

Photo courtesy of Tippecanoe County Public Library



Burr Swezey Jr.

Betting on the Future

We all bet on tomorrow. Every time we grow our family, start a new job or business, relocate, plant a tree, or start an endowment. We invest our time, love, and resources in the hope of a better and brighter future.

“That’s exactly what Burr Swezey Jr. did,” said David Lasater, CEO and president of The Community Foundation. “Burr bet on The Community Foundation, creating one of the first discretionary endowments with an initial gift of \$10,000.” Throughout his lifetime, Burr continued to make substantial donations. Today, the fund has grown exponentially

and has distributed nearly \$170,000 to help more than 35 local nonprofits and the people they serve.

Burr was a visionary leader from the start. His father founded Lafayette National Bank, and later Burr took the reins and ran the bank and several civic organizations. He also served on the first Board of Directors of The Community Foundation. Like the thousands of Community Foundation donors who followed him, he envisioned a better quality of life for all. Donors’ gifts come in all sizes. Every charitable gift contributes to the success story of Greater Lafayette. Virtually every aspect of our community is touched by our organization’s good works, made possible by donors.

“Right now, we are in the middle of a really good book,” said board chairman David McGaughey. “Our modest beginning gained incredible momentum through the years,” he said. “The current chapter of 2020 gave us the opportunity and the means to make a difference when and where it mattered most. The rest of the story has yet to be written, but looks like a best-seller.”

“The Community Foundation anticipates helping more people create a lasting legacy,” said David Lasater. “We’re betting on a bright future. As we head into the holiday season and 2021, best wishes for peace, prosperity, health, and happiness.”

What Is Your Legacy?

Perhaps you would like future generations to remember your love of education, passion for history, or compassion for the poor. What if you could establish a legacy that lasts well beyond your lifetime? With a little planning, you can unlock the potential of perpetual philanthropy.

We humbly invite you to join the Legacy Society by advising us of your intended commitment to include The Foundation as a beneficiary in your estate plans. Legacy gifts positively impact lives now and in the future, in addition to providing a myriad of benefits to the donor.

Please contact us to learn more: info@cflaf.org or 765-742-9078

CREATE A

Legacy



FULL CIRCLE STORIES

Kirby and Carolyn Risk

Kirby and Carolyn Risk had a fairytale wedding on the heels of the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, where 20-year old Carolyn held court among other beauty queens. Throughout their 55 years of marriage in Lafayette, the Risk's legacy includes four children and their families, a successful business, and countless people and organizations touched by their generosity. Whether it was a hot meal or a helping hand, their hallmark of graciously giving, serving, and rallying others to the causes they believed in continues today. They especially championed Leadership Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, and Art Museum of Greater Lafayette.

Thanks to the generosity of the Risks, Leadership Lafayette was able to redesign our website with an enhanced look and feel making it mobile friendly and accessible from any device. Most recently, Class 50 was able to return after more than a decade to Camp Tecumseh during our Opening Retreat allowing our participants to experience team building and bonding immersed in the beautiful nature of Lake Village at Kampen Lodge.



Jeanne and Dennis Gernhardt

Bill and Donna DeFouw became part of the fabric of Greater Lafayette as soon as they arrived from Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1961. A natural salesman, Bill bought the Chevrolet dealership and began to cultivate business and personal relationships in his new hometown. Donna invested herself in their three daughters' lives and became involved in the Symphony and the Art Museum. As the business grew, the DeFouws wanted to give back to the community they grew to love. The DeFouws cared deeply for those who were struggling in the community and most in need. Jeanne Gernhardt, their daughter, carries on their wishes and Jeanne's husband Dennis and their son Grant carry on the family business.

Jeanne recently directed a grant from the DeFouw Fund to support Caregiver Companion, an organization that connects volunteers with elderly and disabled members of our community who desire to remain in their home. Caitlin Manning, Associate Director of Caregiver Companion said of the gift, "We can continue finding, training, and matching volunteers who can assist weary caregivers and the elderly to stay where they can be surrounded by the blessing of their home."

Recent Gifts

July – September

IN MEMORY

Marion Baumgardner

Jim and JoAnn Vorst

Kathy Bollock

Jim and JoAnn Vorst

Morgan Burke

Dana and Maggie Smith

John Carlson

Reuben and Jean Peterson
Ronald and Josette Rolley

Jerry V. Cole II

Faye Cole

Paul Di Fabio

James and Cadi Bien
Catherine DeMent

Lynne Di Fabio

Nicole Evans Greek
Joellen M. Snoeberger
Angie Wilhoit

William (Bill) Gettings

Miriam Epple-Heath

Cheryl Knodle

Sheena and Andrew Gaskell



Bob, Patti, Randy, and Krista Truitt

Since 1957, three generations of Truitts lettered in twelve different sports and helped rack up multiple trophies for the Red Devils of West Lafayette High School. The lessons they learned from athletic competition and leadership encouraged the family to set up a scholarship fund to reward leadership qualities like tenacity, enthusiasm, mentoring, hard work, time management, and pulling together a diverse group of individuals to achieve a common goal. The Truitt Family scholarship fills a niche by recognizing leadership on the court or field, regardless of whether students continue to play in college, knowing that these traits positively transfer later in life.

Libby Sheffield, Director of Counseling at West Lafayette High School, says “The scholarship allows them to recognize students who have excelled behind the scenes. Leadership shows in more places than just on the playing field, and this award is an acknowledgement of students who are well-rounded role models for their teammates.”



Kathryn (Katie) Traynor, RN

Katie Traynor was a loving daughter and sister, spunky friend and girlfriend, and proud Boilermaker, starting her dream job as a neonatal intensive care nurse at IU Methodist Hospital. She had a passion for helping children and loved people and Purdue. Her life was full. Four months after she graduated, at age 22, Katie died in a tragic boating accident at Dale Hollow Lake. The accident cut her life short just as it was getting launched. Her family established a nursing scholarship, in her memory, to help other nurses realize their dreams.



Emily Harrington, from Concordia, Kansas, was one of the 2020 recipients. Emily said, “This scholarship has helped me immensely in finishing my last year of nursing school. It meant the world to me that the committee saw qualities in me that resembled Ms. Traynor and felt I was deserving of this award. I am truly grateful.”

Diana Sue Leslie

Jim Leslie

Kathy Mayer

Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer

Fred Sputh

Richard Boehning and Penny Wilkinson
John and Kathy Gambs

John Strathan

Jim and JoAnn Vorst

Katie Traynor RN

Carol Du Clos and Megan Brown
Drusilla Hay
Jerry Marra and Barb Schuster
Sara Miedema

Amanda Murphy

Mike and Margaret Schreiber
Sheila Smoot
Kelly Stein

Tony Zamora

Gloria Klutzke
Nick Vukas

Lafayette Hearing Center

Gift in memory of these individuals

John Anderson
Priscilla Bain
Marion Baumgardner
Charles Bossaer
Phyllis Bryant
Caryl Buck

Arlan Stavnheim

Originally a farm boy from north-central Iowa of 100-percent Norwegian descent, Arlan Stavnheim came to Indiana to pursue an industrial engineering career at Eli Lilly in 1963. He found a home in Lafayette just five years later. He retired in 1993, but he has never stopped working. Whether spearheading the Public School Foundation of Tippecanoe County, Tree Lafayette, or helping create Adopt-A-Spot or Adopt-A-Road programs in Lafayette, Arlan finds pleasure in identifying solutions for problems, acting on them, and moving on to the next big thing. He's a sparkplug in a think tank. The projects he tackles and the three endowments he established result from areas he recognized as needing attention and financial assistance.

Arlan established the Lafayette-West Lafayette Urban Forestry Endowment, which regularly supports Tree Lafayette, an organization of which Arlan was a founding member. Bill Arthur, Executive Director of Tree Lafayette, notes "Arlan and his wife can often be seen along our city streets helping prune and care for our trees. I cannot say enough how much we value their participation and appreciate their support."



Randy and Kathy Vernon

The Vernons are "boots on the ground" advocates for at-risk youth. Randy and Kathy support the Boys and Girls Club and fund Ivy Tech scholarships at Lafayette and Bloomington campuses. Recognizing that access to benefits and programming sets up children for success, regardless of their family's financial situation, motivated the Vernons to get involved. The beauty of their Community Foundation endowment is that it doesn't limit support to just one organization. Funding goes wherever it is most needed. As part of their planned giving, their endowment will continue to change lives for generations to come.

The Vernon's Field-of-Interest endowment supports at-risk youth. Last year, a grant went to Heartford House, an organization that advocates for youth who suffer from abuse or witness a crime in our community.

Dorothy Byrn
June Cohen
Phil Crane
Paul DiFabio
Ruth Dowden
Walter Fieleke
Ann Hopfe
Mary Lou Jones
Barbara Kampen

Bob Kingma
Harriet Klopfer
Charlie Knowles
John Mullen
Dortha Osmun
Rita Ruemler
Cliston Sample
Virginia Smith
Lila Sullivan

Emma Tse
Esther Weiner
Rick Westerman
John Wilms

IN HONOR
Betty Rowe
Joan Banning

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





Almost Home's technology grant is helping them adopt dogs to loving homes.

GIVING CIRCLES

100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

\$14,800 | for Bauer Family Resources

MEN WHO GIVE

\$7,500 | Tippecanoe County Council on Aging

2021 APPLICATION DEADLINES

SPRING COMMUNITY GRANTS

March 25, 2021, noon
\$7,500 and above

FIELD OF INTEREST GRANTS

June 1, 2021, noon
No dollar limit

FALL COMMUNITY GRANTS

July 29, 2021, noon
\$7,500 and above

NOW GRANT

Funding available January 1 through November 30, 2021
Less than \$7,500

Nonprofits Receive Funding

FALL GRANTS

Ouiatenon Preserve Inc.

\$10,175 | Maintenance equipment

YWCA of Greater Lafayette

\$8,707 | Efficient LED lighting

Right Steps

Child Development Centers

\$22,224 | Dishwasher replacement

Almost Home Humane Society

\$21,40.00 | Computer and network overhaul

Tippecanoe County

Historical Association

\$6,897 | Alarm and security system upgrades

Art Museum of

Greater Lafayette

\$9,763 | Technology upgrades

Matrix Lifecare Center

\$11,625 | Medical, administration and front office furniture updates

You are invited to join!

100+ Women Who Care and Men Who Give are groups of men and women in our community who enjoy social events while supporting local nonprofit organizations! What does it take to join? Membership consists of attendance at four quarterly events. At each event, 3 volunteers within the group are randomly selected to advocate for a local nonprofit organization they're passionate about. Then, the group votes for the winner. Each member contributes \$100 per event to the winning organization. Additionally, \$100 each year supports The Community Foundation's endowment for each group, allowing The Foundation to provide annual grants to local nonprofits. Since the groups were formed, over \$460,000 has been raised!

Sign up before the first meeting of 2021 for the option to pay all 2021 contributions in advance!

2020 IMPACT

100+ Women Who Care \$50,900

Organizations supported: Willowstone Family Services, Covid-19 Rapid Response Grant to fund YMCA essential workers childcare efforts, Bauer Family Resources

Men Who Give \$26,600

Organizations supported: Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Covid-19 Rapid Response Grant to fund YMCA essential workers childcare efforts, Tippecanoe County Council on Aging

CONTACT US TO JOIN TODAY!

100+

women who care
greater lafayette

100women@cflaf.org

MEN WHO GIVE

mwg@cflaf.org

Leading the Way

Thank you to our Board of Directors and many volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents to The Community Foundation. We are so grateful to have this group of people helping us with this important work.

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Leading Philanthropy Enriching Lives

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