

# Community Connection

Volume 20, Issue 4  
Fall 2023

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### Board of Directors

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Daniel Brunner, *Treasurer*

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Tinisha Bowles-Densford

Casey Brewster

Jennifer Coward

Jamie Longacre

Ryan Payne

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### Staff

Jaime Toppe,  
*Executive Director*

Charlotte Boswell,  
*Financial Officer*

## New StoryWalk® Installed



Scott County’s third StoryWalk® was installed at Manaugh Memorial Park in Austin Oct. 17. A large group of supporters attended an opening reception and ribbon cutting hosted by our Early Childhood Committee. The StoryWalk® Project is a series of signs with pages from a children’s book, placed along a walking path around the lake. Each sign has interactive activities to encourage early literacy skills along with exercise and nature. The StoryWalk® installation was made possible through Duke Energy Foundation. The storybook featured is *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count With Me* by John Micklos Jr.

“This book is a fun combination of math, reading and science lessons all in one,” said Lisa Huber, government and community relations manager for Duke Energy in southern Indiana. “It provides an amazing opportunity for youth to count, read about the four seasons and enjoy nature while walking around the lake.”

“This project would not have happened without the generosity of Duke Energy Foundation, and we are extremely grateful to them for their grant,” said Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director

Jaime Toppe. “We would like to thank the Austin Elementary K-Kids for their help at the reception, and the City of Austin and Austin Parks Board for their support of these projects for our community.”



The Community Foundation’s Early Childhood Committee will rotate the books quarterly. The other two StoryWalk® projects are located at Austin Community Park and Scott County Courthouse. Those interested in sponsoring a book for \$250 can contact us for more information.



# New Board Members Welcomed



We are honored to welcome two new board members, Jennifer Coward and Jamie Longacre. Their terms began Oct. 1. They replaced outgoing board members Steve Gwaltney and Melissa Woods, who both finished their six-year board terms.

Jennifer and her husband, Mark, reside in Lexington. They have three adult children, Luke, Sam and Julia, and three married-in children, Lauren, Sarah and Tommy. They also have two grandchildren, Eli and Jane.

Jennifer has her bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University and is a realtor with Semonin Realtors. She is President-Elect for Kiwanis Club of Scott County, serves on the board of directors for Southern Indiana Realtors Association, and is a member of the Scott County Chamber of Commerce. She enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, hiking and spending time with family.

"I joined the Board because I love the mission of the SCCF," shared Jennifer. "The time, effort and talent it takes to give back in such amazing ways is definitely something to be proud of. I am honored to serve on the Grants Committee and the Welcoming Committee, and my experience in these committees has been amazing. I am so excited to be a part of the leadership team and to help continue the mission of making an impact in Scott County."

"We are thrilled to have Jennifer join the Board," said Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "When her family moved here a few years ago, she jumped right into getting involved in the community, and she has been a valuable volunteer ever since. We look forward to having her wisdom help guide the decisions of the Foundation."

Jamie is married to her high school sweetheart, Taylor. They have two sons, Harrison and Marshall. They have resided in Scott County for five years.

Jamie received her bachelor of science degree in public affairs with a concentration in nonprofit management from Indiana Uni-



versity. She is employed as a database consulting specialist with Bloomerang.

Jamie and her family enjoy exploring Indiana state parks, where they hike and kayak. She is also a board member of Discovery Time Child Care and Preschool, and involved with the Vienna-Finley Elementary School PTO. She also coaches her son's basketball team.

"When I was in high school I received a community foundation scholarship that would change my educational trajectory," shared Jamie. "With this scholarship, I was then able to pursue my educational and personal dreams. I know first-hand the transformational impact of how a community foundation can change lives. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and invest in Scott County."

"We are so excited to welcome Jamie to the Board of Directors," said Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Jamie started her service to the Foundation on our newly-formed Welcoming Committee and she was instrumental in creating the Sco Co Connect initiative, which seeks to make new residents feel welcome in our community. With her nonprofit background, her expertise is going to be very valuable to the Board and our community."



Steve joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and served on the Grants and Governance committees over the years. Steve was the Chairperson for our Governance Committee.

Melissa joined the Grants Committee in 2015 and became a board member in 2017 as well. She was our Board Chairwoman.

Both Steve and Melissa were outstanding ambassadors for the Community Foundation! Their wisdom and servant hearts will be missed, but they are continuing to serve our community in other ways.

# Lilly Endowment Inc. Announces 8th Phase of GIFT Initiative

Five years ago, Lilly Endowment Inc. announced the seventh phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow initiative (GIFT VII). The purpose was to help Indiana community foundations strengthen the communities that we serve. The grant included matching dollars to build endowment funds, as well as community leadership grants to help community foundations deepen their understanding of key challenges and opportunities.

This grant brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to Scott County, and with the final grant report submitted in September, we would like to take the opportunity to report to the community on the progress and celebrate the successes:

- Through the matching grant incentive, over \$216,000 was made in donations to endowment funds. With Lilly Endowment matching dollars, this resulted in over \$431,000 in permanent funds to benefit the community through grants and scholarships every year, forever.
- We partnered with Leadership Southern Indiana to expand their services to Scott County, enabling numerous Scott County representatives to participate in their leadership programs.
- Scott County School Districts 1 and 2 received funding for early childhood education programs.
- Lilly Endowment, along with the Jayce Ray Stallings Memorial Fund, provided funding for the first-ever StoryWalk installation in Scott County. This was followed by two other StoryWalk projects funded by the Beverly Crowell Memorial Scholarship Fund and Duke Energy Foundation.
- For the first time in over 20 years, a Community Needs Assessment was conducted. This tool has been used countless times since to seek grants and help with community planning.
- The Scott County Vision Plan was created as a tool to help the community with strategic planning around education, health and wellness, housing, economy, and more.
- Through a board member engagement grant from Lilly Endowment, SCCF Board of Directors gave a Bicentennial gift to the community of a permanent Farmers' Market pavilion.

"This has been an incredible opportunity for our residents," said SCCF Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "This grant enabled Scott County to do so many impactful projects that we would not have had funding for otherwise. We are very grateful to Lilly Endowment Inc. for their generosity and commitment to Indiana community foundations."



**The Scott County Farmers' Market pavilion was just one of many projects made possible through Lilly Endowment's GIFT VII initiative.**

With this last phase ending, Lilly Endowment has launched the eighth phase of its GIFT initiative, allocating up to \$210 million to help Indiana community foundations strengthen the quality of life in the towns, cities and counties they serve. The GIFT initiative is based upon Lilly Endowment's longstanding belief that community foundations are uniquely positioned to play central roles in building the prosperity of communities throughout Indiana.

Through this new GIFT phase, Lilly Endowment has invited Scott County Community Foundation and other eligible Indiana community foundations to participate in three funding opportunities designed to help them grow their financial resources to enhance their effectiveness and promote long-term viability; further strengthen their abilities to lead on important community priorities; encourage board engagement; and support and develop strategic efforts to enhance quality of life in their communities. The grant opportunities include:

Matching Fund Grants, which will enable community foundations to develop unrestricted assets, implement projects and programs that address community needs, and build their internal capacity. Lilly Endowment has allocated up to \$135.3 million for this opportunity.

Community Leadership Grants, which will enable community foundations to continue to seek input from a diverse range of community stakeholders and, if desired, request funding to develop and implement large-scale action plans that address high-priority challenges and opportunities in their communities. Additionally, community foundations can choose to work collaboratively to address shared priorities by submitting joint/regional proposal. Community Leadership Grants will be available in a two-phase process: a non-competitive planning phase and a competitive implementation phase. Lilly Endowment has allocated up to \$65.5 million for this opportunity.

Board Engagement Grants, which will encourage board members of community foundations to make financial contributions to their foundations. Each community foundation demonstrating 100 percent board member giving will receive a \$100,000 unrestricted grant. Lilly Endowment has allocated up to \$9.2 million for this opportunity.

"We are so excited for this next round of GIFT funding opportunities," said Toppe. "We look forward to announcing our plans for this phase upon receiving approval of our proposal from Lilly Endowment. Once again, these grants will have a long-lasting impact, allowing us to do critical work and award much-needed dollars to our community."

GIFT is a series of statewide initiatives and programs that began in 1990 as part of Lilly Endowment's efforts to help establish and strengthen community foundations in Indiana and build their capacity to address the needs of their local communities. The primary aim of GIFT is to help Indiana community foundations in all 92 of Indiana's counties develop the philanthropic capacity to identify, prioritize and address local opportunities and challenges. To learn more about GIFT VIII, please visit <https://lillyendowment.org/gift-viii-2/>.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. Although the Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

Scott County Community Foundation has been in existence since December 1996. Since awarding our first community grants totaling \$50,000 in 1997, SCCF has been Scott County's partner for positive change. Scholarships and grants totaling more than \$6 million have made it possible for local students to attend college and for the diverse needs of our residents to be served. In addition, more than \$13 million has been funneled to Scott County through the Community Foundation due to the generosity of Lilly Endowment. Projects that have been possible due to this funding include the CAPE educational initiatives, Lifelong Learning Center, Scott County Family YMCA, Scott County Clearinghouse, Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, recreational areas in Austin, Lexington, Scottsburg, and more.



## Scott County Community Foundation

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

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

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

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### *Looking Forward, Giving Back.*

## YGC Welcomes New Members, Elects Leadership

The Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council has kicked off their new fiscal year by welcoming new members to the Community Service Committee. Congratulations to the following students who bravely faced an interview with their peers to be selected: Benjamin Parks and Chloe Payne of Austin Middle School; Reagan Allen, Makenna Boswell, Caiden Boswell, Kylie Bressler, Brooklynn East, Ian Gricius, Mallory Herald, Corbin James, Gavin Jones, Hailey Richey, Luke Voiles, and Max West, all of Scottsburg Middle School.

We said goodbye to our seniors. We thank them for many years of service to our community and wish them the best in their new chapter of life! Congratulations on graduating high school to Aubrey Asdell, Addie Borden, Mia Collins, Brendan Hanner, Melea Luttrell, Isabelle Marcum, Mallory McGlothlin, Rachael Mount, Claire Routt, Grace Routt, Hannah Thomas, and Brady Watts.

With the seniors graduating, several positions on the board opened up, and the following members of the Community Service Committee were asked to become board members after an interview. Congratulations to Porter Banister, Tucker

Doriot, Aubree Eldridge, Taren James, Kaitlyn Johnson, Griffin Owens, and Jaxon Owens.

YGC board members gave speeches and voted for their new leadership positions. Congratulations to the following: Lucas Toppe, President; Emma Spaulding, Vice President; Katie Montgomery, Secretary; Kellan Carter, Treasurer; Emma Bracey, Community Service Committee Chair; Ella Cople, Asset Development Committee Chair; Kati Craig and Ellie Groenenboom, Grants Committee Co-Chairs; Brooks Swank and Braelyn Kleehammer, Governance Committee Co-Chairs.



**YGC enjoyed a “Day at the Lake” at Country Lake Christian Retreat recently.**