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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HCCF issues Ignite grant for Mill St updates in Fortville**

**GREENFIELD, Ind. (August 2, 2021)** – The Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) recently made a \$15,000 Ignite grant to Fortville Action, Inc. (FAI) to help them update the Mill St. alley.

This enhancement project will focus on the 135’ alley running from Main St. to the town’s main public parking lot. The goal is to make this area conducive to community gathering.



The work will include resurfacing the existing road, installing free-standing posts with hanging lights, and adding bistro-style tables and benches, as well as potted plants and greenery. This alley was formerly a street that has been abandoned; it currently has no access to electricity, nor offers existing lighting or an inclusive area for community members to gather. Through a collaboration with the Town of Fortville, electricity support for this project will be included in the revitalization.

“The feedback and ideas from our local community and merchants has been very positive,” says Ronnie Brawner, FAI board member. “Ideas for future uses of the space include outdoor exhibits showcasing local artists, a meeting area for Girls Night Out, photography opportunities during Winterfest, and other small events like a movie night. The tables and benches will provide additional seating for our restaurants. This enhancement will join the Town of Fortville’s focus on walkability of our town.”

The project is estimated to be completed in late 2021 or early 2022.

The Ignite grants program engages Hancock County’s municipalities and civic organizations in a placemaking grant process. Grants support community-driven projects and quick-win transformations that foster connection to place, enhance community vibrancy, advance physical and social outcomes, and promote a creative identity.

*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 their inception in 1992.*

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