



BLACKFORD COUNTY  
Community Foundation

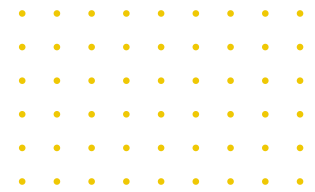
# BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Improving life in Blackford County now and forever.  
Yes, forever!

[blackfordcofoundation.org](https://blackfordcofoundation.org)

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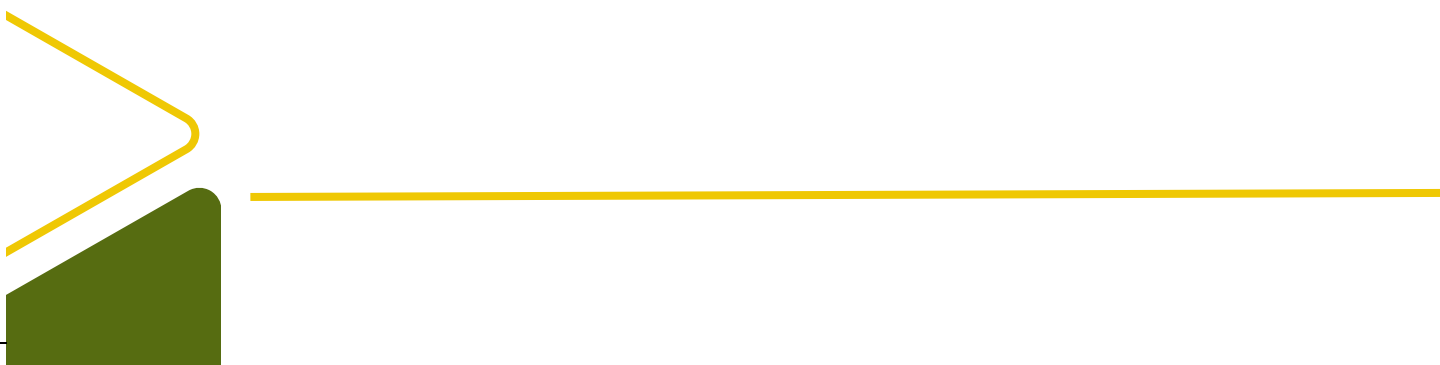
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# OUR MISSION



## A Letter To You

In 2023, we committed to fulfilling the promise we made at the end of 2022, “to be strategic with our community investments, progressive in our approach and intentional about celebrating **you**, the people that make it happen.”

As you review the details of what we accomplished in 2023, we hope that you’ll be as excited as we are about the fulfillment of our promise to you and the impact we made in our community.

When you turn the pages of this Annual Report, we hope you feel proud of your partnership with us and the role you play in improving life in Blackford County now and forever. Yes, forever!



Elizabeth Witt  
Executive Director



Kristie Jennerjahn  
Board President



# OUR DONORS

## Overview of Gifts

We connect you, our donors, to causes you care about. With each gift you make, no matter how big or small, you are trusting us to do just that.

Making a gift to the Foundation is easy! The most common ways we receive donations is through the mail, in person and even online which can be done through our website:

**[blackfordcofoundation.org/donate](https://blackfordcofoundation.org/donate).**



The Elks Lodge No. 625 donated \$4,385 to the Cancer Support of Blackford County Fund. This donation was made possible by their annual cancer support dinner.

We are so honored to witness generosity in our community firsthand!

Pictured left to right: Patty Brown, Diana Mitchell, Suzanne Taylor, Connie Mann, Franny Eikenbary, Garry Monroe and Mike Eikenbary

# OUR **DONORS**

## Overview of Funds

Part of connecting you to causes you care about is helping you understand what funds already exist at the Foundation and how donating to those funds, or establishing a new fund, can impact our community.

Whether you are passionate about animals, youth sports, education or Blackford County as a whole, we have a fund for you! When you make a gift, just let us know which fund or area of interest you'd like your gift to support and we'll make sure it happens! Your options for making an impact in our community through the Foundation are endless.

### GEEZER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2007, Brian Jennerjahn and Dave Snyder established the Geezers. The group meets for breakfast once a week to "solve the world's problems"

After the passing of long-time member, Bob Cooper, the Geezers decided to establish a scholarship fund at the Foundation. This fund will award it's first scholarship in 2025 and every year following; the recipient must live in Blackford County, graduate from Blackford Junior Senior High School and plan to pursue a post-secondary education.

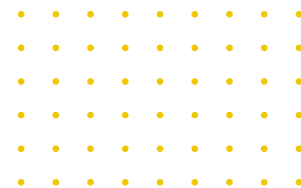


Superintendent of Blackford County Schools, Chad Yencer, addresses the graduating class of 2023, many of which received Foundation scholarships!

**\*Photo Credit: Shelby Newlin, BJSHS**



# OUR DONORS



## Memorials and Honorariums

Sometimes, gifts are made to the Foundation in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Below is a list of everyone that was recognized in 2023:

### In Memory of:

Robert Bales  
Teresa Basey  
Linda Bennett  
Jerry Brown  
Vic Carney  
Rosalynn Carter  
Brenda Casterline  
Vince Cimino  
Jennifer Clamme  
Kelsey Clamme  
Anna Cook  
Bob Cooper  
Jim Dolan  
Molly Dolan  
Faye Elwood  
Natalie Gardner  
Katy Guyer  
Carolyn Hughes  
David Jones  
Gail Kirkwood  
Steve Ludwig  
Betsy McAfee  
Helen McCollum  
Dennis McGrady  
Joyce Moyer

Jorden Nickols  
Bob O'Connell  
Carol O'Rourke  
Joyce Penrod  
Elonda Pethtel  
Mae Pursley  
Sue Rinker  
Doyne Schwarzkopf  
Bret Shaw  
Chuck Shroyer  
Timmy Simmons Sr  
Cindy Smith  
Jim Tarr  
Les Tarr  
John "Bob" Tarter  
Cathy Terrel  
Helen Townsend  
Dave Wagner  
Harriett Walker  
Gene Weaver  
Randy Weaver  
Charles Wilson  
Ruth Wilson  
Patty Winder  
Mary Jo Winger  
Clifford Workman

### In Honor of:

Jim Kline  
Lou Kline  
John Maddox Jr  
Patricia Maddox  
Nalu Shewalter



If you let us know that your gift is in memory or in honor of an individual, we'll share the news of your generosity with the individual or their family.

# OUR DONORS

We couldn't do what we do without you, our donors! Your passion for Blackford County, your trust in the Foundation and your generous spirit are what makes our community better.

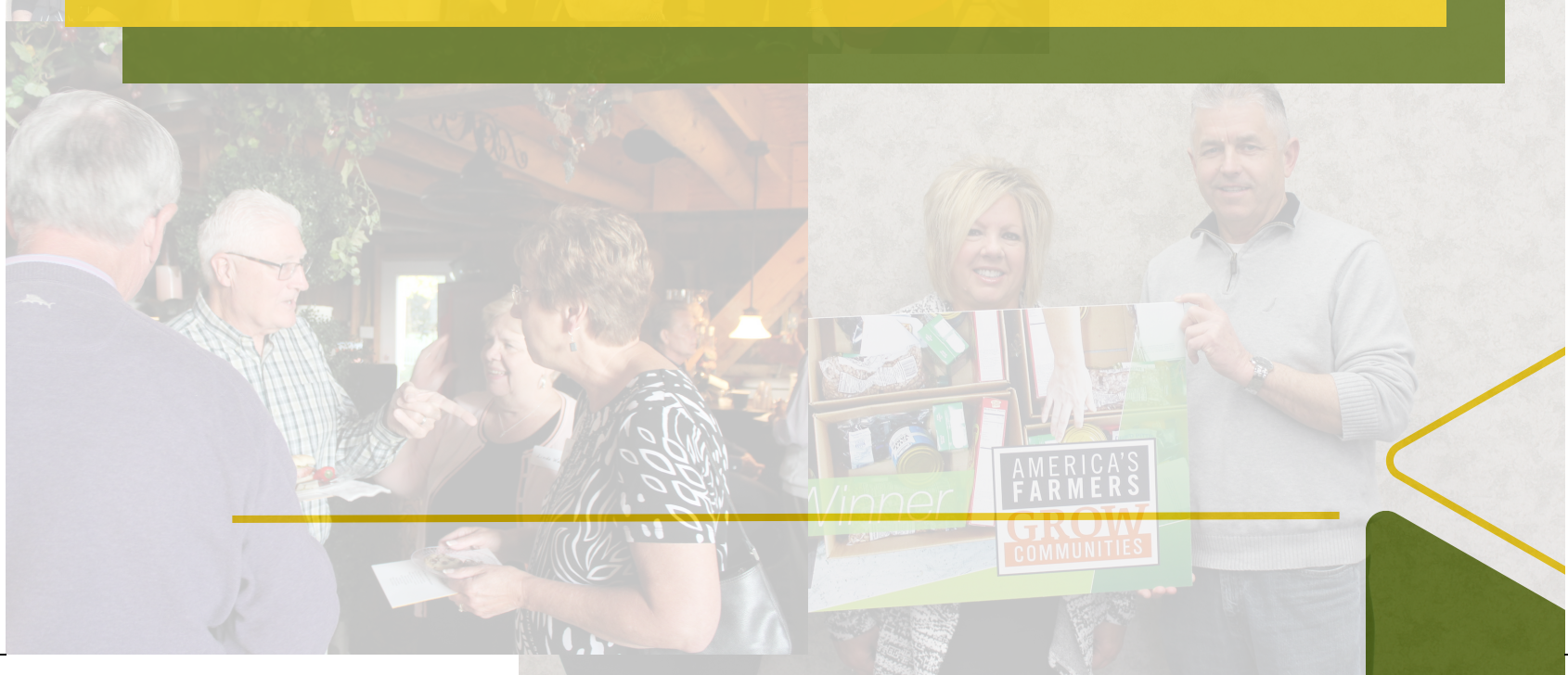
Whether you have given in the past, are giving now or plan to give in the future, you're part of the impact we make in our community every day.

Please join us in celebrating:

**399**  
GIFTS

**266**  
DONORS

**\$794,149**  
TOTAL GIFTS





# OUR GRANTS

## Competitive Grants

Each year, organizations with projects or programs benefitting Blackford County have two opportunities to apply for grants at the Foundation, once in February and again in August. If you've read an Imagination Library book to a child, watched a game at the Blackford Youth Soccer Complex, attended Rendezvous on the Reserve or enjoyed the updated Christmas lights, you've benefitted from at least one (or more) of the many grants that were awarded by the Foundation in 2023.

Through your generosity, the Foundation awarded **\$105,244!**



Arts Place, Inc - MusicWorks Program	\$20,829
Arts Place, Inc - Arts in the Parks (2024)	\$5,000
Blackford County Schools - Camp Invention Scholarships	\$5,000
Blackford County Schools - Literacy Curriculum	\$20,000
Blackford Youth Soccer League - Sidewalk Expansion	\$3,000
City of Hartford City - Christmas Lights	\$500
Drug Free Blackford County - Not on Tobacco (NOT) Classes	\$1,500
Hartford City Police Department - EMT Training and Equipment	\$8,515
Helping Hands - Relationships Under Construction Program	\$1,000
Imagination Library - Childrens Books	\$5,000
McMillen Health - Preventative Health Education	\$6,400
Montpelier Historical Society - Rendezvous on the Reserve	\$2,000
Project Leadership - 21st Century Scholars Enrollment and Support	\$8,500
Second Harvest Food Bank - Mobile Food Distribution	\$10,000
Youth for Christ - Campus Life Programs	\$8,000

The Blackford Youth Soccer League expanded the sidewalk to help with traffic flow at the Blackford Youth Soccer Complex. The complex hosts 525 soccer players on 41 youth teams along with 16 high school matches each season!



# OUR GRANTS

## Women of Worth

Organizations with projects benefitting women and children in Blackford County have an additional opportunity to apply for grants through Women of Worth. Women of Worth (W.O.W) was established in 2009 and has been fulfilling their mission of supporting women and children in Blackford County ever since. Each year, over 100 women in our community make a \$25+ donation, then get to select which projects or organizations they'd most like their dollars to support.

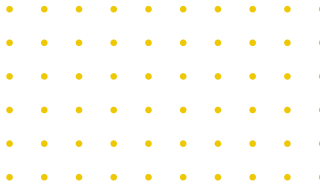
Women of Worth members gathered at the fall luncheon in October to choose the 2023 grant recipients, awarding a total of **\$3,630!**



Camp Invention had a great turn out in 2023, check out those smiles!  
\*Photo Credit: Kylee Redford, Blackford Intermediate School

Blackford County Schools - Camp Invention	\$1,000
Blackford County Schools - Elementary Library	\$1,000
Blackford County Schools - Health & Hygiene Kits	\$1,000
Blackford County Schools - Speech Language Pathology Materials	\$630

# OUR GRANTS



## Donor Advised Funds

When a donor knows they want to support the causes they care about through the Foundation, but they don't have a specific organization or general area (like education, youth, animals) they're passionate about, they might establish a donor advised fund. A donor advised fund allows donors to "advise" what projects or organizations they would like to support with their fund as the need or opportunity arises. Talk about flexibility!

Ten nonprofits received grants from donor advised funds in 2023, totaling **\$98,820!**

Arts Place, Inc	\$1,000
Blackford Athletic Department - Tennis Program	\$4,860
Blackford County 4-H & Open Fair	\$1,000
Blackford County 4-H & Open Fair - Cattle Barn and Show Arena	\$20,000
National Honor Society/FFA - Summer Food Program	\$500
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$20,000
Geezer Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$200
Grace United Methodist Church	\$35,000
Rotary Club of Hartford City - Girl Scout House Maintenance	\$1,260
Youth for Christ	\$15,000



We are so honored to administer donor advised funds and see the difference they're making in Blackford County!  
Pictured is the transformation of the Cattle Barn and Show Arena from 2022 to 2023.  
What an impact the generosity of our donors makes!

**\*Photo Credit: Blackford County 4-H & Open Fair**





# OUR GRANTS

## Designated Funds

Sometimes, donors know right away what organizations they'd like their fund to support year after year. In this case, we help them establish a designated fund, because those funds will be "designated" to a certain organization every year.

Fifteen nonprofits were awarded Designated Fund Grants in 2023, **totaling \$74,941!**



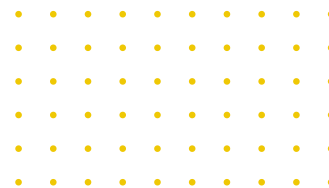
Alliance for Strategic Growth, Inc	\$164
Arts Place, Inc	\$3,926
Blackford County Animal Shelter	\$982
Cancer Support of Blackford County	\$29,769
Grace United Methodist Church	\$741
Hartford City Public Library	\$29,769
Imagination Library	\$837
Licking Township Trustee	\$437
Montpelier Harrison Township Cancer Fund	\$586
North Central Indiana Youth for Christ	\$477
Oddfellows Cemetery	\$576
St. John's Catholic Church	\$1,185
Women of Worth	\$1,466
Woodlawn Cemetery	\$316
YMCA of Muncie	\$3,710

\*Photo Credit: Carolyn Carducci, Arts Place, Inc

Arts in the Parks is just one of the many programs that Arts Place, Inc offers to members of our community! Arts in the Parks takes place on the second Saturday of the month during the summer. We are honored to administer designated funds at the Foundation that help to benefit programs, just like this one!



# OUR SCHOLARSHIPS



## High School Scholarships

Many of our donors are passionate about education. We know this because we administer and award nearly 70 scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors. Thanks to the scholarship funds at the Foundation, we awarded **\$61,384** in 2023! This far reaching impact in young lives is truly immeasurable.

Dianna Alfrey Memorial Scholarship	Sarah Ellison
Bruce C Bade Scholarship	Allison Jacobs
Robert Bales Memorial Scholarship	Riata Rouch
Blackford Retired Teachers Association Scholarship	Sarah Ellison
in Memory of Dealie Dodds, John Leech and Eldon Leath	
Kelsey Nichole Clamme Memorial Scholarship	Nicholas Aulbach
Cline Cooley Nursing Scholarship	Owen Apple
Mike Collins and Jerald E Snyder Hartford City	Olivia Leas
Kiwanis Club Scholarship	
Delta Theta Tau Scholarship	Savannah Skinner
in Memory of Dorothy Gadbury	
Lawrence H and M Irene Dick Memorial Scholarship	Nathaniel Limle
Elks Lodge No 625 Scholarship	Kelli Rinker
David C Ford Memorial Scholarship	Braxton Malott
Hartford City Chamber of Commerce Scholarship	Dawson Hundley
Hartford City Kiwanis Club Scholarship	Olivia Leas
in Memory of Michael McDougall	
Hartford City Rotary Club Scholarship	Landon Rogers
Hartford City Rotary Club Scholarship	Katelyn Speide
in Memory of Lloyd Hall	
Ed and Ruth Henderson Memorial Scholarship	Sarah Ellison
Jones Family Farms Scholarship	Nicholas Aulbach
Jones Family Farms Scholarship	Zoe Needler
Travis Keplinger Memorial Scholarship	Jaleigh O'Connell
Paul and Delight Ely Lee Scholarship	Sarah Ellison
Lake Trout Clean Energy Advocate Scholarship	Ethan Hidy
Levy Educational Fund Scholarship	Zoey Solga
Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship	Avalyn Williams
Cindy K Maddox Memorial Scholarship	Sydney Stroble
John R and Jane C Maddox Family Scholarship	Dylan Teer
Guy C and Grace Glancy Mahorney Memorial Scholarship	Sarah Ellison
Ronald A and Melanie J Mason, Steve R and Michelle	Sarah Ellison
Stafford and G Jewel Wilson Scholarship	
Ronald A and Melanie J Mason, Steve R and Michelle	Marley Wall
Stafford and G Jewel Wilson Scholarship	

# OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Thomas E McGeath and Jesse Lee Reynolds  
Memorial Scholarship

Braxton Malott

Thomas E McGeath and Jesse Lee Reynolds  
Memorial Scholarship

Sydney Stroble

Montpelier Alumni Association Scholarship

Meet Patel

Montpelier Alumni Association Scholarship

Zoey Solga

Montpelier Alumni Wrestling Scholarship

Meet Patel

Montpelier Lions Club Scholarship

Sarah Ellison

Montpelier Lions Club Scholarship

Zoey Solga

Montpelier Pony and Saddle Club Scholarship

Riata Rouch

Geraldine McFerren Myers Scholarship

Zoe Needler

Geraldine McFerren Myers Scholarship

Riata Rouch

Geraldine McFerren Myers Scholarship

Brianna Stroble

Jorden W Nickols Memorial Scholarship

Braxton Malott

Hal and Gretchen Oberholzer Scholarship

Sarah Ellison

June E Overmeyer Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Ellison

Pete Redmond Family Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Ellison

Kevin Reichard Memorial Football Scholarship

Braxton Malott

Frances W and Lucille Reidy Memorial Scholarship

Owen Apple

Frances W and Lucille Reidy Memorial Scholarship

Riata Rouch

Jean Ann Rhodes Memorial Baseball Scholarship

Nathaniel Limle

Miss Nancy S Schorey, BSN MSN RN

Madysen Whitesell

Memorial Scholarship

Rich Scott Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Ludwig

Kim A Stump Memorial Scholarship

Madysen Whitesell

Dr. Severino and Karen K Sulit Pass Through Scholarship

Dylan Teer

Tri Kappa Beta Xi Chapter Vocational Scholarship

Kendric Dishman

Tri Kappa Beta Xi Chapter Academic Scholarship

Allison Jacobs

Hartford City Tri Kappa Associates Scholarship

Savannah Skinner

in Memory of Archer and Arlo Fadely

William E and Patricia A Schantz Community Scholarship

Una Bowman

Errol Washburn Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Ellison

Voyance and Zella Kegerreis Memorial Scholarship

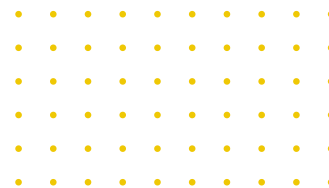
Allison Jacobs



\*Photo Credit: Shelby Newlin, BJSHS

The graduating class of 2023, together for the last time. We are honored to help prepare them for the future thanks to the generosity of our donors.

# OUR **SCHOLARSHIPS**



## **Current College Student Scholarships**

Did you know that we don't just award scholarships to graduating high school seniors? We also award scholarships to current college students or adults who are pursuing a post secondary education. We believe education never ends and it's clear that our donors do, too!

**\$12,440** was awarded to current college students in 2023.

Richard M and Ruth Flatter Memorial Scholarship  
Richard M and Ruth Flatter Memorial Scholarship  
Hollander Family Scholarship  
Floyd E and Betty J Huffman Memorial Scholarship  
Clara C Kitterman Memorial Scholarship  
Donald McAfee Memorial Scholarship  
Howard and Helen McCollum Family Scholarship  
George A Mundrake Scholarship

Danielle Davis  
Mackenzie Garrett  
Kathryn Hines  
Danielle Jenkins  
Emily Johnson  
Khalia Scott  
Gabrielle Price  
Kelsey Mosley

The **George A Mundrake Scholarship** was awarded for the first time in 2023! This scholarship is a renewable scholarship and will be awarded to the same student for their 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of college.

This fund was established by Benjamin Oswalt in memory of his long-time friend, George.







# OUR **SCHOLARSHIPS**

We awarded 61 high school scholarships to 25 graduating high school seniors and eight scholarships to current college students! The impact these scholarships have on the future of every student's education is made possible by **you**, our donors.

Thanks to you, we are celebrating:

**\$61,384**

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SCHOLARSHIPS

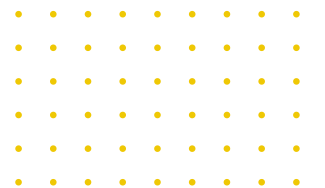
**\$12,440**

CURRENT COLLEGE  
STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$73,824**

TOTAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

# YOUR **FOUNDATION**



## **Board and Staff**

Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers with different professions, passions and strengths who are all invested in improving life in Blackford County by helping you help others forever. Yes, forever!

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kristie Jennerjahn, President  
Mark Townsend, Vice President  
Scott Blakely, Secretary  
Mitch Glentzer, Treasurer  
Missi Jones  
Matt Langdon  
Adam Lenz

### **COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Vince Cimino, Investment  
Julie Forcum, Grants  
Chris Jennerjahn, Investment  
Jim Weiseman, Investment



Vince Cimino was a tremendous asset to the Foundation. Vince served on the Foundation board for many, many years and served as the investment committee chair until his recent passing. We are thankful for Vince's service and support over the years.

### **STAFF**

Elizabeth Witt, Executive Director  
Shelby Maddox, Donor Relations Manager  
Emma Lightle, Office Manager



# YOUR FOUNDATION

## Financials

Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	2,637,735	2,248,830
Property and equipment, net	10,416	11,642
Investments, at market	9,413,793	8,486,379
Noncurrent assets		22,052
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,061,944</b>	<b>10,768,903</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	500	-
Accrued payroll taxes	2,993	3,173
Assets held for others		22,052
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,493</b>	<b>25,225</b>

Statement of Income and Expenses  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

INCOME	2023	2022
Contributions	794,149	481,235
Investment income (loss), net	1,178,723	(1,563,245)
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	-	-
Other income	-	31,022
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,972,872</b>	<b>(1,050,988)</b>

## EXPENSES

Grants	240,057	358,904
Scholarships	87,914	63,670
Program expenses	74,139	101,200
Management/general expenses	103,979	98,319
Fundraising expenses	41,199	39,552
	<b>547,288</b>	<b>661,645</b>

Change in net assets	1,425,585	(1,712,633)
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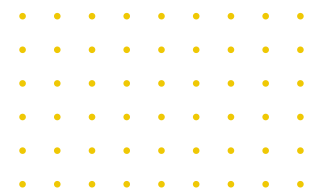
Net assets beginning of year	10,743,178	12,431,169
Prior period adjustment	(110,312)	24,642

Net assets at end of year	12,058,451	10,743,178
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\*2023 figures are unaudited, 2022 audited; when official audit results are available, changes will be recorded at [blackfordcofoundation.org/about/financials](https://blackfordcofoundation.org/about/financials).



# YOUR FOUNDATION



## Our Involvement

As 2023 came to an end, so did the GIFT VII initiative, which was administered by Lilly Endowment Inc. There were three components to GIFT VII:

## Matching Grant

	From You		From Lilly Endowment	
Unrestricted Endowment Gifts	\$167,000	+	\$333,000	= \$500,000
Restricted Endowments Gifts	\$333,000	+	\$167,000	= \$500,000
	\$500,000	+	\$500,000	= \$1,000,000

## Board Engagement Grant

All individuals serving on the board between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 contributed at least \$500 to the Foundation, so we received \$100,000!

## Community Leadership Grant

Planning Phase: In 2018, we received a \$50,000 planning grant. We administered a community survey to ask what all of you loved, didn't love and would change about Blackford County if you could. We took what we heard and made that our focus during the implementation phase.

Implementation Phase: In 2019, we received \$100,000, which we used to revitalize greenspaces and provide family friendly programming in Blackford County. We called this our "Get Outdoors Campaign." We worked with organizations to create a list of family friendly events in Blackford County. We had scavenger hunts with prizes related to "getting outdoors". We supported the disc golf course and cattle barn and show arena. We partnered with the Hartford City Parks Department to design and install new signs at each park. Even though the campaign is over, we hope you continue to "Get Outdoors!"



There are truly so many places to see, events to attend, activities to do and fun to be had in Blackford County! Here are some highlights from 2023.

# YOUR FOUNDATION

## Moving Forward

As we move forward into 2024, we are reminded that our journey to bettering Blackford County wouldn't be nearly as progressive, impactful or enjoyable without **you**. Afterall, a journey is more fun alongside people who have a common goal, which is what we all share when it comes to improving life in Blackford County.

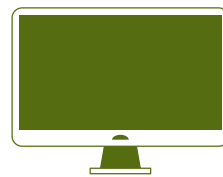
We are inviting you to "join the journey" with us in 2024 as we enter into an exciting matching grant opportunity; this grant presents us with the chance to receive a total of **\$1.125 million** for the Unrestricted Endowment Fund - talk about an impact! All we need is your partnership in raising \$375,000, after that we will receive the additional \$750,000 from a matching grant opportunity.

Will **you** help us improve life in Blackford County now and forever?

To stay up-to-date on the matching grant and all things Foundation, connect with us by:



Scheduling a meeting:  
(765)348.3411



Visiting our Website:  
[blackfordcofoundation.org](http://blackfordcofoundation.org)



Updating your information to receive E-Newsletters:  
[foundation@blackfordcounty.org](mailto:foundation@blackfordcounty.org)



Following our Facebook Page:  
[Facebook.com/BlackfordCoFoundation](https://Facebook.com/BlackfordCoFoundation)







**BLACKFORD COUNTY**  
Community Foundation

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