



BROWN COUNTY
**Community
Foundation**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

A Message from the CEO



Welcome Friends of BCCF! I consider it an honor and privilege to be part of this wonderful organization celebrating 30 years of giving to Brown County, Indiana. I consider it a joy to thank those who have shared their time, talent, and treasure throughout this three-decade journey which began with a vision to serve our community and a belief that collaboration and generosity can transform lives. None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff.

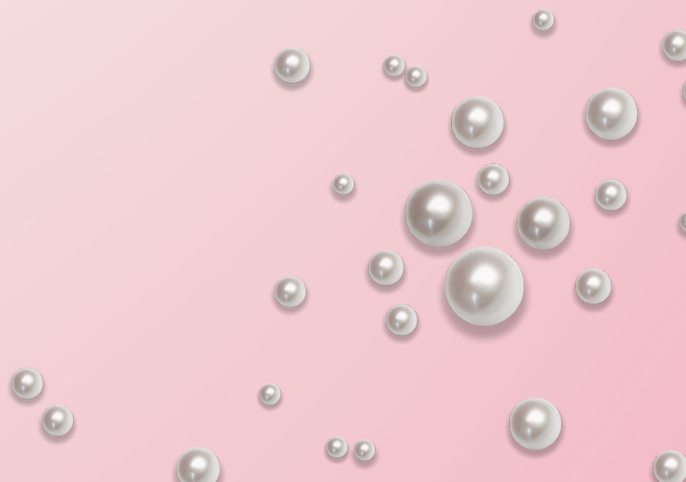
The roots of your commitment and belief in our mission run deep and I hope you can see the impact of your work and the legacy you will leave.

As we reflect on our past community-centered achievements, we also look forward with optimism, excitement, and determination. We will face challenges, but with your continued support, I am confident we will embark on the next chapter of our journey with the same passion and dedication that have defined us for the past three decades.

Thank you for being part of our story. Together, let us celebrate our 30th anniversary with pride and look forward to a future filled with hope and possibility.

Sincerely,

Alice Susemichel, Chief Executive Officer



A Message From The Board Chair



Laurie Teal, 2024 BOT Chair

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all who supported the goals and vision of the Brown County Community Foundation by making a charitable gift in 2023. You share with us the passion and commitment to make our community an even better place to live. We encourage you, as donors, to continue sharing with us your passions and ideas for

impactful giving now and into the future. 2023 brought both challenges and opportunities, and our board of trustees and staff accepted both as moments of learning. We worked closely together to carry on the mission of the Foundation during our search for a new chief executive officer. We held listening sessions with many community stakeholders to hear their thoughts and dreams about Brown County. We welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with the community in developing ideas to present for READI 2.0, Lilly GIFT VIII, and Stellar grants. We committed to developing a new strategic plan for 2024 and beyond and began work on that project. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary as a community foundation, we offer to you “pearls of wisdom” throughout this report. Now our focus is on the next 30 years and imagining and planning “what can be” for Brown County and its citizens. Our staff, volunteers, committee members, and board of trustees show their commitment for Brown County and for the Foundation with each phone call, email, meeting, and discussion with community members. We all want the best for Brown County, and I am honored to be able to work with these committed people. If you are interested in learning more about the great work of the Brown County Community Foundation, we welcome the opportunity to chat with you.

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Who We Are



Vision

Our vision is a thriving Brown County community.

Mission

The Brown County Community Foundation inspires charitable giving, brings people and resources together, and facilitates investment to meet the greatest needs of our county. We strive to accomplish our mission by;

- Encouraging charitable giving to strengthen Brown County over the long term;
- Engaging with Brown County stakeholders to learn and carry out their charitable intent.
- Distributing funds across Brown County through effective and strategic grantmaking.
- Serving as a resource and catalyst to learn and respond to the ongoing and emerging needs of Brown County; and
- Partnering with Brown County organizations for collective impact over the long term.

Values

Integrity

We uphold the trust placed in us to ensure that we exhibit the highest ethical standards, honor our commitments, remain objective and transparent, and respect the importance of all stakeholder input.

Stewardship

We preserve, protect, and grow the resources entrusted to our care and safeguard donor intent in perpetuity.

Collaboration

We fulfill our mission best when we convene, connect, and catalyze positive change to build a better tomorrow for all who share Brown County.

Accountability

We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and are accountable to our values through mandates of "duty of care" and "duty of loyalty," aligned with the Community Foundations National Standards accreditation program.

Diversity

We lead by example, listening to the voices in our community to convene, connect, and catalyze positive change to build a better tomorrow.

BCCF Strategic Goals



Aligned with the Community Foundations National Standards from the Council on Foundations, the following goals will continue Brown County Community Foundation's role to mobilize people and resources to make a positive impact by fostering county-wide collaboration through philanthropy. The following three goals shape the strategic plan framework.

- 1** **Grow philanthropic support by inviting and stewarding the generosity of our Brown County citizens.**
- 2** **Provide grants and educational opportunities that optimize achieving positive county-wide outcomes.**
- 3** **Serve as an inclusive community partner and resource for investment.**

Our Focus Areas

- **Arts and Culture**
- **Education**
- **Environment**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Housing**

2023 Volunteer of The Year



Rick Kelley's formative years in Brown County instilled in him a profound affection for its landscapes and people, a bond that persisted as he pursued diverse paths in life. Graduating from Indiana University propelled him into a career of public service spanning over three decades in the Air Force and Indiana National Guard, retiring with the rank of Colonel after deployments including the Gulf War in Saudi Arabia. Returning to his agricultural roots, Rick's tenure with the USDA reconnected him with farmers and the

land, ultimately leading him and his wife Brenda, both natives of Brown County, back to Nashville. Over the past 15 years, Rick has dedicated himself to numerous volunteer roles, currently serving as President of the Farm Bureau and on the Purdue Extension Board. He also heads the Public Defender Board, oversees election processes, and honors veterans as a member of the Greenlawn Cemetery Board.

Beyond these roles, Rick contributes significantly to community organizations such as the Brown County Community Foundation and the Historical Society, where he organizes educational programs on local history. His passion for art, particularly the Brown County Art Colony, led him to support the Brown County Art Gallery and preside over Indiana Heritage Arts, organizing a prominent annual art competition. Rick's service extends beyond official duties, as he generously assists neighbors and friends whenever needed. His dedication to Brown County reflects a deep-seated patriotism and commitment to public welfare, earning him admiration as a paragon of volunteerism. In summary, Rick Kelley embodies the essence of a devoted community leader and an exemplary Volunteer of the Year.

Previous Volunteer(s) of the Year Recipients:

- 2014**-Bob Kirlin, Betsy Voss Lease, Lyn Letsinger-Miller, Ruth Reichmann, Linda Todd, Barb Tuley, Steve Wagner, Bernard Waldheir
- 2015**-Joan Amati, John David, Jim Drum, Dave Emmert, Dorothy Lewis, Joe Miller, Regina & Bill Young
- 2016**-Keith Baker, Pat Clark, Shari Frank, Donna Niednagel
- 2017**-Gloria Berryman, Pam Boer, Jonathan Bolte, Peg Lindenlaub, Julie Winn
- 2018**-Guardian ad Litem Volunteers, Frank & Brenda Green, Annie Hawk, Debbie Kelley, David Seastrom, Colleen Smith, Kim Stout, Jan Swigert, John Werner
- 2019**-Carl Bochmann, Jenise Bohbrink, Sandy Higgins, JoAnne Himebaugh, Ruth Jarrett, Janet Kramer
- 2020**-Pam Raider
- 2021**-Shirley Boardman, Jonathan & Rosey Bolte, Warren & Barb Schade
- 2022**-Sunny Leerkamp & Laurie Teal

Why I Volunteer

Volunteering is something I genuinely enjoy for many reasons. Engaging in volunteer work allows me to contribute positively to my community. Knowing that my efforts can make a tangible difference in someone's life or support a cause I care deeply about is immensely rewarding. BCCF's mission to enhance the quality of life in Brown County through philanthropy and community leadership resonates deeply with my personal values. It's great to see firsthand how our efforts help improve life in Brown County, whether it's through supporting local schools, helping the environment, or promoting health and wellness.



Brown County Humane Society:
Dawg Walk & Fiesta



Shaely King, BCCF Advancement Committee

One thing I love about volunteering is the variety of projects I get to work on. There's always something different going on, which keeps things interesting and allows me to learn new skills. This variety not only keeps my volunteer work interesting and dynamic but also allows me to make a broad impact across different areas that are important to me. It's nice to know that my efforts are making a real difference in multiple areas that matter to me. It's inspiring to work alongside other volunteers, local businesses, and organizations all dedicated to making Brown County a better place. This collaborative spirit makes volunteering feel like being part of a big, supportive family.

Volunteering is a way for me to give back to the community I love. It's a chance to say thank you and help ensure that Brown County continues to be a great place to live for everyone as well as future generations. Overall, it's a rewarding experience that brings me joy, broadens my impact, and strengthens my connection to the community.



A Very Special Thank You

We greatly appreciate the time, dedication, and skills of our wonderful Board of Trustees & Committee members. Thank you all so very much!

2023 Committee Members

Michaela Adams

Erika Albert

Andi Bartels

Rhea Ellen Boley

Victor Bongard III

Connie Casey

Jim Drum

John Elliott

Rhett Fagg

Katie Finney

Paige Freitag

Annie Hawk

Jenny Johnson

Debbie Kelley

Shaely King

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Mark Lindenlaub

Len Logterman

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Kevin McCracken

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Rick Stringfellow

Beverly Teach

Laurie Teal

Dwight Thompson

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Bill Walters

Staff

Alice Susemichel

Jenise Bohbrink

Sean Hildreth

In Memory of Ruth Marion Reichmann: A Doer, A Dreamer, A Driving Force

Written by Laurie Teal



When first moving to Brown County I studied the history and the people who shaped it. One of those people particularly caught my eye, which caused me to admire her from afar.

In 2017 I had the opportunity to meet Ruth Reichmann at an event, and my admiration for her intensified. Ruth's continuous work ethic, commitment to community, and desire to be a change agent – even at age 90! – proves that no one is too old to make a difference.

We worked together on projects both personally and for the League of Women Voters, which allowed me to get to know Ruth on a deeper level. She was strong, determined, and unafraid of anything. Which allowed her to achieve anything she set out to do. And has she achieved!

It was Ruth's idea to get the Brown County Community Foundation started. Ruth worked with Jon Cain, Jim Callahan, and Del Newkirk to approach Lilly Endowment, Inc. for the first round of their GIFT program and provided much of the push to form our first board of directors in 1994.

Ruth decided that Brown County needed a new public library, and made it happen.
Ruth decided that Brown County needed historic markers to celebrate Bill Monroe, T.C. Steele, and Frank Hohenberger, and made those happen.
Ruth decided that Brown County needed a League of Women Voters, and made it happen.

I think you see the pattern here.

Ruth Reichmann had a huge impact on the quality of life for all in Brown County. For that, I humbly thank her.

30 Year Financial Snapshot

\$14,036,339

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS

\$911,462

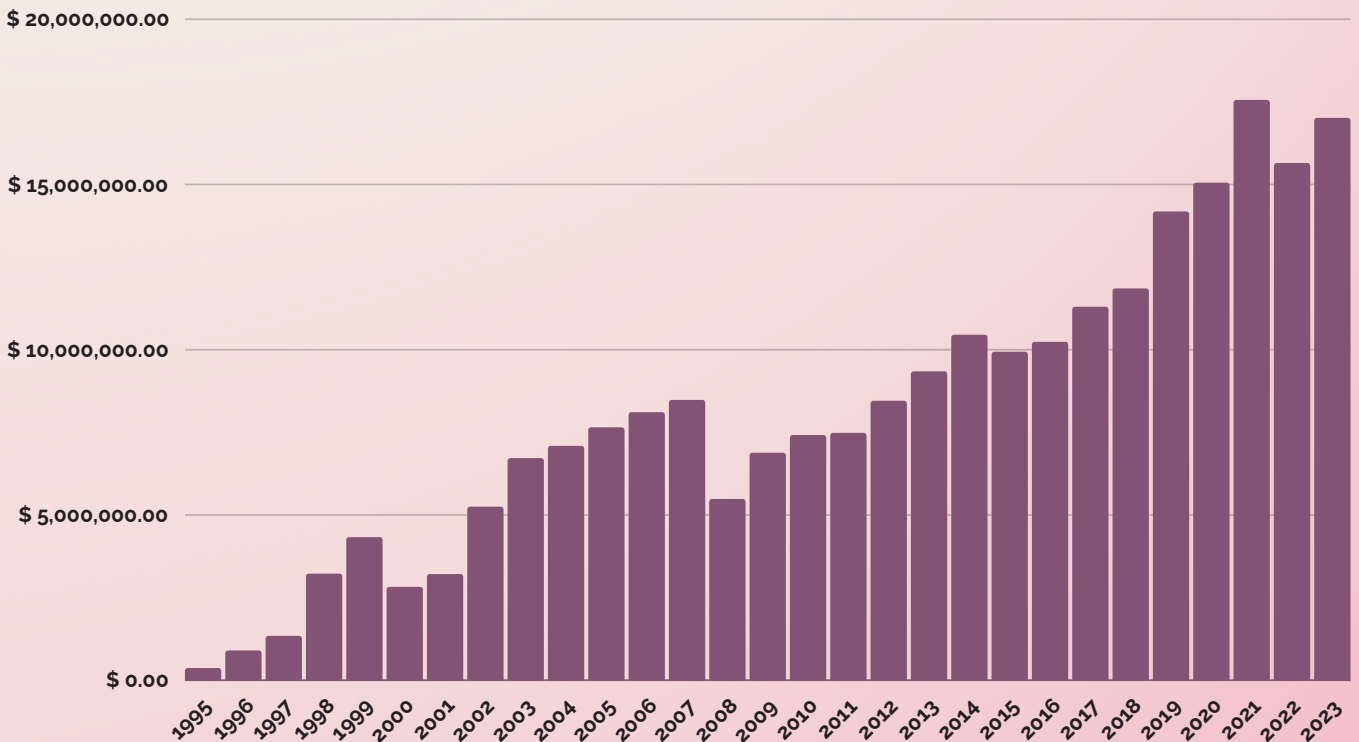
AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS
(EXCLUDING LILLY)

320

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS
ASSISTED

Full financials and Form 990 are available at www.browncountygives.org.

30 Year Asset History



Pearls of Giving



Agency Endowment Funds (27)

Benefit nonprofit organizations. Distributions from these funds are made directly to the donor agencies to carry out their respective missions. Contact our office for more information.

Designated Funds (76)

Allows you to create permanent income for an organization of your choice in Brown County, or elsewhere, and ensure your support can grow and live on after your lifetime.

Scholarship Funds (36)

Can be designed for students, at any stage of life, who are planning to attend a variety of school types, including traditional colleges, universities, and vocational/trade/technical schools.

Field of Interest Funds (24)

Creates a resource in perpetuity to support the causes you care about, such as the arts, education, health and human services, or the environment.

Donor Advised Funds (25)

They are designed exclusively to invest, grow, and donate annually to charities and causes at your discretion.

Unrestricted Endowments (34)

They support our annual grant cycle and enable the community foundation to support long-term solutions; respond quickly to emergencies; and meet changing social, cultural, educational, or environmental needs in our local community.

Pass-Through Funds (56)

These are non-endowed which flow directly to a project or organization.



Lilly Scholarship 2023 Recipient



Since 1998, the Brown County Community Foundation has awarded Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships to 41 graduates of Brown County High School. These scholarships cover full four-year tuition and provide \$900 annually for books and equipment at any Indiana public or private college chosen by the student.

The initiative aims to increase educational attainment among Indiana residents, as the state has historically had low rates of bachelor's degree holders. Administered by the Independent Colleges of Indiana and local community foundations across Indiana's 92 counties, the Lilly Endowment Scholarship Program has distributed over \$486 million in tuition funding since its inception. In 2023, Joey Denison became Brown County's latest Lilly Scholar, earning a full scholarship to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars

1998 - Kyle Weslie
1999 - Joel Bolinger
1999 - Sarah Merryman
2000 - Stephan Chamblee
2000 - Robert Drake
2001 - Jessica Arnett
2001 - Brandon Kirkham
2001 - Emily Merryman
2002 - Christopher Bartels
2002 - Sara Hedrick
2002 - Aravon McCalla
2003 - Abigail Adams
2003 - Terran Marks
2003 - Lauren Todd
2004 - Jeremy Burton
2004 - Joseph Schmidt
2004 - Sarah Warburton
2005 - David Phelps
2005 - Matthew Spiller
2006 - Joe Drake
2006 - Nicholas Zellmer
2007 - Caitlin Sweeney
2007 - Kyle Snyder
2008 - Brittney Wagler
2008 - Courtney VanWinkle
2009 - Jessica Harding
2009 - Margaret Burke
2010 - Michael Dobson
2010 - Jeremy Wetzel
2011 - Bailey Harmon
2012 - Alice Merryman
2013 - Connor Guingrich
2014 - Isaac Gluesenkamp
2015 - Sarah Kurdziel
2016 - Kayla Snyder
2017 - Elizabeth Huls
2018 - Grace Jackson
2019 - Chase Watson
2020 - Chloee Robison
2021 - Emelia Koester
2022 - Annika Evenson
2023 - Joseph Denison

Newkirk Society

In 2001, the Brown County Community Foundation Board of Trustees established **The Del Newkirk Society**. With great affection and appreciation, it was named in honor of one of its founders and former volunteer Executive Director, Del Newkirk.

The Del Newkirk Society has been established to recognize those who, like Del and his wife, Letty, wish to remember the Brown County Community Foundation and ensure its mission continues in perpetuity.

All members of the Society have named the Brown County Community Foundation in their planned gifts.



Members

Bob Andrew

Shirley Boardman

Pat Blocker*

Jack and Patricia Bond*

Burton and Suzanne* Borgelt

Betty Crews*

David and Kathy Cuppy

Carolyn Dutton

Annella "Nel" Hamilton*

Howard F. Hughes*

Richard and Ruth Johnson*

Michael and Jaydene Laros

William and Patricia Lloyd

Elaine Mallory*

Phil McKown and Paul Walker

Scott and Jan Mills

Delano and Luzetta Newkirk

Dewayne Newkirk*

James and Amy Oliver

Robert and Donna Ormiston

Genervra "Chig" and James Owens*

Rachel Perry

Charlotte Reeves*

Samuel and Joan Rosen*

Dawn Snider

Beverly Teach

Charles and Phyllis Truemper*

Robert* and Anita Wright

*deceased

Fabulous 50 Women's Giving Circle

The Fabulous 50 group has awarded local organizations more than \$180,000 in the community since they began in 2013. The group has nearly doubled in size, starting with 49 members, and is now sustained by about 90 individuals. An offshoot of the group is the Magnanimous Men, which has four members.

2023 Winners

Brown County Veterans

\$12,000

Brown County Art Guild

\$8,000



Photo features: First Fab 50 Award 2013-Access Brown County

For more information about the Fabulous 50 Woman's Giving Circle, please contact Betsy Lease at besty.lease@icloud.com or Kim Robinson at kimrobinson@browncountymca.org

Join the Grove

When you join The Grove, you are joining a special group of donors who contribute each month to help support the important work of the Brown County Community Foundation. Giving monthly sustains local scholarships, grants, and community initiatives that give back to our county. Find out more at browncountygives.org.

2023 Donors

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Aging & Community Services of
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Brown Co. 4-H Council, Inc.
Brown Co. Art Gallery
Brown Co. Art Guild, Inc.
Brown Co. Board of Commissioners
Brown Co. Board of Realtors
Brown Co. Community Band
Brown Co. Community Church
Brown Co. Community YMCA
Brown Co. Enrichment for Teens
Brown Co. Girls Softball Association
Brown Co. Habitat for Humanity, Inc
Brown Co. High School
Brown Co. Historical Society, Inc.
Brown Co. Humane Society, Inc.
Brown Co. Lions Club
Brown Co. Literacy Coalition
Brown Co. Playhouse Management
Brown Co. Presbyterian Fellowship
Brown Co. Public Library
Brown Co. Sheriff's Reserve
Brown Co. Volunteer Fire Depart.
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Ms. Diane Cantrell
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Kareem Taiwo
Charli Taylor-Kristoff

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The Educated Otter
Louisiana State- Shreveport Bass Fishing Team
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Lisa Hardwick Thompson
Ron & Barbara Thompson
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Nathan & Gretchen Tipton
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Skip Wood
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Laura Weinland Young
Mandy Zellmer
Zeta Phi Chapter
Matt Zimmerman
Brenda Zody
Mrs. Karen Zody

Thank You

2023 John D. Rudd Award



Donna Niednagel's involvement in, and contributions to, the Brown County community are many. In 1990, Donna brought the Guardian Ad Litem Program to Brown County. The program trains volunteers appointed by a judge to represent the interests of a child in court. Many of these children are victims of abuse or neglect, and are in need of services from the state. Donna continued to build this program, one of the first in the state, until 2009, when Sally Ann Murphey took over the leadership. Donna was also part of a group who collaborated with the Brown County Health Department to help them become a Naloxone (Narcan) distribution center and offer addiction support.

Donna was a major contributor to the growth and operation of Access Brown County (ABC), providing transportation to county residents. She served on the committee that provided the initial needs assessment, and served on the board for six years, the last three as chair. During her tenure, she established ABC Sunday, the annual fundraiser that is a partnership with several churches in Brown County.

When the Brown County Weekend Backpacks Program was expanded from a church-based program to a community program and a 501(c)(3), Donna was on the first board, and volunteered as the chair. She coordinated a team at St. David's Episcopal Church, to ensure the program would have corn, one of the required nutritional items.

As one of the team of five, Donna helped establish the Bean Blossom Farmers Market. She continually promotes nonprofits in the community by making their information available at the market. Strongly connected to the market is the St. David's Childrens Garden founded by Donna.

Other contributions to the community include: assistance establishing a Free Little Library, chair of St. David's Episcopal Outreach Committee, one of the original Fab 50 Women's Giving Circle members, and foster parent. Donna is a person who gives not only her time and talents to the community, but also her soul. She embodies the devotion and spirit of the award.

Recipients of this award:

2003 John Rudd
2004 Yvonne Olinger

2004 David Martin
2005 Nina Jo McDonald

2006 Ray Laffin

2007 Robert Kirlin

2008 Betsy Voss-Lease

2009 John Davis

2010 Jaydene Laros

2011 F. Andrew Rogers

2012 Howard Hughes

2013 Donna Ormiston

2014 Thomas Tuley

2015 Jeff Boley

2016 Linda Welty

2017 Rita Simon

2018 Ruth Reichmann

2019 Judy Stewart

2020 Teed Howard

2021 Kim Robinson

2022 Del & Letty Newkirk

2023 Donna Niednagel



Environmental Stewardship Award

Bill, Pat, Andrew, and Matt Lloyd generously started the Environmental Leadership Award and corresponding fund in 2007. The award honors a person or organization that protects or improves our greatest natural assets.

Brown County Pollinators, 2023 Award recipient, is a group of Brown County citizens who care about our environment, especially our monarchs and pollinators. The negative impacts of pollinator habitat loss in Indiana inspire their work. The National Wildlife Federation reports eastern monarch butterfly populations have declined 90 percent from their high in 1969. The reductions have been so dramatic, that monarchs now meet the criteria to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

As milkweed and natural habitat are removed to make way for roads, farming, and housing, the number of migrating monarchs continues to decline. For these reasons, BCP has worked to secure nearly 100 acres in Brown County for pollinator habitat restoration and created more than 2,000 milkweed seed bombs in the last year alone.

In 2022, working with BCCF, local volunteers, and a volunteer force from Cummins Inc., BCP helped BCCF establish a pollinator space.



2023 Community Grants

Brown County Art Gallery Foundation

Brown County Christkindl Market

Brown County Indiana Habitat for Humanity

Brown County Solid Waste Management District

Brown County Volunteer Fire Department

Brown County Weekend Backpacks, Inc.

Career Resource Center of Brown County

Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Company

God's Grace, Inc.

Hamblen Township Civic League, Inc

Hope for Hearts Farm, Inc

Indiana Forest Alliance

Indiana Heritage Arts

Live Adventurously

Living With Purpose Girls Outreach Ministry Inc.

Lotus Education & Arts Foundation

READY to R.E.A.D.

RiverSong Music, Inc.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Brown County

T.C. Steele State Historic Site

The Salvation Army of Brown County

Turning Point Domestic Violence Services

Featured Community Grantee: Hope for Hearts, Inc

The grants from BCCF have been such a blessing. What we do is unique and some who need our help are unable to pay. Funds from BCCF are used as stipends have allowed us to continue our mission to change the lives of people through the power of horses—particularly kids who are struggling due to traumatic situations in their family. We have a ten-year-old girl who, when she came here had difficulty focusing, was isolated from her siblings and reluctant to interact with people. She lives with her grandmother.

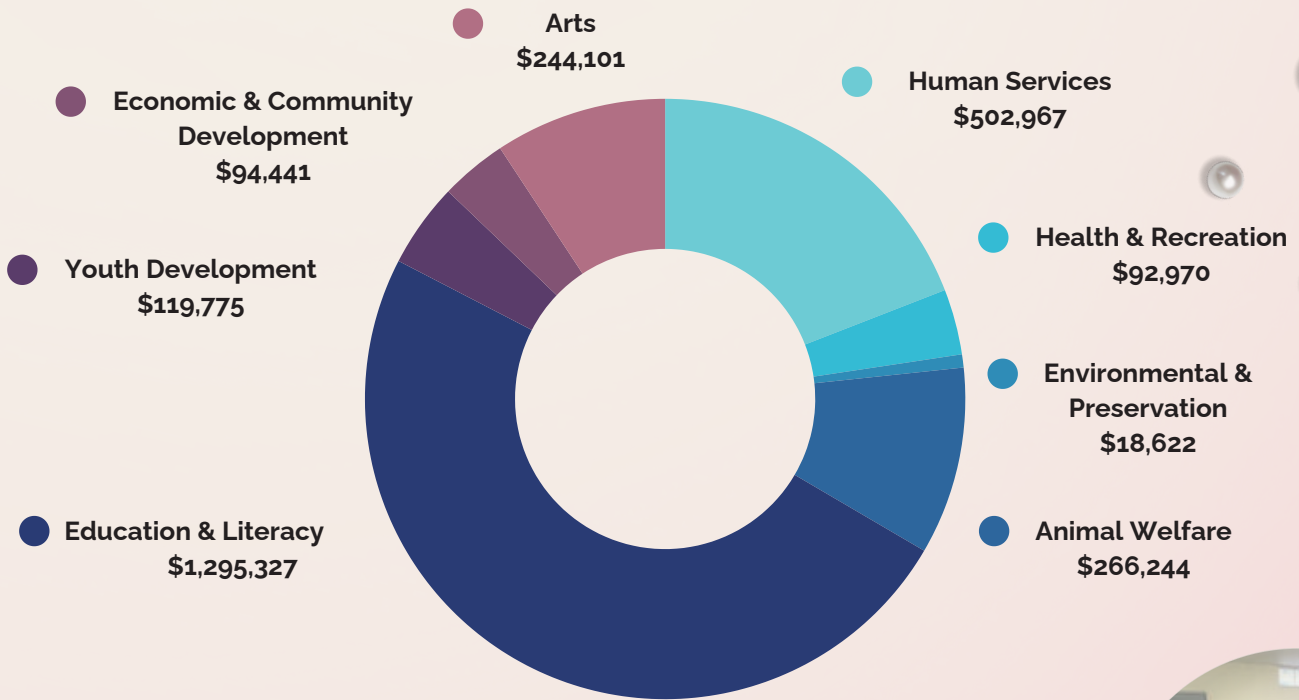
We have individual sessions where the client chooses which horse she prefers and then works with that horse and a certified facilitator. They begin with grooming, a rhythmic activity which is calming and builds connection between the groomer and the horse.



In next sessions, the client uses internal energy to get the horse to comply—like leading, changing direction, moving faster or slower. After that, the sessions are more exclusively designed, depending on the individual. The confidence-building that occurs from the sessions spills over into everyday activities and interactions. This girl has markedly improved, now interacting with siblings and brave enough to step out of her comfort zone.

Another client is a 20-year-old woman who has been coming to Hope for Hearts for a few years. She was completely non-verbal when she first came, with low-functioning autism. Since coming here, she is speaking a few words and uses an iPad to communicate. Her mother reports that she is doing so much better at home and takes direction to be able to do things independently.

\$28,992,595 Distributed in BCCF Community Grants from 2020-2023



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

