

LEGACY



MAR 2026

The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

VOL. 36 NO. 1



Flower bouquet at the First Merchants Health Market



Let's Chat

Spring always brings Delaware County to life, and lately I've felt that energy everywhere, especially in downtown Muncie. Each time I

pass the Walnut Street roundabout, I pause to admire The Passing of the Buffalo. After its recent restoration, it feels renewed, reminding us of the history it has carried since 1929 and the community members who had the foresight to preserve it for all of us. You'll read more about that in this issue of Legacy.

Springtime brings fresh momentum to the Foundation, too. We've welcomed Tyler Gross as our new Executive Assistant and Experiences Coordinator, a role that will help us deepen relationships and meet people where they are.

This spring, I hope you'll take a moment to experience the community we're building together. Take a drive, go for a walk, stop for a bite, enjoy some art; if something you see sparks a thought or a memory, I'd truly love to hear it.

Marcy Minton
President & CEO

Art, History, and Community Commitment



Cleaning The Passing of the Buffalo
Photo Credit: Jenny Smith

A Sculpture with a Story

Few works of art carry the weight of history like The Passing of the Buffalo. Created in 1929 by renowned sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin, the bronze statue captures a poignant moment. A Native American chief in full regalia, bow in hand, reflects on the end of the buffalo and a way of life.

This masterpiece made headlines in 1975 when it sold for \$150,000 at a Sotheby Parke Bernet auction, setting a record for an American sculpture. Purchased by the family of Fred J. Petty in his honor, the statue was donated to the City of Muncie in 1976 and was first placed at Walnut and Charles Streets in front of the Ball Stores.

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When the store was demolished in 1999, the statue moved to Minnetrista Museum and Gardens before returning downtown in 2007 to its current home on the original boulder in the Walnut Street roundabout, anchoring the south end of downtown.

For decades, The Passing of the Buffalo has stood as a symbol of resilience and artistry. It's a piece of history that belongs to all of us.

“Public art has the ability to tell a story and keeping it vibrant ensures that future generations can connect with that story.”



*The Passing of the Buffalo fully restored
All restoration photos by Jenny Smith*

Bold Vision Then

In 1999, Frances Petty Sargent recognized that preserving this treasure would require more than admiration; it would require action. She established the Passing of the Buffalo Fund at The Community Foundation to ensure the statue's care for generations to come.

With only \$31,000 in donor investment, through growth and the power of endowment, the fund has provided more than \$36,000 for maintenance and restoration, proving the lasting impact of designated funds. This foresight reminds us that philanthropy doesn't just respond to today's needs; it safeguards tomorrow's heritage.

Bold Vision Now

Nearly a century after its creation, the statue needed expert care. In 2023, Community Enhancement Projects (CEP) initiated a restoration plan, and earlier this year, conservators cleaned the statue and boulder, applied a protective patina, and refreshed its plaque.

This work was funded through a grant from The Community Foundation, drawing on the Passing of the Buffalo Fund and the Public Art Pass-Through Fund. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to public art as a catalyst for community pride and revitalization. Support comes from many partners, including Ball Brothers Foundation, whose 2025 grants seeded new funds to sustain public art for generations to come.

“This restoration was about more than preserving bronze. It was about honoring a piece of Muncie's cultural identity,” said CEP Board President Malcolm Cairns. “Public art has the ability to tell a story and keeping it vibrant ensures that future generations can connect with that story.”



Join Us in Preserving Public Art

In just over 40 years of grantmaking, The Community Foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in grants supporting arts and culture. Today, you can help ensure that public art remains a vibrant part of our community.



GIVE NOW

Your gift to the Public Art Fund will sustain treasures like The Passing of the Buffalo and create opportunities for new works that inspire and connect us.

\$1 Million Awarded to Community Organizations



Community Grants provide nonprofit organizations serving Muncie and Delaware County with the opportunity to apply for funding to support their work. Grants are awarded to address the broad needs of Muncie and Delaware County. The Board of Directors of The Community Foundation approved 26 Community Grants totaling \$1,001,186 during the first quarter of 2026, including a \$30,000 grant to Project Leadership, pictured on this page.

Project Leadership is a career and college readiness model that utilizes time and space during the school day for thousands of students to explore education and career options beyond high school to make educated decisions about their future. The team at Project Leadership guides students through scholarship labs, college application labs, submission of the Federal Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA), career fairs and coaching, career and college curriculum preparation, 21st Century Scholars support, and helps juniors and seniors secure workplace experiences. This year, as Project Leadership has expanded scholarship labs to several Delaware County high schools, The Community Foundation has seen a rise in applications from graduating seniors. We are excited about this unique partnership.

Community Grants awarded during the first quarter of 2026:

- A Better Way Services
- Action for Animals
- Ambassadors for God’s Creatures
- Ball State University Foundation
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Muncie
- Brothers 2 Brothers United
- Cornerstone Center for the Arts
- EcoREHAB of Muncie
- Greater Muncie, IN Habitat for Humanity
- Home Savers of Delaware County
- Huffer Memorial Children’s Center
- Indiana University Health Foundation
- Junior Achievement of Central Indiana
- Muncie Delaware County Area Senior Citizens Center
- Muncie OUTreach
- National Inventors Hall of Fame
- Project Leadership
- Ross Community Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana
- Sustainable Muncie
- Union Grove Church of the Brethren
- United Day Care Center
- Whitely Community Council
- YMCA of Muncie
- Yorktown Fire Department
- YWCA Central Indiana

Community Grants have been awarded from the Unrestricted Fund of The Community Foundation and the funds named in honor of the following:

- 1924 Community Trust
- Alpha Center
- Stefan and Joan Anderson
- Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball
- Bassett Family
- J. Robert and Joanne N. Baur Fund
- Jeff and Sue Bird
- Pat and Jane Botts
- Buckles Family
- Patrick and Marilyn Cleary
- Gordon and Pam Cox
- Day Star Center
- Economic Development
- Edgar Faulkner Sr./Ermal S. Roundtree
- Ron and Cheryl Fauquher
- John and Janice Fisher
- Beulah M. Frogge
- Gaston
- Linda and Connie Gregory
- Jane E. Hughes
- John C. Kelly and Marcia Ressler Kelly
- Laura Stanley Keppler
- Harry and Janet Kitselman
- Ellen Lacey
- Francis Lafferty
- Jeff and Beth Lang
- Liberty Perry Selma
- Maxon Foundation
- Jay and Karen Moorman
- Jean and Mora Morris
- Mutual Legacy
- MutualBank Charitable Foundation
- Jack and Thelma Peckinpaugh
- Mary Kate Pingry
- Ray Family
- Jim and Mary Rosema
- Ross Family
- Anna Winick Schwartz
- Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz
- Hamer and Phyllis Shafer
- Shafer/Muncie Power Products
- Jeanne and John Smith
- Charles and Claudia Sursa
- Gary and Amy Thomas
- James Updike and Munjot Sahu
- Louisa and Waldo Beebe
- Mac and Lila Warrell
- Joseph and Janet Wilson
- Faye Wingate
- Town of Yorktown
- Youth as Resources

Congratulations, Molly Harty

Please join us in thanking Molly Harty, Community Partner for Program and Nonprofit Relations, for her service to The Community Foundation. Molly will retire in April.





The Community Foundation
OF MUNCIE & DELAWARE COUNTY

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Bold Vision: Your Story

There are just a **few opportunities left** to make your mark and **TRIPLE** your unrestricted gift.

Contact our Donor Relations team today to discuss your options!

765.747.7181

commfound@cfmdin.org

302 E. Jackson St. Muncie, IN 47305

The Unrestricted Fund of The Community Foundation

Give any amount

EXAMPLE

\$100 - *Your Gift*

\$200 - *Match Received*

\$300 - Total Gift

Your Story: Start Your Own Unrestricted Fund

\$10,000+ or \$5,000+*

EXAMPLE

\$500, then \$150 for 30
months - *Your Gift*

\$10,000 - *Match Received*

\$15,000 - Total Gift

One time gifts and pledges accepted. Matching funds are available on a first-come, first served basis.

*Special option for 2026

Legacy is a publication of The Community
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GIVE BY MAIL

Send your donation to
PO Box 807, Muncie, IN 47308



GIVE ONLINE

Visit [cfmdin.org](https://www.cfmdin.org)
to make your donation

Memorials and Honorariums

The following individuals were remembered or honored through gifts to The Community Foundation from November 1st, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

Memorials

Tiny Adams
Mary Armstrong
Bob Beasley
Kevin Bergan
Marlene Berner
Jean Blake
Matthew Thomas Blake
Darl Bookout
Pat Botts
Sara Elizabeth Jones
Branscum
Alyxandra Rose
Brinkman
Frank and Pat Brinkman
Lucy Brown
Bill Bruns
Richard and Dorothy
Burkhardt
Michael Cox
Molly Day
Jackie Dillon
Stephen Dowell
Lila Edmundson
Cheryl Fauquher
Nancy Finan
Will Flannery
Neal Fouch

David A. Galliher
Maude Marie Cliver
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Kurt Griffis
Juliana Harris
Sue Harris
Jon Hunter
Kathleen Kiefer Keil
James and Violet King
Mary Ann King
Nancy Lafferty
Norma Lasley
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Jim Laws
Kip Laws
Norman Locke
Ora Loveless
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Barbara Mueller
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Harold and Jean Nation
Oren Olinger
Ellen Payne Osborn
Odsie Plymale
Sam Reed
Tom Schnuck
Larry Souders

Robert Stratton
Rita Waechter
Eileen Walters
Ben Grady Williams
Gina Wilsford
Robert Wyne
Judith Zinzser
Nancy Zirkle
Pets
Angel Nation Brinkman
Maggie Nation Brinkman
Stella Nation Brinkman

Honorariums

Carol and Ken Adam
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Robert and Tommye
Beavers
Normal E. and Joyce M.
Beck
Jody Benken
Donna Bookout
Rob and Mary Brodhead
Lee Ann Brown
Michael W. and Lisa M.
Brown

Edward and Kathy
Burgauer
Glen and Linda
Coverdale
Gary Dodson and Jill
Jereb
Phil Ewart
Ron Fauquher
Jeff and Nancy Fisher
Jerry and Lisa Fisher
Jim and Elizabeth
Fisher
John and Debbie Foster
Chris French
Connie R. Gregory
Linda Gregory
Jessica Grilloit
Charles and Charlotte
Hetrick
R. David and Suzanne
Hoover
Aileen Howard
Joseph Howell
Richard D. Hughes
Ann Johnson
Julianna Jarabak
Johnson
Roni Johnson

Jackie and Mike
Johnston
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John and Marcia Kelly
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Dick and Liz Marshall
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Al Miller
Keith and Elaine Miller
Ken Miller
Marcy Minton
James Mitchell
Jon Moll
Erwin and Barbara
Mueller
James and Kate Murray
Ryan and Jen Murray
Pat Nelson
The Nemchek Family
Sherry Riggan
Jim and Mary Rosema
Sally Secor
Steve Shondell
Julie Skinner

Nancy Smith
Van and Margaret Smith
Casey Stanley
Kelly and Donna Stanley
The Steiner Family
Charles and Claudia
Sursa
Robert W. Swartz
Phillip Tevis
Mary Foster and Tom
Clark
James Updike
Annemarie Voss
Will Walls
Robert E. Walters
Douglas and Kathy
White
Marilyn Williams
Tricia Davis Williams
Colby Wingate
Pam and Jim Wingate
Suzanne Wingate
Elizabeth Woodgett

Information about the Foundation's Board and Staff
are available at <https://www.cfmdin.org/who-we-are>