

# Community Connection

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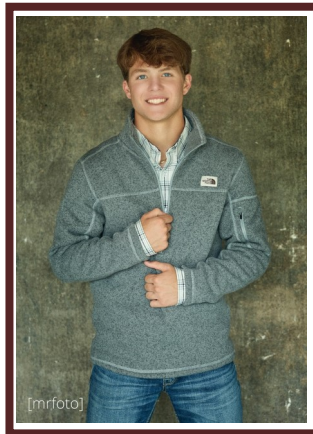
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### Board of Directors

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

### Staff

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



We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, Brady Watts of Austin High School. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character and leadership. He joins

41 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. Lilly Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and Indiana Humanities.

Brady is the son of Rodney and Angela Watts of Scottsburg. He is President of Student Council, serves in Sons of Liberty, Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council, and 4-H. He also plays baseball and runs cross country. Brady is ranked first in his class with a 4.0 grade point average. He is enrolled in the Academy program, which will allow him to graduate with an associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College before his high school graduation. He plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana to major in business management and play for the Screaming Eagles baseball

team.

"It is an honor to be awarded the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship," said Brady. "I cannot thank the members of the Community Foundation and the Scholarship Committee enough for selecting me as the Scott County recipient. I am very excited to begin my college career, and I cannot express enough how thankful I am that the scholarship will allow me to obtain a college degree without financial stress."

"On behalf of the Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors, we are pleased to announce Brady Watts as the recipient of the 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship," said Scholarship Committee Chairperson Tinisha Bowles-Densford. "All students named as finalists this year were exemplary. We congratulate Brady for being named as 2023 Lilly Scholar, we know that he will be a great representative of our community and will continue to make Scott County proud in his future achievements."

Students were judged based on community involvement, extra-curricular activities, work activities, academics, financial considerations, honors and awards, letters of recommendation and two essays. Eleven students advanced to the interview portion as finalists. After the scholarship committee narrowed the field, nominees were submitted to ICI for the selection of the Scott County recipient. ICI is the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, which approves the final selection of scholarship recipients.

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 \$486 million. More than 5,000 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.

# Applications for Scholarships & Grants Available

Spring is traditionally “grants time” for the Community Foundation. We have numerous opportunities for funding available, with applications required for each program:

- **Scholarships:** Almost \$100,000 in scholarship assistance is available to graduating high school seniors and non-traditional adult learners. Applications are due Friday, March 3 and are available on our website, [scottcountyfoundation.org](http://scottcountyfoundation.org) under Scholarships and Grants menu.
- **Community Grants Program:** Over \$113,000 in grants are available through our unrestricted funds. Nonprofits, schools, and government entities are invited to apply. Applications are due Friday, April 28. While applications are started online, 10 hard copies of the application and attachments must be submitted in

order to be considered. For more information, visit our website under the Scholarships and Grants menu.

- **Youth Grants:** Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council members are seeking requests for projects and programs that benefit youth. Applications are completed online and due Feb. 28. The maximum request is \$1,000.
- **Education Grants:** Educators in Scott County School Districts 1 and 2 are invited to submit a simple proposal for funding through the Gladys A. Berna Education Fund. \$500 total in funding is available for projects that help students further their education. Applications are submitted online and due Feb. 28. Contact the Foundation for a link to the application.

## Lunch ‘n’ Learn Nonprofit Sessions Announced

We are pleased to bring back in-person sessions for our Lunch ‘n’ Learn 2023 Series for Nonprofits. This will be the 7th year that we have offered low-cost training in an effort to assist nonprofits with capacity building.

“Effective Nonprofit Boards” will be offered as a 2-part series, but it is not required to attend both to gain useful information. The sessions will help you navigate the necessary steps to build a strong governing board.

Session #1, “Developing and Strengthening Your Board of Directors” will feature topics including understanding the types of nonprofit boards, selecting/removing board members, developing a board orientation, and knowing your bylaws. It will be held Thursday, Feb. 23 from 11-1 at the Lifelong Learning Center.

Session #2, “Understanding Board Member Roles,” will feature topics including understanding board members’ roles in finances, understanding the roles of officers, and understanding the roles of committees. It will be held Wednesday, March 15 from 11-1 in the business conference center at Mid-America Science Park.

The sessions will be presented by Mark Eddy, President/CEO of Leadership Southern Indiana (LSI). Scott County Community Foundation partnered with LSI in 2020 to expand their service area to Scott County. LSI has provided leadership programs to Clark and Floyd counties since 1987. In his 12 years at LSI, Mark has transformed the organization from a one-stop program shop to an organization serving all generations of professionals-in-development and diversifying funds to accommodate the growing organization. Eddy is also dedicated to community service, having served or currently serving on the boards of Indiana Leadership Association, Floyd Memorial Foundation, Centra Credit Union Supervisory Committee, Align Southern Indiana Operating Board, Metro United Way and One Southern Indiana Advocacy Committee.

The cost for each session is \$10 and includes lunch and materials. Staff, board members, and volunteers of nonprofit organizations are invited to attend. Register by emailing [info@scottcountyfoundation.org](mailto:info@scottcountyfoundation.org) or call 812.752.2057.

## Creative Ways of Giving

While cash is the most popular method of giving to the Scott County Community Foundation, there are several other creative ways that you can give to your favorite causes!

- Gift of stock
- Beneficiary designation on your retirement or life insurance policy: you can choose a certain amount or percentage to go to the Community Foundation. You can choose from 110+ funds to support your favorite cause(s) or create your own!
- IRA Charitable Rollover: if you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can

direct your yearly required minimum distribution from your IRA to a fund at the Foundation—this money is excluded from your income for federal tax purposes.

- Will or trust - Having plans in place is a very important part of estate planning, and can include your charitable goals.

We encourage you to talk to your professional advisor for tax/financial advice. We are happy to meet with you to discuss your passions and how we can customize your gift to support the community forever.

# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Celebrates 10 Years in Scott County

Did you know that 1 in 10 children under the age of five in the United States now receive a Dolly Parton Imagination Library book every month? A book is mailed every 1.27 seconds! World-wide, there were 24.7 million books mailed, to include Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and Ireland!

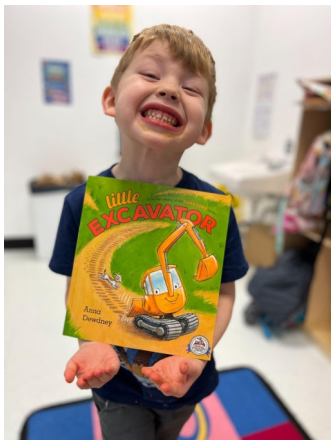
Ten years ago marks the first time the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program was made available in Scott County! We partnered with United Way of Scott County to bring the initiative to our community. Our YGC members dressed up as characters and we invited the community to celebrate with us. That first month, we had 119 children registered for the program.

Fast forward 10 years...we have about 850 children receiving the free, age-appropriate books every month. This is almost 7 in 10 children from birth through age five who are getting books

mailed directly to their homes! Over 90,000 books have been mailed to Scott County kiddos, and 2,715 Scott County children have been impacted by this program.

We are excited that Gov. Holcomb announced his goal of helping to fund each community's program. If approved, the state would provide half of the funding for each community. This is a big deal for small communities such as ours, where resources and funding are limited. We've had many donors and organizations, such as Friends of the Library and Kiwanis Club of Scott County, that have faithfully supported Imagination Library over the years. You can sponsor a child for only \$25/year!

In honor of 10 years of having this amazing program in our community, we hope you enjoy these testimonials.



*"Having these books has increased my child's vocabulary as he is being read to. The books are equally beneficial to Luke and his older siblings who often read to him."*

Erica Cross, mom of Kayden, 10, Kenzleigh, 9, and Luke 4



*"My daughters have both been a part of the DPIL program. They have enjoyed receiving the books in the mail every month. Having this opportunity has prospered literacy awareness and pre-reading skills to our girls prior to kindergarten."*

Emily Jordan, mom of Reece, 10, and Caroline, 3

Sweet Vivian, age 5, was just told by her mom that this would be her last book since she was starting school soon. *"Thank you for giving my tiny humans an amazing library. Books are so important for so many reasons. Thank you for helping provide them for our community's kids."*

Brenda Deaton, mom



*"The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has helped her explore her creativity and imagination by learning and hearing the stories. It has also given her a connection to the world."*

Karri Shields, mom of Hayden



*"Conner enjoys looking at the books with his older siblings. Being a part of the DPIL program has encouraged their relationship in bonding while reading together."*

Sarah Riley, mom of Conner, age 4



*"I'm so happy I got Dolly books every month! I love reading and all the books!"*

Annie Tattersall, age 5



## Scott County Community Foundation

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[www.scottcountyfoundation.org](http://www.scottcountyfoundation.org)

[www.facebook.com/ScottCountyCommunityFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ScottCountyCommunityFoundation)

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## Looking Forward, Giving Back.

### Focus on a Fund: AHS Academic Team Fund

One of the very first endowment funds established at the Scott County Community Foundation in 1997 was the Austin High School Academic Team Fund. Mary Ellen Buchanan, a founding board member for the Community Foundation, showed her commitment to the community by establishing a permanent endowment fund to assist with the Academic Super Bowl competition that AHS hosts every year. Since then, almost \$3,000 in grants have been awarded to help with competition expenses.

Former Academic Team members shared the impact of the experience on their lives.

*“Students are able to learn extra knowledge and gain competitive sportsmanship only seen in physical sports. Academic Bowl also gives students the chance to compete and socialize with local schools and truly be kids but to learn as well! Students gain cooperative skills while relying on teammate’s support to answer questions together.”*

*“These groups are for kids that love learning and want to be challenged. Competing against other like-minded kids played a vital role in my academic achievement. The added pressure also made me better equipped to handle a college workload and actually gave me a head start with some of the required freshman reading. I cannot tell you how many times I say, “Oh, that was a Spell Bowl*



**AHS Academic Team Coordinator Vanessa Eldridge accepts a grant for \$200 from SCCF Board Chair Melissa Woods.**

*word.” ....I was exposed to one of the greatest mentors I’ve had, who taught us to be confident, trust in ourselves, and aim high – characteristics that should be instilled in all children.”*

*“It was a great source of both student and school pride.”*

Austin High School will host the annual competition for 20 schools on April 18. This year’s theme is “The Age of Exploration.”