

SPRING 2015

# WHAT GIVES

News, Issues and Events Shaping Philanthropy  
at the Whitley County Community Foundation

## The Foundation Announces the Russ Fahl Family Fund

The Russ Fahl Family Fund was recently established to benefit a Columbia City High School athlete who will be graduating and plans to pursue either a two or four-year degree at an accredited technical school or university. The scholarship was created to reflect Fahl's steadfast belief in the importance of adhering to strong work ethic and embracing the spirit of competition.

When Russ Fahl graduated from Columbia City High School in 1948, he was awarded the school's prestigious Honor Blanket for his valued roles on the school's football and basketball teams. Sixty-seven years later, he fondly recalls what that award, and sports in general, meant to him during those formative years. "For me, as long as I can remember, it has always been about hard work. I might not have been the most gifted athlete but I worked hard. I remember a team meeting one Thursday before a Friday game when the coach sat us down and said 'There's one man in this group that is putting forth 110%,' – that recognition stayed with me," he said. The exceptional work ethic the coach witnessed at practice would go on to shape Fahl's future as a successful, self-made businessman.

### "The lessons I learned through sports shaped me."

"There is a lot of value in sports; you learn to compete like you have to in the real world. It took a lot of years for me to get settled in and find the path that worked, but the lessons I learned through sports shaped me," he added.

The new scholarship award also serves to pay tribute to several other Fahl family members who have in years past, also received the high school's coveted Honor Blanket and Parker Awards for outstanding athleticism.

"It's not always about the kid who scores. Sometimes it's about the one who has been putting in the time and the rigorous training; the one who perseveres through determination; the one who strives to give their personal best. That's the spirit that Dad wants to honor," reflected Pam McCoy when discussing her father's sentiments. The first Russ Fahl Family Fund will be awarded to a deserving student this spring. Applications are available in the CCHS guidance office or on-line at the Whitley County Community Foundation's website, [www.whitleycountycommunityfoundation.org/applynow](http://www.whitleycountycommunityfoundation.org/applynow). ♥





# Lilly GIFT VI Provides Rare Opportunity to Create a Named Family Fund for Gift of \$3,500



Now in existence for 24 years, the Whitley County Community Foundation has earned the public's continued trust and proven that endowment funds can and do make a vital difference in meeting community needs and enhancing quality of life. Since its inception, the Community Foundation has granted over \$21,000,000 to a variety of local charitable projects. These grants were made possible thanks to the on-going generosity of local donors who made unrestricted gifts to the Foundation with their blessings to "use the money where it is needed most."

As our organization has continued to grow, our ability to make positive change through grant work has increased, and yet each year there are still deserving requests that must be denied due to limited funding. Thanks to the announcement of Lilly Endowment's GIFT VI, we are poised to grow the Foundation and expand our annual grant making to non-profits by 10% each year. Once again, we are turning to the generosity of local residents and businesses to help us make this happen.

Lilly Endowment has offered to match gifts made to unrestricted Community Funds, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000 through March of 2016. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law, and for that reason, donors may want to consider making gifts in 2015 and 2016.

Thanks to this unique opportunity to automatically have an unrestricted gift doubled, donors interested in creating a named endowment fund such as The John & Mary Williams Family Community Fund or The XYZ Corporation Community Fund, can do so with a minimum gift of \$3,500.

Because endowments are forever, a gift given today will still be working for Whitley County next year and for generations to come. A named community fund is a wonderful means of honoring a person, family or organization who has made an impact on Whitley County and ensure that the name will carry on and continue to have a positive influence in Whitley County forever. Please consider helping us make the most of this opportunity and meet the challenge Lilly Endowment has made to the people of Whitley County. ♥

*Projects such as Passages Creative Learning Center, the Whitley County Humane Society and Paul's Pad in Churubusco were all made possible in part thanks to the generosity of local residents who chose to direct their giving through the Community Foundation's Greater Good Fund. Tax deductible gifts to the fund are now eligible for a dollar to dollar match from Lilly Endowment.*



# Gifts to Designated Funds Matched 50 Cents to the Dollar

Gifts made to designated endowments such as a scholarship fund or an agency endowment for organizations such as the Humane Society, the YMCA, Passages or the Library, will be matched 50 cents to the dollar thanks to the second facet of Lilly Endowment's GIFT VI campaign. That means a gift of \$100 instantly becomes \$150; a \$10,000 gift becomes \$15,000. A maximum match of \$25,000 will be allocated to any one fund. This portion of the GIFT VI match is available on a first come basis; funds will be available until they have been expended or until March 31, 2016. All gifts are tax deductible. For a full listing of scholarships and designated endowments, please visit the Foundation's website at: [www.whitleycountycommunity-foundation.org](http://www.whitleycountycommunity-foundation.org)

## Lyndsey Brommer Named Whitley County's 2015 Lilly Community Scholar



*Whitley County's 2015 Lilly Community Scholar Lyndsey Brommer with her parents, Julie and Randy Brommer.*

Lyndsey Brommer, a senior at Columbia City High School, has been named the recipient of Whitley County's 2015 Lilly Community Scholarship. In addition to receiving four year tuition to an Indiana college of her choice, she will also receive a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

Brommer is the daughter of Randy and Julie Brommer of Columbia City. She plans to attend Grace College to pursue a degree in Behavioral Science with a minor in the medical field. During her high school career she has been an active participant in FFA, Whitley County 4-H, National Honors Society, Varsity Girls Basketball team manager and numerous other activities. Lyndsey is also an active volunteer in many local organizations and programs such as: Passages Inc., Miller's Merry Manor, Relay For Life, Parkview Health, and more.

"Winning this scholarship means more than the world to me," Brommer said. "I am honored to be a part of this community that gives back to the youth and makes dreams come true. I am overly excited to reach for my goals and make the community proud! I want to thank the community and everyone closest to me for raising and teaching me to be the best me I can be."

This year 43 applicants participated in the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship selection process. The Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee narrowed the field to four finalists based on scholarship need, perseverance, financial need, work history, community service, school activities, and interview performance. Finalists also included Cole Bechtold of South Whitley, Madison Bieber of Churubusco, and Brett Roberts of Columbia City. The recommendation of the Foundation's scholarship committee was forwarded to Independent Colleges of Indiana for final approval.

ICI is a nonprofit 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 high levels of education. There have been over 142 scholarships awarded statewide. Whitley County has had a total of 34 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipients, including Brommer, since the first scholarship was awarded in 1998. The amount awarded to students from our community exceeds \$3 million dollars. ♥





## Free Mammogram Certificates available

Thanks to the on-going generosity of local donors, the Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health continues to offer free mammograms to uninsured Whitley County women who are unable to afford the vital screening. Do you know of someone who could benefit from this offering? Have them contact Chelsey at the Community Foundation, 244-5224.

## Apply On-Line

We are pleased to announce that the Community Foundation's grant application process is now online. To apply for funding consideration, organizations can go to [www.whitleycountycommunityfoundation.org/applynow](http://www.whitleycountycommunityfoundation.org/applynow). Questions can be directed to John Slavich or Vanessa Bills at (260) 244-5224. The next application deadline is May 1, 2015.

### OUR MISSION

*It is the mission of the Whitley County Community Foundation to inspire philanthropy, enrich community and serve donors by creating an enduring source of charitable assets.*

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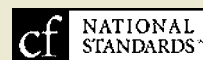
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