

LEGACY



SEP 2026

The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

VOL. 36 NO. 2



Daleville Fall Frenzy Fest 2025



Let's Chat

As summer transitions to fall, I find myself reflecting on the power of momentum.

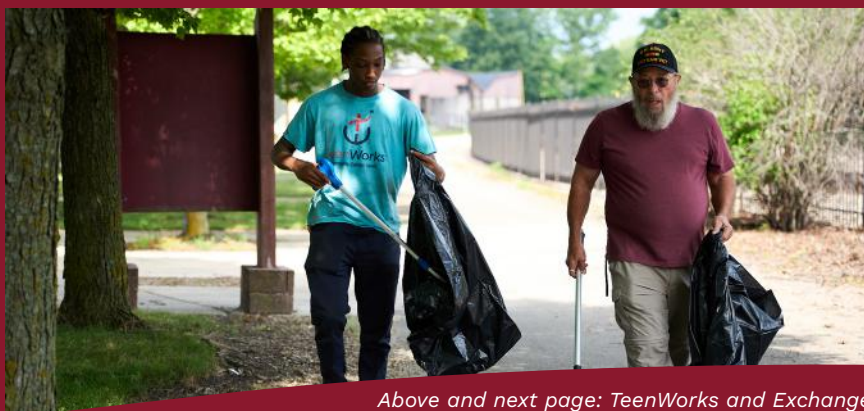
In this issue of *Legacy*, you'll read stories about people and partnerships that are shaping the future of Muncie and Delaware County. From grant investments that help creativity thrive to young people gaining experience and confidence through collaboration along the Cardinal Greenway, each story reflects what is possible when a community chooses to invest in itself.

That spirit of collaboration was recently recognized in a significant way. Through the efforts of more than 25 community partners, our community was awarded \$4 million through Indiana's READI 2.0 Arts and Culture initiative to support the Creative Corridor and Creative Space Action Plan. This investment builds upon years of planning, partnership, and shared vision for a community where people choose to be.

Progress rarely happens through a single project or grant. It grows through relationships, trust, and people who believe in the future of this place. Thank you for being part of that work.

Marcy Minton
President & CEO

Where Opportunity Meets the Trail



Above and next page: TeenWorks and Exchange Club members clean up the Cardinal Greenway.

On a warm summer morning along the Cardinal Greenway, a routine trail cleanup became something much more.

At the Pocket Park between the Historic Wysor Street Depot and the McCulloch Trailhead, participants from TeenWorks, volunteers from Exchange Club of Muncie, and staff from Cardinal Greenways gathered with a shared purpose: caring for a community asset that connects people and places across Delaware County. Together, they pulled weeds, completed light maintenance projects, refreshed gathering spaces, and improved the trail corridor for everyone who enjoys it. However, the most meaningful work may have happened through the conversations shared along the way.

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While the day's efforts focused on service, they also reflected something larger: the power of philanthropy to strengthen communities.

Through charitable funds at The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, donors help create opportunities that reach far beyond a single project. Their support allows organizations with different missions to come together around a common goal; investing in people, enhancing public spaces, and building a stronger community.

For the young people participating in TeenWorks, the day offered valuable experience beyond trail maintenance. TeenWorks empowers teens through paid summer employment, professional development, workplace experiences, and opportunities to explore future careers. The program helps participants build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and develop meaningful connections with adults and community leaders.

Those connections developed naturally on the Greenway. Exchange Club volunteers partnered with TeenWorks participants throughout the morning, creating opportunities for conversation while they worked side by side. As stories were exchanged and questions were asked, young people gained experience interacting professionally with adults, while volunteers had the chance to encourage and invest in these young people.

public assets, including the 62-mile Cardinal Greenway, Indiana's longest rail-trail. These spaces provide recreational, environmental, and economic benefits, helping create communities where people choose to live, work, visit, and play. Maintaining them requires both volunteer involvement and ongoing philanthropic investment.



That combination of service and support demonstrates how lasting community impact happens. Volunteers contribute their time and talents. Nonprofit organizations provide expertise and leadership. Donors supply the resources that help programs and community assets thrive. Together, they create opportunities that none could accomplish alone.

The impact of the day extended well beyond the work completed at the trailhead. It was an investment in public space, a lesson in civic engagement, and an opportunity for mentorship. More importantly, it was a reminder that community-building often happens through simple moments: a shared task, an encouraging conversation, or the chance to work toward a common goal.

In Delaware County, this partnership demonstrates what is possible when people come together to invest in both one another and the places they share. Through The Community Foundation, donors help create the conditions for these connections to happen, supporting young people, strengthening community assets, and bringing organizations together around shared goals. The result is more than a cleaner trail. It is a connected community where people choose to be.

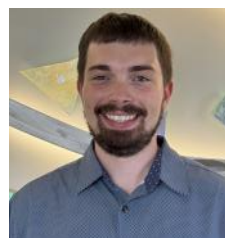


The setting itself highlighted the importance of community stewardship. Cardinal Greenways cares for some of East Central Indiana's most treasured

Welcome To the Foundation Team



Garrett Conway
Community Partner
Program & Nonprofit Relations



Jason Holtzman
Outreach & Donor Relations
Manager

A \$2.25 Million Investment Is Advancing Muncie's Creative Future: Here's How

A \$2.25 million Community Support Grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX initiative is helping The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County build upon momentum already underway across our community. Through 2028, this funding will expand grantmaking that strengthens the people, places, and partnerships shaping a more vibrant Delaware County through the Creative Space Action Plan. These investments will not stand alone; they will continue work already in progress through local nonprofits, civic partners, donors, and community leaders.

Lasting community impact is not created by a single grant. It grows when donors of every size choose to invest in the future of the place they call home. Lilly Endowment's support accelerates important work, and your generosity sustains it. Whether you give to an existing fund, support unrestricted grantmaking, or start a fund of your own, your gift becomes part of something larger: a community where people choose to be.

Local Vision Attracts Statewide Investment

The momentum behind Muncie's Creative Space Action Plan recently received a significant boost.

In July, Delaware County partners were awarded \$4 million through Indiana's READI 2.0 Arts and Culture initiative to support the Downtown Renewal: Creative Corridor and Connections project. The Community Foundation led the effort that brought together more than 25 organizations, institutions, businesses, artists, and community leaders around a shared vision for the future.

The award supports projects that expand creative opportunities, strengthen cultural assets, and enhance connections throughout the community. It also demonstrates the power of long-term collaboration and strategic local investment.

When communities invest in themselves, others invest alongside them.



Building Momentum

\$2.25 MILLION

Community Support Grant investment through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX

\$4 MILLION

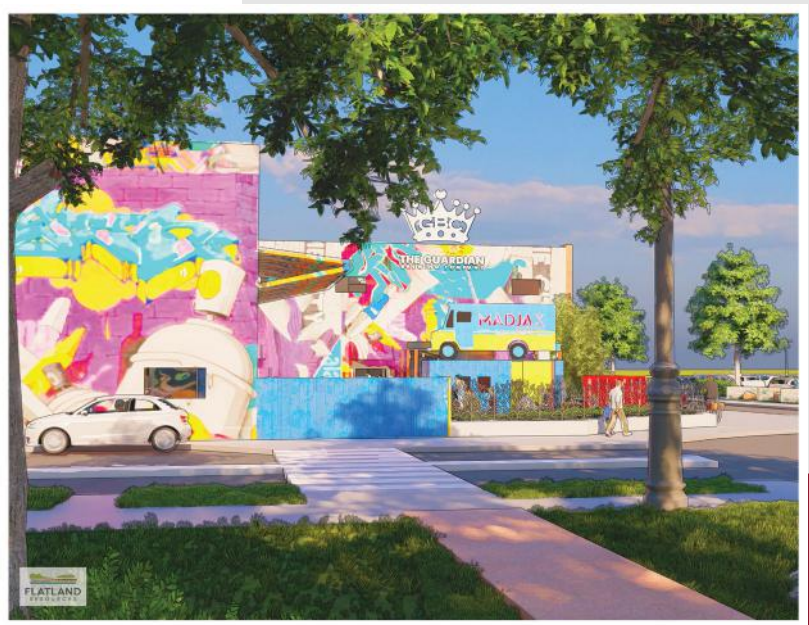
READI Arts & Culture Grant awarded through IEDC

25+ PARTNERS

Collaborating on the Creative Space Action Plan and Creative Corridor vision

1 GOAL

A more vibrant and connected community where people choose to be.



Concept drawings of the MadJax Maker Force courtyard (above) and the historic Commerical Club and Boyce Block (left) in the Creative Corridor.

Memorials and Honorariums

The following individuals were remembered or honored through gifts to The Community Foundation from February 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026.

Memorials

Tiny Adams
James Bailey
Kevin Bergan
Gary Blackmer
Alexandra Rose
Brinkman
Anthony Tony
Brinkman
Patricia & Franklyn
Brinkman
Ronald Brown
Carolyn Buck
Bob Carmichael
Pat Carter
Adam Cline
Larry Dollison
Dixie Ebrite
Bill Elliot
Cheryl Thomas
Fauquher
Nancy Finan
William Flannery
Kathleen Flook
Alice Gillis
Rex A. Goen
James Gooden
Greg Haney
Greg Hill
Carolyn Hofherr
Jim Jorczak
Kathleen Keil
Ed Kratochvil
Tim Leach
Virginia Leavell
John B. Lotz

Arthur Malman
Bob M. Mantock
Raymond E. & Marilyn
Jo McCord
Allen McCormick
Bruce & Pat Moore
Harold & Jean Nation
Les Niccum
John Oesterle
Wayne Payne
Aaron B. Pence
Janice K. Pfleeger
John Phillips
Judith Reece
Shirley Reno
Braden Reynolds
Robert Rider
Patricia Schaefer
Sandra Sexton
Shirley A. Shroyer
Jen Southerland
Gordon Stagge
Charles W. Thomas
Janet Rae Townsend
Rex Waldo II
Michael Mikie
Wineinger
Robert Wyne
Stephen Zirkle

Honorariums

Gloria Adams
Erin Ailstock
Valerie Alexander
Don Anderson & Nikki
Jackson

Maddy Anderson
Britney Bass
Mary Ann Beard
Chelsea Behforouz
Jamie Bergan
Jenise Bohbrink
Mary E. Bowers
Judy Bracken
Cindi Britton
Brenda Brumfield
Carol Casazza
Kira Childers
Volunteers of
Children's Clothing
Center of Delaware
County
Staff of Christian
Ministries of
Delaware County
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Community
Foundation of
Muncie & Delaware
County
Grant Coopriders
Mattinglee Coopriders
Amy Cornett
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County Housing
Authority
Ric & Lisa Dwenger
Jim Finan
Jamie Ford Bowers
Kari Gayes
Jennifer Gilland

Ashaki Goodall
James Gooden
Staff of Greater
Muncie Chamber of
Commerce
Patty Guize
Jack Harlow
Diane Harris
Molly Harty
Staff of Heart of
Indiana United Ways
Bill & Roseanne
Hughes
Steve & Kim Hunter
Richard Ivy
Danielle Jernigan
Ann Johnson
Dr. Mia Johnson
Roni Johnson
Sue Kaiser
Michelle Kaitchuck
Deborah Lipps
Nome Mawrienau
Jenni Marsh
Kourtney McCauliff
Anna McGlinchy
Marcy Minton
Kate Murray
Janie & Todd Murray
Grace Murray
Sagan Murray
James Murray
Anna Murray
Nora Niccum
Mabala Nyalugwe
Cathie Onieal
Stefanie Onieal
Beth Quarles
Judy Reece

Carolyn Reeves
Kara Riggleman
Patricia Roark
Marci Robinson
Theodore Rouch
Home Savers Board
of Directors
Carol Seals
Tracy Shafer
Pam Smitson
Daniel Stallings
Jennifer Stanely
Anna Stanley
Casey Stanley
Donna Stanley
The Stanley Family
Andrew Stratton
Kallie Sulanke
Derek Swehla
Shirley Thacker
Yvonne Thompson
Sharon Upperman
Staff of VKA Catering
Staff of Westminster
Village
Mary Etta Yoho

Pets

Abby (McCauliff)
Shermeta
Josie
Angel Brinkman
Nation
Stella Nation
Brinkman
Maggie Nation
Brinkman

Acting Fast: Responding to Crisis



Rising waters in McCulloch Park
Photo courtesy of Chris Flook

Heavy rainfall throughout August 12th to the 15th left much of Delaware County under water. Rivers and streams overflowed their banks, and widespread flooding impacted many. Tragically, multiple community members lost their lives, and families continue to face challenges as they begin the long road to recovery.

As floodwaters receded, neighbors, first responders, nonprofit organizations, and community partners mobilized to support those affected. Recovery efforts are now underway across Delaware County as residents work to rebuild homes, restore businesses, and regain a sense of normalcy.

To help address immediate needs, The Community Foundation's Board of Directors approved two emergency grants on August 17: \$10,000 to the American Red Cross to support relief efforts in Delaware County and \$10,000 to Heart of Indiana United Way's Delaware County Flood Recovery Fund.

Moments like these remind us why unrestricted giving matters. Because unrestricted funds are flexible, The Community Foundation can respond when unexpected challenges arise and support trusted partners already serving the community. Donors who invest in unrestricted philanthropy make it possible to act when needs emerge, helping ensure resources are available when and where they are needed most.

\$763,915 Awarded to Community Organizations

Community Grants provide nonprofit organizations serving Muncie and Delaware County with the opportunity to apply for funding to support their work. Grants are awarded to address the broad needs of Muncie and Delaware County. The Board of Directors of The Community Foundation approved grants to 42 community organizations totaling \$763,915 during the second and third quarters of 2026.

America's Hometown Band
American Red Cross
Animal Rescue Fund
BY5 Early Childhood Initiative
Cardinal Greenways
Classroom Connections of ECI
College Mentors for Kids, Inc.
Daleville Salem Township Fire Territory
Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District
East Central Neighborhood Association
Forge ECI
Greater Muncie Economic Development Corporation
Hamilton Township Volunteer Fire Company Womens Auxiliary
Heart of Indiana United Way
Heartland Families, Inc./Muncie Scholar House
Indiana Youth Institute
Innovation Connector Inc.
Ivy Tech Foundation
John Frank Football League
Little Red Door Cancer Agency

Masterworks Chorale
Minnetrista
Motivate Our Minds, Inc.
Muncie Arts and Culture Council
Muncie Civic Theatre
Muncie Community Schools
Muncie Delaware County Area Senior Citizens
Muncie Downtown Development Partnership
Muncie Land Bank
Nextech Org Inc
PathStone Corporation
Recovery Cafe' Muncie
Shafer Leadership Academy
Special Olympics Indiana
Teenworks, Inc.
Town of Selma
Urban Light Community Development Corporation
White River Orchestra
Whitely Community Council
Yorktown Fire Department
Yorktown Friends of the Library
Yorktown Indiana Police Department

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

5000th Charitable Fund, Inc. Fund, Gary Addison Fund, Stefan & Joan Anderson Unrestricted Fund, The Endowment for the Arts Fund, Ball Corporation Community Betterment Fund, Edmund F. & Virginia B. Ball Fund, Esther Ball Fund, Bassett Family Fund, Louisa & Waldo Beebe Unrestricted Endowment Fund, Derron & Charity Bishop Fund, Pat & Jane Botts Fund, Forrest L. & Mary E. Bowers Family Legacy Fund, Brown Family Unrestricted Fund, William & Juanita Bruns Fund, Jane Harrell Buckles Fund, Gordon & Pam Cox Fund, Trent & Karen Dowling Fund, William & Margaret Dutton Fund, Ric & Lisa Dwenger Family Fund, Economic Development Fund, Mark & Molly Ervin Fund, Edgar Faulkner Sr./Ermal S. Roundtree Fund, John & Janice Fisher Quality of Place Endowment Fund, John & Janice Fisher Unrestricted Endowment Fund, Beulah M. Frogge Fund, Mike & Cathy Galliher Fund, Linda & Connie Gregory Fund, Julian & Suzanne Gresham Fund, Michael & Carolyn Grieves Fund, Brandon Hamilton & Sara Shade Hamilton Fund, Gayle & Jeannine Harrold Fund, Heeter Family Fund, Jane E. Hughes Fund, Roni Johnson Family Fund, KAKATU Foundation/David & Joanna Meeks Fund, John C. Kelly & Marcia Ressler Kelly Fund, Laura Stanley Keppler Fund, Harry & Janet Kitselman Fund, Francis Lafferty Fund, Leap Managed IT Fund, Liberty Perry Selma Town Endowment Fund, John & Katherine Littler Fund, Michael O. & Nicole T. Lunsford Fund, J. Richard & Elizabeth Pogue Marshall Unrestricted Endowment Fund, Maxon Foundation Fund, Howard & Erma McVicker Endowment Fund, Jon & Barbara Moll Fund, Muncie Power Products Community Impact Fund, James, Kate & Sagan Murray Family Fund, Todd & Janie Murray Family Fund, Mutual Legacy Fund, Old National Bank Fund, Ontario Systems-Wil Davis & Ron Fauquher Fund, Larry & Barbara Ottinger Fund, Jim & Mary Rosema Fund, Kent Shuff & Steve Fennimore Fund, Jeanne & John Smith Fund, Nancy J. Smith Fund, Steven & Barbara Smith Fund, Daniel & Lynne Stallings Fund, Casey & Jennifer Stanley Family Fund, Daniel & Catharine Stewart Fund, Robert & Janet Stratton Fund, Alexander T. & Kallie Kiger Sulanke Fund, Charles & Claudia Sursa Unrestricted Endowment Fund, David & Mary Jane Sursa Fund, Mary Jane Sursa Fund, Terhune Fund, Gary & Amy Thomas Fund, Wayne E. & Carolyn K. Thomas Fund, Faye Wingate Fund, Town of Yorktown Endowment Fund

Flood Recovery Fund

The Community Foundation's grant is one part of a broader community response. Heart of Indiana United Way is serving as the central hub for flood recovery fundraising, ensuring donations are directed where they are needed most. Individuals who would like to support recovery efforts may make a gift to the Flood Recovery Fund and designate it for Delaware County.



heartofindiana.org



The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

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