

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DEKALB COUNTY

Quarterly Newsletter



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2021 LILLY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Eastside High School senior Liam Franz for being selected as the recipient of the 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship! Liam will attend Notre Dame and pursue a degree in marketing with a minor in business administration or finance. After completing his undergraduate studies, he hopes to obtain a master's degree or attend law school at Notre Dame.



GIVING TUESDAY RECAP

From October 26th to November 22nd, nonprofit organizations with endowment funds at the Community Foundation were invited to participate in our first annual Giving Tuesday DeKalb event. Our partner local nonprofits were encouraged to fundraise over the four weeks of the event to build their endowment funds at the Foundation.



We are proud that so many of our nonprofit partners worked to raise an incredible amount for their endowment funds, as fourteen organizations participated this year to raise a stunning grand total of **\$49,072.48!** The Community Foundation awarded unrestricted grants to the top three organizations that fundraised the most, with Junior Achievement of East/Central DeKalb placing first, St. Martin's Healthcare Inc. placing second, and United Way of DeKalb County Inc. placing third. We were so impressed with the participation and effort from our participants, we even gave out a surprise fourth-place award that went to the ACD Museum. These winners were surprised on Giving Tuesday with their unrestricted grant checks (as seen in the pictures above and below).



MEET OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT



Barbara Olenyik Morrow received her bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Indiana University. She worked for newspapers for twelve years and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for editorial writing. The author of six books for children and adults, Barbara loves history and much of her work highlights aspects of Hoosier history. Since moving to DeKalb County in 1979, Barbara has served on and chaired numerous school, church, and community committees. As President, Barbara welcomes the opportunity to promote the foundation's mission. She enjoys sharing stories of how donors' gifts collectively impact and significantly improve our community's quality of life. Barbara and her husband Douglas, a local optometrist, have four adult sons and one grandson.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD

Vice President: Tasha Eicher
Secretary: Angie Holt
Treasurer: Melissa McLaughlin
Members: Scott Armstrong, Jennifer Bell, Allison Carnahan, Justin Clark, Loraine Hartranft, Becky Hefty, Judy Hey, Zach Lightner, J. Bryan Nugen, Terry L. Rayle, Kathie O. Swaim, & Norm Yoder

PROMISE IN A BAG



DeKalb County Promise's "Walk Into My Future" still happened this year, we just had to get extra creative. To keep our children and community safe amidst the COVID-19 policy changes and complications, we introduced Promise in a Bag. In previous years, DeKalb County Promise hosted 2000+ kindergarten through 3rd-grade students on a field trip to Ivy Tech, Ft. Wayne. Since our students weren't able to visit the campus and learn all about career options in person this year, we adapted the program to be engaging and memorable in a mobile format.

Promise created three bags, one for kindergarten and 1st graders, a second for 2nd and 3rd graders, and the third bag for 4th and 5th graders. Dividing the age groups allowed for the contents of the bags to be catered and age-appropriate. Each backpack had 3-4 "Career Hosts," which were local businesses providing videos and engaging activities for the students. To top off the bag, DeKalb County Promise provided age-appropriate books with an activity to help students in their personal growth. We are thrilled Promise in a Bag was such a success this year, and are thankful for all of the support from our donors and partners who helped us answer today's challenges.

Tonya Weaver, Superintendent of Garrett-Keyser-Butler CSD said, "There is such tremendous power when the DeKalb County community comes together to support the hopes and aspirations of our youth. I encourage all families to visit dekalbcountypromise.org, where, in just a few minutes, families can ensure their child has the assets, champions, and community support to pursue their dreams."

Pam Shoemaker, Principal of James R. Watson Elementary said, "As a principal, I greatly appreciate how the Promise Committee was able to provide Promise in a Bag to our teachers and students. What a creative, user-friendly way to share this learning opportunity with our schools, given the current circumstances."

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

2021 is a year worth celebrating, as this marks our 25th anniversary! For 25 years, we have proudly been serving DeKalb County and striving to create a better future for our community. Since our creation in 1996, donors like you have helped build over \$21 million in permanent and non-permanent endowment funds that grant over \$500,000 a year to worthy local causes. These grant dollars have strengthened our community and made life better for all of us who live, work, and play in DeKalb County. Celebrate this year with us as we commemorate 25 years of tangible impact and philanthropic giving from generous and forward-thinking donors that have strengthened our community, and also as we look to build off of the progress we've already made in the many years ahead of us!

January 2021



**Community
Foundation**
DEKALB COUNTY