



MCCF

Impact Monthly

Dear Community Friends and Partners,

December is a season of celebration, reflection, and looking ahead. That spirit is woven throughout this newsletter. As we close out the year, we're excited to share the launch of Madison Forever, an initiative that will shape the future of philanthropy in our community for generations to come.

This issue also celebrates much to be proud of, including our newest Lilly Scholars, whose accomplishments inspire us, and a look back at a month filled with meaningful moments and shared joy. You'll also find helpful year-end giving reminders and details about upcoming nonprofit sessions designed to support the important work happening across Madison County.

As we turn the page on another year, we do so with deep gratitude and great excitement for what lies ahead. Thank you for being part of this community and this work, today and for the future. Warmest wishes for a season of celebration and a new year full of possibility.

With Gratitude,

-Ben Davis, President



INVESTING IN
LASTING
POSITIVE
CHANGE TO
ELEVATE AND
STRENGTHEN
MADISON
COUNTY

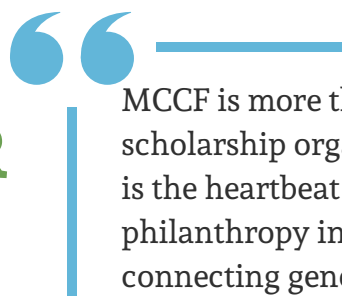


In this newsletter you will find:

Board Member Spotlight, Lilly Scholar Spotlight, "Madison Forever" Campaign Overview, "A Year of Impact", New Fund and Donation Overview, Upcoming Events, and more!

BOARD MEMBER

Spotlight



MCCF is more than a scholarship organization. It is the heartbeat of philanthropy in our county, connecting generous neighbors with the causes that change lives right here in Anderson and beyond.”

-Suahil Housholder-

SUAHIL HOUSHOLDER

For nearly two years, Suahil Housholder has been lending her insight and leadership to the Madison County Community Foundation board. A lifelong learner, she serves as the Chief Financial Officer at Butler University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in higher education and plans to defend her dissertation in the spring of 2026. This month also marks another major milestone as she is celebrating her 27th wedding anniversary with her husband, Aaron.

Originally from the Cayman Islands, Suahil moved to Anderson to attend Anderson University. “It was a massive change,” she recalls, “but this is truly home now. The success and health of Madison County are important to me because this is the community I chose to call home.”



Her first introduction to MCCF came through her role as Vice President for Finance and CFO at Anderson University, when President John Pistole invited her to represent the university on the board. “It was an invitation I was honored to accept,” she says.

She admits that before joining, her understanding of MCCF was limited. “At first, I thought MCCF was just a small organization that managed only Lilly scholarships,” she shares. “I had no idea how much more they did!”

Now, after serving on the board, she sees the Foundation’s reach in a new light. “I’ve learned that the Foundation is the quiet force behind so many organizations we love,” she says. “The breadth of community groups supported by MCCF is truly inspiring.”



**SOMETHING EXCITING
IS BUZZING AT MCCF
WE HAVE BIG NEWS TO SHARE!**



Thanks to a transformational partnership with Lilly Endowment Inc., Madison County Community Foundation is launching a new phase of community investment that will strengthen Madison County for generations to come.

Dear Friends and Community Partners,

When we announced the success of our last campaign, I don't think any of us imagined we would be launching another one so soon. Yet here we are, and for the very best reason. Because of a remarkable gift from Lilly Endowment, Inc. (Gift IX) and a shared vision for our community's future, we have the opportunity to build on our momentum and propel Madison County forward once again.

Our new campaign, *Madison Forever*, will strengthen the Foundation's ability to respond to immediate needs while also securing the resources that will sustain our community for good, forever.

While many of the details are still being developed, including the structure and scope of funding over the next three years, this moment marks an important first step. In time, we'll be ready to share the full picture. For now, I simply wanted to offer a glimpse of what's to come as we begin this exciting new chapter.

We are fortunate to have a board and staff who are motivated, passionate, and positioned to bring this mission to life. Together, we are embracing this opportunity with purpose and confidence, knowing that what we build today will shape Madison County's tomorrow.



Ben Davis

Ben Davis
President & CEO



**The buzz has begun . . .
and it's built to last forever.**

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

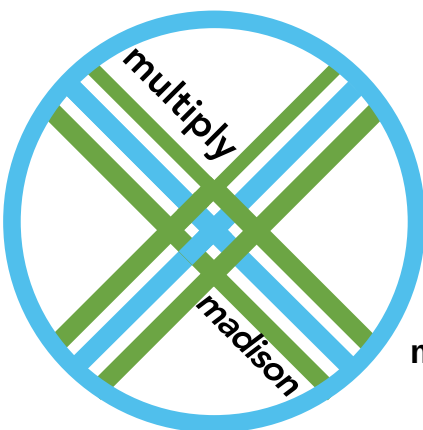


*A Three Year Initiative to
Strengthen and Elevate
Madison County*

WHAT IS MADISON FOREVER?

Madison Forever is more than a campaign. It is a reflection of who we are and our vision to be a community where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

Through a generous gift from Lilly Endowment, Inc., we are challenged to strengthen our capacity for greater impact. This initiative includes both a robust **matching campaign** and **community support grants** that allow us to respond immediately to local needs and opportunities.



Through the Madison Forever campaign, the Foundation is excited to announce an expanded matching opportunity that multiplies the impact of **EVERY** endowed gift.

- 3:1 - Unrestricted Funds
- 2:1 - Field of Interest Funds
- 1:1 - Designated Funds
- ½:1 - Donor Advised & Scholarship Funds



Elevate Madison fuels immediate projects and programs that create measurable, long-term impact across Madison County.



With support from Lilly Endowment Inc., this next phase will fund initiatives and grants that align with our strategic plan. More information coming soon!



HONEY NEVER SPOILS.

Honey is nature's forever gift, preserved for generations. Just like your gift to the Foundation, its value endures. It never spoils. It never fades. It continues to nourish. The generosity we invest today remains sweet for generations to come.

**WE CREATE MADISON FOREVER,
TOGETHER**



MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT

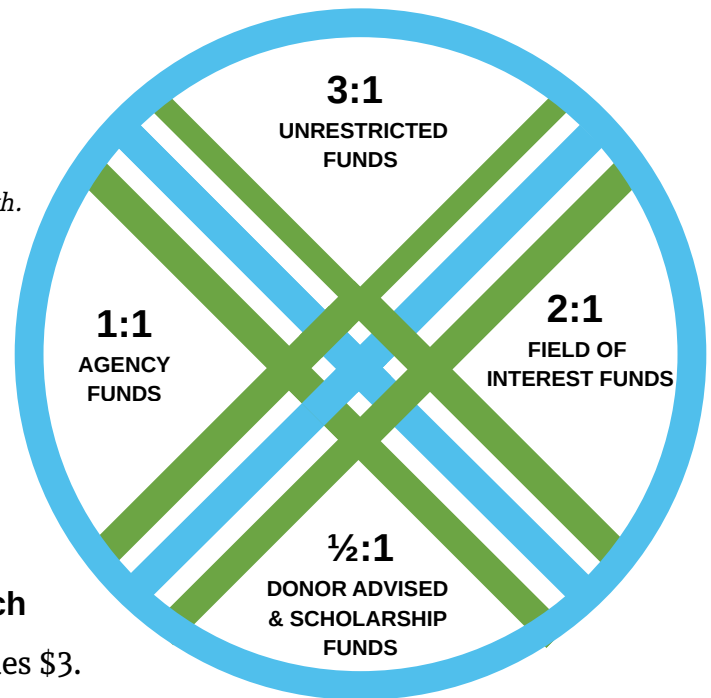
Multiply Madison strengthens the heart of our community by offering matching opportunities across every type of endowed fund we hold. Each match level reflects the Foundation's goal of building Madison County's long-term capacity for good, across every type of philanthropy.



By offering higher matches for unrestricted and field of interest funds, we are encouraging gifts that provides the most flexibility to meet emerging needs and community priorities. At the same time, agency, donor advised, and scholarship fund matches ensure that our local nonprofits, donors, and students also benefit from this unique opportunity. Together, these tiered matches create a balanced approach, one that builds a sustainable foundation for the future while honoring the passions and priorities of every donor.

MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Unrestricted Funds — 3:1 Match***
Every \$1 you give becomes \$4 to meet the community's greatest needs, now and in the future.
**New Named Unrestricted Funds can be started for less than \$100/month.*
- **Field of Interest Funds — 2:1 Match**
Multiply your impact on the causes you care about most. Every \$1 you give becomes \$3.
- **Agency Funds — 1:1 Match**
Strengthen your favorite nonprofit's sustainability. Every \$1 you give becomes \$2 for their future.
- **Donor Advised and Scholarship Funds — ½:1 Match**
Deepen your legacy of giving. Every \$2 you give becomes \$3.



INTEGRITY COMMUNITY IMPACT INCLUSION LEGACY

MULTIPLY MADISON BRINGS OUR VALUES TO LIFE

Congratulations

Sydney Wagner

Liberty Christian High School

Caleb Shipley

Frankton High School



Lilly Endowment
Community Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

The Madison County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship for Madison County: Caleb Shipley of Frankton High School and Sydney Wagner of Liberty Christian High School.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years. The scholarship is for full-time undergraduate students leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership.

Caleb Shipley, a senior at Frankton High School, is known for his exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and deep commitment to both his school and community. Ranked third in his class with a 4.3 GPA, Caleb has pursued one of the most rigorous academic paths available, earning numerous College Board recognitions and National Merit distinction. A captain of both the football and wrestling teams, he has been honored for his character, integrity, and academic excellence. Beyond athletics, Caleb has invested extensively in service, from youth sports mentorship to Students in Action and National Honor Society projects, while also carrying significant responsibilities at home and maintaining employment to support his family. Caleb's passion for physics has shaped his vision for the future. As he shared in his application, "Nothing propels me in life more than physics. For me, nothing in life could be more fulfilling than pushing the boundaries of human knowledge and understanding more about the fundamental nature of the universe." He hopes to pursue a doctorate in physics and contribute to nuclear or plasma research.

Sydney Wagner, a senior at Liberty Christian School, has distinguished herself through strong academics, broad leadership, and remarkable service to Madison County. Ranked second in her class with a 4.1 GPA, Sydney has earned multiple departmental awards and repeated placement on the Principal's List. As Student Council President, she has dedicated more than 1,000 hours to planning schoolwide events, strengthening student engagement, and building a culture of connection. Her leadership extends into athletics as a cheerleader and an award-winning volleyball player. Sydney's community involvement includes volunteer work with organizations such as Gathering of the Queens, the Christian Center, Legends League, and the Salvation Army. With a passion for hospitality and event management, she hopes to create spaces that bring people together. Sydney shares, "Many young women who don't have a strong support system tend to replicate the cycle of poverty... My vision is to create a program... to empower young girls and teach them both educational tools and life skills that will help them thrive beyond the classroom."

2026 NONPROFIT SUMMIT SESSION DETAILS RELEASED



As we continue to improve and elevate this event, we're excited to offer a mix of local voices and guest speakers from beyond Madison County.

We hope you'll join us for a day designed to inspire, equip, and connect nonprofit leaders.

☀️ KEYNOTE SESSION

🐝 "Recipe for a Delectable Life"

Speaker: Jennifer Stanley, Living Well by Jennifer Stanley

- Explore the ingredients of a joyful, meaningful, and enduring life through engaging teaching blended with inspiring stories.

☀️ FEATURED MCCF SESSION

🐝 At the Heart of the Hive: Grantmaking & Priorities

Presenters: Madison County Community Foundation Staff

- Learn about MCCF's evolving grantmaking priorities, upcoming opportunities, and the strategic direction guiding our work to strengthen Madison County.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

🐝 Being Grant Ready

Presenter: Barbara Schafer, Schafer Grant & Project Management

🐝 Leading with Resilience: Preventing Burnout and Promoting Wellness

Presenter: Kourtney McCauliff, Purple Ink

🐝 Annual Fundraising Campaigns on a Shoestring

Presenter: Bobbie Donahue, IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

🐝 Events & Fundraising: Marketing and Implementation

Presenters: Patty Lovins & Rachael McCracken, Madison County Chamber

🐝 Collaboration: Who, What, When, How, Why

Presenter: Dianna Huddleston, Aspire Indiana

🐝 Agency Endowment Fundholder Workshop

Presenter: Rev. Libby Davis Manning, Madison County Community Foundation

January 29, 2026
11:30 am- 4:30 pm
Flagship Enterprise Center
2705 Enterprise Drive, Suite 150
Anderson, Indiana

Register

**Let's keep the hive buzzing with ideas, collaboration, and connection.
We can't wait to see you on January 29, 2026!**

Buzzing with Possibility: Connecting Changemakers for Greater Impact

NEW FUNDS THIS MONTH

Edgewood Pool Fund

The Edgewood Pool Fund is a project fund to support the construction of a new swimming pool at the Town of Edgewood Golf & Event Center. This fund serves as a meaningful way for donors to contribute.

Notable Donations in December

Total \$89,230

\$50,000

given to Operation Love Ministries, Inc. Endowment Fund

\$13,000

given to Lance Gayle Endowment Fund

\$5700

given to Zachary J. Novak Memorial Scholarship Fund

\$5080

given to Elwood Education Foundation Endowment Fund

\$4000

given to Alexandria Cultural Fund

\$3000

given to Operating Fund

\$2625

given to various Unrestricted Named Funds

\$1775

given to Impact Madison Fund

\$1000

given to Anderson XI Chapter of Kappa, Kappa, Kappa Fund

\$1200

given to Anderson Parks Department Trails Fund

\$1000

given to Betty Pierce Scholarship Fund

\$700

given to Hecht Family Fund

\$150

given to Edgewood Pool Fund

You can set up a payment plan to contribute an amount of your choice to any of the funds held at the Foundation or to start a named fund of your own.

Contact spatton@madisonccf.org for more information

MCCF Funds

Thank You
for your
generosity



DEC 2025

IMPACT STORY

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Your generosity showed up all year long wherever the need was greatest.

As we look back on the past year, one thing becomes clear: impact doesn't always arrive on a schedule and it rarely fits neatly into one category.

Across Madison County, needs emerged quickly, opportunities unfolded unexpectedly, and moments of transformation happened in ways no one could have fully planned for.

Unrestricted giving made it possible to respond to all of it, empowering Madison County Community Foundation to invest well over \$280,000 in grants that elevated and strengthened Madison County throughout the year.

Throughout the year, we heard powerful reflections from nonprofit partners whose work was strengthened by flexible support:

"We were able to respond immediately—without interruption—when families needed us most."

— **Second Harvest Food Bank, during emergency food distributions following SNAP disruptions**

"This funding allowed us to welcome people who had never needed help before, with dignity and compassion."

— **Local food pantry partners, serving a growing number of first-time visitors**



In other moments, unrestricted giving helped nurture growth rather than respond to crisis.

"Because of this support, kids found a place where they belong—and they keep coming back."

— **Anderson Mainstage Theatre, reflecting on the launch of its youth performing arts program**

"It's not just putting on a show. It's building friendships."

— **Kara Critchlow, Board Secretary, Anderson Mainstage Theatre**

From youth arts programs to hands-on STEM education, unrestricted funds allowed organizations to pilot new ideas, reach young people in meaningful ways, and create spaces of belonging—especially for those who had struggled to find one elsewhere.

We also saw unrestricted generosity at work where food, education, wellness, and creativity intersect.

"Families leave not just with fresh food, but with new skills, confidence, and connection."

— **Bloom Madison County, reflecting on the Anderson Farmers Market's Bloom & Learn programming**

[Read More](#)



Giving is Good for the Giver

Have you ever felt a warm glow after helping someone? That's not just your heart talking; it's science. Donating to charity taps into the brain's reward system, creating feelings of joy and connection. But the benefits go far beyond a fleeting moment of happiness. From strengthening your sense of purpose to improving your health, giving has a ripple effect that enhances your life in unexpected ways.

Here are 7 benefits of donating money to established charities.

1. Boosts Your Mental Health

Giving isn't just good for the soul; it's good for your brain. When you donate to a charity, your brain releases dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin, the "feel-good" chemicals that create a sense of joy and satisfaction. A 2008 study from Harvard University found that people who give to others report higher levels of happiness than those who don't. Whether it's a small monthly contribution or a one-time gift, the act of generosity can act like a natural antidepressant, lifting your mood and reducing stress.

2. Strengthens Social Connections

Donating to charity often brings people together, fostering a sense of community. Whether you're participating in a fundraising event, volunteering, or simply sharing your favorite cause with friends, giving creates opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals.

3. Enhances Your Sense of Purpose

In a world full of noise, donating to a cause you care about can anchor you to something meaningful. Contributing to a charity aligns your actions with your values, giving you a sense of purpose that's hard to find elsewhere. It's a reminder that even small actions can ripple outward, changing lives and reinforcing your role in a larger story of hope.

4. Improves Physical Health

Believe it or not, giving can be good for your body. Research from the University of California, Berkeley, suggests that altruistic behaviors, like donating to charity, can lower stress levels, which in turn reduces blood pressure and strengthens the immune system.

5. Inspires Others to Give

Your generosity can start a chain reaction. When you donate to a charity, you're not just impacting the cause, you're setting an example for others. Imagine a friend noticing your monthly donation to a cause and deciding to contribute too, or a family member joining a fundraising event because of your enthusiasm.. Your single act of kindness could motivate others to join the movement, creating exponential change.

6. Offers Tax Benefits

Donating to a registered 501(c)(3) charity can come with financial perks. In many countries, including the United States, contributions to qualifying nonprofits are tax-deductible, potentially lowering your taxable income.

7. Builds Financial Discipline

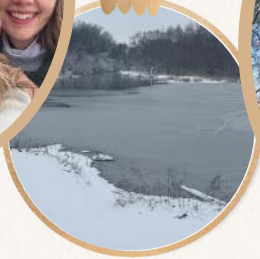
Regular giving can transform your relationship with money. Setting aside a portion of your income for charity encourages you to budget wisely and prioritize meaningful spending. Whether it's \$10 a month or a larger sum, committing to consistent donations fosters financial discipline, helping you plan better and avoid impulsive purchases. Over time, this habit not only supports worthy causes but also builds a sense of control and responsibility, making you a more mindful steward of your resources.



Reach out to MCCF about year end gifts

December in Pictures





Happy Holidays

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
Madison County Community Foundation

This Season

invites us to slow down, to notice the small joys, and to remember the beauty of being connected in community.

Wishing you peace, wonder, and rest this holiday season and into the year ahead.

With gratitude,

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



www.madisonccf.org

