

Blackford County Community Foundation
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December 2016

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Cultivating, nurturing, and growing legacies

A DICTIONARY TRADITION

“Is the word *dictionary* in the dictionary?” asked one Blackford County third grader just a few weeks ago when he received a brand new glossy red *Webster’s Dictionary*.

The Dictionary Project, which provides a dictionary to every third grader in Blackford County, is a gift of the William E. Ervin Memorial Fund. The Fund was created at the Foundation by the Ervin family in 2002 to support local literacy projects.

When Elaine Ervin and her sister Diane Ervin Kellahan come to town every year to give each third grade student his or her very own dictionary, the excitement at school is evident.

The two women are the daughters of William and Marie Ervin. Mr. Ervin was a prominent attorney in Hartford City and Mrs. Ervin was an active community volunteer. The Dictionary Project has been ongoing for the past fifteen years. Mrs. Ervin personally handed out the dictionaries until her death in 2012. The Ervin daughters now continue the tradition. They have the opportunity to spend the day immersed in their small town roots and charmed by the company of this community’s next generation.

Elaine and Diane always tell the students their favorite story about their dad. When he was just five years old, he ran away from home. His parents finally found him seven blocks away at the Hartford City Public Library—reading, of course.

Oh, the fascinating things you can find out, such as the meaning of *attorney*, when you have a chance to browse a dictionary!

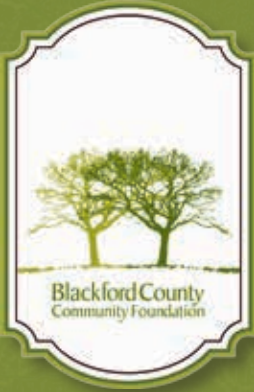


Elaine Ervin and Diane Ervin Kellahan (center back) gave dictionaries to third graders.

DEAR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DONOR



Blackford County Animal Shelter now has funds for expansion.



We cannot tell you often enough how much this community thanks you for your continuing generosity.

You are the reason that the Blackford County Animal Shelter is already working on detailed architectural plans for its expanded and improved facilities.

You are the reason that both libraries in Blackford County have upgraded their programming for our youngest readers.

You are the reason that 26 special students in Blackford County could attend a summer camp featuring horses, cooking, and arts.

You are the reason the Salvation Army will be able to offer emergency assistance with heating to needy residents this winter.

You are the reason that 356 K-3 students now have college savings accounts and a definite plan to get education after high school graduation.

Our special thanks to you in this joyous holiday season!

With our gratitude,
*Blackford County Community Foundation
Board of Directors and Staff*

Cultivating, nurturing, and growing legacies

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 16, 2017**
Grant Applications due for first grant cycle of 2017
- March 9, 2017**
2017 Scholarship Applications due at Foundation or High School
- July 6, 2017**
2017 Postsecondary Scholarship Applications due at Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us in making Blackford County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Consider donating to your particular passion or cause by December 31 to receive a 2016 tax deduction.

CONTACT US

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WOMEN OF WORTH RECOMMEND GRANTS

W.O.W FALL LUNCHEON



Members voted on 2017 grant awards.



This display of local historic memorabilia was part of the luncheon program celebrating Indiana's Bicentennial.

2016 W.O.W. Grant Awards

- Blackford County Schools to help create a 7th grade math program that centers on local needs (\$1,000)
- Hartford City Public Library for materials to continue preschool story time and craft sessions (\$500)
- Helen Lieber Preschool for family activities and classes for mothers of preschoolers (\$750)
- Treehouse Preschool for new and safe playground equipment (\$750)

The Women of Worth (W.O.W.) met November 6 at the Lake Placid Conference Center for the group's annual fall luncheon. The members recommended that four grant proposals be funded. The group also honored twenty Blackford County residents who shared their life stories as part of Indiana's Bicentennial celebration.

This marks the sixth year that W.O.W. has awarded grants. Since 2011, the group has distributed \$22,985 to projects that benefit local women and children. Awards typically range from \$500 to \$1,000.

These grant awards are made possible through the yearly donations of W.O.W. members. During 2016, over 135 women donated at least \$25 each to the W.O.W. grant funds at the Foundation.

The luncheon also featured a look at historical Blackford County. Twenty local citizens who grew up during the era of the Great Depression were honored guests. They were introduced by Bailey Cline, a 2016 graduate of Blackford High School and a current student at Indiana University. Cline was part of the team of journalism students and W.O.W. members who interviewed this group of Blackford County residents. She spoke about the satisfaction of conducting these interviews.

Membership in W.O.W. is open to any woman wishing to contribute the membership fee to these local grants for projects benefiting women and children.

The luncheon was planned by the volunteer W.O.W. Leadership Team: Jessica Barry, Cheri Brown, Peggy Fisher, Myra Freel, Jeannine Garrett, Joyce Gearheart, Peggy Hanley, Jessica Kitterman, Melissa Klink, Sandy Langdon, Cathy Leas, Melinda Otwinowski, Patty Poulson, and Pat Trant.

LAST YEAR'S GRANTS ACCOMPLISHED THEIR GOALS

Last year W.O.W. also awarded four grants. **Silver Lining** received \$1,000 to re-supply its inventory of child and baby products. These are "bought" by local clients with the coupons they receive from local health and social service providers. The grant provided supplies for five months to 67 families for 55 new outfits, 3 cases of baby wipes, 29 healthcare items, 14 packages of socks, 3 packs of underwear, 5 mega-boxes of diapers, 2 high chairs, 4 safety gates, 3 crib mattresses, 1 play yard, 2 potty chairs, 1 stroller, and 1 bedrail.

Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center used its \$500 grant for marketing; **Blackford High School** used its \$500 grant for its credit recovery program; and the **Blackford County Senior Citizens Center** used a \$500 grant for a refrigerator to increase the number of meals served each week.

"Even if I am not the one selected, this committee can't go wrong!"

So says one of the Blackford High School seniors who is now a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship finalist for 2017. The selection process currently takes place in the fall with the winner to be named in December. There are four finalists this year.

Nancy Cole, daughter of Jolene Cole, plans to study business. Cole is active in Business Professionals of America, including the state officer leadership team and is the senior class president.

Sara Gregory is the daughter of Jamie Gregory and Shannon Gregory. She will study pre-med. She plays tennis and volleyball and manages the girls' basketball team.

Kassidy Kaufman, daughter of Troy and Jennifer Kaufman, will attend college in music education. She is active in band and choir and president of Student Council.

Alena Lee is the daughter of James and Laura Lee and plans to study pre-med. Lee plays softball and is captain of the soccer team and senior class vice-president.

Watch for the announcement of the Scholarship winner on the Foundation website (www.blackfordcofoundation.org) in mid-December.

SCHOLARSHIP SEASON BEGINS



Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship finalists are (from left) Nancy Cole, Alena Lee, Sara Gregory, and Kassidy Kaufman.



W.O.W. CORNER

"Believing all women are worthy, W.O.W. strives to combine our gifts and talents to benefit the women and children of Blackford County."

W.O.W. Bicentennial Legacy Project

W.O.W. was instrumental in connecting the oldest generation of Blackford County residents with BHS journalism students to record the seniors' stories of growing up in the Great Depression and living in the mid-20th century. They tell of raising chickens (but hating it) and gardening to put food on the table. Others tell about joining the Armed Forces in WWII.

Their stories are compiled in *Speaking of Yesterday* available at the Foundation office for \$5. More about these seniors and their stories is located on the Foundation's website at www.blackfordcofoundation.org.

The project was so interesting that W.O.W. is continuing to collect seniors' stories. To learn more about sharing your story, see the Foundation's website or contact the Foundation office.



The residents featured in *Speaking of Yesterday* were honored at the W.O.W. fall luncheon.