



Dear friends and community partners,

We are only weeks into January, and it's already clear that this year's impact will be second to none. The Madison Forever campaign is well underway. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we are already exceeding expectations. Madison County is showing up in powerful ways.

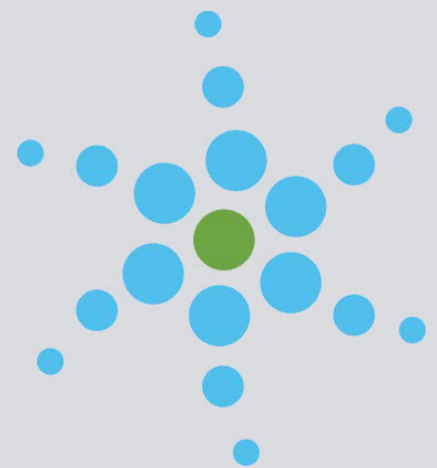
This month also marks our largest gathering of the year as we welcome nonprofit leaders to the 2026 Madison County Nonprofit Summit. With an outstanding lineup of speakers, including representation from the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, the Summit will be a time of learning and connection.

We are especially excited to introduce an important new dimension of the Madison Forever campaign: Elevate Madison, a bold grantmaking strategy that will invest \$1,000,000 over the next three years to drive sustainable, long-term impact in our community. It's an initiative rooted in partnership, vision, and confidence in what's possible when we work together.



As we step into this year, our board and staff are energized, committed, and deeply passionate about the work ahead. Thank you for being part of this moment and for helping shape a future filled with opportunity for Madison County.

Ben Davis, President



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January Campaign Spotlight

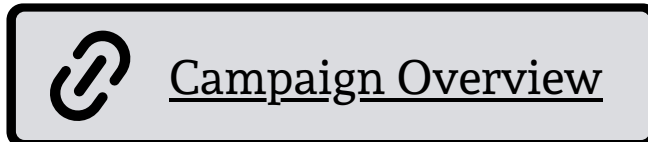
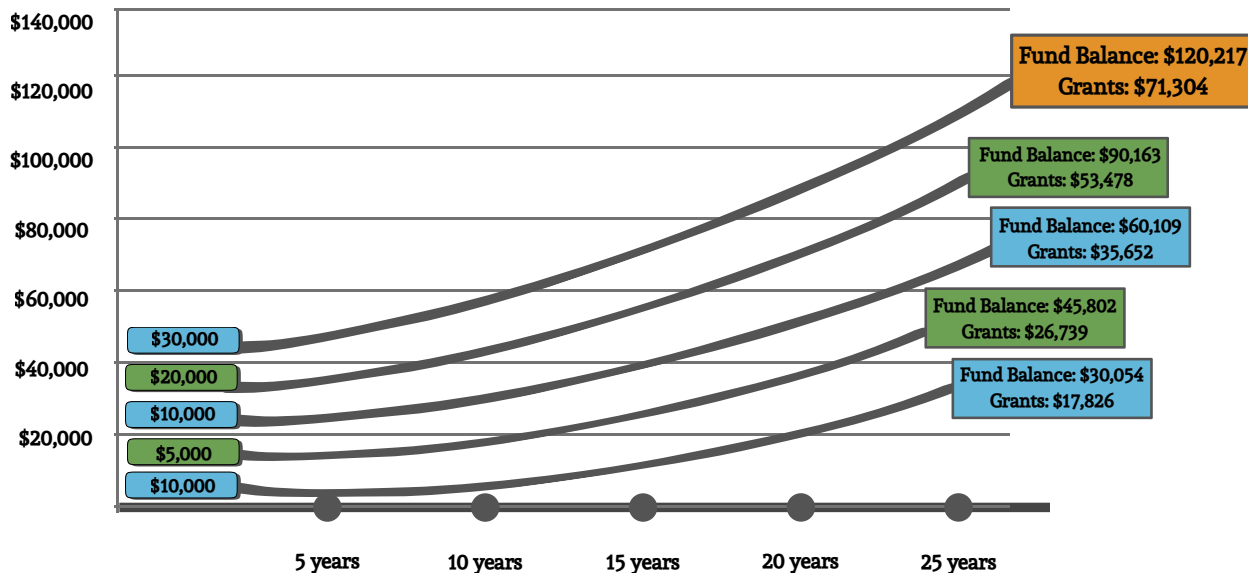
Unrestricted Funds: Matched 3:1

This illustration demonstrates the impact of a gift made to an unrestricted fund with a 3:1 match.

Over a 25-year period, a \$10,000 contribution grows to more than \$120,000 and distributes over \$71,000 in grants.

These matching dollars are supported through a combination of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX funding, contributions from other sources, and flexible internal resources over which the Foundation's board has discretion.

Together, these elements define the opportunity available through the Madison Forever campaign.



The Meaning Behind the Bee

The bee was chosen as the symbol of Madison Forever because it represents how lasting impact is created.

Bees quietly sustain entire ecosystems, and their work multiplies over time.

The wings of the Madison Forever bee form an infinity symbol, reflecting the enduring nature of endowed giving.

Like honey, which is preserved and continues to nourish generation after generation, these gifts are designed to last.

Meet Our Spring Intern

Jennifer Eisinger

Jennifer Eisinger recently joined the Madison County Community Foundation as a Student Intern, where she supports marketing and communications, assists with event planning, and provides key administrative support to foundation staff. A Political Science major at Anderson University, Jennifer brings a strong background in public engagement, organization, and leadership. Her previous experience includes communications and policy work with the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine through the Maine Government Summer Internship Program, where she contributed to marketing initiatives, legislative event logistics, and industry outreach.



On campus, Jennifer serves in multiple leadership roles, including president of several student organizations and a member of student government committees. She is passionate about community development, nonprofit work, and strengthening connections between organizations and the people they serve.

Student interns at the Foundation are funded through the Lilly Foundation, Inc. Intern Scholarship Fund. Jennifer is already contributing to the team at MCCF and we look forward to her impact this spring.



Our Board is already at work, leaning into the opportunities ahead and shaping a meaningful year of impact in 2026.

Madison Forever continues to move forward with strong leadership and shared purpose.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY SO THAT MADISON COUNTY CAN BE A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

NEW

January 2026

NEW FUNDS THIS MONTH

Bitar Family Fund

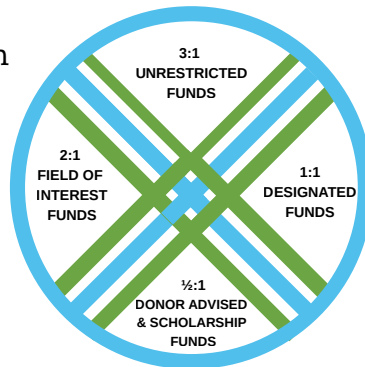
Unrestricted Fund

The Bitar Family says, "The Bitar Family Fund is established with gratitude to God for the many blessings we have experienced in Madison County, and the desire to bless our community back. We trust our fund will help benefit the area's felt needs to care well for its citizens, neighborhoods and animals, so all that live here can flourish. We long to see Madison County thriving as a place of hope and future, with good name and opportunity abounding."

Youth Outdoor Leadership Fund

Designated Fund

This fund supports youth participation in outdoor leadership programs, helping reduce financial barriers so more young people can access transformative experiences that build confidence, character, and leadership skills.



Thank You
for your generosity

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



Notable Donations in January

Total
\$68,262

\$50,000

given to agency
Endowment Funds

\$12,900

given to Hecht Family Fund

\$3000

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

\$1000

given to Elwood Education
Foundation Endowment Fund

\$525

given to Impact Madison Fund

\$500

given to John T. & Mary L. Kiely
Scholarship Fund

\$337

given to various Unrestricted and
Designated Funds



JAN 2026



IMPACT STORY

THE HELP PROJECT



Your generosity helped transform compassion into thoughtful, informed action

Madison County is rich in care and compassion. Neighbors want to help. Organizations want to serve. Yet for many, the path forward can feel unclear. The complexity of social services and uncertainty around best practices can leave even the most well-intentioned efforts stalled or, at times, unintentionally harmful.

That reality sparked a shared vision among three organizations: to equip everyday neighbors with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to help well. Operation Love Ministries, Park Place Church of God, and South Meridian Church of God came together around a common goal: Imagining an approach rooted in dignity, healthy boundaries, understanding poverty, trauma-informed care, and effective community engagement.

Thanks to a \$25,000 Spark Grant from the Madison County Community Foundation, The HELP Project moved from vision to action.

The grant funded a four session training series that engaged 91 participants, nearly double the original goal, with 40 individuals completing all sessions. Participants ranged from early career professionals to retirees, representing faith communities, nonprofit volunteers, and concerned neighbors eager to serve more effectively. Together, they formed the foundation of a Community Support Team trained and ready to walk alongside neighbors facing financial hardship, housing instability, medical crises, and other life challenges.

As the project leaders reflected, *“This project exceeded all expectations. The momentum established through these sessions showed the care and concern of our community in stepping up to form relationships and create hope for real change.”*



[Read More](#)

Get started now: Your 2026 Charitable Giving Checklist

Many people approach a new year with a genuine desire to be more intentional about their charitable giving. They know they want to make a difference, align their generosity with their values, and perhaps even involve their families, but they are unsure where to begin. The combination of busy lives, changing tax laws, and an ever-growing number of worthy causes can make getting started feel overwhelming. Taking a few simple, thoughtful actions at the beginning of the year can bring clarity and confidence to your giving.



Here are three first steps to inspire you:

1. Consider reviewing your 2025 charitable contributions with the team at MCCF.

Looking back at last year's giving can be surprisingly helpful, especially when guided by professionals who understand both philanthropy and the local community. The Foundation can help you see the real-world impact of your gifts, identify patterns in your giving, and highlight opportunities you may not have considered.

2. Talk with your tax advisors as soon as possible about whether and how the new tax laws might impact your situation.

Charitable giving is closely connected to tax and estate planning, and early conversations can help you make informed decisions before the year gets too far along. This is also an ideal time to revisit your estate plan and beneficiary designations. Many donors choose to include a gift to their donor-advised or other type of fund at the Foundation in their wills, trusts, or beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or life insurance policies, creating a lasting legacy that reflects their values.

3. Set goals for your charitable involvement in 2026.

Rather than giving reactively, goal-setting allows you to be proactive and intentional about how you engage with the causes you care about. MCCF can help you explore new and emerging charities, learn more about pressing needs in the community, and connect with organizations that align with your interests. Together, you and our team can create a plan for timing gifts throughout the year, whether through recurring contributions, single large gifts early in the year to help a favorite charity leap ahead, or strategic gifts of highly appreciated or complex assets. This approach not only makes giving more manageable but also helps ensure your generosity has the greatest possible impact.

**Turn your charitable intentions into
meaningful, lasting impact.**

As you look ahead, remember that you do not have to navigate charitable planning on your own. MCCF is here to serve as a trusted partner, whether you are just getting started, refining an existing plan, or thinking about the legacy you want to leave for future generations.



MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

Apply at :
www.madisonccf.org

MORE THAN
\$267,000
TO BE AWARDED

Application Deadline:
March 2



An Extraordinary Year For Engagement

Follow along and help carry this momentum into the year ahead



Website: VISITS: 18k, up 521% yr/yr
UNIQUE VISITORS: 14k, up 487% yr/yr
PAGEVIEWS: 30k, up 414% yr/yr



www.madisonccf.org

