



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



# Your generosity is **laying the foundation** for a

From welcoming a new executive director to breaking ground on a decades-old dream, 2023 was all about laying the foundation for new beginnings and a thriving Rush County.

Three elements make up our mission: **serving donors, awarding grants and scholarships, and providing community leadership.**

Think of grants, scholarships, and leadership as the building blocks - or bricks - that create a level foundation for our community.

There has to be a binding agent, though. Something that holds all of those bricks in place. Here's where you come in. **Your generosity is the mortar that stabilizes the bricks and solidifies the foundation and walls that support the community. Thank you!**



Click on any link graphic to read, see, and learn more!



20



# thriving Rush County.

# Thank you!

Our board of directors took on more responsibility than most volunteers bargain for. But, of course, they rose to the occasion. Along with interim Executive Director, **Gerald Mohr**, they successfully led the search for and hired Rush County native **Chris May** to lead RCCF forward. Chris hit the ground running, learning all things community foundation and making sure to connect and reconnect with as many Rush Countians as possible.



Within his first few months, he and Angie worked together to earn our re-accreditation from the **National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations**, a rigorous, extensive process that ensures you can trust RCCF to be excellent stewards of your gifts.

# 2 3

donors

leadership

# Donors

Your generosity creates positive change that builds, stacking up for today, tomorrow, and FOREVER through our permanent funds. With more than 200 existing funds and unlimited possibility, RCCF helps you align your values and your charitable giving to design the future you want to see.

## THE LIGGETT FAMILY

“My father once told me, ‘I won’t be able to leave you an inheritance, but I’ll pay for your college so you can take care of yourself.’ **By establishing the Marion & Lois Liggett and Family Educational Scholarship Fund, our parents’ hard work will continue to help Rush County youth afford college tuition.**” - Sarah Liggett Kennedy



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## BARBARA WHITE

“I just like people. I think the REC Center will help so many – with more room for the Library, an indoor pool so the little kids can have lessons, with many services available in one place, and a as a community gathering place. I am just so pleased to see how the Foundation is growing – so far beyond what the founders imagined.”

## Memorial Gifts

\$59,547

## Honor Gifts

\$3,184



[SEE ALL TRIBUTES](#)

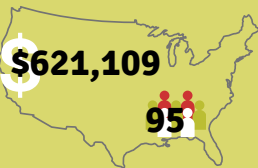
## Total Donations

**\$2,623,732**

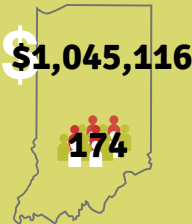
563 Donors  1340 Gifts



### DONORS ★ OUTSIDE ★ INDIANA



### OTHER ★ INDIANA ★ DONORS



### RUSH ★ COUNTY ★ DONORS



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**“She valued her education. It contributed to her success. Providing educational opportunities for other women will help them overcome the barriers they face.”**

**- Blair Hull,  
Jean Matlock’s son**



[READ ABOUT  
JEAN MATLOCK](#)

## New Funds

- Marion & Lois Liggett and Family Educational Scholarship Fund
- Lightsource bp Rush County Schools Fund
- Lightsource bp Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department Fund
- Jean Matlock Scholarship for Young Women
- Alexander Farms Scholarship Fund



# Grants + Scholarships

Nonprofits provide stability to our community. They support the most vulnerable among us. They lift up our youth. They bolster our emergency services. They reinforce our humanity by teaching us, entertaining us, and sustaining our curiosity. **It's not an exaggeration to say that these dollars touch nearly every resident and visitor to Rush County. Your generosity supports all of this and more!**



Scholarships strengthen all aspects of local students' lives - from the education they receive to the maturity they gain. **Thank you for fostering our future citizens!**



**Read about  
Grant Awards  
and Grantee  
Updates**



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**Total Grant Awards  
\$580,615**

90 Recipients

**Unrestricted Community Grants  
\$173,733**



**Public Safety: 31%**  
Basic Needs: 18%  
Early Learning: 17%  
**Education: 14%**  
Youth: 14%  
Arts, Culture & Recreation: 6%

**Largest  
Community  
Grants Award  
Total Yet!**

**2022: \$90,400  
2021: \$118,132**

**See Scholarship  
Photo Galleries**



**CELEBRATION**



**RECIPIENTS**

**Total Scholarships  
\$215,753**

63 Students ★ 67 Funds

108 Scholarships



# Community Leadership

## **Love Community Center** (Formerly the REC Center)

The **Love Community Center** is the product of an innovative approach to a decades-long dream for our community, with something for everyone. The first outward step in the process finally took place on September 7 with the groundbreaking ceremony. A tent for 90 guests overflowed with umbrellas, joy, support, and pride. There's absolutely no dampening the spirit of this community! As Rushville Mayor, Mike Pavey, said, "This will be one of the most significant days in our community as people look back."

Actual construction began just weeks after the ceremony. The completion date is scheduled for late 2024. These photos are already out of date!

## **Community Based Action Planning (CBAP)**

Volunteers continued their work planning and recommending dollars for **CBAP** projects, with an emphasis on mental health and post-secondary education/training.

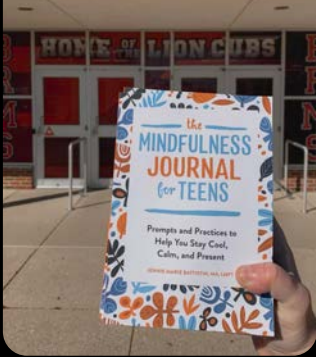
All Rush County students participated in an age-appropriate version of a live, interactive mental health event. Middle School students received mindfulness journals and guidance on using them. **These tools promote healthy ways for students to deal with stress and anxiety.**

A group of 23 teachers made stops at local manufacturers Intat, Trane, and Copeland. **They toured each facility and connected with management and human resource leaders for questions and dialogue to help create a better prepared workforce.**





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In late 2023, **Jay and Christie (Kile) Love** pledged a seven-figure gift to support the sustainability of the REC Center. The new name, the **Love Community Center**, was finalized in spring of 2024.



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“Everything I learned from the manufacturing tour will help me drive and develop a curriculum to better prepare students for college and career.”

- Jill Carmony,  
RCHS teacher



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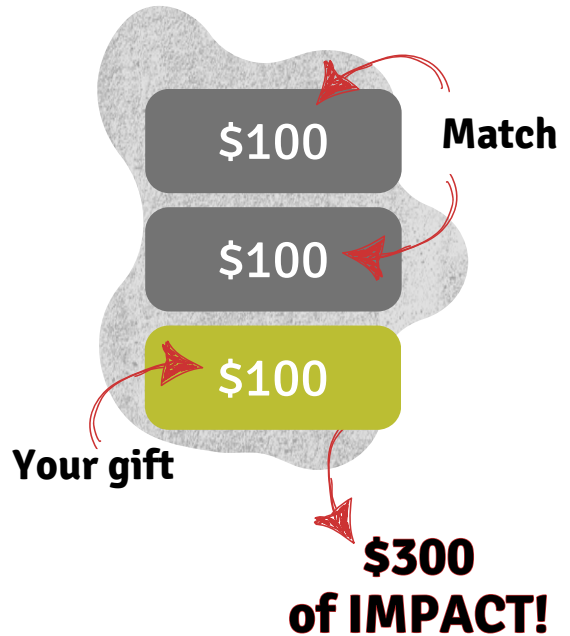


# A Greater Impact

## GIFT VIII Announced

In late 2023, Lilly Endowment Inc. announced its latest community foundation initiative, GIFT VIII (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow).

Your gifts to unrestricted Community Grants Funds will be matched 2:1. **For each \$1 you donate, Lilly Endowment will match it with \$2, which TRIPLES your impact - and really stacks up!**



**If you've ever considered starting your own Community Grants Fund, the time is perfect! It takes \$10,000 to do so, but when you factor in the match, you only need to donate \$3,334.**

Non-cash gift options like the sale of stock, a QCD from your IRA, or a gift of grain may make better financial sense for you. Need more info? Contact Chris at [cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org](mailto:cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org) or (765) 938-1177, ext 1.



## Design Your Legacy

Make a gift in your will to RCCF to leave a legacy and support causes important to you. Here are some simple ways to do so:

- Give a percentage of your estate or a dollar amount.
- Give a percentage or specified amount of your retirement plan.
- Name RCCF as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy that has outlived its original purpose.
- Find sample bequest language, learn about the 1822 Society, and request more information by visiting [rushcountyfoundation.org/legacy](https://rushcountyfoundation.org/legacy) or by contacting Chris May at [cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org](mailto:cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org) or (765) 938-1177, ext. 1.



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## Keep in Touch!



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