

Think of RCCF as a tree. That makes you the arborist. Your support provides the care necessary to establish deep roots, a sturdy trunk and abundant branches. The tree gets taller, but it also grows stronger, adding a ring each year. During 2019 the RCCF tree flourished – growing IMPACT, LEADERSHIP and ASSETS – because of you. Our gratitude unfolds, like each new leaf. Gather round as we celebrate the ways we are enhancing and enriching life for all in Rush County together.

[rushcountyfoundation.org/2019-impact](http://rushcountyfoundation.org/2019-impact)

2019 GRATITUDE REPORT

## GIFT VII

### DONATIONS

There's no doubt about it, GIFT VII (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) was all-around the biggest story of 2019. In just 11 months, you donated \$250,000 to Community Grants funds to earn a \$500,000 match from Lilly Endowment Inc. That's a whole lot of circles (or zeroes) to support Rush County forever – thank you!

693 gifts from 401 unique donors 13 new funds established  
(between 10/17/18-12/31/19)

### LEADERSHIP

Lilly Endowment Inc. made a \$50,000 grant to strengthen our community leadership role. In August, 30 local leaders joined us to participate in a 2½ day leadership course round table. We learned ways to drive community engagement and left with a greater passion for leading Rush County into a vibrant and prosperous future.

Topics covered: civic design, local economies, storytelling, readiness for change

### STAFF

Our staff circle widened with the addition of Lisa Benjamin, part-time Marketing & Communications Officer. Lisa saw our Facebook posts about the leadership course and asked to join, then we asked her to join our team. Her position allows Alisa to spend more time with donors and to step more fully into her leadership role and for RCCF to better share our donors' stories and grant impact!

### COMMUNITY INSIGHTS TOUR

We circled the county visiting seven communities with Ball State's Indiana Communities Institute to find out what you "like, love and want to love" about Rush County. Another 434 of you responded to our online survey. Your answers will guide proposals for a \$5M large-scale funding project and a \$100,000 implementation grant.

Stops included: New Salem | Glenwood | Mays | Carthage | Manilla | Milroy | Rushville



## MILESTONES

We rounded the bend of 2019 reaching two important milestones. In May, we celebrated our 28th birthday with you at the Princess Theatre and a special screening of "No Small Matter". "No Small Matter" is the first feature documentary to explore the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for good in America today: early childhood education.

Our National Standards® accreditation was approved. This process requires significant time and effort submitting documentation and implementing.

### \*Featured Fund\*

#### All is Well Community Fund

The GIFT VII match was a major incentive to start a fund for many donors. Greg and Jennifer Krodel had previously established a scholarship fund in memory of Jennifer's mom, Joan L. McLaughlin. But they wanted to do more to help the community at-large. The All is Well Fund fulfilled that desire.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Your generosity is helping Rush County students achieve their dreams.

\$190,415 given  
108 scholarships  
63 students

## CIRCLE FUND

The CIRCLE Fund's impact was felt around our community and our region by supporting the new futsal court and program, bringing many visitors and much acclaim to Rush County.



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

### AWARDED

With your support, the Community Grants awarded came full circle. One honors the past, one improves the quality of life today and one develops leaders for the future.

- Arlington Cemetery: \$4,000 to help create a memorial for veterans and first responders
- Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department: \$10,000 to purchase new digital communications radios for their trucks
- Boys & Girls Club of Rush County: \$15,720 new programming to empower teens including leadership, community involvement and workforce development

### COMPLETED

- Youth Workcamp: Volunteers built common ground by repairing 43 homes of low-income, elderly or disabled Rush County neighbors and creating bonds with the homeowners. 309 teens from around the country served 9270 hours and donated 1369 non-perishable items to the food pantry.
- East Hill Cemetery: Volunteers cleaned 28 monuments and received professional training to continue the work in the future.



## FIVE IN 50 BICYCLE RIDE

During the 2nd Annual Five in 50 Ride, 734 bicycle wheels rolled through our county and our covered bridges, raising \$27,200 (\$81,600 with the GIFT VII match) for our Community Grants Funds. Thank you for being wonderful ambassadors for Rush County!



## READ MORE

To reduce costs and save trees, we've chosen this new way to feature the past monumental year for the RCCF. We hope you've enjoyed the highlights. Visit [rushcountyfoundation.org/2019-impact](http://rushcountyfoundation.org/2019-impact) for in-depth stories, the donor list, memorial and honor gifts, audited financials and more.



## LEGACY GIVING

What do you want your legacy to be? We can help you design it. Leaving a bequest to RCCF ensures your love for Rush County will grow and last forever.



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