



# SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## Community Connection

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SPRING 2015

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## Focus on a Fund: Scott County Heritage Center & Museum

Fifteen years ago, the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum Fund was established at the Foundation to provide support to the museum and has since been awarded grants totaling \$37,800 for historic preservation.



made in the late 1990's to turn the property into a museum that would reflect Scott County's rich history. The Scott County Home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2000.

The "Poor Farm" was originally built in the late 1880's as a county home, a place where mentally, physically and financially challenged people could live and care for themselves. The people that lived there cared for themselves by planting a garden for fruits and vegetables, milking cows for their dairy products, raising hogs for their meat, and by tending to the fire and stove in the house to keep them warm and cook. They were largely self-sufficient and took care of themselves and each other. Many of the residents of the county farm eventually got on their feet, and became productive members of society, although many stayed and lived in the home their entire lives.

After being used as a county home, and then to house government offices, plans were

Museum board members and staff preserve Scott County's history through education, cultural and civic programs. Admission to the museum is free, and exhibits are changed often to showcase various artifacts. The Museum has a theater group that occasionally performs plays, and ghost tours are available. The offices of the Scott County Genealogical Society and Scott County Historical Society are also housed in the Museum.

All donations to the endowment fund are being matched fifty cents for every dollar through a matching grant opportunity from Lilly Endowment. If you are passionate about preserving Scott County's rich history and the many wonderful programs provided through the Museum, please consider donating.

## Thoughts From Our Chairman: "Telling the 'Story'"

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

Many organizations or companies could, and do, stand up and say who they are and what they do, to gain attention or to gain market share. To gain attention and be significant, the voice of the subject matter must be compelling and must emotionally engage the listener. Telling a story about your organization or company and about how someone did something for someone else, not knowing the outcome, is the compelling story.

Most all market-leading companies started with a 'story'....everyone has a story. The Scott County Community Foundation has so many stories to tell, and we would love to share those stories with you. Did you know our Foundation story started in 1996 with Phil Martin, then-executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, gathering a group of thoughtful citizens to create a community foundation in Scott

County? The first "office" consisted of boxes of paperwork in the back of a Jeep and under a desk! Donors loved the opportunity to find creative ways to help Scott County, and new stories are made every day through their actions of giving!

We would love to meet with you to share more stories and help you write your own! With many taking advantage of our Lilly Endowment matching grant opportunity, this generosity will ensure that stories will be told for generations!



Looking forward,  
**L.L. LOWRY**  
**CHAIRMAN**

## YGC “Connects Generations” Through Senior Prom



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Americans 60 years and older will nearly double in the next 20 years. Due to this considerable growth, the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance announced financial support for a series of statewide community events under its Connecting Generations project, which aims to promote more age-friendly communities by spurring intergenerational understanding between older and younger Hoosiers.

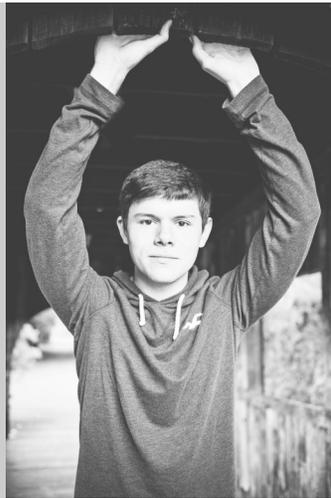
Through the Connecting Generations project, the Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council was one of seven Indiana youth organizations which were awarded grants of \$750 to develop and host community events that encourage meaningful interaction between youth and seniors.

YGC senior Tyler White chaired the planning committee to discuss details for “A Night to Remember” Senior Prom, which was hosted at Hampton Oaks on April 11. Residents enjoyed a casino-themed event, complete with roulette, slot machine, music and the ever-popular bingo! Everyone enjoyed a special visit by Mayor Bill Graham.

Bob Ligda was crowned king, while Joanne Drake was crowned queen. Awards were also given for the resident who earned the most “money” from the games, the oldest and youngest in attendance. We would like to thank our sponsors of the event: the Don Collins Sr. Family, Wal-Mart, the White family, and Lee Anne Hahn. We also would like to show appreciation to Heather White for photographing the event.

## Derek Everhart Named 2015 Lilly Endowment Scholar

One Scott County student has been named recipient of a full-tuition, four-year scholarship as the Scott County Community Foundation 2015 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.



Derek Everhart of Austin High School will receive full tuition to the Indiana college of his choice and a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment. He joins 33 other Lilly Scholar recipients from Scott County since 1998.

Derek is the son of Brian and Dana Everhart of Austin. He is a junior board member for the Greater Scott County Chamber of Commerce, president of Student Council, editor and chief of his school newspaper, volunteers for Big Brothers Big Sisters and is employed at Austin Pharmacy, among other activities.

Derek plans to attend Purdue University to major in pre-pharmacy.

“Getting the Lilly scholarship is a blessing to anyone,

no matter their financial status,” said Derek. “Being able to not have to worry about the monetary cost of an education gives a person the freedom to accomplish whatever they desire.

Through the Lilly Endowment Scholarship I will be able to accomplish everything I have ever planned, and more. Because of that, I am grateful.”

Students were judged based on financial consideration, community involvement, extra-curricular activities, work activities, academics and two essays. Six students advanced to the interview portion. After the scholarship committee narrowed the field to one nominee and two alternates, the finalists’ names were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the selection of the Scott County recipient.

The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor’s degree. There were 143 scholarships awarded statewide.

“All of our applicants were exceptional this year. We are sure Derek will succeed and represent our county very positively.”

*Barbara Broady,  
Scholarship  
Committee Chair*

## Grants to Community Hold Special Meaning for Donors



The Austin High School Baseball Team recently received a grant for \$447 from the Dottie Shelhamer Memorial Fund. Coach Matt Bayes accepted the award with his coaching staff and team. Matt is Dottie’s grandson and is beginning his first year as head coach. “His Gram would have been so excited that he played for an incredible coach like Jeff Barrett and then took the position as head coach at a school she loved,” said Kathy Bayes, who established the Dottie Shelhamer Memorial Fund in memory of her mother, who taught and coached at AHS for 42 years.



Scottsburg High School’s Show Choir received a grant for \$358 from the Kenninger Music Education Fund. Connie Kenninger, the donor, is shown with show choir members and teacher Erica Pangburn. This was the first grant ever awarded from the fund, which was established to support music education. Music has always been an important part of Connie’s life. “I don’t want music to *not* happen for the children here in Scott County,” shared Connie.



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### ***Looking Forward, Giving Back.***

## **Education Matters Initiative Hires Executive Director**

Education Matters Southern Indiana ("EMSI") has hired Bridgett Strickler as its first Executive Director.

The EMSI initiative was organized by the community foundations that serve Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott and Washington counties to strengthen our workforce and improve the economic advantages of our region by increasing the educational attainment of those adults with some form of post-secondary education but no degree or certification.

"I'm very excited to jump in and get to work. Research shows that in this five county region, over 40,000 people have earned some college credits," Strickler said. "If we can reach those people and help them develop a plan to earn a college degree or quality certification, we can increase their quality of life while enhancing the economic development opportunities in our communities."



Strickler earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Relations from Bucknell University in 1988 where she was also a Division I student athlete. In 1993 she earned a Master's degree from University of Louisville and began her teaching and coaching careers.

She rose within Kentucky's education system to Research Director for the Kentucky Governor's Scholars and also served as professional development leader and consultant for multiple initiatives related to high school drop out prevention. Later, she discovered a passion for Adult Learners while teaching GED. She is now pursuing her MBA as part of the University of Kentucky & University of Louisville joint Executive MBA program.

Strickler comes to EMSI from her role as Director for Greater Louisville, Inc's Degrees at Work which is part of the Louisville metropolitan area's 55,000 Degrees education attainment initiative.

For more information about the Education Matters Southern Indiana program, contact 502-645-2326, 812-625-7501 or email [Bridgett@educationmatterssi.org](mailto:Bridgett@educationmatterssi.org).