



BROWN COUNTY
**Community
Foundation**



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2024

[browncountygives.org](https://www.browncountygives.org)

FOUNDATION 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. Our values include stewardship, diversity, integrity, accountability, and collaboration.



Leadership



Alice Susemichel, CEO



John Elliott, Board Chairman

This past year has been one of promise, change, challenge, and deep collaboration. At the Brown County Community Foundation, we've embraced our roles as Connector, Convener, Catalyst, Collaborator, and Funder—working with passion and purpose to create meaningful impact. With confidence in our future and deep respect for our legacy, we are gaining traction on the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan—not to grow for growth's sake, but to meet the evolving needs of our community.

We are filled with gratitude for our donors, volunteers, board and committee members, and dedicated staff, whose commitment makes this important work possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more hopeful Brown County—focused not only on today, but on what's possible for generations to come.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Elliott, Chairman	
Sonia (Sunny) Leerkamp, Vice Chair	
Erika Albert	Rachel Perry
Victor Bongard III	David Phelps
Debbie Kelley	Kerry Ridge
Shaely King	Linda Welty
Kevin McCracken	Bill Walters

STAFF

Alice Susemichel
Jenise Bohbrink
Carol Brown
Thelma Slisher
Anna Carstens



Introducing "30 by 30"

A Bold Vision for Brown County's Future

The Brown County Community Foundation has launched an ambitious campaign — "30 by 30" — to raise \$30 million in community endowment funds by 2030. This initiative is a powerful investment in the future of Brown County, ensuring long-term stability and growth for the local organizations and nonprofits that make our community thrive. Guided by our Board of Trustees, these funds will be strategically stewarded to address critical needs, foster innovation, and enhance the quality of life for all who call Brown County home. This is a community-driven effort, built on the generosity of local donors who believe in the power of philanthropy to shape a brighter, more sustainable future. Together, we can make an enduring impact—one that strengthens Brown County for generations to come.

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT



Endowments are a wise way for a community foundation to steward community money because they provide a permanent, sustainable source of funding for local needs. By investing the principal and using the earnings each year, endowments grow over time while continually supporting programs and causes that matter to the community. This ensures that donor gifts have a lasting impact, helping current and future generations benefit from the same generosity. It's a smart, long-term strategy that balances immediate needs with lasting legacy.

browncountygives.org

RECOGNITION

Chairman's Award

The Chairman's Award recognizes community members or organizations that have demonstrated placing the needs of others over their own. Their selfless philanthropy serves to inspire and provide a model of genuine giving to our community.

Scholarship Program

The Foundation manages academic scholarship funds, many established expressly for Brown County High School graduates. We are proud to report that the foundation administered over \$67,000 in scholarships impacting 44 students in 2024.

Lilly Endowment Scholar

Since 1998, the Brown County Community Foundation has awarded Lilly Endowment Scholarships to 42 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.

Environmental Leadership 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.

John D. Rudd Award

In 2003, because of Mr. John D. Rudd's devotion and demonstrated broad-based services to his native county, the Board of Trustees of the BCCF established the Community Service Award in John's honor. Annually, this award of Board recognition will honor an individual (or individuals) who have demonstrated the commitment, accomplishment and spirit of Mr. Rudd. In acknowledgment of his remarkable record of service, Mr. Rudd was the first recipient of the award.

Volunteer of the Year Award

One of Brown County Community Foundation's strategic priorities is to deliver positive community impact by focusing on critical community issues and promoting and recognizing volunteerism as a key component of leadership in addressing these issues. The community is a true winner benefiting from the time and talent of all of our generous community volunteers.

IMPACT GRANT



Brown County Habitat for Humanity, in collaboration with The Right Information And Direction (TRIAD), received a check for \$25,000 as the recipient of the Brown County Community Foundation's (BCCF) 2024 Impact Grant designed to aid seniors and disabled residents with housing needs.

The \$25,000 grant is being awarded for the first time to the community by the foundation's Board of Trustees. In announcing the grant, the foundation said Habitat and TRIAD, a volunteer group sponsored by the Brown County Sheriff's Department dedicated to assisting elderly and disabled homeowners who face challenges maintaining their residences, "will leverage Habitat's expertise in home repair and construction with TRIAD's focus on senior safety, making home visits, and connecting residents with essential services."

BCCF noted that "With approximately 16.3% of Brown County residents affected by disabilities related to mobility, self-care, or independent living, and nearly 1,356 residents over the age of 70, the demand for accessible and safe housing is more urgent than ever."

The foundation said in announcing the grant, "This initiative reflects BCCF's commitment to promoting health, wellness, and quality of life for Brown County's most vulnerable populations. The foundation looks forward to the positive impact this project will have on the lives of many senior and disabled residents."

MATCHING GRANT STORY



The Brown County Community Foundation, in partnership with a matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. (LEI), has played a vital role in strengthening the capabilities of **four participating volunteer fire departments across Brown County.**

We spoke with Fire Chief Nick Kelp of Brown County Volunteer Fire Department, who highlighted several critical pieces of equipment funded through this initiative. Among the upgrades were new air packs, a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) bag, and full sets of firefighting gear—each suit costing up to \$7,000.

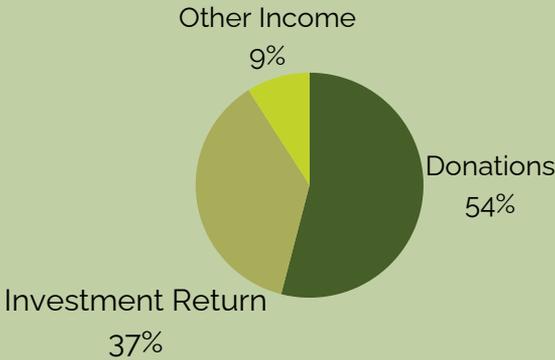
"The community foundation has been so instrumental in helping us reach our mission of helping the community," said Chief Kelp.

The funding partnership between BCCF and the Lilly grant has enabled departments to secure life-saving resources that may have otherwise been out of reach. This collaboration reflects the community's ongoing commitment to supporting the individuals who protect it every day.

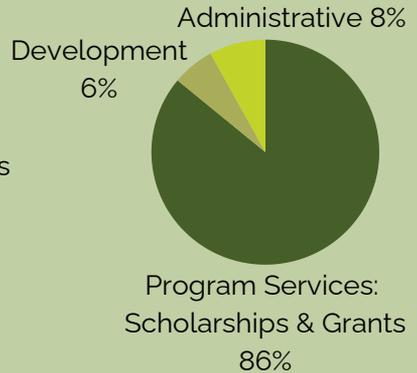
Through targeted investments like these, Brown County's volunteer fire services are now better equipped to respond to emergencies and keep residents safe. BCCF has supported fire stations throughout the county, including Southern Brown County, Cordry-Sweetwater, Jackson Township, and the Brown County Volunteer Fire Department.

AUDITED 2024 FINANCIALS

2024 Support & Revenue



2024 Functional Expenses



2024 Assets



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024

- | | |
|--|--|
| Brown County 4H Club Association | ChamberFest Brown County |
| Brown County Art Gallery | Do Something, INC |
| Brown County Art Guild | Friends of Brown County State Park |
| Brown County Christkindl Market | Friends of the Brown County Public Library |
| Brown County High School | Hamblen Township Civic League |
| Brown County Habitat for Humanity | Hope for Hearts Farm, Inc |
| Brown County PACEs Initiative | Keep Brown County Beautiful |
| Brown County Playhouse | Living With Purpose Girls Outreach |
| Brown County Schools | Loaves and Fishes |
| Brown County Solid Waste Management | Mother's Cupboard Community Kitchen |
| Brown County Volunteer Fire Department | Nashville Arts, Ceramics, and Homesteading |
| Cancer Support Community | READY to R.E.A.D. |
| Career Resource Center | St. Vincent de Paul of Brown County |
| Centerstone | Sprunica Elementary PTO |
| Chain Breaker Ministries Inc. | T.C. Steele State Historic Site |



BROWN COUNTY
Community
Foundation
Partners

Thank you!



GOELZER
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

The
SEASONS
Lodge

Rafters
FOOD & SPIRITS

**BROWN
COUNTY INN**
HOTEL, RESTAURANT & BAR



Carpenter
Hills **O' Brown Realty®**



LAKEHOUSE
CANDLE COMPANY



Brown County Title
YOUR PEACE OF MIND

WADW BY DOUG
WALKER
WEBSITE
DESIGN

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