

REASONS TO FEEL GREAT ABOUT 2021



Rush
County
Community
Foundation
live life local

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We celebrated the good work we've done together over the last 30 years with **#RCCFFlashbackFriday** posts, a virtual scavenger hunt of grant-funded projects and an **in-person gathering** that truly felt like a homecoming.



The Open Resource received a grant for **\$16,190** to launch their innovative Digital Navigators program. They purchased internet-ready devices to give to program participants. Volunteer instructors offer free classes to teach skills necessary to navigate the online world. *"Technology is always changing. People will be left behind. We're here to make sure that they're not,"* said volunteer, Carole Yeend.

The Fred Marshall Healthy Futures Fund was established by the Buchanan Family Foundation. It supports a six-week healthy cooking course from Rush County Community Assistance/Purdue Extension.

Wilma Jo Kile established the **Ebert H. and Bessie M. Schroeder Fund** in memory of her parents to support the REC Center. She told us, *"I can think of nothing else that would provide the value-added amenities for the residents of Rush County than a multipurpose community center. My parents always wanted to do what was right, and I want to honor that feeling."*

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girls inc.

Girls Inc. of Shelbyville/ Shelby County received a grant of **\$7,500** to purchase monthly subscription boxes for 50 Rush County girls ages 6-10 to provide fun, educational activities centered on literacy and math.

\$216,000

More than **\$216,000** were awarded in scholarships. A total of 112 awards were made to 61 local students. The average award was \$1,930.



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Imagine: Nation, the arts and cultural council of Rush County, received a grant for **\$11,200** to create a gallery space and classroom in the Booker T. Washington school building. They also hosted a free Shakespeare in the park performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* by national touring company, The Brown Box Theatre Project, on July 30th at Riverside Park Amphitheater, including two page-to-stage workshops for adults and youth with cast members. *"I took my girls, ages 4 and 12, and they're still talking about it! My 12-year-old is interested in more Shakespeare. My 4-year-old re-enacts the scenes from the balcony on our playground. I'd love to see more plays at the amphitheater,"* shared one mom.



Work on the REC Center continued behind the scenes. Here's a sneak peek of the latest design.



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The Rush County Youth Athletic Fund granted **\$359** to Eric Wagner, RCHS Boys Soccer Coach, to purchase a camera to record matches for team review.

The Milroy Economic Development Corporation received a grant for **\$10,500** to paint a large-scale outdoor mural to include community input and participation.

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The Molly Spaeth Fund for Transformation and Well-Being was established by her family to support projects and programming that improve the social and/or mental well-being and betterment of individuals locally. *"Molly was a social worker and had great compassion for at-risk children, teens, adults, and the elderly. We look forward to witnessing how her fund will support, improve, and transform the physical and mental well-being of Rush County residents,"* shared Molly's sister, Toni Schultz.

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The Carthage Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for **\$3,728**. They purchased additional grain bin rescue tools and training.

The Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for **\$29,010** to buy four air packs, which allow firefighters to breathe within toxic smoke conditions.



The Rush County Education Fund granted **\$173** to Amaranta Kemple, Spanish teacher at RCHS, for vocabulary building tools to be used by her students.

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The First5 Fund was established to support high-quality early learning opportunities for our community's youngest residents.



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The **Community Based Action Planning (CBAP)** initiative launched with community input and volunteers prioritizing projects to include: mental health, local gateway signage, downtown beautification, tourism, post-secondary skill trade education and apprenticeships, parks programming, county-wide land use, blight elimination and internet access.



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Executive Director, **Alisa Winters**, was selected as one of **24 participants in the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's inaugural John Mutz Philanthropic Institute**. "I've had the opportunity to learn about board development, public policy, how storytelling and communications can advance philanthropy, and the future of giving. I am grateful for the entire experience and look forward to continuing to grow personally and professionally," she said.



The **Music for Rush County Fund** granted **\$5,983** to the Heart of Rushville to help secure a well-known act for the final concert of the Riverside Park Amphitheater to coincide with the Bicentennial celebrations to be held in September 2022.

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The **Youth in Philanthropy Fund** granted **\$1,200** to RCHS to help continue its popular program to provide approximately 375 healthy breakfast snacks each week.

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Community Grants Awards totaled
\$96,003

PUBLIC SAFETY
\$32,738 / 34%

ARTS & CULTURE
\$31,700 / 33%

LITERACY & EDUCATION
\$31,565 / 33%

23

The **Alex Workman Memorial Fund** and **Rush County Education Fund** combined to fund **\$7,563** in projects to three elementary schools: Milroy, RES East and RES West. These projects are all designed to help students with social and emotional challenges succeed.



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The **Kenneth and Charlotte Brashaber Teacher Enhancement Award** granted **\$1,000** to Daniel Riddell, mathematics teacher at Rushville Consolidated High School (RCHS), to use toward obtaining his Master's Degree in Mathematics at Indiana Wesleyan University.

The **Helen and Jim Ewing Fund to Help the Elderly and Feed the Hungry** granted **\$12,500** to Gleaners Food Bank to support the school-based food pantries at RCHS and MES.



Rush County
Community Assistance
Food Pantry

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RCCF donated **\$10,000** toward **Rush County's** year-long bicentennial celebration.

Local organizations received **\$260,411** in annual support from funds they set up themselves (agency endowment) or by a donor (designated purpose).

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Henry Henley Public Library received a grant for **\$7,875** to upgrade the electricity and install venting for the restroom and a cleanout for sewage repairs in the coming years.

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Donors to RCCF's **CIRCLE Fund** awarded a grant of **\$10,500** to Rushville Public Library's "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. This initiative will put new books in the hands of every Rush County child from birth to age five through a partnership between the library, First5 and local childcare and healthcare providers.



2021 was another year we couldn't have predicted. It was certainly filled with ups and downs. But the list you're about to read is full of two qualities - *impact* and *hope*.

In honor of our 30th anniversary in 2021, we thought it would be fun to take a look at 30 highlights of the year, in no particular order. Each of these highlights supports our three goals - to serve donors, to make grants and to provide leadership. This is the foundation of the Foundation, if you will. But none of it would be possible without you. *Thank you.*

For lists of our donors, board, volunteers, honor and memorial gifts, and financials, please visit rushcountyfoundation.org/2021-impact.

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Your generosity made #1-29 possible and helped grow

RCCF's
assets
to \$22.5
million



to support our
community forever.