

# Newsletter



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Two of the services provided by a community foundation are 1) assisting donors in funding their causes in perpetuity and 2) funding nonprofit and charitable organizations that are addressing community issues.

While some donors have particular thoughts on their causes, others have more general thoughts. In those cases, donating to, or opening an unrestricted fund can be a powerful philanthropic strategy that can impact your community. An unrestricted fund is a pool of money that does not come with any donor-imposed restrictions, which gives the organizations the flexibility to use those funds for the greatest needs. However, that does not mean there is no oversight of those funds.

The Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund, which is the largest unrestricted fund at CFDC is used for the Foundation's quarterly grantmaking. The Foundation has staff and volunteers who diligently review and discuss every grant application to ensure the grantee's fiscal responsibility, strong governance, adequate staffing, collaboration efforts, and long-term sustainability plans for the program/project and organization. The Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund also supports grants for operations, and capacity building because strong programs/projects are only run by strong organizations. Funds from the Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund stay in the county.

Nonprofits are often the only entities addressing vital issues like food insecurity, homelessness, mental health, and abuse (children, animals, elderly, women), to name a few, in a community. Our world needs our nonprofits, and our nonprofits need us. A donation to the Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund is a great way to support our nonprofits and our community!



### Important 2024 dates:

- Quarterly Grant deadlines: July 1, October 1,
- Give Where You Live DeKalb Spring Fundraiser: May 6-10
- 2024 Annual Meeting: August 8
- Giving Tuesday DeKalb: October 1 - November 29
- Giving Tuesday - December 3
- National Philanthropy Day: November 15

## First Quarter Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of our first quarter grants. These grants are part of our ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that positively impact our community.

### Grants Awarded

- Butler Youth Evangelistic Association – awarded \$5,000 for supplies & materials for children’s programming
- JAM Center – awarded \$6,000 for professional development for JAMEE & I14 educators
- RespectTeam – awarded \$2,500 for DeKalb County programming in 2024
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana – awarded \$3,500 for operating their Farm Wagon in DeKalb County
- Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana, Inc. – awarded \$5,000 for programming in DeKalb County
- Women’s Care Center Northeast Indiana – awarded \$20,000 in operational support for 2024-2026
- Inspiration Ministries – awarded \$5,000 for their new Grace House

## Voices of Philanthropy 2024-2025

Back row: Camdyn Woods, Matthias Hefty, Kiersten Haynes, Sarah DePew, Grace Kamleiter, Lily Kreisler, Kaitlin Traylor, Melanie Nichter, Atalie Gullet

Middle row: Bridget Dunn, Kaitlin Keesler, Isaiah Hefty, Jacob DiDomenico, Addison Moughler

Front row: Lydia Sullivan, Vinnie Talarico, Joanie Kimpel, Campbell Warner, Abby Thomas

Not Pictured: Addison Ebert



Navigators: Heidi Crider, Matt Dazey, Ryan Hathaway, Mallory Clifford, Nick Frank,  
Facilitator: Hailey Carmer LaMaster

## Spring Fundraiser: Give Where You Live DeKalb 2024

Mark your calendar for the second annual Give Where You Live Spring Fundraiser, May 6 – May 10. Give Where You Live DeKalb supports the Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund. This is the most widely used fund at the Foundation as it provides funding for the majority of quarterly grants to the nonprofits and charitable organizations that are addressing county issues.

In 2024 and 2025 due to a generous grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., anyone who gives to the Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund at the Foundation will triple their donation.

$$\$50 \text{ (you)} + \$100 \text{ (Lilly Endowment, Inc.)} = \$150 \text{ (total donation)}$$

Our local nonprofit organizations work on vital issues for DeKalb County. In 2023 the Foundation granted to nonprofits for issues like:

Youth Mental Health

Prevention of Child Abuse

Early Learning Curriculum

Ramps for Handicapped Individuals

Food Pantries

Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

Dinners-to-go for those experiencing food insecurity

Unfortunately, we had to turn down as many grant applications as we approved. This fundraiser builds the Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund so the Foundation and you can make a greater impact in the County.

Please add the Spring Fundraiser to your list of donations and triple your impact!



Contact us at [kalter@cfdekalb.org](mailto:kalter@cfdekalb.org) or 260-925-0311 with any questions. You can send a check to the office or donate online.

Zach Lightner joined the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of DeKalb County in 2018. He grew up in Northeast Indiana and obtained a degree in Business Management from the Purdue Krannert School of Management. Zach then earned his law degree at the IU McKinney School of Law and operates Lightner Law Firm, P.C. where he focuses on Business, Real Estate, and Estate Planning matters, along with serving as City Attorney for Auburn. Zach first became acquainted with the CFDC by volunteering for Learning Link and then joined the Learning Link Steering Committee in 2015. Zach also serves as a Director at the YMCA of DeKalb County, the United Way of DeKalb County, Image of Hope, is involved with the Auburn Noon Lions Club, and the Auburn Elks. Zach Lives in Auburn with his wife, Kristin, and children, Poppy, Harry, and Teddy. Zach enjoys spending time with family and friends and giving back to the community.

### Board Spotlight: Zachary Lightner





**Community  
Foundation**  
DEKALB COUNTY

700 S Main Street  
Auburn, IN 46706

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