



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Gibble, President | CEO

Community Foundation will donate building to nonprofit center

GREENFIELD, Ind. (December 19, 2022) – The Hancock County Community Foundation announced earlier this month that it will donate its current office building for use as a nonprofit center called the Circle of Care.

The Community Foundation’s current home at 312 E. Main St. has been identified as the right place at the right time for the right organizations to be successful in taking the nonprofit center concept to an exceptional level. The property and furnishings that are included in the donation are valued at nearly \$600,000. The Community Foundation will move its operations to a new location at 971 W US 40 in 2023.

“This building was a gift to the Community Foundation from the Pasco family in 1999,” said Mary Gibble, president and CEO. “It was important to our board of directors and staff that this building continue to be a gift to the community after we leave. I can think of no better purpose for the next chapter of this asset.”

The Circle of Care will be a nonprofit center that entails the sharing of space, operating resources and clients. In the case of clients, 312 E. Main St. will provide a place with multiple nonprofit organizations with whom a person or family in need can connect for assistance. A location central to Greenfield, the county seat, removes barriers related to transportation and access to food, clothing and legal services. The Circle of Care will allow nonprofits to communicate effectively regarding shared clients, not only increasing access to services, but also supporting their clients in achieving goals and success.

The Community Foundation’s Partners in Excellence initiative focuses on nonprofit capacity, and a nonprofit center is a proven model in equipping nonprofits to effectively serve. According to the “[State of the Shared Space Sector 2019 Report](#)” published by [The Nonprofit Centers Network](#), nonprofit center tenants report significant organizational benefits because of tenancy. Eighty-six percent report improvement in overall organizational capacity, and 88% report improvement in achieving their mission. The average annual cost savings for tenants is \$15,500.

Beyond the programmatic and financial benefits, 51% of tenants report improvement with staff recruitment and retention, and 80% and 78% report improvements in productivity and morale.

“Nonprofits face hiring and retention challenges just like the for-profit sector. Operating a nonprofit is a rewarding career, but it can also be lonely and emotionally taxing. Stress, compassion fatigue and burnout are very real concerns for our nonprofit leaders,” said Katie Ottinger, community investment and grants officer. “This building is also an investment in the wellbeing of these valuable community servants by fostering a support network among them. These critical services don’t happen without talented, empathetic professionals to provide them, so we must support them like they support our community.”

Meals on Wheels of Hancock County will serve as the building owner and manager once the Community Foundation moves. This will include overseeing building maintenance, managing tenants, and scheduling the conference rooms for the 9,000 sq ft space. Lynda Kosh, executive director, has experience as a manager of 88,000 sq ft of shared nonprofit space. Her experience also includes renovations, buildout, and a new construction addition of 20,000 sq ft of community gathering space.

Nonprofits that have committed to tenancy in the Circle of Care are Families United for Support and Encouragement (FUSE), Firefly Children and Family Alliance (formerly Children’s Bureau), the Hancock

County Children's Choir, Leaders in Navigating Knowledge (LINK), and the Women's Resource Center of Hancock County. All but FUSE currently maintain office space at 312 E. Main St.

There are drafted plans for renovating the first floor to be more accessible and conducive to collaboration and in-person client services, including a satellite office for non-resident nonprofits to meet with clients. There are also plans for renovating the second floor, which is currently unused, to increase office space. While funding is being sought to complete these plans, the Circle of Care will begin once the Community Foundation moves, regardless of building upgrades.

"The Community Foundation is not a direct service provider, so right now we are the organization in the building that doesn't fit the Circle of Care model," concludes Gible. "We look forward to being a partner in the success of this nonprofit center from a short distance away, and we have every faith that this will be a flourishing community asset."

HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. Working with caring individuals, families, and organizations to create or grow existing permanent endowment funds is critical to the organization's mission. These funds generate income that is distributed in the form of grants and scholarships to enrich and enhance life in Hancock County, as well as support the donor's favorite charitable causes, both at home and afar forever. HCCF has granted millions of dollars since its inception in 1992.

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