

A Year of Community

At the beginning of last year, the question on our minds was: is Rush County ready for change? We certainly didn't anticipate the *type* of change we would face, but we did get one thing right — how we would handle it... **together.**

In hindsight, it's easy to overlook all that we accomplished in 2020. Our focus is usually set on providing for Rush County's future, but it's just as important to stop and care for our community when need arises. With your incredible generosity, we were able to do both. **Thank you so much** for rising to this occasion, so we could continue our work behind the scenes to ensure Rush County is poised, and healthy, for years to come.



January 2020

In preparation for the large scale funding opportunity from Lilly Endowment Inc., we released the findings from the Community Insights conversations and online survey compiled from your input at the end of 2019. Rush County's Readiness for Change shed light on important points. Population decline is a major challenge. Jobs go where people are. People go where they want to live. We love our rural ag heritage and small town life but are lacking in certain amenities.

March 13, 2020

We submitted the initial proposal for a \$5 million grant to Lilly Endowment (to fund a community center). By Monday the 16th, our world would be a different place with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in America.

May 2020

Life looked different for everyone, especially the RCHS Class of 2020. Celebrations were altered or canceled, but our community rallied around the seniors and found new ways to cheer them on. Because of your support of our scholarship funds, **more than \$192,000 was awarded to 62 students** to pursue their dreams of higher education.



\$192,000
awarded in scholarships to 62 students

For lists of our donors, board, volunteers, honor and memorial gifts, and financials, please visit rushcountyfoundation.org/2020-impact.

\$5,200,000
awarded from Lilly Endowment funds

October 2020

Good news from Lilly Endowment's GIFT VII program began arriving in the fall. We were awarded a **\$100,000 Leadership Grant** to create a community action plan with input from residents and a **\$100,000 Board Engagement Grant** to help fund activities from the plan.



December 2020

In May, we learned our initial \$5 million proposal had made it to the final round as one of 17 projects statewide. The final proposal was quietly submitted on August 28th. On December 1st, we found out the time was right for a community center to become a reality for Rush County — **our proposal was funded!**

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



April 2020

Through your generous gifts, we were able to support our community through the crisis. Together, we gave **\$50,000 to Rush Memorial Hospital** and established the **Rush to Help: COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund**, granting nearly **\$30,000** to support basic needs, education and economic relief efforts.

With our office open by appointment only, work behind the scenes continued. We transitioned to a new accounting/donor/grantmaking/scholarship software, which put the scholarship process completely online. Our National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation was renewed. This ensures that that we meet high

expectations to demonstrate evidence of excellence, accountability, impact and distinction. As a donor, you can be certain that we will be good stewards of your gifts.



\$79,558
granted to COVID relief efforts



Support for local organizations continued, too. The CIRCLE Fund awarded **\$16,500** to the Boys & Girls Club to establish a technology center and youth computer coding class. Another **\$23,000** was

awarded from Field of Interest Funds to support education, agriculture and hunger relief. Your gifts allowed us to award more than **\$45,000** in Community Grants funds to local nonprofits in their efforts to support some of Rush County's most vulnerable residents and acquire crucial tools to keep our community safe.



\$84,954
awarded to Community & Field of Interest Grants



December 2020

Nicholas Neuman became the latest Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipient from Rush County. He will receive full, four-year tuition to his college of choice, Purdue.

It felt amazing to be able to bring so much good news to the community and hope for the future in the last days of what felt like the longest year. Ready or not, Rush County, some incredible changes are about to take place. We'll be meeting them just like we always do, **together.**



117 N. Main St. • Rushville, IN 46173



1822 Society

RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

After finishing undergraduate studies at Indiana University, Dave completed his law degree at the IU School of Law in Indianapolis. During law school and the early years of his law practice, he served for 7 ½ years in the Air Force Reserve. Barb graduated from Indiana Business College. Between them, they worked 90 years in the legal field.

Both are retired but only in the sense that they no longer receive paychecks. Their volunteer work keeps them quite busy. In addition to serving on the RCCF board of directors, Dave has been on the boards of the Public Defender, Boys & Girls Club and Rushville Parks. Barb is active with a local PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) chapter. Both are involved with literacy efforts and prior to the pandemic, read with 3rd graders at the elementary schools weekly. They’re looking forward to the day when they can safely return.

Their love of reading and kids led them to establish the David and Barbara Malson Kindergarten Book Pass Through Fund at RCCF. This fund gifts \$10 worth of individually-selected books to each kindergarten student at the end of the year. These books belong to the children, inscribed with their names and the Malson’s, to keep forever. The day the books are given out is filled with wide eyes, “thanks yous” and many smiles. Next to the engagement ring he gave to Barb, Dave counts these as the best gifts he’s ever given.

They have also established the David and Barbara Malson Indiana University Scholarship Fund at RCCF. Dave explained, “We want to assist young people to educate themselves after high school. They need that training to be successful.” Each year a \$1000 scholarship is awarded to two Rush County students, an incoming freshman and a senior, at IU. These awards are given to the students who have the most financial need. Dave admits, “They might not be able to do it on their own. This will give them an extra boost.”

It’s clear that for Dave the college experience is just as important as the education. His eyes light up nearly as much when he speaks about Bloomington as they do when he talks about Barb. As diehard fans of IU football and basketball and season ticket holders, they visit often. If you’re curious about the best restaurants and lodging in Bloomington, they are more than happy to oblige.

From kindergarten through college, the Malsons make sure that Rush County youth have access to the support they need to succeed in life. They’ve extended that commitment to after their lives, too. Dave and Barb have included RCCF in their estate plans. By making simple provisions in their wills, their charitable dreams will live on through their legacy gift to RCCF.

“We could’ve done our giving through IU but felt RCCF had an established and well-organized plan for estate gifts,” Dave said. “They are very responsive in investment strategies. Plus, Rush County is a nice place to live and and has been good to us.”

Wondering which title tops Barb’s list of favorite books? *Under the Tuscan Sun*, she shared with a smile. “It’s about all of the things I love – travel, gardening, food, architecture and romance.”

Legacy gift options are as varied the books on the Malson’s shelves. We can help you take care of your loved ones and your community, too.

Memories, education and experiences are what mean most to the Malsons. Their generosity provides others the chances to find joy and value in these opportunities, too.

What about our community matters the most to you? Consider making a legacy gift to ensure it lasts. Learn more by meeting with our team or by visiting our legacy giving page at rushcountyfoundation.org/legacy.