



February/March News

February has been a short, busy month at RCCF with lots of folks in/out of our office doors. In preparation for an exciting year of getting out in Rush County, we hosted a breakfast meeting with the County Council, Commissioners, and elected officials to share information about GIFT VII community leadership grant. On February 7th, 30 representatives from Rush County's agriculture community joined us for a lively discussion on opportunities for the field of agriculture in our county. Additionally, the scholarship deadline and committee kickoff meeting brought in both new and familiar faces. We received applications from 101 students this year!

Now one day in to March, we're looking forward to a fun month ahead awarding grants, reviewing scholarship applications, hosting a meeting with the City of Rushville officials, and doing all of the behind-the-scenes work necessary to support Rush County. Read below for some of the past month's highlights and the important work we've completed and will continue.

Triple your Dollars and Impact: Give to RCCF Community Grant Funds



We all know the math: $\$1 + \$2 = \$3$

Now is your chance to watch your money grow while making an everlasting impact on Rush County! Gifts to existing unrestricted "community grant" funds are matched \$2 for \$1. **If you are interested in beginning a named fund, there is no better time:** a gift of \$3,333.00 will begin a named unrestricted fund that will forever preserve a legacy and give back to Rush County.

Unrestricted funds assist local nonprofits that provide programming and services in Rush County. Community Grants from our unrestricted funds address the changing needs of the community, promote and support arts and culture, health and recreation, community development, education, and social services. You have a variety of donation options to maximize your dollars:

- In-person or mail (117 N. Main St. Rushville, IN 46173)
- Online at www.rushcountyfoundation.org
- Stock
- IRA Rollover
- Gifts of Grain

[Read more details here.](#)

February Gifts In Memoriam and Honor

Thank you for the donors who selected to give to Rush County Community Foundation in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. This month, the following individuals were recognized through gifts to the Foundation:

In Honor

David and Mary Beth Berkemeier
Gerald and Anita Mohr



In Memoriam

Tom Barnes
Martha Blankman
Jerry Brown
Leo and Mary Durbin
Carl Evans
Dannielle Rose Fields
Glenda Fraley
Don Harris
Colleen Herdrich
Bill Kirkpatrick
Betty J. Klint
Joyce Lammott
Richard "Rick" Levi
Howard Lower
Ruby Mull
Lois Noah
Nancy Orme
N Mike Peters
Joyce Prifogle
Marie Saunders
Mary Beth Moster-Scott
Barbara Waits
Dennis White
Robert White
Alice Wiley

Recurring Donations

Did you know that you can support the cause of your choice, or the Rush County community at-large, on a recurring basis? When you donate **online**, select the amount, frequency, and fund in which you'd like to give. A recurring gift is an easy way to ensure you support your favorite cause, organization, or the greatest need in Rush County without requiring an extra thought.

Grant Update: Unrestricted Funds Supporting Early Learning Coalition Development



Last summer the RCCF awarded its first proactive grant to Huffer Childcare Resource and Referral to hire an Early Learning Coordinator. Jeri McCorkle was hired and has been doing research and working with childcare providers, schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations throughout the community since September to get an understanding of the current state of the child in Rush County. This spring, the development of an Early Learning Coalition "**First5**" will occur, bringing together a range of community members, employers, educators, caretakers, healthcare providers, etc. to disseminate the data and begin identifying opportunities for improving resources for children and families in our community.

After months of research, the RCCF Board of Directors recognized the importance of investing in early learning. Building on a strong foundation of early learning not only leads to greater success in school, it is an essential factor in growing the success of individuals and businesses throughout the community. Research has found a **13% return on investment** for high-quality, early education. In the coming months, you can look forward to articles sharing more impressive data on the impact of investment in early learning and how Rush County hopes to make a lasting impact on our residents and community through our decision to invest in this cause.

In the meantime, follow **First5** on Facebook to stay up-to-date on interesting research and how you can get involved.

Funds to support this investment in Rush County came from the RCCF Community Grant Funds. You can support early learning, and many other community programs, through a donation to any of these funds. Your donation is matched \$2 for \$1 so there's no better time to give than now!!

Grant Spotlight: Workman Fund provides grant to RESW



In 2018, the **Alex Workman Memorial Fund** provided a grant to purchase Carousel Spinning Chairs and Rock Around Seats for the Life Skills class at Rushville Elementary West. Since the chairs have been brought into the classroom, Nicole Reiner, RESW teacher, said, "These chairs have helped with the students' language, core strength, and sensory processing needs. We wouldn't have been able to purchase these without your help. From myself and the students: thank you!"

The Workman Fund is a field-of-interest fund at the RCCF created in memory of Alex Workman. The fund provides grants to support children with autism.
