

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DEKALB COUNTY

*Quarterly Newsletter*



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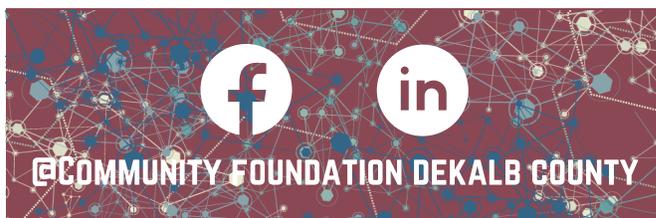
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**Community  
Foundation**  
DEKALB COUNTY

Welcome to 2022! As we say goodbye to 2021, along with all of its challenges, we welcome the new year with high hopes. After celebrating our 25th Anniversary last year, we have many plans in motion for the upcoming year. Join us as these plans unfold and get excited for the adventures that lie ahead.

## PROMISE UPDATE

2021 was a big year for Promise. We enrolled 32 students in Promise 529 College and Career Savings Accounts and provided over \$5,000 in incentives to jumpstart college savings. Over the summer, we rebranded to be known as Promise Indiana DeKalb County. This fall, Promise delivered 3,000 backpacks to all Kindergarten through 5th-grade students in DeKalb County. Finally, our Promise Intern, Lindsey Keller, has transitioned into the role of Promise Coordinator.

With all of these big changes, we are looking forward to a successful and busy 2022. We plan to give out career-focused books to area preschoolers and hope to get even more students and families saving for education after high school.

Promise Indiana DeKalb County is designed to help families start saving for education after high school through career education and community matching dollars.

## LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP



Rowan Tinker of Eastside High School is DeKalb County's 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership. In nominating DeKalb County's Lilly Endowment Community Scholar, consideration was given to academics, leadership activities in high school, community service, and employment, internship experience, and/or job shadowing by the Community Foundation DeKalb County Scholarship Committee.

Additional scholarship opportunities are available at <https://cfdekalb.org/scholarships/>. All scholarship applications are due no later than January 31, 2022.

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

### **Lindsey Keller** **Project/Promise Coordinator**

Lindsey Keller is a recent graduate of the University of Saint Francis with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a concentration in Public Relations. She joined the Community Foundation DeKalb County as the Promise Intern in the spring of 2021. Lindsey has also held positions as a supervisor at Party City in Fort Wayne. Lindsey has also worked as a marketing intern, executive assistant, and accounting clerk at her family business, Keller Logistics Group.

She grew up in the small town of Defiance, Ohio, and looks forward to returning to the small-town environment. In her free time, Lindsey likes to do yoga and play fetch with her Old English Sheepdog, Maggie.



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Kathy Swaim



Kathie Swaim, a foundation board member for the past four years, passed away in November. Kathie was born in Butler and graduated with the class of 1965 from Eastside High School. While she moved away from the area for a time, she never forgot about her native DeKalb County. Kathie loved everything about DeKalb county, from its people to its events to the changing seasons that make the Midwest so special. She was a life-long girl scout and she credited them for giving her life skills as well as her fire-building skills. Kathie also loved education and was a member of the Butler Friends of the Library. She helped to create the endowment fund for Butler Public Library.

While Kathie may be gone from our lives, she will live on in our hearts as we remember all of her contributions to the county. A Celebration of Life memorial service will take place at Butler Public Library at 1:00 pm on April 2, 2022. All that knew her are welcome. Any memorial donations can be made to the Butler Public Library Endowment Fund here at the Community Foundation or to the Girl Scouts of NE Indiana Michiana.

## 2021, A YEAR OF GIVING

2021 was a year of giving, as COVID continued to spread in our country and in our community, people from all over donated their time and money to help DeKalb County and the organizations in it. This past year, the Community Foundation ran two different campaigns that encouraged people to give: Giving Tuesday DeKalb and our End of Year Giving campaign.

This was our second year running Giving Tuesday DeKalb. Giving Tuesday is a national event that encourages people to donate on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. We had 21 nonprofit organizations, with endowment funds housed at the Foundation, participate in this year's event. From October 1st-November 19th, the participants raised nearly \$60,000 for those funds, a 10% increase from last year's total.

In addition to Giving Tuesday DeKalb, we also had our End of Year Giving Campaign. Run by our new project coordinator, Lindsey Keller, our End of Year Giving encouraged people to donate to the Community Foundation's Community Grantmaking Fund, which is used to award quarterly grants to nonprofits in DeKalb County. This year's End of Year Giving Campaign brought in over \$3,000.

Thank you to everyone who gave, both time and money, to the Community Foundation throughout 2021. Your generosity is appreciated.

January 2022



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