The Community Foundation of Whitley County exists to **INSPIRE** philanthropy, **ENRICH** community, and **SERVE** donors by creating an enduring source of charitable assets.

“When eating fruit, remember the one who planted the tree.”
There’s a name for what fuels our Community Foundation. It’s called “gratitude.” From the donors who feel blessed and inspired to give back to their community, to the appreciative non-profit organizations and charitable causes on the receiving end, a spirit of gratitude courses through our work on a daily basis. This biennial report is a reflection of Whitley County’s philanthropic spirit.

Founded in 1991, the Community Foundation entered into its 25th year of charitable giving in 2015-16. In celebration of our anniversary, we unveiled a new logo and formally adopted the name The Community Foundation of Whitley County, Inc. The graphic puts emphasis on “Unity Found,” reflecting the Foundation’s ability to unite the generosity of many for the good of all. It symbolizes our county, the communities we call home, and the roads that connect us together.

Our Community Foundation was formed to help people, families and businesses support causes they care about. Over time, it has become the leading resource for philanthropy in Whitley County. Guided by generous donors, we develop and nurture endowment funds that will benefit this little corner of northeast Indiana, forever. Our efforts have led to millions of dollars directed to deserving projects big and small. In this report you’ll see that caring donors provided food for the hungry, helped high school students train to be firefighters, and played a role in fostering sustainability for a homeless shelter. You’ll also find a listing of scholarships funded by good-hearted residents who believed in assisting local students as they pursue post-secondary educational goals.

Housed in a 150 year-old building, our Community Foundation was constructed on sturdy ground. It was also built on a quarter century of generosity and gratitude. As we look to the next 25 years, we plan to expand to become an even stronger resource for all. Look forward to focused growth, a commitment to thoughtful, data-informed decision-making, measured impact, and an increase in strategic collaborations. As the Foundation evolves, you will see more creative innovation and partnerships with our donors.

Great communities are a reflection of the people who call them home. It is the continued generosity of Whitley County residents that allows our Community Foundation to continue its role as trusted, transparent stewards of our charitable resources.

We are grounded in gratitude.

September McConnell, CEO

In 2016, the Foundation awarded a $39,000 grant from its Greater Good Unrestricted Endowment Fund to help the Columbia City Fire Department launch a new training program at Columbia City High School. The Fire Academy gives ambitious teens the opportunity to gain their fire-fighting certification upon completion of the rigorous program.
Agency Endowments

These endowment funds benefit the non-profit organizations for which they are named by creating a stable, annual income stream. While they benefit specific organizations, they are an asset of the Community Foundation.

ACRES Land Trust
W. Byron & Marian Bollinger Fund
Cleveland Township Library
Camp Whitley Fund
The Center for Whitley County Youth Fund
Churubusco Public Library Fund
Faith Christian Academy Fund
Freedom Academy Fund
Habitat for Humanity of Whitley County Fund
Interfaith Mission Fund
Junior Achievement Fund
Peabody Library Endowment Fund
Simon J. Peabody Library Endowment Fund
TROY Center School Fund
United Way of Whitley County Fund
Whitley County Council on Aging and Aged Fund
Whitley County Historical Society Fund
Whitley County Literacy Council Fund
Whitley County YMCA Fund
YWCA Whitley County Fund
Bernice Kessler Whitley County Humane Society Fund
Passages to the Future Fund

Designated Endowments

These funds were created to support specific causes or organizations.

4-H Beef Club Fund*
Les Bills’ Family Firemen’s Christmas Fund^
Columbia City Firefighters Christmas Candy Fund^*^
Columbia City United Methodist Church Fund
George Scott & Mildred Smith Gates Fund
Lloyd & Maryjane Geyer/Denzil & Betty Schnader Memorial Fund^*
HANDS Fund
Imagination Library Fund
Donovan Kessler Little Swimmers Fund
Sherman & Marjorie M. Kneller Fund
Loon Lake Conservation Fund
Walter Malicki Whitko Art Fund
Margaret Priscilla Waterfall Whitley County Dazzlers Fund

Methodist Federation of Social Action Fund
Mihsihkinaahkwa Pow Wow Fund
Old Settlers Foundation Operating Endowment Fund
Old Settlers Association Fund
Parkview Whitley Memorial Hospital Fund
Phyllis Vandersaul Fund^*
George Franklin Schultz Fund
Splash Pad (Columbia City) Fund
South Whitley United Methodist Church
C. Byron & Marian E. Bollinger Fund
Stepping Stones Childcare Endowment Fund
Whitley County Cancer Care Fund
YMCA Life Lessons Endowment Fund

*Established in 2015  *Established in 2016

Youth philanthropy is alive and well in Whitley County! Members of the H.A.N.D.S. Foundation meet monthly to review funding requests from local educators and hone their leadership skills.

Youth philanthropy is alive and well in Whitley County! Members of the H.A.N.D.S. Foundation meet monthly to review funding requests from local educators and hone their leadership skills.
Donor Advised Endowments
These funds allow for on-going input from the donors and permit distribution to any charitable project or cause. The donor, their designees, or an advisory group makes recommendations as to where grants should be made. Final grant making authority rests with the Community Foundation’s Board of Directors.

- Benton W. & Thelma L. Bloom Fund
- Copp Family Fund
- M. Russell Fahl Family Fund
- John & Laura Lefever Fund
- James & September McConnell Family Fund
- Patricia A. McNagny Crooked Lake Conservation Fund
- Steve & Gloria More Fund
- C. Taron & Gloria Smith Endowment Fund

Field of Interest Endowments
As the name suggests, these funds help to support an area of interest such as the arts or recreation rather than a single organization.

- Arts Alive! Fund
- Centurylink Fund
- Count Me In! Youth Asset Building Fund
- Dekko Childcare Enhancement Fund
- Education for a New Generation Fund
- Shirley A. Gates Fund
- Edwin E. & Flossie L. Heupel Good Samaritan Fund
- Roy Kilby Youth Sports Endowment Fund
- Oak Grove Church of God Children’s Ministries Fund
- Mildred & Theodore Schultz Fund
- South Whitley Facilities Fund
- Walter & Dorothy Weick Memorial Fund
- Whitley County Giving Circle for Women’s Health Fund
- Whitley County Hospice Fund
- Victoria & James R. Wise Endowment Fund

Unrestricted Endowments
When a donor creates or contributes to an unrestricted fund, they understand that community needs are ever changing and that the earnings from their gift will be directed wherever the need is the greatest. Grants from Unrestricted Funds are available by application and are awarded at the recommendation of the Grants Committee and acceptance of the Board of Directors.

- Don Armstrong Community Fund
- Don & Jane Langeloh Community Fund
- Jean & Roger Long Community Fund
- Jack & Judy Moore Community Fund
- Andy & Toni More Community Fund
- William & Barbara Overdeer Community Fund
- Scientific & Regulatory Consultants Community Fund
- Rosemary Steiner Community Fund
- Whitley County Greater Good Fund

- Don & Sharlene Berkshire Community Fund
- Tim & Beth Bloom Community Fund
- Jerry Busche Community Fund
- Dekko Enhancement Fund
- Gary & Ann Dillon Community Fund
- Greg & Ann Fahl Community Fund
- Ferber Family Fund
- Alan Fox Community Endowment Fund
- Donna K. Harl Fund

An agency endowment for Camp Whitley helps to keep costs affordable for youngsters attending the fun-filled summer adventure which is steeped in tradition.

HOW ENDOWMENTS GIVE FOREVER

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Original Gift</th>
<th>Total Grants Distributed</th>
<th>Endowment Value</th>
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Assumes on 8% return, 4% distribution.
Scholarship Endowment Funds

Our Community Foundation encourages high school graduates to continue their post-secondary educations. Thanks to caring donors who share our vision, numerous scholarships are available to help cover the ever-growing costs of tuition.

- 4H Beef Club Scholarship Fund
- 4H Helping Hands Scholarship
- Tyler Andread Scholarship
- Kenny Beck Changes in Latitude Scholarship Fund
- Diane R. Behrens Nursing Scholarship
- Daniel E. Bolinger Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Buesching-Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lawrence & Frida Bunnell Scholarship Fund
- Gene C. Carter Scholarship Fund
- Bernice Carver Scholarship of Hope Fund
- Churubusco High School Fine Arts Production Thespian Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City High School FFA Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City High School Founders Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City High School French Club Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City High School Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City High School Spanish Club Scholarship Fund
- Columbia City Rotary Scholarship Fund
- Class of ’63 Scholarship Fund
- Joey Devito Scholarship Fund
- Devol Award Fund
- Irma & Donald Ferber Scholarship Fund
- Roark Fizer Scholarship Fund
- Max Gandy Scholarship Fund
- Betsy Jayne Gates Memorial Scholarship Fund
- James E. & Janice M. Hammer Academic Team Scholarship Fund
- Timothy Hearn Memorial Scholarship
- Andrea Norman Henry and John Anthony Norman Theater Scholarship Fund
- Ernest Earl Heimbach Scholarship Fund
- Lindsey Hively Scholarship Fund
- Randall & Patricia Holler Business Scholarship for Manchester University
- Robert Hood Scholarship Fund
- Todd Jagger Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Jakes Scholarship Fund
- Robert & Grace Karst R.N. Scholarship Fund
- Ben Konger Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Korean War Awareness Scholarship Fund
- Mango Langohr Scholarship Fund
- The Malicki Family Scholarship
- Brandon Minier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Daniel Mullett “For the Love of a Child” Scholarship Fund
- Natalie Mason Mullon Scholarship
- Norman L. Murphy Fund
- Tom Nuss Scholarship Fund
- Ohki Scholarship Fund
- Tiffany N. Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Tina Parker Award Fund
- Richard “Kit” Redman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Eric Reed Scholarship Fund
- Pat Reed Art Scholarship
- Daniel D. Rock Scholarship Fund
- Paul Schmidt Football Scholarship Fund
- Scientific and Regulatory Consultants Scholarship Fund
- Joseph H. Shull Tri Kappa Scholarship Fund
- Johnathan Lewis Simmons Scholarship Fund
- Kenny Simon Scholarship Fund
- Andy Spencer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lucille L. Staples Business/Journalism Scholarship Fund
- William D. Staples Athletic Scholarship Fund

Sisters Karen Cook and Pam McCoy award the M. Russel Fahl Athletic Scholarship, honoring their father, to graduating seniors Spencer Klimak and Hannah Wappes.

The Malicki Family Scholarship
- Brandon Minier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Daniel Mullett “For the Love of a Child” Scholarship Fund
- Natalie Mason Mullon Scholarship
- Norman L. Murphy Fund
- Tom Nuss Scholarship Fund
- Ohki Scholarship Fund
- Tiffany N. Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Tina Parker Award Fund
- Richard “Kit” Redman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Eric Reed Scholarship Fund
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- Scientific and Regulatory Consultants Scholarship Fund
- Joseph H. Shull Tri Kappa Scholarship Fund
- Johnathan Lewis Simmons Scholarship Fund
- Kenny Simon Scholarship Fund
- Andy Spencer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lucille L. Staples Business/Journalism Scholarship Fund
- William D. Staples Athletic Scholarship Fund

Vince Turner honored his longtime mentor and friend, Jim Thompson by creating a memorial scholarship in his name. Turner is pictured with Pam Thompson, her son Andrew and scholarship recipient Bridget Hinen.

Former Whitely County EDC President Alan Tio presented Christian Lacy with the first annual Alan Tio Scholarship for students pursuing continued education in manufacturing.

- Alan Tio Advanced Manufacturing Scholarship Fund
- Turtletown Players Scholarship Fund
- Ross Unverzagt Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Jerry Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Waugh Scholarship Fund
- Howard and Mimi Wherry Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Hankl ‘Patch’ Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Charles White Scholarship Fund
- Whitley County Builders Association Fund
- Whitley County Retired Teachers’ Association Scholarship Fund
- Whitko Scholarship Fund
- B.V. and Flossie Widney Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lester and Joy Worrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Megan Young Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Rely C. and Izora Zumbrun Education Fund

Former Whitely County EDC President Alan Tio presented Christian Lacy with the first annual Alan Tio Scholarship for students pursuing continued education in manufacturing.
Non-Permanent Funds

Established to assist small organizations with financial book-keeping for their charitable projects, the Community Foundation acts as a fiscal sponsor by holding non-permanent funds under our umbrella. Unlike gifts to endowments that can never be spent, gifts to non-permanent funds can be spent in their entirety. Gifts to these funds are tax-deductible as long as no goods or services were received in exchange for the contribution.

Abbie Little Playground Fund
Kenny Beck Golf Outing
Kenny Beck Scholarship
Randy Bills Memorial Scholarship
Boomerang Backpacks
Camp Invention
Camp Whitley Fund
Chaplain Fund
Children First Fund
Christmas Parade Fund
Churubusco Business Education Community Fund
Churubusco Pool Fund
Coese PTO Fund
Columbia City Aquatics Center
Columbia City Downtown Business Alliance
Columbia City High School Alumni Association
Columbia City High School Baseball Boosters
Columbia City High School Boys Basketball Team
Columbia City High School Boys Golf Team
Columbia City High School Girls Basketball
Columbia City High School Girls Soccer Boosters
Columbia City High School Football Boosters
Dillon Family Scholarship Fund
Dime at a Time Achievement Award Fund
Distinguished Young Women’s Pageant
Eppelman Family Fund
Evelyn Fahl Columbia City Aquatics Fund
Faith Christian Academy PTO
Families of Autism Coming Together Fund
Friends of Fire and Police
Friends of the Peabody Library
Every Kids Dreamland
G.A.P. Canaan Education Fund
Alan Fox Non-Permanent Donor Advised Fund
HANDS Foundation Youth Philanthropy Fund
Tammy Horne Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Whitley County Dazzlers melt the hearts of audiences with every performance. The Foundation is proud to play a role in helping the special needs cheerleading squad by holding their finances in a non-permanent fund. We handle their book-keeping and thank donors for their tax-free contributions to this spirited crew.

Kathy Heuer Non-Permanent Donor Advised Fund
Todd Jagger Memorial Scholarship Fund
Junior Lady Eagles Basketball
Donovan Kessler Little Swimmers Fund
Eugene and Rosalind Klingerman Family Fund
Leadership Whitley County Fund
Leatherneck Coffee Club Fund
Nicholas Carson Linville Speech and Debate Fund
Little Turtle Elementary PTO
Main Street Association
Mary Raber P.E.
Micropulse Charity Fund
Mihsikinaahkanwa Pow Wow Fund
Noble County Livestock Judging Team
Northern Heights Parents in Education
Northern Heights Playground Fund
Edith Nylander Trust/Eberhard Lutheran Church
Old Settlers Non-Permanent Fund
Piggy Bank Pals
The Potter’s Hands Fund

Steven K. Raypole Memorial Art Award
Schrader Family Fund
Kelley Sheiss Servant Leadership Scholarship
South Whitley Camp Invention
South Whitley Community Facilities Committee
Dollis Dillon Studebaker Fund
Jacob Tarleton Memorial Scholarship
TROY Center School Fund
Vietnam Memorial Fund
Whitley County Art Guild
Whitley County Arts Commission
Whitley County Autumn Arts Festival
Whitley County Cares
Whitley County Dazzlers
Whitley County Domestic Violence Task Force Fund
Whitley County Humane Shelter Fund
Whitley County Promise
Whitley County On the Move
Whitley Weigh In
Young Adults in Action
Jeff Wike, executive director for The Center for Whitley County Youth builds connections with local students. The Center offers an afterschool gathering place where kids can receive homework help or socialize in a supportive environment. It’s just one of their many great offerings focused on nurturing young people.

2015 Unrestricted Grants

- Youth for Christ $20,000
- United Way of Whitley County, Kindergarten Readiness Program $12,000
- TROY Center $50,000
- The Lighthouse/Interfaith Mission $50,000
- The Center for Whitley County Youth $35,900
- Community Harvest Food Bank $5,000
- Boomerang Backpack Programs in Whitley $5,000
- Passages, Inc. $5,000
- South Whitley Emergency Food Bank $4,000
- Junior Achievement $3,500
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana $2,500
- Whitko School Corporation $2,500
- Helpline of Whitley County $2,500
- Columbia City Parks Department $2,500
- CCHS Theater Department $2,380
- KC Education $2,000
- One Community South Whitley $2,000
- Children First $2,000
- Bill Lewis Center for Abused Children $1,000
- Churubusco Public Library Summer Concerts $1,000
- Columbia City Main Street Association Summer Concerts $1,000
- Potter’s Hand $1,000
- Ft. Wayne Philharmonic Holiday Pops $1,000
- Columbia City Main Street Association $1,000
- South Whitley Community Public Library Summer Concerts $1,000
- Community Christmas Celebration $800
- Whitko County Farmer’s Market $750
- Autumn Arts Festival $600
- Forklift $500

Above: The Foundation helped CCHS educator Rachelle Patrick bring Camp Invention to Whitley County. We continue to offer grant support to help offset tuition costs for local students to attend the weeklong day camp where young inventors have a chance to learn, experiment and be creative.

2015 Field of Interest Grants

Count Me In
- Columbia City Parks JFL Football $2,500
- Autumn Arts Festival $900

Arts Alive Endowment Fund
- Helpline $1,000
- McMillen Center for Health $1,000

Shirley Gates Fund
- Helpline $1,000
- McMillen Center for Health $1,000

HANDS Youth Philanthropy
- Junior Achievement $900
- Churubusco Junior/Senior High School $600
- Camp Invention $400
- Leadership Whitley County $300
- Kate’s Kart $300
- Whitko Middle School $300
- Columbia City High School $300
- Coese Elementary School $300
- One Community $300
- Smith-Green Community Schools $300
- The Center for Whitley County Youth $300
- Smith-Green Community Schools $290
- South Whitley Elementary School $290
- Whitko High School $250
- South Whitley Elementary School $250
- South Whitley Community Public Library HeadStart Program $1,431
- HANDS Scholarships $1,300

Shirley Gates Fund
- Helpline $1,000
- McMillen Center for Health $1,000

Above: Arts Alive! is a field-of-interest fund set up to support the arts in Whitley County.
**2016 Unrestricted Grants**

- The Lighthouse/Interfaith Mission $50,000
- Columbia City Fire Dept./WCCS $39,240
- Columbia City Parks/Fahl Aquatics Center $25,000 (First of three totaling $75,000)
- The Center for Whitley County Youth $25,000
- TROY Center School $20,000
- Indian Springs Middle School $18,752
- Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc. $8,000
- Junior Achievement $5,500
- Early Childhood Alliance $4,600
- Columbia City Police Dept. K-9 Unit $4,300
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc. $4,000
- Helpline $3,900
- Camp Invention $3,000
- Erin’s House for Grieving Children $3,000
- McMillen Center for Health $1,000

- Whitley County Farmers Market SNAP $3,000
- Double Bucks Program
- Churubusco Community Child Care Center $2,000
- Columbia City Mainstreet Association $2,000
- Gradway, Inc. $2,000
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana $1,500
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra, Inc. $1,200
- South Whitley Community Public Library $1,500
- Columbia City United Methodist Church Child Care Ministry $1,000

- Child Care Ministry, $1,000
- South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank $250

**2016 Field of Interest Grants**

**Arts Alive Fund**
- South Whitley Public Library $750

**Dekko Childcare Endowment**
- South Whitley Community Preschool $3,000
- Churubusco Community Child Care Center $3,500
- Columbia City United Methodist Church Child Care Ministry $4,000
- Sunshine Childcare Ministry $1,000

**Allen Fox Unrestricted Fund**
- South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank $1,000

**Shirley Gates Fund**
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana $3,300

**H.A.N.D.S. Youth Philanthropy**
- Pierceton Elementary School $900
- Junior Achievement $900
- Churubusco Junior/Senior High School $900
- South Whitley Elementary School $325
- GRADWAY $650
- Whitley County Arts Partnership $250
- Churubusco Junior/Senior High School $400
- Churubusco Junior/Senior High School $315
- Camp Invention $900
- Kate’s Kart $900
- United Way of Whitley County $200
- Mary Raber and Little Turtle Elementary Schools $900
- Whitko Community Schools $35
- Whitko High School $400
- Whitley County Youth Leadership Program $500
- Peabody Public Library $700
- South Whitley Elementary School $89
- Pierceton Elementary School $400

- Mildred & Theodore Schultz Fund
  - South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank $250

- Whitley County Cancer Care Fund
  - Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana $400

- Whitley County Giving Circle for Women’s Health
  - Children First Center Adult Education Program $5,000

Students at Churubusco Community Childcare Center celebrate learning made possible in by a grant from the Community Foundation of Whitley County.

Who says you shouldn’t play with your milk? A grant from the Dekko Childcare Endowment Fund helped these youngsters at Churubusco Childcare Center fun exploring.
Indeed, what could be better?

That was the question H.A.N.D.S. members were challenged to examine by leaders at the Dekko Foundation, a longtime funding partner and champion of youth philanthropy. The students were urged to consider community needs and review all aspects of their organization; what were they doing well? What could they be doing better or differently?

By-laws were tweaked, projects were reviewed and school administrators were surveyed. Additional questions started to emerge. What if more youth had the opportunity to learn about community needs and local non-profit organizations? What if these same students were taught about grants – how to write them and how they are awarded? What if they had the ability to raise real money for real causes? In the end, the 15 high school students decided to cast a broader net. H.A.N.D.S. chose to expand.

Charitable Champions was introduced in the 2015-16 school year and over 250 8th grade students at Indian Springs Middle School participated in the year-long pilot program. With input from school educators, H.A.N.D.S. members produced the curriculum which launched through student workbooks and ten video lessons. The videos feature the high school group covering topics such as community, philanthropy and grant making. Each week, educators guided the mini-lessons and discussion on philanthropic related material.

In March, a non-profit fair took place at the Middle School. About twenty local organizations were on hand to teach 8th graders about their missions and the role their business plays in our community. Afterwards, students divided into teams and spent the next few weeks doing additional research on a specific charity. They identified needs, determined budgets and ultimately wrote grant requests on behalf of their non-profits. Each team presented their proposal to their classmates and teachers. The top ten were selected to present their proposals to H.A.N.D.S. for real funding consideration.

ISMS Social Studies teacher Amy Shearer reflected on the value of Charitable Champions as it relates to project based learning. She noted that the initiative incorporates multiple subject areas: Social Studies (civic standards), Language Arts (writing) and Math (creating budget and finance). In addition, the program is meant to empower students in their ability to make a difference by getting involved. “We want the students to learn how to identify what needs exist in their community and develop real-life problem solving skills. Here’s a need or a problem, what can you do?” Shearer said.

Given the overwhelming success of the program, Charitable Champions will continue and hopefully expand to include students at Churubusco Middle School and Whitko Middle School in the future. What happens when a funding collaborator says “it’s time to shake things up!”? Quite a lot.

Charitable Champion Grants from H.A.N.D.S.

- Giving Gardens $2,008
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana $2,000
- The Lighthouse $1,000
- Midweek Meal $750
- Humane Society of Whitley County $735

Students present Jeff Wike, executive director of The Center for Whitley County Youth with a $500 donation.
## Statement of Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td><strong>Revenue and Support:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets at End of Year</strong></td>
<td>$20,961,339</td>
<td>$22,677,160</td>
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The Community Foundation’s leaders were once again grateful and amazed by the willingness of Whitley County residents to take on a challenge and create permanent legacies that will enhance our county now, and for generations to come. During the time reflected in this report, our Foundation’s endowments grew over $1.25 million as a result of the success met through Lilly Endowment’s GIFT VI initiative.

Continuing their long-standing efforts to promote sustainable and effective community foundations, Lilly Endowment announced GIFT VI in August 2014 and invited the Community Foundation of Whitley County to apply for $500,000 in matching funds. Guidelines called for new gifts to be raised by March 31, 2016, to qualify for the match.

The 18-month window was a relatively short timeframe to raise the unrestricted dollars needed, but with generous added incentive from the Dekko Foundation and the charitable support of local donors, the Community Foundation met the match three months early. Donors established 28 new funds and contributed to existing funds to take advantage of the rare opportunity to double their investment. In total, more than 526 donors took advantage of the matching funds.

The impact of the endowment growth was immediate. The Community Foundation’s Grants Committee will have an additional $50,000 to distribute annually. This boost to our grant making ability will be lasting, as will our appreciation. Thank you to everyone who played a role in this success.
DONORS

2015 DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Abbott
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Acheson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams
Mrs. Mary Keyes Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams
Alarie Chiropractic Center
Ms. Bobbie Alexander
Ms. Dixie Alexander
Mr. Peter Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allman
Mr. Donald Armstrong
Mrs. Mary Ann Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Al Andreas
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bundy
Ms. Karen Bucher
Buchanan for Mayor
Buchanan Automotive, Inc.
Ms. Mista Feist
Featherlite LLC
Columbia City Wrestling Club
Ms. Fayra Egolf
The YMCA

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ainslie
Columbia City Optometry
Columbia City High School
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Abbett
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Collier
Mr. and Mrs. Marcas Gatton
Ms. Lisa Gawthrop
Mr. and Mrs. James Eberhart
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Fudge
Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Geyser
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Gillett
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gliek
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Glick

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Glick
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Batchelor
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Backley
Mr. and Mrs. Kert Backley
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker
Mr. Buford Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ball
Barker Land & Cattle LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ballard
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The Foundation presents the Annual Heart of Gold Awards. The long-standing tradition honors local residents whose acts of kindness make Whitley County a great place to call home.
In Memory of James Thompson (cont.)
Dr. and Mrs. James McConnell
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Moren
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. James Nolan
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nowling
Mrs. Mary Ellen Gates Osborne
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Peoples
Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Weeks
Mr. John W. Whiteleather Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Wood
Mr. and Mrs. C. Robin Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Zent
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zickgraf

In Memory of Vernon Trier
Ms. Cheryl Stark
In Memory of James Vester
Ms. Tama Brandon
In Memory of Scott Wasilewski
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Rush
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis White
In Memory of Richard Wherry
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Rush
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis White

In Memory of Stephen C. Wolfe
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis White
In Memory of Ronald Yant
Mr. Janis Kelly

We have made every attempt to properly acknowledge each gift. If a mistake has occurred, please let us know so we can correct our record and promptly recognize your gift.

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

–Pablo Picasso

grateful for service

Foundation director September McConnell shares a laugh with Terry Moyer at Passages annual art exhibit. Terry, a Passages client, was employed by the Foundation for six years before retiring in 2016. In addition to mowing, cleaning and shredding documents, he was an overall day brightener. Staff members are grateful for the partnership with Passages that brought him to the team.

After a decade of service, Rob Marr and Bill Overdeer retired from the Foundation’s Board of Directors at the end of 2016. We are indebted to them for their dedication to philanthropy, commitment to the community, and thoughtful leadership.

2016 Board of Directors
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Tim Bloom
Sharlene Berkshire
Gary Dillon
Greg Fohl
Carl Jacquay
Rhonda Jones
Marcia McNagray

2015 Whitley County Lilly Community Scholars Selection Committee
Andy More
Beth Bloom
Pat Ball
Cara Starkey
Mike Ott

2016 Whitley County Lilly Community Scholars Selection Committee
Judy Hayes
Donna Harl
André More
Cara Starkey
Dick Buchanan

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