

SUMMER 2014

WHAT GIVES

News, Issues and Events Shaping Philanthropy
at the Whitley County Community Foundation

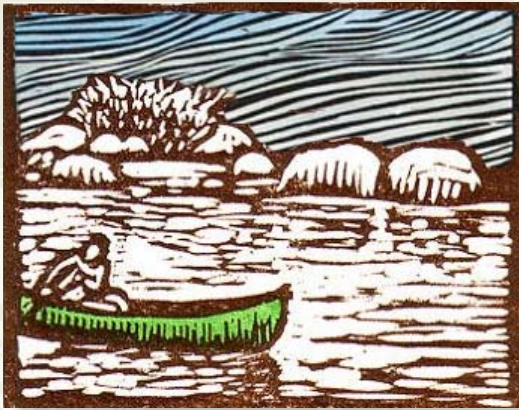
Camp Whitley Challenge Match Offer Honors Former Director

LOOKING BACK AT OUR CHILDHOOD, there is always that one special person who stands out in our memories. A person who played a role in our lives and made a lasting impression on our hearts, shaping us into the adults we are today. For former Columbia City resident Bob Kellogg, one such individual was Arthur Lloyd.

Arther G. Lloyd was the director of Camp Whitley for 24 years and for many years directed activities of the Junior Athletic Association (JAA) in Columbia City schools. In honor of his memory and service to the camp, former camp goer and JAA member Bob Kellogg and his wife Ellen, have set up a memorial Camp Whitley challenge match offer with the Whitley County Community Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg have generously offered to match



gifts to Camp Whitley's Endowment Fund dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. With this match a \$25 gift instantly becomes \$50. "I started going to Camp Whitley when I was nine years old, back then you either paid \$18 to register or if you couldn't afford the \$18 you could pay with a sack of groceries. Back then I paid with the groceries, but now I can afford to give back a little more," said Bob.



During his time as Camp Director Lloyd was known for going above and beyond to make sure that everything was taken care of for the season. His kindness and dedication to the campers left a lasting impression with Kellogg who recalls spending one summer helping Lloyd work on repairing and painting the kayaks. "When he worked at camp he did a lot of things on his own time, he was very dedicated to the kids and made sure that everything was taken care of so that camp was a great experience," said Kellogg "He was an obvious leader and when I was in grade school we all looked up to him."

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Community Foundation Awards Over \$200,000 in Grants and Scholarships in May



Spring is traditionally “busy season” for the Whitley County Community Foundation and this May proved to be no different as our organization awarded over \$200,000 in local grants and scholarships.

The following competitive grants were made possible by individuals who made gifts to the Community Foundation’s Greater Good Fund. The Grants Committee made up of volunteers from throughout the County recommended the grants, which were approved by the Foundation’s Board of Directors:

- Churubusco Main Street, \$5,000 toward a matching grant for downtown beautification
- City of Columbia City, \$5,000 toward brackets and baskets for downtown flowers; in addition, the John and Aileen Meier Fund contributed an additional \$3,200 to the project.
- Giving Gardens of Indiana, \$4,500 toward start-up costs for community gardens that will benefit local feeding programs
- One Community, \$3,500 to help pilot a new senior meals program in South Whitley
- Camp Invention, \$2,000 to run the STEM enrichment summer camp for local elementary age students
- Junior Achievement of Northeast Indiana, \$1,800 toward providing personal finance programs in all three Whitley County high schools
- Helpline of Whitley County, \$1,750 to provide assistance to those in need
- Children’s Hope House, \$1,200 toward costs of hosting Whitley County families in need of a place to stay during medical treatments
- Whitko Pony League, \$1,000 to purchase a lawn mower for field preparation
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra, \$1,000 toward the cost of their annual Holiday Pops Concert in Whitley County; funded in part by the Arts Alive! Endowment Fund
- Bill Lewis Center for Children, \$500 to support high quality forensic testing for Whitley County children who have allegedly been sexually abused
- OZD Jeep Jam, \$500 toward costs of a fundraiser to help meet needs of Whitley County veterans

“We owe our gratitude to the generous donors, past and present, who care about the future of Whitley County and its residents, and chose to make their gifts through our Community Foundation,” stated Rob Marr, Foundation Board President. “They understand that our focus is local. It’s a real vote of confidence in the work we do and we appreciate the trust they place in the Community Foundation to carry out their charitable goals,” he added.

Spring also means graduations and this year, thanks to the continued generosity of local donors, the Community Foundation was able to award over 80 scholarships totaling \$176,000 to deserving students from Churubusco, Columbia City and Whitko High Schools. Members of our Scholarship Selection Committees were impressed by a number of essays and interviews. They shared these sentiments, noting that Whitley County has reason to be proud as these students will be excellent representatives of our community as they advance in their studies. To all involved in the selection process, we offer our thanks for your time and efforts in supporting our scholarship program.

The Story of the Babies in the River



Our friends at the Dekko Foundation share a great parable to explain choices in philanthropy. We'll try to do justice to their rendition as it is a tale worth telling.



Once upon a time some villagers were working in a field near a riverbank. They hadn't been there long before someone noticed that there were babies in the water moving downstream with the current. Immediately, a few good citizens plunged into the river, began catching the infants and tossing them onto the banks to safety. Their exhausting efforts continued for a while before some other well-meaning spectators jumped into the water and began teaching the infants to swim. When it seemed the issue had been resolved, the weary villagers began to head home. On their way, they met two other kinsmen who had been with the group originally. When questioned as to where they had been during all the excitement, the kinsmen explained. They'd decided to walk upstream and find out how the babies were getting into the water in the first place.

We love this story because it reflects of the scope of charitable endeavors that we support here at the Whitley County Community Foundation. It also illustrates the question we must ask ourselves before every grant session: "How can we most effectively award grants with the money that has been entrusted to us by donors for community good?" The story is poignant because none of the Villagers' efforts were wrong; just different. Here in Whitley County we know there are immediate needs to be met – people who are about to lose their electricity in frigid temperatures, children that are going hungry, and individuals who need a roof over their heads. We support the folks who have "jumped in the river" in an effort to address these immediate needs head on. Interfaith Mission, our local food banks and CANI quickly come to mind as examples.

We also know that there are some great folks who literally jump in the water and teach kids to swim thanks to the Donovan Kessler Little Swimmers Fund and the Whitley County YMCA. But there are also a host of other organizations working in this realm: Passages and their efforts on behalf the special needs community; the Senior Center's transportation program that helps home-

bound seniors get to much needed appointments; and youth serving entities such as The Center, TROY School and Whitley County 4-H that are all committed to making sure our young people have the support they need to thrive. Their focus moves from emergency need to empowerment.

The efforts that are harder to explain, but are every bit as crucial are those of the folks who are "walking upstream." We tip our hats to the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation and their work centered upon growing local businesses. It seems to reason that as the availability of good paying jobs increases, and we have the skilled workforce in place to fill these positions, the pressure on charities to meet immediate needs should begin to diminish and ultimately, we'll be able to do more for the quality of life programs that enhance our little corner of Northeast Indiana.

We challenge our donors to think about their own views; it can be difficult to decide upon on the best way to "do good" and "make a difference." The beauty of the Whitley County Community Foundation is our flexibility in working with donors who have varying ideas and intent. We're here to help!

Riley Fry Named 2014 Lilly Community Scholar



Riley Fry, a graduating senior from Columbia City High School was named the recipient of the Whitley County Community Foundation's 2014 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. She will receive full tuition to the Indiana college of her choice and a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment. Riley is the daughter of Todd Fry and Wendy and Martin Grooms of Columbia City. She plans to study Pre-Med, majoring in biology at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, IN. "I am so thankful that I will be able to represent Whitley County as I go through school and I am grateful to everyone who has been there to answer my questions and guide me thus far in my academic career," said Riley. "I feel that being granted with this scholarship has been just as much a reward for them as for me, and it is proof that hard work pays off. I am still in disbelief and I could never express my gratitude for this chance of a lifetime." Finalists for this year's award included Nicole Karrer, Bonnie Smith, and Mykala Wakeman of Columbia City; Breanne Pickett and Michael Thompson of South Whitley, and Landon Pearson of Churubusco. The Community Foundation has awarded 33 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships totaling over \$3 million since 1998.

Thanks, Bob



Founding Board Member Bob Smith, far right, with current Board members Greg Fahl, David Smith and Rob Marr.

In the world of philanthropy, we are quick to acknowledge donors who share their treasure with projects they care about. We are not always as good at remembering to offer our appreciation to those who donate their time and talents. Shame on us. We wouldn't be who we are were it not for those tried and true, steady volunteers who give of themselves.

When R. Alston (Bob) Smith came through the door of the Foundation last month for our quarterly Finance & Investment Committee Meeting, he announced that it would be his last. Gulp. I had to pause and consider how long he has been helping to guide the Foundation's financial growth. Actually, I had to run upstairs and start digging out old minutes, because Bob has been a part of the Foundation longer than I have. In fact, he was there at the onset – a founding member of the Community Foundation that started with its first official meeting on September 18, 1991.

Bob retired from the Foundation's Board after ten years but stayed active on the Finance Committee. He saw the assets grow and witnessed the impact of grants that he and his co-founders could only dream about two decades ago. "Thanks" seems like such a small word, but in this case it holds years of gratitude. So, thanks Bob. We hope to continue making you proud of the work we are able to do because of your vision and guidance.

September McConnell

September McConnell, Director

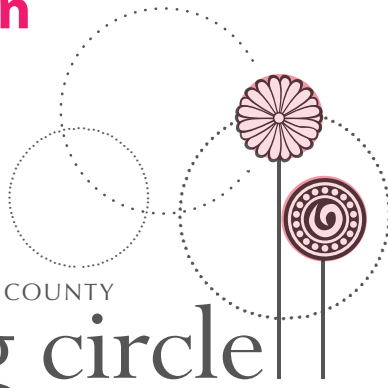
Annual Luncheon

Thursday, Aug 7th

12 Noon

Indian Springs
Middle School

WHITLEY COUNTY
giving circle
FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



If you've ever pulled your purse closer while walking through a mall parking lot, this luncheon is for you!

The Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health is pleased to present Simple Self Defense Solutions for Women as the program for their annual luncheon on August 7th.

Put on something comfy (you'll have a chance to try what you learn!) and join us as professional self-defense instructors provide tips and training on self-defense for women. Learn how to avoid being a target, the power of body language and verbal cues for being safer. "Nobody wants to have to use self-defense, but if you go through the lessons physically, your body will remember should the need ever arise," explains one instructor.

As always, the Giving Circle's Annual Luncheon promises to mix fun and socializing into the program. Attend with a friend if you know of someone else who could benefit by learning safety tips.

The luncheon is free, but advanced reservations are required. For additional information, contact Chelsey Barrell, WCCF Communications Coordinator at 244-5224.

Coming Soon: The Whitley County Promise

This fall students in grades K-1 throughout Whitley County will have the chance to participate in the Whitley County Promise. The Promise provides students a variety of opportunities to dream about their futures. At school registration and open houses, their parents can take advantage of a special opportunity to open a college savings account. In their classrooms, the youth will identify the champions in their lives and explore college and career options. Students will share their dreams with their champions and ask for their support. Champions will have the opportunity to make a gift to the child's college savings account and provide support and encouragement for their "Walk Into My Future" event. During their college visit, students will experience a campus first-hand by visiting Manchester University and celebrating their dreams for college and beyond. The Whitley County Promise is a true community effort with support coming from educators, businesses and local non-profit organizations. Watch for more news to come on this exciting undertaking!



Camp Whitley Challenge (cont'd from cover)

In addition to his dedication to Camp Whitey Lloyd was active in the JAA. Lloyd would organize the basketball games and participate every Saturday as the referee. At the end of each season Lloyd would also organize the awards banquet for the winning team. "Mr. Lloyd did a lot for the community and I felt that he deserves recognition for all of his efforts," said Kellogg.

If you would like to support the Camp Whitley Challenge Match Offer tax deductible donations can be made payable to: WCCF 400 N. Whitley St. Columbia City, IN 46725. *Please note: "Camp Whitley Challenge" in the memo line.*



**"If we plant the right seeds, tomorrow will be better.
If you put good things in, then you get good
things back." ~ Ben Vereen**

Thanks JW, for planting the right seeds then and now.

Todd Jagger Memorial Golf Outing

In honor of the memory of their brother, for the 15th consecutive year, Troy Jagger and Brooke Farber will host the Annual Todd Jagger Memorial Golf Outing at Crooked Lake Golf Course in Columbia City. The outing will take place on July 19, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. The entry fee for the 4 player team scramble is \$55, which includes golf, cart, food and drinks. All proceeds from the outing will benefit the Todd Jagger Memorial Scholarship fund held by the Whitley County Community Foundation. Sign up forms are available at the Crooked Lake Golf Course office.

Prizes this year include: a hole in one wins a 2014 Polaris Razor 1000 side by side, 50/50 drawing, long drive, closest to the pin, and a raffle drawing. For more information contact Troy Jagger at 260-609-0345.



OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Whitley County Community Foundation to inspire philanthropy, enrich community and serve donors by creating an enduring source of charitable assets.

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