OCTOBER

Impact Monthly

2026

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | WWW.MADISONCCF.ORG



Dear friends and community partners,

As we approach the final months of 2026, we are reminded that strengthening a community requires both responding to the needs of today and preparing for the opportunities of tomorrow.

This month, we are pleased to highlight the recipients of our Fall Community Impact Grants. Made possible through unrestricted giving, these grants reflect the importance of having flexible resources to respond to the changing needs of Madison County. They also demonstrate the lasting value of generosity that allows us to invest where support is needed most.

As we look toward 2027, our team remains committed to strengthening our organizational capacity, bringing people together, and building partnerships that create meaningful, lasting impact. There is much to accomplish, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

With year-end approaching, I also encourage you to consider how your charitable giving can make a difference. Our team is always available to help you explore opportunities to support the causes and organizations that matter most to you.



Thank you for your continued generosity, partnership, and belief in Madison County. Together, we are investing in lasting positive change that will elevate and strengthen our community for generations to come.

Ben Davis

Ben Davis, President

INTEGRITY COMMUNITY IMPACT INCLUSION LEGACY

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Fall Impact Grant Recipients

This month, we welcomed different Madison County Community Leaders to MCCF to receive our Fall Impact Grants. A total of 30 grants, totaling $149,750, will support initiatives in Madison County. These grants covered 5 different categories of needs within the community. These categories include:

Arts, Culture, and History | Thriving Community | Health and Human Services | Education | Community Engagement

Ambassadors for God's Creatures- *Trap Neuter Return Vaccinate Initiative*

Anderson First Church of the Nazarene/The Community Center @AFC- *Community Athletics Program/Fencing*

Anderson's Mainstage Theatre- *Anderson's Mainstage Theatre Youth Academy*

Aspire Indiana Health- *Barrier Buster Funds*

BLOOM Madison County- *Seedlings: A Farm to School Initiative at Eastside Elementary*

CASA Program of Madison County, Indiana, Inc,(d/b/a East Central Indiana CASA)- *Child Advocacy Project*

Celebrate Life International, Inc. dba Teach One to Lead One- *Anderson Intermediate School T1L1 Community Mentoring Program*

Child Advocates- *Child Advocates Mediation Program*

Children's Bureau, Inc. DBA Firefly- *Emergency Aid for Families in Madison County*

Claude McNeals Musical Theatre Training Program Inc.- *ACT Out Social-Issue Theatre at Elwood Junior-Senior High School*

College Mentors for Kids- *College Mentors for Kids mentor program at Anderson University*

Combat Ministries- *Campus Security, Accessibility & Infrastructure Modernization*







Fall Impact Grant Recipients cont'd









Elwood Food Pantry- *Renewing our Mission Program*

Grace Horizon- *Supplemental Staff Salary for Survivor Support*

Indiana Center for the Prevention of Youth Abuse and Suicide- *Youth Abuse and Suicide Prevention and Digital Safety for Madison County Youth*

Indianapolis Children's Choir- *Anderson Area Children's Choir*

Kiwanis Club of Alexandria- *4H Fairground electrification project*

Little Red Door Cancer Agency- *Cancer Support Services for Low-Income Madison County Cancer Patients and Caregivers*

Mercy Table, Inc.- *Mercy Table Resource Access and Capacity Project*

Paramount Heritage Foundation, Inc.- *Paramount Theatre Children's Theatre Series*

Pendleton Amateur Radio Club- *Enhancements to current equipment and purchase a system for satellite and moon bounce communications*

Pendleton Historical Museum- *Exterior Security Cameras*

Servants at Work- *Wheelchair Ramps in Madison County*

Society of St. Vincent- *Non-food Items for clients*

South Meridian Church of God- *Neighborhood Strategic Doing*

St. John's Early Literacy Preschool and Childcare- *Preschool Enrichment Programs and Field Trips*

St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital Foundation, Inc.- *Equine and Healing Art Therapies Program for Adolescent Behavioural Health*

The Anderson Impact Center- *The Sweet 16 Neighborhood Cafeteria Improvement Project*

The Village Anderson- *The Village Indiana*

We Help Dads Indiana, Inc.- *Dedicated Dads 2.0*



Welcome,

James Ragsdale

Director of Finance

We are pleased to welcome James “Jim” Ragsdale as the Director of Finance for the Madison County Community Foundation, where he brings a commitment to lifelong learning, collaboration, and community investment. He is energized by the opportunity to support the organizations and individuals working to strengthen Madison County.

Jim's perspective on life and community was shaped in part by his early childhood in Zambia, where he was born to missionary parents. His family moved to Indiana when he was five years old, and the experiences and relationships he developed growing up helped shape his values and commitment to serving others.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Anderson University and his Master of Business Administration from Indiana University. A lifelong learner, Jim enjoys discovering new perspectives and learning from the people around him. He is passionate about investing in his community through his church, relationships with neighbors, and work throughout Madison County. He believes everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their potential and values the diverse experiences and perspectives that contribute to thoughtful decision-making and creative problem-solving.



Through his work at the Foundation, Jim hopes to connect people, ideas, and resources in ways that build on Madison County's strengths. He is particularly interested in creating opportunities that encourage talented individuals to remain in the community, share their gifts, and contribute to its future. His approach is guided by empathy, curiosity, and a belief that investing in others is among life's most rewarding pursuits.

Outside of work, Jim enjoys reading, working with his hands, and volunteering at his church. His wife is a lifelong Anderson resident, and together they have two married sons who live in Central Indiana and one grandchild. Family is an important part of his life, and he enjoys the time they spend together.

Jim is excited to be part of the Foundation and contribute to its mission of strengthening Madison County for generations to come.

Fund Spotlight





Rev. ML Hunt Memorial Fund

in support of the Anderson Madison County Black Chamber of Commerce

Some legacies are not just measured by what a person accomplished, but also in the opportunities that they create for future generations.

For the Anderson Madison County Black Chamber of Commerce (AMCBCC), the Rev. ML Hunt Fund represents that kind of legacy.

The Fund was established in honor of the late Reverend Manuel L. Hunt, who was known as a foundational leader, mentor, and advocate for Black and minority-owned businesses. The Fund seeks to continue his lifelong dedication to economic empowerment, education, and community advancement.

Rev. Hunt helped to establish the Chamber in 2006 to ensure that minority-owned businesses had access to advocacy, education, networking, and economic opportunities. His influence extended beyond Anderson and Madison County to communities across Indiana such as Indianapolis, Kokomo, Marion, and Muncie.

For Tamie Dixon-Tatum, President of the AMCBCC, the inspiration behind the memorial fund was personal.

“Rev. Hunt trusted me to lead an organization that he and a few others built,” Dixon-Tatum shared. “We, the Black Chamber, wanted to carry out Rev. Hunt’s dream and preserve his legacy by making the AMCBCC a permanent support system in our collective community.”

The endowment is intended to provide substantial financial support, helping the Chamber advance their mission beyond fundraising efforts, and ensuring that Rev. Hunt’s vision comes to fruition.

The Chamber envisions the fund to support three key priorities: scholarships for minority students, the AMCBCC Business Institute, and its award-winning Lemonade Day Youth Entrepreneurship Program. These initiatives create opportunities for students, strengthen business knowledge, and introduce young people to entrepreneurship and financial responsibility.



This partnership demonstrates how intentional generosity can create lasting community impact.

The Rev. ML Hunt Memorial Fund is more than a tribute to a remarkable leader. It is a commitment to stronger businesses, educational opportunity, and generations of future entrepreneurs. Through this enduring investment, Rev. Hunt’s legacy will continue to open doors and strengthen the community he worked so passionately to serve.

Give Now

October Campaign Spotlight

Women in Philanthropy | THE LEGACY COLLECTIVE

46%

Help Us Reach $1 Million for Women in Philanthropy

This is a powerful legacy benchmark, ensuring that the generosity of today's women continues to shape Madison County for generations.

Give Now

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, **$111,669 has already been raised toward our $242,780 fundraising goal, bringing us to 46%!**

We have just over **$131,000 left to raise** to help bring the Women in Philanthropy endowment to $1 million.

Join the Legacy Collective and help us complete this vision, creating lasting opportunities for women and children in Madison County for generations to come.

$111,669
RAISED IN NEW GIFTS

$131,111
STILL TO RAISE

CAMPAIGN DONOR GOAL	$242,780
CURRENT ENDOWMENT BALANCE	$606,663

every dollar = triple impact

give $1, we add $2

Women in Philanthropy

A Year of Honor

Honor her.
Celebrate her.
Grow the legacy.

*As part of our **Legacy Collective Campaign**, we are working to grow the **Women in Philanthropy Endowment to $1 million**, increasing our annual grantmaking capacity to **$40,000** to support programs and organizations serving women and children throughout Madison County.*

Through a generous 2:1 match, every gift is tripled, bringing us closer to this exciting milestone and creating an even greater impact for generations to come.

*Our **Year of Honor** initiative offers a meaningful way to be part of this effort by celebrating the women in your life while helping build a lasting legacy of generosity.*

Make 2027 a Year of Honor

- ***Celebrate:** Think about the women you want to honor in 2027, from birthdays and milestones to everyday moments of gratitude.*
- ***Plan:** Complete the Honor Gift Planning Form to schedule one or more gifts throughout the year.*
- ***Multiply**: Every gift is matched 2:1, tripling its impact!*
- ***Share:** We send a personalized card letting each honoree know a gift has been made in her honor.*
- ***Leave a Legacy**: Your generosity continues making a difference for women and children in Madison County for generations to come.*

Complete Your Honor Gift Planning Form

Occasions to Consider

Any meaningful date can become a moment of honor

- Birthday
- Mother's Day
- Anniversary
- Retirement
- Graduation
- Holiday
- Memorial date
- Teacher Appreciation
- Volunteer Recognition
- Professional Milestone
- International Women's Day
- Just Because
- A Mentor
- A Mother or Grandmother
- A Daughter or Granddaughter
- A Lifelong Friend
- A Colleague or Leader
- Someone Who Shaped Your Life









OCTOBER 2026

IMPACT STORY

COLLEGE MENTORS FOR KIDS

Your Generosity Helps Students Build Brighter Futures

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and imagine a future full of possibilities. But without exposure to new experiences and career paths, it can be difficult for children to envision what that future might hold.

College Mentors for Kids at Anderson University is helping change that by connecting local elementary students with college mentors who encourage them to learn, build confidence, and try new things. **Through an Impact Madison Grant from Madison County Community Foundation, College Mentors for Kids supports activities that bring college students and local children together.**





Partnering with Anderson Elementary School, the program provides mentorship and enrichment opportunities for children who can benefit from additional support. Visits to Anderson University's campus introduce students to college life and potential career paths while helping them build meaningful relationships with college student volunteers.

For Emily Bantsolas, a junior elementary education major at Anderson University, those relationships are at the heart of the experience. As a College Mentors for Kids volunteer, she sees the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives through the simple but powerful act of showing up and building a connection.

"I chose to be a part of College Mentors for Kids because I want to be a part of the power of mentoring and make an impact in kids' lives," Emily shared. That impact grows week by week as mentors help their young buddies discover new interests, gain confidence, and begin imagining what their own futures could hold. Sara Wilson, the President of Anderson University's College Mentors for Kids chapter, sees that lasting connection as the heart of the program.







"Every week for me is what captures what College Mentors is all about, and that is building a relationship with a college student mentor that is showing the little buddy what college life is like while also being a positive role model in their lives!" Sara shared.

The value of these relationships is reflected in the program's survey results. Eighty-nine percent of participating children reported seeing more positive things about themselves since joining the program, and 92% of families said their child's mentor helped them develop new skills. College students benefit, too: 80% of volunteers reported gaining leadership skills through their involvement.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Anderson chapter served 30 students in first through fifth grade with the support of 38 Anderson University student volunteers. Activities give children opportunities to explore subjects and careers they may not otherwise encounter. In one session, a professor introduced students to notable engineers, including minority engineers. After learning about famous inventions and the creative process behind them, the children designed inventions of their own, bringing together imagination, science, and engineering while discovering new possibilities for their futures.
Stories like these show what can happen when children are encouraged by someone who believes in their potential. Your generosity helps create these meaningful connections between Anderson University and the next generation, opening doors to learning, mentorship, and new opportunities.

> "One of our little buddy pairs has been together for the past three years. Their names are Bear and Sadie. Bear gets to learn new skills and get inspired for future careers, and Sadie gets a chance to give back to her campus community. It's a win-win.
>
> -Emily Meyer, Development Advisor"

Your gift to the Impact Madison Fund helps make this work possible. Through Madison County Community Foundation, Impact Madison Grants support nonprofit programs that address emerging community needs and strengthen local families. Funding supports a wide range of focus areas, including Arts, Culture, & History; Community Vitality; Everyone's Economy; Health & Wellbeing; Lifelong Learning; and Strong Families & Youth.

Consider giving to the Impact Madison Fund to help more children and families across Madison County build brighter futures.

Read More

Strategic Goal Connection: INVEST through grantmaking

NEW October 2026

NEW FUNDS THIS MONTH

American Heart Association Endowment Fund

The American Heart Association Endowment Fund was established to provide lasting support for the American Heart Association's work in Indiana. Through annual grants, this designated endowment will help advance the organization's efforts to improve heart and brain health, support lifesaving research, and promote healthier communities for generations to come.

Gateway Association Endowment

The Gateway Association Endowment supports the ongoing mission of Gateway Association, Inc., an inclusive child care and preschool center in Anderson, Indiana. Since 1953, Gateway has been dedicated to helping children of all abilities reach their highest potential through education and supportive services. Serving children from six weeks to 12 years old, Gateway provides a welcoming environment where children with and without special needs can learn, grow, and thrive together. This permanent endowment provides lasting financial support to help sustain Gateway's mission and strengthen early childhood education and care both now and in the future.

Strategic Goal:

Grow our portfolio of funds

Notable Donations

$137,562

$50,000
Combat Ministries Endowment Fund

$40,000
American Heart Association Endowment Fund

$20,000
Grace Horizon Endowment Fund

$6,292
Flood Aid for Anderson

$5675
Frederick's Friends

$5,000
Gateway Association Endowment

$4,950
Elwood Education Foundation Endowment Fund

$2,590
Chris Hatzell Memorial Scholarship

$1,250
Bennett Endowed Scholarship

$1,000
Pistole-Harp Family Fund

$555
Various Agency, Designated, Field of Interest, and Unrestricted Funds

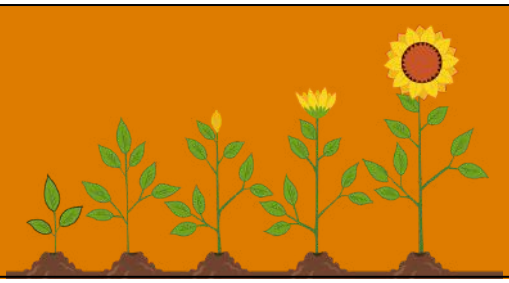
$250
America 250 Fund

Thank you for your generosity

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR

YEAR-END GIVING

5 simple tips for thoughtful generosity



Year-end giving does not have to be complicated. Madison County Community Foundation can help you make thoughtful gifts that reflect your values and strengthen our community.

01

Start with your purpose

Think about what you want your giving to accomplish, from supporting favorite nonprofits to meeting emerging needs or building a lasting legacy.

02

Consider what you give

Cash is not your only option. Gifts of appreciated stock, real estate, or other assets may provide tax advantages. Consult your advisors before selling.

03 KNOW WHAT IS NEW FOR 2026

$1,000 / $2,000
Eligible cash-gift deduction for non-itemizers

0.5%
Deduction floor for itemizers

35%
Top-bracket limit on deduction benefit

04

Explore giving from your IRA

Age 70½ or older? A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) may lower taxable income. The 2026 limit is $111,000 per eligible person; donor-advised funds cannot receive QCDs.

05

Plan ahead of December 31

Some gifts take time to transfer or evaluate. Start now, particularly for securities, real estate, or other complex assets.

YOUR GENEROSITY. YOUR GOALS. OUR COMMUNITY.

Connect with MCCF and your professional advisors to explore a giving plan that works for you.

Tax rules are subject to eligibility and limitations. Consult your tax or financial advisor.

OPPORTUNTIES TO ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Futurecast

Business Insights & Trends for Anderson & Madison County
November 10, 2026

The Future of Madison County

Join the Madison County Alliance for the 2026 Future of Madison County
November 12, 2026



OUR VISION

We envision Madison County as a community where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

OUR MISSION

Investing in lasting positive change to elevate and strengthen Madison County.

OUR VALUES

Integrity
Community
Impact
Inclusion
Legacy

www.madisonccf.org