

The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
of **Jackson County**

Together, we grow tomorrows

2023 Annual Report

April 2024



Work with the Foundation to...

- Have the spirit and intent of your charitable wishes honored
- Give to remember or honor someone else
- Receive maximum tax deduction and saving allowed by law
- Accomplish charitable objectives in a variety of ways:
 - Gift of stock, life insurance, property, etc.
 - Mention the Foundation in your will
 - Establish a fund to create an endowment and leave a permanent legacy
- Contribute to existing funds

Look to the Foundation for...

- Personal attention and in-depth knowledge when trying to find the best fit for your charitable priorities, financial goals and personal preferences
 - Help establishing, managing and administering a charitable fund
 - Help identifying areas of greatest and unmet needs within the community
 - Help furthering your education through our scholarships
 - Information on services from other non-profits that receive grants from or have endowment funds with the Foundation
 - Meeting space for your business or nonprofit

Jill Glover, right, talks about her time playing for Coach Donna Sullivan, seated, as a Seymour Owl during a program in June at Seymour Middle School. Glover, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, also shared information about how to donate to the Coach Donna Sullivan Title IX Legacy Scholarship Fund. Sullivan was a longtime girls basketball coach at Seymour High School and Trinity Lutheran High School. To donate, go online at www.cfjacksoncounty.org, or call us at 812-523-4483.



Seed library at Jackson County Public Library. See story on Page 12.



Mission Statement

To promote philanthropy in Jackson County

The Foundation is a community-focused organization dedicated to:

- Building visionary partnerships with donors and local service organizations.
- Trustworthy stewardship of gifts.
- Providing funds to enhance the quality of life across Jackson County.
- Being a catalyst for positive change in the community.

Join our E-News List

Contact us at:
P.O. Box 1231
107 Community Drive
Seymour, IN 47274

812-523-4483 phone

info@cfjacksoncounty.org
www.cfjacksoncounty.org



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

The Community Foundation of Jackson County has received accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations®. This accreditation, signified by the Seal shown here, indicates that the Foundation meets the highest standards for philanthropic excellence. We have met rigorous standards for donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration. The Foundation is also a member and supporter of the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance.



Champion. Support. Connect.

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THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF JACKSON COUNTY

A MESSAGE TO
OUR COMMUNITY



Bruce Wynn, Board Chair



Danel L. Davis, President & CEO

Numbers come up big

Gifts, grants each top \$1 million in 2023

One million is a big number. It loomed large for the Community Foundation of Jackson County in 2023.

More than 800 individual donors stepped up to provide \$1.056 million in new gifts and pledges to benefit the work of the Foundation during the year, and the Foundation granted more than \$1 million in scholarships and grants. Since our inception in 1992, the Foundation has now awarded more than \$13 million in scholarships and grants, providing an impact for grant recipients throughout our community.

The Foundation's support in 2023 helped lead to the opening of the Child Care Network's new child-care center in downtown Seymour, with a ribbon cutting on January 11 and the opening of classrooms just five days later. During the summer, Child Care Network conducted another ribbon cutting – for the outdoors playground at the center. You can read more on Page 8 of this report.

The Foundation's support of the South Central Indiana Talent Region helped bring READI grant projects to fruition, including the opening of a Vincennes University industrial maintenance training program at the Jackson County Learning Center. You can read more on Page 28 of this report.

About those \$1.024 million in grants that the Foundation paid out in 2023: They included \$142,874 in scholarships and \$881,900 in other grants. Those other grants included \$261,764 paid in the spring from agency funds and other designated endowments. They provide operating and programming dollars that help agencies such as Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Child Care Network, the Humane Society of Jackson County, Community Provisions of Jackson County and others. You, too, can help these agencies and others by making gifts to their funds, boosting the annual grant payout in perpetuity.

The Foundation saw donors start 15 new funds in 2023, including six new community funds that will help finance the Foundation's competitive Fall Grant cycle. That's great news for the community, generating more Fall Grant dollars moving forward. A match program through Lilly Endowment Inc. spurred much of that growth in the fourth quarter.

The Foundation awarded more than \$125,000 through the Fall Grant cycle in 2023, a result of striving to increase giving – and granting – through what we call community or unrestricted funds. A 5 percent grant rate – the fourth in four years and the maximum allowed – helped grow those Fall Grant dollars.

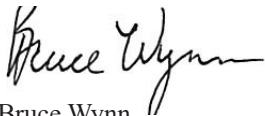
Donald Schnitker, chair of the Foundation’s Grant Committee, said the increase in grant dollars through the Fall Grant process shows the efforts of the Foundation’s focus in recent years on building endowments aimed at community funds. Read more on Page 17.

Partially as a result of gifts from the estate of Donald J. Klaes, the Foundation provided \$10,732 for 30 grants into local schools through the newly named and expanded Donald J. Klaes Classroom Education Grant Program. You can read more on Page 16.

Foundation Treasurer Mike Fleetwood said he is convinced that the increase in giving to the Foundation in recent years is a reflection of the community responding to the good work being funded through the Foundation and our community partners.

We think that was seen in the giving to the Foundation over the past four years, and certainly during 2023. In a year that brought uncertainty because of the stock markets and inflation, our donors responded, making more than \$1.056 million in new gifts and pledges to the Foundation. We appreciate our donors and those agencies and organizations that benefit from those gifts. Yes, 2023 was another successful year for the Foundation and those benefiting from the generosity of our donors and as a result of leadership provided by the Foundation.

Again, we thank you.
Sincerely,



Bruce Wynn
Chair, Board of Directors



Daniel L. Davis
President & CEO

The Community Foundation of Jackson County



Board of Directors

Bruce Wynn - Chair
Ann Windley - Vice Chair
Michael A. Fleetwood - Treasurer
Dennis Wayman - Secretary
Todd bollinger
Eric Fish, MD
Kevin Gabbard
Jill Glover
Monica Hartung
Connie Hernandez
Vicki Johnson-Poynter
Brent Kilgas
Gary F. Myers
Andrew Nehrt
Donald Schnitker
Nate Tormoehlen
Trina Tracy
Marvin S. Veatch
David Waskom
Tony Wesner

Staff

Daniel L. Davis - President & CEO
Sue Smith - Vice President
Cindy Rinehart - Bookkeeper/Accountant
Lori Miller - Development Associate

Board Members Emeritus

Tom Bryant
Robert N. Cartwright
David M. Geis
Chris Klaes, D.C.
Thomas J. Lantz
Gary F. Myers
Lawrence E. Welker
David H. Windley

Community Volunteers

Karen Davis
Dean Dringenburg
Ray Eakins
Linda Eggersman
David M. Geis
Stephanie Mellenbruch
Leon Seitz
Debbie Stout
Stacey Waskom

Past Board Members

Steve Ackerman	Delbert Kilgas
Andy Applewhite	Thomas J. Lantz
Bill Bailey	Judy Lester
John Beatty	Jeff Lorenzo
Susan Bevers	Gary A. Meyer
Donn Bishop	Amy M. Motazedi
Nancy Bishop	Susan Nehrt
Dana J. Bollinger	Tom Nolting
John Bottorff	Darrell Persinger
Julie Bradley	Jim Plump
John Brooks	Elaine Pollert
Patricia Butt	Frederick M. Pollert
Tim Clark	Jim Potts
Denise Connell	DonJay Rice
Terrye Davidson	Mike Riggins
Richard Davis	Joe Robertson
Dr. Andrew Day	Andy Royalty
W. Andrew Denny	Erin M. Royalty
Ray Eakins	Debra R. Schill
Tom Furnish	Jo Ann Scully
Jim Gabbard	Carl Shake
Kevin Gabbard	Ron Sibert
Bob Goecker	Larry R. Spurgeon
Ruth Hall	Cheryl Stuckwish
Ron Harrison	Trina Tracy
Ruth Ann Hendrix	Jim Thompson
Rosemary Jenkinson	Rexanne Ude
Susan Judd	Tom Voss
Gene Johnson	Ken Warbritton
Jim Johnson	Priscilla Wischmeier
Dennis D. Kern	Phyllis Zabel



Community Foundation of
Jackson County

est. 1992



The Conference Center at the Foundation finds itself in regular use, allowing local, regional and state nonprofits and governmental units to convene meetings. For information about making use of the space, call the Foundation office at 812-523-4483. Nonprofits may use the room at no charge. Otherwise, the Foundation requests a donation. You can learn more about the space online at www.cfjacksoncounty.org.

Types of Funds

Community Funds

Funds from an unrestricted endowment are spent at the discretion of the Foundation, but are typically used to fund the Fall Grant cycle.

Scholarships

Financial aid provided to high school graduates.

Field of Interest Endowments

Field of interest funds support specific areas of interest, for example youth, homelessness, performing arts, or a specific geographical area.

Designated Endowments

Designated funds support a specific organization or activity.

Agency Funds

Agency funds provide yearly support for a specific nonprofit agency.

Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-Advised funds are established by donors who wish to actively participate in the grant-making process. Individuals who establish a donor-advised fund recommend charitable projects or organizations they want to support.

Non-Endowed Funds

Non-endowed funds are any of the above funds that have not met the funding criteria for an endowment, or the donor needs to keep the funds more flexible.

About the Foundation:

- The Community Foundation of Jackson County was established in 1992 and made its first grants in 1994.
- Since then, the Foundation has approved grants and scholarships totaling more than \$13 million.
- Our assets now total more than \$17 million.
- The Foundation administered 253 funds as of Dec. 31, 2023.
- For information about how you can make a donation to any of the funds administered by the Foundation or how you might start a new fund, call Dan Davis, President & CEO, at 812-523-4483, or send an email to president@cfjacksoncounty.org

Child-care center opens

\$1.8 million Lilly Endowment Inc. grant, partners assist project

Jackson County families continue to benefit from the \$1.8 million Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT VII grant to the Community Foundation of Jackson County with the January 2023 opening of Child Care Network’s new child-care center in Seymour.

Child Care Network Executive Director Kate Garrity thanked her staff and board members along with primary contractor, Royalty Companies, the City of Seymour, the Community Foundation of Jackson County and others involved in the project during a ribbon cutting on Jan. 11.

Doors opened to students five days later.

President & CEO Dan Davis also thanked the community partners that helped land the Large-Scale Opportunity grant from Lilly Endowment by signing on as financial and in-kind supporters:

- Child Care Network.
- The City of Seymour and Seymour Redevelopment Commission.
- The Jackson County United Way Board of Directors.
- Kocolene Development Corp.
- Royalty Companies.
- The Schneck Foundation.
- Turning Point Domestic Violence Services.
- The Foundation Board of Directors through Impact Grants beyond the GIFT VII grant.

“This community support was essential to the success of our application to Lilly Endowment and illustrates how important and successful and necessary collaboration is in our community,” Davis said.

A center is part of local efforts to confront the county’s designation as a child-care desert. That means a community where the number of children in need of child care out-numbers the available seats at 3-to-1 ratio. Jackson County’s ratio at the time Child Care Network tackled this problem was 7-to-1.

The Lilly grant included \$1 million toward converting and furnishing the building, \$530,000 as funding for low-income stipends and \$270,000 that was endowed as an operating fund to benefit operating costs of the center in perpetuity. Individuals, businesses and organizations may contribute to the Child Care Network Child-Care Center Endowment, and thereby grow the annual grant to Child Care Network.



Children play on a new playground that was installed during the summer of 2023 at the Child Care Network’s child-care center in downtown Seymour.



Executive Director Kate Garrity of Child Care Network cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the agency’s child-care center at Chestnut and Fifth streets in downtown Seymour. Garrity thanked her staff and board members along with the primary contractor, Royalty Companies, the City of Seymour, and the Community Foundation. Holding the ribbon are Mayor Matt Nicholson, left, and Community Foundation of Jackson County President & CEO, Dan Davis.

How to help

You, too, can be a supporting partner in this project’s future by making a gift to the Child Care Network Child-Care Center Endowment. Your tax-deductible gift may be made through our web page, cfjackson-county.org. Click on “Donate Now” and let us know to which fund you are donating. Or you may send a check to the Foundation at Post Office Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274. Or call Dan Davis at 812-523-4483.

PRESIDENT'S GRANTS

The President's Grants are available at any time during the year for needs that may arise outside of the annual granting cycle. These grants are awarded at the discretion of the President of The Community Foundation of Jackson County.

In 2023 a President's Grant was made available to the Lynn Street Colored Center of Good Will to provide funds for the roof project.

FIELD OF INTEREST GRANTS

Owen-Carr Township Community Fund

Brownstown Pickleball Association - \$5,000

Carr Township Volunteer Fire Dept. - \$17,263

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$1,600

Jackson County History Center - \$2,000

Leadership Jackson County - \$1,200

Medora Brick Plant & Historical Sites - \$5,626.34

Medora Christian Church - \$3,080

Medora Pentecostal Church - \$2,000

Owen Township Volunteer Fire Dept. - \$4,290

Town of Medora - \$4,100

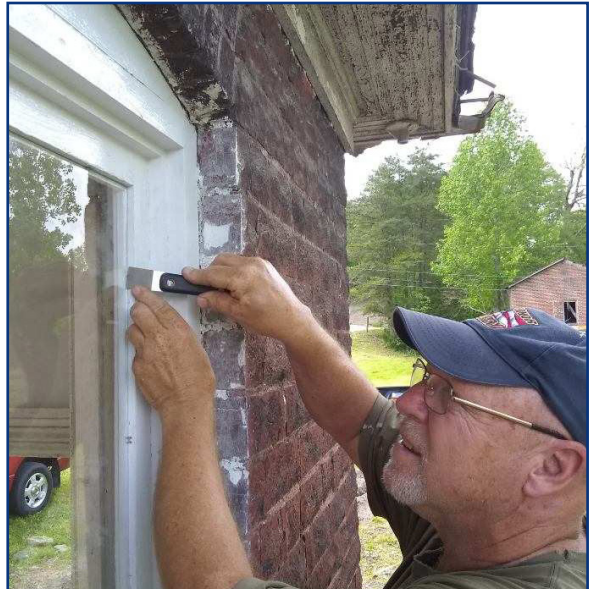
Jackson County Youth Foundation

The ARC of Jackson County - \$2,500

Leadership Jackson County - \$500

Serenity Closet - \$2,500

The Brownstown Pickleball Association established a fund at the Foundation during 023 aimed at raising money for construction of a pickleball facility adjacent to the Brownstown municipal park. You, too, can help by writing a check to Foundation (write "Pickleball" in the memo line) and sending it to the Community Foundation of Jackson County, P.O. Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or dropping it by the Foundation's office at 107 Community Drive in Seymour. You may also make a gift through PayPal by logging onto the Foundation's website at cfjacksoncounty.org and clicking on the "Donate Now" button. More information call 812-523-4483.



DONOR ADVISED GRANTS

Bender Lumber Company, Inc. Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$853

Bollinger Family Endowment

Anchor House - \$5,250.34

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$2,000

Community Provisions, Inc. - \$1,500

First Presbyterian Church - \$2,045

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$1,000

Jackson County United Way - \$4,300

Crothersville Community Schools Fund

Crothersville Community Scholarship Fund - \$1,700

W. Andrew Denny and Carol Denny Fund

Immanuel Lutheran Church - \$746

Nancy Hoeverer Stewart and Rick Stewart Endowment

Community Provisions - \$1,000

Immanuel Lutheran School - \$2,000

Trinity Lutheran High School - \$2,000

Jackson County Sertoma Club Endowment

Jackson County Sertoma Scholarship Fund - \$2,603

Chris Johnson Memorial Endowment

Town of Medora - \$583

Carl and Doris Kovener Endowment

Town of Crothersville - \$1,000

Everett V. and Maria Moritz Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$2,000

Community Foundation of Jackson County - \$267

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$300

Francis "Pat" & Dorothy M. Myers Fund

Distinguished Young Women of Jackson County - \$500

Janet L. and Gary F. Myers Charitable Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$500

Community Foundation of Jackson County - \$1,000

Crosslife Ministries - \$500

Freeman Army Airfield Museum Endowment - \$50

Julie A. Moore Scholarship Fund - \$100

Parkinsons Foundation - \$2,000

Peace Lutheran Church - \$12,000

Grant Alan Reedy Athletic Training Endowment - \$250

Schneck Foundation - \$500

Jeremy Wischmeier Vocational Scholarship Fund - \$500

Rust Companies Foundation

Immanuel Lutheran Church - \$5,000

Orville and Mary Schnitker Memorial Endowment

Immanuel Lutheran Church - \$3,000

Seymour Noon Lions Club Donor Advised Fund

Child Care Network, Inc. - \$247

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$247

Dennis and Nancy Sterling Fund

Brownstown Pickleball Court Construction Fund - \$10,000

Brownstown Police Department - \$1,000

Clarity of Central Indiana - \$2,400

Immanuel Lutheran Church - \$12,500

Jackson County Sertoma Club - \$300

Jackson County Sheriff's Department - \$300

Matthew 25 Street Ministries - \$1,000

Medora Christian Church - \$300

Mercy Rescue & Adoption, Inc. - \$300

READ Jackson County - \$1,000

Warrior Bags - \$300

Dave and Ann Windley Fund

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic - \$250

Community Fairbanks - \$250

Compassion & Choices - \$250

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$1,000

Jackson County United Way - \$4,000

Donna Sullivan Title IX Legacy Scholarship Fund - \$1,000



Mercy Rescue and Adoption photo

DESIGNATED AND AGENCY GRANTS

Jessica Barkman/Girls Inc. Athletic Scholarship Fund

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$1,991

Clarice Beineke Fund

Developmental Services, Inc. - \$2,543

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County Endowment Fund

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County - \$438

Ernest N. Birge Boy Scout Fund

Hoosier Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America - \$374

Ellis E. Bland and Marjorie J. Wriighthouse Bland Endowment

Brownstown Central High School \$7,688

Don and Emmylou Bollinger Endowed Scholarship Fund

DePauw University - \$6,764

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour Endowments

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour \$32,173

Branaman Family Endowment for Jackson County Community Theatre

Jackson County Community Theatre \$544

John Britton Seymour High School Baseball Fund

Seymour Community Schools - \$1,535

Brownstown Christian Church Endowment Fund

Brownstown Christian Church - \$4,751

Brownstown Presbyterian Church Fund

Brownstown Presbyterian Church \$2,385

Tracy Bullard Memorial Endowment

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$1,727

Marie Burgess Memorial 4-H Sewing Award Fund

Jackson County 4-H Council - \$619

Child Care Network, Inc. Endowment

Child Care Network, Inc. - \$514

Child Care Network Child-Care Center Endowment

Child Care Network Child-Care Center \$14,302

Katie Collman Playground Fund

Crothersville Community Schools \$403

Community Kids Net Endowment

Brownstown Elementary School - \$931
Brownstown Central Middle School \$931

Community Provisions of Jackson County, Inc. Endowment

Community Provisions of Jackson County, Inc. - \$308

The John H. and Thomas W. Conner Antique Print Shop Museum Endowment

The John H. and Thomas W. Conner Antique Print Shop Museum Operating Fund - \$2,586

Crothersville Jr/Sr High School Vocational/Technical Fund

Crothersville Community Schools \$345

Jody Deckard Workforce Development Endowment Fund

Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. - \$3,169

Mary Ellen Easterday Education Support Fund for St. Ambrose School

St. Ambrose School - \$1,559

Lee S. Ertel Memorial 4-H Endowment

Jackson County 4-H Club Committee \$963

Les Gilkey Music Fund

Seymour Community Schools - \$535

Girls Inc. Endowment

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$325

Girls Inc. of Jackson County Fund

Girls Inc. of Jackson County - \$8,837

Nick Greemann First Presbyterian Church Endowment

First Presbyterian Church - \$614

C. B. Hess 4-H Memorial Scholarship Fund

Indiana 4-H Foundation - \$4,000

Edward H. Howard and Dorothy E. Howard Boys & Girls Club of Seymour Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$5,437

Humane Society of Jackson County Endowment

Humane Society of Jackson County \$559

Immanuel United Church of Christ Cemetery Fund

Crothersville Cemetery Board - \$6,178

Immanuel United Church of Christ Children's Fund

Indiana Kentucky Conference United Church of Christ - \$1,486
Crossroad Child & Family Services \$1,487

Immanuel United Church of Christ Vernon Township Community Endowment

Immanuel United Church of Christ Community Fund - \$1,747

Jackson County History Center Fund

Jackson County History Center - \$776

Jackson County Learning Center Endowment

Jackson County Learning Center Capital Projects Fund - \$10,391

Jackson County Public Library Fund

Jackson County Public Library - \$1,360

Jackson County Sertoma Hearing Aid Endowment

Jackson County Hearing Aid Fund for School Age Children - \$1,099

Jackson County United Fund, Inc. Endowment

Jackson County United Way - \$7,942

Delbert D. Kilgas and Marlis Kilgas Endowment

Community Foundation Operating Fund - \$2,891

Mail Masters, Indiana University Southeast Endowment Fund

Indiana University Southeast - \$951

Grant sprouts seed program

A 2023 spring grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson County reaped a harvest of local produce and flowers through the Seed Library at the Jackson County Public Library.

The Seed Library, which started in 2021, is a collection of heirloom seeds including flower, fruit, herb and vegetable that anyone can take to plant and grow at home. It continued in 2023 with money from the Jackson County Public Library Fund administered by the Foundation.

A library card or library district residency is not required to participate, the library reports.

The collection has heirloom seeds purchased with funds from the library's endowment and others donated by seed companies. A grant is paid from the fund to the library each spring.

Since supplies are limited, there is a limit of one envelope per seed variety, and there is no guarantee on availability. At this

time, the library does not accept donations of saved seeds due to state seed laws and regulations.

Seed packets have been housed in old card catalogs at the Seymour and Crothersville libraries and also at the desk at the Medora Library.

Anyone interested in participating or with questions about the Seed Library may visit information services upstairs at the Seymour Library, 303 W. Second St. You also may visit the Crothersville Library at 120 E. Main St. or the Medora Library at 27 W. Main St.

How to donate

The Jackson County Public Library Fund was established in 1998. You can donate to the fund to help grow the annual grant payment. To make a tax-deductible gift to the fund, checks may be sent to the Foundation at Post Office Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or dropped off at our office, 107 Community Drive, Seymour. Gifts may also be made through our website at cfjacksoncounty.org – click on the DONATE NOW button.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF JACKSON COUNTY

DESIGNATED AND AGENCY GRANTS

Larry McDonald Band Fund

Seymour Community Schools - \$254

Nita Mousa YoJack Fund

Leadership Jackson County - \$623

Thomas M. and Mary Louise Nolting Endowment

Community Foundation Operating Fund \$442

Owen-Carr Twp. Community Endowment

Owen-Carr Twp. Community Fund - \$4,377

The Point Endowment

The Point Ministry Fund - \$290

Frederick M. and Karen L. Pollert/Immanuel Lutheran School Endowment Fund

Immanuel Lutheran School - \$1,731

Reddington Christian Church Endowment

Reddington Christian Church - \$276

Grant Alan Reedy Athletic Training Endowment

Brownstown Central Community Schools \$2,896

Carl and Marie Rucker Endowment Fund

Leader Dogs for the Blind - \$7,943

Pleasant Hill Cemetery - \$3,995

Whites Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery - \$3,997

Seymour Industrial Association Fund

Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. - \$4,373

SIHO Schneck Foundation Endowment

Schneck Foundation - \$1,781

Southern Indiana Center for the Arts Fund

Southern Indiana Center for the Arts - \$728

St. John's Sauers Lutheran Church Endowment

St. John's Sauers Lutheran Church Capital Projects Fund - \$6,340

State Bank of Medora Scholarship Fund

Medora High School/Gossman Scholarship Fund - \$1,026

Ken and Cindy Stella, Indiana University Endowment Fund

Indiana University Foundation - \$8,209

Dennis and Nancy Sterling/Brownstown Community Schools Fund

Brownstown Central Community Schools \$1,798

Larry and Joanne Sunbury Endowment Fund

Community Foundation Operating Fund \$3,528

T & W Corporation Junior Golf Endowment

Indiana Golf Foundation - \$944

Terkhorn Lutheran Central School Endowment Fund

Lutheran Central School - \$2,758

Terkhorn Memorial Endowment Fund

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church \$3,184

Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment

Trinity Lutheran Church - \$10,384

Trinity Lutheran Church Organ and Music Fund

Trinity Lutheran Church - \$6,089

Trinity Lutheran High School Endowment

Trinity Lutheran High School - \$15,468

The Tuesday Club Library Endowment

Jackson County Public Library - \$250

Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Endowment

Tuskegee Airmen Education and Maintenance Fund - \$788

Mary Vehslage Seymour Museum Fund

Seymour Museum Center - \$376

F. Walter Voss and Tom G. Voss Boys & Girls Club of Seymour Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Seymour - \$5,531

C.W. "Bud" Walther Learning Center Endowment

Jackson County Education Coalition \$2,015

Bessie J. White Endowment Fund

Cananda United Methodist Church - \$2,335

Zion Lutheran Church Education Fund

Zion Lutheran Church - \$866

Zion Lutheran Church Endowment

Zion Lutheran Church - \$7,917

Zion Lutheran Church Foundation Music and Education Fund

Zion Lutheran Church - \$2,094

Foundation welcomes new board members

Directors provide important service to community



Todd Bollinger



Kevin Gabbard



Brent Kilgas

Members of nonprofit boards of directors play important and valuable roles for area organizations such as the Jackson County History Center, the Boys & Girls Club and, of course, the Community Foundation of Jackson County.

Three area residents joined the Foundation Board of Directors as three veteran members completed their final terms in April 2023.

Joining the Foundation Board were Todd Bollinger of Medora, Kevin Gabbard of Redding Township and Brent Kilgas of Washington Township. Leaving the Board after their terms on the board ended were Sue Nehrt, Trish Butt and Tom Lantz.

“The Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Jackson County was pleased to welcome our new members,” said Board Chair Bruce Wynn. “We are honored that they are willing to share their time and talents with the Community Foundation and that they see the value of the Foundation for all citizens of Jackson County.”

Members of the Board help the Foundation in many ways, from sharing its story with the community to participating in the grant and scholarship review processes.

They also help with fundraising, a vital part of every nonprofit organization, and are donors themselves.

The Foundation looks forward to putting Bollinger, Gabbard and Kilgas to work. Each brings their own personalities, expectations and experiences to the Board along with a shared interest in serving the community. Each has some familiarity with the Foundation and its work.

“The organization is a community leader in recognizing and funding worthwhile needs in Jackson County,” Gabbard said. This is his second time to serve on the Foundation Board, earlier serving 10 years including a period of searching for a new president and chief executive officer and building the Foundation’s current home at 107 Community Drive.

Gabbard continues to serve on the Finance & Investment Committee. He is employed at Royalty Companies in Seymour and is the current president of the Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. Board of Directors.

Bollinger said he is excited for the opportunity to serve the community, much as his parents, Tom and Dana Bollinger. Dana Bollinger served on the Foundation Board.

“This is a great opportunity to give back to the Jackson County community,” Bollinger said. “I have felt the need to do more.”

He is a business owner, a partner in N-I Tech Inc. in Brownstown. He has been a member of the Owen-Salt Creek

Fire Protection Board for more than eight years. He is working with the Foundation’s Grant Committee.

Kilgas also has a family connection with the Foundation. His father, Delbert Kilgas, was an early board member.

“I am eager to serve the community in a new role, using my experiences from other organizational involvement,” he said. Those experiences have taken shape through volunteer work with the Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, the Jackson County 4-H Council and various roles in his church, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour. Each of those organizations have a connection to funds at the Foundation, an illustration of how important community relationships are to the Foundation helping others do important work.

In December, Kilgas and his wife, Sandy, established the Brent and Sandra Kilgas Community Fund, which will provide grant dollars for the annual competitive Fall Grant cycle. Brent is serving on the Foundation’s Finance & Investment Committee.

Representing all of Jackson County on the Board of Directors is important to the Foundation’s mission and work, President & CEO Dan Davis said. When the Foundation was created in 1992, those founding directors made it clear the organization would serve all of Jackson County, not just Brownstown or Seymour.

Classroom Grant helps build it

We built this city

Seymour students, staff collaborate on Owl City

The Tribune zspicer@tribtown.com

Although the large display was set up in Robin Perry's business classroom, Owl City was a project that involved several other Seymour High School departments, too.

Even the school custodians and principal, a school administrator and a local business contributed.

After figuring out what business or service the city needed, each person used a cereal box, a cardboard box or a Pop-Tart box to create their building and then decorate it.

Bridges, parks, a canal, murals, turf, food trucks and trash cans also were made, and roads and turf were laid out. It all came together to create a collaborative city project that included partnering with the Community Foundation of Jackson County in the form of a Classroom Education Grant. The project began in September 2022 and wrapped up in April 2023.

"I thought it would be a nice way for me as a new teacher to get to know a lot of different folks and also a way to involve everybody because there are some students that may not remember Porter's Five Forces, but they will remember their little business," said Perry, who was in her first year as a business education teacher at SHS after being the business teacher at Brownstown Central High School.

She was inspired to do this project by fellow business educator Denise Leigh, a 2022 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year finalist who had done a collaborative city project.

The project started in Perry's principles of business management class. The core lessons about business included the needs versus wants in a city and what people think about while planning a city.

The students could work solo or with



others in picking out their business. Then they had an ethics unit in which they decided how the business would give back to the community, and they created a SWOT analysis and an organizational chart and wrote job descriptions.

A math class figured out the scale of the city and determined the surface area to ensure all of the buildings would fit. "They gave us some options, and we voted on the options to how we wanted to design our city, which one was most effective," Perry said.

Then came the fun part -- constructing the city and buildings.

Agriculture classes made the pocket parks, green spaces and rooftop gardens; art students made graffiti murals and a papier-mâché waterway; a construction class made bridges; a family and consumer sciences class made a boutique; a chemistry class made a crime lab; a biology class made a city park; and a Project Lead the Way class made 3-D food trucks.

Plus, the Pep Club made a boat for the waterway, custodians added city trash cans, another business education class made two businesses and the assistant superintendent made a school.

Also part of the project, with the help of Principal Greg Prange, Perry's students

built vision towers. That allowed them to show the inside and outside of their business and list the products they sell, and they learned how to make a business plan. They also could earn badges for entrepreneurship, marketing and legal services throughout the year.

"Each class designed their own badges that they awarded to the people, so each of the designs looks different," Perry said.

A digital applications class contributed to Owl City by creating marketing and signage for the businesses, and a web design class created a website for various businesses.

Outside of the school, Perry received a \$250 classroom education grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson County, and The Home Depot supplied turf.

Freshman Josh Hess built Tropical Sno because his father owns a chain of the shaved ice shop.

"It has been crazy," he said of seeing the city develop. "I think it looks great. I feel like everyone has done really good at communicating and getting their places where they need to be."

Freshman Alexander Bryant made Red Haven Sub Shop. He put his own spin on one of the places he likes to eat, Subway, by including his favorite color (red) and

a safe place (haven) in the name.

“It was a whirlwind because a lot of people had to do certain things, and a lot of people had to make their own stuff,” he said of the yearlong collaborative effort. “It turned out pretty good. I liked learning other people’s skills of how they run stuff and make things.”

Classmate Sawyer Smith worked with a group to create Soara, a boating catering business near the canal.

“We were adding a canal, and they wanted something that would go up and down it,” he said. “It was really cool because none of us really spoke to each other before we all started doing business, and once we all came together, it was really good. We looked at a lot of the other businesses and just went off them a little bit and just kept improving ours. It was really cool, just really interesting to see what other people did.”

Bob and Dill’s Pickle Grill is one of the businesses along the canal. It was created by freshman Bradyn Riley.

“Soara was the main company, and they wanted a restaurant or a shop or something to go with it to bring in the tourists and take them there and show them,” he said.

During the school year, Riley said he liked going into Perry’s classroom to see what had been added.

“I liked seeing it overall, just the skyline of the small, little city come together, to see it grow into a bigger project where we can all work together and understand what it’s like to own a business and building a business and a metropolis,” he said.

Freshman Tyson Hillian said he recently became interested in cars, so he built Hillian’s Dealership for Owl City.

“I helped set up tables. It was cool to see three, four tables and it turn into this,” he said. “We added all of the extra little decorations throughout it, and I thought that made it look a lot better.”

Freshman Gerzain Gonzalez and sophomore Osvaldo Pablo were part

of a group that developed WYOH skateboards.

“It was pretty cool because we all had one image in mind, so we all just worked together really good to make it. It’s nice because we started from nothing, and now looking at all of it, it’s a lot,” Gonzalez said.

“It was a little bit hard because sometimes, we made mistakes and lost things, but it’s awesome because we started from nothing,” Pablo said.

Perry also liked seeing administrators get involved with Owl City.

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Ferguson created Owl City Community Schools.

“I wanted to contribute because the project is really about building community and making connections,” she said.

She said it also touched on fond memories from her early days of teaching.

“I taught third grade at Medora in the late ’80s, and we would build out a

replica of the town using boxes, paint and glue,” she said. “It was a big deal to the kids to get it just right. It was a great hands-on way to learn about and grow an appreciation for the place we live, go to school and work. I see a lot of this in Owl City.”

Perry said the project would pick back up in the 2023-24 school year, so changes will be coming to Owl City. Other teachers already have discussed wanting to be part of it.

“You could tie just about anything into this, and we’ve got more to do next year,” she said. “If some kids want to take their business with them, they can. That will free up some spaces in the city for a new business to form. We’re going to add another table. There are a lot of needs we haven’t met yet. We don’t have a hospital. That’s a problem.”

Students will assess other opportunities and come up with their contributions to Owl City.

“It’s an educational artifact,” Perry said.



Bequest boosts classroom grant program for local teachers

Simple but poignant conversations among siblings led to the creation of a new fund, a larger, more impactful grant amount and a new name for the classroom teachers grant program at the Community Foundation of Jackson County.



Donald J. Klaes

Donald J. Klaes more than once told his sister, Julie Bradley of Brownstown, that he always wanted to help, somehow, with the education of others. When the Seymour resident died in December 2020 at age 62, Bradley and her siblings established the Donald J. Klaes Classroom Education Endowment in his honor. The fund paid its first grants in 2023.

“My brother Don was committed to education,” Julie said. “He was a graduate of Indiana University, and throughout his life he continued his musical education well beyond his degree. During our conversations, he expressed an interest in helping today’s students with their education. By establishing this fund for classroom grants, it is our hope that each grant awarded will be used to enhance the curriculum, benefitting many students at once.

“For example,” she added, “classroom teachers could request grants to provide additional resources for books, materials, equipment, programs or activities to provide a richer student experience in the classroom.”

The program made grants of up to \$400 available to classroom teachers across Jackson County in a competitive application program, an increase from a maximum of \$250 in the past.

“The fund paid out 28 grants in the first year of the newly renamed program,” Foundation President & CEO Dan Davis said. “We are excited to extend the impact of the classroom education grants and to honor Don Klaes through the generous spirit of his estate and the efforts of his siblings.”

Don was a graduate of Seymour High School. He served in the U.S. Army from 1982 to 1985, playing with the U.S. Army Band while stationed in Germany. In addition to his work with local bands and community theater, he had played in the worship band at Seymour Christian Church and The Alley Church. He was an avid chess player and a long-time employee at Mactac in Columbus.

“Don was a gifted keyboard player who was well known for his playing in several groups, churches, and with the Jackson County Community Theatre,” Dr. Chris Klaes said of his younger brother.

“His talents were enjoyed by many as a member of the Ang Trio, the Elements of Jazz, and the Sound of Dreams.”

Prior to this year, classroom education grants were funded with earnings from the Jackson County Unrestricted Endowment, administered by the Foundation. It was established by the Board of Directors with gifts from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help meet community needs within Jackson County. The program was started in 2001.

“Generally, not all applicants can receive funding,” Davis said. “The Foundation takes a number of factors into consideration when awarding the classroom education grants. We have long wished that we could fund more of the requests and provide larger grants. With this generous endowment from the estate of Don Klaes, we saw that come to fruition this year.”

The classroom education grant program was designed to help bring to the classroom bold, creative ideas that will inspire students, Foundation Vice President Sue Smith said.

2023-2024 Awarded Classroom Grants

Seymour High School Dawn Jones - \$400	Crothersville Elementary Cassandra Kelly - \$400
Seymour High School Adam Robinson - \$400	Crothersville Elementary Lisa Turner - \$377
Seymour Middle School Lindsey Kilgas - \$400	Medora Community Cody Martin - \$400
Seymour Middle School Amy Jo Miller Kuzel - \$383	Immanuel Lutheran Christine Behmlander - \$380
Jackson Elementary Cassidy Isaacs - \$396	Immanuel Lutheran Megan Keller - \$400
Brownstown Central HS Melanie Preston and Angie Sibrel - \$794	Immanuel Lutheran Alexandra Zaring - \$200
Brownstown Central MS Karen Ault - \$400	Lutheran Central Nickie Isaacs - \$236
Brownstown Central MS Michelle Branaman - \$400	Lutheran Central Rachel Klosterman - \$250
Brownstown Elementary Sheila Reynolds - \$400	Lutheran Central Andrea McKinley - \$358
Brownstown Elementary Michelle Rubin - \$400	Lutheran Central Sarah Rohr - \$267
Brownstown Elementary Chelsea Tabeling - \$391	Lutheran Central Danielle Rothert - \$400
Brownstown Elementary Lauren Voss - \$400	Trinity Lutheran HS Carrie Adler - \$400
Crothersville Jr/Sr HS Connie Hoskins - \$400	Trinity Lutheran HS Nikolas Overgaard - \$400
Crothersville Elementary Audrey Jolissaint - \$300	Zion Lutheran School Katie Tormoehlen - \$400

Grants tackle hunger, other human needs across Jackson County

Fall Grants top \$125,000

The Community Foundation of Jackson County approved Fall Grant recommendations in October 2023, providing \$125,138 for 21 grants.

Those grants will help feed county residents in need, help improve security at the Boys & Girls Club of Seymour and provide diapers for families in need through the Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry at First Presbyterian Church.

“Meeting the needs of people was a top priority for the Grant Committee in reviewing the grant applications and making our recommendations,” said Donald Schnitker, a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and chair of the committee.

The committee reviewed 25 applications totaling requests of \$190,628.

Money for the Fall Grant cycle comes from earnings on the Foundation’s community and field-of-interest funds. There was about \$125,000 available this year, and that was supplemented with grants from the Hobert Thompson Memorial Fund, the Nancy Hoevenor Stewart and Rick Stewart Endowment, the Orville & Mary Schnitker Memorial Endowment and a President’s Grant.

“This is the most in grant dollars the Foundation has awarded through the Fall Grant cycle,” Bruce Wynn said. Wynn is chair of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

That amount should continue to grow with the addition of new community funds, Foundation President & CEO Dan Davis added.

“We hope to see those grant dollars -- and their impact on the community -- grow into the future,” Davis said. “Our donors added six new community funds during 2023, most of which will start paying out grant dollars in 2025.”

You, too, may help

You can help grow the impact of the Fall Grant cycle by making a gift to endowed community and field-of-interest funds. Gifts may be made to the Community Foundation of Jackson County at 107 Community Drive, Seymour. Gifts may also be mailed to the Foundation, Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274. For information, call 812-523-4483, or click the DONATE NOW button on our website, cfjacksoncounty.org.

2023 Fall Grants

- American Red Cross Southeast Indiana Chapter, \$3,750 for home fire relief.
- Anchor House, \$15,000 to support the food insecure.
- The Arc of Jackson County, \$12,500 for the Arc Advocacy Program.
- Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, \$3,663 safety updates.
- Child Care Network, \$1,000 for Kids Fest 2024 and \$15,000 for an electrical upgrade.
- Community Provisions, \$15,000 to support the food insecure.
- Englishton Park, \$2,000 camper fees for Jackson County youth.
- First Presbyterian Church, \$10,000 for Sweet Cheeks Diaper Pantry.
- Girls Inc. of Jackson County, \$1,000 for Friendly PEERsuasion Program.
- Gleaners Food Bank, \$5,750 for school-based pantry program at Medora.
- Hamilton Township Volunteer Fire Department, \$6,000 for firefighter equipment.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church Child Care Ministry, \$7,000 for curriculum and library update.
- Jackson County History Center, \$4,675 to renovate bathrooms at Heller Museum.
- READ Jackson County, \$500 for signage and supplies.
- Riverview Cemetery Association, \$3,500 for tree removal.
- Schneck Medical Center-Healthy Jackson County, \$7,500 for community outreach and collaboration initiatives.
- Serenity Closet, \$1,000 for undergarments for those in need.
- Seymour Fire Department, \$6,550 for communication headsets.
- Seymour Museum Center, \$3,000 for exterior paint and repairs.
- Turning Point Domestic Violence Services, \$750 for family program.

Leadership project supports youth

Team establishes field-of-interest fund

The Youth Project Team of the 2023 graduating class of Leadership Jackson County took a long-term look for its project.

The 40th Anniversary Youth Project Team established a new fund at the Community Foundation of Jackson County – the Leadership Jackson County Youth Fund with the goal of supporting youth throughout Jackson County.

The team wanted to help area youth in a meaningful, ongoing manner, so members Michelle Benefiel, Jennifer Isaacs, Liz Moore, Haley Pennington and Dustin Steward reached out to the Foundation for guidance.

After reviewing options with Foundation President & CEO Dan Davis, the team collaboratively decided to create – with the assistance of donors, LJC Director Rexanne Ude and the Leadership Jackson County Board of Directors -- a field-of-interest fund that will pay out an annual grant in perpetuity to assist agencies helping youth across Jackson County.

This grant will help finance the Foundation’s annual competitive Fall Grant cycle.

The Foundation considers its community and field-of-interest funds among the most impactful in that they provide grant dollars to be allocated where changing and emerging needs arise, allowing flexibility from year to year, through the Fall Grant cycle.



Leadership Jackson County

Field of Interest Funds

The Brownstown Foundation

The Cartwright Endowment for the Arts

Carl Hemmer Memorial Fund

Jackson County Youth Foundation

Donald J. Klaes Music & the Performing Arts Fund

Leadership Jackson County Youth Fund

Nippon Steel Pipe America Inc. Charitable Endowment for Education

Seymour Schools-Elementary Schools Fund

Seymour Schools-Seymour Middle School Fund

Seymour Schools-Seymour High School Fund

Seymour Schools-Athletic Department Fund

Seymour Schools-Fine Arts Fund

The Shelter Fund

Granger H. and Ruth M. Smith Drug Abuse Prevention Fund

Tri Kappa Endowment

You, too, can help, by making a gift to the Leadership Jackson County Youth Fund. You may write a check to the Foundation (write “LJC Youth Fund” in the memo line) and send it to the Community Foundation of Jackson County, P.O. Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or drop it by the Foundation’s office at 107 Community Drive in Seymour. You may also make a gift through PayPal by logging onto the Foundation’s website at cfjacksoncounty.org and clicking on the “Donate Now” button. More information call 812-523-4483.

At left, YoJack students discuss their reactions to grant proposals from three Jackson County nonprofits during YoJack Philanthropy Day at the Community Foundation of Jackson County in November. With the students are volunteer Terrye Davidson, seated in the center, and Foundation Vice President Sue Smith, standing. YoJack, the youth component of Leadership Jackson County, meets twice annually at the Foundation. Students learn about philanthropy and the Foundation’s work. YoJack benefits from two funds at the Foundation: The Nita Mousa YoJack Fund and the Jackson County Youth Foundation Fund.



Scholarship recipient shares farm story

By C.J. Miller
Hoosier Ag Today

If you have little kids, grandkids or little ones in your life in general, then you may want to check out a new children's book written in 2023 by a Purdue University College of Agriculture student that helps teach kids about the importance of farming and agriculture.

Seymour resident Kourtney Otte wrote and illustrated her new book, "The Young American Farmer," which is available now at amazon.com. Putting her book together from start to finish came about in an incredibly short amount of time, she said.

"I sat down over Thanksgiving break, and the next thing you know, all the illustrations were done," she said. "I was happy with how it looked, and I was able to get it published."



Otte, who also served as Indiana FFA state president in 2021-22, says she wanted to share her love of farming and agriculture with young children. She is a 2021 recipient of the Gary E. Plumer Memorial Agricultural Scholarship from the Community Foundation of Jackson County.

"At the end of the day, agriculture has left such a big impact on me," Otte said. "I feel like I tend to take it for granted sometimes, so I really want to sit down and look at it through this lens of childlike joy or how a child would look at agriculture if they've never seen it before."

"I got a puppy a couple weeks ago, and her name is Millie. She kickstarted the whole idea (of the main character). I thought, 'If Millie was a kid, what would I tell her about agriculture?'"

The book's main lesson is that agriculture provides so much more than the food we eat.

"Agriculture is more than the corn and the soybean fields I grew up with as well as pigs and the cows," Otte said. "It's the cotton fields in the southern half of the United States. It's the grapevines. It's the apple orchards. So I really wanted to capitalize on all of agriculture so it can kind of bring about those deeper conversations with children about how everything we use comes from agriculture. I wouldn't be sitting in the Purdue University Memorial Union if it wasn't for agriculture because of the wood (used in the building), so I think it brings recognition to all these different areas of agriculture."

Profits from the book are going to a program to help further ag education in schools.

The program aims to help create small urban farms for urban schools, such as vertical gardens, so that students can actively see, even if they aren't on a 100-acre farm.

"They can still be involved in agriculture and can still grow their own food," Otte said. "My hope is that the money from this helps students to see agriculture in a different light."

Receiving the Plumer scholarship and others helped Otte navigate her freshman year debt free.

"They allowed me to truly focus on my academics," she said. "I was able



Kourtney Otte, who is originally from Seymour, wrote and illustrated a book, "The Young American Farmer," which is available now at amazon.com. Otte was the 2021 recipient of the Gary E. Plumer Memorial Agricultural Scholarship from the Community Foundation of Jackson County. Photo courtesy of Shelby Whitaker Photography. The photo of the book is courtesy of Amazon.com.

to add a second major, join countless clubs and hold leadership roles because I didn't have to worry. Scholarships, including what I received from the Community Foundation, also gave me the opportunity to achieve one of my biggest goals – writing and illustrating a children's book."

This story originally appeared at hoosieragtoday.com. C.J. Miller is assistant news director for Hoosier Ag Today.

How to donate

You can donate to the Gary E. Plumer Memorial Agricultural Scholarship Fund or other scholarship funds at the Community Foundation of Jackson County. To make a tax-deductible gift to the fund, checks may be sent to the Foundation at Post Office Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or dropped off at our office, 107 Community Drive, Seymour. Gifts may also be made through our website at cfjacksoncounty.org – click on the DONATE NOW button.

ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS

Non-Endowed Funds

Brownstown Central Turf Project Fund	Marilyn Mellencamp Scholarship for the Arts
Brownstown Pickleball Court Construction Fund	Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge Fund
John H. and Thomas W. Conner Antique Print Shop Museum Operating Fund	Janet L. and Gary F. Myers Charitable Fund
Crothersville Community Scholarship Fund	Owen-Carr Township Community Fund
Laikyn Field Memorial Fund	The Point Ministry Fund
Immanuel United Church of Christ Vernon Township Community Fund	Gary E. Plumer Memorial Agricultural Scholarship Fund
Jackson County Bicentennial Fund	Margie Redmon Fund
Jackson County Canine Shelter Fund	Rust Companies Foundation
Jackson County Hearing Aid Fund for School Age Children	Seymour Firefighters Local 577 Scholarship Fund
Jackson County Learning Center Capital Projects Fund	Seymour High School Wall of Fame Fund
Jackson County Sertoma Christmas Miracle Fund	Sparksville Park Fund
Jackson County Veterinary Scholarship Fund	St. Andrew United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund
Marvin and Mary Klaes Memorial Adult Scholarship Fund	St. John's Sauers Lutheran Church Capital Projects Fund
E. Morton and Julia R. Lester Memorial Scholarship Fund	Dennis and Nancy Sterling Fund
Duane Martin Vocational Scholarship Fund	Tri Kappa Scholarship Fund
Medora High School/Gossman Scholarship Fund	Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Education and Maintenance Fund
	Daniel A. Walters and Susan Wolf-Walters Fund
	Adria Ann Waskom Memorial Fund

Donor Advised Funds

Bender Lumber Co., Inc. Fund	David R. Lange Memorial Fund
Tom and Dana Bollinger Family Endowment	Everett V. and Maria Moritz Fund
Tom and Harriet Conner Fund	The Francis "Pat" & Dorothy M. Myers Fund
Crothersville Community Schools Fund	Orville and Mary Schnitker Memorial Endowment
W. Andrew Denny and Carol Denny Fund	Seymour Noon Lions Club Donor Advised Fund
The Hoevener Endowment Fund	Nancy Hoevener Stewart and Rick Stewart Endowment
Jackson County Sertoma Club Endowment	Hobert Thompson Memorial Fund
Chris Johnson Memorial Endowment	Dave and Ann Windley Fund
Carl and Doris Kovener Endowment	

ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS

Designated and Agency Funds

The Jessica Barkman/Girls Inc. Athletic Scholarship Fund	Crothersville Jr/Sr High School Vocational/ Technical Fund	Jackson County Learning Center Endowment
Clarice Beineke Fund	Jody Deckard Workforce Development Endowment Fund	Jackson County Public Library Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County Endowment Fund	Developmental Services, Inc. Endowment Fund	Jackson County Sertoma Christmas Miracle Endowment
Ernest N. Birge Boy Scout Fund	Lee S. Ertel Memorial 4-H Endowment	Jackson County Sertoma Club Hearing Aid Endowment
Ellis E. Bland & Marjorie J. Wriighthouse Bland Endowment	Mary Ellen Easterday Education Support Fund for St. Ambrose School	Jackson County United Fund, Inc. Endowment
Board of Directors Endowment	Freeman Army Airfield Museum Endowment	Delbert D. Kilgas & Marlis Kilgas Endowment
Don and Emmylou Bollinger Endowed Scholarship	Girls Inc. Endowment	Donald J. Klaes Classroom Education Grant Endowment
Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, Inc. Endowments	Girls Inc. of Jackson County Fund	Mail Masters, Indiana University Southeast Endowment Fund
Branaman Family Endowment for Jackson County Community Theatre	Les Gilkey Music Fund	Larry McDonald Band Fund
John Britton Seymour High School Baseball Fund	Nick Greemann First Presbyterian Church Endowment	Nita Mousa YoJack Fund
Brooklawn Child & Family Services Endowment Fund	Habitat for Humanity of Jackson County for Building Trades Fund	Edmund and Verna Murray Industrial Development Fund
Don Brown High School Art Endowment	C.B. Hess 4-H Memorial Scholarship	Thomas M. and Mary Louise Nolting Endowment
Brownstown Christian Church Endowment	Edward H. Howard and Dorothy E. Howard Boys & Girls Club of Seymour Fund	Owen-Carr Township Community Endowment
Brownstown Presbyterian Church Fund	Humane Society of Jackson County	Dick Parman Brownstown Fund for the Arts
Tracy Bullard Memorial Endowment	Immanuel United Church of Christ Children's Fund	Jane & Dick Parman Health Endowment
Marie Burgess Memorial 4-H Sewing Award Fund	Immanuel United Church of Christ Vernon Township Cemetery Fund	The Point Endowment
Child Care Network Child-Care Center Endowment	Immanuel United Church of Christ Vernon Township Community Endowment	Frederick M. and Karen L. Pollert/ Immanuel Lutheran School Endowment
Child Care Network, Inc. Endowment	The Jackson County Bank Administrative Endowment Fund	Reddington Christian Church Endowment
Katie Collman Playground Fund	Jackson County Economic Development Fund	Grant Alan Reedy Athletic Training Endowment
Community Kids Net Endowment	Jackson County History Center Fund	Carl and Marie Rucker Endowment
Community Provisions of Jackson County, Inc. Endowment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader Dogs for the Blind • Pleasant Hill Cemetery • Whites Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery
John H. and Thomas W. Conner Antique Print Shop Museum Endowment		

Designated and Agency Funds

Seymour Industrial Association Fund	Trinity Lutheran High School Endowment
SIHO Schneck Foundation Endowment	The Tuesday Club Library Endowment
Southern Indiana Center for the Arts Fund	Turning Point Domestic Violence Services Endowment Fund
State Bank of Medora Scholarship Fund	Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Endowment
Ken and Cindy Stella, Indiana University Endowment Fund	Mary Vehslage Seymour Museum Fund
Dennis and Nancy Sterling/Brownstown Community Schools Endowment	The F. Walter Voss and Tom G. Voss Boys and Girls Club of Seymour Fund
Larry and Joanne Sunbury Endowment	C.W. "Bud" Walther Learning Center Endowment
St. John's Sauers Lutheran Church Endowment	Don Waltz First Baptist Church Endowment
T & W Corporation Junior Golf Endowment	Bessie J. White Endowment Fund
Terkhorn Lutheran Central School Endowment Fund	Zion Lutheran Church Endowment
Terkhorn Memorial Endowment Fund	Zion Lutheran Church Education Fund
Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment	Zion Lutheran Church Foundation Music and Education Fund
Trinity Lutheran Church Organ and Music Fund	

Community (unrestricted) Funds

Aisin U.S.A. Mfg., Inc. Endowment	Lasater Family Community Fund
John & Kay Beatty Community Endowment	The Mary Evelyn Mellencamp Memorial Fund
The Donn Bishop Family Endowment	The Nehrt Family Community Endowment
Bob Poynter GM Community Fund	Virginia G. Otto Endowment Fund
The Don Bollinger Memorial Fund	Potts Family Endowment
Brownstown Ewing Main Street Community Endowment	Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Alpha Beta Chapter Endowment
Michael and Ardith Fleetwood Unrestricted Endowment	Todd Schleibaum Community Endowment
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 655 Community Fund	Schneider Nursery Community Endowment
J.B. and Carrie Hackman Community Fund	Cathy and Grant Schneider Community Endowment
Bob and Kate Hall Endowment	Jim Schneider Community Endowment
Irwin Union Bank & Trust Co. Fund	Seymour Oktoberfest Community Endowment
Jackson County Community Endowment	SIHO Insurance Services Community Endowment
Jackson County Unrestricted Endowment	Mark & Sue Smith Community Endowment
Jackson Lodge #146 F & AM Endowment	Larry and Joanne Sunbury Community Endowment
Donald J. Klaes Community Endowment	Helen and Bill Swain Community Endowment
Brent and Sandra Kilgas Community Fund	Ralph and Carol Sweany Community Fund
The Thomas J. Lantz/ Montgomery, Elsner & Pardieck Community Endowment	Sarah M. Waldkoetter Community Fund
	Johnny Walter Memorial Fund

ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS

Scholarship Funds

Gina Shepard Ballard Scholarship	Ruby and Floyd W. Martin Scholarship	Seymour Oktoberfest Vocational Scholarship
Bateman Engineering Scholarship	Harold "Teep" and Oguerita McKinney Scholarship	William B. Sharp Scholarship
Louis and Judy Bobb Scholarship	Jane E. Meyer Nurse Practitioner Scholarship	SHS Class of 1972 Scholarship
Branaman Family Scholarship	Ken A. Miller Memorial Scholarship	Stuckwisch Educational Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. R. Todd Bergman Scholarship	Julie A. Moore Scholarship	Omer and Jean Terkhorn Scholarship
Marc Owen Chandler Memorial Scholarship	Nippon Steel Pipe America Inc. Scholarship	James Ralph Thompson Memorial Scholarship
Clodfelter Family Scholarship	The Bob and Eileen Prather Memorial Scholarship	James Temple Thompson Memorial Scholarship
The Laura Culp Memorial Scholarship	Premier Companies / Bob Myers Memorial Scholarship	Jasper N. Thompson Memorial Scholarship
Richard "Dick" Elmore Scholarship	John E. and Ruth A. Reedy Scholarship	Dr. Charles Trumbo Endowment
Madge and Jack Fountain Scholarship	Charles and Eileen Roeger Scholarship	Marcella Trumbo Seymour Alumni Scholarship
Frische Family Endowment	The Royalty Scholarship Endowment	J. David Vandivier/Dicksons Scholarship
George Gossman Family Scholarship	Brian T. Rudolph Memorial Nursing Scholarship	The Kenneth N. and Helen Warbritton Memorial Scholarship
Tom and Juanita Groub Scholarship	Walter & Cora Schlehuser - Clark & Ruth Thompson Scholarship	Kenneth S. Warbritton Scholarship
Habitat for Humanity of Jackson County Building Trades Scholarship	George Schneider Scholarship	Richard West Memorial/Mr. & Mrs. Ruel West/ Dr. & Mrs. Donald Cummings Scholarship
Connie Bowling Hehman Teacher Scholarship	The Seymour American Legion Post 89 Achievement Scholarship	Ann Windley Leadership Jackson County Scholarship
Immanuel United Church of Christ Scholarship	Coach Donna Sullivan Title IX Legacy Scholarship	Jeremy Wischmeier Vocational Scholarship
Jackson County Community Scholarship	Marietta Louise and Erwin August Henry Surenkamp Scholarship	Charles Frederick Wolter Memorial Scholarship
Jackson County FFA Scholarship	Seymour Kiwanis Club Scholarship	C. Sidney Zabel Scholarship
Jay C Food Stores Scholarship		
The Klaes Memorial Scholarship		
The Elmer and Ida Lacey Scholarship		
Orville and Laura Lubker/Purdue University Scholarship		

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program began in 1997. It was created to "raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana and increase awareness of the potential of Indiana's community foundations to improve the quality of life of the state's residents." The Community Foundation of Jackson County currently has 4 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars attending Indiana colleges. The program provides full tuition, fees, and a stipend for books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study, full time basis, leading to a baccalaureate degree at any Indiana public or private college or university accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.



Ekaterina Cox
2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Recipient

Current Lilly Endowment Community Scholars

Ekaterina Cox
2023
Purdue University
Grant Elliott
2022
Hanover College

Ellie Cornn
2021
Butler University
Trey Hackman
2020
Purdue University

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars Alumni

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Levi Bays | Jason Fish | Evan Hill | Nathan Press | Jordyn Stuart |
| Jami Bennett | Marc Fountain | Anna May Huff | Jordan Raynor | Elizabeth Sunbury |
| Samuel Borcharding | Luke Gallion | Allison Klinge | Madison Reynolds | Caitlin Thomas |
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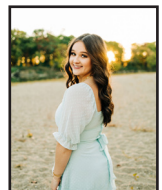
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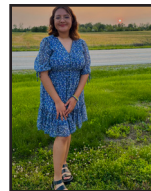
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Brookings study: Seymour

Project helps map future focus



Executive Director Jim Plump, left, of the Jackson County Industrial Development Corp., attends an organizational meeting of the Brookings Institution/LISC Study teams from Seymour, Michigan City and Warsaw.

Developing new neighborhoods. Preparing workers for new and better jobs. Creating a family welcome and resource center. Building an indoor recreation center.

Those and other projects large and small make up the Burkart Opportunity Zone proposals, unveiled in the fall as the Seymour Brookings Institution-LISC Study team wrapped up more than 10 months of convening, planning and mapping out community needs.

This wishlist of potential projects for Seymour offers a road map aimed at turning many of those plans into a reality over the next three years and may blend well with READI 2 work during 2024.

Seymour joined Warsaw and Michigan City at the invitation of the Indiana

Economic Development Corp. in working with Brookings and the Local Initiatives Support Corp. to develop place-based strategies to span gaps in health, wealth and opportunity.

The Seymour team, comprised of a broad range of people across the community, developed a game plan for improvements in what is called the Burkart Opportunity Zone, an area running along Burkart Boulevard and encompassing the East Side Industrial Park on the northeast side and Freeman Municipal Airport to the southwest and spaces in between.

Proposals include training the local workforce and adding workforce housing; connecting people to work and play; improving affordable housing options and expanding housing options for a growing population; and creating new places and spaces for recreation and socializing.

Among those projects is a proposed welcome and resource center for new arrivals to the community and a proposal to improve multi-lingual communications. They help tackle a primary aim of the study to better connect Seymour's growing immigrant population to the overall community, thereby moving the entire community forward economically. The city's population grew from 17,503 in the 2010 census to 21,569 in the 2020 census, due largely to an increase in the Latino/

Hispanic population.

Representatives of the City of Seymour, Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. and the Community Foundation of Jackson County served as the core team working with Brookings, LISC and its consultants, Anderson+Bohlander LLC, bringing more than 20 other community members together over five months of meeting, talking and planning.

The work also included gathering several focus groups, such as employees of Pet Supplies Plus and Aisin USA, the Mayor's Youth Council and JAG students, a pastors' roundtable, Seymour Young Professionals, 4-H Juntos members and their families and Margaret R. Brown School Elementary School leaders.



The drawing above is a conceptual sketch of a potential new neighborhood for the city of Seymour. Expanding housing options -- and growing housing stock -- is just one focus area of the Brookings Institution/LISC Study.

AIREADI making a difference, impact

Vincennes opens training program

Several Indiana colleges have their name outside the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour. Vincennes University added its name in 2023.

In November, the state's first college officially opened its new industrial maintenance training lab at the learning center at 323 Dupont Drive in partnership with the Jackson County Industrial Development Corp., the Jackson County Education Coalition, the Community Foundation of Jackson County, the City of Seymour and Jackson County as part of the state's READI program.

Vincennes offers four courses — basic electrical, basic mechanical, intermediate electrical and intermediate mechanical — in the 1,600-square-foot, state-of-the-art training lab filled with high-quality equipment. Growth of the program to include more advanced training is anticipated.

Class content includes AC/DC electrical systems, electric

motor control with troubleshooting, electronic sensors, mechanical drives, chains, belts and gears, pneumatics, hydraulics, motors with troubleshooting, bearings and lubricants, laser shaft alignment, vibration analysis and power and control electronics.

VU President Chuck Johnson said the lab is a testament to various entities coming together to address a critical need for the state and region — a well-qualified workforce.

“VU is so proud and honored to be here with you and be your partner in this venture because we believe we can be a great addition to this team,” he said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“One of the great things about Vincennes University beyond the wonderful educational opportunities provided through traditional mechanisms, traditional pathways is the way our workforce



Jim Plump of Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. speaks with Vincennes University President Charles R. “Chuck” Johnson, President & CEO Scott Turpin of AISIN World Corp. of America and Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson.

and community development folks work together to address needs that are different in each region or community but still have some common threads,” he said.

Among those threads is the goal of getting people to work with skills they need that will sustain them not just for today but into the future, Johnson said.

“We’re not talking about building jobs. We’re talking about building careers and lives, and I think that’s what this environment, this facility represents today,” he said.

Johnson said local industries partnering with the local and state entities shows their commitment to developing their workforce and investing in the community in the future.

In July 2022, the Seymour Redevelopment Commission pledged its support to expand classes at the Learning Center. That allowed JCIDC Executive Director Jim Plump to continue to talk to local industries to get them on board, too.

If that happened and \$240,000 was put in from the Regional Economic



Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Vincennes University industrial maintenance training program at the Jackson County Learning Center in November 2023.

Acceleration and Development Initiative or READI grant, the project could come to fruition. The total budget was \$1.84 million, and the grant required a match of public and private dollars.

During meetings in May and June, Plump shared he had secured funding from local companies, including Aisin, Cummins, and Valeo and the redevelopment commission approved its contributions of \$240,000 for 2022 and \$240,000 for 2023.

Part of the money was used to purchase equipment and hire an instructor for maintenance classes.

Additionally, the Community Foundation of Jackson County Board of Directors approved two grants from the Jackson County Learning Center Capital Projects Fund for installation of air and electrical drops to prepare the lab room for the new VU program.

“With the large concentration of industry in Seymour, Jackson County and the surrounding area, the need for maintenance training was constantly mentioned as a need during our conversations with companies,” Plump said.

“As we met to try and figure out how we could pull something like this together, the reputation of Vincennes University’s training programs made it an easy call to see if they could be our partner to offer this training,” he said.

Heidi Young with Indiana Economic Development Corp. said Gov. Eric Holcomb launched READI to encourage regional collaboration and data-driven, long-term planning that when implemented would attract and retain talent in Indiana.

Regions across the state applied and were awarded a combined \$500 million to invest in projects that enhance quality of life, quality of place and quality of opportunity within their communities. The south central Indiana region was awarded \$30 million and invested \$480,000 into this project, Young said.

“The learning lab was prioritized and invested in by the region because it delivers upon the goals of READI,” Young said. “The courses offered here at the learning lab will help to close the skills gap between the local employers and the workforce while also promoting enhanced educational and career opportunities within the community.”

Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson said several years ago he was told a community is either dying or moving forward. The new lab is a sign that the city is doing the latter.

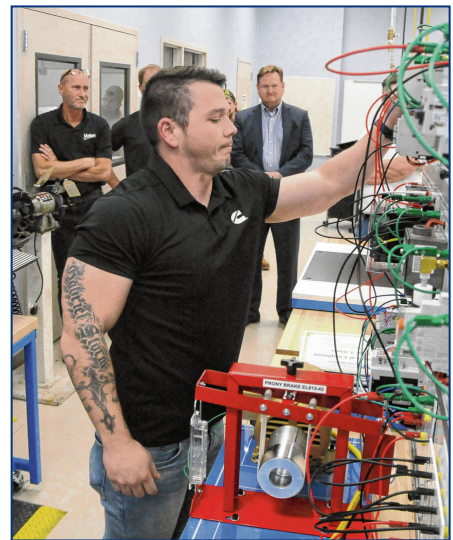
“Today, we are moving forward, we’re continuing to step into the future,” he said.

The maintenance courses run for 11 weeks, with two groups of 10 students spending eight hours twice a week, said VU instructor Brian Sawyers.

In the end, Sawyers said the students will receive a certificate of completion to put in their file and on their résumé.

The Foundation is excited to be a part of this effort.

“The Foundation and our supporting organization, the Jackson County Education Coalition, are excited to be



A Cummins Inc. employee demonstrates a procedure worked on during the first round of classes at the Vincennes University industrial maintenance training program at the Jackson County Learning Center.

playing a role in this important development for our community,” Foundation Board Chair Bruce Wynn said. “It is a strong example of the Foundation working with multiple community partners to make a lasting difference for the good.”

Foundation President & CEO Dan Davis said those same partners are also working on an expansion of the Vincennes training program through a READI 2.0 project now being developed.

How to donate

You can donate to the Jackson County Learning Center Capital Projects Fund at the Community Foundation of Jackson County. To make a tax-deductible gift to the fund, checks may be sent to the Foundation at Post Office Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or dropped off at our office, 107 Community Drive, Seymour. Gifts may also be made through our website at cfjackson-county.org – click on the DONATE NOW button.



Construction of the Driftwood Township Volunteer Fire Department's new firehouse on Main Street in Vallonia opened for service in 2023. A Community Foundation of Jackson County 2022 Fall Grant of \$12,000 helped the department finance construction of the four-bay building. During Fort Vallonia Days in October, the firehouse also served as a dining area for patrons enjoying the department's fried fish sandwiches. The new building replaces an aging, cramped firehouse built in 1956. That structure will be used to store equipment. "This was an ongoing process for three years," Fire Chief Clint Wolka said. "The community and the fire department came together... and we are very proud to give this to the community."

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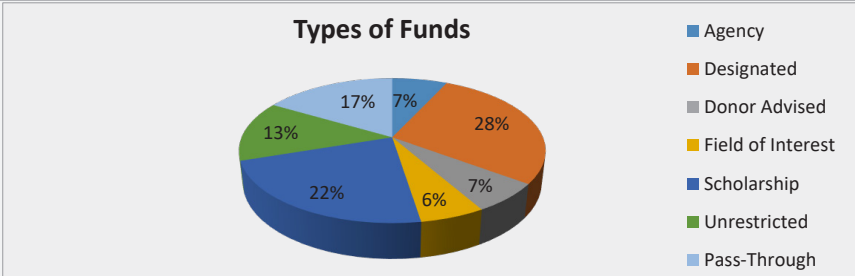
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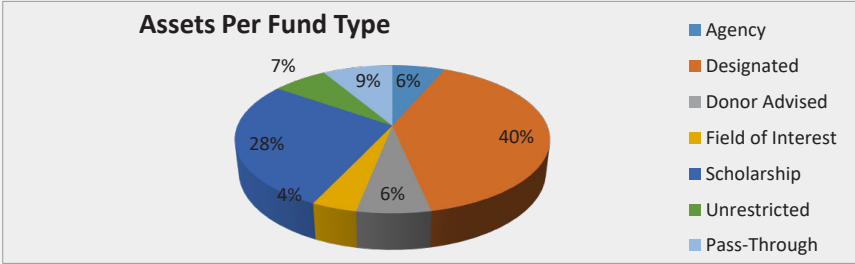
Community Foundation of Jackson County

December 31, 2023

Type of Fund	Number
Agency	18
Designated	73
Donor Advised	17
Field of Interest	15
Scholarship	58
Unrestricted	35
Pass-Through	43
Total Funds	259



Agency	\$	1,052,141
Designated	\$	6,509,110
Donor Advised	\$	1,034,410
Field of Interest	\$	634,795
Scholarship	\$	4,489,120
Unrestricted	\$	1,088,457
Pass-Through	\$	1,389,066
Total Assets	\$	16,197,100

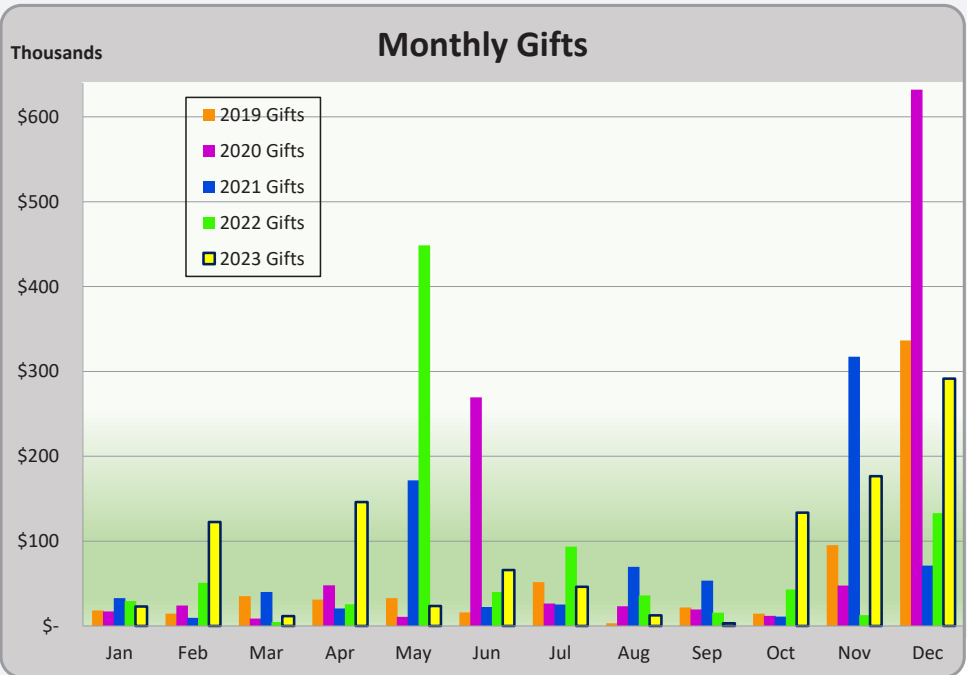


NEW FUNDS THIS YEAR: 15 NEW FUNDS LAST YEAR: 12

2023 Gifts	
Jan	\$23,058.68
Feb	\$122,594.00
Mar	\$11,478.00
Apr	\$146,114.60
May	\$23,606.00
Jun	\$66,005.00
Jul	\$46,084.17
Aug	\$12,365.00
Sep	\$3,151.99
Oct	\$133,626.79
Nov	\$176,620.37
Dec	\$291,467.97

Largest Gift 2022	\$375,000.00
Largest Gift 2023	\$100,000.00
Scholarship Awards:	\$115,479.90 \$142,874.65
All Other Grants:	\$784,115.42 \$881,900.22
	\$899,595.32 \$1,024,774.87

TOTAL GIFTS	\$1,056,172.57
2022 Gifts	
Jan	\$29,315.86
Feb	\$50,717.00
Mar	\$4,665.30
Apr	\$25,538.89
May	\$448,595.68
Jun	\$40,175.72
Jul	\$93,372.99
Aug	\$36,120.20
Sep	\$15,700.00
Oct	\$42,926.36
Nov	\$12,641.12
Dec	\$132,907.59
TOTAL GIFTS	\$932,676.71



The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
of **Jackson County**

Together, we grow tomorrows

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