

Looking Forward,
Giving Back

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Scott County Community Foundation Community Connection

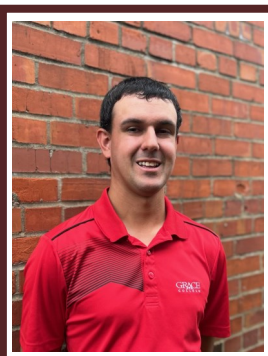
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School and starting her own business. Today, she works with clients around the world on marketing and copy-writing projects. She also serves on the Scott County Library Board.

Susan and her husband, Bryan, have two sons, Brandon and

Matthew. When she is not spending time with her husband, sons, and their wives, she enjoys reading, working in the flower garden, watching sports, or relaxing by the pool.

Susan started her service with the Foundation on the Grants Committee and now serves on the Scholarship Committee.

"These experiences showed me the incredible impact the Community Foundation has on our community, and I wanted to be part of that," said Susan.

Jordan Shuler is employed with the State Board of Accounts. He serves as small group leader at Southeast Christian Church, is the Scottsburg High School varsity golf coach, and serves on staff for the SHS Band of Warriors.

He began his service to the Foundation as a fifth grade student when he joined the YGC. He then became the 2016 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipient. He joined our finance and investment committee last year.

"I've always known of the Community Foundation since a young age. I was in YGC for many years and loved making a difference there. I'm excited to be with the Community Foundation in a new capacity now and being able to give back to a community that has given me so much," said Jordan.

We have welcomed three new board members to the Board of Directors. Carmen Boley, Susan Jerrell and Jordan Shuler have started their terms Oct. 1. They replaced outgoing board members Kevin Jentzen and Chris Routt.

Carmen Boley is the Director of Building, Planning, and Zoning for the City of Scottsburg. She is the assistant girl's tennis coach at Scottsburg High School and serves on the Board of Directors for the Scott County Family YMCA.

Carmen enjoys walking her two dogs as well as other dogs at the Scott County Animal Shelter, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Carmen began her service with the Community Foundation in 2007, as a founding member of our Youth Grantmaking Council ("YGC"). She then became a scholarship recipient when she graduated Scottsburg High School. She became involved again in 2019 when she joined our task force on community planning, and then joined the grants and governance committees in 2023.

"I'm excited to join the Community Foundation's Board after being connected to it for most of my life. It is incredibly meaningful to be able to serve a Foundation that has given me so much!" said Carmen.

Susan Jerrell taught journalism and English for 32 years before retiring from Scottsburg High

Board of Directors

Ryan Payne, *Chair*

Jamie Longacre, *Vice Chair*

Shari Baumann, *Treasurer*

Janie Alexander, *Secretary*

Carmen Boley

Tinisha Bowles-Densford

Jennifer Coward

Susan Jerrell

Al Riggle

Jordan Shuler

Nicole White

Staff

Jaime Toppe,
Executive Director

Charlotte Boswell,
Financial Officer

Michelle Korty Cuddle Fund Created



Passionate. Advocate. Committed. Dreamer. Supportive. Hard-working. Michelle Korty embodied all of these attributes and more. As the community's ultimate nurturer, Michelle was generous with her time and compassion towards others. After her untimely passing in October 2024, her friends and colleagues have honored her

legacy through a permanent fund at the Scott County Community Foundation that will help others for generations to come.

Michelle faced significant challenges as a child, which inspired her to create safe, happy, carefree childhoods for others. Her career serving her community started after she received her master's degree in social work from Spalding University. She began working at the Indianapolis Senior Center as a social worker, and the senior citizens adored her.

Her work in Scott County spanned multiple organizations and collaborative efforts. She worked for the Center for Women and Families, serving clients and providing trainings on domestic violence. She was extremely passionate about the prevention of domestic violence. Michelle had a private clinical practice for some time, and allowed this space to house the first 12-step meeting in Scott County. She worked as a therapist for Lifespring for several years, before becoming the Connections Program Manager for New Hope Services. This support program helped pregnant and parenting young adults. She was also actively involved in Worth the Wait, an all-volunteer program in the schools that taught about healthy relationships and abstinence.

Michelle was involved in CEASE of Scott County, serving as secretary until she passed away. She served on the Get Healthy Scott County Leadership Team and Coalition, attending multiple trainings so that she could share the information she learned with others in the community. She founded A Place to Be in 2013, a nonprofit that offered support services that were funded through food catering sales. She was most known for her work with CRADLE Pregnancy Resource Center, where she and LuAnn Yandow were committed to helping families.

Michelle was a fierce advocate for Trauma Informed Care and for creating awareness about how Adverse Childhood Experiences affect people. She helped bring the Community Resilience Initiative to the community, resulting in 100 community members being trained in Trauma Informed Care. Michelle was actively involved in Prevent Child Abuse and helped coordinate the annual luncheon hosted by the Scott County Prosecutor's Office.

Friends fondly remembered their time with Michelle throughout all the travels for training, times together spent planning, and just enjoying each other's presence. Community work can be challenging, and sharing struggles, joys, and challenges was something Michelle enjoyed.

Just a few months before she passed, Michelle had shared on social media how aware she was about the preciousness of life. A young woman she had been working with had passed away, and Michelle was facing some health struggles.

"I keep thinking about the words and feelings that often go unspoken," wrote Michelle. "There's so much I want to express to the people who have touched my life. I want to tell some that I see and hear them, that their words and actions haven't gone unnoticed. I want to let others know how much of a difference they've made, how special and gifted they are, and the profound impact they've had on me. The words are in my head, but I haven't yet found the way to bring them to my lips or fingertips to share."

Michelle was never afraid to show vulnerability or share her feelings. After she passed away, her colleagues wanted to honor the selfless and sacrificial nature of their dear friend who touched so many hearts with her unwavering kindness, empathy and deep care for others. A permanent unrestricted endowment fund was created at the Scott County Community Foundation. Aptly named the Michelle Korty Cuddle Fund, not only does the name evoke warm feelings of Michelle, but it will continue to do what she has always done, help the community.

"Through this fund, we aim to support those in need," said Lori Croasdel. "Just as Michelle was always there for anyone who needed a comforting word or a listening ear, this fund will provide resources, and serve as a reminder of the importance of human connection. We hope to inspire others to embrace the values that defined Michelle's life: generosity, compassion, and the willingness to go the extra mile for others without expecting anything in return."

"Michelle was always great about listening to the community and coming up with creative ideas to fill needs," said Carissa Miller. "Our hope for this fund is to continue that legacy. We want the fund to help future social service providers to address community needs, even as the landscape changes, in new and creative ways."

"Her focus was always on others and this community because that is who Michelle was," said Dr. Shannon Mount. "Scott County is a better place because of her. I hope this fund can continue her legacy of dreaming about the next big thing to help Scott County residents and embracing the change to make it happen."

The Judges of Scott County have proclaimed Oct. 25 as "Michelle Korty Day." The community celebrated at a reception on Oct. 3 where loved ones shared memories and stories to celebrate her legacy.



To read the full story, please visit our website.

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: Braydon LaMaster, Austin High School; Carter Dillon and Myah Dillon, Grace Christian Academy; Drew Bishop, Aria Case, Reese Cox, Cooper Doriot, Ethan Herald, Asher James, Eva Kern, JJ Nocera, Tessa Pierpont, Kory Ward, Maddy Wimp, and Cree Woods, Scottsburg Middle School; Olivia Rose and Briar Willes, Scottsburg High School.

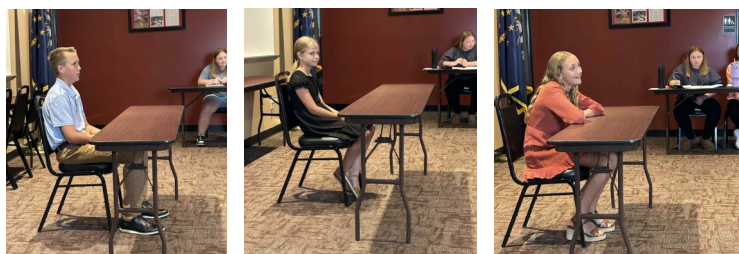
We said goodbye to our seniors. We thank them for many years of service to our community and wish them the best in their new chapter of life! Congratulations on graduating high school to Noah Bagwell, Alex Campbell, Chace Coomer, Chloe Mullins, Katie Montgomery, Alex Spaulding, and Brooks Swank.

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 Claire Banister, Makenna Boswell, JJ Montgomery, and Greer Willes.

YGC board members gave speeches and voted for their new leadership positions. Congratulations to the following: Braelyn Kleehammer, President; Tucker Doriot, Vice President; Audrey Bishop, Secretary; Aubree Eldridge, Treasurer; Governance Committee Chair: Griffin Owens; Asset Development Committee Co-Chairs: Porter Banister and Luke Voiles; Grants Committee Co-Chairs: Ellie Groenenboom and Brooklyn Moon; and Community Service Committee Co-Chairs: Kaitlyn Johnson and Lorelai Smith.



Even if they are unopposed, every YGC board member who runs for a leadership position has to give a speech.



All YGC Community Service Committee applicants go through an interview with their peers. It can be scary but it's a rite of passage and they learn life skills during this process.



Some of our YGC seniors and members of EMPOWER talked about their experiences, challenges, and ideas to the Leadership Southern Indiana DISCOVER class on "Scott County Day". Not surprisingly, this was the highlight of the day for the adults participating in the leadership program.



The community service never stops for YGC members! We help with 1-3 service projects every month. Members helped sort donations for victims of an apartment fire, helped with games at the elementary school fall festivals, and cleaned up the Oard Springs Community Center in preparation for its reopening.



New this year: board members and new members on the Community Service Committee did a low ropes course to get to know each better and learn team-building skills.



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

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Looking Forward, Giving Back.

Scott County Women's Philanthropy Hosts Flower Class



We had another wonderful evening of laughter, fellowship, and learning at our second event for our new Scott County Women's Philanthropy initiative. Hope White with Norton Scott Hospital gave a presentation on women's health, and Lauren Coward with Home on the Hill Cut Flowers gave a flower bouquet class. We saw the most beautiful bouquets and enjoyed a fabulous evening at The Ruby Loft for this special event. Jan Collins with Country Classics Catering provided a delicious dinner. We are thankful for opportunities for women to gather with old and new friends, while giving back to the community. Contact us if you are interested in becoming a member. Along with discounts to events, including a special members-only event in May, you will get to vote on a grant recipient.

