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(812) 698-5413 www.localfoever.org

Unrestricted Giving - Address Changing Community Needs

Unrestricted funds held by Our Community Foundation allow donor's gifts to forever address ever-changing community needs—including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time the donor makes the gift.

The flexibility of unrestricted gifts from donors is key to helping the Foundation fulfill an important role in Daviess County of responding to the community's most pressing needs. That means the Foundation is always evaluating all aspects of well-being in Daviess County, including arts and culture, community development, education, environment, health, human services, and more so programs contribute to the betterment of the community.

Since Our Community Foundation was established in 2021, 9 unrestricted funds, both pass-through (non-permanent) and endowment (permanent) have been established. They are:

- Administrative Support Fund, a pass-through fund established by the Board of Directors to help the Foundation fulfill its charitable mission.
- Ken and Paula Jones Family Pass-Through Fund and the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment Fund, both established by the Ken and Paula Jones Family.
- Daviess County Community Good Pass-Through Fund and Daviess County Community Good Endowment Fund, both established by the Board of Directors.
- Callahan Family Endowment, established by J Merle and Mary Callahan.
- Edward Jones Achievement Endowment, established by Alan J and Vicki L Bubalo.
- Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, established by Jim and the late Jane Norton.
- Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company Endowment for Daviess County, established by Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company.

To establish an unrestricted fund, a total of \$10,000 gifts must be made, and gifts can be made over time. Donors can name an unrestricted fund or any Foundation fund in their name, their family's name, or anyone the donor wishes to honor. Grants distributed from the fund —today and in the future—are awarded to charities in the name of the fund, making it an impactful way to establish a legacy of generosity and community support.

For more information, contact Our Community Foundation at (812) 698-5413 or email mary@localforver.org

About Our Community Foundation

Through the financial resources of a broad base of donors, Our Community Foundation's mission is to meet the changing needs of Daviess County by fostering a culture of local philanthropy. The Foundation was organized in 2021 as part of an agreement with the Community Foundation Alliance in Evansville to separate the Daviess County Community Foundation from a 9-county regional affiliation. Our Community Foundation is led by a Board of 21 community leaders and staff who all live in Daviess County. With firsthand knowledge of the community coupled with a solid personal commitment, the Board is committed to leading the Foundation in a manner that best serves the Daviess County community they call home. The Foundation's office is in historic downtown Washington's tallest building and the former Peoples/German American Bank, located at 201 E Main St, Washington.

Making a New Year's Resolution to Give Has Many Benefits

Setting a New Year's resolution to give has several potential benefits, both for yourself and for others. Here are some reasons why making giving a resolution can be meaningful:

1. **Fosters a Positive Mindset:** Engaging in acts of kindness and giving can contribute to a more positive and optimistic outlook on life. The act of giving is often associated with feelings of fulfillment, satisfaction, and happiness.
2. **Creates a Positive Impact:** Your contributions, whether through time, money, or resources, can have a positive impact on the lives of others. Knowing that you are making a difference in someone else's life can be incredibly rewarding.
3. **Builds a Sense of Purpose:** Giving provides a sense of purpose and meaning in life. Knowing that you are contributing to something larger than yourself can enhance your overall sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.
4. **Strengthens Connections:** Acts of giving often involve interacting with others. Whether volunteering, donating, or supporting a cause, it can lead to the formation of new connections and the strengthening of existing relationships.
5. **Encourages Empathy:** Regularly engaging in giving can help cultivate empathy. Understanding and appreciating the needs of others fosters a more compassionate and understanding worldview.
6. **Promotes Personal Growth:** Stepping outside your comfort zone to give can lead to personal growth. It may involve learning new skills, gaining a broader perspective on societal issues, or overcoming challenges.
7. **Sets a Positive Example:** By making giving a resolution, you set a positive example for those around you—family, friends, and the community. Your actions may inspire others to engage in similar acts of generosity.
8. **Contributes to Community Building:** Giving back to your community can contribute to its overall well-being. Strong, supportive communities often arise from individuals who are actively involved in making positive contributions.
9. **Enhances Well-Being:** Research suggests that acts of kindness and generosity are linked to improved mental and emotional well-being. Giving can reduce stress, increase feelings of happiness, and improve overall mental health.



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10. Aligns with Personal Values: Making giving a resolution allows you to align your actions with your personal values. It enables you to live in accordance with what you believe is important and meaningful.

While setting a New Year's resolution to give is a commendable goal, it's important to approach it with sincerity and commitment. Start small, be realistic in your expectations, and celebrate the progress you make along the way. Remember that even small acts of kindness can have a significant impact on both you and the recipients of your generosity.

For more information about how Our Community Foundation can help you give back to our community, call (812) 5413 or visit www.localforever.org.

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Endowment Provides Support for Daviess County CEO Program

The Daviess County CEO Program recently was awarded a \$2,264.32 grant from the Bill Turner Daviess County CEO Program Endowment held by Our Community Foundation.

The endowment fund was established at Our Community Foundation in 2022 by Nathan and Beth Gabhart, as a tribute to the program's first facilitator, Bill Turner. The fund is set up to forever provide a stable and reliable source of income for the Daviess County CEO Program. Since the fund was established just 2 years ago, the program has received \$4,264.32.

"Anyone can contribute to the fund to grow this endowment for the Daviess County CEO Program," said Mary Smith, Our Community Foundation Executive Director. "Contributing to this endowment is appealing because the endowment is invested for long-term growth. The endowment is designed to keep the principal amount intact while using a portion of the investment income for distribution to the Daviess County CEO Program."

Donors to the Foundation can set up endowments for specific nonprofit organizations or purposes. "You can provide ongoing funding for the hospital, library, senior center, museum or virtually any nonprofit close to your heart. In addition, non-profit organizations may establish funds with Our Community Foundation to build an endowment to forever support their work and enhance their ability to accept large, complex gifts."

For more information about establishing a fund, call Our Community Foundation at (812) 698-5413 or visit the website at www.localforever.org.

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Bud Woodruff is New Foundation Director

Richard “Bud” Woodruff, Odon, has begun a 3-year term on Our Community Foundation’s Board of Directors. He was unanimously elected by the Board in November and began his term in January.

Woodruff and his wife Nelda have 2 children, Scott Woodruff and Nicole Talbot. Born in Daviess County and a graduate of North Daviess, he has been an engineer for 34 years. He says he and his wife chose to live and raise a family here because of the community’s safe family-friendly environment and good schools.

Woodruff added that being on the Foundation Board gives him a new opportunity to contribute to the betterment of the community he and his family call home. “I agreed to be a member of Our Community Foundation’s Board of Directors because I like working with an organization that contributes to Daviess County’s betterment,” said Woodruff. “The work we do will forever make a difference in our community.”

According to Foundation Board President, Joe Singleton, Woodruff’s perspective as a resident of northern Daviess County is valuable to Our Community Foundation. “We strive to have a Board of Directors that collectively represents a broad diversity of geography, expertise, and background,” says Joe Singleton, Board President. “The Foundation’s Board functions best when we have Directors from all over Daviess County with different skills and different viewpoints.”

During 2023, the Foundation’s board diversity analysis showed that 61% of Directors lived in the Washington zip code compared to 55% of the Daviess County population as a whole; 17% of Directors lived in the Cannelburg, Montgomery, or Loogootee zip codes compared to 24% of the Daviess County population as a whole; and 22% of Directors lived in the Elnora, Plainville, or Odon zip code compared to 21% of the Daviess County population as a whole.

The analysis also showed that Directors represented a broad field of expertise including agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, finance and insurance, professional services, education, health and social services, and public administration. Over 90% of Directors have achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher.

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Community Foundation Alliance in Evansville to separate the Daviess County Community Foundation from a 9-county regional affiliation. Our Community Foundation is led by a Board of 21 community leaders and staff who all live in Daviess County. With firsthand knowledge of the community coupled with a solid personal commitment, the Board is committed to leading the Foundation in a manner that best serves the Daviess County community they call home. The Foundation's office is in historic downtown Washington's tallest building and the former Peoples/German American Bank, located at 201 E Main St, Washington.

PHOTO CAPTION

Foundation Director, Tony Duncheon, left, welcomes new Director, Richard "Bud" Woodruff, right, at Our Community Foundation's January Board of Directors meeting.



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Jack Williams Family Provides Scholarships

The Jack Williams Family Scholarship Fund was established in 2022 at Our Community Foundation by Washington resident, Jack Williams, and his family, to provide scholarships at two area schools.

So far, the fund has awarded \$16,000 for the scholarships administered at Washington High School and Linton-Stockton High School. The scholarship is named the Jack Williams Family Scholarship at Washington and at Linton, the Ted Williams Family Scholarship. Each of the schools administers the scholarship which is established for students who plan to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited trade or vocational school.

Selection is based on the applicant's financial need in terms of the number of scholarships they are receiving and their involvement in school, community, and job activities. Interested applicants must attend either Washington High School or Linton-Stockton High School and contact their school's guidance office for more information.

Scholarship funds, like the Jack Williams Family Scholarship Fund, can forever make a difference to students who are pursuing their dreams through education.

For more information about establishing a fund, call the office at (812) 698-5413 or visit the Community Foundation's website at www.localforever.org.

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Three New Endowments Will Benefit Daviess County

At Our Community Foundation's February Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of three new permanent endowments that will forever benefit Daviess County.

The Shannon and Kerri Dalton Family Endowment is an unrestricted fund established by Shannon and Kerri Dalton of Washington. The endowment is set up to automatically respond to changing community needs in Daviess County. The Daltons chose to establish an unrestricted fund to provide support for general, unspecified charitable purposes at the discretion of the Community Foundation, with no advice or recommendation from them or any persons designated by them.

The Teddi Brashear Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment is a designated fund established by family and friends of long-time Washington Community Schools nurse, Teddi Brashear. Once the fund reaches the fund minimum of \$10,000 in donations, it will provide annual income for Washington Community Schools to administer the Teddi Brashear Memorial Nursing Scholarship. Like others who establish designated funds, Mrs. Brashear's family and friends chose to provide support for a specified public charity or entity, without any future advice or recommendations from the donor or any person designated by the donor.

The Tom and Peg Stephens Endowment is a donor-advised fund established by Tom and Peg Stephens from Washington. Donor-advised funds allow donors to recommend to the Foundation which organizations to support, and when. Donors establish a donor advised funds to provide support for charitable and similar exempt expenditures or recipients recommended by the Donor or persons designated by the Donor to advise the Community Foundation. The recommendations are advisory, and the Community Foundation reviews and approves all recommendations.

Mary Smith, Executive Director at Our Community Foundation says once each of the funds reaches \$10,000 in donations, the process will begin to distribute grants on an annual basis. "We are so pleased to be able to provide personalized services that can help generous donors establish funds that will allow them to forever give back to Daviess County."

Anyone can make a gift to these funds, or any fund held by the Foundation, by visiting the website at www.localforever.org and clicking on the Give Online tab in the upper



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right corner. Donations may also be mailed to Our Community Foundation, PO Box 84, Washington, IN 47501, or dropped off at the Foundation office at 201 E Main St, the former Peoples/German American Bank building, in Washington.

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Our Community Foundation Adds Second Grant Program for Teachers

Washington, Indiana April 10, 2024 For Immediate Release

Our Community Foundation is now accepting applications for a new competitive grant program to help teachers in Daviess County schools. Called the Teaching Innovator Grant program, up to \$250 is available from the Foundation's unrestricted innovative approach to teaching students.

The Foundation says the program has two grant cycles – one for projects to be completed during the first semester of the 2024-25 school year and the second for projects to be completed during the second semester of the 2024-25 school year.

Applications are now being accepted from teachers for first semester 2024-25 in-school or in-class projects and are due June 1. Funding for field trips or regular classroom costs like textbooks is not available.

Last week, the Foundation announced the Fast Grant Program. The competitive program is currently accepting applications from charitable organizations for proposals of up to \$750 for one-time assistance for unplanned projects that are small in scale, help the organization meet an unanticipated need or opportunity, or provide support for new and innovative projects that positively impact the lives of people living in Daviess County. Grant applications are due May 1.

To obtain a grant program overview and application form for either program, please visit the Foundation's website at www.localforever.org/grants or email Mary Smith, Executive Director at mary@localforever.org

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April 10, 2024



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Our Community Foundation Releases Annual Report

Washington, Indiana April 27, 2024 For Immediate Release

Our Community Foundation has recently released its annual report for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023. As a standalone community foundation serving Daviess County, the Foundation has made significant strides in advancing its mission to foster a culture of local philanthropy to address Daviess County's changing needs.

According to the report, the Foundation received more than \$3.2 million in donations during 2023, ending the year with just over \$4.8 million in assets. Through its competitive grant program, the Foundation distributed \$18,455 from unrestricted funds, in addition to \$122,500 in grants from designated and donor-advised funds.

Joe Singleton, Foundation Board President, emphasized that, "Every dollar the Foundation receives is contributed by donors. Our growth demonstrates just how much the people of Daviess County care about their community and are willing to invest in its future."

The report also highlights the Foundation's various funds, donors, and programs. Additionally, it provides valuable information on using IRA assets for charitable giving and how to set up a fund.

The Foundation invites everyone to view the full report on their website at www.localforever.org. If you prefer a printed copy, please contact the Foundation office at (812) 698-5413 or email Mary Smith, Executive Director, at mary@localforever.org.

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TrueScripts Foundation Fund Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

The TrueScripts Foundation Endowment, held by Our Community Foundation, is celebrating its 2nd anniversary. A donor-advised endowment, it was established by Nathan and Beth Gabhart, founders of TrueScripts, shortly after Our Community Foundation was established. The couple is well-known for their active participation in various Daviess County organizations and community service. They established the endowment to continue their philanthropic efforts and make a difference in the community they call home.

The fund allows the couple to remain actively involved in deciding how gifts to the fund are used, which enables them to support important charitable causes in Daviess County and beyond. By establishing the fund with Our Community Foundation, they also support the local Foundation.

Since its establishment just 2 years ago, the TrueScripts Foundation Endowment has generated \$261,000 in grants, providing vital support to nonprofit organizations. Those grants have supported vital programs and projects, conducted by many different charitable entities in Daviess County and beyond.

Donors may establish a named donor-advised fund with a small donation and by making gifts over time to reach the fund minimum of \$10,000. For more information and to get started, contact Our Community Foundation at (812) 698-5413 or email mary@localforever.org

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MEMORIAL DAY SPIRIT DESERVES CLONING

As the abundant colors of early summer appear, so does the solemnity of Memorial Day. It's a day set aside to honor those who laid down their lives in service to their country. Yet, Memorial Day goes beyond remembrance; it's an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made and to foster a culture of tribute-giving that extends far beyond this single day.

Memorial Day, originating as Decoration Day after the Civil War, was established to honor Union and Confederate soldiers who died in battle. Over time, it evolved into a day of remembrance for all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It's a day of reflection, gratitude, and unity, where communities come together to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The spirit of Memorial Day is important and one that deserves preservation and cloning. There are several ways to accomplish that.

Educating is one. History textbooks, documentaries, and visits to military museums, graves, and memorials are all powerful tools to keep the memory and spirit of fallen heroes alive.

Making it personal is another. Visiting cemeteries, laying flowers on graves, or participating in memorial services and making a personal connection with the sacrifices made is a great way to recognize the individual lives lost and to connect with the families left behind.

Sharing stories, photos, and memories of loved ones via social media platforms is also a powerful way to pay tribute. By creating online memorials or participating in virtual events, people from all over the world can come together in remembrance.

Finally, supporting organizations dedicated to aiding veterans and their families is a solid way to honor the memory of the fallen. Whether through a monetary gift, volunteer work, or advocacy, contributing to these organizations ensures that the legacy of our heroes lives on through continued support for those who served.

This Memorial Day, Our Community Foundation encourages you to pay tribute to the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country and to pass it on to others. By cloning that spirit in Daviess County, we can ensure that Memorial Day and the memory of our fallen heroes live on for generations to come.

If you're interested in establishing a memorial fund or making a gift to remember a loved one or fallen hero, we can help. Our Community Foundation provides several options. Please contact us at (812) 698-5413 for information.

May 18, 2024



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JOE AND SUSIE SINGLETON FAMILY ESTABLISH CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT

The Joe and Susie Singleton Family of Washington have established the newest endowment at Our Community Foundation.

The Singleton Family Endowment is a donor-advised permanent fund that empowers the Singleton family to actively participate in grantmaking. The family recommends grants to the Foundation Board to benefit charitable causes in the community. For the Singletons, maintaining involvement in the fund was crucial to sharing the benefits of charitable giving with their children and grandchildren.

Mary Smith, Executive Director says, "The popularity of donor-advised funds is on the rise, and grants from donor-advised funds will become increasingly vital to charitable organizations. Grants are crucial to the future of the charitable organizations serving Daviess County as they can fuel both special projects and day-to-day operations."

Donors can establish both permanent and non-permanent donor-advised funds with Our Community Foundation. Donor-advised funds allow donors to actively determine how their gift supports charitable causes and organizations by recommending grants to qualified nonprofits. Our Community Foundation is ready to help identify organizations addressing the causes donors care about most. The Foundation takes care of all the background work, ensuring that nonprofits are in good standing. A donor's recommendation is presented to the Foundation Board for approval, and then grants are distributed.

Donor-advised funds can be established by individuals, families, and businesses. The greatest benefit of establishing a donor-advised fund with Our Community Foundation over another institution is that the Foundation is a local organization with local leadership and a mission to serve Daviess County. The small fee associated with administering a donor-advised fund supports ongoing good work in the local community.

A donor-advised fund can be established with the Foundation over time. The fund's grantmaking process begins when donations reach \$10,000. For more information, please contact Our Community Foundation at (812) 698-5413.

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SMALL MONTHLY GIFTS VERY IMPACTFUL

Your small, monthly donations can have the same impact as a large, one-time donation. Monthly giving has become a very useful and popular way for donors to support the causes they care about. Every dollar matters, and a consistent monthly amount, just like a large one-time amount, can provide for projects in need. It's an affordable way to make a difference in Daviess County.

At Our Community Foundation, monthly donations help build endowments that forever give back to the causes a donor cares about. With a monthly donation of \$84 over 5 years, donors can create a new named Field of Interest, Designated, Donor-advised, or Unrestricted Endowment that will forever support important work in the community. It's a manageable way to give back to causes that matter most and leave a legacy in Daviess County.

Our Community Foundation provides two options for donors to give back in this practical way. Donors can set up monthly giving to existing funds on the Foundation's donation portal by clicking on "recurring donation amount" and entering information. Additionally, donors can work directly with the Foundation to set up payments from checking and savings accounts. This second option works well for donors who wish to establish a new fund over time.

If you're interested in learning more about monthly giving or establishing a fund, please contact the Foundation at (812) 698-5413 or visit the office located in historic downtown Washington's tallest building at 201 E Main Street.

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**Our Community Foundation Now Accepting Applications for Fast Grants
Washington, Indiana March 27, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation is now accepting applications for Fast Grants of up to \$750 from unrestricted funds held by the Foundation. The grants provide one-time assistance to charitable organizations for unplanned projects that are small in scale, help the organization meet an unanticipated need or opportunity, or provide support for new and innovative projects that positively impact the lives of people living in Daviess County.

The Foundation named the competitive grant program “Fast Grants” because the turnaround time for the grants is quick with applications due May 1, 2024, and grants awarded by May 20, 2024.

Organizations that are eligible to apply should be existing 501(c)(3) organizations in good standing with the IRS, existing government/quasi-government agencies if applications are for extraordinary projects that are not funded by tax revenue, faith-based organizations if applications are for non-sectarian activities, or civic groups that are not 501(c)(3) organizations if applications are for funding for a charitable community cause. Applications must be for charitable activities serving Daviess County.

Our Community Foundation generally does not make grants from unrestricted funds for annual campaigns, special event fundraisers or sponsorships, religious purposes, political or partisan purposes, activities taking place before grant decisions are made, trips for schools or clubs, and deficit funding or debt retirement.

In addition to the completed application form, the process may include an interview by the Foundation’s Grant Committee or a Grant Committee member. The application form is due May 1 for projects that must be completed by December 31, 2024. A follow-up grant report is required.

To obtain a grant application overview and form, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.localforever.org/grants or email Mary Smith, Executive Director at mary@localforever.org

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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant for Odon VFW Post #9627 Multi-Sport Pavilion Project
Odon, Indiana April 5, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to support the Odon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9627 Multi-Sport Pavilion Project.

The project will transform underutilized space at the Odon VFW Post into a 2000 square foot multi-use area for the community. When complete, the space will provide accommodations for sports events like basketball and pickleball, concerts, and other community gatherings. The project also includes access to sports equipment on site.

“Our Community Foundation’s grant gets us one step closer to reaching our fundraising goal. It’s a wonderful feeling receiving county-wide support to help create this unique space for the Odon community,” said Adam Thorne, VFW Post Quartermaster.

The project has access to a matching grant if \$21,750 is raised for the project by April 23. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) will provide \$21,750 for the project through their CreatINg Places program, a collaborative effort between the IHCDA and Patronicity. CreatINg Places empowers the public through crowdfunding to play a role in achieving community improvements and building community pride.

“The Foundation is pleased to provide this support made possible by our generous donors,” said Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice-president, and Grant Committee Chairperson. “We really want them to succeed in reaching the matching fund goal so Odon can benefit from the funds available from IHCDA for this new space.”

The Foundation awarded a grant last year for another IHCDA CreatINg Places project in Washington. That project created the new Rotary Park, located at the intersection of Meridian Street and Business 50. “Because of the success of that project, the Foundation Board was excited about awarding this grant,” added Shaffer. “It’s good to know the merits of this project in Odon are recognized at the state level so the organization could participate in the one-to-one match for this community project.”

To make an online gift to the project, visit <https://www.patronicity.com> and type “Odon” in the search box to find the project. Offline donations by cash or check may be dropped off or mailed to the Odon VFW Post #9627, 212 E Elnora St, Odon, IN 47562. Questions about the project should be directed to Thorn at (812) 278-0243 or emailing odonvfw9627@gmail.com.

For more information about Our Community Foundation, call (812) 698-5413 or visit the Foundation’s website at www.localforever.org.

About Our Community Foundation

Our Community Foundation's mission is to meet the changing needs of Daviess County by fostering a culture of local philanthropy. The Foundation was organized in 2021 as part of an agreement with the Community Foundation Alliance in Evansville to move the Daviess County Community Foundation from a 9-county regional affiliation to a standalone community foundation. Our Community Foundation is led by a Board of 21 community leaders who all live in Daviess County. With firsthand knowledge of the community coupled with a solid personal commitment, the Board and staff are committed to leading the Foundation in a manner that best serves the Daviess County community they call home.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

- 240328 Odon VFW Grant 1000 Our Community Foundation presented a \$1,000 grant to VFW Foundation for the Odon VFW Post #9627 Multi-Sport Pavilion At the grant presentation were (front left to right), Chance Berry, Our Community Foundation; Joe Singleton, Our Community Foundation; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Billy Mullis, Odon VFW; Mary Smith, Our Community Foundation; Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation; Joe Wellman, Our Community Foundation, Adam Thorne, Odon VFW; Jeremy Hudson, Odon VFW; and Chris Jones, Odon VFW.
- Odon Multisport Drawing An artist rendering of the Odon VFW's Multi-Sport Pavilion.



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Our Community Foundation Awards Grant to Healthy Hoosiers Initiative Washington, Indiana May 31, 2024 For Immediate Release

Through the 2024 Fast Grant Program, Our Community Foundation has awarded a \$750 grant to Healthy Hoosiers Initiative to support a new project at Daviess County schools. The grant will be used to purchase tampons, pads, underwear, and pants for school nurses to keep in stock for students who have newly started to menstruate and/or cannot afford sanitary products.

“The team at Healthy Hoosiers Initiative was alerted of this need by a community member who has been making personal donations of this kind for the last 4-5 months to local schools,” says Kaitlyn Gabhart, Healthy Hoosiers Initiative co-founder and the organization’s Director of Behavioral Healthcare services.

Healthy Hoosiers Initiative, established in 2021, is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the health of Hoosiers. The organization focuses on Preventive Services, Behavioral Healthcare, and Infant and Maternal Health. The founders, Hawk Royer and Kaitlyn Gabhart, who both grew up in Daviess County, started their work here with the hope of expanding the model statewide.

Gabhart said the grant will provide resources for a need related to Daviess County’s median income of only \$34,309. “Because of that low figure, it shows its way through Daviess County schools when young students are not able to afford basic sanitary needs. Part of our mission is to engage vulnerable members of our community, and young women who unexpectedly begin their first period at school and/or cannot afford products find themselves in difficult situations to navigate. We are excited for this opportunity to better support them.”

“We look forward to the good this organization will do in Daviess County, and we appreciate our donors who make grants like this one possible,” says Mary Smith, Executive Director. “Donor support of the Foundation is essential to the success of our grantmaking programs and the work of important charitable organizations like this one.”

For more information about Healthy Hoosiers Initiative, visit www.healthyhoosiers.org



Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation’s Administrative Fund to Healthy Hoosiers Initiative. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board member; Kaitlyn Gabhart, Healthy Hoosiers Initiative Co-founder; Chance Berry, Our Community Foundation Board member; and Bud Woodruff, Our Community Foundation Board member.

About Our Community Foundation

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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant for Growing Daycare/Preschool Program
Washington, Indiana June 6, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation has awarded a \$750 grant from the Administrative Fund to Odon Christian Church through the 2024 Fast Grant Program. The grant aims to address the needs of their growing daycare/preschool program by providing funding for the purchase of additional tables, chairs, and whiteboards.

Meredith Jackson, Daycare/Preschool Director, said the grant will support the expansion of the program. "Our preschool is growing rapidly, and we currently have the largest preschool in Odon with a growing waitlist. More tables and seating will allow us to accept more students, enabling more parents in our community to go to work."

Mary Smith, Executive Director of the Foundation, emphasized the vital role of donor support in bringing positive changes to the lives of Daviess County residents. "We understand the urgent need for more childcare services in Daviess County, and we are pleased to contribute to this expansion. Donor support is crucial for the success of our grantmaking programs in addressing such needs. Once again, we thank our donors for making this grant possible."

For more information about the Odon Christian Church Daycare/Preschool, visit www.occonline.org/preschool--daycare.html

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to Odon Christian Church for their Daycare/Preschool Program. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Anita Corwin, Odon Christian Church Daycare/Preschool Board member; Meredith Jackson, Odon Christian Church Daycare/Preschool Director and her son Kagen Jackson; Carol Nugent, Our Community Foundation Board member; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board member; Leroy Barnhill, Odon Christian Church Daycare/Preschool Board member; and Chance Berry, Our Community Foundation Board member.



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Our Community Foundation Awards Grant for New Childcare Program Washington, Indiana June 6, 2024 For Immediate Release

Through the 2024 Fast Grant Program, Our Community Foundation has awarded a \$750 grant to Washington Free Methodist Church to support the startup of a new childcare program called Foundations Childcare Ministry. The grant will provide funding for emergency exit panic bars and interior paint for classrooms for the program.

Free Methodist Pastor Adam Conder says the new program is being started by the Church to help address a community need for more childcare.

"There are an increasing number of families who have become dependent on two incomes, which has increased demand for childcare. The current number of childcare providers in our community is insufficient to adequately meet the demands of families here. Our church's sizeable campus as well as the numerous classrooms and large interior "flex" spaces provide an ideal location and layout for a childcare ministry."

The Church plans to open the Foundations Childcare Ministry this summer and intends to serve children aged 6 weeks to preschool.

"We understand the significant need for childcare in Daviess County, and we are excited to offer our support to this important new program," says Mary Smith, Foundation Executive Director. "The Foundation depends on donor support to effectively implement grantmaking programs that directly address critical community needs like this one. Once again, we thank our donors for making this grant possible."

For more information about the Foundations Childcare Ministry, visit www.winfmc.org and click on the Daycare tab.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to Washington Free Methodist Church for a new childcare program. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Amy Hamm, Free Methodist Church; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Tim Stoner, Free Methodist Church; Kim Conder, Free Methodist Church; Pastor Adam Conder, Free Methodist Church; and Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation.



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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant to Improve Communication
Washington, Indiana June 10, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Through the 2024 Fast Grant Program, Our Community Foundation has awarded a \$750 grant to RSVP of Daviess County to assist staff in communicating with those who don't speak English. The grant will provide funding for staff language education.

RSVP's mission is to engage men and women, 55 and better, in meaningful volunteer service that strengthens the well-being of self and community. Executive Director Emily Ramsey says the education will help staff connect better with that audience, which includes those whose native language is not English. "Jennifer Johns, Volunteer Coordinator and I are excited to bridge the gap between us and those of other cultures. Now, anyone who doesn't speak English and comes to our office must bring a translator. We want to eliminate the need for a translator and help all feel welcome in engaging with us about our services and volunteer opportunities."

Staff will complete the training over the next several months.

"We understand the critical need for good communication in our community and the challenges our charitable organizations are facing to serve non-English speakers," says Mary Smith, Foundation Executive Director. "The Foundation depends on donor support to implement grant programs that directly address vital community needs. We extend our gratitude to our donors for making this grant possible."

For more information about the RSVP program, visit www.rsvpvolunteercenter.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to RSVP of Daviess County for staff education in second languages. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Jennifer Johns, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator; Emily Ramsey, RSVP Executive Director; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board Secretary; and Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation Board Vice President.



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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant to Senior and Family Services
Washington, Indiana June 17, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Through the 2024 Fast Grant Program, Our Community Foundation awarded a \$750 grant to Senior and Family Services for emergency roof repair.

Jodi Rook, Co-director of the organization, says the grant came at just the right time.

"Our kitchen started leaking during heavy rains this spring, and there was a need to repair the problem spots since our Congregate Meals and Meals on Wheels program serves 115 to 120 lunches out of the kitchen every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We want to keep it in good working order so there are no interruptions for those we serve."

Senior and Family Services (SAFS) was started in 1973 in Washington to provide programs, services, and activities to older adults and individuals with disabilities of any age. A non-profit, multi-service community organization, SAFS is a partner with Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The facility and the congregate meal site are in downtown Washington.

"We appreciate this organization's long history of serving our community and all the many services SAFS continues to provide for older adults and those with disabilities in Daviess County," says Mary Smith, Foundation Executive Director. "This grant was deployed quickly so the roof could be repaired without delay, preventing significant damage from occurring. Once again, we thank our donors for making this grant possible."

For more information about Senior and Family Services, please call 812 254 1881.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to Senior and Family Services for roof repair. Shown during the grant presentation are (front left to right) Jodi Rook, Co-director of Senior and Family Services, Laura Greenfield, Co-director of Senior and Family Services; Carolyn Jones, Our Community Foundation Board member; and Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board member. In the back is Shannon Dalton, Our Community Foundation Board member.



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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant for the Getting Ahead Program
Washington, Indiana June 20, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation has awarded a \$700 grant to Daviess County Partnership/Connections. The grant, part of the Foundation's 2024 Fast Grant Program, will fund the restart of a community program designed to help families transition away from public assistance programs and achieve greater financial independence.

The program was initially launched in October 2018 but was put on hold when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged. Sherry Davis, Executive Director of Connections, expressed her enthusiasm for getting the program back up and running. "The program empowers participants to define their own goals and develop strategies to achieve them, rather than being told what to do. We have two experienced facilitators, Vicki Murello and Pastor Darrell Sellers, who are eager to start helping the program's participants."

The facilitators use the "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" program to deliver personalized training aimed at ensuring that families who complete the program are successful. Two sessions are planned for this year, with up to 5 participants in each. Davis said her organization's experience with the program demonstrates that it makes a difference. "Before the program was halted, 18 participants successfully completed the training, and only one of them has required further assistance since then."

Mary Smith, Executive Director, said the Foundation looks forward to the restart of the program in Daviess County. "This initiative acknowledges the strength of individuals and helps them address the underlying issues that prevent them from moving away from a reliance on assistance programs. We are grateful to Connections for providing this assistance to our community, and our donors for making this grant possible."

Connections serves as a central resource clearinghouse and information call center, connecting families in Daviess County with the resources they need. For more information, you can visit www.dcpconnections.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$700 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to the Daviess County Partnership/Connections to help the organization restart the "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" Program. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Chance Berry, Our Community Foundation Board; Vicki Murello, Connections Volunteer; Pastor Darrell Sellers, Connections Volunteer; Sherry Davis, Connections Executive Director; Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation Board; and Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board.



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**Our Community Foundation Awards Grant to YMCA
Washington, Indiana June 20, 2024 For Immediate Release**

The Daviess County Family YMCA has received a \$750 grant from Our Community Foundation through the 2024 Fast Grant Program. The grant will replace and add to the current group exercise equipment in response to the growing use of the facility for classes.

Jessika Henning, the Y's Aquatics Director and Group Exercise Coordinator, stated, "During 2023, 925 people of ages ranging from 13 to those in their 90's participated in our group exercise classes. Our classes have experienced growth in the last 2 years, especially at the start of 2024, which made us realize the need to update and expand our equipment in the group exercise room."

With the grant, the Y plans to purchase new cycling mats, hand weights for the Silver Sneakers and Tone Express classes, an additional rack for the hand weights, storage equipment, and a CD player to replace the non-functioning sound system.

Mary Smith, Foundation Executive Director, said, "The YMCA has deep roots in our community. The Foundation is delighted to provide support for this new equipment, ensuring that the YMCA remains a vital and vibrant organization here, which makes Daviess County an even better place to live, work, and play. We appreciate our donors for making this grant possible."

The mission of the Daviess County Family YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. For more information, you can visit www.dcyymca.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$750 grant from the Foundation's Administrative Fund to the Daviess County Family YMCA for equipment for group exercise classes. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Tim Fox, Daviess County Family YMCA; Jessika Henning, Daviess County Family YMCA; Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation Board; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation Board; Alex Knepp, Our Community Foundation Board; and Chance Berry, Our Community Foundation Board.



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Our Community Foundation Awards First Teaching Innovator Grant Washington, Indiana July 17, 2024 For Immediate Release

Our Community Foundation has announced the first of seven Teaching Innovator grant recipients. Washington Upper Elementary received a \$250 grant to support a Hummingbird Bit Premium Kit for Lisa Emmick's classroom and named Emmick a 2024 Foundation Teaching Innovator.

"The kit contains lights, sensors, and motors," says Emmick. "It is used in conjunction with a microprocessor to build projects, including robots and cars. It combines Artificial Intelligence with microelectronics and covers robotics and coding. This is the perfect union of four vital STEM areas all in one and will allow students to understand how all these things work together to create the products they see and use daily, as well as the types of careers that will be available to them in the future."

The Foundation conducted the competitive grant program during May and June, inviting Daviess County teachers to apply for resources for 1st semester 2024-25 projects. Funding was provided by donations to three different funds held by the Foundation – the Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment, and the Administrative Support Fund.

"This is one way for the Foundation and our donors to make a strategic investment in the education of Daviess County youth," says Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Grant Committee. "By providing funding that empowers educators to be innovators and create dynamic learning environments that meet the diverse needs of their students, our Daviess County youth are better prepared for success in our ever-changing world."

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$250 Teaching Innovator Grant to Washington Upper Elementary for a Hummingbird Bit Premium Kit for Lisa Emmick's classroom. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Rhiannon Fry, Principal, Washington Upper Elementary; Alex Knepp, Our Community Foundation; Emily Davis, Dean of Students, Washington Upper Elementary; Joe Singleton, Our Community Foundation; Lisa Emmick, Teacher, Washington Upper Elementary; and Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation.



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(812) 698-5413 www.localforever.org

Our Community Foundation Awards Second Teaching Innovator Grant Washington, Indiana July 24, 2024 For Immediate Release

Our Community Foundation has announced the second of seven Teaching Innovator grant recipients. Washington Primary received a \$250 grant to support a Painted Rock Garden for Kimberly Conder's classroom and named Conder a 2024 Foundation Teaching Innovator.

"This art project is based on the children's book *Only One You*," said Conder. "It is about Adri, a little fish who is about to go explore the ocean on his own. The book stresses how everyone is unique, and that each of us has something to contribute to the world." Conder said the grant will allow each student to create a unique painted rock inspired by the fish in the book. "Rocks will then be displayed in a rock garden for all to enjoy for years to come."

Conder said the rock garden will not only be a colorful addition to the school but will be "a daily reminder to students that no matter what, they're special and they have the power to change Daviess County as well as the world!"

The Foundation conducted the competitive grant program during May and June, inviting Daviess County teachers to apply for resources for 1st semester 2024-25 projects. Funding was provided by donations to three different funds held by the Foundation – the Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment, and the Administrative Support Fund.

"This program makes a strategic investment in the education of Daviess County youth," says Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Grant Committee. "The funding empowers educators to be innovators and create dynamic learning environments that meet the diverse needs of students, so our Daviess County youth are better prepared for success in our ever-changing world."

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$250 Teaching Innovator Grant to Washington Primary for a painted rock garden art project in Kimberly Conder's classroom. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Carolyn Jones, Our Community Foundation; Joe Wellman, Our Community Foundation; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Kimberly Conder, Educator, Washington Primary; Kristen Murphy, Principal, Washington Primary; and Scott Arthur, Our Community Foundation and Washington School Board member.



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Our Community Foundation Awards First of Two Teaching Innovator Grants at North Daviess Washington, Indiana August 7, 2024 For Immediate Release

Our Community Foundation has announced the first of two Teaching Innovator grant recipients at North Daviess Community Schools. A \$250 grant was awarded for an advanced density manipulation set at North Daviess Junior/Senior High School for use in educator Jasmine Spore’s classroom. Spore was also named a Foundation Teaching Innovator.

“Students at North Daviess will use this to perform inquiry-based research and collect data to determine unknown substances,” says Spore. “The rationale behind acquiring advanced density calculation equipment is to develop content and skills in the metric system and identifying unknown properties. This knowledge is very applicable to any science-related fieldwork. I foresee an impressive increase in the students' ability to use appropriate calculations and precise measurements, and the ability to use critical thinking skills to determine unknown substances that will set a foundation for future lab exercises.

The Foundation conducted the competitive grant program during May and June, inviting Daviess County teachers to apply for resources for 1st semester 2024-25 projects. Funding was provided by donations to three different funds held by the Foundation – the Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment, and the Administrative Support Fund.

“The funding empowers educators to be innovators and create dynamic learning environments that meet the diverse needs of students,” says Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Grant Committee. “This is a strategic investment in the education of Daviess County youth so they are prepared for the future.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$250 Teaching Innovator Grant to Washington Primary for a painted rock garden art project in Kimberly Conder’s classroom. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Carolyn Jones, Our Community Foundation; Joe Wellman, Our Community Foundation; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Kimberly Conder, Educator, Washington Primary; Kristen Murphy, Principal, Washington Primary; and Scott Arthur, Our Community Foundation and Washington School Board member.

**Our Community Foundation Awards Four Teaching Innovator Grants for Barr Reeve Educators
Washington, Indiana August 14, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation has announced the second Teaching Innovator grant recipient at North Daviess Community Schools. A \$250 grant was awarded for a project in Kami Giesler’s classroom that will introduce them to Indiana authors to increase their enjoyment of reading.

The grant will be used to purchase books by individuals who were either born in Indiana or currently reside in the state. “Technology has caused a decline in reading in a large portion of students in today’s classroom,” says Giesler. “The purpose of my project is to get my students to read books and to learn something about our state and the people who have contributed to the literary world. Getting our youth to unplug from technology and engage in reading will enrich their lives in multiple ways. Creating an environment that fosters reading will help promote lifelong learning.”

The Foundation conducted the competitive grant program during May and June, inviting Daviess County teachers to apply for resources for 1st semester 2024-25 projects. Funding was provided by donations to three different funds held by the Foundation – the Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment, and the Administrative Support Fund.

“The funding encourages educators to be innovators and create dynamic learning environments,” says Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Grant Committee. “The Foundation is investing in the education of Daviess County youth, so they are prepared for the future.”

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PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation presented a \$250 Teaching Innovator Grant to Washington Primary for an advanced density manipulation set in Jasmine Spore’s classroom at North Daviess Junior/Senior High School. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Carol Nugent, Our Community Foundation; Gretchen Miles, Our Community Foundation; Kami Giesler, Educator, North Daviess Junior/Senior High School; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation; Jed Jerrels, Principal, North Daviess Junior/Senior High School; and Jodi Berry, Superintendent, North Daviess Community School Corporation.

**Our Community Foundation Awards Four Teaching Innovator Grants for Barr Reeve Educators
Washington, Indiana August 19, 2024 For Immediate Release**

Our Community Foundation has announced that four educators at Barr Reeve Junior/Senior High School have been named Foundation Teaching Innovators and grants for their first-semester classroom projects have been awarded.

A \$250 grant will be used in Jessica McConnell's classroom to purchase needed supplies and equipment to allow students to experience storytelling through mini-documentary projects. "Regardless of post-secondary plans, students will need to use critical literacy skills to navigate this quickly changing world. Through the use of documentaries, students will gain insight into topics they are not familiar with and will develop analysis and critique skills as they write and respond to the documentaries, as well as plan, create, and edit their own," says McConnell.

A \$250 grant will be used in Jessica Guinn's classroom to purchase graphic novels. "Some students inherently love to read, and some do not," says Guinn. "My goal as an educator is to help every student love reading. A graphic novel is a type of book that combines words and images, similar to a comic, but with more words. While at first glance this might seem too elementary for my high schoolers, they have all enjoyed the format of graphic novels - even my reluctant readers."

A \$250 grant will be used in Jordan Guinn's classroom to also purchase graphic novels. "In my current Spanish classes, we do a lot of individual reading, and a large portion of this reading comes in the form of daily reading of novels. Engaging reading experiences for students would help provide more language input for students who would otherwise not get it."

Finally, a \$239 grant was awarded for 6 construction calculators in Stephen Bullock's classroom. "These construction calculators will be used by the students to assist them in rafter and truss construction, stairway construction, and other various aspects of construction. This type of calculator is essential for all construction workers," says Bullock.

"Our Community Foundation's grant program is a boost for our educators," says Jeff Doyle, Barr Reeve Middle/High School Principal. "It helps them get the resources they need to create a dynamic environment for our students, and we are very thankful."

The Foundation conducted the competitive grant program during May and June, inviting Daviess County teachers to apply for resources for 1st semester 2024-25 projects. Funding was provided by donations to three different funds held by the Foundation – the Jim and L Jane Norton Endowment, the Ken and Paula Jones Family Endowment, and the Administrative Support Fund.

"We are pleased to offer these grants and support Daviess County educators in creating innovative and dynamic learning environments," says Travis Schaffer, Foundation Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Grant Committee. "We are deeply grateful to our donors for making this investment in the education of Daviess County youth possible."

The Foundation says the Barr-Reeve grants are the final 4 grants for this semester's program, but plans to reopen the Teaching Innovator grant program for the 2nd semester of the 2024-25 projects are currently under consideration.

About Our Community Foundation

Located in historic downtown Washington's tallest building at 201 E Main Street, Our Community Foundation's mission is to meet the changing needs of Daviess County by fostering a culture of local philanthropy. The Foundation was established in 2021 as part of an agreement to move the Daviess County Community Foundation from a 9-county regional affiliation arrangement to a standalone community foundation. The Foundation currently administers 32 funds and held over \$4.8 million in assets at the end of 2023. The Foundation is led by a Board of 20 community leaders, all residents of Daviess County. With their extensive knowledge of the community and a strong personal commitment, the Board is dedicated to directing the Foundation in a way that best serves the community they call home.

PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation recently presented 4 Teaching Innovator Grants to Barr-Reeve Junior/Senior High School. Shown during the grant presentation are (left to right) Jeff Doyle, Barr-Reeve Junior-Senior High School Principal; Alex Knepp, Our Community Foundation and Barr-Reeve School Board; Carol Nugent, Our Community Foundation; Jessica McConnell, Educator, Barr-Reeve Junior/Senior High School; Jordan Guinn, Educator, Barr-Reeve Junior/Senior High School; Jessica Guinn, Educator, Barr-Reeve Junior/Senior High School; Stephen Bullock, Educator, Barr-Reeve Junior/Senior High School; Travis Schaffer, Our Community Foundation; Paula Jones, Our Community Foundation; Tony Dunccheon, Our Community Foundation; and Carolyn Jones, Our Community Foundation.