



Blackford County
Community Foundation

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

cultivating, nurturing, and growing

WE CELEBRATE DONORS

Foundation Reaches \$10 Million Milestone

The Blackford County Community Foundation just passed the \$10 million mark in the amount of its assets. That represents an extraordinary commitment of donors toward improving life in this community.

Donors' contributions to a community foundation are generally invested in order for those accumulated funds to earn interest. That interest becomes the grant money available each year for the good work of nonprofit organizations in the community and for the scholarships awarded. The more the amount invested, the more investment earnings available for grants and scholarships.

Every community foundation is about its donors---what they contribute, which causes they support, and how a foundation can facilitate its donors' charitable concerns.

So here we are in December of 2018 marveling at the generosity of you, our donors, over the past (almost) 22 years, since the founding of the Blackford County Community Foundation in 1997. You have built the assets of the Foundation from just \$85,000 to over \$10.3 million today. That represents a one hundredfold increase given by you.

Two-thirds of those funds are endowed, meaning that the yearly investment earnings from those funds will be available forever to continue funding projects and organizations. To date, your donations have funded over \$2 million in scholarships and \$3.5 million in grants to local organizations providing health, education, social services, and community development projects.



Ongoing community projects supported by Foundation grants: The Nature Play Area (right) located on the east side of the Hartford City Public Library will provide outdoor play activities related to literacy. The Blackford Trail (center), complete with wren boxes, starts on the north side of Hartford City and extends to Blackford High School. Montpelier kindergarten students (right) pose at the end of their fall trip to Taylor University, a part of the Blackford Promise 529 project that helps Blackford County students start CollegeChoice 529 savings accounts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14

Community Grant Applications Due

March 5

Local Scholarship Applications Due

March 25

Community Grant Awards Announced

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Foundation is accepting grant applications until February 14, 2019, that support local nonprofit projects benefiting the community. Visit website for further information at www.blackfordcofoundation.org.

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BLACKWOOD AWARDED 2019 LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP



Five local students were named finalists for the 2019 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. The winner is Alexandra Blackwood (second from left). Other finalists are (from left) Calista Johns, Taylor Wells, Breanne Morgan, and Myles Cline.

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Lilly Endowment Inc. established its statewide scholarship program in 1998. To date, the initiative has provided 4,483 scholarships to Hoosier students and will add another 143 with this current round of awards.

The program's purposes are (1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; (2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and (3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

The scholarship currently provides four years of full tuition to any accredited public or private Indiana college or university. In addition, a yearly stipend of \$900 is available for required books and equipment.

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Blackford County
Lilly Endowment Community
Scholars since 1998

Alexandra D. Blackwood has just been named the 2019 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar from Blackford County. Blackwood is a senior at Blackford High School. She plans to study education as an English/language arts teaching major. She is the daughter of Shelly Blackwood and Jeff Blackwood. She will receive a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to an Indiana college and an additional \$900 stipend for required books.

The four other finalists will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship award from the Blackford County Community Foundation. Those four students are Myles A. Cline, Calista M. Johns, Breanne K. Morgan, and Taylor R. Wells.

Myles Cline is son of Brian and Renee Cline. He is a senior at Blackford High School and plans to major in biochemical engineering.

Calista Johns is the daughter of Amber Johns and will graduate from Blackford High School. She plans to study social work.

Breanne Morgan is the daughter of Matt and Brenda Morgan. She is also a Blackford High School student. Her plan is to study accounting or finance in college.

Taylor Wells is the daughter of Jeremy and Jaclyn Wells and a senior at Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School. She plans to major in biology.

These scholarships will be awarded publically at the senior honors programs in May at Blackford High School and at Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Blackford County Community Foundation awards over \$100,000 each year in scholarships for graduating seniors who live in Blackford County. A total of 75 local scholarships were awarded last year to 48 different students.

Students are invited to apply for these scholarships with an application available from the Foundation office or online at www.blackfordcofoundation.org/scholarships-2.

Applications are due March 5, 2019, at either the Blackford High School Guidance Office or the Foundation Office at 121 N. High St., Hartford City.

Awards will be made in May at Senior Honor Night at Blackford County High School and other local high schools.

Blackford County Promise = Savings Accounts for College/Career Education

October was Champion Month for Blackford County Promise. That meant that parents and “champions” to the 374 kindergarten through fifth grade students now enrolled contributed a total of \$2,310 to their students’ 529 college/career education savings accounts. As an incentive, any \$25 contribution to a kindergartener’s account was matched with an additional \$50.

During Champion Month, organizations and community members also donated an extra \$12,291. At the specific request of one extremely generous donor, every second and third grade student received an additional \$50 contribution.

These other community donations will go toward upcoming incentive programs, such as the Reading and Volunteer Hours initiative taking place in early December. For every hour a Promise student spends reading and every hour volunteering in the community in the first two weeks of December, \$10 will be added to the student’s 529 Promise account.

Blackford Promise is a college and career initiative that offers encouragement and financial support for young students in the county to pursue their future career dreams. The program provides state and local initiatives through school programming for students in kindergarten through fifth grade to begin their planning now. And it provides monetary incentives for students and their families to begin planning for financing their education beyond high school to meet those career goals.

2018 W.O.W. Grant Awards

At its annual meeting on October 7, the W.O.W. members present recommended that the following applicants receive \$500 grant awards:

- MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) program at Grace United Methodist Church that helps women become community leaders and more confident mothers.
- Strengthening Families Program that supports families with teens to deal with peer pressure and so protect them from substance abuse.
- Camp Invention scholarships for students K-6 for a one-week camp focusing on group problem solving in STEM subjects.
- Relationships Under Construction (RUC) program curriculum and materials for 6th-9th grade presentations targeting abstention from risky behaviors.
- PEEPs After-School program supplies for 3rd-6th grade students in an after school setting where students learn new skills in 4-H type activities.
- Head Start 2 classroom materials for science and math learning activities.



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. Membership

Women of Worth starts its annual membership campaign in January. The group is open to any woman interested in supporting projects related to local women and children.

The \$25 annual membership donation goes directly to W.O.W.’s grant awards. Members are invited to attend the annual fall meeting to vote on which applications should be funded.

For more information, go to www.blackfordcofoundation.org/women-of-worth/membership.

Elizabeth Witt Named Executive Director to Succeed Dave Bowman



Elizabeth Witt has been named interim executive director. Her new duties begin January 1.



Dave Bowman will be leaving the Foundation as executive director at the end of December.

On January 1, 2019, Elizabeth Witt will become the interim executive director of the Blackford County Community Foundation. Witt has been a part of the Foundation staff since 2016 as the office manager and as county coordinator of the Blackford County Promise program. The Promise program supports college and career planning for all Blackford elementary students.

Witt is a graduate of Blackford High School and of Ball State University, where she studied business administration and marketing. She was also a familiar face at the Blackford County YMCA for several years.

Witt is taking on the responsibilities currently fulfilled by Dave Bowman. Bowman is retiring after four years leading the Foundation. He is the Foundation's third executive director since its founding in 1997. Bowman previously served this community as a middle school science teacher, a coach, and then as the business manager and technology director for Blackford County Schools before becoming the Foundation's executive director in 2014.

On behalf of the Blackford County Community Foundation board of directors and staff, we wish you an especially merry Christmas and happy New Year. It is our wish that each of you will be inspired to let your spirit of generosity shine this holiday season by giving of yourself to others, making their holiday just a bit brighter.
---from the Blackford County Community Foundation

Improving life in Blackford County by helping you help others---forever!

2-to-1 Match for Your Donations

Donations made to the Foundation's unrestricted endowment, i.e., to the fund that uses its earnings to finance community grants and scholarships forever, will now be matched at a rate of an added \$2 for every \$1 donated. Your generosity will keep local projects and organizations operating for many years to come.

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