



September 2026 Interim

CIRTA Transportation Lunch & Learn

LAST CALL!

Transportation challenges can be one of the biggest barriers to accessing jobs, healthcare, education, and other essential services. To help local organizations stay informed about new transportation options in Hancock County, CIRTA and RIDE Hancock will host a free Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Thrive Center in Greenfield.



Designed for nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, healthcare providers, schools, churches, government agencies, and other community partners, the session will highlight free and affordable transportation resources available throughout Hancock County. Attendees will leave with practical information and tools to help connect residents with reliable transportation services.

The event is free and includes a complimentary lunch. Space is limited to 50 attendees, and registration is requested by Sept. 15. Organizations that work directly with residents are encouraged to attend and learn how these expanding transportation resources can help meet community needs.

Register for Lunch and Learn

Nonprofit Networking: Axe-n-Smash Outing Bring your staff and volunteers to let off some steam!

Gather your team and get ready for an evening of fun, food, connection, and stress relief! CFHC invites Hancock County nonprofit staff and volunteers to join us for a free Nonprofit Night Out on **Thursday, Nov. 12, from 3 to 6 p.m.** at Axe-n-Smash in Greenfield. Participants can come and go within that timeframe.



Axe-n-Smash offers axe throwing lanes and smash rooms designed for fun, team building, and blowing off a little steam in a safe environment.

Whether you come with your entire staff or just a few volunteers, this is a great opportunity to step away from your daily responsibilities, build relationships with fellow nonprofit professionals, and enjoy an afternoon of laughter and friendly competition. Registrations are limited to the first 60 respondents. Heavy appetizers will be served. We hope to have a big rowdy

crowd!

Register for **FREE** here to **SMASH** something!

Mini Grants Available

First-come, first-served until funds available are gone

- Requests must be for \$1,500 or less.
- Requests for emergencies or immediate needs will be given priority.
- Requests should be for a one-time expense. Mini Grants will not sustain operating or programming costs from year to year. Mini-Grant requests to cover a portion of a new ongoing expense must explain the plan for future sustainability.
- The applicant must be the organization that will benefit from the proposed use of the funds.
- Organizations may receive up to \$1,500 in Mini Grants per calendar year.
- Mini Grants are administered on a rolling cycle each calendar year. Applications are accepted and evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis until funds available for the calendar year are gone.
- **In addition to general needs, we have specific funds available for promoting patriotism and WWII education, celebrating agricultural heritage, facilitating youth civic engagement, and encouraging lifelong learning for children and adults.**

Request an application

Beckenholdt Youth Philanthropy Award

Opportunity for your nonprofit to receive \$1,000!



Beginning Sept. 28, the Community Foundation of Hancock County will accept applications for the Martha Beckenholdt Youth Philanthropy Award. This award, named in honor of long-time Hancock County resident and philanthropist Martha Beckenholdt, recognizes a Hancock County high school **junior** who has contributed outstanding time, talent, and energy to philanthropic endeavors. The award recipient will select a Hancock County nonprofit organization or agency to receive a \$1,000 donation in his or her name, donated by the Community Foundation.

Applicants must be Hancock County high school juniors with a recommendation from a high school staff member or nonprofit organization leader located in Hancock County.

Applications must be complete and submitted online by **4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30**. Please encourage young volunteers for your organization who may be eligible to apply! You can direct them to apply [at this link](#) beginning Sept. 28. Questions can be directed to Sarah House, CFHC's Education Officer, at Sarah@CelebrateHancock.org or 317-462-8870.

Wortman Family Foundation Grant Cycle

Grant interest forms due November 1



The Wortman Family Foundation for Shelby and Hancock counties was created by Bob Wortman from a desire to give back to the communities that have been extremely supportive of both his family and his businesses. Bob and his wife, Sue, created their first community fund with Blue River Community Foundation in 2003 and continued to give generously to numerous Shelby and Hancock county organizations. Working with the Blue River Community Foundation, funding from the Wortman Family Foundation will be focused on the community needs of both Shelby and Hancock counties. **Activities that better these communities and address their current needs will be considered. Efforts and initiatives in education and health are preferred and projects or programs enhancing quality of life.**

Requests between \$2,500-\$25,000 will be considered. Grant interest forms are due on **Nov. 1**. Organizations with approved interest forms will receive a link to the grant application. Grant applications are due on **Dec. 1**.

[Click here for more information and the grant interest form](#)

Please remember to consult Hello Hancock while you are planning your events!



Remember to send Carol any updates you would like to share with other nonprofits that serve Hancock County! Carol@CelebrateHancock.org

Community Foundation of Hancock County | 317-462-8870 | CelebrateHancock.org
Contact Katie Ottinger at 317-318-8313 (text or call) or Katie@CelebrateHancock.org

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