



Community Foundation of Wabash County

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

Press Release

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Local organizations receive \$43,000 in Community Foundation's Spring Grant Cycle

Despite the downturn in the economy and a reduction in the amount available for grants, the Community Foundation of Wabash County knows it still is crucial to provide support to nonprofits serving our community. The money for the majority of these grants comes from the Foundation's Good Deeds Unrestricted Endowments, which support perpetual grant giving. Other sources of funding came from field of interest endowments and donor advised funds held at the Foundation.

In its first of three grant cycles in 2009, the Foundation awarded more than \$43,000 to local schools, organizations and groups serving Wabash County.

Second Harvest Food Bank (\$12,500) *Tailgate Program*. The Second Harvest Food Bank Tailgate Program provides Wabash County's needy residents with an additional source of food as they struggle daily to make ends meet. During the past 12-month period, Second Harvest Food Bank provided 151,870 pounds of fresh produce, dairy and dry food products to the area's low-income residents through 11 stops with the following statistics: North Manchester: 207 families with 609 family members served with 16,148 pounds of food (1 stop). Wabash: an average of 478 families (1,405 individuals) served with 13,572 pounds of food per stop (10 stops). Food valued at \$226,286 was distributed. This program supplements the work of the area food pantries, giving them some relief from the increasing number of requests for food assistance. According to the US Census report 2,284 people in the county live in poverty and 7,497 more live between the poverty level and 185% of poverty-the point at which they no longer qualify for federal assistance programs but do not earn a living wage. The Tailgate Program is open to all in need and engages the community in a monthly activity to alleviate hunger for their most vulnerable citizens. This grant is funded, in part, by the **Beauchamp & McSpadden Charitable Endowment**.

Lighthouse Missions (\$10,000) *Holiday Food Baskets*. Lighthouse Mission provided 800 food baskets this Easter to those in need in Wabash County. Single moms, senior adults, families and the recently unemployed, mentally and physically disabled, recently released inmates and young folks just starting out benefit from these Holiday Food Baskets. This grant is funded, in part, by the **Galley Family Charitable Endowment**.

Trinity Lutheran Church (\$980) *Victory Over Hunger Garden*. This grant will help the Church extend its existing feeding ministries by building a garden on its property. The garden will be planted with a wide variety of fresh vegetables and will be tended by members and friends of the congregation. All produce will be donated to the food pantries of Wabash County. The largest individual expense will be the fencing needed to keep the deer, rabbits and other small animals out of the garden.

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Foundation Spring Grant Cycle-Add One

MSD-Northfield Jr/Sr High School (\$349) *Kindergarten Science*. This grant will fund the purchase of safety goggles for Metro North Elementary School and materials for Northfield High School to build a paper rocket launcher in order to create a paper rocket activity at Metro North. Northfield is trying to reduce the cost of a launcher by building one, instead of buying one that would cost around \$350. Constructing this device will provide an excellent hands-on design activity for the CAD II students at Northfield. The rockets will be made from standard 8 1/2x11" computer paper. Other classes at Metro North, grades K-6, may also benefit from the use of these safety goggles. This program is important because it will introduce kindergarteners to math and science.

Junior Achievement serving Wabash County (\$4,400) *Finance Park*. Finance Park was created to help middle and high school students improve financial literacy and build a sense of fiscal responsibility and economic reality. Finance Park includes classroom instruction and a day-long hands-on simulation designed to mimic adult decision-making challenges. This grant is funded, in part, by the **Strauss Family Charitable Endowment**.

Manchester Community Child Care Association, Inc. (\$2,837.74) *Equipment*. This grant will support the purchase of new equipment to enrich the development of large motor skills and to support sensory and science skills for children who attend the Manchester Early Learning Center. This grant is funded, in part, by the **David D. & Jane C. Grandstaff Charitable Endowment**, the **A. Blair & Patricia Kennedy Helman Charitable Endowment** and the **Paul L. Speicher Foundation Good Deeds Endowment**.

WCS-Wabash City Schools (VPA) (\$2,500) *Summer Youth Theatre*. Students will rehearse three weeks (Monday through Friday) from June 8 through June 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 at Wabash Middle School. Students in grades 7 through 12 will present the full-length Broadway musical, WORKING. Grades three through six will do TREASURE ISLAND. Summer theatre is one of the few opportunities for students from all of the county schools to work together on a program in the arts. This helps build a feeling of "community" within our county. This is the only summer program in theater offered by any of the schools for high school students. This grant is funded, in part, by the **North Manchester Fine Arts Club**.

WCS-Wabash Middle School (\$1,000) *2009 6th Grade Chicago Trip*. The Wabash Middle School sixth grade's annual field trip to Chicago includes visits to three museums. Approximately 123 students and 30 chaperones will participate in this cultural experience. This trip provides an opportunity for low socio-economic students to experience educational and culturally diverse activities as mandated by the President's "No Child Left Behind" initiative.

Wabash County Council on Aging (\$3,624) *Security System*. This grant will allow the Winchester Senior Center to upgrade its security system to make it compatible with other systems in the building.

Wabash Friends Counseling Center (\$1,000) *Windows of Opportunity for Women (WOW)*. WOW is a program that focuses on women as viable members of the workforce. As women reenter the workplace after staying home to raise families, retire from their present positions, decide to improve their current skills, or changing their life goals or careers, WOW provides a connection to area businesses looking for quality employees, to university programs for additional education, and to information and workshops that improve their leadership and job skills.

LIFE Center (\$276) *New TV/DVD Unit*. The LIFE Center plans to use the TV/DVD unit at Teen MOPS meetings, health fairs, in classrooms, at the 4H fair and at other venues throughout the County. Funded, in part, by the **A. Blair & Patricia Kennedy Helman Charitable Endowment**.

Foundation Spring Grant Cycle-Add Two

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (\$1,600) *Leadership Camp Scholarships*. FCA Leadership Camp is for student-athletes, students, Huddle Coaches and volunteers who serve as leaders on their local campuses. These scholarships will send eight students to camp to focus on teaching practical skills for Christian growth and biblical leadership, becoming an effective campus leader and preparing to be active in the FCA Campus Ministry. This grant is funded by an **anonymous grant from a donor advised fund held at the Foundation**.

Manchester College (Koinonia Environmental Center) (\$1,000) *Indiana Heritage Program (IHP)*. The IHP is designed to make fourth-grade students more aware of their cultural history with regard to important figures and events that have shaped the societal landscape of today. Students will interact with positive role models (instructors, parents and volunteers). This program allows teachers to engage students outside the traditional classroom. This grant is funded, in part, by the **David D. & Jane C. Grandstaff Charitable Endowment** and the **Paul L. Speicher Foundation Good Deeds Endowment**.

Charley Creek Foundation (\$3,000) *Charley Creek Arts Festival*. This arts-focused weekend will bring professional and amateur musicians, fine art and dance, and activities for all ages to Wabash. Events are free of charge, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the arts in a tangible way. The festival will provide a venue for young artists (such as the Best of the Best) and musicians, and seasoned veterans to display, demonstrate and sell their works. It also provides opportunities for families to enjoy a day together at the hands-on music and art area or the Concert on the Lawn. This grant is funded, in part, by the **North Manchester Fine Arts Club** and the **David D. & Jane C. Grandstaff Charitable Endowment**.

Town of North Manchester—Tree Commission (\$1,000) *Restoration of ice storm-damaged trees*. The ice storm of December 19, 2008, dealt a devastating blow to North Manchester, a community that's proud of its tree-lined streets and entryways into town. The hardest hit area was on State Road 114 West from the State Road 13/114 junction east to West Street. Twenty flowering pear trees were severely damaged and consequently removed. Now there are obvious gaps in this tree-lined gateway street into the business district. The North Manchester Tree Advisory Commission needs to restore this area with 20 new trees. This grant is funded by the **Manchester Recycling, Inc. Endowment**.

The next grant application deadline is July 15, 2009. A free Write it Right workshop is scheduled for June 24, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Honeywell Center. For information about applying for a grant or attending the workshop, call 260-982-4824, email shelly@cfwabash.org, visit our web site at www.cfwabash.org, or stop by our office at 218 East Main Street, North Manchester.
