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Rush County Community Foundation

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March 2023

A little-known fact about me - before I became RCCF's Marketing & Communications Officer, for a few years I rode a rainbow tandem bicycle in the St. Patrick's Day parade with my husband, Tyler. It was my first venture into Rush County community life, and I absolutely loved it. Although we had lived in the area for several years, our home in the country and jobs in Indianapolis kept us removed from local life. Watching spectators' reactions and hearing their comments was fun. **But what I loved most was that ANYONE could just show up and join.** We tried to enter Indy's parade but were met with a cumbersome application and approval process, along with many rules. But Rush County greeted us with joyous open arms.



So, friends, take advantage of these opportunities. If there's a local event or initiative that speaks to you, support it with your time, talent, and treasure. It takes a lot to make these efforts come to life. You'll be rewarded with wonderful memories, new connections, and a sense of pride. The rainbow has since been retired. But that's ok - I've found my pot of gold right here in our community. You can, too, when you get involved. Happy St. Patrick's Day, Rush County – **enjoy the celebration** and be safe!

CBAP Update: Passing the Torch

COMMUNITY
BASED
ACTION PLANNING



PROJECTS
UPDATE



Inside Rushville's City Center, a group of CBAP (Community Based Action Planning) volunteers gathered in mid-February to share fajitas, successes, and tips for keeping their momentum going. *"This meeting is more of a torch passing than a graduation. We're always so impressed with the progress Rush County makes,"* exclaimed Michael Fortunato, the facilitator. He rejoined the group for one last session.

The formal meetings have wound down but not the work. Individual groups continue to meet. Let's take a look back at the progress made and celebrate the latest successes, including new efforts in addressing youth mental health.

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A Warm Welcome for Chris



We appreciate everyone who was able stop by the open house for Chris and give him such a warm welcome. He was truly touched saying, ***"This was a reminder of how special this community is. Thank you for allowing me to come home and continue the great work of the Rush County Community Foundation!"***

Many thanks to Kris Herbert and Natasha Orme from our Donor Engagement Committee for providing the sweet treats!

Our Heartfelt Thanks to Gerald



It takes a brave man to come out of the comfort of retirement and lead an organization again. And it takes even more courage to tell his wife that some of their plans will have to be put on hold. But **Gerald Mohr** is this man and much more. He took on the role of Interim Executive Director because that's what he does. He rises to the challenge of creating a better life for all in our community. He even took a few Zooms from the beach in Florida. That's his level of commitment. He's funny and kind. With an endless supply of fascinating stories, his next project should

be to write a book or record a podcast about life and folks in Rush County. Seriously.

We send our heartfelt thanks to Gerald for stepping in until Chris came on board. He would probably say that it was no big deal, but it was. **We appreciate you, Gerald! And thank you, Anita, for letting us borrow him - he's all yours again!**

Grantee Update: Manilla Volunteer Fire Department



In the fall of 2021 the Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department received a grant of \$29,010 to purchase 4 new air packs. **Your donations to our unrestricted Community Grants Funds allow our grants committee to make awards that address our community's ever-changing and most urgent needs.** Why were these air packs so crucial?

[READ MORE](#)

Kudos to Our 2023 Board of Directors



We need to take a moment to brag on this amazing group of folks - our 2023 Board of Directors. **They have been putting in long hours, making big decisions, and leading RCCF forward with their skills and most importantly their hearts. Thank you for serving the Foundation and our community so well – we appreciate you!**

Laura Ash, Karen Brashaber, Toni Schultz, Denise Hoeing, Arika Marlatt
Dave Malson, Phil Kuhn, Phil King, Ben Wicker, Keith Perin, David Burkhardt

IMPORTANT DATES

CIRCLe applications due 3/15/2023

One grant of \$10,00-\$12,000 awarded to a program or project that would make a meaningful impact on Rush County.

Cycle I Community Grants Letters of Intent due 5/1/2023

****Nonprofits, volunteers, and educators - We know you're busy doing the good work! [Sign up for grantee and nonprofit updates](#) on upcoming grants, deadlines, and other opportunities.****

[Community Events Calendar](#)

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



[Donor Story: Deep Roots of the Liggett Family](#)



[Grantee Update: Rush County Farm Bureau](#)



[Grantee Update: RCHS FACS + First5](#)

What Will Your Legacy Be?



You don't have to depend on someone else to keep your charitable dreams alive. There are many ways to make provisions now for a legacy gift to benefit RCCF after your lifetime. You can create your own fund. But it's not even necessary to leave a gift that large. You may contribute any amount to an already established fund, too. **Anyone can be a philanthropist if they care about a cause and want to give.**

LEARN MORE

February Tribute Gifts

Each gift you make in memory or in honor of a loved one supports Rush County forever. We are grateful for your kindness and generosity!

In Memory of:

Alice Ruth Wiley, Glen Wiley, Lauren Alice Wiley
 Andrew Thomas Stumpf
 Ann Taff Heilman
 Barbara Massie
 Bernard "Bernie" Spaeth
 Betty Conway
 Della Mae Roush
 Diane Hedrick
 Dr. Debbie Hartzler
 Forrest and Louise Piles
 Grant Brower
 Helen Kramer

James Thalls
 Jean Diane Hedrick
 Karen Snyder
 Katie McLaughlin
 Luzia Herbert
 Mae Marlow
 Marjorie Loggan
 Steve Johnson
 Steve Richardson
 Tom Hood

In Honor of:

Chris May



KEEP IN TOUCH

