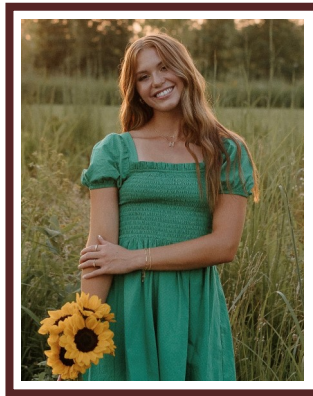


Community Connection

Inside This Issue

- Leadership Grant
- Imagination Library Party
- Grants & Scholarships Open

Hailey Schafer Awarded 2024 Lilly Scholarship



We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, Hailey Schafer of Scottsburg High School. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character and leadership.

She joins 42 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.

Hailey is the daughter of Steve and Deana Schafer of Scottsburg. She volunteers for the Scott County Youth Grantmaking Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She is a member of First Christian Church, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society and Pep Club. She plays on the softball team. Hailey is ranked first in her class with a 4.0 grade point average. She plans to attend the University of Evansville to major in biochemistry/pre-med.

“Words will never be able to truly express my gratitude toward the Community Foundation and Scholarship Committee for making me this year’s recipient of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship,” said Hailey. “Being awarded

this scholarship is not only a blessing but the biggest honor. I am so grateful to my community, my friends, and my family for helping me reach this point and supporting me along the way. From a young age, this scholarship was a long-term dream of mine, and now it is a reality that will lift the burden of financial stress during my undergraduate. I cannot wait to continue to pursue my dreams, with the assistance of this scholarship, as I will be on my path of majoring in biochemistry, going to medical school, and pursuing my passion of becoming a pediatrician.”

“On behalf of the Community Foundation’s Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors, we are pleased to announce Hailey Schafer as the recipient of the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship,” said Scholarship Committee Chair Tinisha Bowles-Densford. “The Scholarship Committee was overwhelmingly impressed with the candidates this year, and all finalists should be very proud of themselves and their academic achievements. We know that Hailey will be an outstanding representative of our community and successful in all that she chooses to do. Congratulations, Hailey!”

Students were judged based on community involvement, extra-curricular activities, work activities, academics, financial considerations, honors and awards, letters of recommendation and two essays. Eight 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.

Board of Directors

- Al Riggle, *Chair*
- Janie Alexander, *Vice Chair*
- Daniel Brunner, *Treasurer*
- Kevin Jentzen, *Secretary*
- Tinisha Bowles-Densford
- Casey Brewster
- Jennifer Coward
- Jamie Longacre
- Ryan Payne
- Chris Rott

Staff

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

Community Leadership Grant to Focus on Early Care & Education Planning

Last month, we shared the news about Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VIII) initiative. We are excited to announce that we have received a \$50,000 planning grant as part of the program. With the grant, we will partner with Indiana University Southeast to create a Strategic Action Plan for early care and education in Scott County.

Scott County Community Foundation is one of 92 community foundations and affiliate funds in Indiana receiving planning grants through GIFT VIII. These grants are designed to help community foundations collaborate with local partners to engage broad and diverse stakeholders in their communities and deepen their understanding of their communities' highest-priority challenges and opportunities. In 2024, SCCF will have the opportunity request funding to implement strategic initiatives and activities developed during the planning period that address especially compelling needs in Scott County

"We are excited to continue our early childhood care and education efforts in Scott County through this planning grant," said SCCF Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Our community has made great strides in early care and education, to include having preschool in every elementary school in the county, providing free books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, creating three new StoryWalk installations to encourage literacy and interaction with nature, and more. Our Early Childhood Committee has collaborated within the county as well as our region, and we are ready to take the next steps to build on this progress."

Dr. Melissa Fry with Indiana University Southeast's Applied Research and Education Center will provide an up-to-date assessment of access, affordability, and quality of early care and education, as well as a plan for advancing the community toward high quality birth-to-five care for every child. There will be listening sessions and focus groups that the community is encouraged to attend. More information on dates will be provided after the new year.



"The Early Childhood Committee is thankful for this opportunity by Lilly Endowment," said SCCF Early Childhood Committee Chairperson Emily Jordan. "This planning project will aid our committee to learn more about early care

and education. Our plan is to not only learn leading practices from our Scott County providers, including in-home, ministries and daycare facilities, but also from other trailblazing provid-

ers throughout our state and nation. Being able to go, learn and visit other communities, we would like to bring more knowledge of early care and education back to Scott County and boost the availability of high quality early care and education in our community."

In 2020, in partnership with Indiana University Southeast, we released *Forward Together*, our Community Needs Assessment.

In 2021, Scott County educators and providers began laying the groundwork for early care and education planning. They were asked to brainstorm big ideas if money was no object.



The Scott County Vision Plan was completed in 2022, and Education was a focus area that outlined basic goals and action items.

This new Strategic Action Plan will take this planning even further by providing an updated assessment and developing action plans to expand access to high quality affordable childcare.



Lilly Endowment created the GIFT initiative in 1990 to help local communities in Indiana develop the philanthropic capacity to identify local needs and challenges and work with other organizations to help their communities thrive. Through GIFT VIII, Lilly Endowment has allocated up to \$210 million to support Indiana's community foundations in growing their financial resources and further strengthening their ability to address their community's highest-priority challenges and opportunities.



100,000th Book Delivered Through Imagination Library

We have reached a major milestone with the 100,000th book mailed to a child through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program in Scott County! Since January 2013 when the program was launched in Scott County, over 3,000 children have received free books mailed directly to their homes every month, from birth to age five. Children “graduate” from the program when they turn five, and are mailed a book, *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* In Scott County, 2,073 children are graduates.

Inspired by her own father’s inability to read and write, Dolly Parton’s dream was to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by gifting them with a specially selected book each month. Today, the program mails books to over 2 million children in five countries.

To celebrate the achievement of 100,000 books, we co-hosted a pajama party with United Way of Scott County. We partnered with the Scott County Public Library, with their staff providing crafts. Children enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies. Most exciting, local singer Kayla Griffen came as “Dolly”! She read *Llama Llama Red Pajama* and sang a song to the children.

There are currently 905 children who are receiving the age-appropriate books each month. There is no requirement other than age and residency, and registration can be found at www.imaginationlibrary.com. This program is made possible by a partnership with the Community Foundation and United Way, with support from the State of Indiana, Scott County School District 2, Kiwanis Club of Scott County, Friends of the Library, and many other generous donors.



Shown are SCCF Executive Director Jaime Toppe, United Way Executive Director Ellen Owens, SCCF Early Childhood Committee members Karolee Tattersall, Kristi Kirtley, Emily Jordan, Joe Collins & Sherry Mosley, SCCF Finance Officer Charlotte Boswell, and Kayla Griffen (“Dolly”).





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

www.facebook.com/ScottCountyCommunityFoundation

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

Looking Forward, Giving Back.

Grants & Scholarships Available for Community

We live to give! Money, that is! While we are able to award earnings from our endowment funds year-round for specific causes recommended by donors, we also have competitive grant and scholarship cycles. We invite the community to share these opportunities and apply for funding!

- Applications are available for our Community Grants Program. These grants are to be used for community betterment, health and human services, and education. We have almost \$115,000 in unrestricted funds that make these grants possible. Any charitable organization, school, or government entity is invited to apply. Applications are completed online and due Tuesday, April 30 at 3 p.m. Recipients are announced mid-June. A new grants rubric and tutorial video is also available with the application link on our website.
- Almost \$118,000 in scholarship assistance is available to graduating high school seniors and non-traditional adult learners. Applicants are evaluated on a variety of criteria, to include financial need, academics, activities, honors and awards, essays, letters of recommendation, work, etc. Applications are available online and are due Friday, March 1.
- The Youth Grantmaking Council is accepting applications for youth-related projects and programs. These requests should be \$1,000 or under and must benefit youth in Scott County. The application is due Feb. 29.
- The Gladys A. Berna Education Fund has a teacher/classroom grant available for educators in Scott County School Districts 1 and 2. Funds can be used on a small classroom project or a field trip—anything that helps students further their education while taking some of the financial burden off teachers.

All applications can be accessed from our website, www.scottcountyfoundation.org, under the Grants and Scholarships menu. The exception is the Gladys A. Berna Education Fund, and that application link can be requested by contacting Community Foundation staff. Applicants are welcome to have staff review before submission.