyway, and it just makes you feel good when you look at those little furry faces and get them where they need to be,” Dianne says.

When Kevin Deary, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, approached a group of Middlebury leaders about building a club in Middlebury,

RIGHT:
Neal Myers loved Middlebury and making it a better community.





Neal immediately volunteered. He helped secure funding for the first club that opened in 2002 and later served on the Blue-Ribbon Committee that launched the construction of a new building for the club in 2005. The club now serves more than 450 children annually.

“Our community just finished enlarging the facility that we had built that was bursting at the seams,” Dianne says. “This is serving our community and so many families. It’s amazing to watch it be used.”

Like with everything else, Neal saw his philanthropic work as just doing his part, making the most of the tools and skills he had. He was just another cog in the wheel.

THE WHEEL MOVES FORWARD

After Neal passed away, Dianne and their children knew that the best way to honor him was to help others. “How could we as a family keep (Neal’s work) going forward?” they wondered. In his life, Neal was so passionate about helping others, especially children. The answer: a scholarship in Neal’s name.

“Neal always wanted kids to have the opportunity to live a good and productive life,” Dianne says. “If this helps a student in some small way, wonderful.”

Dianne contacted the Northridge Dollars for Scholars to set up the scholarship. The Myers family was familiar with the organization already. Max Myers Motors made several donations to the organization over the

ABOVE:
Dianne Myers talks about her late husband Neal and how he gave back.



“We are honoring someone whose work was so profound in the community.”

—JAMIE PECK

President of Northridge Dollars for Scholars

ABOVE: Jamie Peck (left) and Dianne Myers share about a scholarship in honor of the late Neal Myers.

years and the family knew some of the board members.

Dianne also appreciated that Dollars For Scholars has an established blueprint for its scholarships, as it awards 75 to 100 scholarships to Middlebury students every year. Thanks to its partnership with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, the family felt confident that the organization would be able to award the Neal Myers Scholarship for many years to come.

“We weren’t looking to reinvent the wheel

(with a new scholarship program),” Dianne says. They were looking to continue Neal’s legacy of simply being a cog in the wheel — doing their part.

“It exemplifies what your family means and stands for, and the true heart of your family,” Jamie Peck, president of Northridge Dollars for Scholars, told Dianne in a meeting with the Community Foundation.

In honor of Neal’s memory, Dianne and their children wanted to ensure that the scholarship would benefit students who may not qualify for other scholarships. Students who were members of the Boys and Girls Club will be prioritized. Recipients also don’t have to follow the traditional college path; if they were planning to enroll in college part-time or attend a technical or trade school, they may also be awarded the scholarship.

“I think that’s neat because of how (the Myers family) looks at the community to help people who may not have other



opportunities,” Peck says. “I think it’s really special to have this scholarship in Neal’s name, and that it will continue to grow thanks to the endowment and the investment the Community Foundation does.

“We are honoring someone whose work was so profound in the community,” Peck says.

For the Myers family, creating the Neal Myers Scholarship is the best way they know

how to honor a man who spent so much of his life giving to others — to continue being cogs in the wheel, as Neal would say.

“Neal’s legacy continues forward. Simple as that. We are so happy to be able to give a student a little hand up. And let them know that somebody here in Middlebury believes in them,” Dianne says. “This is the way to keep (the wheel) moving forward.” 🍀

ABOVE:

The Myers family loves the town of Middlebury and is working to make it more vibrant.

CREATING A PATH FOR STUDENTS

Through a Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation, you make the dream of higher education a reality for students. You determine the scholarship purpose and selection criteria, and the Community Foundation manages the details and administrative paperwork to ensure that awards are disbursed on time and in accordance with the process you identify.



A hands-on giver

THE STORY OF MARY HOOVER (1918–2019)

Mary Hoover was born in 1918, before women had the right to vote, before school desegregation, before Alaska and Hawaii became states. She was a dedicated aunt, high school Spanish teacher, and member of First United Methodist Church of Middlebury.

Though she traveled often, journeying to all 48 contiguous states and leading class trips to Acapulco, Mexico, her path always led back home to Elkhart County.

In life, Mary built her legacy by the time she gave, not the checks she wrote. But when she passed away at age 100, friends and family also learned of her financial legacy.

Thirty years before her death, Mary met with her brother, Sam Hoover Jr., to update her will. During their meeting, she asked him how to leave behind “a gift for goodness” toward her lifelong love: her community. He helped her set up a trust to create an endowment for her church via the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

“She was a very giving person, very kind, very generous,” says her nephew, Sam Hoover III. “She would want to know that the money she gave to the Community Foundation went for something good.”

Sam fondly remembers his aunt as a “hands-on” giver. For many people, Sam says, it’s enough to write a check. Not so for Mary. She wanted to walk alongside people. Sometimes that meant a charitable donation, but it usually meant buying children Bibles, inviting them to her family’s pond-side property for a meal, or helping them get to church or summer camp. She was involved with the Red Cross and the Humane Society.



ABOVE:
Mary Hoover
at age 100.

She directed her church choir for 40 years. She also taught Sam and his brother how to golf.

“She was very much a Christian woman. She was giving of her time and her money. She was a special lady, not only because she was my aunt and I was close to her, but she

was caring and aware of people’s feelings,” Sam remembers.

Because of Mary’s gift, her spirit of generosity can live on for another century. 🌱

CONTINUING THE PATH

Many people in our community choose to make a lasting gift to charity to support causes that have been important to them during their lifetimes. Our flexible giving options allow you to do just that: give to the causes close to your heart or make a future gift in honor of a loved one.



The Post's Path Forward

20 YEARS AND COUNTING

Walk into The Post and you'll find Goshen teenagers playing a pickup game of basketball, hunched over their latest homework assignments, or chatting over snacks in the café. They represent a diverse range of family structures, school systems, and perspectives.

BELOW:
E-man Monge and board members Don Wade and Sean Behensky are excited about the future of The Post.

What matters is that their voices converge here—in Goshen's old converted post office.

"Our mission is to take those that can't plug in somewhere else—and everyone else too," says board member Don Wade as he sits next to The Post's executive director E-man

Monge and board president Sean Behensky. The three have gathered to reflect on the last 20 years—plus where they hope the path will lead next.

LOOKING BACK

Founded in 2000 by Lon and Judy Miller, The Post had a simple premise: provide local teens with a safe place, a healthy community, and the chance to learn about God.

"Teens' lives might not be changing dramatically, but their trajectory is changing one degree. And that makes a difference down the road," Monge says.

Over the years, staff and board members have taken programming cues from the kids,





ABOVE:
E-man Monge is helping guide The Post and how it helps young people.

offering everything from beauty classes and homework help to live concerts and movie nights. The day-to-day has changed. The mission has not.

Behensky, Monge, and Wade agree that The Post has survived 20 years in part because of matching grants from the Community Foundation. Behensky quickly lists the impact of those grants: staff training in mental health and verbal de-escalation, building security, technology upgrades, and a gym renovation.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a whole community to raise a teen youth center,” says Monge.

THE PATH FORWARD

Last year, The Post received an end-of-life gift totaling tens of thousands of dollars. For small nonprofits, large donations are life-giving.

The legacy gift was split two ways: a rainy day fund and an endowment at the Community Foundation. The endowment will ensure the nonprofit is no longer

“constantly hand-to-mouth,” says Wade. By fortifying The Post’s financial foundation, the endowment will open new pathways for local teens.

In five or 10 years, teens who spend their afternoons at The Post might be managing local businesses. Monge hopes the recent partnership with Jobs for Life, a national program that builds soft skills and provides job interview preparation, will support the school-to-work pipeline and forge new career paths for the youth who tell him they want better jobs and a better life.

The leaders at The Post do not care which roads lead teens to their door. They simply hold the door open and offer welcome, belonging, and the possibility of a better path ahead. 🌱



2020

LEGACY SOCIETY LIST

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.

*Names in italics
are deceased*

Anonymous 1
Anonymous 2
Anonymous 3
Anonymous 4
Charles and Dorothy Ainlay
Dick and Linda Armstrong
Janet Arnold
Tom and Dot Arnold
Harold "Doc" and Jane Atkins
Steve and Julie Bachman
Paris and Becky Ball-Miller
Glenn and Joan Banks
John and Nancy Banks
Stephen and Holli Banks
Leon Bauman and Char Yutzy
William and Linda Beier
Al and Rebecca Benham
George and Mona Biddlecome
Jim and Joan Bock
Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes
Derald and Cindy Bontrager
Tyson and Sarah Bontrager
Wilbur and Sarah Bontrager
Dorothy Borger
Thomas and Elizabeth Borger
Mary Jean Borneman
Carl Bossung
Brian and Jeannelle Brady
Patty and Coley Brady
Susan Branson
Terrence and Kathy Brennan
Michael P. Bristol
James and Patty Brotherson
George and Martha
Buckingham
George and Patricia Bucklen

Justine Sparks Budd
Wilbert and Alice Budd
Robert Burger
B. Jane Burns
Bill Caldwell
John Calvert
Mary Ann Carroll
Bill and Anita Cast
James and Anke Chandler
Brantly and Katie Chappell
Betty Chatten
Jack and Karen Cittadine
Brian and Diana Clark
Todd and Missy Cleveland
Richard and Kathy Collins
Tom and *Dot* Corson
Donald and Margaret Covert
Barbara Cowles
Betty Cox
Robert E. and Betty Cripe
Rob and Vicki Cripe
Richard W. Davis, Jr. and
Mary E. Davis
June Deal
Arthur and Patricia Decio
Elizabeth DeFries
Donald and Melanie DeGroff
Bob and Mary Pat Deputy
Lawrence and Sherrod Deputy
Michael and *Mandi* Deputy
Mike Dibley
Terry and Julie Diener
Todd W. A. Driver
Thomas and Lois Dusthimer
Tom and Sara Elkin
Kay Ann Eller

Sharlene Eller-Preston
Susan P. Ellington
Jane Eslick
Ned and Agda Farber
Janice Farron
Frederick and Dorothy Feick
Bill and Kristin Fenech
John and Lois Fidler
Lewis and Elizabeth Fidler
Richard and Marlene
Finnigan
Ivan Fisher
Robert and Dawn Fisher
John and Margaret Foreman
Martha Foreman
James Foster Shea Jr.
Andrew and Kathy Frech
George and Katherine Freese
Daniel Fulmer
L. Craig and Connie Fulmer
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 *Rita* Gold
William Goodsene
Christiana Graham
Doug and *Barbara* Grant
Ralph and Opal E. Gunden
Guy David Gundlach
Steven Haines
John Harman
Cindy and Dave Hawkins
Dan and Mary Henkin

Steven Herendeen
 Stan and Sharon Hess
 Terry and Lu Hoogenboom
 Floyd and *Esther* Hoover
Mary E. Hoover
 Shirley Hoover
Joyce Hultin
 Eugene W. and *Barbara* Hungate
 Tom Irions
 Randall Jacobs and Rachel Miller Jacobs
 Moe Jacobson
 Brian and Amanda Jamison
 Rick and Sandy Jenkins
 Levon and Dorrene Johnson
 William P. and Toni Johnson
 Stephen Kash
Carolyn Keefe
Thomas and Suzanne Keene
 Donna Kercher Schrock
 Robert and Kristy King
 Chris and Gretchen Kingsley
 Richard and Susan Klepinger
Ted and Diane Kolodziej
Don L. and Jurate Krabill
 Jeffery and Heidi Krusenklau
 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
Walter and Jane Lerner
 John and Dianne Letherman
 John and Joy Liechty
 The Liegl Family Foundation
 Tom and Marianne Lilly
Ralph and Rita Lockerbie
 Mary Jo Ludwick
Allan and Karon Ludwig
 Mervin and Dorothy Lung
 Philip and Jeannette Lux
 Tony and Tammy Magaldi
Joseph Manfredi
 Frank and Marsha Martin
 Rex and *Alice* Martin
 Robert W. and Gail T. Martin
William and Margaret Martin
Irma Mast
 Pete and Wendy McCown
 Kathleen McCoy-Royer
Betty Jean McKeever
James and Ann McNamee
 Bob and Sue Miller
Ruth Miller
S. Ray and Linda Miller
 Marcus and Debra Miller

Ronald and Connie Minzey
 Gordon and Marie Moore
 Michelle Moore
 G. Lynn and Linda Morris
 Dan and Jan Morrison
 James and Karla Morton
Don and Jane Mossey
Neal and Dianne Myers
 Tim and Sarah Myers
William and Patricia Myers
 Thad and Rachelle Naquin
Thomas 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
Virginia J. Pardee
 Cole Patuzzi
 Jeffrey and Diana Peat
 Richard and Suzanne Peterson
William O. and Loretha Phillips
 Mike and Judy Pianowski
 Frank and Barbara Paskowy
 James and Sharon Piechorowski
 Mac Pierce
 Donald Pletcher
 Kenneth and *Jean* Pletcher
 Phillip and Nancy Pletcher
 Richard and Susan Pletcher
 Thomas and Dana Pletcher
 John and Kathy Postle
 Doug and *Mary* Putnam
Clayton and Carol Quimbach
 Paul and Sheela Reasoner
 Larry and Elizabeth Renbarger
Florence Richardson
Robert E. and Sandy Richardson
 Martha Ann Rieth VanDyke
Mary Jane Rieth
 J. Douglas and Sharon Risser
Lucille Risser
 Kelly and Karen Rose
 Charlene Rule
 Marly and Laura Rydson
 Matthew and Tricia Rydson
 Janet Elaine Ryman
Vernon and Doris Sailor
 George and Terri Schmidt, II
 William and Lorette Schmuhl, Jr.
 Doug Schnell
 Michael and Vickie Schoeffler
 Kenneth and Doris Ann Schrad
Barbara Schricker
 Oscar W. and *Marilyn* Schricker
 Nancy Schricker

Susan A. Schricker
 Bob and Marie Schrock
Harold Schrock and Donna
 Kercher Schrock
 Janet Rae Scribner
 Amy and Amish Shah
 James Foster Shea, Jr.
Daniel and Josephine Sherman
 Stuart W. and Shirley H. Showalter
 James and *LaRayne* Siegmann
William and Bernice Simms
 Brian and Lauri Smith
 David and Nancy Smith, Jr.
Harold and Patricia Smith
 Mark and Vicki Smucker
 F. Richard and Josephine Snyder
 Christopher and Jodi Spataro
 Bruce and Barbara Stahly
William D. Stimpson
 Donald and Claudia Stohler
 Tim and Christy Stonger
Dick and Kay Stout
Marjorie M. Swift
 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 Barbara J. Trolz
 John and Carole Ulmer
 Adrian and Treva Vaksvik
Richard and Bellodene Van Der Karr
 Michael and Meredith Vickrey
Mary Elizabeth Walker
 Thomas and *Patricia* Warrick
 David Weaver
Laveta Weaver
 David and Dottie Webster
 David Weed
 Donald Weed
 Robert 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
 Al and Marie Yoder
 Candy and Darrel Yoder
 Ola and Vera Yoder
 Dorothy Zimmerman



Clearing a path

A RODIN SCULPTURE WILL CARRY FORWARD THE RUTHMERE LEGACY

LEFT:
Auguste Rodin's
"The Fallen
Caryatid Carrying
Her Stone"
photo courtesy
of Sotheby's.

When Walter Beardsley purchased an Auguste Rodin sculpture for \$50,000 in 1969, he hoped it would be more than a beautiful piece of art to display. He donated it to the Ruthmere Museum with the intention that it could one day help secure the legacy of the museum that honors his family — Elkhart's founding family.

In 2019 "The Fallen Caryatid Carrying Her Stone" sold for \$7.5 million.

"The sale of 'The Caryatid' was the fulfillment of Walter Beardsley's original intention, to give something to Ruthmere to benefit the Elkhart community not only in art, but in the longevity of the institution of

Ruthmere," says Bill Firstenberger, executive director of the Ruthmere Museum.

"It was essentially an endowment legacy gift. Instead of being a chunk of money that resided in a bank or in investments, it resided in a piece of beautiful artwork."

That beautiful artwork, a limestone

sculpture of a woman carrying a large stone, sat on display atop a grand staircase at the Ruthmere mansion for 40 years. Though it was beloved, it was often overlooked as guests focused on the early American paintings, Tiffany lamps, and five other Rodin sculptures in Ruthmere's collection.

It took almost a year for the Ruthmere Foundation Inc., to decide to sell "The Fallen Caryatid."

When Ed Beardsley, nephew of Walter Beardsley, became president of the Ruthmere Foundation in 2015, he wanted to secure Ruthmere's future as a community asset for Elkhart, not just a family asset. Both the Ruthmere mansion and Havilah Beardsley House on the Ruthmere campus were in need of some repairs and updates. Growing the museum's endowment would allow Ruthmere to complete the necessary repairs and give the museum funds to expand programming and events.

In 2018, the Ruthmere Champions campaign for sustainability launched with a goal of \$10 million. Many people stepped up to contribute, but the foundation knew it had to show the community it was serious too.

At a board meeting a year into the campaign drive, Walter's son Robert Beardsley put up his hand and made a momentous suggestion: selling Rodin's "The Fallen Caryatid." After all, that was Walter's original intention.

Ed launched a task force, which consulted

with donors and stakeholders. Two auction houses, including Sotheby's, immediately sent teams to Elkhart to evaluate Rodin's sculpture. After several months, the foundation agreed to sell the sculpture, entrusting the task to Sotheby's.

The Rodin sculpture left Ruthmere on Aug. 12, 2019, and traveled under armed guard first to New York, then Paris, then back to New York for some conservation work. From there, it went on display in Sotheby's London gallery for a week before returning to New York for a two-week display. The trip culminated in the auction, a four-minute bidding war that pushed the total price to more than \$7.5 million and netting Ruthmere \$5.89 million.

"This piece of artwork, which was not integral to the history of the house, is a huge stepping stone to create a long-term endowment that will sustain Ruthmere for well into future generations," Ed says.

Selling the Rodin sculpture wasn't the only important change that has helped secure Ruthmere's future. The museum itself, as well as the foundation that manages it, also evolved.

When the Ruthmere Museum opened to the public in 1973, the foundation's board consisted only of Beardsley family members. Eventually, the makeup shifted to one-third Beardsley family, one-third community leaders and one-third museum and historic preservation professionals. Now, the



ABOVE:

Walter Beardsley gifted the Sculpture in 1978. He bought it for \$50,000.



“Robert’s vision was that Ruthmere could be a focal point for art, culture, decorative arts, interior design, and architecture”

— BILL FIRSTENBERGER

Ruthmere Executive Director

Beardsley family makes up a quarter of the board, and another quarter of the board is museum and historic preservation professionals. Half of Ruthmere Foundation board members are community members.

That’s in line with the mission of Ruthmere. It’s more than the Beardsley family’s legacy as the founding family of Elkhart; it’s a gift to the entire Elkhart community.

Shortly after Robert Beardsley led the restoration effort to open the Ruthmere mansion as a public museum, he brought a 1955 concert Grand D Steinway piano, the largest piano Steinway makes and favorite practice piano of Arthur Rubenstein, to the museum.

“Robert’s vision was that Ruthmere could be a focal point for art, culture, decorative arts, interior design, and architecture,” Firstenberger says. Beardsley believed musicians from all over the world would travel to Elkhart to play the Steinway and he’s right.

Ruthmere hosts a series of concerts every fall in Ruthmere’s game room. The fall concert series led to the launch of the annual Robert B. Beardsley Piano Prize competition in 2017. Firstenberger called the series and competition “one of Robert Beardsley’s greatest legacies for Elkhart.”

“The beauty of this is we are getting a whole new generation of incredible performers exposed to Ruthmere and we get to help them in their careers,” Firstenberger says. “We get to serve as a piano virtuoso garden, hosting and nurturing world class talent to the benefit of our local community, the patrons who support the arts, and whoever wants to enjoy it.”

The museum also hosts public teas, a summer outdoor concert series called Coffee on the Piazza, Gallery Talks, greenhouse and garden workshops and rotating art displays throughout the year.

More than 200,000 people annually engage in Ruthmere Campus programs through



ABOVE: Ruthmere Museum in Elkhart offers visitors a glimpse into the life of the Beardsley family.

in-person visits, off-site outreach programs and exhibits, or through virtual programming.

“We have a robust volunteer group. That has been critical to the Ruthmere,” says Janet Evanega, Second Vice President of the Ruthmere Foundation. “Our docents are unbelievable, the knowledge they have is just incredible.”

In an effort to make the museum even more accessible to the Elkhart community, Ruthmere began a field trip assistance program for area schools, including private schools and homeschooled students. Schools bring students for free tours of the campus. Each field trip student receives a Ruthmere membership that lasts until they graduate from high school.

When schools were struggling to pay for school busses to transport students for the field trips, Ruthmere received a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart

County to pay for transportation. About 3,000 students, mostly in third or fourth grade, annually tour the museum thanks to this program. Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House leave a lasting impression on the students, whether it’s teaching them Elkhart’s history, fostering an appreciation for art or inspiring them to follow a career path they may not have otherwise considered.

“Jonathan Tuff, owner of Garber’s Interior Design, had his career path forged because he went through Ruthmere as a child. He came back several times to see the beauty. He started studying the design, who did the furnishings... He was in school during the restoration,” Evanega says. Now Tuff is one of the Community Board members serving the Ruthmere Foundation.

The school field trip program, music series and other events will be able to continue and expand thanks to the successful sale of the sculpture and the ongoing Champions Campaign. The money, much of which will be managed by the Community Foundation, is also giving the museum the ability to complete its repair projects and expand its programming for the Elkhart community and other visitors.

In summer 2021, Ruthmere is bringing an original world-class exhibit of Wedgwood ceramics to campus, which will put the museum on the national map of museum destinations. Ruthmere is also looking to partner with other local organizations to expand programming.

At the same time, Ruthmere is committed to staying fiscally conservative so that the entire Elkhart community can enjoy Ruthmere for generations to come.

“We see the sale of ‘The Fallen Caryatid’ as a way that we can continually step up to the community to show them that we’re worthy of their support and worthy of fulfilling the bold mission of what we can be to our community, this region, and the nation,” Firstenberger says. “We’re not there yet, but that’s the path we’re on.”

That path doesn’t have a terminal destination but is instead about continuing to be a valuable asset enjoyed by the entire Elkhart community.

“Throughout Ruthmere’s future, we want to continue to reach out to a wider audience to get everyone in the community involved

in Ruthmere,” Evanega says. “That is one of our biggest goals, to let everyone know that Ruthmere is not just for a certain type of person. Ruthmere has an incredible beauty, store of knowledge, and message for everyone in the community.” 🌿

By the Numbers
DESIGNATED FUNDS

Funds
272

Assets
\$69.8M

Grants
\$6.9M

*Funds held by
your Community
Foundation*

CARRYING FORWARD

A Charitable Organization Advised Endowment Fund, also known as an “Agency Fund,” can help a 501(c)(3) provide support for its activities. The funds are managed by the Community Foundation and directed to needs as the agency recommends.

Designated Funds are an ideal choice if you want to leave a legacy by endowing your gifts to a specific nonprofit organization. No matter what your motivation, a Designated Fund ensures ongoing, reliable support for the nonprofit organizations you care about.



A new way forward

ACTS OF SERVICE CONTINUES CONNECTING VOLUNTEERS AND NONPROFITS

LEFT:

Acts of Service helps link volunteers with needs in our community, often utilizing business partners.

Generosity often looks like a check in the mail. A legacy gift. A fundraiser. Financial outpourings make a deep impact, but so too do small acts of service—a helping hand, a pint of blood or an hour of volunteering.

For years, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County has worked to improve quality of life in Elkhart County by inspiring all types of generosity. When Acts of Service joined our ranks in late 2019, it opened new connections between local nonprofits and volunteers.

Acts of Service was founded in 2017 with a simple, powerful premise: offer practical ways for people to make a difference in their communities. Director Ashley Jordan describes Acts of Service as “a matchmaker between nonprofits’ needs and volunteers we have in the community.”

Anyone, from individuals to business partners, can get plugged in with Acts of Service. Like the hub of a wheel, the web-based platform connects community members and business partners with unmet needs all over the region. It illuminates avenues for volunteering that people might not have the time or resources to discover on their own. The result? Exponential growth in community involvement, stronger nonprofits, and a network of goodness spread from corner to corner in Elkhart County—and beyond.

Jennifer Kattau, the Human Resources Business Partner at Beacon Health System,



ABOVE: Beacon Health System is one of approximately 35 business partners who are part of Acts of Service.

has seen firsthand how volunteering makes a difference—for both nonprofits and volunteers. Before partnering with Acts of Service, Beacon had no formalized volunteer initiative. Last year, employees of the healthcare system spent more than 1,500 hours volunteering at dozens of nonprofits in the region.

In years past, most Beacon employees volunteered at Ronald McDonald House, if at all. Now, Kattau says staff members have gotten involved at the food bank, Hope Ministries, pet rescues, and more.

“People are now figuring out their little niches of volunteering,” she says with a smile.

Through her work and family life, Kattau is deeply rooted in her community. Still, Acts of Service has led her to volunteer at non profits she had never heard of before. She says Reins of Life, which provides equine therapy for children with disabilities in St. Joseph County, stands out the most. Recently, Kattau

and a group of Beacon employees spent the day mowing, painting, and setting up the dressage arena.

“It wasn’t just the HR team. It was pharmacy, radiology—people I would not normally cross paths with,” she says. “And when people volunteer, they check their egos at the door. They’re there to do something else. They’re on neutral territory. It’s nice to see people volunteer, connect, and give back.”

That day, the spirit of volunteerism lifted everyone’s morale. Reins of Life staff members felt supported and acknowledged. Beacon employees experienced new levels of camaraderie, along with the deep satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference in others’ lives. And then, of course, the children who arrived for equine therapy received focused, undivided attention from instructors who would have otherwise spent time cleaning and setting up.

Despite—or perhaps because of—the hours of hard work, people left more energized and inspired than when they arrived.

“It’s empowering for people to step out of their comfort zones,” Jordan says. “Before you know it, they’re spreading positivity.”

Kattau nods. “And people fill their cups by giving back.”

VOLUNTEERING: A TWO-WAY PATH

When Acts of Service connects people to their communities through volunteer opportunities, area nonprofits benefit too. As Jordan says, the initiative is “a two-way pathway.”

Because of Acts of Service, volunteers such as Kattau and her team are equally exposed to hundreds of registered nonprofits in the region. Individuals and business partners get a close look at the great opportunities and emerging needs in their communities. They also learn that being generous with time takes many forms: coaching a Little League

team, helping in a school classroom, teaching Sunday school, handing out cups of water at a 5k fundraiser, or even sewing masks for healthcare workers. There are endless ways to do good.

“One of the reasons we took on Acts of Service was to help people give not just of their treasure, but also of their talents and time,” says Jodi Spataro, Chief Advancement Officer for the Community Foundation. “Supporting nonprofits is a huge part of our mission and this program is creating new and stronger connections between community members and nonprofits.”

*“People fill their cups
by giving back.”*

— JENNIFER KATTAU

HR Business Partner at Beacon Health System



Jordan says that more business partners are joining the movement. More nonprofits are getting the help they need.

THE ROAD AHEAD

In the wake of 2020, nonprofits are stepping in to meet more needs than ever. With the help of volunteers, nonprofits expand their staff members' capacity for mission-specific tasks. Thus, partnerships between businesses and not-for-profit initiatives could be key to moving the entire community forward.

In the next decade, Jordan hopes more nonprofits realize the potential for volunteers to help expand capacity in remarkable ways. Perhaps the paths forged between local businesses and nonprofits will create a better, brighter future for the entire community. 🌱

FIND YOUR WAY

You can start making a difference in your community by volunteering. Whether you are an individual or business partner, you decide on which opportunities match the way you want to invest your time. With your help, nonprofits can pave the way for a better life for those in Elkhart County.

View upcoming volunteer opportunities and join the Acts of Service community at InspiringGood.org/ActsofService.

Acts of Service

A HISTORY

In January 2016, Lippert Components Inc. (LCI) launched its initiative of serving 100,000 hours. When other businesses heard what Lippert was doing, they reached out inquiring how to start their own initiatives, resulting in Acts of Service's birth in April 2017. Collectively, the business partners served over a half million hours.

In early 2019, LCI approached the Community Foundation of Elkhart County about taking over Acts of Service. The decision to give the program to the Community Foundation was critical to widening the initiative's reach.

"The community looks at the Community Foundation as the glue of the community," says Acts of Service Director Ashley Jordan. "It's unbiased. It's not about business."

December 2019 marked the official hand-off. Pete McCown, Community Foundation President, said at the time, "As we try to inspire generosity and open doors for people and agencies in our community, we are thrilled that Lippert Components Inc. is entrusting us with sustaining this great program."

The pool of business and nonprofit partners continues growing, forging new pathways for volunteerism in the region.

RIGHT:
Lippert Components and Community Foundation representatives celebrate the transfer of the program in late 2019.

From left are Jodi Spataro, Michilah Grimes, Jason Lippert, Pete McCown and Ashley Jordan.





Helping children find their way

11 ORGANIZATIONS COME TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

LEFT:

Laurie Nafziger (left) and Jill Sigsbee participate in the ribbon-tying ceremony signaling the collaboration of the Partnership for Children in May 2015. (Elkhart Truth photo)

Five years ago, leaders at several organizations serving youth in Elkhart County saw that too many kids experiencing behavioral and emotional challenges weren't getting the help they needed. These children ended up getting expelled from after school programs, school and spending time in the juvenile justice system.

But the leaders believed that children could avoid going down dangerous paths if they had the support network and emotional and behavioral help that they needed. The leaders started meeting regularly to imagine how they could work together to better identify the behavioral health needs of children early on and build a support system to help them.

In 2015, Bashor Children's Home, along with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs of Elkhart County, CAPS, Center for Community Justice, Five Star Life, Lifeline

Youth Ministries, Oaklawn, Ryan's Place, The Post, Tolson Center, The Crossing and YWCA, joined together to create the Partnership For Children.

"We don't want these kids to fall through the cracks, where they're expelled, or they go to jail. We want to make sure we intervene early to try to prevent these paths," says Rebecca Shetler Fast, Director of The SOURCE, which manages the Partnership For Children. "That kind of visionary, collaborative approach really makes Elkhart County really unique

RIGHT:
Candy Yoder (left)
and Rebecca Shetler
Fast talk about the
impact of Partnership
For Children.



across the region in how it serves the mental health needs of children.”

The SOURCE has been Elkhart County’s system of care for 25 years, a network of community-based services and supports working to provide early preventative and responsive services for children’s mental health needs. The Partnership For Children is unique because it focuses on prevention and early intervention through the combined services of the 12 partner organizations.

A key strategy for early intervention is making sure that staff at the partner organizations have advanced training in a variety of mental health topics, which could include verbal de-escalation techniques, children’s mental health basics and cultural competency. The Partnership can efficiently organize and provide the training that partner organizations may not otherwise have access to.

“These community organizations typically have minimally trained youth workers, not clinicians with master’s degrees. When they’re met with a pretty high-level need with a child, they can’t meet that need alone,” Shetler Fast says.

Without advanced training, a person’s natural reaction may be to demand that the child change their behavior, which could escalate it.

“The training helps partner staff switch from ‘what’s wrong with you?’ to ‘what happened to you?’” says Candy Yoder, a founding member of the Partnership For Children and board member at The SOURCE. “It lets the child take a breath and change their behavior and gives the staff the training to know what to do next.”

Yoder, who is also Chief Program Officer at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, says that the training has been invaluable to the partner organizations.

“We can be really innovative and individualized to the child and family. This is not a cookie-cutter service.”

— REBECCA SHETLER FAST

Director of The Source

More than 980 workers have participated in training sessions since 2015, and 99 percent of them report that it has made a meaningful difference in their daily work.

“When employees are working with families or kids and they know that they’re at the end of what they can do and they feel like they can’t do more, that’s the worst feeling,” she says. “To have a higher level of expertise and to know that you can help makes a big difference.”

Partner staff are also able to reach out to mental health clinicians with the Partnership For Children who can provide a consultation and walk them through strategies to address a child’s behavior problem. This way, the child can stay in the community program at that organization, reducing the need for advanced care and interventions down the road.

Partner staff are also trained to understand early warning signs that a child may need clinical mental health interventions. In those

situations, they can refer a child and their family to the Partnership For Children for a consultation and services.

“Our team of clinicians works to assess the child and the family and get at the root of the issue,” Shetler Fast says. If the child needs more services, Partnership For Children can provide immediate access to a team of behavior health specialists and resources to



ABOVE:

Rebecca Shetler Fast is director of The Source, which coordinates the Partnership for Children.

Fund for Elkhart County
KIDS & FAMILIES



\$2.8M

OR

31%

OF TOTAL GRANTS

meet their needs. That could mean short term therapy, family meetings, skills training, or a referral to another community resource or partner organization.

“Our partnership for children model allows us to be innovative and individualized to the child and family. This is not a cookie-cutter service model,” Shetler Fast says. “We have an interdisciplinary staff that can work together to deliver the individualized services a child needs.” The SOURCE can also help pay for a child’s mental health services if needed.

More than 371 children have been referred to the Partnership For Children since it began. Of those, 96 percent avoided or experienced reduced involvement with the juvenile justice system, school suspensions and other high-risk behaviors.

“When there are behavioral or emotional warning signs and kids don’t get the help they need, these kids are more likely to be pushed through the school-to-prison pipeline, and they may never have access to mental health services until they are arrested,” says Shetler Fast. The inequity especially impacts children of color.

“Research and practice shows us that Kids of color, on average, get access to mental health services later on, or they get labeled as ‘bad’ before they get help. Early intervention is where we can start addressing some of those equity issues,” Shetler Fast says. “If we can train front-line staff

to recognize warning signs early on, we can more quickly respond and have the potential to change the pathway or trajectory for a child.”

A child must be a member of one of the partner organizations in order to receive the services through the Partnership For Children. The child can benefit from the programming provided by that organization, and the partner staff can identify if they need additional help.

“Partnership for Children is a program that fits well into a public mental health model. We want to start by doing we’re trying to do prevention work. That’s the most efficient and most economical,” Shetler Fast says. “The second level of public mental health intervention is harm mitigation (or addressing specific problems early on). At the top level, that’s where kids are getting diagnosed with mental health disorders and getting referred or specialty services). We want to do everything we can to identify kids who need support early on, when we can still do prevention.

Ultimately, the Partnership’s goal is to help children and their families find pathways to more successful and healthier futures.

Partnership For Children is funded by grants from the Community Foundation and federal grants, as well as partner organizations, Medicaid and private community donors. Helping children from

birth to age 8 is one of the grant emphases for the Community Foundation for the coming three years, which fits with the Partnership's focus on prevention and early intervention.

"So often, big problems are born out of unaddressed little problems," Yoder says. "If you have a pebble in your shoe and you're walking around all day and you wait all day to remove it, you could get a blister. But if someone can notice that it's the pebble hurting you and say, 'I can help you take your shoes off and we can help you,' that makes a difference. For me, it's about preventing human tragedy." 🌱



LEFT: Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation, speaks at the Partnership for Children event in 2015. (Elkhart Truth photo)



LEFT: Representatives from the agencies collaborating in the Partnership for Children participate in the announcement in May 2015. (Elkhart Truth photo)

Grants

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

ADEC Family Forum Series	\$5,000
ADEC Management Professional Development Program	\$21,923
BASHOR HOME Building Expansion and Renovation	\$500,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ELKHART COUNTY Wa-Nee Vision 2020 Supplemental	\$100,000
BRISTOL COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY Equipment and Facility Upgrades	\$8,430
CAMPUS CENTER FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Professional Development	\$3,500
CANCER RESOURCES FOR ELKHART COUNTY Program Expenses	\$40,000
CAPS CAPS Brand Refresh	\$30,000
CAPS Comprehensive Triple P Training for Staff	\$29,230
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE Year 2 of 2: Victim Offender Reconciliation Program 1:1 Challenge*	\$50,000



The Bristol Food Pantry received grant dollars to improve their pantry and purchase new refrigerators.

CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE Capacity Building: Strategic Fund Diversification 1:1 Challenge*	\$50,000
CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE AND URBAN MINISTRY Family Matters Daily	\$9,500
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Building Improvements for Child Care Ministry Part B	\$15,500
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GUILD Consultant Training	\$9,805
CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI Expansion of Infant & Toddler Room	\$11,500
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH New Start Ministries	\$10,000
CULTIVATE CULINARY SCHOOL AND CATERING Renovation Project Part A	\$85,000
CULTIVATE CULINARY SCHOOL AND CATERING Cultivate Renovation Project Part B	\$20,000
DISASTER RELIEF FUND Rebuilding Fund Balance	\$33,082
DREAM MINISTRIES OF GOSHEN Water Heater Replacement	\$900
DW VICTIM ADVOCACY CENTER Victim Advocacy Program	\$3,000
ELKHART CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Playground Improvement & Addition 1:1 Challenge*	\$5,000

Kids & Families, Continued

ELKHART COUNTY CLUBHOUSE Clubhouse International World Seminar	\$2,762
ELKHART COUNTY CLUBHOUSE Crisis Intervention Team Training	\$2,500
ELKHART COUNTY DRUG-FREE PARTNERSHIP Positively Elkhart County School Program	\$20,000
FAITH MISSION OF ELKHART Low Barrier Shelter	\$200,000
GIRLS ON THE RUN MICHIANA Training and Consulting	\$6,690
GIVEHEAR Auditory Brainstem Equipment for Elkhart County	\$10,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Year 1 of 2: ECoSistema at Goshen College	\$45,000
GUIDANCE MINISTRIES Homeless Care Program	\$10,000
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA Living Well with Hearing Loss Event	\$1,100
HOOSIERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY Meet the Need	\$15,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Triple P Positive Parenting Program	\$125,000
HOUSING AUTHORITY CITY OF ELKHART Building Renovations for Head Start Program, Phase I	\$25,000



The Barn Buddies Virtual program is LoveWay's response to COVID-19. LoveWay Staff has created virtual lessons to help clients and their families who can't visit the stables.



Paris' Purse provides hygiene and beauty supplies to women staying at SPA Ministries, Safe Haven and also Faith Mission. The beauty supplies are packaged in purses that provides an additional resource for the women.

HOUSING AUTHORITY CITY OF ELKHART Building Renovations for Head Start Program, Phase II	\$187,000
LOVEWAY INCORPORATED Barn Buddies Virtual Programing	\$20,000
LOVEWAY INCORPORATED Compact Utility Tractor	\$12,092
MAPLE CITY HEALTH CARE CENTER Dental Care for Children: Space, Staff, Software	\$156,000
OAKLAWN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER Year 1 of 3: Youth Mental Health Network	\$250,000
PARIS' PURSE Hygienic Baskets for Women in Elkhart Shelters	\$1,000
REAL SERVICES Elkhart County Meals on Wheels	\$30,000
RIVERVIEW ADULT DAY CENTER Transportation Upgrade	\$13,000
ROSE GARDEN RECOVERY COMMUNITY Women and Children Reunification Unit	\$20,000
SPIRITS OF UNIVERSAL LOVE Love Thy Neighbor Grief Retreats Part A	\$4,750
THE POST Technology Upgrades	\$16,000
TOLSON CENTER & PARK Project Fund	\$350,000

Kids & Families, Continued

ULEAD	\$5,000
Strategic Framework Development	
UNITED WAY OF ELKHART COUNTY	\$24,500
Gr8t Beginnings Coalition Continuing Work	
UNITED WAY OF ELKHART COUNTY	\$3,825
Year 2 of 2: My Way Pre-K Pilot	
VILLAGE TO VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL	\$3,500
Professional Development	
WHEELCHAIRHELP.ORG	\$5,000
Litf Chair Restoration & Transport Wheelchairs	
WOMEN'S CARE CENTER	\$98,000
Focus on Healthy Babies: Year Two	
YWCA NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA	\$51,500
Year 2 of 3: Lethality Project	
TOTAL	\$2,755,589

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

Grants

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.



A grant honoring Susanna's Kitchen volunteer director Dick Osborne's 19 years of service was awarded as he retired shortly before his death.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS	\$232,860
SUSANNA'S KITCHEN Grant in honor of Dick Osborne	\$19,000
ACTS OF SERVICE Program Support	\$100,000
DISASTER RELIEF FUND Rebuild Fund Balance	\$153,140
ELKHART HEALTH FITNESS AND AQUATICS Operational Support	\$250,000
GOSHEN THEATER Renovations Phase II	\$250,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Program Support	\$50,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Tolson Center Planning Support	\$45,000
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION Operational Support	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$1,200,000



Setting teachers on their path

NEW GOSHEN COLLEGE PROGRAM FOSTERS DIVERSE LOCAL EDUCATORS

LEFT:

Goshen College's Teach Elkhart County program is investing in local students to train them as teachers.

It's not easy to be a teacher. "I think as a first-year teacher everything is a little overwhelming," says Lizeth Abad, a first-grade teacher at Model Elementary. "But I have felt a lot of support with my co-workers, my principal, my mentor, and my master teacher that I'm working with."

Abad is a recent graduate from Goshen College, and she's part of a future of racially and ethnically diverse teachers the college hopes to train and retain in Elkhart County.

Indiana is one of the lowest performing states in the country when it comes to teacher retention, according to a 2016 study by The Learning Policy Institute. Moreover, additional research has shown that students perform better when they have teachers in grades K-12 who look similar to them. However, in Elkhart County, only 1 in 10 students from an underrepresented racial or

ethnic background are likely to have a teacher match in grades K-12 this school year.

Elisa Zwier, the Teach Elkhart County program director at Goshen College, wants to change that statistic.

"We were starting to see both the need for our teacher population in Elkhart County Schools to better represent our student population and the diversity we see there," she says. "And also for our graduates and seeing that we consistently had a population of graduates that were from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups."



“This is work that I believe in, and I believe in it because it’s equitable and because it’s making a long-term investment in our community.”

— ELISA ZWIER

Teach Elkhart County Program Director

Zwier and Goshen College are investing in the students of Elkhart County with the creation of its new Teach Elkhart County program.

The program aims to recruit racially and ethnically underrepresented students in Elkhart County, train them to become teachers at Goshen College, pair them with teacher mentors, and provide incentives for them to teach locally and build the teacher mentor pool.

“It’s a long-term vision. The idea is to recruit, train, and retain teachers — so that goes from high school through four years at Goshen College — and then through a first-year teacher mentoring program,” she says. “And then continuing to support those students and then as they become more experienced teachers, you know beyond their third year, potentially then building up that

pool to feed back into the program as mentors and give back.”

Goshen College’s teacher education faculty generated the idea for the program alongside school partners and applied for a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, hiring Zwier as a result. The Career Pathways committee members of the Community Foundation agreed that there was a critical need for teachers from underrepresented groups in the county and awarded the college \$57,000 for the 2019-2021 school years. This year, the school was awarded an additional \$17,000 to help launch the program.

With a goal of graduating five to seven students each year, Zwier set to work recruiting students. She was able to recruit six students for the program, which officially begins in the 2020-2021 school year.

Abad, who grew up in Goshen, missed out on joining the Teach Elkhart County program as it wasn't developed yet, but that doesn't mean she's not seeing the benefits of the community she's built at Goshen College.

"I am so thankful to have gone through that program studying education at Goshen College, because I have made a lot of connections," she says. "The teacher that I worked with during student teaching has become a mentor and someone that I can confide in and who reaches out, and I know that — thanks to Goshen College — I made that connection."

Now she'll give back by being involved with Teach Elkhart County.

"We'll be pairing the undergrads with

mentors who are teachers of color in the area," Zwier says. "As Lizeth gets her sails under her, we'd love to have her back in the program as a mentor. And we're also hoping to pilot some of the mentoring things with some of our grads."

The program currently partners with Elkhart, Goshen, and Concord school systems as well as Bethany Christian Schools, according to Zwier.

Mariela Esparza is one of the first-year students in the Teach Elkhart County program. Having grown up in Elkhart and attending Elkhart Memorial High School, she saw first-hand the value of having a personal connection with a teacher. In fact, it's what inspired her to become an English teacher.

BELOW:
Mariela Esparza
speaks about
why she is in
Teach EC.



Fund for Elkhart County
CAREER PATHWAYS



\$2.2M

OR

25%

OF TOTAL GRANTS



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Lizeth Abad,
Aurora Villegas,
Mariela Esparza

“I can think of one really good teacher that I had that she just really got to know you,” she says. “And, so I think that’s something that I would like to translate to my future classroom. It’s, sort of, [to] help students know that they are seen.”

With Goshen College being the only four-year teacher training institution in the county, Zwier says she wants to provide as many opportunities as possible to inspire new teachers.

“There’s not just one path to become a teacher,” she says. “This is one approach that we’re taking that we think will work because

it’s about relationships. It’s about mentorship. It’s about a cohort that can build community.”

Zwier says that the partnership with the Community Foundation has been integral to the program; it allows them to offer extra mentorships and extra incentives for students, many of whom are first-generation college students.

“This is work that I believe in, and I believe in it because it’s equitable and because it’s making a long-term investment in our community,” she says. “If we can connect the schools and the colleges and feed that pipeline back into the schools, that’s a win-win.” 🌱

RIGHT:

Current and future teachers are collaborating in Teach EC.

From left are Lizeth Abad, Mariela Esparza, Elisa Zwier and Aurora Villegas.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Participants in Teach EC get into the classroom early in their higher education career to work with students.





Grants

CAREER PATHWAYS

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 Therapy Dog	\$10,000
CARE UNIVERSITY Student Sponsorships	\$5,000
CONCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Careers Unlimited Bus for Education 1:1 Challenge*	\$79,000
DISASTER RELIEF FUND Rebuilding Fund Balance	\$3,881
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Year 2 of 2: ETI Building Project	\$215,500
ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT Elkhart County Food Asset Mapping	\$10,000
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION Event Sponsorship	\$10,000
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION K2PB Educational Impact Evaluation	\$7,500
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION Staff Development and Technology	\$4,194
ENFOCUS ECS Food Service Technology Implementation	\$20,000

ENFOCUS Talent Attraction and Civic Innovation	\$100,000
ETHOS Year 2 of 2: Science Museum and Development Directors	\$120,000
FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Year 2 of 2: Instructional Technology Coach	\$25,000
FIVE STAR LIFE Year 2 - Learning Management System	\$6,500
GOSHEN COLLEGE Regional Science Olympiad Sponsor	\$1,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Year 2 of 2: Teach Elkhart County	\$28,500
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE What's Next	\$12,500
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE What's Next Seniors	\$3,000
GREATER ELKHART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Year 2 of 2: Startup Moxie Elkhart County	\$25,000
HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH ESL Adult Program	\$8,500
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE CareerWise Elkhart County	\$250,000
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Gallup Student Engagement Poll	\$20,250
HORIZON EDUCATION ALLIANCE Year 2 of 2: Operational Support	\$300,000

Career Pathways, Continued



JA BizTown Elkhart County will be a fully interactive, student-sized city, where participants will practice having jobs and operating both businesses and the city.



The South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership is a collaboration of the economic development partners from 47 smart connected communities in Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan.

HUMAN DELTA	\$12,000
South Bend Code School - Elkhart	
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC - ELKHART CHAPTER	\$10,000
Historic Black College & University Tour	
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC - ELKHART CHAPTER	\$1,500
Circle City Classic College Retreat	
INDIANA BLACK EXPO INC - ELKHART CHAPTER	\$1,500
TrailBlazer Awards Sponsor	
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTHERN INDIANA	\$347,821
Payment 1 of 2: JA BizTown Elkhart County	
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTHERN INDIANA	\$250,000
JA BizTown Elkhart County	
Last Dollar Challenge*	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK FEMALE EXECUTIVES IN MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT	\$1,500
Mother Daughter Level-Up Summit	
SOUTH BEND ELKHART REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION	\$100,000
Year 1 of 3: Startup South Bend - Elkhart	
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH & SCHOOL	\$25,000
Chromebook Initiative	
THE CROSSING NATIONAL	\$15,000
eLearning Support	
THE CROSSING NATIONAL	\$100,000
Elkhart Training Center Capital Project	
THE CROSSING NATIONAL	\$3,500
Global Leadership Summit	



As the University of Notre Dame expands the Center for Civic Innovation internship program in Elkhart County, high school and college interns work together in diverse project teams to develop innovative solutions to community issues.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME	\$54,179
Elkhart Catalyst Expansion	
WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	\$9,000
Wa-Nee Robotics Camp 1:1 Challenge*	
WNIT	\$10,000
Education Counts Michiana	
Total	\$2,206,325

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



A Path Built From Persistence

PUMPKINVINE TRAILBLAZERS ARE CELEBRATING THE PATH TO COMPLETION

LEFT:

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is enjoyed by thousands of people in Elkhart and LaGrange counties each year.

Every trail has its hurdles. Some, like miles-long gaps in the path, are obvious. Then there are the invisible hurdles: laying the groundwork for diverse communities to connect or convincing neighbors to build doors instead of walls.

Forging new pathways takes persistence. Today, when Pumpkinvine Nature Trail founder John Yoder rides his bike, glides past the old gap, and sees three generations of families stretching their legs along the greenway, the decades of persistence are worth it. All he feels is gratitude.

The story of the Pumpkinvine began in 1989. A group of Elkhart County cyclists, including Yoder, envisioned a serene, shaded greenway along the abandoned railroad corridor that connects Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana. Despite the group's peaceful intentions, the rail-to-trails project had a rocky start.

"At a basic level, it was change. People were fearful of change," Yoder recalls on a sunny August afternoon. He sits at a shaded picnic table with Brittany Short, president of Friends of the Pumpkinvine and owner of Pumpkinvine Cyclery. Their relaxed camaraderie belies the passion necessary to pull off what they have gathered to celebrate: after more than 30 years, the route is almost complete.

HILLS AND VALLEYS

When the process to build the trail began, early opposition sometimes took a disruptive turn. Landowners loudly decried



*“Where once were
leaves and
unturned earth
Now called, not sent,
we pray with feet,
A path from past to
walking birth.”*

— DON YOST

*Excerpt from “The Trace”
an ode to the Pumpkinvine*

a lack of privacy. Snowmobilers angrily revved their machines at people exploring the Pumpkinvine corridor before it was developed. Once, a line of pumpkins parallel to the path exploded in rifle fire. Though the bullets were not aimed directly at the trail, Yoder notes that “the message was pretty clear.”

Short shakes her head and smiles. She says, “All of those folks who were protesting it in the early ‘90s were saying ‘There’s going to be crime. It’s so unsafe. We’re going through people’s backyards. You need to lock your doors!’ None of that has come to fruition.”

Instead, word about the path through the woods and fields spread. People started showing up in droves. Families ambled along

on Saturday morning walks. Amish workers used the trail for a safe commute home. Cyclists pedaled from Goshen's Abshire Park toward Shipshewana's promise of homemade pies and donuts.

Despite the swell in public use and opinion, the path to completion was slow-going. The grassroots nature of the Pumpkinvine — a trail built by the community, through the community, to connect communities — required money.

In 2016, a \$300,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation supported the work of connecting over a mile of the missing pathway between County Road 33 and County Road 20.

The final hurdle? The half-mile gap between County Road 35 and County Road 20 in Elkhart County. Support came for another grant from the Community Foundation, but the incoming donations were more of a trickle than a flood. The fundraising effort took years. It finally paid off this spring.

"We had some real hills and valleys," Yoder says, adding, "The Community Foundation has had the vision as well, I think. They really saw the big picture (and) hung with us like a good neighbor."

Short nods. "One thing that's critical for this type of trail-building is persistence. It's having a vision and seeing it through."

DOWN THE ROAD

After more than 30 years of trail-building, there is no reason to stop. In another decade, perhaps the Pumpkinvine will be part a 40-mile loop connecting the Pumpkinvine, MapleHeart and Quaker Trace trails in northern Elkhart County. Short's great hope is that the Friends of the Pumpkinvine stay dedicated to the greenway as "the eyes and ears of the trail, making sure it's cared for."

"We're excited about the extension of the trail to downtown Shipshewana," adds Short. "The town council voted to fund the extension and construction is slated for next season."

More than anything, Short and Yoder want the Pumpkinvine to remain what it has



TOP LEFT & ABOVE:
John Yoder and
Brittany Short
are among those
working to connect
communities with
the Pumpkinvine
Nature Trail.

Fund for Elkhart County
PLACEMAKING



\$2.1M

OR

24%

OF TOTAL GRANTS

always been: a path paved by the hard work of so many community members that comes together for something good.

It is fitting that in 2020, a year full of unprecedented turmoil, the Pumpkinvine's steadfast presence is being rewarded. Now, more than ever, nature is critical for health and well-being. Now, more than ever, people need beautiful, life-giving escapes near their homes. Whether you are an Amish farmer steeped in local tradition or an RV manufacturer facilitating cross-country connections, the Pumpkinvine is a pathway back home and to others. It exists for everyone.

"We're all after the same thing—a place of respite. Your home is a place of respite

for you, and the trail is also a place of respite for you," says Short. The Pumpkinvine became her "little piece of sanity" during the pandemic lockdown. She has heard countless stories about the trail's soothing power from neighbors and visitors from as far away as Australia. "It's the perfect conglomeration of our very different lifestyles coming together on the trail," she says.

The story of the Pumpkinvine is a story of persistence. Of unity in diversity. Of how when enough people—and their neighbors—choose to walk the same path, the community is better for it. 🌿



RIGHT:
Flowers and wildlife
are abundant along
the trail stretching
from Goshen to
Shipshewana.



Grants

PLACEMAKING

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

AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS Home Fire Relief in Elkhart County	\$30,000
CITY OF ELKHART Elkhart Riverwalk Grand Prix 2019	\$5,000
CITY OF ELKHART Picnic in the Parks	\$750
CITY OF ELKHART EnviroFest	\$2,000
CITY OF ELKHART Elkhart Riverwalk Grand Prix 2020	\$5,000
CITY OF ELKHART Next Level Trails Project DNR Match*	\$10,000
CITY OF GOSHEN Tree Resilience Research	\$6,500
CONCORD LITTLE LEAGUE INC Challenger Pavilion	\$28,356
DISASTER RELIEF FUND Rebuild Fund Balance	\$257,453
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN Arts on the Millrace	\$5,000



Concord Little League has started construction on a handicapped accessible restroom and covered Challenger Pavillion.



Enhancing Millersburg beautified a former alley in the town by repaving it, adding lighting and flower beds and painting a mural.

DOWNTOWN GOSHEN Maple City Walk	\$1,500
DOWNTOWN GOSHEN First Fridays	\$12,000
ELKHART CIVIC THEATRE Seasonal Support	\$15,000
ELKHART COUNTY 4-H & AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION INC. Elkhart County 4-H Fair	\$10,000
ELKHART COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE Vital Passage: Goshen's Epic Holocaust Rescue	\$5,000
ELKHART COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE Arts Leadership Summit	\$1,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Year 3 of 3: Vibrant Communities Partnership (CFEC/ECCVB)	\$60,000
ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU Vibrant Communities Program Support	\$25,000
ELKHART COUNTY SYMPHONY Year 2 of 3: Building Capacity for Sustainability	\$75,000
ELKHART FESTIVALS Jazz Festival	\$50,000
ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY Curiosity Index - Ideas Elkhart Wants to Explore	\$10,000
ENHANCING MILLERSBURG Millersburg Art Alley	\$15,000

Placemaking, Continued



Goshen Hospital's capital project replaces a 1950s era facility with a new patient tower, with private rooms and up to date equipment.



Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network Warming Center was able to open in January 2019 to allow low-barrier standards for entry since this housing is temporary during cold nights.

GOSHEN ART HOUSE Seasonal Support	\$5,000
GOSHEN COLLEGE Musical Theater Camp	\$3,000
GOSHEN FARMERS MARKET Seasonal Support	\$5,000
GOSHEN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION Year 1 of 3: Capital Campaign for Goshen Health	\$500,000
GOSHEN INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK Warming Shelter Support	\$8,000
GOSHEN LITTLE LEAGUE Park Updates & Equipment	\$8,000
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY Long-Range Plan	\$12,500
GOSHEN ROTARY Legacy Project-Pringle Park Splash Pad	\$20,000
GOSHEN THEATER Renovations Phase II	\$250,000
GOSHEN THEATER Seasonal Support	\$7,700
GOSHEN THEATER Year 2 of 2: Programming Development	\$50,000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ELKHART COUNTY Information Technology Hardware Replacement	\$10,580
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ELKHART COUNTY Side Curtain Box Truck	\$42,666

HALL OF HEROES SUPER HERO MUSEUM Renovation and Mobile App Development	\$8,000
HISTORIC ELKHART RIVER QUEEN Opening Costs	\$1,500
HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY Animal Care & Control Vehicle	\$35,000
LACASA OF GOSHEN Community Building in Prairie Creek Run	\$7,000
LACASA OF GOSHEN Elkhart Expansion 3:1 Challenge*	\$10,000
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA Election Debates	\$2,000
MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Elkhart County Garden Expo	\$2,500
MID AMERICA FILMMAKERS Seasonal Support	\$15,000
MIDDLEBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Summer and Fall Festivals	\$5,000
MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY Literary Carousel	\$2,000
MIDDLEBURY THEN AND NOW Seasonal Support	\$5,000
MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART FOUNDATION Seasonal Support	\$5,000
NAPPANEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Apple Festival	\$10,000

Placemaking, Continued

NAPPANEE ARTS COUNCIL The Art Path & Working Art Studio	\$120,000
OSOLO TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Community Open House	\$3,000
PREMIER ARTS Seasonal Support	\$10,000
PREMIER ARTS Production Facility Improvements	\$60,000
PREMIER ARTS Summer Theatre Performances	\$5,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Ruthmere on the Road	\$5,000
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION Free Family Sunday Programs	\$5,000
THE LERNER Seasonal Support	\$10,000
TOLSON CENTER & PARK Project Fund	\$175,000
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY Public Restroom & Drinking Fountain Project	\$15,000
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY River Mill Trail Project DNR Match*	\$20,000
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Free Admission to the Community Events	\$2,000
WAKARUSA MAPLE SYRUP HERITAGE Maple Syrup Festival	\$5,000

WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS	\$50,000
Memorial Garden Construction Documents	
WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS	\$2,225
WE Vote Programming Support	
TOTAL	\$2,147,230

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

Grants

MATCHING GRANT

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County increases the impact of giving by matching 25 percent of contributions to endowment funds. All cumulative gifts made by individuals totaling \$100,000 were matched in this fiscal year with an additional \$25,000 to the corresponding fund. Your generosity created more and improved pathways in our community.

25% MATCHING GRANT	\$695,898
TOTAL	\$695,898



TOLSON BOARD BEGINS WORK

A new board created from a partnership between the Community Foundation, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Rod Roberson is now guiding the progress toward a new Tolson Center & Park.

The volunteer board is comprised of Nekeisha Alexis, Norman Anderson, Kenya Barhams, Kevin Bullard, Eric Chandler, Camelia Corona, Charlie Cross, Yolo DeMarco, Jan Farron, Dwight Fish, Cyneatha Millsaps, Rose Rivera, Jason Shenk, Clarence Thomas and Candy Yoder. Mayor Roberson, Pete McCown of the Community Foundation and Levon Johnson of the Chamber will all serve as resource persons, but are not members of the board.

Though public officials, including Elkhart City Councilmen Dwight Fish and Kevin Bullard, are part of the board, the Tolson board will operate independently of the City of Elkhart, which oversaw Tolson for nearly 30 years. In 2018, a process to re-envision Tolson began after it lost its city funding. In March 2020, the Elkhart City Council approved a proposed \$11-million project that would rebuild the center and add athletic fields to the campus surrounding the building near the

corner of Indiana and Benham avenues in Elkhart. Money will come from the city, Community Foundation, private donations and perhaps other sources. A majority of the needed funding, but not all of it, has been committed.





COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

The Community Foundation wants to make the most of its resources to help transform our community. As we make grants, we are relying on a growing set of data that can measure impact over time and guide how we invest Community Investment Grants and lead in our community.

We want our nonprofit partners and other stakeholders to join us in finding the most effective solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing us. We hope over time the ideas we create together may be new and creative approaches, with transformative results.



KIDS AND FAMILIES

To improve the living experience for Elkhart County citizens through safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, with a focus on impacting children birth - age 8.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Early Childhood Development & Education
- Parents
- Vulnerable Populations
- Youth and Mentoring

CAREER PATHWAYS

To improve the quality of life for Elkhart County residents by generating, developing and supporting career advancement and educational opportunities.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- K-12 Career Awareness & Exploration
- K-12 Internships & Apprenticeships
- Post-Secondary Access
- Talent Development, Attraction & Retention

PLACE-MAKING

To create open communities in Elkhart County which inspire, attract, engage, and connect people, to enrich their living experience.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Vibrant Downtowns
- Trails & Parks
- Events (Arts, Culture, Entertainment)
- Public Art



ABCD TRAINING STARTS A PROCESS

In December, 40 people gathered at the Elkhart Health & Aquatics for a two-day training on Asset-Based Community Development. Mark Chupp led the group through the process of identifying the assets that the community has, particularly three neighborhoods where work is underway to identify and train leadership from within those communities. The Chamberlain

neighborhood of Goshen and both the Tolson and Prairie Creek Run neighborhoods of Elkhart are working in a range of ways to identify assets rather than focus on deficiencies.

A second training was done via Zoom in the month of July with 42 more people.

"This training is transformative because it shifts our thinking and the ways we can work together to effect change," said Candy Yoder, Chief Program Officer

for the Community Foundation. "The ABCD training sessions were immensely helpful as we gain better understanding of our communities."

The training sessions were funded by a Gift VII grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. "We continue to be so grateful for the ways Lilly Endowment Inc. funds our efforts," said Yoder.



STATEMENT ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION ▢

In response to the events of early summer 2020, the board and staff of the Community Foundation issued this statement:

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County (CFEC) shares the pain our nation is feeling since the senseless death of George Floyd. CFEC's culture is built upon a foundation of respect and fair treatment to everyone we serve and interact with. Furthermore, we believe the Community Foundation of Elkhart County has a responsibility to take actions that combat inequality, bias and exclusion.

Inclusion is one of CFEC's four core values. We seek to elevate diverse voices and believe we are most impactful when our organization and deliberations include people from varied backgrounds, opinions, and perspectives. We are committed to nurturing open and frank discussions so we may deepen our understanding and correct the inequities that exist within our society.

We encourage you to join us on this journey.



Community Foundation **FUND PERFORMANCE**

FUND ▢ PERFORMANCE

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County is pleased to report our investment portfolio has outperformed our benchmark over the last one-, three-, five-, and ten-year time periods. CFEC's investment performance over the last decade has averaged 7.6% annually.

Furthermore, the numbers at the right are the CFEC's annual investment performance for the most recent one-, three- and five-year periods. When compared to a peer group universe of other foundations with assets ranging from \$250 million to \$1 billion, CFEC ranks in the top 10 percent for those periods.

4.8% 6.8%

1 YEAR

3 YEARS

6.5%

5 YEARS

COVID-19 IN 2020

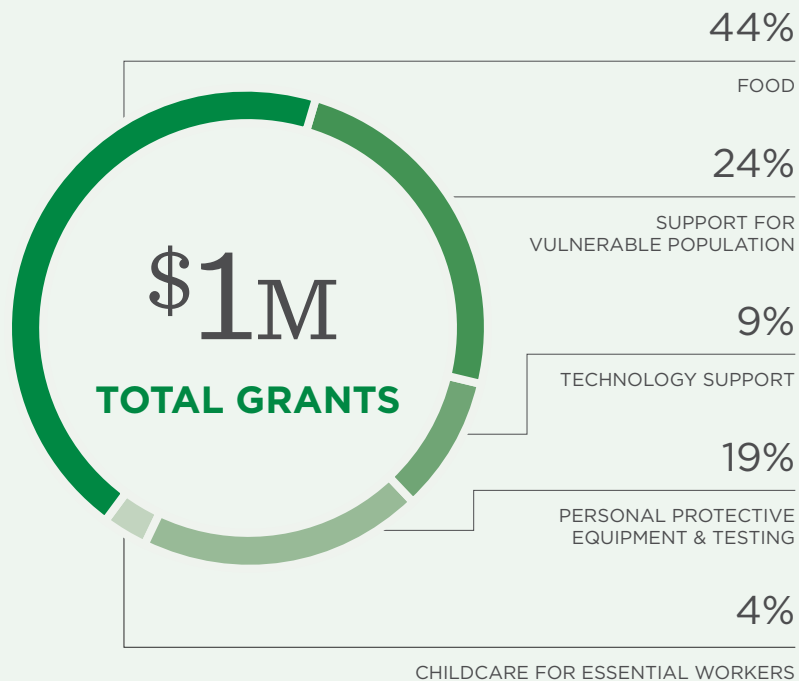


CFEC AND UNITED WAY COLLABORATE TO MEET NEEDS

In times of great need, the two largest organizations funding the work of nonprofits come together.

In March, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and United Way of Elkhart and LaGrange Counties quickly agreed to work together to meet needs in Elkhart County arising from COVID-19.

The Disaster Relief Funds of both organizations were just over half of the \$1.2 million raised for possible needs and community philanthropy contributed the other half. A unified grant application allowed staff members from both organizations to work together on funding decisions.





COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPISTS GIVE GENEROUSLY

A number of corporate and individual philanthropists gave to help meet needs arising from COVID-19. Donations as small as a dollar and as big as \$300,000 from an anonymous donor family came in to help those in need.

The \$300,000 donation was divided three ways between Church Community Services, Faith Mission and the joint COVID-19 Community Response Fund of the Community Foundation and United Way. The donor is a local businessman and his wife who have made similar donations in the past as a "Secret Santa," but didn't want to wait until Christmas this year because of the community's need.



Bill and Kristin Fenech also stepped forward to donate protective face masks for Elkhart General Hospital, Goshen Health and local nursing homes. The couple purchased 10,000 masks and made them available to those in need, as well as donating more money toward the food efforts.



ACTS OF SERVICE VOLUNTEERS SEW MASKS

When the pandemic hit, Ashley Jordan, the director of Acts of Service, started hearing from our nonprofit partners that they needed masks for their employees.

She approached Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation, who approved purchasing materials. As fabric was being shipped from Arkansas, a sticker had fallen off the shipment and Ashley says she put

on her logistics hat, tracked down the skid in Chicago and got it expedited to Elkhart in time for Lippert Components Inc. to cut more than 800 yards of fabric into future masks.

When she encountered a shortage of elastic, she learned from her stepdaughter that loops used to weave potholders also work and ordered 75 pounds. She procured interfacing (the thin fabric used to close spaces



in furniture) for a second layer in the masks. "All of my logistics had to be in line to pull this off," she said.

She then used the Acts of Service network to secure volunteers to both build kits for the home sewer and the actual sewers. Ashley spent \$4,100 and got more than 13,000 masks made that could even be used by healthcare workers on the front lines.

FUNDING ▢ COLLABORATIONS TO HELP PEOPLE

Even prior to the pandemic, five organizations had started collaborating to address financial instability of families. However, the growing need broadened and deepened the way that the Salvation Army corps in both Goshen and Elkhart, Lacasa, Church Community Services and Family Christian Development Center worked together to fund rent and utilities.

The Community Foundation and United Way funded their work, fueled by sharing resources and weekly meetings. "The sharing of resources and information

really served our community during a key time," said Candy Yoder, Chief Program Officer of the Community Foundation.

As organizations worked to feed people suffering from an economic downturn, Radio Horizonte, a local radio station focused on building community, started getting calls from Hispanic families wanting certain ethnic foods. People coalesced around the need and began providing boxes of food for families to pick up in Elkhart and Goshen.

"The remarkable thing about what happened there was there were local residents responding to a grassroots need and our funding coming along to support them," said Yoder. "If they wouldn't have had the financial support, it would have been hard for them to accomplish meeting the needs."





COFFEE TALKS KEEP NONPROFIT LEADERS CONNECTED

When the pandemic prompted the cancellation of most in-person events for a period of months, the Advancement team of the Community Foundation planned a range of online events.

From March through May, 10 Coffee Talks shared via Zoom (and then posted to YouTube) gave

people both training and a chance for conversation about what they were facing in this unprecedented time.

Community Foundation staff members, as well as experts from outside the organization, presented during the sessions lasting roughly 30 minutes twice a week.

“We learned a tremendous amount from the Coffee Talks themselves, but also from the mere act of coming together digitally on Zoom,” said Jodi Spataro, Chief Advancement Officer for the Community Foundation.





2019-20

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

Though the year presented a range of financial challenges, we are pleased to report that the Community Foundation of Elkhart County had an excellent year. The Community Foundation received a total of \$35.6 million in gifts in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 and because of past giving and investment, we were able to give \$35.1 million in grants. Our number of funds continues to grow and wise counsel from our volunteers and advisors is continuing to help our assets grow. Thank you for your generous gifts of time and resources to help us tend the community's assets.

Your Community Foundation

AT A GLANCE

547

TOTAL FUNDS

\$35M

TOTAL GRANTS

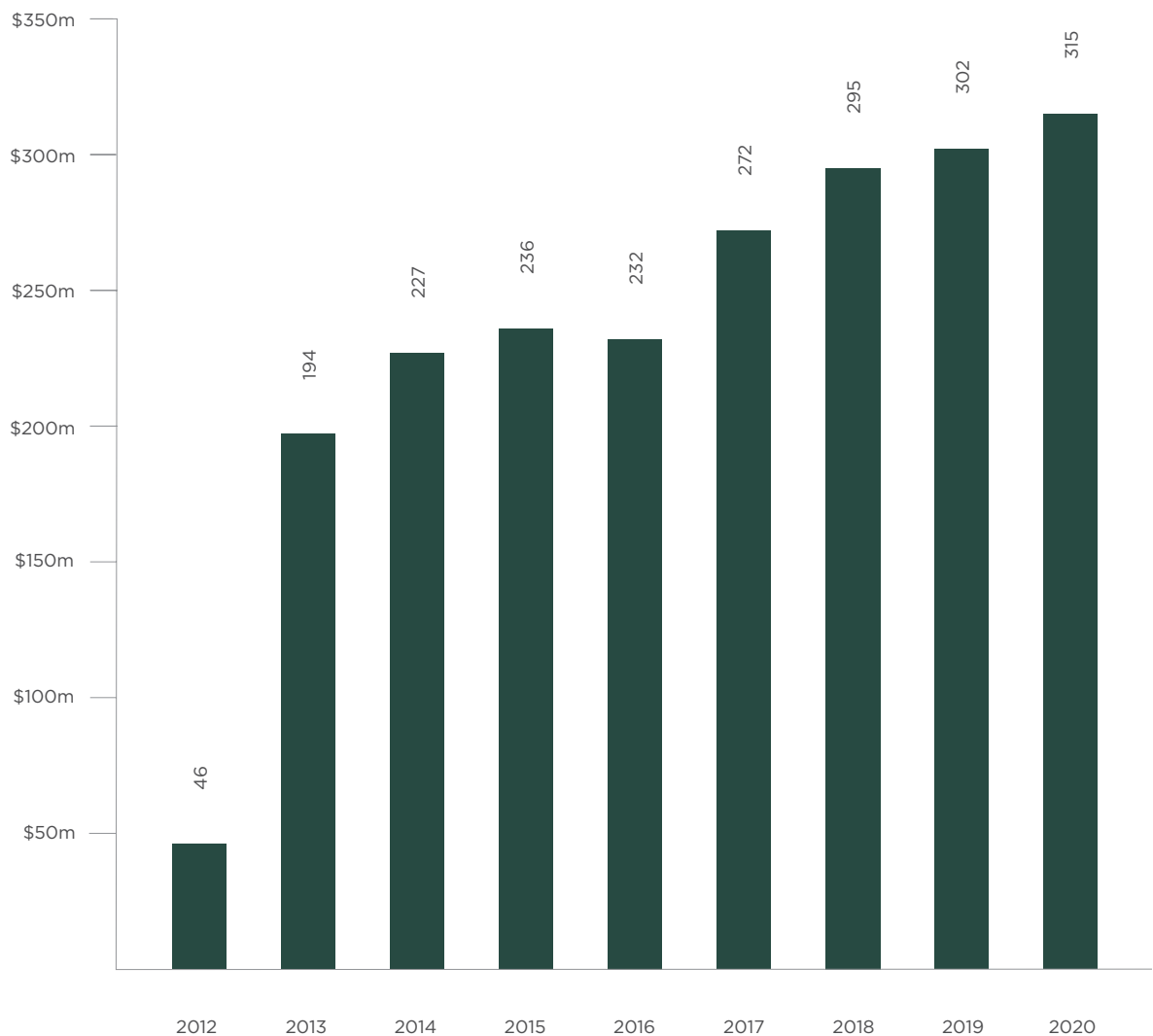
\$315M

TOTAL ASSETS

Historical

ASSETS BY YEAR

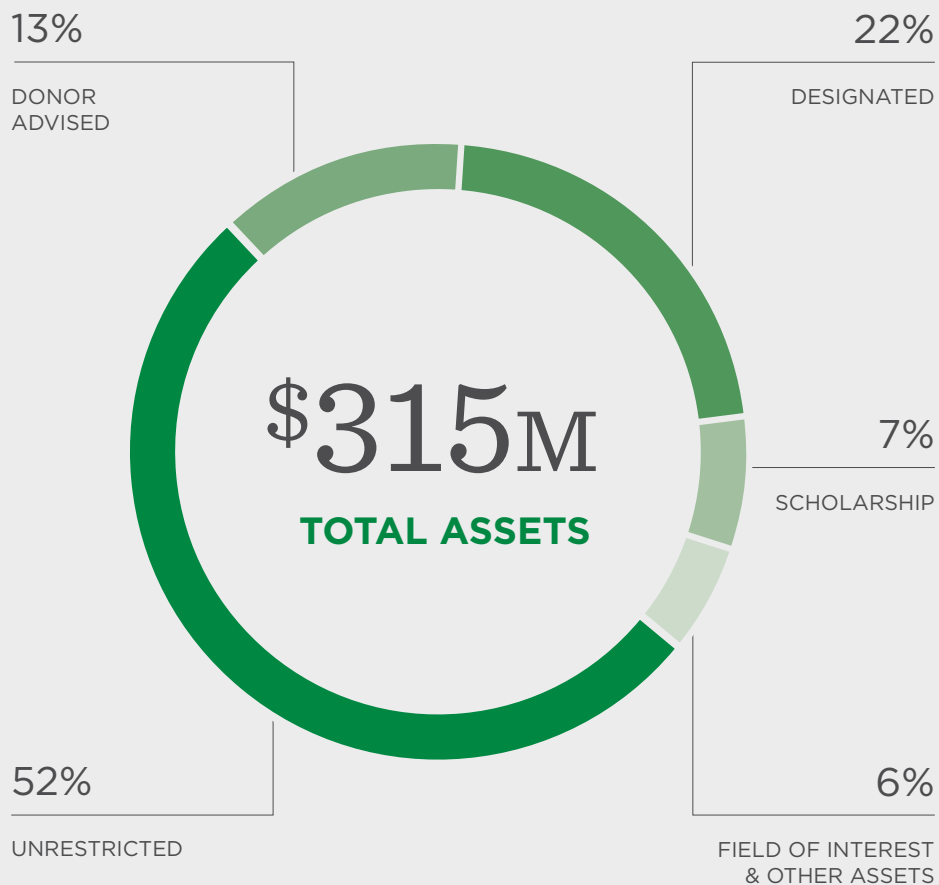
In 2013, the community received a wildly generous gift from Elkhart native Guy David Gundlach. The Gundlach gift was the start of a new era for the Community Foundation as other donors have become partners or deepened relationships to make our community stronger. Since 2013, over \$100 million in additional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



2020

ASSETS BY FUND TYPE

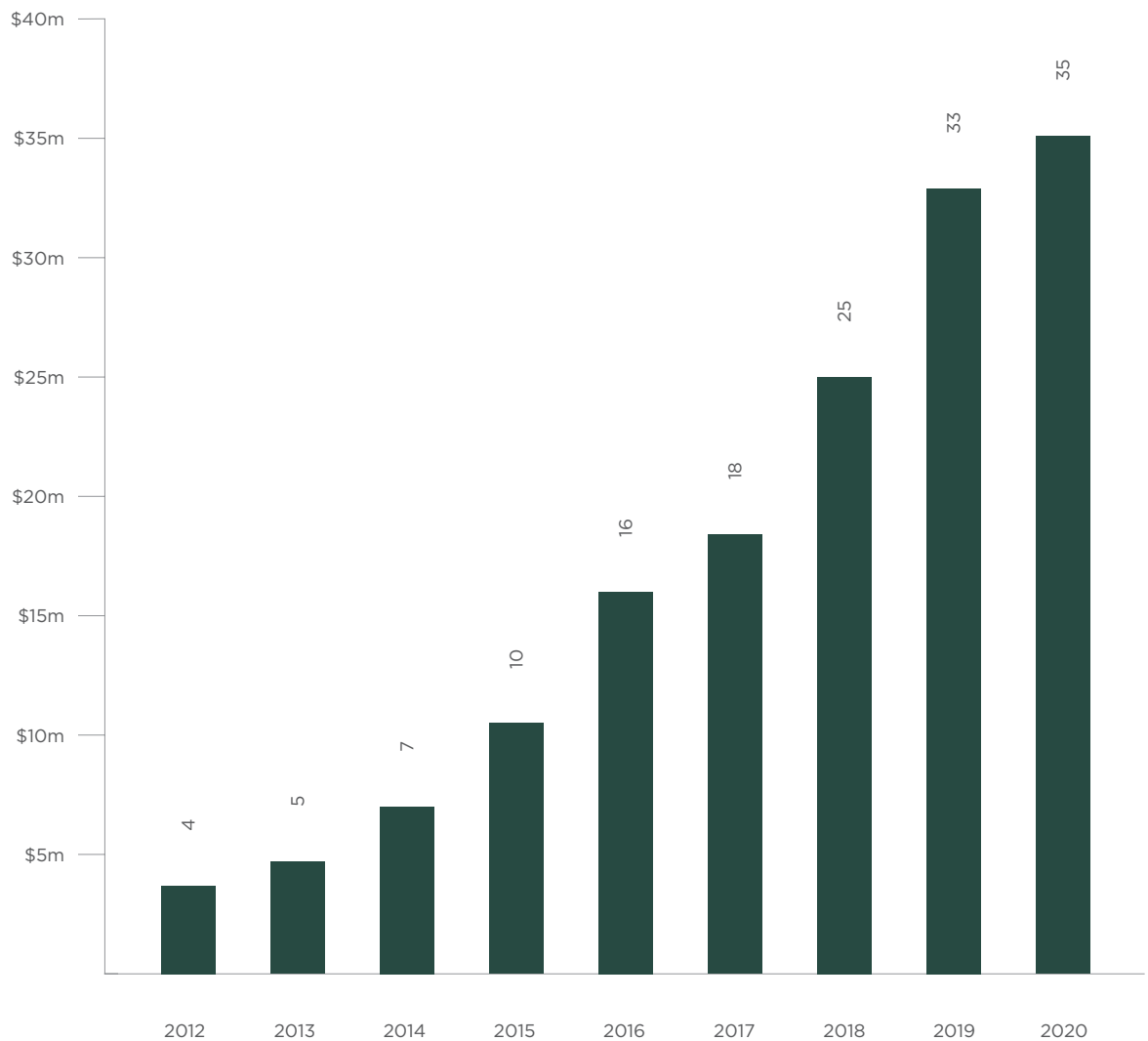
Since 1989 we have been working with passionate individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who are building a stronger community by supporting causes that strengthen and improve Elkhart County. Once we understand a donor's goals and establish their intent, we work with them to decide on which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



Historical

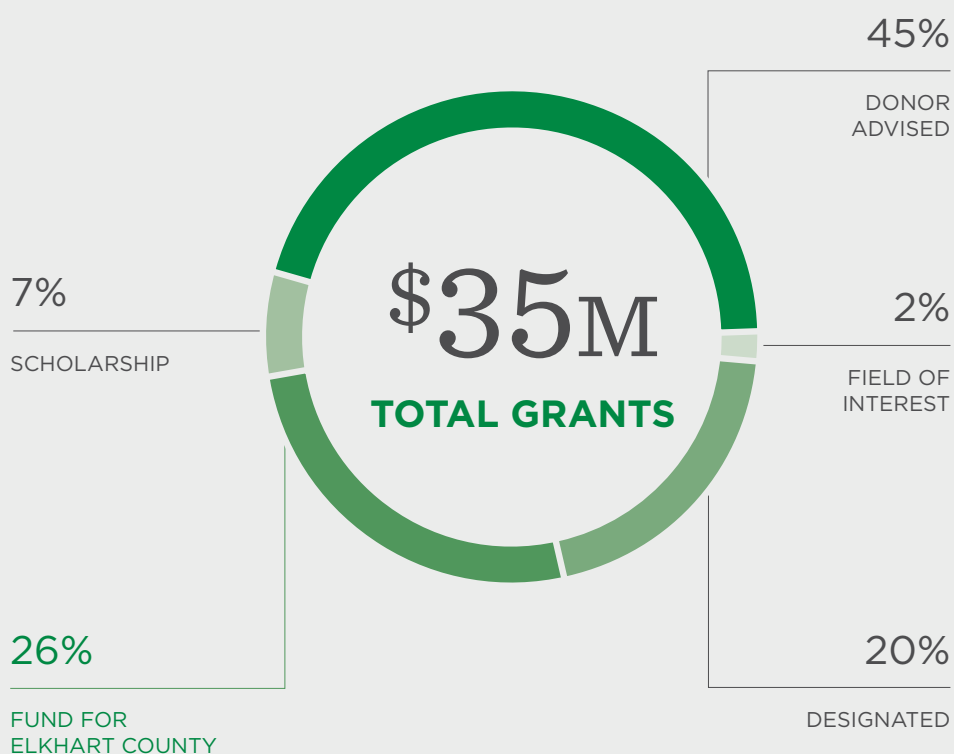
GRANTS BY YEAR

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 37–70 of this report.



2020

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, \$9 million in grants were awarded in areas of emphasis for the Community Foundation.

31%

KIDS & FAMILIES

7%

MATCHING GRANTS

13%

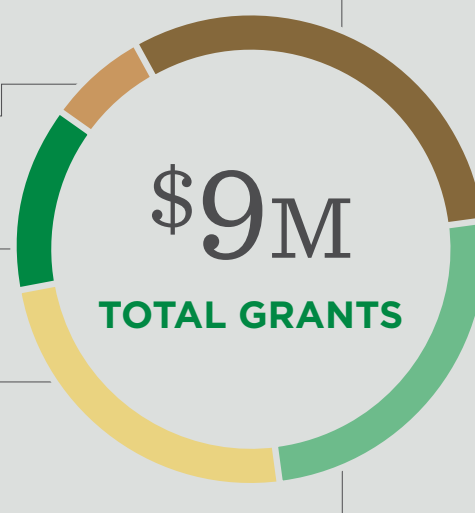
OPPORTUNITIES

24%

PLACEMAKING

25%

CAREER PATHWAYS



Statements of FINANCIAL POSITION

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and 2019.

	JUNE 30, 2020	JUNE 30, 2019
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,087,000	\$614,000
Investments	\$312,651,000	\$299,725,000
Beneficial interest in trusts	\$423,000	\$614,000
Other assets	\$644,000	\$707,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$314,805,000	\$301,660,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$51,000	\$17,000
Grants payable	\$5,623,000	\$2,278,000
Gift annuities payable	\$458,000	\$480,000
Custodial funds	\$27,449,000	\$23,688,000
Other liabilities	\$493,000	\$473,000
Net assets - without donor restrictions	\$3,519,000	\$3,290,000
Net assets - with donor restrictions	\$277,212,000	\$271,434,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$314,805,000	\$301,660,000

Statements of ACTIVITIES

Unaudited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020 and 2019.

* 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.

	JUNE 30, 2020	JUNE 30, 2019
SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES		
Contributions and grants*	\$26,715,000	\$18,299,000
Investment return, net	\$10,251,000	\$14,105,000
Fund administrative fees	\$2,176,000	\$2,123,000
Other	\$61,000	(\$125,000)
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES, GAINS, AND LOSSES	\$39,203,000	\$34,402,000
EXPENSES		
Program services**	\$31,447,000	\$24,407,000
General & administrative	\$1,234,000	\$1,134,000
Fundraising	\$515,000	\$467,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$33,196,000	\$26,008,000
Change in net assets	\$6,007,000	\$8,394,000
Net assets, beginning of year	\$274,724,000	\$266,330,000
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$280,731,000	\$274,724,000

MISSION AND VALUES

Mission: To improve the quality of life in Elkhart County by inspiring generosity.

Values: The Community Foundation is committed to the following as essential to our effectiveness. We aspire to reflect the following values as we serve the community:

- **INTEGRITY:** An abiding pledge to honesty, professionalism, humility, and respect.
- **INCLUSION:** We seek and elevate diverse voices. We are most impactful when our organization and deliberations include people from varied backgrounds, opinions, and perspectives.
- **EXCELLENCE:** In our every endeavor.
- **COLLABORATION:** We believe in teamwork, both internally and externally. We desire to be trusted partners with community members, civic leaders, and not-for-profit organizations to provide high-impact programs and services benefitting the broadest possible constituency.

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

A heartfelt thank you to the many contributors who helped put together this report, including:

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LightBox

ON THE COVER

Aerial view of Calendar Garden.
(Photo by Grant Beachy)

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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.

*Names in italics
are deceased*

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

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President



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Staff Accountant



DALLIS MILLER

Controller

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