



Community
Foundation of
Wabash County

We're here for giving. We're here for good.

Press Release

*P.O. Box 98, 218 E. Main Street
N. Manchester, IN 46962*

Phone: 260/982-4824

Fax: 260/982-8644

Website: www.cfwabash.org

E-mail: marketing@cfwabash.org

Contact: Maryhelen Chadwick (mhchadwick@yahoo.org)

Phone: 260-982-4824

For Immediate Release

Date: 11/15/2007

\$1 for \$1 matching gift offered towards Lilly Endowment's Challenge to the Community Foundation and Wabash County

By: Tracy Trump, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Wabash County

As we celebrate Community Foundation Week (Nov. 11-17), we reflect on how much Wabash County has been blessed by Lilly Endowment's deep and enduring commitment to Indiana. The five phases of the 1991 GIFT Initiative have encouraged the creation of more than 176 designated charitable endowments, totaling more than \$9.8 million. These endowments, administered by the Community Foundation of Wabash County have awarded close to \$3 million in grants to the organizations and causes designated by their founders. Further, because the GIFT Initiative allowed for the creation of unrestricted endowment funds, the Foundation has, since 1993, provided over \$1.2 million in grants to Wabash County, addressing needs related to public health, education, recreation, transportation and arts and civic affairs. Without a doubt, the Community Foundation has been able to help many in Wabash County thanks to Lilly Endowment. And the Endowment continues to challenge us, now with a new program.

Currently, the Foundation is addressing Lilly Endowment's Sustaining Resource Development (SRD) Initiative, whose primary goal is to encourage Indiana's more than 90 community foundations to become self-sustaining and financially independent of Lilly assistance. The program has provided funding for training Foundation board and staff members in development and fund-raising.

This program challenges all of us to secure our future – to build a forever foundation. The SRD mandate to “sustain ourselves” requires us to focus on how we will fund our mission far into the future. In this

regard, our board and staff are working to develop operating endowments. These are the only type of endowments whose earnings are dedicated solely to sustain the work and mission of the Foundation, in other words, pay for our operating expenses.

We are thankful to an anonymous donor who has pledged a \$1 for \$1 match for operating endowment contributions received on or before December 31, 2008, up to \$100,000. This commitment to the future of Wabash County is truly inspiring. Generations will be blessed by this enduring act of citizenship.

We know many Wabash county citizens understand the work of the Community Foundation —our services in grant giving and endowment building, but few people realize how our operational expenses are met, so we are especially grateful to this donor for this generous matching offer to help us develop these important funds—to become a forever foundation.”

We hope the community will respond positively to this generous \$1 for \$1 match. It is critical that the Foundation build endowments to sustain our operations in perpetuity. But equally as vital, is successfully responding to Lilly’s challenge. Wabash County has done so well in meeting every challenge the Endowment has offered, and our citizens have benefited from their vision. So as before, the Foundation will be working hard to met this new challenge, and make sure that indeed, *we’re here for good*.

Gifts to the Administrative Endowment can be made as a memorial or honorarium to a loved one, or even to commemorate an occasion. Named operating endowments also may be created. For further information, or to help build the Foundation’s operating endowments, please contact, or send a check payable to Foundation at 218 East Main Street, PO Box 98, the initiative ends December 31, 2008.
