



Community Connection

Looking Forward, Giving Back

Volume 23

Issue 4

Fall 2026

Kathy Anderkin and Evan Conder Welcomed to Board of Directors



We are honored to welcome Kathy Anderkin and Evan Conder to the Board of Directors, effective Oct. 1.

Kathy and her husband Jerry reside in Scottsburg. She retired from Scott County School District 2, where she taught language arts in seventh and eighth grades at Scottsburg Middle School for 28 years.

Kathy began her service to the Community Foundation as a member of the Scholarship Committee in 2018, serving six years. She is also an inaugural member of the Scott County Women's Philanthropy program under the Foundation. Kathy serves as secretary of the Scott County Retired Teachers Association.

"Service is important to me, and I believe the Foundation Board will provide opportunities for me to positively contribute to our community," shared Kathy. "As an educator, I've witnessed the many needs in our area and recognize the great benefits that the Community Foundation provides. I'm excited to be part of this good work."

Evan Conder and his wife Chase reside in Leota. He received a dual law degree and Master of Business Administration from University of Louisville. He is employed with Ogletree Deakins, where he represents and counsels employers.

Evan began his service to the Community Foundation as a college intern in 2015 while a student at Indiana University, under Lilly Endowment's Community Foundation Internships program. As the Career-Life Research Specialist, he updated the Reality Store curriculum for the middle schools. Evan has served on the Community Foundation's Finance and Investment Committee this past year.

"I appreciate how the SCCF gives back to the community that has been an important part of my own life," shared Evan. "I am glad to have the chance to help support the community and provide it with opportunities that will make Scott County a great place for current and future generations."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



G.E. Hill Scholarship



YMCA Grant



JAG Partnership



YGC Updates

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Coward, *Chair*
Janie Alexander, *Vice Chair*
Nicole White, *Secretary*
Shari Baumann, *Treasurer*
Kathy Anderkin
Carmen Boley
Evan Conder
Susan Jerrell
Jordan Shuler

STAFF

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

G.E. Hill Behavioral Health Scholarship Fund Created



A new scholarship endowment fund will support adult students pursuing graduate degrees in the behavioral health field. The G.E. Hill Behavioral Health Scholarship Fund was created to inspire the next generation of compassionate professionals while strengthening the well-being of the community that shaped its namesake.

George E. Hill grew up near Lake Iola and Morgan's corn factory in Scottsburg. He grew up

in a safe and nurturing community that allowed him freedom and independence. His large extended family added to his feelings of safety, security, and acceptance. As a result, he cared for others around him and reached out to the underdogs in his community.

George served in the military, including a tour in Vietnam. He then returned home to launch the Scott County Mental Health Clinic, now known as Lifespring. He retired after 30 years in community mental health. He continued his service to the community through leadership with organizations including the Red Cross, Scott County Partnership, Kids Place, and downtown revitalization efforts. He also remained active in his faith, serving in numerous leadership roles in local churches throughout his life.

Today, George lives in Colorado Springs, where he continues

serving his community through the Veterans Administration Engagement Board, leadership at a local senior center, and by teaching a weekly Bible study.

"Service to others and community have been a consistent and prime focus of my life," shared George. "I have been blessed to have many teachers, family and friends in Scott County who mentored, encouraged, and supported me in my youth and adulthood. I believe I was called, spiritually, to return to Scott County. I believe the citizens need and deserve quality behavioral health services."

County health rankings continue to place Scott County near the bottom statewide for overall health outcomes, and behavioral health providers remain in short supply. This scholarship is intended to help develop the next generation of professionals who will serve Scott County and surrounding communities.

The G.E. Hill Behavioral Health Scholarship Fund will be available in 2028 to Scott County residents who graduated from Austin or Scottsburg high schools and are enrolled or eligible to enroll in a graduate program majoring in psychology, sociology, or social work. Applicants must demonstrate community involvement in activities that show compassion and caring behavior.

(The full story is available on our website.)

YMCA Awarded \$264k Grant

Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe, second from right, presents a grant of \$264,253.64 to YMCA of Greater Louisville Vice President of Property and Real Estate Development Jon Allen, Scott County Family YMCA Chief Operating Officer Lori Coomer, and YMCA of Greater Louisville President and CEO Gary Cobbs.

The grant is the result of a two-year fundraising campaign to transform unused pool space into a new childcare and preschool facility. Construction on Phase 2 is now underway, with completion expected by the end of 2027. The renovations will include classrooms that will provide high-quality early learning and care for up to 85 children, as well as a multi-purpose space for recreational activities. Through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., every donation to the special project fund was matched dollar for dollar, allowing donors to double their impact.

"Our YMCA is incredibly excited to expand access to high-quality childcare for families throughout Scott County," said Cobbs. "We are committed to being responsible stewards of the resources invested in this project and ensuring it has a lasting impact on the community. The Scott County Family YMCA has proudly served this community for many years, strengthening its foundation by supporting children, families, and individuals. We are grateful to Jaime Toppe and the Scott County Community Foundation for this incredible investment in the future of Scott County."

"The Scott County Community Foundation is honored to partner



with the YMCA on this transformational project," said Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Our goal is to ensure that every child in Scott County has access to high-quality, safe, and developmentally appropriate care from birth through age five. This project brings our community one step closer to achieving that vision. We are incredibly grateful to the many local businesses, organizations, and individual donors who believed in this project and made it possible through their generous support. This investment will make a lasting difference for Scott County families for years to come."

The Scott County Family YMCA childcare program currently offers care for children ages 3-5 in a safe, fun, and engaging environment. The program accepts CCDF vouchers, and enrollment is currently available. For more information, call 812-752-9622 or visit scfy.org.

JAG Program Continues Through Partnership

We are pleased to announce a \$55,000 grant to continue the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program at both Scottsburg and Austin high schools during the 2026-2027 school year. The grant was awarded through a Community Support Grant funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

JAG is a workforce readiness program that helps high school students, especially those facing barriers or adverse life experiences, graduate and successfully transition into careers, higher education, or military service. The program provides adult mentoring, hands-on learning experiences, employability training, and one year of post-graduation follow-up to help students achieve long-term success.

Students develop practical life and career skills including résumé writing, interviewing, financial literacy, public speaking, networking, phone etiquette, teamwork, responsibility, personal care, laundry, auto maintenance, and resilience.

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, JAG students achieved a 97 percent graduation rate in 2024, with 85 percent of graduates either employed, enrolled in higher education or serving in the military. Due to the program's success, the number of JAG programs across Indiana doubled under former Gov. Holcomb. However, state revenue shortfalls later resulted in the elimination of funding for approximately 250 JAG programs in Indiana effective Dec. 31, 2025.

Locally, Scottsburg High School was able to continue its program through the end of the 2025-2026 school year, while Austin High School was forced to discontinue its program for the spring semester.

Earlier this year, SCCF received a \$750,000 Community Support Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to address pressing local needs and improve quality of life in Scott County. Through community listening sessions, Foundation staff and board members heard firsthand about the impact of state and federal funding cuts on local organizations. It was there that the plight of the JAG program was brought to light, leading SCCF to award funding to sustain the program for an additional school year. The grant will support a shared JAG specialist serving both Scottsburg and Austin high schools, an innovative partnership that allows the program to continue in both communities despite the loss of state funding.

"In today's world, JAG is more important than ever," said Scottsburg High School Principal Jeff Cox. "It provides the opportunity for students to get training in the job skills that employers crave. Having this class in our school is vital for the success of many kids, and we are grateful to the Scott County Community Foundation for helping bring it back for another year."

"Austin High School is thrilled to have a JAG program back for the 2026-27 school year," said Austin High School Principal Dr. Ryan Herald. "I was very dismayed when funding for the program abruptly quit this past school year. JAG does what many outside the education world claim they want education to do, prepare kids for



Scott County Community Foundation board member Janie Alexander, far right, presents a grant for \$55,000 to teacher Bobby Ashley, Scottsburg High School principal Jeff Cox and Austin High School principal Dr. Ryan Herald.

the 'real world.' So when Indiana stopped funding the program it left many scratching their heads. The Scott County Community Foundation has stepped up in a mighty way. JAG students in Scott County will be able to continue to gain valuable skills to prepare themselves for college, the workforce, or the military. Austin High School is grateful to the Foundation for this opportunity for our students to be successful with a continued JAG Program."

There are currently 47 students enrolled at Scottsburg High School and 27 students enrolled at Austin High School, with enrollment expected to continue growing. The grant will ensure that students at both schools continue to receive the workforce preparation, mentoring, and life skills training that have made JAG one of Indiana's most successful career readiness programs despite the loss of state funding.

"With Indiana's new diploma requirements emphasizing workforce readiness, the JAG program serves as a critical pipeline connecting students with employers," said SCCF Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "We were impressed with the success of our local programs, where 117 students were enrolled last year and achieved graduation rates that exceeded the state average. We are especially grateful that both high schools were willing to partner by sharing a JAG specialist so students at both schools can continue benefiting from the program this upcoming school year. Our hope is that the State recognizes the tremendous value of JAG and restores funding in its next budget cycle. We are thankful to Lilly Endowment Inc. for providing the resources that made this grant possible."

We goofed!! In our last newsletter we inadvertently cut an entire paragraph out of a story featuring our Community Grants Program recipients. We want to thank these donors and their funds for making the unrestricted grants possible: the Donald R. and Elizabeth A. (Sue) Collins Sr. Family Fund, Laurence and Myrtle Bridge Memorial Fund, Dale and Rosemarie Hobbs Fund, and L.L. and Juanita Lowry Unrestricted Fund.



PO Box 25 | 60 North Main Street
Scottsburg, IN 47170

812.752.2057

scottcountyfoundation.org

Looking Forward, Giving Back.



NON PROFIT
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
SCOTTSBURG, IN
PERMIT NO. 12

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: Aven Broadus of Austin High School; Brinley Boswell, Max Groenenboom, Sutter Mays, and Amelia Parks of Austin Middle School; Blayklee Toler of Crothersville Middle School; Hayes Willes, homeschool; Abby Collier and Gracie Hopkins of Scottsburg High School; Colton Asdell, Addy Brewer, Warren Burns, Caris Carter, Elayna Garcia, Kealee Hafer, Grayson Hazelwood, Wyatt Herald, Harper Miles, Cora Miller, Raelyn Shields, Harper Stallings and Natalie Wells 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 and thank you to Caitelynn Ashley, Sloane Barrett, Brynley Culley, Tucker Doriot, Aubree Eldridge, Marley Fleenor, Lauren Hanner, Scarlett Herald, Braelyn Kleehammer, Brooklyn Moon, Cason Owens, Mia Voiles, and Khloe Watts!

With the seniors graduating, a few 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 Kylee Age, Drew Bishop, Ava Johanningsmeier, Max West, and Cree Woods.

YGC board members gave speeches and voted for their new leadership positions. Congratulations to the following: Griffin Owens, President; Audrey Bishop, Vice President; Ellie Groenenboom, Treasurer; Ella Copple, Secretary; Claire Banister and Makenna Boswell, Co-Chairs of Grants Committee; Kaitlyn Johnson and Lorelai Smith, Co-Chairs of Asset Development Committee; JJ Montgomery and Jaxon Owens, Co-Chairs of Governance Committee; and Luke Voiles, Chair of Community Service Committee.



YGC senior board members Ella Copple, Audrey Bishop, and Porter Banister recently spoke about their experiences as youth philanthropists to the Leadership Southern Indiana DISCOVER class.