

# Community Connection

## Inside This Issue

## New Fund Honors Legacy of Miss Gladys Berna

Kids First Fund

Photo Gallery

YGC

Over half of American adults do not have a will or other estate plan. The most popular way of providing long-term support for a meaningful charitable organization is to make a gift in a will. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss options on how your gift can play a meaningful role in your planning and the future of Scott County.



A teacher's legacy will live on through a new endowment fund established at the Scott County Community Foundation. The Gladys A. Berna Education Fund will provide support for students in both Scott County school districts.

Gladys A. Berna was a teacher in Scott County for 38 years from 1937 until 1975. She taught both at Finley Elementary, and at many of the one-room schools within Finley Township. She taught kindergarten through eighth grade. Her students were comprised of many rural kids in Scott County, to include friends, her brothers and sisters, her own children and even her grandchildren.

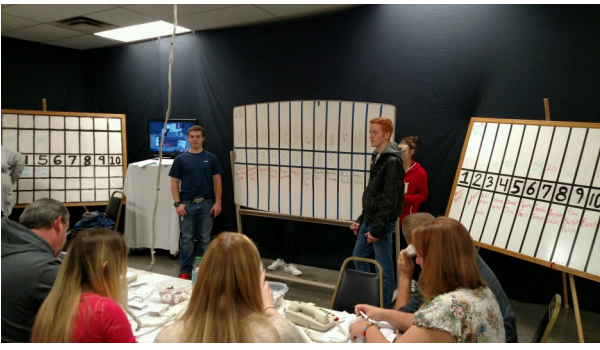
Miss Gladys, as her students called her, taught at a time when teachers filled many

roles. She was the bus driver – taking students to and from school. She was the custodian – building the fire to keep the room warm and cleaning the schoolhouse. She was the nurse – helping kids treat everything from colds to head lice. She was the cook – bringing soup for kids who didn't have any lunch.

Most of the time Miss Gladys would use her own money to buy supplies for the school. She always took special care of those students who didn't have as much as others. She would buy them clothes and school supplies. Sometimes she even took them to the doctor when their parents were unable.

In the classroom, she taught more than just the ABC's. Miss Gladys always included character lessons. She repeatedly told students that she had only two rules: "Behave Yourself, and Get Your Lessons." She didn't like drama on the playground, and required that recess was filled with activities. She organized many games of softball, and drafted even the smallest child to play.

This fund was established to honor the legacy of Miss Gladys. It will be available to any educator at Scott County School Districts 1 and 2. The application process is intended to be simple. The money should be used to help students whether through a small classroom project or a field trip. It could be used to help students in any way that will further their education, while taking some of the burden off teachers.



## Scott County Kids First Fund Offers Permanent Resource to Help Children

A new endowment fund created at the Scott County Community Foundation will help provide funding for children for generations to come. The Scott County Kids First Fund will help the local nonprofit with their mission of helping children year-round.

Scott County Kids First was formed 25 years ago to help children and families in need. Most Scott County residents are familiar with the annual Kids First televised telethon, which is hosted by founder Walker Amick and Scottsburg Mayor Bill Graham, along with other community leaders. Each year, the weekend before Thanksgiving, merchants, citizens and local “celebrities” donate items to be auctioned, with the proceeds assisting children year-round. After the auction, 50 percent of the proceeds are distributed immediately, with the remainder set aside to meet needs throughout the year.

“We constantly have a need for food, clothing, winter coats and shoes for children,” said Jessica Jones, Kids First Treasurer. “The funds are only raised once a year and have become very important to our entire community, our children, schools and other organizations.”

The proceeds from the auction are divided among many local organizations. The local schools purchase warm clothing, coats and shoes for children in need. The Nelson Spaulding Community Clearinghouse receives funds to distribute food to families in need.

Funds have helped children with severe illnesses.

Other local organizations that have received funding include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Scott County, CRADLE Pregnancy Resource, Scottsburg Kiwanis Club, Lexington Little League, Scott County 4-H, Purdue Extension, Scott County Special Olympics, Scott County Little League, Scott County School Districts 1 and 2, Scott County Youth Football League and the Pilot Club.

“Our schools, the Clearinghouse, and our community depend on us each year to be a success and each year it becomes harder,” said Jones.

By establishing an endowment fund, this will help provide additional support to Scott County Kids First if there are years that the auction doesn’t meet the nonprofit’s goals. Kids First was also able to take advantage of a special matching grant program that the Scott County Community Foundation offered in celebration of our 20th anniversary.

With an endowment fund, contributions are invested but only a portion of the earnings are spent, allowing the fund to last forever, explained Jaime Toppe, Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director.

“By having an endowment fund, this offers a reliable source of income for Kids First each year,” said Toppe. “The Kids First Board of Directors sees the value that can come through a permanent fund. We are honored that they have placed their trust in the Scott County Community Foundation to create sustainability and meet their goals of helping children.”



# Photo Gallery

We had a roarin' good time at our Gatsby Gala 20th anniversary dinner! We want to give a huge thanks to our sponsors and all the guests who helped us celebrate 20 years of service to Scott County! Congratulations to CASA of Scott County for winning the grantmaking exercise and being awarded a \$500 grant! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our casino night next year, with the theme to be announced...



We had a great turnout for our family literacy night! Children enjoyed listening to "Secret Pizza Party," making a pizza craft, and going through a pizza-themed Minds-in-Motion maze with Candy Meyer before having pizza for dinner! The event was hosted by the Early Childhood Committee of the Community Foundation and United Way. Thank you to Austin Christian Church for hosting us!



Kathy Bayes, left, awards a grant to Symantha Norton of Austin Elementary School. The grant was awarded from the Dottie Shelhamer Memorial Fund and will be used to purchase flexible seating to keep her third grade students engaged in the classroom. "Mom loved Austin schools," said Bayes, who established the fund in memory of her mother. "She would love Sym's love of kids and her passion for teaching."



June Miller with the Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network presented another great session for our nonprofits. "Grantwriting 101 and Measuring Outcomes" was a timely topic for our nonprofits, as our 2017 Community Grants Program has opened. Applications are due at the end of April.



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## *Looking Forward, Giving Back.*

### YGC Welcomes New Members

With the addition of 11 new members on the Youth Grantmaking Council's Community Service Committee, this brings the total to 76 youth who are showing their love of Scott County through community service!

We welcome Kenzie Carter, Ethan Fugate and Jilian Walker of Austin High School; Carter Gricius, Brooklyn Hunley, Dylan Roberts and Jackson Taylor of Vienna-Finley Elementary School; Landon Gricius, Claire Routt and Grace Routt of Scottsburg Middle School; and Bryton Richey of Scottsburg Elementary School!

The YGC have several upcoming service projects and are also accepting nominations for their 4th Annual Helping Hand Award to honor a student who has gone above and beyond in service to Scott County. They are currently evaluating applications for their grants, and recipients will be announced at their annual dinner in May.



*Shown are Mia Collins, Abby Doriot, Melea Luttrell, Gavin Collins, Lucas Toppe, Mayson Cutter and Hayden Garten, who raised money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Scott County at the annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser.*