

IMPACT REPORT

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GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE, GROW WHERE YOU LIVE

In 2023, the Community Foundation of Hancock County awarded more than \$140,000 to 26 organizations serving every corner of our county.

This report uses the SPIN framework—Stories, Pictures, Inventories, and Numbers—to illustrate the deep and diverse impact of these grants.

GRANTS FOR GOOD

The Annual Grant Cycle is a funding opportunity designed to support programming and capital needs of nonprofits and agencies serving Hancock County. The goal is for these funds to support or increase an agency's capacity to deliver programs and services that benefit our community.

Through the tireless efforts of our grantees, this year's grant funds accomplished so much good. This report was compiled with their participation in sharing stories, pictures, and data. When you give to the Community Foundation without restriction, you contribute to this lasting impact!

Katie Ottinger
Community Investment & Grants Officer



SPIN FRAMEWORK

The SPIN framework is not just an impact measurement tool. It is a paradigm for how we practice philanthropy at the Community Foundation of Hancock County. We consider the holistic impact of our work, capturing both qualitative and quantitative measures that ultimately tell a story of positive change. The SPIN framework has four components:

- Stories show how people experience and benefit from the initiative
- Pictures demonstrate how a natural or built environment is evolving
- Inventories convey the degree to which audiences learn and apply
- Numbers indicate the level of social connection, socioeconomic engagement, concept or skill learning, financial outcome, or other impact



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Bryan Richards, Founder

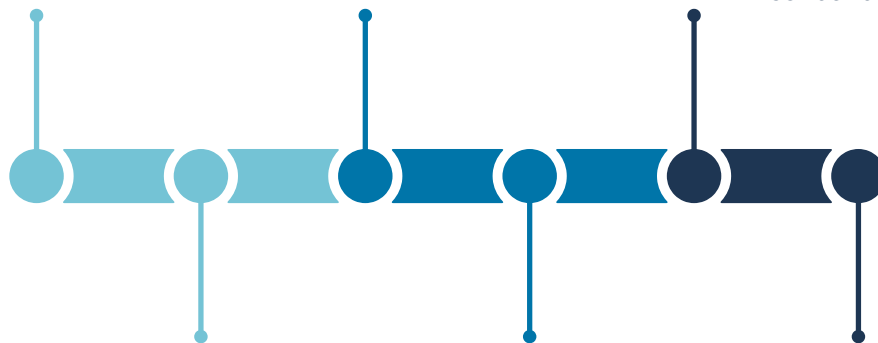
OUR GRANTMAKING PROCESS

Thorough & Professional

The grant process begins with a letter of intent open to charitable organizations serving Hancock County

Strongest LOIs move to full application phase that includes detailed questions about proposal and capacity

Grants Committee members meet to discuss full pool of applications, discuss findings and evaluation, and build consensus on grantees



CFHC staff performs initial due diligence and reviews applicants for IRS compliance; Grants Committee evaluates LOIs with a standard rubric

Grants Committee members perform site visits and interviews and evaluate applications with a comprehensive rubric

CFHC's board of directors ratifies the grant decisions

2023 GRANTS COMMITTEE

Brian McKinney, Chair

Megan Ritter, Vice Chair

Susie Bennett

Rex Brattain

Susie Broome

Pam Hayes

Miles Hercamp

Dave Pfaff

Dr. Lori Wean

100%

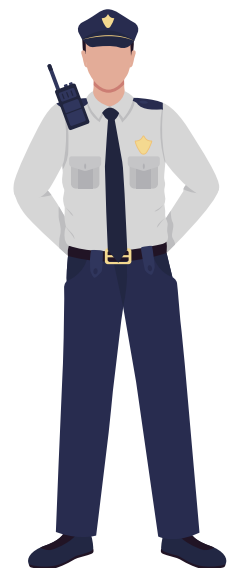
Grant reports
completed

INVESTING IN *Safety & Efficiency*



Stock photo

The Shirley Police Department utilized this grant to purchase and install thermal, in-car printers in their police vehicles. The patrol car environment is unpredictable, and the equipment needs to work all the time. Thermal printers are an important component to officer safety as they reduce the amount of time officers spend on the side of the road doing paperwork.



Tech Tools for Brighter Futures

The Boys and Girls Club of Hancock County equipped their Technology Center with tablets and laptops, creating new learning opportunities and improving administrative efficiency. The new devices have enabled the club to offer a wider range of educational programs and activities.



Members now have access to the latest technology, helping them develop important digital skills. The project has also made it easier for staff to manage administrative tasks, freeing up more time for direct engagement with the members.



From Darkness to Light IN SONG

Hancock County Children's Choir served over 100 students through life-skills mentoring and performing arts. Their spring concert, themed "From Darkness to Light," inspired both students and audiences, with international guest artists enhancing the experience. The program has provided students with valuable opportunities to develop their talents and build confidence. The concert was a resounding success, showcasing the hard work and dedication of the students.



DIGITAL LEAP FORWARD

FUSE Inc. transformed their digital presence with a new website and video content, increasing community engagement and operational efficiency.

The new website has made it easier for people to access information about the organization's programs and services. The video content has been particularly effective in reaching a wider audience and showcasing impact.

Additionally, the improved data collection and volunteer coordination have streamlined operations. The project has had a positive impact on both the organization's internal processes and its external outreach efforts.



30,000 MEALS, NO PRICE HIKE



Meals on Wheels of Hancock County used their grant to absorb a price increase from Hancock Regional Hospital, delivering over 30,000 meals without raising costs for clients. The grant has ensured that the organization can continue to provide this vital service to the community. By covering the increased costs, the organization has been able to maintain its commitment to affordability and accessibility.

The project has had a positive impact on the lives of many residents, providing them with nutritious meals and a sense of security. The organization's dedication to its mission has been evident in the successful implementation of this project.



Hancock Co. Arts used their grant to continue and expand the annual Will Vawter exhibit. The grant helped them add programming around the exhibition including a Plein Air Paint Out. Pictured is the winner of the plein air competition, Robert Lawson.

This was the first KidsPlay show to use new flats purchased with this grant or the set design.



With this grant, Fortville Action purchased and installed decorative fencing to enhance parking lot entrances in the downtown.

BENCHES THAT BUILT Community



Vernon Township Trustee created a welcoming gathering space with rounded park benches at the Gardens of Vernon Township, enhancing community engagement and future programming. The new benches have become a popular spot for residents to relax and socialize, fostering a sense of community. The space is now frequently used for various community events and activities, bringing people together. The project has also inspired other improvements in the area, contributing to the overall beautification of the township. The positive feedback from residents has shown that the benches have made a meaningful difference in their daily lives.



RAMPING UP ACCESSIBILITY



SAWs utilized their grant to build 12 ramps for Hancock Co. residents in need. Pictured is Jeanette, a stroke survivor with an injured hip in Greenfield. She reports that “life is easier” after receiving her ramp.



NUMBERS

44

Letters of intent
submitted

30

Full applications
received

\$234,626

Total requested

26

Grantees

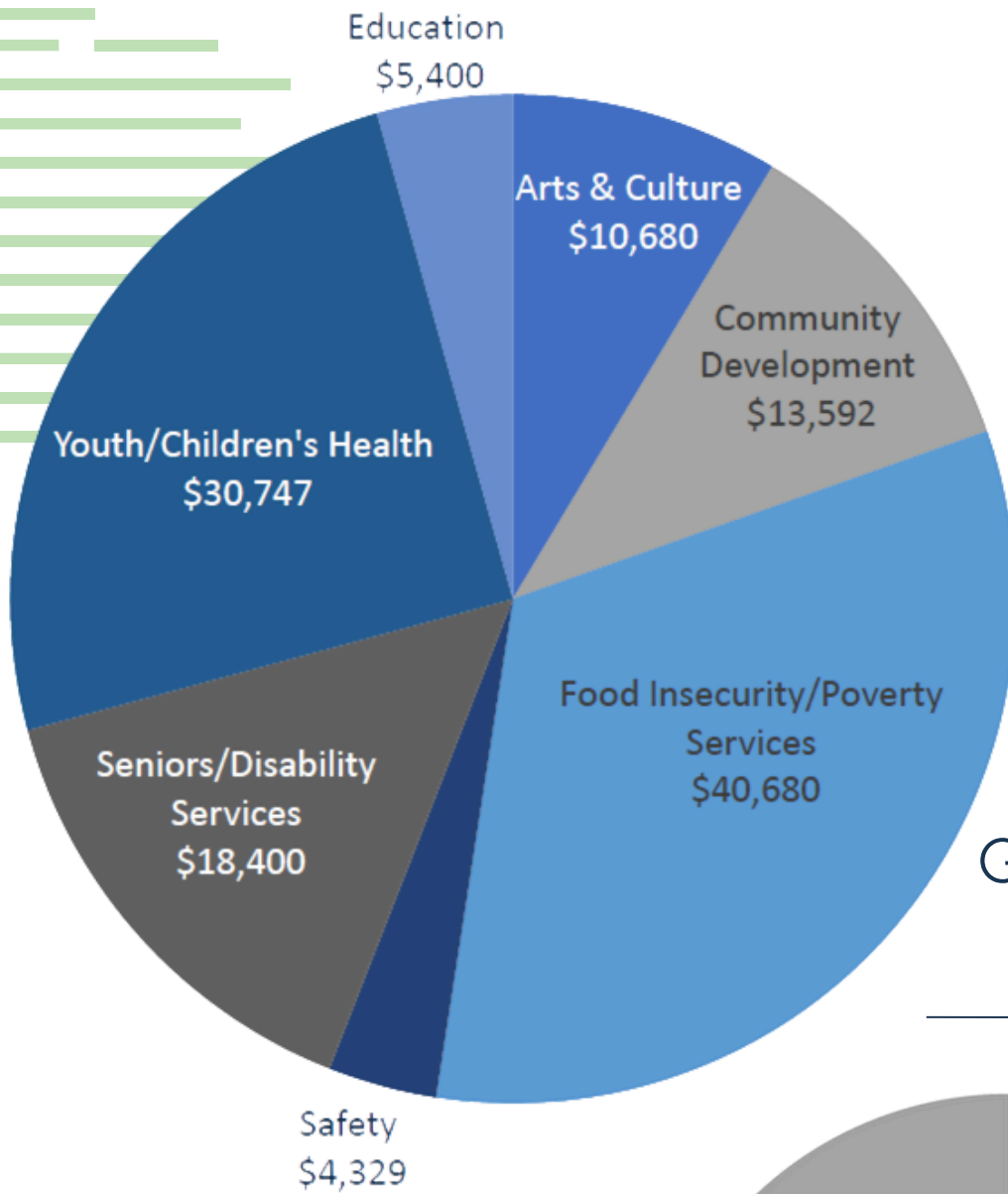
12

Requests
fully funded

Total granted in the 2023 Annual Grant Cycle

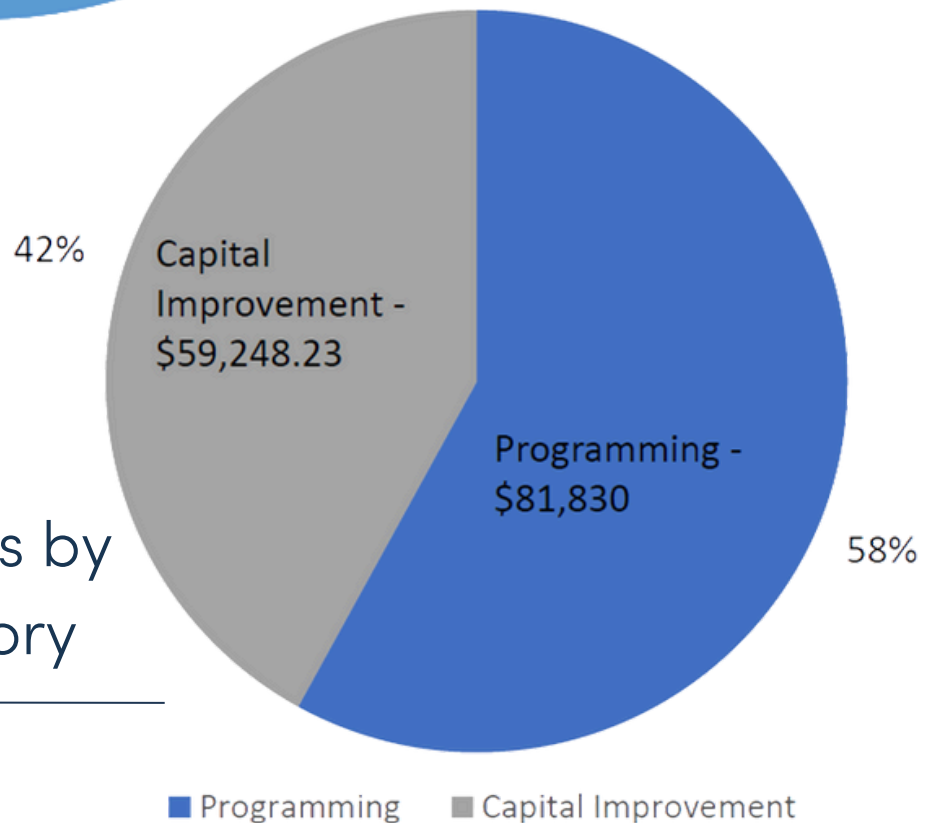
▶ **\$141,078***

*Animal Welfare grants were administered separately in 2023. Those grants totaled \$26,595 to 3 nonprofits.

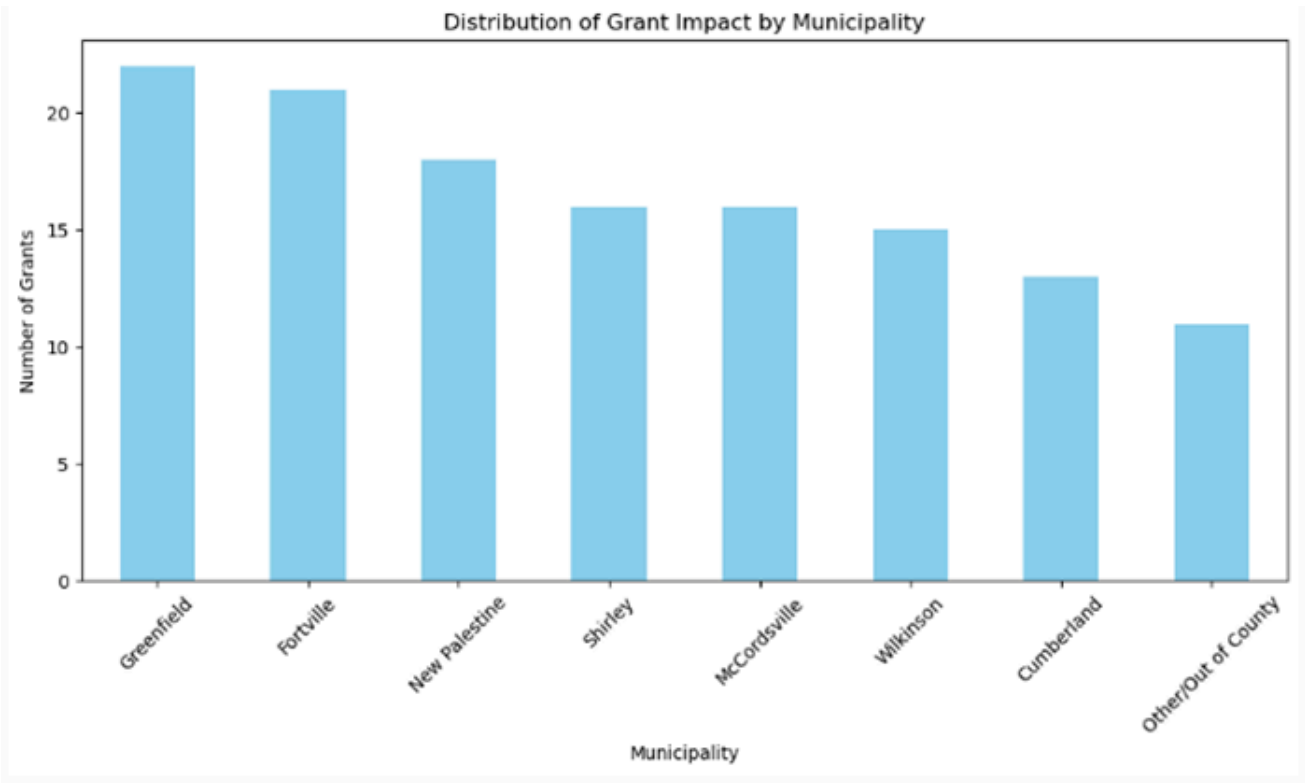


Grant Amounts by Program Area

Grant Amounts by Grant Category



NUMBERS



This chart shows the number of grantees that report at least one person being served by the grant dollars in each municipality or out of county.

Estimated total residents served through projects and programs touched by this grant cycle

6,940*

*The date for total residents served are self-reported by the grantees. This number is not meant to represent an exact count of individual grant impact; however, it provides a rough estimate for the number of people who may have been touched by these grants funds. Reported data may encompass programs larger than what was funded by the grant. Also, some grantees are not able to quantify the number of people touched by a grant.

2023 Annual Grant Cycle Grantees

Grantee Organization	Grant Purpose	Grant Amount
Agape Therapeutic Riding Services, Inc.	Stirrup Success with Mount Vernon High School	\$5,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Hancock County - Jim Andrews Unit	Jim Andrews Unit Administrative & Club Technology Plan	\$7,247.00
Changing Footprints Hancock County	Heating and Cooling for Volunteers	\$6,700.00
Firefly Children and Family Alliance	Car and Booster Seats for Community Safety Event Series	\$5,000.00
Fortville Action, Inc.	Fortville Main Street Public Parking Lot Entrance Enhancement	\$1,092.00
Fortville Area Resource Mission (FARM)	Expand Food Pantry to Add Evening Hours	\$7,500.00
Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library	English as a New Language Classes for Adults	\$5,400.00
FUSE Inc.	Technology to Support Community Awareness and Education	\$3,400.00
Hancock County Senior Services	Capital Improvements to Building	\$5,000.00
Hancock County Arts	Celebrating Art in Hancock County, The Will Vawter Exhibit	\$2,000.00
Hancock County Children's Choir	Life-Skills Mentoring and Performing Arts Program	\$5,000.00
Hancock County Food Pantry	Supporting Increased Food Costs	\$10,000.00
Hope House	Computers and IPADS for Residents' Use	\$4,500.00
Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House Foundation	Education and Outreach Project	\$2,000.00
KidsPlay, Inc.	Supplies to Build Sets	\$1,680.48
Love INC of Greater Hancock County	Capital Improvements to Building	\$2,800.00
Meals on Wheels of Hancock County	Supporting Increased Food Costs	\$9,180.00
Mental Health Partners of Hancock County	Student Counseling Assistance Program	\$9,750.00
Nameless Creek Camp	Adding a New Well to Accommodate Infrastructure Growth	\$7,500.00
Neighborhoods Against Substance Abuse, Inc.	NASA Youth Council Efforts	\$1,000.00
Servants at Work, Inc.	Ramps for Hancock County Residents	\$10,000.00
Shirley Police Department	Police In-Car Printers	\$4,328.75
Talitha Koum Women's Recovery House	Case Management	\$7,500.00
The Landing Place	Capital Improvements to Bus - Removing the Transportation Barrier	\$10,000.00
The Villages of Indiana - Hancock County Healthy Families	Supporting Families with Baby Care Supplies	\$2,500.00
Vernon Township Trustee	Curved Benches for Vernon Township Pollinator Garden	\$5,000.00

TOTAL: \$141,078.23



INVENTORIES

Mental Health Partners of Hancock County discovered that families prefer counseling outside of school settings due to privacy concerns, and that demand for youth mental health services is high.

FARM (Fortville Christian Church) learned that gradual program expansion and strong volunteer partnerships—especially with local churches—enabled sustainable growth of their evening pantry.

The Landing confirmed that transportation is a critical barrier for youth participation, and that providing reliable transit directly increased attendance.



SAWs Ramps found that shorter-than-expected ramp lengths allowed them to serve four times more clients than projected, demonstrating the value of resource efficiency.

Hope House realized that while laptops were a valuable resource for residents, future purchases should consider physical security features to maximize usage.



Hancock County Arts leveraged their grant to launch a YouTube channel and expand their social media presence, significantly increasing community engagement and awareness.

Vernon Township Public Library discovered the importance of childcare support during adult education classes and the power of family learning moments, especially for immigrant families.

Inventories track key *insights & learning* outcomes from grantees from this grant cycle

KidsPlay, Inc. emphasized the importance of lightweight, transportable set pieces and the value of hands-on learning in tool selection and construction.



Changing Footprints highlighted how infrastructure improvements (heating and cooling) can enhance volunteer experience and organizational pride.

Nameless Creek Camp discovered that infrastructure improvements can unlock new possibilities, allowing for a new bathroom and year-round facility use.



FUSE Inc. realized that investing in digital tools and branding can dramatically increase community engagement and operational efficiency.

Firefly Children and Family Alliance learned to adapt their budget and scope when full funding wasn't available, focusing on the most impactful component—car seats.





**Community
Foundation**
OF HANCOCK COUNTY