

Hancock County Community Foundation  
EDITION: 2 | 2022

# Spirit of Community

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



312 E Main Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
317.462.8870  
giveHCgrowHC.org





# 2022 Board of Directors



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Board Chair  
Center Township



**Willie McKinney**  
Board Vice-Chair  
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**Susan Bennett**  
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Center Township



**Terry Tillett**  
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**Laura Haerberle**  
Women's Fund Chair  
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**Miles Hercamp**  
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**Rick Wittgren**  
Blue River Township



# Leadership

It is with gratitude that the Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) presents its 2021 Annual Report to the community. We are pleased to share that HCCF's financial position is strong, educational attainment and nonprofit capacity building efforts are robust, and our foothold in quality-of-life efforts is solidly placed. Our work is measured by our success to implement multi-year initiatives that hold us accountable to annual goals.

Powered through the contributions of a generous community, 14 new funds were established. In 2021 alone, 1,010 people contributed \$1.6 million to one of the 321 component funds we steward. A significant focus was placed on growing the HCCF Scholarship Fund with the goal of growing awards for Lilly Endowment Inc. Community Scholarship award finalists. We are grateful for past Lilly Scholarship recipients and their families who paid their good fortune forward with their support and permitted us to exceed our growth goal. In 2021, \$367,515 dollars were awarded in scholarships to high school, college, and adult students.

HCCF celebrated the first graduates of the Imagination Library program when the first cohort of children entered kindergarten. With that milestone came a fresh face for the program. Kayla Ball, born January 2016, passed the baton to Annie Clause, born January 2021. Since inception, 3,171 babies have enrolled in the Hancock County program, which equates to a 76% enrollment rate, far exceeding the Dollywood Foundation's average of 60% enrollment in IL communities at any given time.

It is humbling to be in a position to support the nonprofits that serve the people of our community. In 2021, \$1,273,696 grant dollars were awarded through unrestricted, field of interest, donor established, agency established, and donor advised funds. Grant funding was accompanied by networking events, newsletters, a dedicated website, and a community calendar. The Excellence Academy, a capacity building program, began its third and final year of the inaugural cohort, providing a rich curriculum for five participating organizations.

HCCF dedicated countless hours to quality-of-life issues, civic and talent development, and the creation of a culture for an aspirational county vision. Grant investments supported community engagement in the Future Hancock comprehensive planning process and the Ball State University presentation of best practices in community development.

After a 2020 of pandemic constraints, it was so very good to return to in-person events and meetings in 2021. Our work is far better when it can be done face-to-face with the wonderful people that are the fabric of our community.

We hope you enjoy this document that captures but a fraction of the impact you are making by giving through the Community Foundation. Thank you for the privilege of serving Hancock County!

  
Mary Gibble  
President/CEO

  
Ryan Hammons  
HCCF Board Chair





# 30 Years of Thankful

**1992**

- Board of Directors formalized & began meeting in September 1992.
- LEI GIFT I\*
- Completed strategic plan with five objectives driven by committees.
- Martha Beckenholdt \$1 million commitment



**1997**

- Office established in Chamber building
- Applied for LEI GIFT III\*  
**Endowment \$5,725,883**

**1995**

**Endowment \$2,416,951**

**1994**

**Endowment \$652,002**

**1996**

- Applied for LEI GIFT II\* from Lilly Endowment
- Achieved \$5.1 million GIFT I total one year early



**1993**

**Endowment \$228,422**

**2011**

- New Initiatives: Harvest for Hancock, Happy Birthday Hancock County, Youth Board, and WF Girl Talk events
- Marie Felver joined HCCF as Finance Officer

**2010**

- Hancock County flag took root for Spirit of Community Funds
  - "Give where you live, grow where you live" is born
- Endowment reaches \$16,036,770**



**2008**

- Jacob Schramm Nature Preserve made accessible to community by Eagle Scout project
- WF made first grants



**2009**

- **\$559,286** Granted
- HCCF was gifted Strahl Farm
- Board & staff donated \$12,135 to offset operating budget deficit after market fall in 2008



**2012**

- 20 years of HCCF was celebrated!
- 1st Match Day-July 24th
- New HCCF logo adopted
- 20th Anniversary gala



**2013**

- HCCF offices remodeled and tenant spaces occupied by six nonprofits
- All scholarships moved to online system
- Women's Resource Center launched by the Women's Fund of Hancock County

**2014**

- LEI GIFT VI\* awarded and 38 new funds established at HCCF
- Legacy Properties awarded 501c3 status
- Celebrating Communities Initiative launched
- Full time Scholarship Program Officer position added



**2015**

- **1,840 donors, 941 of which were new**
  - Match Day grants awarded \$83,000
- Endowment grows to \$30,064,342**

**2016**

- Jan.1, first Imagination Library baby enrolled
- Ten month strategic planning process resulted in five-year vision for the future



# 30 Years of Thankful

**1998**

- Met LEI GIFT III\* 1 year early
- 1st year participating in Lilly Community Scholars program



**1999**

- Pasco family donated former mortuary to HCCF
- John Carreon joined HCCF as executive director

**2000**

- Began renovations to 312 E Main St.
- Endowment totaled **\$9,328,075**

**2001**

- HCCF won national newsletter award
- HCCF Operating Endowment started
- Awarded \$4.9 million CAPE grant



**2002**

- HCCF celebrated 10-year anniversary
- First HCCF tv broadcast, 'Philanthropy Matters'

**2007**

- Celebrated 15-year Anniversary!
- Women's Fund of Hancock County (WF) created



**2004**

**2005**

- Mary Gibble joined HCCF as Program Officer
- Pasco property to east of 312 E Main purchased for additional parking
- Confirmed compliance in National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

**2003**

**Endowment reached \$10 MILLION!**

**2006**

- Mary Gibble named President on Aug. 1
- Endowment totaled **\$12,032,416**

**2017**

- HCCF celebrated 25 years of philanthropy
- 135 individual scholarships awarded
- 675 babies enrolled in Imagination Library



**2020**

- **\$1,678,800 granted to 158 organizations & 96 students**
- Heart for Hancock established in response to Covid-19
- **Total contributions \$2.4 million**

*Heart For Hancock*  
A COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

**2021**

- First IL baby graduated the program
- Purchased new property at 971 W US 40 in Greenfield to house HCCF and the Thrive Center of Hancock County

**Endowment: \$60,015,236**



**2018**

- **Total contributions: \$2,730,470**
- HCCF received LEI GIFT VII\* of \$1 million

**2019**

- \$2 million endowment for Imagination Library met one year early
- Partners in Excellence was launched
- 26 new funds established
- **Endowment: \$44,580,074**



# Strength to Serve

## Funds by Type

Annuity	\$283,310
Designated - Agency Established	\$3,490,174
Designated - Donor Established	\$21,255,840
Donor-Advised	\$1,635,441
Field-of-Interest	\$2,460,364
HCCF Operating	\$3,739,520
Imagination Library	\$2,834,068
Scholarship	\$13,746,766
Unrestricted	\$11,525,486
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,970,969</b>

## Gifts by Type

Designated-Agency Established	\$289,329
Designated-Donor Established	\$196,910
Donor Advised	\$282,609
Field of Interest	\$100,696
Imagination Library	\$63,621
Scholarships	\$646,010
Unrestricted	\$59,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,638,712</b>

**321  
Funds**

## Grants By Type

Designated - Agency Established	\$226,732
Designated - Donor Established	\$491,279
Donor Advised	\$37,199
Field of Interest	\$217,623
Imagination Library	\$64,095
Scholarships	\$372,515
Unrestricted	\$236,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,646,211</b>

**More Than  
\$1.6million  
Granted in  
2021**

## Grants by Interest Area

Animal Welfare	\$31,854
Arts, Culture, And Humanities	\$105,496
Community Enhancement	\$310,991
Education	\$203,963
Faith Based	\$123,764
Health And Human Services	\$445,006
Scholarship	\$372,515
Youth Development	\$52,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,646,211</b>



# By the Numbers

Education  
Foundation Grants  
**\$40,000**

Adult Scholarships  
**\$24,400**

**\$348,000**  
Traditional  
Scholarships

## 2021 New Established Funds

Anna Evangeline Davis-Bogan Scholarship Endowment Fund

Christ-Centered Philanthropy

Clayton Shultz Foundation Scholarship Endowment

Custom Exteriors Scholarship Endowment Fund

Eastern Hancock Education Foundation Cain Memorial Fund

FoxGardin Charitable Donor-Advised Endowment Fund

Jeannine Miller Scholarship in Support of Guidance, Counseling,  
and Social Work Pass-through Fund

Jeannine Miller Scholarship in Support of Guidance, Counseling, and Social Work

Jobs For America's Graduates Program Endowment Scholarship

Michael Edwin Haines Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Roger D. and Beverly J. Reason Charitable Endowment

Ulndy Scholarship for NPHS Student

Women's Resource Center Operating Endowment



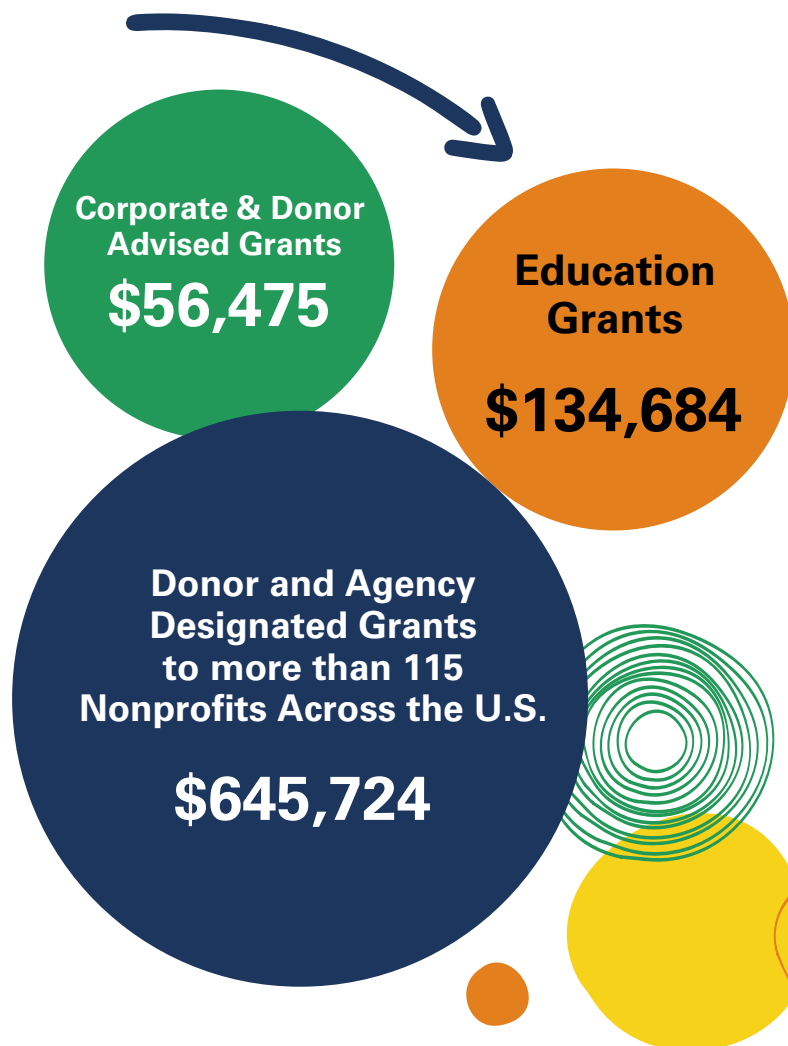
# Partners in Excellence

## Capital Improvement and Programming Grants

American Military Heritage Foundation	\$1,000	Love INC of GHC	\$6,000
Brown's Chapel Wesleyan Church	\$3,500	League of Women's Voters of Hancock County	\$1,000
Cumberland Police Department	\$2,500	Meals On Wheels of Hancock County	\$6,000
Fortville Action, Inc.	\$5,000	Mental Health Partners of Hancock Co.	\$3,000
Fortville Christian Church	\$6,000	Mt. Comfort Church	\$5,000
Fortville-Vernon Township Library	\$4,000	Mt. Vernon Music Boosters	\$500
Friends of Hancock County CASA Inc.	\$2,377	Nameless Creek Camp	\$5,000
Friends of Recovery, Inc.	\$6,000	New Palestine Main Street	\$3,100
Friends of The Theater	\$1,967	New Palestine United Methodist Church	\$5,000
FUSE Inc	\$4,000	Regreening Greenfield, Inc.	\$4,384
Greenfield Veterans Honor Guard	\$1,000	SAWS	\$6,000
Hancock Co. 4-H Agricultural Assc.	\$1,870	Shirley Community Visionaries	\$3,000
Hancock Co. Children's Choir	\$4,000	Shirley Police Department	\$3,024
Hancock Co. COAD Project Fund	\$3,000	Sister Cities of Greenfield	\$1,000
Hancock Co. Probation	\$964	Special Olympics Hancock County	\$2,000
Hancock Co. Senior Services	\$4,000	The Landing	\$3,843
Hancock Regional Hospital	\$1,000	Town of Mccordsville	\$3,191
Hancock4Kids	\$4,000	Vernon Township Trustee	\$1,000
I-CAP Greenfield Head Start (Y-GIVE Youth Philanthropy Grant)	\$1,000	Vineyard Community Church at Mt. Comfort	\$2,000
Indiana Women In Need Foundation	\$3,200	YMCA of Greater Indianapolis	\$4,000
Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House	\$624	Zoey's Place Child Advocacy Center	\$5,000
Kidsplay, Inc.	\$1,000		
Lambswear, Inc.	\$4,000		

## Community Leadership & Public Art

City of Greenfield	\$500
Fortville Action, Inc.	\$15,000
Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce	\$99
Greenfield Main Street	\$99
Hancock Co. Treasurer - Hancock County Comprehensive Plan	\$16,000
Town of Cumberland	\$1,000
Town of McCordsville	\$500
Hancock Co. Arts Council	\$10,798
New Palestine Main Street	\$4,000
Shirley Community Visionaries	\$3,700
Town of Cumberland	\$10,000
Will Vawter Statue Campaign Fund	\$48,750





# 2021 Grant Making

## Nonprofit Capacity Building Grants - Excellence Academy

Boys and Girls Club of Hancock County	\$500
Hancock Co. Senior Services	\$500
Love INC of GHC	\$500
Meals On Wheels of Hancock County	\$500
Friends of The Theater	\$500

## Stellar Community Grants

Fortville Action, Inc.	\$710
Fortville Action, Inc.	\$1,325
Fortville Action, Inc.	\$2,247
Fortville Action, Inc.	\$2,032
Greenfield Main Street	\$1,000
Greenfield Main Street	\$979
Town of Fortville	\$468
Town of Shirley	\$301

## Heart for Hancock, A Community Relief Fund

Boys and Girls Club of Hancock County	\$10,000
Children's Bureau, Inc.	\$5,000
Friends of Recovery, Inc.	\$10,000
FUSE Inc	\$10,000
Hancock Co. Children's Choir	\$5,000
Hancock Co. Historical Society	\$9,000
Hancock Co. Senior Services	\$10,000
Love INC of GHC	\$10,000
Salvation Army - Indiana Division	\$30,000

## Field of Interest Grants

### Addictions and Substance Abuse Education and Treatment Endowment Fund

Agape Therapeutic Riding Services	\$7,409
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### Agricultural Heritage Endowment Fund

Greenfield Central School Foundation- FFA	\$1,000
Vernon Township Trustee- Community Garden	\$160

### Animal Welfare Fund of Hancock County

Hancock Co. Humane Society	\$3,452
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### Arts and Culture Fund

Friends of The Theater	\$1,033
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### Clean and Green Endowment Fund

Regreening Greenfield, Inc.	\$116
Sister Cities of Greenfield	\$1,000

### Greenfield Revitalization Inc. Banner Fund

Hancock Co. Veterans Park, Inc.	\$274
Hancock Co. Arts Council	\$1,000

### Humanitarian Endowment Fund

FUSE- Families United for Support & Encouragement	\$1,143
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### Jeanne H. Tracy Meddock Fund for Music Opportunities

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters	\$500
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### Philip R. Hollenbaugh Photography Endowment Fund

Greenfield-Central High School	\$543
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### Prevent Child Abuse Endowment Fund

Friends of Hancock County CASA Inc.	\$1,031
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### Sharon Yates Endowment Fund for the Care of Animals

Hancock Co. Humane Society	\$4,398
Partners For Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)	\$3,856

### Strong Families and Youth Fund

The Landing	\$1,157
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### The William Harold and Mary Katherine Kingery Friends of Domestic Animals End. Fund

Frenzy Animal Rescue, Inc.	\$7,850
Greenfield Hancock Animal Management	\$7,850
Partners For Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)	\$3,994

### W. H. and Lola Reason Endowment for Patriotism Fund

Hancock Co. Veterans Park, Inc.	\$907
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Women's Fund of Hancock County Grants

Women's Resource Center of Hancock County  
\$28,087



# Engagement & Giving

Jake Burgess, a Fortville native, always had the vision to give back where he grew up. After working as the Prime 47 executive chef in downtown Indianapolis and later being promoted to the regional executive chef, an opportunity came that Jake couldn't turn down. He cashed in his 401K, and 40 days later the first FoxGardin Restaurant located on Main Street in Fortville opened its doors in June 2015. The restaurant name originated from the maiden matron names of Jake and his partner at the time, merged together forming FoxGardin.

Giving back to the community has been an important part of FoxGardin's identity. Every year, the restaurant hosts an anniversary party and chooses a charity to support. They also "adopt" families during Christmas time and work with Fortville Elementary. Their goal is to give children gifts that they never dreamed of receiving. FoxGardin's patrons are even starting to help give funds to adopt families during Christmas. They have been able to adopt more than 10 families every year and pay for their past due and current utility bills with the amount of support they are receiving from their patrons. This gesture from their patrons had Jake and his team thinking about how they can make an even greater impact in their community and allow their patrons to receive a tax deduction for their contributions as well.

In 2021, FoxGardin contacted the Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) to inquire about establishing a donor-advised fund. A donor-advised fund allows donors to "advise" HCCF each year on the charitable organization(s) or programs to which they'd like to grant. Also, donor advised funds can be set up to allow children and grandchildren to oversee the gifting after the initial donor's death. After hearing the benefits for both them and their donors, they established the FoxGardin Charitable Donor-Advised Endowment Fund that will allow them to give back to their community on a larger scale and give their patrons an opportunity to donate and receive a tax deduction. The restaurant business is their specialty and charitable gifting is HCCF's specialty. FoxGardin wanted to be able to raise funds for their community and do the "fun part" while having HCCF administer the fund and logistics.

The Burgess Restaurant Group has four restaurants under its umbrella: FoxGardin Kitchen and Ale, FoxGardin Family Kitchen, Smoky's Concession Stand, and The Den by FoxGardin.



# Professional Advisor Council

Maya Angelou once said,

**“If you’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can’t be erased.”**

The Hancock County Community Foundation’s (HCCF) core mission is to connect people with causes they care about and find ways they can give during and after their lifetime. This is one of many reasons HCCF decided to relaunch the Professional Advisor Council (PAC) in 2021. The PAC consists of a select group of volunteers who represent the most accomplished professional advisors in the community from the practices of estate planning, accounting, investment, insurance, pre-planning funeral services, and financial services. The PAC counsels HCCF staff as they establish, develop, and maintain working relationships with individuals, families, and organizations that have interest to give through the community foundation.

The PAC also allows members to exchange charitable giving ideas, learn about new issues in philanthropy, establish new relationships, and see firsthand how clients’ charitable dollars can make a difference now and beyond their lifetime. For most, giving after their lifetime through a planned gift allows the donor to make more of an impact. When HCCF and professional advisors work closely together, a donor benefits greatly from knowing that their charitable interests and financial means can make the greatest impact now and forever.

## 2021 PAC Members

Josh Daugherty, Huntington Private Bank

Zach Fox, Edward Jones

Troy Griesmeyer, GBC Wealth Management

Kevin Harvey, Allen Wellman McNew Harvey, LLP

Beth Marsh, Bookkeeping Plus, Inc.

Willie McKinney, Kemper CPA Group, LLP

Ariel Schoen, Brand & Morelock



This year, we welcome Michael Boring, Law Office of Boring and Taylor, and Julie Lucas, HRM Insurance, to the Professional Advisor Council.

## 2022 Philanthropic Outlook\*

- Endowment: The pandemic instilled in donors a sense of responsibility and sustainability. Endowments that were once an afterthought are now at the top of donors’ priority lists.
  - Total giving is anticipated to rise 5.7% in 2022.
- Giving by American individuals and households is predicted to increase by 3.9% in 2022.
  - Giving by foundations is predicted to grow by 8.8% in 2022.
  - Giving by estates is predicted to increase by 11.9% in 2022.
  - Giving by corporations is predicted to increase by 6.4% in 2022.



# Education Across the Ages

In April 2021 Janet White, Education Officer, received a phone call from Mikala Linstrum, an Eastern Hancock High School senior in the EHHS Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program facilitated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

"The JAG Program has created a great impact on many students in our community," shared Mikala.

For her senior project, Mikala had proposed a scholarship idea. "I'd like to create a way for that experience to continue its impact after high school graduation by helping students pay for college."

Mikala met with HCCF and proposed qualifications and criteria, as well as a sample application. She had some ideas for fundraisers that could provide enough for a scholarship each year, but she wanted more than that. She listened intently as Mary Gibble, president/CEO, described the way endowments work and the amount of money necessary to reach a meaningful payout. Mary promised to keep Mikala's idea in mind as new scholarship donors made themselves known to HCCF.

In December, Mary had an opportunity to suggest Mikala's idea to the William W. Weil Foundation, a philanthropic organization with a heart for aspiring young people. They liked it so much that they established the Jobs for America's Graduates Program Scholarship Endowment Fund for a graduating student of a Hancock County High School JAG Program based on Mikala's suggestions. Currently Eastern Hancock High School, Greenfield-Central High School, and Mt. Vernon High School host JAG programs.

We celebrate Mikala for her concern for JAG students and for reaching out to HCCF to help her achieve her dream. We are incredibly grateful to the William W. Weil Foundation for their generosity. Their endowed gift will generate a \$1,000 award every year for generations to come. Mikala will present the first scholarship award in the spring of 2023.



# Paying it Forward

HCCF has the privilege of administering the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) in Hancock County. Eligible applicants must be ranked in the academic top 15% of their graduating class and plan to pursue a four-year degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university. Out of eight finalists, HCCF is permitted to select two recipients to receive full tuition scholarships, leaving six finalists with nothing to show for their efforts. In 1998, a generous couple wanted to “Pay It Forward” to those students who put the time and effort to apply for such an amazing educational opportunity. The Hancock County Community Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund was established to allow HCCF to make \$1,000 grants to each of the six finalists. Applying for the LECSP is an intense process and all eight of the finalists are very deserving of the LECSP. In 2021, HCCF made it a priority to grow the Hancock County Community Foundation Scholarship in hopes to grant \$2,000 scholarships to help the six deserving finalists attend the college of their dreams.

"The donations gifted to the Hancock County Community Foundation's Scholarship Endowment Fund make it possible for our young adults to pursue, and ultimately achieve, their individual goals and professional aspirations. With this objective, I donate to the Scholarship Endowment Fund to ensure that the students of Hancock County are afforded the opportunity to pursue an education or trade that aligns with their individual desires, while simultaneously working to minimize the financial barriers that these students face. Together as a community, we can support our future generations' education and training to ensure that students of Hancock County continue to make a lasting legacy throughout our society."

– Brett Reardon, 2007 LECSP Recipient



## Ball State Impact Study

On January 1, 2016, HCCF in partnership with the Hancock County Public Library, enrolled the first baby in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Hancock County. This program was a response to the realization that 40% of Hancock County children entering kindergarten tested below or well below the national reading readiness standards.

Fast forward five years, and many children from the first cohort born in 2016 are enrolled in or preparing to enter kindergarten. In fact, more than 3,100 children have received high-quality, age-appropriate books monthly in their families' mailboxes since the program's launch.

In 2021 HCCF partnered with Ball State University Research Design Studio (RDS) to determine the impact of the early literacy program on Hancock County students.

According to Jerrell Cassady, Professor of Psychology - Educational Psychology, and Co-Director of the Research Design Studio, "The community partnership with HCCF fits well with the RDS focus and will produce one of the most significant studies of early childhood literacy program efficacy to date."

In terms of timelines, the initial planning work with HCCF and the four school districts has been ongoing for the past several months, and Dr. Cassady expects the first round of findings examining impact on kindergarten readiness will be completed by Summer 2022.



"From the time we initialized the effort to provide this program to our community, we knew having a strong professional evaluation of its effectiveness was critical once its first enrollees started to move into kindergarten. We explored many avenues and couldn't be happier that Ball State has agreed to help us."  
-Mary Gibble, HCCF President/CEO



# Empowering Women

As the Women's Resource Center (WRC) embarks on its eighth year of service, there is a significant amount of good work to celebrate. The organization has been a grantee of the Women's Fund of Hancock County since its inception in 2014; in that time, the WRC has received nearly 300 referrals to assist women in need. The referrals continue to increase as the WRC has established itself as a trusted navigator and support provider.

Prior to 2018, the WRC did not have an effective way to record referrals and capture information about Janes; since then, recording as much service data as possible has been a top priority. Since October 2018, the WRC has directly assisted and navigated 138 Janes either through providing emergency financial assistance or connecting them to other nonprofits that could meet their needs. The WRC makes those initial contacts for the Janes to receive the assistance needed and walks with them on their journey to self-sufficiency.

2021 was a milestone year for the WRC as they received a grant from the Women's Fund of Hancock County for \$28,087 (see graphic below for impact of those dollars). Toward the end of the year, the WRC prioritized organizational sustainability by establishing an operating endowment through the Hancock County Community Foundation. Sustainability is top of mind for the WRC to ensure the organization will have the resources and funds to assist Janes for years to come. This fund will eventually allow them to focus primarily on stewardship and programming rather than fundraising for basic operating needs.

Beth Ingle, WRC executive director, states, "I'm not sure I can really put into words how much the donors have truly impacted our lives and the lives of our Janes! What the Women's Fund of Hancock County did to create the Women's Resource Center is more than monumental; it has been life changing for women and their families."



**"Without the generosity of donors and their dedication to support the work of WRC since 2014, we would not have been this successful in serving. For that, the board and I are eternally thankful!" Beth declares.**

**If the Women's Resource Center was never established, 138 ladies...**

- may have lost their home;
- may have lost custody of their children due to not having a home;
- may have been without electricity in the winter; and
- may not have found the right job and achieved a life of economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.

The WRC has started planning its Women's Empowering Events for 2022 and is looking to host the first one in early spring. To volunteer or serve at this event, please contact Beth Ingle at [director@hcwrc.org](mailto:director@hcwrc.org).

Left- WRC Pantry and above right- Beth with WRC Board members

# Covid Relief Grants



Heart For Hancock  
A COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND



Heart for Hancock is a community relief fund established to respond to the immediate needs of Hancock County in times of crisis. The creation was launched in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020.

Community needs related to COVID-19 were still evident in 2021. Heart for Hancock continued to serve as a go-to resource as our residents and nonprofits recovered from the economic and social impacts of the pandemic.

**“Overall, the level of collaboration was unprecedented. So was the level of need.” -Jill Null**

HCCF granted \$30,000 to the Hancock County Salvation Army to support its partnership with Interlocal Community Action Partnership (ICAP) to provide rent/utility assistance for individuals and families impacted by COVID-19. Many other local agencies also provided support to clients who benefited from these funds.

Jill Null, Hancock County advisory council chair for the Salvation Army, states, “The Heart for Hancock funds provided the flexibility to pay deposits, the resources to pay back rents, and the timeliness to ensure that clients would not be evicted from affordable housing. Success!”

In 2021, an additional \$85,000 was granted from Heart for Hancock to support other nonprofit needs related to COVID-19.

## Thankful for Nonprofits

Nonprofit staff, volunteers, and board members are heroes in our community. The onslaught of needs created by COVID-19 brought even more demand for nonprofit services, draining the capacity and morale of our local community servants. Still, our leaders continue to step up and serve individuals and families in need.

HCCF has convened regular Zoom calls with food and rent/utility assistance providers throughout the pandemic. These calls provide a platform for the nonprofits to communicate about mutual clients, share resources, express needs and concerns, and receive encouragement and support. HCCF also got to see firsthand how much heart and soul our nonprofits put into serving our community.

To show appreciation for our nonprofits and acknowledge how they’ve gone above and beyond in the COVID era, HCCF paid a visit to local grantees before Thanksgiving to say thank you. And to make it extra memorable, costumes were involved!

Katie Ottinger, community investment and grants officer, and Carol Reynolds, finance and programs associate, dressed up as a pilgrim and turkey, respectively, and delivered pies and yard signs proclaiming, “Nonprofits Rock!”

“We received an assortment of reactions from wild laughter, confusion, indifference, and even mild terror,” Ottinger says, referring to a couple instances where the pair inadvertently snuck up on unsuspecting people. “But it was fun to spread joy in a unique and humorous way and make our nonprofits feel special and appreciated.”





# HCCF Launches Thrive Hancock County

After 18 months of planning, HCCF launched a new initiative in January 2021. Thrive Hancock County was born from conversations with citizens seeking HCCF's leadership in creating a plan to lift our community's quality of life (QOL) through visioning, talent development, enhanced inter-governmental relationships, grantmaking, and a physical space where ideas can be exchanged and developed for the greater good of all.

## Throughout the year, a new committee of the HCCF Board acted on an intense workplan to further the objectives of Thrive:

- Hired a new staff member to support the work of Thrive (Shelley Haney).
- Explored HCCF's current home at 312 E Main St. to determine if it could serve as a center for Thrive programming. In collaboration with an architectural design firm, HCCF's board and staff determined it would not be sufficient.
- Identified a new property that would better suit the objectives of Thrive programming (971 W US 40).
- Purchased new property: remodeling and relocation planning began.
- Created an impact measurement tool for Thrive called SPIN: Stories, Pictures, Inventories, Numbers.
- Researched and developed Talent Pathway programming to support leadership development in Hancock County.
- Hosted the Indiana Communities Institute Community Development Course for leaders and officials from across the county to learn about QOL principles.
- Participated in comprehensive planning efforts to ensure locally-sourced information is ascertained, community input is sought and heard, and QOL practices are incorporated.
- Convened, facilitated, and led community conversations related to READI, ARPA, and other pressing community enhancement efforts.
- Cultivated county, town, and city pride, identification, beautification, trails, and public art with grants.

**Thrive Hancock County will continue to remain a high priority impact area for HCCF for years to come.**



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# Hancock County Community Foundation

## Give Where You Live, Grow Where You Live

*Mission:* The Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride, and civic engagement.

*Vision:* HCCF envisions a county in which each person has the opportunity to pursue dreams, enjoy daily life, and invest in meaningful causes.

### We help you answer these questions...

- How can I make a difference?
- What are the community's most pressing needs?
- How can I pass my charitable values on to my children or grandchildren?
- How can I leave a legacy?

### We accept a variety of gifts, either now or as part of your estate planning.

- Cash
- Stock
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