



The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

A Place for *All*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Contact Us

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Muncie & Delaware County, Inc.**
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Muncie, IN 47308
765.747.7181
cfmdin.org



MISSION

The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc. encourages philanthropy, assists donors in building an enduring source of charitable assets, and exercises leadership in directing resources to enhance the quality of life for residents of Muncie and Delaware County.

VISION

To impact and empower Muncie and Delaware County by enabling philanthropy as a trusted community leader and promoting positive change now and for generations to come.

VALUES

Representative of community voices
Responsive to community desires
Relevant within community today

Welcome

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we close out another year at The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, we are grateful for all we've accomplished together. This year has been marked by growth, new initiatives, and a deepened commitment to making Muncie and Delaware County a vibrant community where everyone can flourish—today, tomorrow, and always.

A Year of Transformative Impact

Through your generosity, we awarded \$3.77 million in grants and scholarships in 2024, directly addressing the needs and opportunities in our community. From investing in economic development to preserving land and enhancing recreation, celebrating the arts, and much more, your support has made a difference.

Expanding Philanthropic Horizons

This year also saw our Local Impact Investing Program launch, a bold step to amplify our mission. By investing a portion of our endowed assets locally, we're supporting projects that combine financial returns with social impact, like a Micro Business Loan that gives entrepreneurs access to capital needed to grow.

Donors like James and Kate Murray, who established the James, Kate, and Sagan

Murray Family Fund and worked to create two other funds to be gifted to loved ones – a double gift - remind us why unrestricted funds are so vital. These funds empower the Foundation to live our values by addressing urgent needs, responding to diverse opportunities, and investing in long-term solutions.

Investing in Our Future Home

In 2024, we took meaningful steps to enhance our downtown home at 302 E. Jackson Street. Thanks to the generosity of donors and a matching opportunity through Lilly Endowment Inc., the Building Projects Fund is helping us make our home sustainable and a gift to the community.

What's Ahead

As we look to 2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to listening to and learning

from the community to ensure we are responsive, relevant, and representative.

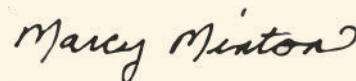
Together, we will address critical issues like housing, health, and education while embracing opportunities to build a more vibrant, connected, and equitable community through arts and culture and economic development collaborations.

Thank you for your trust and partnership. Your support fuels the work we do, and we are continually inspired by the collective spirit of giving that defines Muncie and Delaware County.

Warm Regards,



Casey Stanley
Board Chair



Marcy Minton
President & CEO



GOVERNANCE

Investing in Opportunity

HOW IMPACT INVESTING FUELS GROWTH
IN MUNCIE AND DELAWARE COUNTY





For emerging entrepreneurs, getting funding to support expansion can be a challenge. The Micro Business Loan Program, a capacity-building loan opportunity, can help grow businesses with less than 10 employees.

Working in Partnership with Prime Trust Financial, the Micro Business Loan Program was launched in early 2024 through the Foundation's first impact investment.

Impact investing combines financial returns with measurable community benefits, helping us tackle pressing local challenges while growing our assets.

The Foundation invested \$500,000 from its endowment locally into the Micro Business Loan Program and expects a financial return over the program's life. The Micro Business Loan Program strengthens entrepreneurship and small businesses in Muncie and Delaware County by providing access to capital for capacity building and upward mobility opportunities that positively develop our local economy. It's an investment that improves the quality of life today and for generations to come.

How Impact Investing Works

The Community Foundation's endowed assets are invested to see financial return. Each year, a portion of that return is given back to the community in the form of grants to positively impact the community. The impact investing policy allows a portion of endowed assets, typically invested in traditional markets, to be invested locally instead. Unlike a grant, the Foundation sees a financial and social return on its local impact investments.

Through its other work in the community, the Foundation identifies impact investment opportunities based on community needs. Staff and volunteers spot opportunities. Those opportunities are evaluated for potential impact, and projects are recommended for funding. Investments are monitored closely for financial return and community impact. The Foundation's Investment Committee and Impact Investment Subcommittee provide guidance and oversight on which projects are selected. The Foundation's Board approves all investment decisions.

The Foundation's Impact Investing Program is just getting started. We anticipate projects supporting economic development, placemaking, housing, nonprofit capacity building, and business incubation in the coming years.

"By blending financial strategy with community insight, impact investing lets us fuel growth while staying true to our mission," explained Marcy Minton, president and CEO of The Community Foundation. "Already in its first year, the Micro Business Loan Fund has supported nine small businesses with more than \$100,000 in loans."

What's next?

The Local Impact Investing Program allows The Community Foundation

to further our mission through local investments. It's designed to complement and extend the impact the Foundation can have through grantmaking.

Housing and downtown redevelopment are among the investments being considered for 2025. The Community Foundation continues to spot investment opportunities through community engagement.

"Impact investing drives innovation in our community. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and create a stronger community for everyone," said Magi Kirkpatrick Sikora, Foundation Board member and member of the Impact Investment Subcommittee. ♦



STATISTICS

Local Investing

\$500,000

DOLLARS INVESTED

9

SOCIAL IMPACT: LOCAL
BUSINESSES SUPPORTED

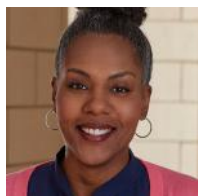
\$21,974

FINANCIAL RETURN:
INTEREST EARNED

Board of Directors



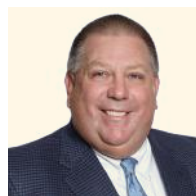
Casey Stanley
Chair



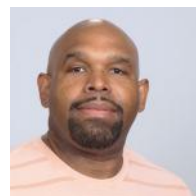
Mia Johnson
Vice Chair



**Magi Kirkpatrick
Sikora**
Secretary



Dave Heeter
Treasurer



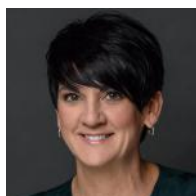
John Anderson



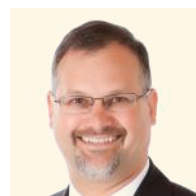
Derron Bishop



Jaime Faulkner



Jennifer Gibson



Daniel Stallings



**Sara Shade
Hamilton**
Ex Officio

Advisory Committees of the Board

Grants

Sara Shade
Hamilton, Chair
John Anderson
Chris Day
Ermalene Faulkner
Jaime Faulkner
Olivia Fellows
Molly Flodder
Keith Gary
Charlize Jamieson
Lathay Pegues

Finance

Kathy White, Chair
Trent Dowling
Mark Ervin
Michael Galliher
Erika Hayes
Dave Heeter
Kristin Keisling
Carol Seals
Casey Stanley
Stephen Wachtmann

Investment

Ronald Fauquher,
Chair
Jennifer Gibson
Thomas Kinghorn
Sarah McCord
Mark Price
Carol Seals
Daniel Stallings
Rob Tyler
Tom Heck, Advisor

Impact Investing

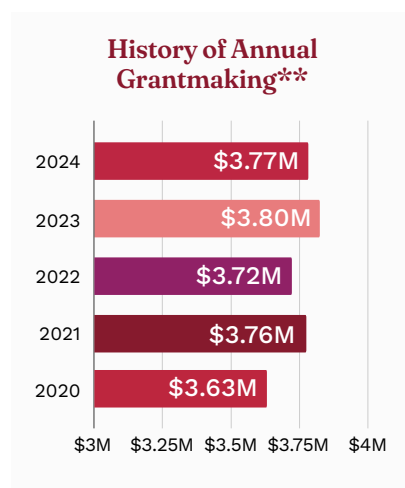
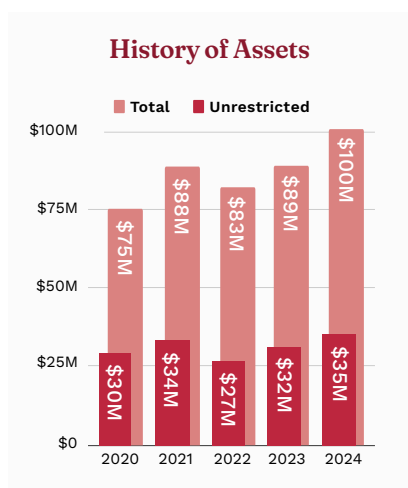
Jay Allardt
Ben Freeman
Jason Harrington
Jeff Huff
Carol Seals
Magi Kirkpatrick
Sikora
Steve Slavin

2024 Financials

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

Years ended December 31

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$5,062,518	\$2,226,088
Certificate of deposit	\$521,974	-
Prepaid expenses	\$1,675	\$2,070
Pledges Receivable	\$374,609	\$333,000
Right of use asset	-	\$8,305
Cash surrender value of life insurance	\$241,472	\$242,562
Property, building and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	\$1,177,920	\$1,155,377
Investments	\$93,268,766	\$85,916,103
	\$100,648,934	\$89,883,505
Liabilities		
Administrative expenses payable	\$21,966	\$9,978
Grants payable	\$288,688	\$389,372
Right of use liability	-	\$8,305
Funds held for the benefit of others	\$7,549,630	\$7,050,423
Investments managed for others	\$803,859	\$833,474
	\$8,664,143	\$8,291,552
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	\$991,901	\$1,100,330
With donor restrictions	\$90,992,890	\$80,491,623
	\$91,984,791	\$81,591,953
	\$100,648,934	\$89,883,505



Consolidated Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31

	2024			2023
Operating Support & Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Contributions	\$12,520	\$6,156,930	\$6,169,450	\$2,174,515
In-Kind Contributions	-	\$244,703	\$244,703	\$61,223
Rent	\$136,143	-	\$136,143	\$60,534
Investment return, net	\$3	\$8,680,820	\$8,680,823	\$8,953,602
Administrative fee revenue	\$1,018,679	-	\$1,018,679	\$743,045
Total operating support and revenue	\$1,167,345	\$15,082,453	\$16,249,798	\$11,992,919
Net Assets Released from Restrictions				
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	\$861,119	(\$861,119)	-	-
Net assets released from restriction pursuant to spending policy	\$3,720,067	(\$3,720,067)	-	-
Operating Expenses				
Program services	\$3,550,870	-	\$3,550,870	\$3,840,106
Program services - BY5	\$170,008	-	\$170,008	\$155,337
Program services - NSN	\$146,068	-	\$146,068	\$111,346
Management and general expenses	\$1,548,708	-	\$1,548,708	\$1,100,702
Management and general expenses - BY5	\$119,388	-	\$119,388	\$112,925
Management and general expenses - NSN	\$58,077	-	\$58,077	\$51,423
Fundraising expenses	\$206,822	-	\$206,822	\$189,745
Fundraising expenses - BY5	\$40,589	-	\$40,589	\$44,095
Fundraising expenses - NSN	\$16,430	-	\$16,430	\$17,044
Total operating expenses	\$5,856,960	-	\$5,856,960	\$5,622,723
Change in Net Assets				
Change in net assets	(\$108,429)	\$10,501,267	\$10,392,838	\$6,370,196
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,100,330	\$80,491,623	\$81,591,953	\$75,221,757
Net assets at end of year	\$991,901	\$90,992,890	\$91,984,791	\$81,591,953

*The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc., uses Fund Evaluation Group, LLC (FEG) as its investment consultant. FEG provides a complete range of traditional institutional consulting services including investment policy development, portfolio design, asset allocation, manager search and selection, investment manager monitoring, plan monitoring and education for board members and staff.

**represents the total grant distribution from all funds of the Foundation

The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc. and Related Entities

The audited financial statements are available on our website at CFMDIN.ORG



PRESERVING NATURE, SHAPING FUTURES:

The Land Conservation Fund's Legacy





For over a decade, the Land Conservation Fund has quietly transformed East Central Indiana's landscape—one acre, one trail, one community project at a time. With over 450 acres preserved and \$855,000 in grants multiplied through strategic matches, the Fund has protected vital green spaces and created opportunities for recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship. From expanding Cardinal Greenway to preserving wildlife habitats that anchor our local ecosystem, the Land Conservation Fund is a testament to what's possible when a community comes together to invest in its natural treasures.

But the true impact of conservation isn't measured in dollars or acreage alone—it's measured in the experiences of those who benefit from it. For lifelong nature enthusiast Phil Clay, the trails protected by the Land Conservation Fund aren't just places to walk—they're places to heal, reflect, and reconnect. "These spaces give people a reason to get outside, to breathe, to find peace in nature," Phil shares. "It's about more than land. It's about quality of life."

Meet Phil Clay, Nature Enthusiast

For Phil, the importance of conservation isn't just an abstract idea—it's personal. As a child, he spent endless hours exploring the forests and creeks near his home, developing a deep appreciation for the natural world. That passion carried into adulthood, shaping how he and his wife, Susan, raised their three sons. Whether hiking, canoeing, or camping, time outdoors became a family tradition. This tradition instilled in them a respect for nature and a belief in protecting it.

In 2019, Phil's love for conservation led him to the Indiana Master Naturalist program,

where he deepened his knowledge of local ecosystems and discovered Red-tail Land Conservancy. He quickly became an active volunteer, removing invasive species, planting trees, and helping educate the public about the value of protected lands. His dedication was recognized when he was invited to join Red-tail's Board of Directors, a role that allows him to help guide conservation efforts that will impact future generations.

The significance of conservation goes beyond personal enjoyment. Conservation is about ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities to connect with nature. "When we protect land, we're

doing something forever,” he shared. “We may never see the full impact, but we know that our children, grandchildren, and beyond will benefit from cleaner air, healthier ecosystems, and places to experience the beauty of nature.”

Looking Ahead: The Future of Environmental Impact

As our region’s needs evolve, so must our approach to conservation. That’s why the Land Conservation Fund is expanding its mission and transforming into the Environmental Impact Fund—building on its legacy while embracing new opportunities to address today’s environmental challenges. This next chapter isn’t just about preserving land; it’s about leveraging resources to promote sustainable practices, climate resilience, and community-wide environmental health.

The Environmental Impact Fund will continue to support land conservation efforts while also tackling pressing issues such as stormwater management, urban green space development, and sustainable infrastructure. By broadening

its focus, the Fund aims to make an even greater impact—ensuring that future generations inherit a region that is not only beautiful but also resilient and thriving.

Building on Success, Embracing the Future

The transformation of the Land Conservation Fund into the Environmental Impact Fund reflects The Community Foundation’s commitment to long-term stewardship. Just as conservation efforts of the past have shaped the landscape we enjoy today, the work of the Environmental Impact Fund will help shape the future of our environment for generations to come.

Whether through the preservation of trails, the restoration of waterways, or the creation of green spaces in urban neighborhoods, the Environmental Impact Fund will continue to bring together partners, resources, and community members to drive meaningful change.

As Phil says, “Every tree, every acre, every project makes a difference. We’re not just saving land—we’re investing in the future of our community.” ♦



“

When we protect land, we’re doing something *forever.*”

- PHIL CLAY



STATISTICS

Community Grants

Community Grants are awarded to address the broad needs in arts and culture, community betterment, economic development, education, and human services. Committees of local volunteers review grant applications in the competitive Community Grants process. Community Grants are funded through The Unrestricted Fund of The Community Foundation, named unrestricted funds, discretionary field-of-interest funds, committee-driven field-of-interest funds, and donor-advised funds.

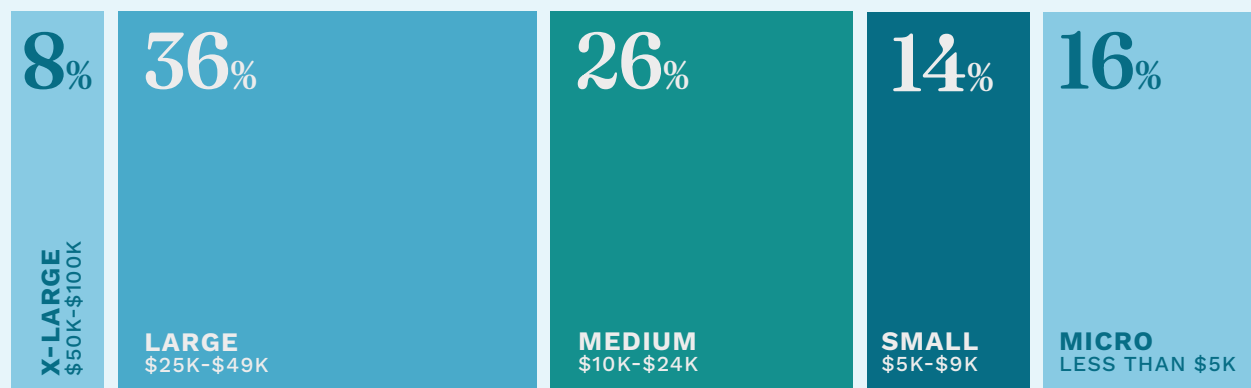
74

TOTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

\$1,581,311

TOTAL AWARDED IN COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Grants by Size



From Benches to Basketball

HOW A SMALL GRANT TRANSFORMED
GASTON'S COMMUNITY PARK





The town of Gaston is proof of what's possible when a community comes together with a shared vision. Manual Lykins Park has long been a gathering space for Gaston residents, but its recent upgrades show the power of neighbors working toward a brighter future. By combining grassroots energy with strategic support, Gaston residents transformed their park into a vibrant, welcoming place for families, friends, and visitors.

The journey began with a \$6,500 Community Grant from The Community Foundation, including support from the Town of Gaston Endowment Fund, which provided new picnic tables and a swing set. Inspired by these improvements, residents like Jay and Christie Love stepped forward to expand the vision, offering a matching gift that rallied the town. In response, Gaston neighbors raised over \$100,000 to resurface basketball courts, install new goals, and add pickleball courts.

Why It Matters: Parks as Community Anchors

The upgrades at Manual Lykins Park go beyond physical improvements—they reflect Gaston's resilience, pride, and ability to bring people together. Parks are essential to fostering connection, health, and belonging in rural and urban communities. The Community Foundation is proud to support towns like Gaston as they strengthen the fabric of Delaware County.

Meet Jay and Christie Love, Hometown Champions

For Jay Love, giving back to Gaston isn't just about philanthropy—it's personal. Growing up just a few blocks from Manual Lykins Park, he spent countless hours shooting hoops on the basketball courts, forming friendships

that lasted a lifetime. "The park was a big part of my childhood. It's where I met people, built relationships, and developed a love for the game," Jay shared. "I wanted kids today to have that same opportunity."

After meeting his wife, Christie, at Butler University, the couple built their lives in Indianapolis, but they never lost their connection to their hometowns. Their belief in the power of strong communities has driven them to support projects that bring people together, from helping revitalize a former box store into a thriving community center and nonprofit hub in Rushville to their most recent investment in Gaston's public spaces.

When Jay learned about The Community Foundation's support for park improvements in Gaston, he saw an opportunity to leverage

this seed funding to do something bigger. “I knew we could take this small investment and turn it into something transformative,” he said. With Christie’s encouragement, they offered a matching gift to challenge the community to rally around the park. The response was overwhelming, with the community coming together to raise the funds needed to restore and expand recreational spaces for future generations.

The Power of Collective Action

What started as a small grant for new picnic tables and a swing set quickly became a community-wide movement to revitalize Manual Lykins Park. When Jay and Christie Love stepped forward with a matching challenge, the people of Gaston responded with enthusiasm, showing that a small town can dream big.

“I didn’t want to just write a check—I wanted the community to be part of it,”

Jay explained. “When people have skin in the game, they take pride in what they’re building. That’s what makes it last.”

With the community’s support, the project grew beyond resurfacing the basketball courts. New pickleball courts were added, creating a space for people of all ages to gather, play, and connect.

The Bigger Picture: Community Grants Program in Action

This year, through the Community Grants Program, the Foundation awarded 74 grants totaling more than \$1.5 million to meet the broad needs of Delaware County. The program follows our grantmaking philosophy to be grantee-centric and relationship-focused, with Foundation staff removing barriers for nonprofit applicants and the grants committees leaning into their lived experience for review and evaluation. This includes a single application from



“

I knew we could take this small investment and turn it into something *transformative.*”

- JAY LOVE



each nonprofit that is shared among multiple volunteer grants committees to pool funding for a greater impact.

The \$6,500 grant to Gaston Parks and Recreation was reviewed and recommended with partial funding from the Town of Gaston Endowment Fund committee and the remainder from the Grants Committee of the Board. This was one of the first grants awarded by multiple committees under the Foundation's new grantmaking philosophy.

The recent upgrades to Manual Lykins Park are a testament to how even a small grant can spark larger change, showing the power of collaboration and a shared vision for the future.

The story of Manual Lykins Park goes beyond Gaston—it exemplifies the mission of The Community Foundation's Community Grants Program to create meaningful change throughout Delaware County. When neighbors and partners work together, we can transform challenges into opportunities, one park, playground, or public space at a time.

"The dedication was a special day. Before the ceremony was even over, the courts were full, and people were coming together," Jay recalled. "I hope that's just the first of many gatherings. Gaston is a special place, and I want people to see that it's a great place to live and raise a family." ♦

Volunteer Committees

Albany Fund In Memory of the Frazee Family

Lance Engle
Tony Evans
Barb Frazee
Kristen McConnell
Clyde Shaffer
Ryan Vannatter

Gaston Town Endowment Fund

Lisa Brown
Trent Dowling
Dick Johnson
Kyle Mealy
Brandon Petro
James Wormer

Liberty Perry Selma Town Endowment Fund

Kim Conner
Larry Crabtree
Theresa Johnson
Daniel Kauffman
Brandon Morvilius
Kristy Thompson

Town of Yorktown Endowment Fund

Edward Armantrout
Carolyn Gant
Sarah McCord
Bryan Smith
Samantha Taylor

Harry and Janet Kitselman Fund

Stefan Anderson
Jon Moll
Steve Smith
Franky Voss
Jim Williams

Mutual Legacy Fund

Linn Crull
Dave Heeter
Donn Roberts
Carol Seals
Sara Shade Hamilton

Robert P. Bell Education Fund

Ermalene Faulkner
Jaime Faulkner
Mia Johnson

Land Conservation Fund*

Jay Allardt
John Craddock
Sue Errington
Sara Shade Hamilton
Les Smith
John Taylor

Donor Relations

Qiana Clemens
Marcia Kelly
Kate Murray
Daniel Stallings

Scholarship

Derron Bishop
Rateira Dodds-Simmons
Mark Foerster
Aileen Howard
Marchal Hudson
Ryan Hunter
Mia Johnson
Jared Quarles
Ali Starkey

Robert P. Bell Teacher Grant Program*

Devon Barbosa
Lisa Brand
Beth Buehler
Amanda Chester
Terri Gibson
Felicia Gray
Yolanda Lloyd
Eileen Molter
Kris Nauman
Erin Wilson

**In 2024, the Robert P. Bell Teacher Grant and the Land Conservation Fund Programs were revised to align with the Board-approved grantmaking philosophy of The Community Foundation. 2024 was the last year for these committees. We are grateful to the many volunteers who supported these programs.*



DONORS

HONORING FAMILY, INVESTING IN COMMUNITY:

The Ripple Effect of Generosity





James and Kate Murray have always believed in the power of community. As lifelong residents of Muncie, they were raised with a deep appreciation for the city's traditions, its people, and the opportunities that shaped their lives. James carries forward his family's long-standing business, working as a jeweler at Murray's Jewelers, a name that has been part of Muncie for nearly 140 years. Kate is a dedicated community volunteer and a member of The Community Foundation's Donor Relations Committee. Together, they knew that their love for Muncie could be reflected not just in words but in action.

The time was right in 2024 when The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County announced a chance to ignite generosity with a special matching opportunity that allowed donors to amplify their impact by establishing unrestricted funds. James and Kate saw this as the perfect moment to create the James, Kate, and Sagan Murray Family Fund, a fund honoring their family, including their daughter Sagan.

"Creating this fund was about more than just giving back—it was about looking ahead," said Kate. "We want Sagan to grow up in a strong, vibrant community, and this fund is one way we're helping to build that future. It sets an example for her, and we hope it inspires her to carry this commitment forward someday."

A Family Tradition of Philanthropy

For James and Kate, philanthropy isn't just something they do. It's a value they each learned as they grew up in their respective families. James and Kate each approached their siblings with a unique gift idea for their parents.

Kate and her sister, Abbie Coopriders, wanted to honor their parents, Ric and Lisa Dwenger, in a meaningful way. That's when they decided to surprise them with the Ric

and Lisa Dwenger Family Fund, a named unrestricted fund. James and his brother Ryan Murray decided to give a similar gift to their parents, too. The Todd and Janie Murray Family Fund honors Todd and Janie Murray. Jen Murray, Ryan's wife, suggested the funds be presented as Christmas gifts. The funds made for special gifts that will continue to give back to the community for generations to come.

"Our parents have always lived simply valuing relationships over material gifts. Muncie and Ball State have been the

catalyst for many of these intangibles,” Abbie shared. “A gift of a named fund creates a legacy in the community. It’s something lasting and meaningful.”

These unrestricted funds provide lasting support for Muncie’s greatest needs, ensuring that the community continues to grow and thrive.

The Power of Unrestricted Giving

All three of these family funds share an important characteristic: they are unrestricted, which means they can be used to address the community’s most pressing needs now and in the future. Unrestricted funds provide The Community Foundation with flexibility to respond to emerging challenges, support innovative programs, and invest in opportunities that strengthen Muncie and Delaware County.

“Unrestricted giving is one of the most powerful ways to support a community,” said Daniel Stallings, Foundation Board Member. Daniel also serves on the Donor Relations Committee with Kate. “It allows us to meet needs as they arise and invest in solutions that create lasting change.”

These types of funds have played a crucial role in the Foundation’s ability to respond to community challenges over the years. From education and workforce development to arts, health, and economic growth, unrestricted funds ensure that donor generosity can make an impact where and when it is needed most.

Honoring the Past, Investing in the Future

For the Murray and Dwenger families, establishing these funds wasn’t just about philanthropy. It was about recognizing the





*Todd and Janie
Murray Family*



*Ric and Lisa
Dwenger Family*

contributions of those who came before them and ensuring that future generations would have the same opportunities to thrive.

“Giving back isn’t just something we do; it’s part of who we are,” explained James.

Ryan added, “We’ve always felt a responsibility to support the community that has supported our family for generations. These funds help ensure that Muncie remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family, for our daughters and for future generations.”

Their story reminds us that generosity has a ripple effect. What started with one family’s decision to give back quickly became a movement, inspiring siblings, parents, and future generations to embrace philanthropy as a way of life.

Building a Stronger Delaware County, Together

Matching programs, like the one available to help establish these three funds, provide a powerful opportunity to amplify the impact of local giving. However, their true legacy is in the families who chose to participate—families like the Murrays and the Dwengers, who have set an example for what it means to invest in a community’s future.

Through their generosity, they have not only honored their loved ones but also helped ensure that Muncie remains a place where neighbors take care of each other, where challenges are met with solutions, and where every gift, big or small, helps shape a brighter tomorrow. ♦



Start a Fund

Establishing an unrestricted fund is simple. Give us a call.

The current minimum to establish an unrestricted fund is \$10,000. Ask us how to split your gift over 5 years.

New Funds

Unrestricted:

Beard-Branscum Fund
 Jeff and Sue Bird Fund
 Derron and Charity Bishop Fund
 Forrest L. and Mary E. Bowers Fund
 Laura Sursa Crampton Family Fund
 Trent and Karen Dowling Fund
 Ric and Lisa Dwenger Family Fund
 Mark and Molly Ervin Fund
 Michael and Carolyn Grieves Fund
 Greg and Molly Harty Fund
 Heeter Family Fund
 Dain and Amanda Kavars Family Fund
 J. Richard and Elizabeth Pogue Marshall
 Unrestricted Endowment Fund
 Jay and Karen Moorman Fund
 Todd and Janie Murray Family Fund
 James, Kate and Sagan Murray Family Fund
 Steven and Barbara Smith Fund
 Casey and Jennifer Stanley Family Fund
 Alexander T. and Kallie Kiger Sulanke Fund
 James Updike and Munjot Sahu Family Fund

Designated:

Building Projects Fund

Field of Interest:

Ronald Brown Family Fund
 Environmental Impact Fund
 Public Art Fund
 Public Art Pass-Through Fund

Scholarship:

William Flannery Scholarship Fund
 Martha Hunt Landscape Architecture
 Scholarship Fund
 Barb Stedman Honors College
 Scholarship Fund

STATISTICS

Community Foundation Funds

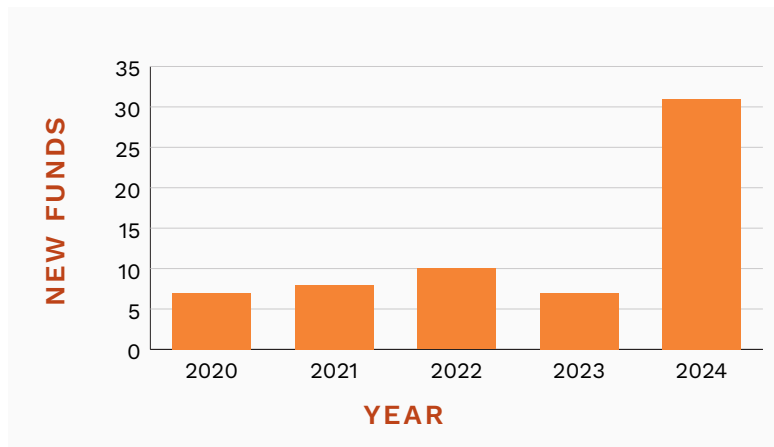
343

TOTAL FUNDS

81

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

HISTORY OF NEW FUNDS



2024 Donors

A

Margaret Adams
Shawn Adams
Gary Addison
Aldi, Inc.
Jay and Susan Allardt
Allen Boone Humphries Robinson
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BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF

Muncie's Creative Space Action Plan





In Muncie, neighbors come out for the arts. Last year, Downtown Muncie saw thousands of people at the Brink of Summer and October ArtsWalks. Muncie Civic Theatre filled more than 15,000 seats for shows in 2024. Cornerstone Center for the Arts filled 75 classes with 459 students from age 4 to 84. Friends and families came out for the Black Music Month Celebration at McCulloch Park, the Yorktown Civic Green Concert Series, the Three Trails Music Series, and so much more. It's easy to see that the arts create a sense of belonging for our community.

In 2024, The Community Foundation gathered artists, arts organizations, community leaders, developers, and residents from across Delaware County for conversations that resulted in the Creative Space Action Plan, a community-driven roadmap to support local artists, expand creative spaces, and strengthen Muncie's arts identity.

"There's an abundance of creative talent in our community, and having spaces dedicated to developing, supporting, and showcasing those talents is critical to our quality of life and place here in Delaware County. The Creative Space Action Plan ensures that we recognize, support, and continue to grow the arts as a vital part of our shared future," said Maura Hoff, President of the Muncie Civic Theatre Board of Directors.

Meet Sarah Shaffer, Muncie Creative

Local artist Sarah Shaffer believes art has the power to transform lives and communities. "Art is good for the soul," she says. "It provides a safe space to explore creativity, problem-solving, and persistence—skills that benefit every part of life."

Sarah, who grew up in Fort Wayne, found her love of art at an early age, encouraged by her mother, an elementary school art teacher.

She came to Muncie to study at Ball State University, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in metalsmithing. After graduating, she put down roots in the community and built a career blending her two passions, art and education. Today, she teaches art at South View Elementary, where she introduces students as young as preschoolers to creative expression.

Beyond the classroom, Sarah's impact can be seen across Muncie in the form of vibrant public art. Her work includes murals

at Rosebud Coffee House and South View Elementary and contributions to MuncieArts' Box! Box! project. Public art, she believes, is a powerful tool for placemaking, bringing people together, and making creativity accessible to all. "Art transforms communities," she explains. "When we invest in the arts, we invest in a more vibrant, thriving place to live."

Looking ahead, Sarah hopes to see more opportunities for local artists to be recognized and supported through major public art initiatives, a shared vision of the Creative Space Action Plan. She encourages aspiring artists to take a leap and get involved. "Make weird stuff. Have fun. Talk to people. Go to art shows. Just start," she advises. "Muncie's arts scene is full of ways to get involved—you just have to take that first step."

Behind the Scenes: Crafting the Plan

In early 2024, The Community Foundation received a \$70,000 planning grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to engage Artspace Consulting, a national leader in arts-focused community development. In March, Artspace visited Muncie to tour the city and gather input from more than 300 residents through focus groups, a public meeting with over 200 attendees, and site visits across the community.

Artspace was impressed by Muncie's creative potential and identified opportunities to strengthen its arts scene and foster a sense of belonging. Building on Artspace's initial findings, The Community Foundation



“

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the arts, we
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thriving place
to live.”

- SARAH SHAFFER



conducted additional discussions with over 50 stakeholders and shared their insights. Staff and arts advocates also visited arts-driven communities across the state to learn from successful models.

This collaborative effort culminated in the Creative Space Action Plan, a roadmap for enhancing Muncie's arts identity. The plan offers short- and long-term strategies to expand creative opportunities and outlines actionable steps for residents to support the city's thriving arts and culture sector.

Why It Matters: Arts, Belonging, and Community Growth

The arts are about more than just aesthetics. The arts create a heartbeat for a thriving community and creative economy. A vibrant arts scene fosters creativity, celebrates diversity, and creates a deep sense of

belonging in a place. When people feel connected to their community, they're more likely to stay, invest, and build a future there. For Muncie, the arts offer a powerful means of revitalization and economic development, bringing people together, driving an industry of artists, and making our city a more attractive place to live, work, and visit.

Creative spaces, public art, and cultural hubs don't just beautify a city—they drive economic growth, improve mental health, and strengthen the ecosystem of the community. When artists have the resources and spaces they need to thrive, their work ripples outward, sparking inspiration and innovation, creating jobs and businesses, and drawing people into shared experiences. The Creative Space Action Plan ensures that these benefits are accessible to everyone in Muncie, helping to build a city that truly engages all its residents in a successful creative economy.

What's Next?

Moving the Creative Space Action Plan aligns with the Foundation's values – to be relevant, representative, and responsive. Through our place in the community, we saw momentum in the arts. To develop the plan, we brought many voices to the table. Now is the time to respond to what we hear the community say.

The Community Foundation will continue to convene a core group to focus on the plan. Work has already begun towards reinventing MuncieArts into a strong arts service organization, hiring a historic tax credit consultant, and work toward a defined Creative Corridor downtown that connects

through trail and transportation to Ball State University, Minnetrista, and beyond. Just as community input was needed to develop the Creative Space Action Plan, it will take continued community support to bring it to life. Working together, this plan can make our community a place where creativity is welcome and where a strong creative economy leads to greater opportunities for all.

“This is just the beginning. With the Creative Space Action Plan as our guide, Muncie can become a place where the creative economy thrives, and everyone feels they belong,” says Barbara Schafer, owner of Gordy Fine Art & Framing and Cornerstone Center for the Arts Board Member. ♦



NOW AVAILABLE

Creative Space Action Plan:

A public road map for strengthening the arts.



Download the plan at
cfmdin.org/csap



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A Place for All

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The Community Foundation
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