



February 2018



This is Your Community Foundation

Pictured above is the staff of the Community Foundation (Mandy Haynes, Judy Sorg, Mike Hernandezpeterson, Melanie Beer, and Ashton Willis). However, this is not our Community Foundation. We are here to serve and work for you—the people who live and work in DeKalb County. Our mission is to “promote community philanthropy by offering local citizens the opportunity to create a charitable legacy that will sustain and improve life in our county.” You determine where help is most needed. Your passion drives our decisions and guides where our funds are distributed. We are forever grateful for you and your desire to further strengthen and improve this vibrant, friendly community that we call DeKalb County.

Inside this issue, you will discover two funds that were started by folks like you who believe in bettering our community. You will also discover some ways for you to get more involved with your Community Foundation. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at info@CFDeKalb.org or by phone at (260) 925-0311.

Learning Link in Brief

Learning Link is an education initiative of the Community Foundation of DeKalb County that brings together educators, community members and business leaders, working toward the shared goal of raising education levels of children and adults in DeKalb County.

Learning Link Teams are excited about their identified **focus areas** for 2018!

Foundational Learning Team:

- The social-emotional needs of preschool-age children related to readiness for success in school
- Coordination of community resources available to address social-emotional needs of school-age children

Continual Learning Team:

- Job/Life/Soft skills
- Multi-generational understanding

Learn more about Learning Link and hear a local panel discuss *Multi-generational Understanding: Its Impact on Schools, Workplaces, and the DeKalb County Community* Tuesday, April 24, at Eastside Jr.-Sr. High School, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner provided with RSVPs to Melanie, at MBeer@CFDeKalb.org.

News from New Executive Director - Mike Hernandezpeterson

A fantastic foundation has been laid for the Community Foundation of DeKalb County since its inception in 1996! For the past 20 years, Wendy Oberlin provided the leadership and vision that has built this into a strong organization that invests in the community. During that time countless members of the community devoted their time, talents, treasure, and passion to build an organization that focuses on you and your community. Not only does the Foundation invest dollars, we also invest time and other resources into inspiring leadership, encouraging philanthropy and volunteerism, and offering training and education in a variety of areas.

With new leadership comes new opportunities. My hope is to inspire more individuals and organizations to partner together to make this great Foundation even greater. Remember, this is YOUR community and this is YOUR Community Foundation. We can only become stronger when each of us bands together for the common good of our ever-changing, ever-growing community. To become better educated about your Foundation or to get more involved, contact me by email at Director@CFDeKalb.org or call me at (260) 925-0311.

Please join us for our Annual Meeting Celebration Friday, April 13th at the JAM Center in Garrett. More details on the back and coming soon...

Community Foundation Community Grantmaking

There are no formal deadlines for grant requests to the Community Grantmaking Fund. Requests may be submitted at any time throughout the year. The Community Foundation's Grant Committee typically meets quarterly to recommend grant awards to the Foundation's Board of Directors.

By having an open grant cycle, organizations are able to submit grant proposals throughout the year. This allows the Grant Committee more opportunities to review requests and to make more timely decisions for each of the applying organizations.

Our grant application is online. If you're new, simply create an account by visiting our website at www.CFDeKalb.org and clicking on the grants tab at the bottom of the page to begin the application process.

Ashton Willis, our Director of Community Impact, can help you through the process if you have any questions. She can be contacted at AWillis@CFDeKalb.org or by calling (260) 925-0311.



7 Questions with... Mike Hernandezpeterson

- 1) What book has had the greatest impact on you? **The Bible & The Greatest Salesman in the World by Og Mandino**
- 2) What one person has had the greatest influence on your life? **My parents and my two FCA Leaders at Concordia H. S. (Judy Moellering & Karen Beck)**
- 3) What is your favorite movie? **Raiders of the Lost Ark**
- 4) What is your favorite place or activity to unwind? **Watching movies with my wife**
- 5) If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? **The Dominican Republic**
- 6) Who is your favorite television/ movie character? **Coach (Early Cheers episodes)**
- 7) Leave us with your favorite quote/ saying: **"You never get a second chance to make a first impression." AND "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."**



DEKALB'S VOICE

DeKalb's VOICE is the Community Foundation's youth philanthropy group made up of students from each of the county's high schools. VOICE meets one time per month to learn about DeKalb County's charitable needs and programs and makes grants after reviewing grant proposals.

In their November 2017 meeting, VOICE reviewed and awarded a grant to DeKalb Eastern School nurses. The nurses requested a grant to buy basic hygiene products such as deodorant, toothbrushes, and shampoo. This sparked an idea for the students. VOICE members realized that if one school needed these supplies for students in need, then so did the other schools. They decided to proactively grant to the other area schools: Garrett–Keyser–Butler, DeKalb Central and Lakewood Park.

VOICE used the grant dollars to go shopping at Walmart in December. They purchased hygiene supplies and clothing such as coats, socks, shirts, underwear, and pants. These items were donated to each of the schools. They also provided similar items for the Retired Senior Volunteers Program.

FRIENDS OF THE WATERLOO GRANT TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FUND

The Waterloo Grant Township Public Library, with its many educational opportunities and over 28,000 books, magazines, and newspapers, is seeking funding for an electronic message center. They came to the Community Foundation in the fall of last year to create a fund to help achieve their goal.



The message center would provide an excellent opportunity for the library to promote activities and events of both the library and the community at large. The sign would also display other important news and information. If interested in supporting this cause, gifts can be directed to the Friends of the Waterloo Grant Township Public Library Fund through the Community Foundation.

Make checks payable to the Community Foundation DeKalb County (CFDC). If mailing your gift, please note the Friends of the Waterloo Grant Township Public Library Fund on your check or in a letter.

AUBURN ARTS COMMISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Auburn Arts Commission Fund was created with the purpose of encouraging arts throughout the community of DeKalb County. To achieve their goal, they have organized a variety of events throughout the years. Some of the more popular exhibits are the ones that take place in downtown Auburn during the summer.



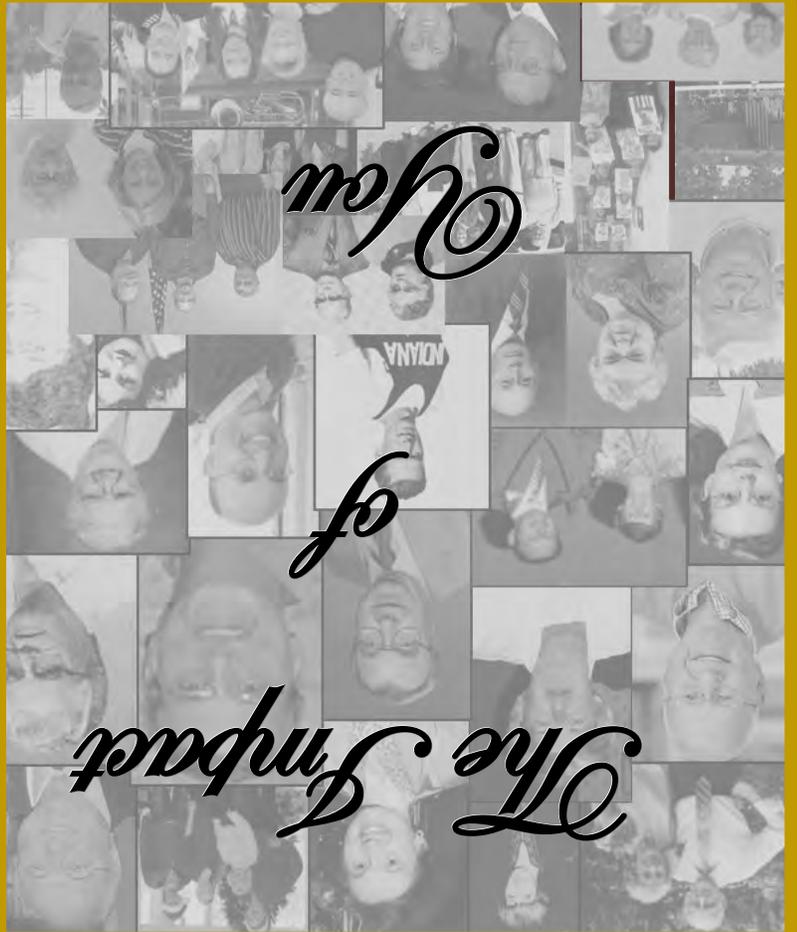
In 2007, *Sculptures on the Square* featured 20 life-sized sculptures around the courthouse and in front of area businesses. Three years later, *Sculptures on the Square: Encore!* saw the return of the popular life-sized sculptures, which included a 25-foot sculpture of a dancing couple.



The Foundation was excited to participate with *The Magic of Metal Sculptures on the Square III* in 2016. Pictured is the "Shine Tree" which made its temporary home outside the Steinger Center for the Community Foundation of DeKalb County for that summer.

In hopes of being able to continuously inspire the people of DeKalb County, the Auburn Arts Commission created the Auburn Arts Commission Endowment Fund in 2014. With an endowment fund, they are able to have an annual source of dedicated funds to encourage DeKalb County residents to take part in the arts.

If you would prefer receiving our newsletter via email, please share your name and email at Info@CFDeKalb.org or call Ashton at (260) 925-0311.



The JAM Center
1200 East Houston Street
Garrett, Indiana 46738

21st Annual Meeting Celebration
Friday, April 13, 2018
5:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Save the Date



Community
Foundation
DEKALB COUNTY



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