



Dear friends and community partners,

This is an exciting season at the Madison County Community Foundation as we continue to build momentum and deepen our impact across the community. We are looking forward to the upcoming Women in Philanthropy Luncheon, where a record amount of funding will be awarded to projects that support women and children throughout Madison County. It is always a powerful reminder of what happens when generosity and purpose come together.

At the same time, our Elevate Madison grants are in motion. We received an outstanding response from nonprofit partners, and our grants committee is thoughtfully reviewing applications with care and diligence. These investments reflect our commitment to creating meaningful, lasting change.

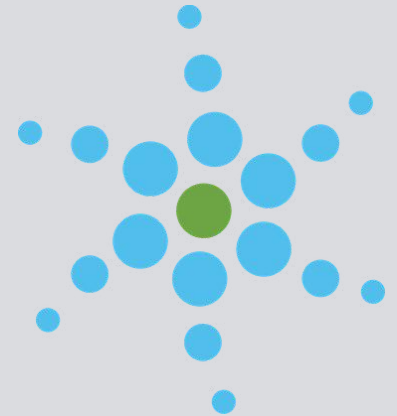
We are also pleased to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors, whose leadership will help guide this work forward. Together, our board and staff remain focused on our values and the goals outlined in our strategic plan, continuing to strengthen relationships and expand opportunities for impact.



This is a time of energy, connection, and forward movement. Thank you for being part of it. Your investment in the Foundation is more than a gift. It is a legacy that will continue to shape our community for generations to come.

Ben Davis

Ben Davis, President



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March Campaign Spotlight

Unrestricted Giving: The Foundation of Lasting Impact



Unrestricted funds are the cornerstone of Madison Forever and receive the highest match because they give our community the greatest flexibility and strength. These endowed gifts allow Madison County Community Foundation to respond to emerging needs, invest where impact is greatest, and steward resources in ways that serve both today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities



Bees pollinate far beyond a single flower, strengthening the entire ecosystem. That is why unrestricted giving receives the highest match. When these endowed funds are invested, resources can flow where they are needed most, multiplying impact across programs, priorities, and generations, ensuring the whole hive continues to thrive.

WHY UNRESTRICTED GIVING MATTERS

- Your generosity never runs out. A gift today provides for future generations.
- We can respond quickly to urgent and unexpected needs in our community.
- We can support innovation and bold solutions to community challenges.

HOW YOU CAN MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT

- Give to an existing unrestricted fund and strengthen funds already at work in our community.
- Contribute to the Impact Madison Fund.
- Start your own named unrestricted Fund. Leave a legacy in your name or to honor a loved one. With the 3:1 match, it is easier than ever to establish a permanent, endowed fund.

UNRESTRICTED



GOAL

\$843,750

To receive
\$1,687,500

Fulfilled:
\$669,093

Remaining:
\$174,657



INVESTING IN LASTING POSITIVE CHANGE



Fund Spotlight

Alexandria Cultural Fund

The Alexandria Cultural Fund was created by a longtime Alexandria resident with a deep love for this community, its stories, its people, and its future. Rooted in a passion for preserving what makes Alexandria special, this fund ensures that the rich history of Monroe Township continues to be celebrated and shared for generations to come.



Through this endowed fund, support is directed to the Alexandria-Monroe Township Historical Society, helping them collect, preserve, and bring to life the artifacts, memories, and stories that define the community. From historic photographs and genealogy resources to treasured collections like Aladdin Lamps and memorabilia from Lippincott Glass, Kelly Axe, and the Union Traction Company, the museum offers a meaningful connection to the past.



Founded in 1979 by a group of dedicated community members, the Historical Society has long been a steward of Alexandria's heritage. Today, that legacy continues at the museum on North Harrison Street—where visitors can explore local history and discover the stories that shaped this small, vibrant town nestled in the heart of Indiana farmland.

Gifts to the Alexandria Cultural Fund are invested and endowed, creating a lasting source of support that will continue to preserve and share these stories well into the future. It is a powerful reminder that when we invest in our history, we also invest in our identity and in the generations who will carry it forward.



Donate to the
Alexandria Cultural Fund



WE HELP DONORS CREATE ENDURING LEGACIES THAT REFLECT THEIR VALUES AND BENEFIT FUTURE GENERATIONS.



**Lolly
Bargerstock**



**Joy
Beghtel**



**Stefanie
Leiter**

Board Spotlight

Welcome New Board Members!



“I’m excited to start sharing more about the work being done at MCCF.” - Joy Beghtel

The Madison County Community Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members to its Board of Directors: Stefanie Leiter, Lolly Bargerstock, and Joy Beghtel. Each brings unique experiences, perspectives, and a shared passion for strengthening the Madison County community.

Stefanie Leiter is a professor at Anderson University and owner of Shaping Communication, LLC. With a strong background in communications and prior service with organizations such as United Way of Madison County, she is deeply committed to helping organizations and communities thrive through clear, effective engagement.

Lolly Bargerstock, also a professor at Anderson University, brings experience in social work and spiritual direction. Her involvement with The Spirituality Network and passion for equity, community connection, and collaborative work add a thoughtful and compassionate voice to the board.

Joy Beghtel has already contributed to the Foundation through its grant reading and Elevate Madison committees. She and her family have a deep commitment to foster care and adoption, and she is an active member of the community, often found at the Anderson Public Library or tending to her garden.

Together, these three leaders reflect a shared dedication to Madison County and a desire to give back in meaningful ways. The Foundation looks forward to the insight and energy they will bring as they help guide its work in the years ahead.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

NEW

March 2026

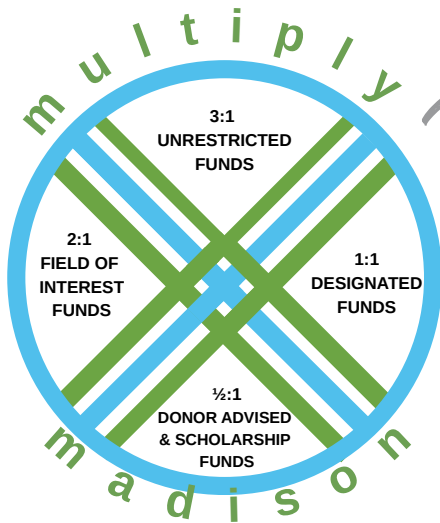
NEW FUNDS THIS MONTH

Combat Ministries Agency Endowment Fund

The Combat Ministries Agency Endowment Fund creates a lasting legacy of support for Combat Ministries, helping combat the chains of oppression through faith, impactful programming, intentional community, and education. Rooted in a mission to provide safe and compassionate environments that engage, educate, and equip leaders, this fund supports the development of servant-leaders who inspire positive change, strengthening lives and our community for generations to come.



[Learn more about Combat Ministries.](#)



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



MCCF Funds

Notable Donations in March

Total: \$33,338

\$10,000

given to Anderson Public Library Fund

\$4000

given to Hecht Family Fund

\$4000

given to Field of Interest for Unhoused

\$2326

given to Best Class Ever Fund

\$3800

given to various Women in Philanthropy funds

\$2113

given to various named funds

\$1625

given to Combat Ministries Agency Endowment Fund

\$1500

given to George H. Surbaugh Memorial Fund

\$1500

given to Betty Pierce Scholarship Fund

\$1300

given to Edgewood Pool Fund

\$1174

given to Operating Fund



Women in Philanthropy

Annual Luncheon

Thursday, April 16 2026 / 11:30 am



2026 Woman of Impact: Gloria Gaither



Women in Philanthropy is honored to recognize Gloria Gaither as the 2026 Woman of Impact. This award celebrates a woman who goes above and beyond to empower women and advocate for children throughout Madison County. It recognizes significant contributions made through commitment, action, and advocacy in service to our community.

For more than fifty years, Gloria Gaither has helped shape the world of gospel music, literature, and faith-based storytelling. Alongside her husband, Bill Gaither, she has written more than 700 songs, produced award-winning recordings, and helped create musicals that have been shared with audiences around the world. In recognition of their lasting influence, Bill and Gloria were named ASCAP's Christian Songwriters of the Century in 2000 and have received numerous Grammy and Dove Awards, as well as induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Gloria is also an accomplished author, speaker, and scholar, having written more than 40 books and contributed to academic publications. She has received honorary doctorates from eight universities and continues to encourage the next generation of songwriters and creatives through her advocacy for songwriting programs at Christian universities.

Closer to home, Gloria has been a faithful supporter of Women in Philanthropy since its beginning, helping grow the endowment that continues to fund programs serving women and children throughout Madison County.

Through her creativity, generosity, and lifelong dedication to encouraging others, Gloria Gaither's influence has reached far beyond the stage. Women in Philanthropy is proud to celebrate her as the 2026 Woman of Impact.

Annual Luncheon

Hope of the Hive

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 2026 / 11:30 AM
ANDERSON FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
COMMUNITY CENTER
2301 MERIDIAN STREET, ANDERSON



[Register Now](#)

Space is limited

Congratulations to the 2026 Women in Philanthropy Grant Finalists!



Kids Talk provides a child-friendly environment where children who have experienced abuse or witnessed violence can safely share their experiences and begin the healing process through coordinated support services.

[Learn more about Kids Talk](#)



Bloom Madison County's Seedlings: A Farm to School Initiative at Eastside Elementary provides hands-on learning in agriculture, nutrition, and environmental stewardship while expanding access to fresh food for families.

[Learn more Bloom](#)



Operation Love Ministries serves families across Madison County through programs that address immediate needs while helping individuals work toward long-term financial stability and independence.

[Learn more about Operation Love](#)

At the luncheon, attendees will hear from the finalists and vote to determine which organization receives 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place grants, with first place receiving up to \$15,000.

Registration includes lunch and a vote.



This year's luncheon will offer a first look at The Legacy Collective—a renewed vision for Women in Philanthropy that connects the joy of giving today with lasting impact for tomorrow.



[Register Now](#)



Your generosity is making room for refuge, restoration, and new beginnings

For too many women and children in Madison County, crisis comes with impossible choices. This choice sometimes includes staying in unsafe situations or face life without shelter, stability, or support. In those moments, the absence of a safe place can shape the trajectory of an entire family. But because of you, that story is changing. At The Well, a ministry of the Christian Center, women and children are finding more than a roof over their heads. They are discovering safety, dignity, and a community that believes in their future.

At the 2025 Women in Philanthropy Luncheon, this project was selected as the top grant recipient, an investment made possible through the Madison County Community Foundation and the collective generosity of women dedicated to strengthening our community.

This investment made critical improvements to the home, allowing it to become a place of refuge where women can focus on growth, restoration, and building a new path forward.

Since opening, The Well has already helped 11 families move into homes of their own, creating lasting change that extends far beyond their time in the program. Two mothers were even able to have DCS cases closed while living at The Well. These are powerful milestones that represent stability, trust, and restored family connection.

What makes The Well unique is not just the housing, it's the environment of transformation. Women are met with both compassion and accountability, often for the first time. They are supported as they rebuild confidence, develop life skills, and begin to believe in themselves again. As one leader shared, the heart of the work is "loving women back to life."

That transformation is felt immediately by children as well. When they arrive, there is a noticeable sense of relief. In a safe and nurturing environment, they begin to relax, form friendships, and experience the stability every child deserves. Families are no longer surviving. They are beginning to thrive.



[Read More](#)

Strategic Goals Progress

1. **GROW** our portfolio of funds

So far in 2026, five new funds have been established at the Foundation. In addition, conversations are underway with nearly ten organizations exploring agency endowments and with more than five families considering the creation of new funds. These early discussions reflect growing interest in long term philanthropy and investment in Madison County's future.



2. **INVEST** through our grant-making

We have developed a plan to address community needs in ways that create meaningful upstream change through the Elevate Madison grant initiative. Over the next three years, more than one million dollars will be invested in nonprofit organizations to support sustainable solutions and lasting impact across Madison County.



3. **CONVENE** our community

More than 160 nonprofit leaders and partners attended this year's Nonprofit Summit, strengthening collaboration across the sector. Planning is also underway for the Women in Philanthropy Luncheon, and Kari Sisk, Vice President of Programs, recently presented at the Madison County Alliance Women Active in Business event.



4. **STRENGTHEN** our organizational capacity

We began the process of renewing our GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency and are evaluating qualifications for Platinum status. MCCF Holdings, LLC was established to hold donated property on Scatterfield Road, and we welcomed three new board members through a recent orientation.



In 2025, the Madison County Community Foundation adopted a strategic plan that clarified our mission, vision, values, and goals and set a clear direction for the years ahead. This plan continues to serve as a guide for our work, helping us stay focused on the impact we hope to create in Madison County.

Today, our board and staff are actively putting this plan into action. From strengthening partnerships and expanding philanthropic opportunities to investing in initiatives that support long term community growth, the priorities outlined in the plan are shaping the decisions we make every day.



MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

