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April 2023

### **What does the Rush County Community Foundation mean to you? Why have you taken interest in supporting our organization?**

These are some of the questions I have been asking in my first weeks on the job as the new executive director of RCCF. It likely doesn't surprise you that the answers are nearly as many as the number of times I have posed the question.

Community, giving back, family, scholarships, philanthropy, local, and future are common portions of our supporters' answers.

**Very quickly, I have experienced a variety of RCCF's work. I have evaluated scholarship applications. I have packed diapers with a 4-H club for First5's From the Bottom Up Diaper Pantry. And I have presented plans for the transformative REC Center project to be housed in our former Wal-Mart building. I am learning something new every day.**

**From each of these experiences, I have taken away a sense of excitement for the future of Rush County and appreciation for all of those involved in supporting our causes.**

I am honored and thrilled to return home to the community where I grew up and that provided the foundational experiences of my life and career. I look forward to continuing our organization's mission to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Rush County, not only today, but for generations to come.

We are grateful to have you as part of our team to accomplish these meaningful and rewarding endeavors. Reach out any time - [cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org](mailto:cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org). I really am curious about your answers to those opening questions. Thanks for your interest and support, friends!

Sincerely,



Chris May

## Volunteer Appreciation: Transforming Our Community One Hour at a Time

**“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.**

**You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”**

– Author Unknown



National Volunteer Week officially begins on April 16. Most of us take for granted – or don’t even realize in the first place – just how vital volunteers are to our community. They fight fires, run events, head nonprofits and all points in between. It takes many people stepping up into roles and serving to ensure our community thrives. And the smaller the community, the more important those people are. **If you are one of these folks who give your time to a cause, we are celebrating YOU – thank you! Your votes are transforming our community one hour at a time.**

Here at RCCF, it takes many hands and hearts to continue our mission. **We want to recognize the invaluable work of our board of directors, committee members, and CBAP volunteers. We bet you'll recognize many of these names.**

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## Grantee Update: Milroy Elementary

**Milroy  
Elementary  
School**



*Source: Lions Roar Newsletter*

**Last fall, Milroy Elementary, in cooperation with the Milroy Economic Development Corporation, received a Cycle II Community Grant for \$12,620 to create a community walking path.**

We are so excited to be putting in a walking path! We have it carved out and gravel placed. It will be blacktopped in the spring. Our students have enjoyed helping us with each and every step during Project Based Learning!

**What other fun ways are the children contributing to the project?**

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## Grantee Update: RCHS FACS

**Benjamin  
Rush  
Middle  
School**



*Source: Lions Roar Newsletter*

**The 2022 CIRCLe grant of \$19,519 purchased life-like infant simulators for the RCHS FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) Department.** Now Benjamin Rush Middle School students are benefitting, too. Oh, baby!

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## Grantee Update: Rushville FFA



Source: Rushville FFA Facebook Page | Photos: Jenna Lawler

An anonymous donor started the **We Believe in FFA Fund** to support the local chapter. **This generous gift gave these students an experience they will remember forever. If you have a passion for supporting a program or organization in our community, we can help you make a meaningful difference.**

*"The Rushville FFA cannot say thank you enough to the anonymous donor with Rush Community Foundation who sponsored our top 25 trip. Our students had a world class experience learning about agriculture across the Midwest."*

**What did they experience?**

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# IMPORTANT DATES

**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.



**A Warm Welcome for Chris**



**CBAP Projects Update: Passing the Torch**



**Grantee Update: Glenwood Vol Fire Dept**

## 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.**

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## March 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 Stumpf  
Bernard Spaeth  
Betty Conway  
Betty Lyskowski  
Bob Bottger  
Charles "Charlie" Niccum  
Chuck Snyder  
Doris J Bowles  
Harold Durbin  
JoEllen McLaughlin  
John Foster  
Lin Sadler  
Michael Clifford

Michael Keith  
Michael Wicker  
Nan Pearsey  
Randal McDaniel  
Ruth Garner  
Steve Battreall  
Steve Johnson  
Steve Land  
Steve Richardson  
Susan Bacon  
Tom Hood

### In Honor of:

Chris May



KEEP IN TOUCH

