



# Rush County Community Foundation

*love. life. local.*

February 2025

The clip clop of tires on wooden boards driving through Offut's Bridge. The electricity in the air at Memorial Gym during a close game. The anticipation of that first sweet corn harvest. The smell of burning coal at Caldwell's Acres. The faces of the courthouse clock alternating red and green. Friendly smiles and familiar faces finding you wherever you go.

**Rush County. Home. If we're lucky, we wake up here each morning. If not, it still finds us in our dreams.**

There's a word for this – **topophilia**. Love of place.

Honestly, it's why we exist. To help you express your love of Rush County in tangible ways – through grants to local organizations, scholarships to students, and community leadership initiatives.

With so much news to share last month (check out the ICYMI section), we put the announcement of our **new strategic plan** on hold. But we're excited to share it with you now. It may not be the most poetic Valentine ever written to Rush County, but it's one of the sincerest. **Sending our heartfelt thanks to our 2025 board members, including the newest - Julie Leisure, (who is featured this month) Jamey Pavey, and Jessica Vogel, - and of course to you, {First Name}!**

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## 2025-2027 Strategic Plan



**2025-2027  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Strategic planning helps us focus on what matters most. It's more than a roadmap – it's a reflection of our commitment to growth, innovation, and serving our community with purpose. It will ensure that every step we take aligns with our **mission and values** as we continue creating a brighter future together.

We're pleased to share the ways we'll work both with and for you to enhance life in Rush County.

[READ THE PLAN](#)

2025  
**RCCF**  
**TCC**  
BOARD of  
DIRECTORS



We are grateful to this awesome group of folks for their leadership, commitment, and service to our community!

front row: Dave Malson; Ginny Foster; Jessica Vogel; Toni Schultz; Denise Hoeing, secretary | back row: Julie Leisure; Phil King, treasurer; Devon Niehoff; Jamey Pavey; Laura Ash, president; Kelly Morgan, vice president; not pictured: Dave Burkhardt

**Meet the RCCF Board: Julie Leisure**



Meet the  
**RCCF**  
Board

Julie Leisure



There's something special about Rush County life, isn't there? It only took two years of working and living in Elkhart after college for new RCCF board member, **Julie Leisure**, to long for home. And for good reason.

*"I love the close-knit community that we have. It is so comforting being where everyone knows your name,"* she said. Julie, a Milroy native, now living between Arlington and Carthage, has Rush County in her blood. Just like her profession - teaching. That's really no surprise for the daughter of **Phil and Nancy Mitchell**.

[READ MORE](#)

## Your Support in Action: Grantee Updates



**Carthage-Henry Henley Public Library: 2024 Summer Community Outreach**

**\$2,153.66: Community Grant**

Elvis performed in Carthage with support from this grant! By sponsoring 9 concerts, the library was able



**Rushville Township Volunteer Fire Department: Extrication Tool Replacement**

**\$15,000: Community Grant**

RTVFD removed obsolete and unsafe tools from service and replaced them with equipment that is safe



**Rushville Consolidated High School: Musical support for Life Skills Class**

**\$272.74: Alex Workman Memorial Fund Grant**

RCHS purchased music and instruments for those students who might not have the opportunity to participate

expand its outreach - educating the community about their services and signing up residents for library cards. [READ MORE >](#)

and reliable. As a result they will be able to provide safer and quicker rescues. [READ MORE >](#)

in choir or band in the typical way. It also gives them a safe space to express and enjoy themselves. [READ MORE >](#)

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## IMPORTANT DATES

2025 Scholarship Applications due by 2/15/2025, 11:59:59 pm. [Apply now.](#)

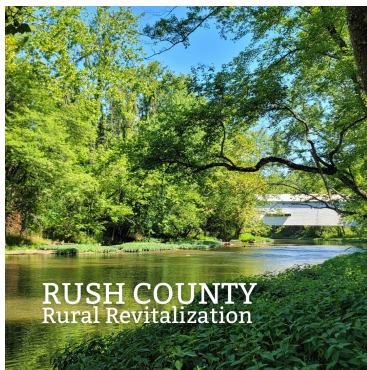
CIRCLe Applications due by 3/15/2025, 11:59:59 pm. [Apply online now.](#)

Community Events Calendar: [Find and submit local events.](#)

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## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



[New \\$5M Lilly grant to benefit small towns](#)



[Thank you for meeting the GIFT VIII match goal!](#)



[11 new funds started by donors](#)

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## What Will Your Legacy Be?



Is there an area of local life that you feel passionate about? Arts and culture, health, education or something else? Do you have a favorite local organization? Or maybe you want your support to go where it's needed most.

When you make a legacy gift to RCCF, we will make sure your wishes are fulfilled.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## January 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  
Ashley Spurlin  
Bess Heller  
Bill Pike  
Billy Meyer  
Carol Hardwick  
Don and Marjorie Carpenter  
Doug Ellerman  
Holly Bess  
Ivan Wooley  
Jack Clarkson  
Jerry Smith  
Jim Maxwell  
Joe Bridges  
Kim Yager  
Mary Jane Wogsland  
Phil Mitchell  
Sylvia Hook

### In Honor of:

Angela Jackson  
Anthony Meek  
Brooke Edwards  
Dave and Barb Malson  
Heather Campbell  
Heidi Cox  
Jennifer Teague  
Jim Marlatt  
Jonathan Galbraith  
Joni Fenimore  
Nick Tierney  
Rodney Perdeu  
Terri Marcum  
T.R. Campbell  
Victoria Baker  
Zachery Burchett

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**KEEP IN TOUCH**



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