L E G A C Y

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The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

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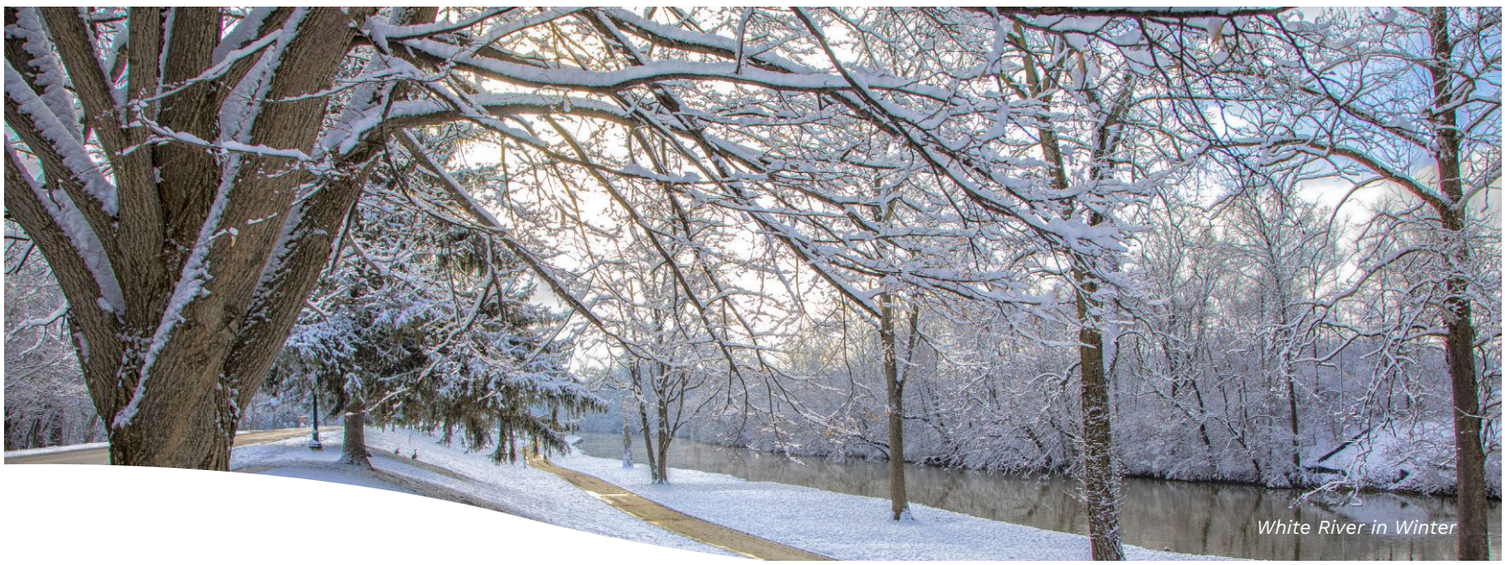

White River in Winter



Let's Chat

As I reflect on the stories in this issue of Legacy, I'm struck by how often possibility begins with a simple act of generosity.

You'll read about students gaining confidence and real-world experience, families finding support during difficult seasons, and community organizations creating new opportunities for the people they serve. While each story is different, they all share a common thread: people who believe in Delaware County and choose to invest in its future.

That is what inspires me most about our community. Time and again, neighbors come together to help people, support place, and encourage possibility.

At The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, we see every day how generosity creates momentum. A gift becomes an opportunity. An opportunity becomes a success story. Those stories help shape a community where people choose to be.

Thank you for being part of that story. Together, we are building something lasting for Delaware County.

Marcy Minton
President & CEO

From Local Fields to a National Stage



Local students provide media coverage of the 2026 MultiGP National Drone Championship in Dallas.

Just two years ago, most of the students behind the cameras had never covered a sporting event. This October, five Delaware County high school students found themselves on a national stage, serving as the official media team for the 2026 MultiGP Drone Racing Championship in Dallas, Texas.

The students, members of the Delaware County Sports Network, earned the opportunity after volunteering at

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Community members spend time at Minnetrista's Enchanted Luminaria Walk.

Ready for What Comes Next

Every day in Delaware County, people are building businesses, creating opportunities for young people, helping neighbors through difficult times, and working to make our community stronger.

No one can predict where the next need or opportunity will emerge. That's why unrestricted giving matters.

When donors give to the Unrestricted Fund at The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, they help create a flexible source of support that can respond to changing community needs. Through the Community Grants Program, those gifts are put to work alongside local nonprofits that are helping people, supporting place, and encouraging possibility throughout Delaware County.

This year, organizations across the community shared ideas, challenges, and opportunities and received funding through the Community Grants Program.

One organization, Youth Symphony Orchestras of East Central Indiana, is helping young people discover confidence, discipline, and connection through music. More than half of participating students receive financial assistance, ensuring access to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.

The Muncie-Delaware County Black Chamber of Commerce is building new pathways for entrepreneurs through a partnership with Ball State University. Together, they are connecting local business owners with resources, expertise, and relationships that can help their ideas grow.



Student cellists perform during a concert by Youth Symphony Orchestras of East Central Indiana.

At the same time, Christian Ministries of Delaware County is helping families facing housing instability stay safe, housed, and connected to the resources they need to move forward.

Each story is different. Each reflects a different community need. Together, they demonstrate the power of unrestricted giving.

When donors invest in The Community Foundation's Unrestricted Fund, they are not supporting just one project or one organization. They are helping our community remain ready for whatever comes next.

Community Grants Support Longstanding Partners and New Opportunities Across Delaware County

Fifteen organizations receive over $121,000 in fourth-quarter funding

A thriving community depends on both trusted organizations and fresh ideas. This quarter, The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County awarded 15 Community Grants totaling $121,862. These grants strengthen neighborhoods, serve families, create opportunities, and enhance quality of life throughout Delaware County.

Through its Community Grants program, The Community Foundation continues to invest in both longstanding nonprofit partners and organizations receiving funding for the first time or the first time in many years. Their inclusion alongside longtime nonprofit partners reflects The Community Foundation's commitment to investing in organizations of all sizes that are responding to local needs and creating new possibilities throughout Delaware County.

Every grant awarded this quarter was made possible through charitable funds established at The Community Foundation by individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who believe in Delaware County. Together, these donors help meet today's needs while building lasting community strength for the future.

Through Community Grants, The Community Foundation is investing in projects and organizations that strengthen quality of life, expand opportunity, and address community needs across Delaware County.

These grants also remind us that community impact takes many forms. Some organizations have become familiar partners because they consistently deliver meaningful results. Others are introducing new ideas, reaching more people, or addressing emerging needs. Philanthropy is strongest when it creates space for both.

Awarded Organizations

Action for Animals

Albany - Delaware Township Fire Department

Alno Club of Muncie

Christian Ministries of Delaware County

Isaiah 117 House - Delaware County

Muncie Action Plan

Muncie Arts and Culture Council

Muncie Sports Commission

Muncie-Delaware County Black Chamber of Commerce

Negasi Gardens & Agriculture Experience

REACH Ministries

Soup Kitchen of Muncie

The Foster Closet @ Illuminate

The Hygiene Ladies

Youth Symphony Orchestras of East Central Indiana

Community Grants have been awarded from the Unrestricted Fund of The Community Foundation and the following funds:

Albany Fund in Memory of the Frazee Family
Beard-Branscum Fund
Bill and Nancy Mitchell Living Well in Delaware County Fund
Brown Family Unrestricted Fund
David and Mary Jane Sursa Fund
Ellen Lacey Endowment Fund for Companion Animals
Gayle and Jeannine Harrold Fund
Gordon and Pam Cox Fund
Howard and Erma McVicker Endowment Fund
Jim and Mary Rosema Fund
KAKATU Foundation/David and Joanna Meeks Fund
Laura Sursa Crampton Family Fund
Linda and Connie Gregory Fund
Mary Jane Sursa Fund
Maxon Foundation Fund
Michael N. Baur Fund
Natalie LaShay Teague Fund
Stefan and Joan Anderson Unrestricted Fund
Town of Yorktown Endowment Fund

From Local Fields to the National Stage
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the MultiGP International Open hosted locally this June. Throughout the five-day championship, they interviewed competitors, captured event coverage, created digital content, and told stories for audiences far beyond Delaware County.

Their trip to Dallas was more than a travel opportunity. It was the result of a community that believes young people deserve access to meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

> ***"Support from The Community Foundation gives us the flexibility to say yes..."***

"When students realize that people trust them with meaningful responsibilities, something changes. They begin to see what they're capable of," said Rob Jones, advisor to the Delaware County Sports Network.

The Delaware County Sports Network, now in its second year, is an initiative of the Muncie Sports Commission developed in partnership with local educators Rob Jones, Lawson Sanchez, Michael Blezek, and Jesse Lee. Created to expand coverage of local high school athletics, the student-run network gives students from schools across Delaware County real-world experience in broadcasting, journalism, media production, and storytelling.

"We started the Delaware County Sports Network because we saw incredible student-athletes and community stories that weren't being told. What we've discovered is that we're also helping students build skills that will serve them for a lifetime," said Jon Anderson, executive director of the Muncie Sports Commission.



Delaware County Sports Network students work together in the Innovation Connector's new Media Innovation Center.

Beyond helping students tell community stories, the Muncie Sports Commission is leading Delaware County to be a great sports community. Their work includes attracting sporting events to Delaware County, convening youth sports programs to enhance recreational opportunities for residents, and more. Earlier this year, The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County awarded the Muncie Sports Commission a $15,000 Community Grant for operating support. Unlike project-specific funding, operating grants provide the stability organizations need to meet their mission while remaining flexible enough to pursue new opportunities as they arise.

Support also continues through the Muncie Sports Commission Fund, a designated fund established at The Community Foundation in 2025. Earnings from this permanent endowment provide sustainable resources for the organization today, tomorrow, and always.

While Muncie Sports Commission has helped to launch Delaware County Sports Network, the program still has room to grow. A network of community support is needed to make that growth possible. When students had the opportunity to attend the national championship in Dallas, two donor advisors stepped forward with grants to help cover travel expenses, ensuring the experience remained accessible to participating students.

"Support from The Community Foundation and its donors gives us the flexibility to say yes to opportunities like Dallas," said Jon. "Those experiences can be life-changing for students, but they only happen when a community chooses to invest in its young people."

Collaboration is also central to the Muncie Sports Commission's work. Located at the Innovation Connector, the Muncie Sports Commission found a natural partnership there.

Earlier this year, The Community Foundation awarded a grant to the Innovation Connector to support the launch of the Media Innovation Center, including a podcast studio designed to foster creativity, communication skills, and digital storytelling. Students involved with the Delaware County Sports Network helped test the studio and now use the space to strengthen broadcasting, interviewing, and production skills.

What began as coverage of local sporting events is quickly becoming something larger. Through experiences like the MultiGP Championship,

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We've Missed Your Visits

We look forward to seeing you in 2027



In 2026, The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County made a signficant investment to the building we call home in downtown Muncie. A dated HVAC system was replaced, sprinklers were installed, bathrooms were improved, and the lower level was renovated. These improvements will ensure the safety and comfort of visitors and allow this building to serve the Foundation for a long time.

Thank you for your patience over the last several months as we have taken more meetings by phone, met in coffee shops all across the community, and limited visitors to our building.

Earlier this fall, Foundation staff returned to our offices and we are starting to take meetings in our space again.

We can't wait to invite you back inside our home!

Thank you, Carol!



Please join us in thanking Carol Kosisko, Community Partner for Donor Relations, for her service to The Community Foundation. Carol built strong relationships with many Foundation donors and encouraged endowment growth. Carol retired in October.

Unrestricted Funds Fuel Flexibility

When you give to the Unrestricted Fund, you make it possible to meet the community's urgent needs quickly and strategically. Whether it's training first responders, supporting youth programs, or revitalizing public spaces, unrestricted giving helps us meet the moment.

GIVE NOW

From Local Fields to the National Stage
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students are discovering new interests, building professional skills, and exploring career pathways in media, communications, technology, and sports management.

Five students traveled to Dallas this fall, but their story reflects something much bigger. It reflects what can happen when a community invests in its young people, creates opportunities close to home, and believes in their potential.

Through partnerships, philanthropy, and a shared commitment to Delaware County's future, students are gaining experiences that expand horizons and open doors. Today they are covering games, producing broadcasts, and sharing stories. Tomorrow they will carry those skills into classrooms, careers, and communities of their own.

Together, we are helping create a community where people choose to be.



The Innovation Connector's new Media Innovation Center helps collaboration in Delaware County come full circle.

The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

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Positive change happens because people like you choose to invest in our community.

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Legacy is a publication of The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc.

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Breann Moore



Bre joins The Community Foundation team as the executive assistant.

Memorials and Honorariums

The following individuals were remembered or honored through gifts to The Community Foundation between August 1 and October 31, 2026.

Memorials

Mabel Estella Grant Beard
Kevin Bergan
Franklyn and Patricia Brinkman
Tony Brinkman
Michael Brodhead
Patricia Carter
Merrill V. Clevenger
Laura Hansen Dean
Robert Fisher
Jim Gooden
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James Wagner
Joann Whited
Robert Wyne

Honorariums

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Connie Gregory
Pat Heiny
William and Roseanne Hughes
Ann Johnson