

Little Philanthropists



Every year, Pam Anglin's first grade class at Mary Raber Elementary saves pennies for a community service project. At the beginning of the year they talked about charitable giving and brainstormed over ideas as to how they could help. This year, while talking about where they wanted their money to go, a classmate told of a wonderful charity that was dear to her heart. Dixie Kessler informed her classmates about the endowment fund started in memory of her brother, Donovan. The class voted unanimously to donate their coin collection to the Donovan Kessler Little Swimmers Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation, which provides free swimming lessons to young children in our community. The class is proud of one another and their commitment to "Friends Helping Friends." We're proud of them, too! Pictured are class members Keiran Gilles, Jackson Acres, Dixie Kessler and Sophia Hatcher.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Whitley County Community Foundation to champion the spirit of philanthropy and generate permanent endowments. We will assess and address local needs and direct funding to best meet community aspirations.

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WHAT GIVES

News, Views and Events Sharing Philanthropy

The Economic Impact ON OUR FOUNDATION

In the midst of our financial crunch, you may have heard that foundations are reducing their giving. This comes as a result of a significant decrease in the value of philanthropic assets. Investment strategies for foundation endowments are similar to those guiding retirement funds: just as your nest egg may have suffered a loss, foundations are facing a reduction in grant making capital. Grant dollars are determined as a percentage of that capital, so when assets decrease, so does available funding for grants. Your local community foundation wants you to know that there is good news despite our current challenges.

FOR GOOD, FOREVER

First, the aforementioned grant budgeting formula gives your community foundation staying power. Making grants available in proportion to endowment growth means our community foundation is able to support local needs in good times and bad, both now and in the future. Inside this edition of What Gives, you will find a list of organizations that were awarded grants from the Whitley County Community Foundation this spring. The amount of grant money available to distribute may fluctuate with the market, but you can rest assured that your community foundation will always be in a position to help. We were built to support Whitley County, and honor donor wishes, into perpetuity.

MORE THAN MONEY

Second, our foundations' efforts to problem solve and build community never cease. Even in lean times, you can count on The Whitley County Community

Foundation to collaborate, convene, lead and leverage on your behalf. The recent Count Me In Awards recognized adults in the community who volunteer their time and talents to engage local youth. In September, the Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Giving Circle will again collaborate with the CCHS Girls Soccer program to provide free mammograms to local women who can't financially afford the test.

Educational attainment. Our Community Foundation partners with local schools by sponsoring 7th grade field trips to local colleges. We believe that the decision to attending college is made a bit easier when students have actually visited a college campus and can see what it's like.

Universal accessibility. With the help of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Whitley County Community Foundation was one six in Indiana selected to collaborated with parks, service providers, consumers and caregivers to create recreational activities for people of all abilities. The Splash Pad in Morsches Park is the direct result of this endeavor.

Community foundations press for progress by helping to find the resources, funding, data and people necessary to get the job done. While the near future may yield less financial support from the Foundation, as the market rebounds, funding levels will rise and eventually exceed 2008 levels. While assets stabilize and again begin to grow, it is certain that the Whitley County Community Foundation will continue to invest in Whitley County with all of their many resources. ♥

2009 LILLY Scholars Named



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Two Whitley County students have been named recipients of full, four-year college scholarships as the Whitley County Community Foundation 2009 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars. Tiffany Lefever and Shannon Kauffman will each receive full tuition to the Indiana college or university of their choice and an \$800 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

The daughter of Tana and Brian Lefever, Tiffany is a senior at Churubusco High School. She plans to attend Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana to study Leadership next fall.

Shannon is the daughter of Christine Kauffman and the late Curt Kauffman. She attends Columbia City High School. After graduation Shannon plans to study Physical Therapy at the University of Indianapolis.

Twenty-eight applicants sought the two prestigious awards, which were open to Whitley County residents graduating from an accredited Indiana high school. Students must be committed to pursuing a four year degree.

A panel of volunteer judges from throughout the county reviewed applications and eight students were invited for the interview process. Members of the Scholarship Committee considered a number of factors

in their selection process including community involvement, scholastic achievement, financial need, perseverance and career ambitions. After the local committee's decision, their decision was submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for final selection.

ICI is a non-profit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree.

The Whitley County Community Foundation awarded \$1,000 scholarships to each of the finalists not chosen as Lilly Scholars. These students include Leslie Whonstetler, Churubusco High School; Nicole Cox, Amber Lecklider, and Jyllian Kumfer from Columbia City High School; Ross St. Clair and Kyle Frantz, South Whitley High School. ♥



CCHS Lady EAGLES SOCCER Team & Coach BILL DUFFY Recognized



Parkview's Comprehensive Cancer Center recently presented the first-ever Cancer Care Award to the Columbia City High School Lady Eagles Soccer Team. The award was created to honor the dedication, determination, innovation, sacrifices, and courage of those whose efforts improve the quality of life for people who have cancer.

The team showed tremendous community pride and a caring attitude by organizing a series of fundraisers that resulted in \$6,500 going to the Community Foundation's Giving Circle for Women's Health. The Giving Circle awards free mammograms to local women who can't afford the test. The team coordinated their public outreach as part of Columbia City High School's 15th season of soccer and with support from the High School's staff and student body, raised enough money to provide 28 free mammograms. The team is already in the midst of planning for a similar event in September '09.

"So many people are doing great things in the cancer field," said Dr. Alan Yahanda, Indiana Surgical Specialists and cancer liaison physician for the Parkview Comprehensive Cancer Center's Cancer Committee. "Prior to today, many of them have done so with little or no recognition. This important award spotlights their efforts, and we hope will also inspire others to get involved." The team was presented with artwork from local artist Gary Travis commissioned specifically for the award program, as well as recognition on a plaque in a display at the Parkview Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 21, 2009 when the Lady Eagles will again play in the pink to defeat cancer! ♥



Walter Malicki Honored

Walter Malicki, an art teacher at Whitko High School, recently received Arts United's Lifetime Achievement Award. The tribute spotlighted 30 years of mentoring and teaching students who have won 600 local, 30 state and 110 international art awards. In addition, the honor recognized Mr. Malicki for the endowment fund he worked to establish within the Whitley County Community Foundation. The fund was created as a result of an art auction. Former students contributed works which were sold to establish the endowment. This fund will support students as long as Whitko High School who has students who are inspired to fulfill art related careers. The Foundation extends our appreciation to Whitko High School Principal Parrish Kruger for initiating Mr. Malicki's nomination. ♥

“Greater Good Fund” Yields Grants

Every so often, the Community Foundation receives a gift with the simple, albeit generous instruction “use it wherever the need is the greatest.” These unrestricted gifts are pooled in the Foundation’s Greater Good Endowment Fund. Twice a year, the Grants Committee, made up of volunteers from throughout the county,

meets to consider applications. Their recommendations are forwarded to the Foundation’s Board of Directors, with whom all grant-making authority rests. The following grants were awarded from The Greater Good Fund this spring and totaled over \$67,000:

THE CHURUBUSCO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PANTRY - \$12,000 toward the purchase of a van for food pick-up and delivery.

BEDS & BRITCHES, ETC. — \$9,000 to provide services and incentive items to pregnant women and families with children from birth to five.

THE CENTER FOR WHITLEY COUNTY YOUTH, INC. — \$8,900 as a challenge match for new gifts raised after June 1.

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SOUTH WHITLEY PARK BOARD — \$10,000 challenge match toward purchasing an imaginative play village for the South Whitley Town Park. Note: \$3,529 from this grant was gifted by the Theodore Schultz Fund.

COLUMBIA CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT/LEADERSHIP WHITLEY COUNTY — \$5,400 to provide scholarships for low income children from Columbia City to attend the Park’s new summer day camp. Note: \$1,411 from this grant was gifted from the Weick Fund.

RIGHT RELATIONS — \$5,000 to offset costs for participants to take part in the Family Enrichment Series designed to benefit children whose parents are going through a divorce.

VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SHARED BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY — \$2,500 for food and provisions

WHITLEY COUNTY AUTUMN ART FESTIVAL — \$2,346 toward promotion of the fall festival

INTERFAITH MISSION — \$1,800 for expenses associated with establishing a Community Garden

FORT WAYNE WOMEN’S BUREAU, INC. — \$1,520 to support the Assault Awareness for Teens program in Whitley County.

WHITLEY COUNTY SHERIFF’S RESERVE UNIT — \$1,379 to purchase a projector

HUMANE SOCIETY OF WHITLEY COUNTY — \$1,000 for costs associated with a membership campaign

CHILDREN’S HOPE HOSPITALITY HOUSE — \$1,000 to help offset costs of Whitley County Families who utilize the facility when their children receive medical care

VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE PROJECTS — \$1,000 for service projects in the community

COLUMBIA CITY UNITED METHODIST CHILDCARE MINISTRY — \$1,000 to alleviate the need for teachers to purchase their own classroom supplies

WHITLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — \$1,000 to purchase a scanner to document and help archive historical documents.

COLUMBIA CITY FIRST CHURCH OF GOD — \$1,000 toward establishing a community garden

WCCF — \$1,000 to offset costs of a developing a new Non-Profit Community Events Calendar

SONSHINE CHILDCARE MINISTRY — \$338 to help playground meet American Safety Standards

Gift of a Lifetime: Shopping for a Charity

These days, having more retirement money than you need is a great problem to have, and one that's now easier to solve. But generous IRA donors still face multiple options for their gifts: Support the entire community? Underwrite a special cause? Shore up a favorite charity? Here are three top charitable fund picks of September McConnell, Whitley County Community Foundation director.

GREATER GOOD FUND — Meeting ever-changing community needs.

IRA transfers to the Whitley County Community Foundation's Greater Good Fund to address a broad range of current and future needs. The Community Foundation evaluates all aspects of community well-being — community development, education, health and human services, environment and arts and culture — then awards strategic grants to select projects and programs. "For people who care deeply about this community and its people, this fund is an excellent way to address our most pressing needs, today and tomorrow," noted McConnell.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUND — Connecting personal values to high-impact opportunities.

IRA transfers to Field of Interest Funds allow donors to target gifts to causes important to them: arts, AIDS services, urban education, neighborhood revitalization, youth welfare and more. Whitley County Community awards grants to community organizations and programs addressing the donor's specific interest area. "For those who are particularly passionate about a single cause, Field of Interest Funds provide strategic, lasting support—even as needs change over time," McConnell explained. ♥

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