

## Regional Economic Development Plan Under Way

Marianne Rose, president and CEO of The Community Foundation, and board president Dave Luhman are among the industry, academia, and community organization leaders developing what will become the Greater Lafayette Regional Prosperity Plan.

Focusing on what it takes for a community to prosper—economic innovation, quality of life and place, education, and workforce development — these leaders are identifying opportunities, assets, and resources that can be better utilized and coordinated to benefit residents and communities.

The plan will cover 10 counties: Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton,

Fountain, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White, with the possibility of expanding as the plan develops.

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION THE CONVENER

The year-long process is supported by a \$495,000 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP) Foundation, with The Community Foundation serving as convener of the steering committee.

“Lilly Endowment has traditionally looked to community foundations to be neutral conveners in their communities,” Rose says. “Coordinating a group of regional leaders, those who are keenly aware

of community assets, to develop a regional economic development plan is our best path forward.”

When complete at year end, the plan will recommend ways to leverage regional assets to drive economic growth and enhance quality of life.

Greater Lafayette is the fifth region selected by Lilly Endowment to conduct a regional prosperity planning effort.

### OTHERS RECEIVED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Lilly Endowment launched the economic development initiative in 2007 to encourage community foundations to play more central

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## Foundation Funds Youth Safety Program

A \$15,000 Community Foundation grant is funding helmets, pads, and family manuals for kids and teaching 20 adults the national radKIDS personal empowerment and safety education program for Tippecanoe School Corp. students.

Offered to girls and boys, the program is a modification of the women’s Rape Aggression Defense Systems Training known as R.A.D.

Those trained locally will provide 10 hours of classroom and recess sessions at Hershey Elementary. Initial plans are to teach 2nd and 4th graders, beginning this fall or spring, then expand to other schools.

The “radKIDS provides lessons in empowerment and a toolbox for responding when kids feel unsafe,” says Aaron Gilman, a deputy in the Tippecanoe County Sheriff’s Department, which is teaming with TSC to provide the program. “That’s what’s key for me—the ability for

kids to have confidence, to get away when they’re not safe, and get to a trusted source.”

“Through this program, children will learn to think through situations that may be unsafe,” says Michelle Lehman, student services coordinator at Hershey.



*These Hershey Elementary School students are participating in a pilot radKIDS program to learn how to keep themselves safe.*



*Regional Economic continued*

roles in community advancement and to generate recommendations the Endowment might fund.

The first three initiatives were developed by groups in the Bartholomew, Allen, and Kosciusko county regions, each covering multiple counties. All three subsequently received Lilly Endowment funding to implement various recommendations. The Monroe County region is now finalizing its plan.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

David Bathe, Ivy Tech

JoAnn Brouillette, Demeter LP

Dick Giromini, Wabash National

Gary Henriott, Henriott Group

Gary Lehman, Oerklikon USA Holdings Inc.

Stephanie Long, North Central Health Services

David Luhman, Hoffman Luhman Masson PC

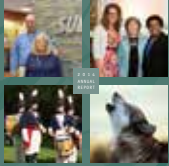
Paul Mitchell, CICP Foundation

Marianne Rose, The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette

Steve Schultz, Purdue University

*Gathered for a community conversation in White County are Leslie Goss, executive director of the Community Foundation of White County (center), with Greater Lafayette Regional Prosperity Plan steering committee members (from left) Marianne Rose, Dave Luhman, Stephanie Long, and Gary Henriott.*

Community Foundation



Leading Philanthropy  
Enriching Lives

Annual Report Online

The Community Foundation's 2014 annual report is now online at [www.cfglaf.org](http://www.cfglaf.org).

## Philanthropy Reigns with 100+ Women Who Care

Four hours and \$500 a year is giving local women a voice in philanthropy while helping nonprofits. That is what is asked of women interested in participating in 100+ Women Who Care, whose membership continues to grow.

The \$100 to join goes to a Community Foundation endowment; the remaining is given at quarterly meetings where members suggest potential recipients and choose one to receive \$100 from each member. In return, members learn about philanthropy, local nonprofits, and community issues.

“We are providing an opportunity for women to have a voice, and that can mean a greater impact as we increase awareness of needs for giving,” says member Carolyn Gery.

The first two nonprofit recipients to benefit were It’s My Closet and Joyful Journey, An Adult Day Service. The group next meets September 10 and December 10. To join, contact Candy Silver, [candy@cfglaf.org](mailto:candy@cfglaf.org), 765/742-9078.



*The Community Foundation's 100+ Women Who Care is helping nonprofits achieve their missions. Pictured are group members and Joyful Journey representatives who accepted the contribution.*



ONLINE GIVING

Gifts to The Community Foundation may be made online at [www.cfglaf.org](http://www.cfglaf.org).

#### RECENT GIFTS

Received from April 1 through June 30, 2015:

#### IN MEMORY

**Phyllis Boehning**  
Jack and Cheryl Coffin

**Judy Bougher**  
Michael and Margery Bluestein

#### Mary Beth Buescher

Michael and Margery Bluestein

#### Mary Ruth Graham

David and Carol Luhman

#### Matt Hunter

Michael and Margery Bluestein

#### Beulah Jaeger

Larry and Marianne Rose

#### Ward H. Jamesen

Jim and JoAnn Vorst

#### Diana Sue Leslie

Jim Leslie

#### Mick and Shirley McTague

Molly McDaniel

#### Edward Nemeth

Ball Eggleston PC  
Tippecanoe County Bar Association



*Robert Mertz, then 60, is pictured on the right in this 1985 photo with his brother Jack and their year round Christmas tree.*

*Photo courtesy of Journal and Courier.*

## Spirit of Christmas Inspired Ongoing, Legacy Gifts

Rumors abound about why the Christmas tree stayed up year round for decades in the house at 10th and Salem streets, even though the residents, Robert “Bob” Mertz and his brother Jack, discounted them all. Their tradition began in 1974, they said, when there was no time to take it down, and they decided to leave it up all the time.

It might be said, though, that the tree represented Bob Mertz’ spirit of giving that included time, tasks, and financial contributions—all year long and through planned giving he designated through his will.

Born in Lafayette, Mertz graduated from Jefferson High School, got his business education at Indiana University, served in the U.S. Army

from 1944 to 1946, and resided most of his life in the Salem Street house where he grew up. His career was in accounting at various businesses. He died in November 2013 at age 89, four years after moving to Westminster Village.

### PERSONABLE, HARD WORKING

“He was a hard worker and dedicated,” William Davis says of Mertz’s nearly 20 years working in the Davis construction business. “He was very private, neat and tidy, but not a fancy person.”

Mertz knew how to have a good time, Davis says. “His ability to interact with people—that was one of his greatest attributes. He was friendly and outgoing.”

He also liked to get involved, joining and supporting the Centennial Neighborhood Association when he worked in the neighborhood.

“He was extremely quiet, very reserved, self-effacing, but he worked behind the scenes and got results,” recalls Michael Hunt, an association member. “Bob was our champion.”

### A MAN TO COUNT ON

As a worker, “Bob took care of everything,” says Stephen Thompson, who worked with him at an accounting firm. “If a light bulb went out, he changed it.

“Bob invested wisely, and he gave to every charity that ever walked,” says Thompson.

Active in the Elks, Masonic Lodge and American Legion, Mertz was passionate about local history. That prompted him to leave a bequest in his will to establish the Robert F. Mertz Endowment for the Tippecanoe County Historical Association Foundation Fund at The Community Foundation.

It was one of many gifts during his life and through his will.

“When he got involved, he was involved. He was the first person people would call,” Thompson says.

#### Katie Traynor RN

Joseph Bailey  
Carol A. Du Clos and  
Megan Brown  
Laura Kaplan  
Gary and Lynn Leviton  
Elizabeth Miller  
Amanda Nutty  
Mark Pacchini  
Brent Shreve

Jill Sielaff

Kelly Stein  
Gary and Cindy Traynor  
Karl and Dawn Zaininger

#### Robert Traynor

Gary and Lynn Leviton  
Karl and Dawn Zaininger

#### From Lafayette Hearing Center in Memory

Dan Bowman  
Mary Ruth Graham  
Herbert Miller  
Donald Morehouse  
Mary Scott  
Dorothy Wilcox

#### IN HONOR

##### Flo Caddell

Susan Dringenberg

##### Robert and Ellen Haan

Susan Dringenberg

##### Betty M. Nelson

Rodney and Jeanne Kelsay  
Sally Watlington

#### Betty Rowe

Susan Rowe

#### Charlie Shook

Linda Cohen

#### Al and Gladys Wright

Linda Cohen

#### NEW ENDOWMENT

Jack and Leta Kelley  
Endowment



Students from Burgett's Learning Center are pictured taking a break after helping plant trees along Kalberer Road this spring. A grant from The Community Foundation to the West Lafayette Parks Foundation funded the purchase of 30 trees, part of a trial to determine optimal choices for this area.

## Six Receive Discretionary Grants

Six nonprofits recently shared \$26,027 in Tier 3 discretionary grants:

### Art Museum of Greater Lafayette

\$2,525, security cameras

### Jessie's Kids Foundation

\$2,550, student restorative justice project

### Lafayette School Corporation

\$5,580, 10 iPads and cases for math instruction

### Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association

\$3,750, community diversity summit

### Lafayette Urban Ministry

\$6,522, 30 chrome books and charging cabinet

### West Lafayette Parks Foundation

\$5,100, 30 trees for public exhibit and trial research area

### UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE:

September 1, 2015 | **TIER 2 AND FIELD-OF-INTEREST**

Year-round | until noon, December 1, 2015 | **TIER 3**

For more information, [www.cfglaf.org](http://www.cfglaf.org).



## Matching Funds Still Available

So far, 653 local donors have said "yes" to help The Community Foundation earn \$1.5 million in matching funds from Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow Initiative, Phase VI.

David and Anita McGaughey found the match "too good to pass up," he says. "I think of it as getting a 100-percent return on our gift, allowing more to be done for the community. We chose unrestricted because we have confidence in the Community Foundation's ability to recognize community needs and award grants where needed."

For Mariellen Neudeck, "The opportunity to double your money made both financial and philanthropic sense." She gives because, "This community has been a wonderful home for us to live and raise our sons."

The Foundation has until March 2016 to earn up to \$35,971 more in matching funds, says Candy Silver, director of philanthropy. Gifts must be made to discretionary endowments, which allow the Foundation to allocate funds where most needed.



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Greater Lafayette

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Leading Philanthropy Creating Lives

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