

Community Connection

Volume 19, Issue 1
Winter 2022

Inside This Issue

- New Board Member
- Resource Guide
- Vision Plan
- Gene Mayer Scholarship
- YGC Service Projects

Board of Directors

- Heather White, *Chairman*
- Melissa Woods, *Vice Chair*
- Chris Routt, *Secretary*
- Daniel Brunner, *Treasurer*
- Tinisha Bowles-Densford
- Janie Alexander
- Steve Gwaltney
- Kevin Jentzen
- Ryan Payne
- Al Riggle

Staff

- Jaime Toppe,
Executive Director
- Charlotte Boswell,
Financial Officer

Lara McGlothlin Named 2022 Lilly Scholar



We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, Lara McGlothlin of Scottsburg High School. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character and leadership. She joins 40 other Lilly Scholar recipients from Scott County since 1998.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university.

Lara is the daughter of Matthew and Melanie McGlothlin of Scottsburg. She serves as a member of EMPOWER Youth Coalition, a junior board member of the Scott County Chamber of Commerce, the stage manager of Scottsburg High School Theatre, the vice president of Student Council, the vice president of Sunshine Society,

and more.

She plans to attend IUPUI to major in biology, with a career goal of becoming a pediatrician.

“I would like to express the most heartfelt thanks to the Scott County Community Foundation and the Scholarship Committee for their commitment to my future endeavors,” said Lara. “I am truly blessed to be able to pursue my educational goals without financial burden, and I look forward to exploring the opportunities that this scholarship will provide.”

“The finalists were all great students, and it was a difficult decision for the committee,” said Scholarship Committee Chairperson Tinisha Bowles-Densford. “We are confident that Lara will be an outstanding representative of our community, and we know that she will be very successful in the future. Congratulations, Lara!”

Students were judged based on community involvement, extra-curricular activities, work activities, academics, financial considerations, honors and awards, letters of recommendation and two essays. Seven students advanced to the interview portion as finalists. After the scholarship committee narrowed the field, the finalists’ names were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. (ICI) for the selection of the Scott County recipient. ICI serves as the collective voice for the state’s 29 private, nonprofit colleges and universities, and serves as the administrator for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-1999 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling in excess of \$439 million. More than 5,000 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program’s inception. There were 143 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships awarded this year.

Janie Alexander Welcomed to Board of Directors

We are honored to welcome Janie Alexander to our Board of Directors. She began her term Oct. 1.

Janie and her late husband, Keith, are the parents of one son, Daniel. Janie graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, and received her funeral service degree from Mid America College of Funeral Service. She is a funeral director at Buchanan Funeral Home in Austin.

Janie is a board member for the Austin Redevelopment Commission, treasurer of the Beta Sigma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority, board member for CASA of Scott County, chairperson of Austin Band

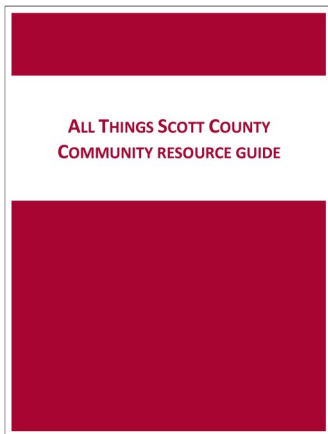
Parents Group, and chairperson for Austin Beautification Committee.

"I have always admired the work the Community Foundation does and want to help improve our community through its programs," shared Janie.

"I am excited to have Janie on the board," said Board Chairperson Heather White. "She has numerous years of experience with various organizations in Scott County which obviously shows her passion for our community. Along with her experience and expertise, I feel she will be an asset to the Community Foundation."



Community Resource Guide Available



When we released our Community Needs Assessment in fall 2020, it was determined that many residents were not aware of the resources and assets that we have in Scott County. Through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Applied Research Center at Indiana University Southeast conducted an asset mapping. This information was combined with numerous community resource guides that have been distributed over the last several years. The result is "All Things Scott County Community Resource Guide." The long-term goal is to develop a mobile app where residents can easily access this information.

Listed in the guide are resources for numerous areas, including activities for youth, resources for those in need such as free clothing and food, daycares/preschools, event spaces, parks and recreation, health, faith-based organizations, recovery groups, social services, senior citizen services, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

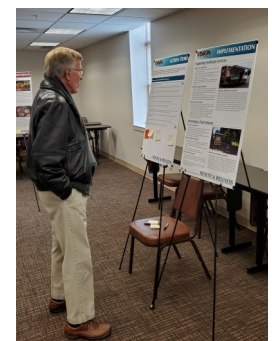
An updated copy of this guide can be accessed on our website, www.scottcountyfoundation.org, under the Community Initiatives menu and Community Links sub-menu. You may also email info@scottcountyfoundation.org.

Scott County Vision Plan Nears Completion



The community was invited to another open house to gather feedback for the Scott County Vision Plan. Our consultants have worked on this project for the last year, bringing together government, nonprofits, community organizations, and interested citizens to provide strategic direction for our community. Attendees were asked to review the goals and strategies and offer final suggestions.

Our Vision Committee will be finalizing plans over the next month, with a goal of having a final plan to present to the community by late February or early March. The Scott County Vision Plan will be a roadmap for community development and focus on the economy, health and wellness, education, housing, the arts, and coordination/partnerships.



Arthur Gene Mayer Memorial Scholarship Established



Hardworking. Proud. Intelligent. Driven. Brave. Loving. All these are words that describe Arthur “Gene” Mayer, a family man who left a lasting mark on all who knew him, and even those who didn’t.

Gene was born on May 3, 1943, the son of Elmer and

Opal Olivia Hedges Mayer. He was a lifelong resident of Scottsburg. Gene was married to Donna for 55 years, and they have a son, Todd, and two daughters, Christy Coomer and Karen Mayer-Sebastian. Their grandchildren include Sean Mayer, Mitchel Sebastian, Noah Sebastian, and Chace Coomer. They also have one great-grandson, Kyler Mayer.

“Growing up, Dad always worked at least two jobs to try and get ahead for our family,” shared his daughters, Christy and Karen. “He was always very smart but had a drive that was uncommon.”

Christy shared that although money was tight, he ensured his family was taken care of and his children were well-rounded. He built with his own hands a home in the country. He purchased dirt bikes, four-wheelers, and a pool, all second-hand but refinished by his hands to make good as new.

“We spent all of our time together as a family working hard and playing hard,” said Karen.

“As we got in the middle school years, Dad bought us our first boat. From that point forward, we were always on the water and that continued until Dad left us,” said Christy. Most summer weekends were spent boating, and Gene taught all of his children and most of the grandchildren how to ski and wake board. He even tried to teach his wife, but that was one of his few failures.

Christy fondly remembered how dedicated her dad was to his children and their activities. “We were all involved in sports and band, and Dad always made sure to be at every performance for each one of us. As we reached adulthood, we saw Dad most days and spoke to him on the phone every day. He called and checked on us every day and was very invested in his children’s lives as well as his grandsons’,” said Christy.

Gene and his brother Charlie founded Total Concepts of Design. Both brothers had various skills in manufacturing and recognized an opportunity for a custom packaging supplier with an emphasis in steel. “They had a vision of our family working together to build something to be proud of,” said Christy.

They started the company in Gene’s garage, which led to relocation to a vacant plant on the west side of town after the commercial traffic became too much on the residential Main Street. Through the years, the brothers reinvested profits in the company and added machinery and more space, while also branching out into Department of Defense work. Gene retired in 2005, and at that time, the business employed 130 individuals and encompassed 48,000 square feet with many state-of-the-art pieces of equipment. Throughout the years, many of he and Charlie’s family worked at the company, and their families continue to operate it today. Gene was so proud of the business and for providing employment for so many families in Scottsburg. “It was a responsibility he didn’t take lightly,” shared Christy.

Gene was an avid reader and loved collecting first edition books. He loved cars, boats, and motorcycles, and rode his entire life. He even waterskied at age 72. Gene was an avid gun owner and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. Gene went on a big game hunt in the mountains at age 76. Gene also spent time with each grandson educating them on safe gun ownership.

“My fondest memory is the fact that Dad always had time for us and that we always knew we were important,” said Christy.

“As much as he loved adventure and loved his hobbies, his favorite thing in the world was his wife,” shared Christy. The couple was married when she was 17 and he was 21. Donna completed high school as his wife. Gene always tried to support her and her interests, and they were good for each other. “No matter where he went or what he did, he wanted her right there with him,” said Christy. “The 55 years that they were married were not nearly enough.”

Gene had many friends, and each one was very important to him. He made it a lifetime commitment by regularly checking in on his long list of friends. While known to be blunt and

outspoken, he was honest. To quote one of his grandchildren, “If the only Gene Mayer that you knew was the one that was gruff and had hard edges, then you didn’t really know Gene Mayer.” Beneath his gruff demeanor was a big heart with a lot of kindness. He would not want it known, but he searched out individuals and situations in which he could help others, and performed many acts of kindness anonymously.

When Gene died at age 77 on September 22, 2020, from complications due to COVID-19, he left a giant void in his family and this community. His family decided to honor his legacy by establishing the Arthur Gene Mayer Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Scott County Community Foundation.

“We established this scholarship fund so that individuals with characteristics similar to Dad could benefit,” said Christy. “My father valued education even though he didn’t have the opportunity to pursue his because of his upbringing. He promoted the importance of a good education to his children and his grandchildren. He loved seeing others succeed as well as respected those willing to work hard to get what they wanted in life. He loved watching his grandsons compete in sports because he saw the work they put in and the results from that work, so I know that he would like that we made this a part of the criteria for the recipients. I know that he would love that part of his hard work is being gifted to support young men and women who are driven and will go on to be successful citizens.”

The first scholarship, worth \$800, was awarded to Scottsburg High School graduate Jameson Hale this past May. Jameson is attending Indiana University to major in business administration. The Arthur Gene Mayer Memorial Scholarship is just one way that the impact Gene left on others during his lifetime will be carried on for many students for generations to come.

To donate in Gene’s memory, you may send a contribution to the Scott County Community Foundation; PO Box 25; Scottsburg, IN 47170. You may also drop off donations at 60 N. Main St., Scottsburg.

*

Please visit our website for the full story and more pictures.



PO Box 25 Phone: 812.752.2057
 60 North Main Street Email: info@scottcountyfoundation.org
 Scottsburg, IN 47170

www.scottcountyfoundation.org

www.facebook.com/ScottCountyCommunityFoundation

Non Profit
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SCOTTSBURG, IN
 PERMIT NO. 12

Looking Forward, Giving Back.

Youth Give Back to Community

The holidays are typically the busiest time of year for our Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council members. Starting with the Kids First auction in November, the community service projects continue through Christmas Eve. Members rang bells to benefit the Clearinghouse food pantry, they purchased Christmas presents for 8 children in foster care, they helped set up and be actors for Bethel Baptist Church's live nativity, and they helped with games and activities at the Department of Child Service's Christmas party for kids in foster care. For the first time in YGC's history, they also had a float in the Scottsburg Christmas parade! We are so proud of these youth, who are giving up their free time to give back to the community!

