



HIGHLIGHTS



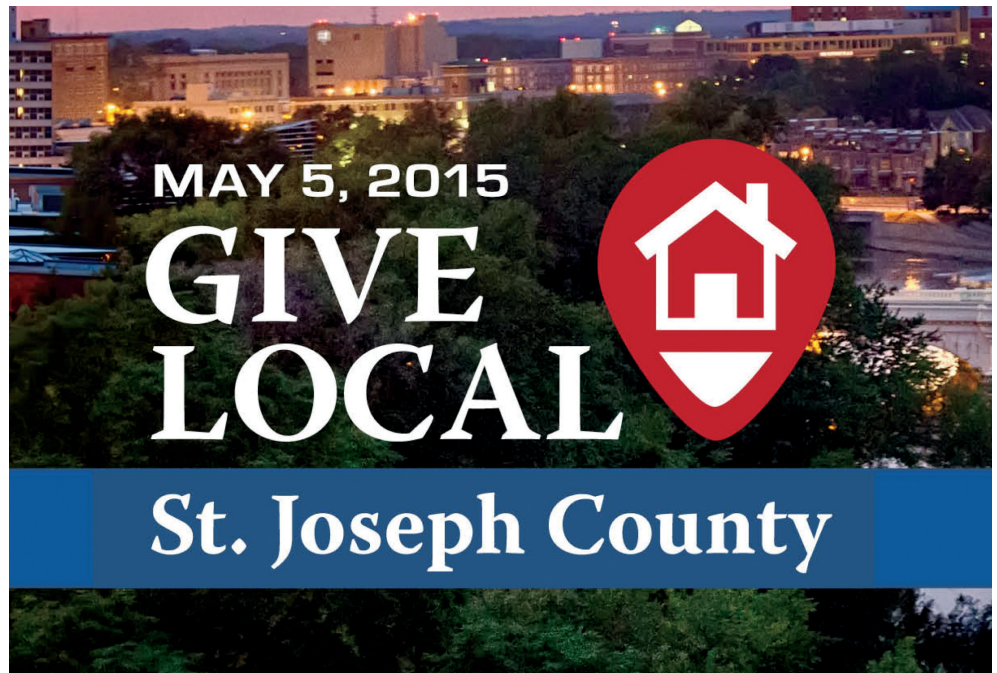
In anticipation of lots of social media communication around Give Local St. Joseph County (see story on p. 1), the Community Foundation launched a **Facebook Page** recently. If you're a Facebook user, look us up—and if you "like" us, you'll have the inside track on up-to-the-minute information about Give Local St. Joseph County.

Applications for the Charles Martin "Touch a Life" Scholarship and the Jon and Sonja Laidig Community Service Scholarship are available at www.cfsjc.org/scholarships. These competitive scholarships include a paid summer internship with a local nonprofit, allowing students a chance to "give back" while gaining valuable work experience. The deadline is **Monday, March 2, 2015**.

The Community Foundation has a new administrative assistant: **Amy Butcher**. Amy has a BA in speech communication with a concentration in organizational communication and an associate degree in business administration, both from IUSB. When you're in the office, be sure to help us welcome her.



Amy Butcher



Community Foundation Launches "Giving Day" for Local Nonprofits

A one-day giving event for our community with \$3 million in matching funds, Give Local St. Joseph County will have a huge impact on our community's charities.

Anyone who's ever watched the Fox TV series "24" knows that a lot can be accomplished in a single day. In just 24 hours, FBI Special Agent Jack Bauer manages to rescue the president, thwart terrorists, and save the world.

Move over, Mr. Bauer: On May 5, 2015, our community will have the opportunity to make an impact that's even bigger.

On that day, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County will be hosting Give Local St. Joseph County, a one-day giving event that will benefit our community's charities. Every dollar donated on May 5, 2015, will be increased by a share of an estimated \$3 million in matching funds

provided by our generous Give Local St. Joseph County sponsors.

Each dollar donated on May 5, 2015, will be increased by a share of an estimated \$3 million in matching funds.

IMMEDIATE SUPPORT AND PERMANENT SUPPORT. Because our primary mission at the Community Foundation is to build permanent resources for our community, Give Local St. Joseph County is designed to support our local nonprofit organizations both now and from now on. How? By passing through 75% of net dollars raised for each charity to support current programming, and by placing the other 25%—plus generous matching funds—into each charity's permanent endowment with the Community Foundation, increasing the annual support it receives year after year.

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GIVING DAY, continued from p. 1

A BIG GOAL: \$5 MILLION. We've got an ambitious goal of raising a total of \$5 million through Give Local St. Joseph County. That's because we want to help our best charities in a truly significant manner, and secondly, to increase the Community Foundation's ability to address a wide range of ever-changing community needs through our Greatest Needs Fund.

THE GREATEST NEEDS FUND. The Community Foundation supports local charities through our Greatest Needs Fund, an unrestricted endowment that makes grants to local charities through a competitive application process. Local charities can request grants to help them expand programs, improve facilities, and build capacity to better meet the needs of citizens. The Greatest Needs Fund gives us flexible resources to support major new initiatives that address ever-changing community needs and opportunities. (See related story below.)

A GROWING NATIONAL TREND. Based on successful models from

other cities such as Minneapolis, New Orleans, Miami, and Ann Arbor, "giving days" are becoming an increasingly popular form of fundraising. Give Local St. Joseph County is tied to a national event on May 5, 2015, called Give Local America, which involves scores of community foundations across America. Give Local America is on track to be the largest crowd-sourcing philanthropic effort in history.

You'll find all the details at www.GiveLocalSJC.org. On May 5, 2015, let's work together to make a big impact for the charities we care about!

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP? On May 5, 2015, you can make online donations of \$25 or more to your favorite participating nonprofit organizations, using your phone, tablet, or computer. Our online leaderboards will show you—in real time—how many dollars your favorite organizations are raising

on that day. You can also give to the Greatest Needs Fund to help our whole community. Multiple gifts are easy to make, and encouraged.

We'll also have a one-week "preview period" in which you can schedule a donation for May 5. You can also use that time to arrange for gifts of stock, make gifts by check, or recommend a grant from your donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation.

GET ALL THE DETAILS ONLINE.

You'll find all the details online at www.GiveLocalSJC.org. On May 5, 2015, let's work together to make a big impact for the charities we care about!

Give Local St. Joseph County is made possible in part by a \$1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. as part of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) Initiative. Half of this grant will be used to match unrestricted gifts to the Community Foundation's Greatest Needs Fund; half will be used to match gifts to nonprofit endowment funds.

The Greatest Needs Fund

On May 5, 2015, make a gift to the Greatest Needs Fund. Your gift will support our best nonprofits now and from now on.

One way the Community Foundation supports local charities is through our Greatest Needs Fund, an unrestricted endowment that makes grants to local charities through a competitive application process. Local charities can request grants to help them expand programs, improve facilities, and build capacity to better meet the needs of citizens. Also, the Greatest Needs Fund gives us flexible resources to support major new initiatives that address ever-changing community needs.

Through the fund, we're helping RiverBend Cancer Services create a beautiful Wellness House for people affected by cancer. We're helping Junior



The Greatest Needs Fund has supported the growth of Unity Gardens.

Achievement expand its workforce readiness and financial literacy education to thousands of additional students in our area. We're helping the Boys & Girls Clubs do a better job of healing children affected by trauma. We're aiding the growth and innovative programs of Unity Gardens. And those are just a few examples—for more, visit the Grants section of our website: www.cfsjc.org.

Focusing on Our Donors: Eugene and Mary Myers

Christmas came early for five local nonprofit organizations this year.

It's not every day that you open an envelope and find a check for \$55,000.

"This is by far the most surprising gift I have ever received," said Stephen Donndelinger, principal of St. Jude Elementary School. "Not only did I not know it was coming but I would never have expected a gift in such an amount. Opening it on a Friday afternoon as I was about to leave the office was icing on the cake."

He's talking about the unexpected bequest that St. Jude and four other local nonprofits received in November from the estate of Eugene and Mary Myers—a bequest all the more surprising to Donndelinger because the couple, who had no children, had no known connection to the school.

Gene Myers was a farmer all of his life. His 140-acre farm was located on the corner of Ironwood and Madison roads in St. Joseph County.

NEW: Online Access to Your Foundation Funds

The Community Foundation has begun the process of implementing a new web portal for donors and nonprofits who have funds with us. This new online "door" will allow users to view and download fund statements online, review opportunities for giving, and make grant recommendations. You'll hear more from us about this exciting new web tool soon!

Gene and his wife Mary raised hogs, dairy cows, sheep, and chickens—Gene delivered crates of fresh eggs to grocery stores, hospitals, and restaurants every week—and also grew corn, hay, and wheat. They lived on the farmstead until 2007, when they moved into a retirement community on South Bend's south side. In 2010, Mary died; in 2014, Gene followed, at the age of 95.

Gene and Mary chose to create a will that distributed their estate among their most trusted charities. Five primary beneficiaries received a lump sum of \$55,000: St. Dominic's Catholic Church, where the Myers were parishioners; Pet Refuge, Inc.; Camp Millhouse; the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair, with a focus on the animal clubs, and St. Jude Elementary School. The remainder of the estate was put into the Gene and Mary Myers Fund at the Community Foundation, where it will continue to generate annual support for those five charities long into the future.

Often, donors aren't aware that they can tailor a bequest so that it provides immediate support to a charity *and* continues to support that charity forever.

Often, donors aren't aware that they can tailor a bequest so that it provides immediate support to a charity that they value *and* continues to support that charity forever. This approach can be the best of both worlds for recipients.

That's the case for Camp Millhouse, another organization for whom the Myers gift was a complete surprise.

"By getting the large lump sum at the start of this bequest, we'll be able to accomplish something from our wish



list without having to wait years to build the funds to complete the project," says Diana Breden, the camp's director.

"Knowing we'll be receiving money from this bequest each year helps us budget for our everyday expenses," says Diana Breden, of Camp Millhouse.

And, she says, the endowment aspect of the gift provides an element of long-term stability that Camp Millhouse particularly appreciates, since the organization depends on community donations to survive.

"Knowing we'll be receiving money from this bequest each year helps us budget for our everyday expenses."

And of course, that additional envelope will also serve as an annual reminder of the vision and generosity of Gene and Mary Myers.

You, too, can support favorite charities now and forever through a structured bequest. Contact Rose Meissner, president, at (574) 232-0041, or visit www.cfsjc.org.



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Support for Boys & Girls Club Trauma Counseling

A recent Foundation grant helps the Boys & Girls Clubs serve child victims of trauma.

According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, one in four children experience at least one traumatic event by the age of 16. That can include physical or sexual abuse, medical trauma, violence, loss, or natural disasters—any event that threatens or causes harm to the child's emotional or physical well-being.

Trauma causes significant damage to children who experience it—damage that can last a lifetime, affecting their ability to learn, grow, and interact.

In recognition of the immense impact of childhood trauma, the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County has

partnered with the Family & Children's Center to offer children and their families trauma-informed counseling care within the nurturing, familiar environment of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

In 2015, the Boys & Girls Clubs plans to offer this program at all five of its St. Joseph County locations.

This program in trauma-informed counseling (TIC) began last year at the O. C. Carmichael Youth Center, serving some 20 children and their families. In it, licensed therapists work with children and their families to develop a framework for understanding and processing the emotions associated with trauma. The services are available to the families free of charge.

In 2015, the Boys & Girls Clubs plans to offer this program at all five of its St. Joseph County locations. As part of this effort, Boys & Girls Clubs staff hopes to inculcate a culture of trauma awareness throughout the organization.

“For at-risk children like those we serve, nearly half will experience trauma in their young lives,” says Jory Fitzgerald Kelly, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County. “We’re committed to ensuring that every child receives immediate support to heal the often invisible wounds of trauma.”

Your gift to the Community Foundation's Greatest Needs Fund supports valuable projects like this one. You can donate online: www.cfsjc.org.