

Finding the Gap

Greater Lafayette has great schools, various employment opportunities, and a good quality of life. Yet, a real gap exists that hinders many in our community from thriving. Solutions Consulting, a Purdue student organization, reached out to The Community Foundation in 2020 amid the pandemic to offer their assistance. At the same time, The Community Foundation President and CEO David Lasater was working with Michael Budd, President and CEO of the United Way of Greater Lafayette and Scott Walker, President and CEO of Greater Lafayette Commerce as well as local leaders of four Cook Companies* considering ways to identify and overcome health and human services barriers for local families.

Solutions Consulting is a Purdue student-led management and technology consulting firm. Their mission is to apply practical solutions to solve real-world problems. One member received a scholarship from a nonprofit organization, which prompted the group to pay it forward in Greater Lafayette. For nearly six months, the working group met weekly via Zoom. The students surveyed local nonprofits and identified obstacles that exist in developing a more robust workforce in the community. This fall, the students will primarily focus on gathering information to better understand the issues that Greater Lafayette residents have accessing transportation and affordable and reliable childcare.

If parents have challenges accessing either childcare or transportation, employment opportunities are limited. Both issues are detriments to a robust workforce and a strong thriving community.

Project Manager Eli Colton shared, “Moving forward, Solutions Consulting plans to research ways other cities and societies have taken to improve their childcare and transportation situations. We will also speak with community members affected by these issues to understand their perspectives on these challenges. Combining these research approaches, Solutions will provide an in-depth review of solutions from other societies and how they can help the Greater Lafayette area.”

“There is no silver bullet to resolve the health and human service issues we’ve identified, but our working group’s hope is that this collaborative effort will help find opportunities for local companies to engage with the community through long-term philanthropy and employee volunteerism in tangible ways,” Lasater added.

*Neal Fearnot, President, Cook Advanced Technologies & MED Institute, Jennifer Kerr, President, Cook Research Incorporated and Umesh Patel, President, Cook Biotech Incorporated



Providing ways for more people to enjoy a better quality of life is one of The Foundation's top priorities. Photo by Dan Hester



Ruth and Virgil St. John

Tribute to the Torchbearer

Selected as one of the 12,467 torchbearers of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, Virgil St. John carried the Olympic torch through a leg in West Lafayette in the nearly 17,000-mile torch relay across America. He was chosen by virtue of being a “community hero.” That moniker described the lives of Virgil and his wife, Ruth, as they quietly and thoroughly contributed to the betterment of the community.

While working on his master of science degree in chemistry from Purdue University, Virgil was recruited and spent three years working on the Manhattan Project of the Atomic Energy Commission to help bring about the end of World War II. Virgil received a distinguished award for his service to the country, the first of many other prestigious awards he received in his lifetime. After his

degree, he immediately began working for Eli Lilly and Company, rising through the ranks, retiring as Vice President of Manufacturing Operations, overseeing Lilly plants in Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Clinton, IN, and one in Kinsale, Ireland. His leadership at Eli Lilly gave him the experience and insight to help other organizations succeed. But knowledge and experience alone do not make a hero. Heroes are brave, selfless, and desire good for others.

Virgil became involved in many community boards, such as Lafayette Life, The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Long Center, Friends of Convocations, Lafayette Symphony, Purdue Research Foundation, Bank One, and Greater Lafayette Commerce. “All of the areas that Dad approached, discussed, or worked on involved our mother, Ruth St. John,” said their daughter Deb St. John Mishler. “Together, they brought about a total greater than the sum of their parts!”

St. John’s legacy was the hope to leave the community a better place.

Virgil and Ruth St. John wanted to keep the torch of goodwill burning in Greater Lafayette and established several endowments with The Community Foundation to fuel the flame. Their designated endowments include the Omega Columbarium Fund for the First United Methodist Church in West Lafayette and individual funds in honor of their daughters, Deb and Jan, for the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra Foundation. The fourth endowment, the C. Virgil and Ruth W. St. John Fund, was established as a legacy gift which became a discretionary fund after the couple passed away. Annual distributions from the fund become vital community grants.

Although the kindhearted, generous, and civic-minded St. Johns are gone, we express our gratitude and consider them community heroes who carried the torch to light the path for so many others.

IN VIRGIL ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT REMARKS IN 1989, HE SHARED SOME OF HIS CORE BELIEFS:

- KNOWING IS NOT ENOUGH – IT’S WHAT WE DO THAT COUNTS;
- VERSATILITY – BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CHANGE AND GET WITH IT;
- THINK POSITIVE – WAYS TO MAKE IT WORK, NOT WHY IT DIDN’T;
- ALWAYS HAVE FOREMOST IN OUR MIND THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL;
- SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE WILLINGNESS TO SHARE. VALUES ARE KEPT ALIVE BY SHARING;
- WE GAIN FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND THE FORTUNES AND MISFORTUNES OF OTHERS. A GOOD TEACHER PUTS IT ALL TOGETHER AND SHARES IT WITH STAFF OR PEERS.

Recent Gifts APRIL, MAY, JUNE – 2021

IN MEMORY

- Jim Buescher**
Charlene Mencini
- Dr. John Foster**
Mary Nell Kadlec
- Dr. Eldon Hood**
Mary Waltmann
- Diana Sue Leslie**
Jim Leslie
- Jerome and Shirley McTague**
KJG Architecture, Inc.
Dana and Maggie Smith
- Stephen Robb**
Ball Eggleston, PC

- Katie Traynor**
Carol Du Clos and
Megan Brown
Abbe and Alan Heller
Mary and William Malloy
Amanda Murphy
Elisabeth Slotten
Kelly Stein
- Mary Twiddy**
Franklin W. Arkenberg
Heather Stampfl
- Dolph Edward (Ted) Ulrich**
Barbara and Russell Allison

- Lafayette Hearing Center**
Gifts in memory of these individuals
Mary Baber
Nancy Bauman
Barbara Blessing
John Burr, Sr.
Lillian Cote
David Filmer
Melvin Graham
Colleen Halsema
Carol Kerkhoff
Becky Livingston
Walter (W.L.) Mills
Katie Plantenga

- Stephen Robb
Barb Schmidt
Ginny Severs
Bob Sorensen
Betty VanMeter
Sarah VanSickle
Charles Watson
Paul Weflen

IN HONOR

- Betty Rowe**
Joan Banning
- Cook Employees**
Cook Research, Inc.

Leafy Legacy

The West Lafayette Tree Friends received a generous gift from the estate of John and Joann MacDonald in late 2019. John was especially active in Tree Friends, serving as one of the original E.T. (Emergency Tree) Squad members who tackled fallen trees due to storms or car accidents. He and other group members seasonally pruned and planted street trees in West Lafayette to beautify the urban landscape. His expertise as a Purdue entomology professor aided the group in identifying pests, like the emerald ash borer and others that harm trees. Through his guidance, residents in the Northwestern Heights neighborhood could protect and save their beautiful ash trees.

“We had a rare opportunity to honor the MacDonalds with their legacy gift,” said Bryce Patz, community forestry and greenspace manager. “We wanted to grow their gift so that it could live on forever.” Bryce formed a committee to determine how best to invest the windfall, perhaps through an endowment. “We explored other options first, other 501c3 organizations, but realized that The Community Foundation was the leading expert to do an endowment justice,” he said. “We’ve already seen significant growth and will receive our first distribution this year.”

The West Lafayette Tree Friends Endowment was established in 2020 to support a vital urban forest in the community, planting and replacing trees. Trees are not only beautiful, but they also provide oxygen, absorb stormwater, and offset our carbon footprint. The endowment safeguards the legacy gift so it can have an ongoing positive environmental impact. If your agency or organization is looking for a way to provide lasting income to meet tomorrow’s needs, consider establishing an agency endowment through The Community Foundation.



West Lafayette Tree Friends volunteers

Is Gold Key for Me?

The Gold Key Society is an exceptional group of professional advisors that share information about The Community Foundation to help their clients achieve philanthropic goals. They help spread the word on how fulfilling their clients’ needs can significantly benefit our community. We are very grateful for their knowledgeable assistance. If you are a financial advisor, accountant, lawyer, or insurance professional who supports The Community Foundation, we invite you to join the Gold Key Society.

Please contact Candy Silver for more information 765/742-9078 or candy@cflaf.org

Grants Awarded

FIELD OF INTEREST

AT-RISK YOUTH

LTHC Homeless Services
\$1,250 | Early learning books for families
\$740 | Computer for students at Family Campus

COMMUNITY BENCHES

NICHES
\$147 | Bench installation at Herb and Dortha Parker’s Hickory Grove Farm

CANCER CARE

The Community Cancer Network, Inc.
\$16,900 | Client services program assistance

Indiana University Health Foundation
\$13,300 | Vein finder

YWCA of Greater Lafayette
\$3,395 | Women’s cancer technology upgrades

CHILDHOOD & PRESCHOOL LITERACY

Nuestra Escuelita
\$500 | Bilingual books

Right Steps Child Development Centers
\$30,000 | Imagination Library program

CHILDREN’S NEEDS

LTHC Homeless Services
\$2,500 | Supplies for children and families experiencing homelessness

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Tippecanoe Arts Federation | \$6,575 | Art bridges

ELDER CARE

Caregiver Companion | \$598 | Volunteer supplies

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

LTHC Homeless Services
\$2,178 | Single touch items for meal service

Food Finders Food Bank Inc.
\$5,000 | Fresh milk, eggs, and produce

LITERACY

Homestead Consulting
\$20,000 | Financial literacy education

YWCA | \$13,750 | Empowerment services: financial and digital literacy

MUSIC EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

Tippecanoe Arts Federation
\$7,750 | Rhythm Explorations and ARTreach

Bach Chorale Singers, Inc.
\$1,600 | Scholarships for children’s choir

WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT

Wabash Disc Golf | \$1,945 | Installation of tee pads

ONLINE GIVING
Gifts to The Community Foundation may be made online at cflaf.org.



NOW GRANTS

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lafayette, Inc.**
\$4,364 | Computers and TV streaming
- Boy Scouts of America, Sagamore Council**
\$7,500 | Hot water heater
- Caregiver Companion Inc.**
\$1,338 | Volunteer program redevelopment
- Goodwill Industries**
\$7,500 | Employment training technology
- Hanna Community Center**
\$6,897 | Improvements to programming and services
- Heartford House**
\$800 | Laptop for advocate
- Homestead Consulting**
\$4,530 | Computer equipment
- Tree Lafayette**
\$7,200 | Plant 200 trees in Lafayette
- Matrix Lifecare Center**
\$7,500 | Office security system
- Modern Mental Health Inc**
\$6,635 | Furniture for new offices and staff
- NAMI West Central Indiana**
\$6,700 | Technology equipment
- National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Joe Tiller Chapter**
\$925 | Copy machine and printer
- NICHES Land Trust**
\$3,800 | Sickle bar for land stewardship
- Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County**
\$1,100 | Laptop
- Right Steps Child Development Centers**
\$7,500 | Window shades
- Robert and Ellen Haan Museum of Indiana Art**
\$3,738 | Air conditioner



Bach Chorale Children’s Choir received a field of interest grant for scholarships for disadvantaged children.

- Servants at Work Inc**
\$6,631 | New tools and a trailer
- The Home with Hope, Inc.**
\$4,413 | Door framing replacement
- Willowstone Family Services**
\$1,512 | Air purifiers
- FALL GRANTS**
- Civic Theatre**
\$59,540 | New wireless systems
- Group Homes for Children**
\$14,947 | New flooring
- Lafayette Family YMCA**
\$43,789 | Youth pavilion
- LTHC Homeless Services**
\$53,661 | New flooring and security doors
- Mental Health America, Wabash Valley Region**
\$25,000 | Updated security system

- River City Community Center**
\$20,500 | After school program bus
- Robert and Ellen Haan Museum of Indiana Art**
\$19,326 | Porch repairs
- Thomas Duncan Hall, Inc.**
\$36,082 | Performance stage renovation

2021 DEADLINES

HONORING THE PAST, FORGING THE FUTURE: THE FOUNDATION’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
RSVP at cfglaf.org/50 by October 8

NOW GRANTS
Available any time from January 1 through November 30, 2021
Less than \$7,500



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