

Golden Rule Economics

Shaped by the circumstances of their childhoods and recent hands-on eldercare, Randy and Kathy Vernon have a firm grasp of the community's most vulnerable populations. Retirement prompted proactive steps in their estate planning. It made perfect sense for them to do something meaningful to provide long-lasting solutions to situations they experienced.

Randy Vernon, a retired financial planner, did not have many advantages as a child. "I grew up at the poverty level and was raised by a single mother," he said. "I really wasn't aware of the Boys and Girls Club in my youth, but when I was asked to be on the board, it felt like a natural fit for me since I fit that demographic growing up," said Randy. He has paid it forward by serving as a 25-year board member. But they felt they could do even more for vulnerable youth.

Several years ago, they established a field-of-interest endowment at The Community Foundation to address the need: Randy and Kathy Vernon Endowment for At-Risk Youth. The endowment helps fund any organization that serves at-risk youth, including but not exclusively the Boys and Girls Club. Organizations that help disadvantaged youth realize their full potential as responsible, productive, and caring citizens.

Recently, Kathy's mother fell gravely ill and required the otherwise independent 86-year old to enter a nursing home where she was utterly dependent on others for even the simplest tasks. Kathy was able to visit her mother every day but saw that many other residents did not have the same family support. Wanting to do something for a nonprofit organization that aids the elderly, especially those in most need, the Vernons established a new designated endowment: Randy



Randy and Kathy Vernon

and Kathy Vernon Endowment for Tippecanoe County Council on Aging. The Senior Center on Elmwood Avenue impacts the quality of life for many elderly with meal delivery, home repair, transportation assistance, social events, activities, and classes. Some services are only for those in financial need. All programs aid the elderly from isolation in their golden years.

Becoming Legacy Society members was another step in their estate planning. "What appealed to us is that we can do something good that lasts into perpetuity," said Kathy. "Planning our legacy through The Community Foundation was easy and flexible. We could even include future gifts to our church through them."

To learn more, contact Candy Silver at candy@inspiringgreater.org or 765-742-9078.

Clearing the Way

“We’ll be much more effective and impactful at improving riverfront ecosystems now that we have the right tools!”

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) was established as a nonprofit in 2004 with a mission to improve the land and quality of life along the Wabash River Corridor for local residents and wildlife. They work closely with the Cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County to work toward this mission. In 2022, WREC applied for and received a NOW grant from The Foundation to purchase equipment and herbicide to aid in their efforts to turn a plot of land in downtown Lafayette into a public green space. The space was unfortunately overrun with invasive species that threatened the health of native plants, lowered biodiversity, increased erosion, and inhibited their efforts to develop an area useful to the public.

In January 2023, WREC hosted a public work day with the City of Lafayette to begin working to clear the invasive honeysuckle. Along with 10 community volunteers, including Purdue students, they cleared and hauled away 20 truckloads of honeysuckle.

While their work to improve the area is ongoing, the grant from The Foundation has given them a jumpstart on this important project. Amy Krzton-Presson, WREC Watershed Coordinator says, “We’ve been chipping away at invasive shrubs with manual tools for a while. This grant from the Community Foundation allowed us to purchase electric chainsaws and backpack sprayers. We’ll be much more effective and impactful at improving riverfront ecosystems now that we have the right tools!”

Volunteers cleared invasive honeysuckle along the Wabash River with tools purchased through a grant from The Community Foundation.



Recent Gifts OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | 2022

IN MEMORY

Jane Early Boswell

Stuart and Mary Bollock
Jeff Boswell
Charles Kendall
David and Carol Luhman
Barry Priest and
Rebecca Morrison
Larry and Marianne Rose

Frank Cheek

Larry and Marianne Rose

Samuel C. Curtis

Dave Raymer

Paul J. Di Fabio

Lynne Di Fabio

Douglas W. Eberle

Mary Claire Eberle
Lane and Sarah Yahiro

Anne Marie Hatke

Amy Craig
Sally Simmons

Phyllis Hunt

Larry and Marianne Rose

John E. Kadlec

Mary Nell Kadlec

Leta Kelley

Linda Bowman and
Glenn Tompkins

Fred Kuipers

Andrea Kuipers

Lynn Layden

Charlene Beaver
Nancy Brandt
John Scanlon

Sue Leslie

Linda Bowman and
Glenn Tompkins

Jerome and Shirley McTague

Maggy McDaniel
Tim and Molly Reilly

Jay Mermoud

Betty M. Nelson

Judi Painter

Jim and Mary Jo Risk

Sandy Pearlman

Linda Bowman and
Glenn Tompkins

Temple Pearson

Sue Ulrich

Michael R. Raisor

The Michael Richard
Raisor Foundation Inc

Betty Rowe

Joan Banning
John Rowe

Ralph Scarcelli

James and Kitty Brooks
Gary Wolfelt and
Esther Chosnek

Bob Sorensen

Linda Sorensen

Katie Traynor RN

Danielle Bluhm
Beth Branum
Douglas and Iris Dowden
Pam Hillerby
Jerry Marra and Barb Schuster
Michael and Jodi Miller
Jennifer Stiglic

Matching Campaigns

RICHARD C. AND BETTY M. NELSON'S 5TH QUARTER SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

We are pleased to report that of the original \$100,000 in matching funds made available by the Nelsons, there is only \$40,000 remaining. Two endowments (see below) have been established to date and the deadline to take advantage of this opportunity is fast approaching. Dollar-for-dollar matching funds for gifts of \$1,000 or more are available through July 15, 2023.



- Anne and Kumares Sinha Endowment for the 5th Quarter Summer Learning Program at Lafayette Urban Ministry
- Dennis and Jeanne Gernhardt Endowment for the 5th Quarter Summer Learning Program at Lafayette Urban Ministry

STAN AND KAY MITHOEFER MATCH FOR IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Stan and Kay Mithoefer have generously offered to match gifts, dollar-for-dollar \$1,000 and up to Imagination Library. Imagination Library is a free program for Tippecanoe County kids ages 0-5. Once enrolled, they receive a book each month until their 5th birthday. Right Steps Child Development Centers is the local administrator of this program and because they take no administrative fees, 100% of gifts would support books going to local children.

Contact Candy Silver to learn more about these matching gift opportunities at candy@inspiringgreater.org

Eight New Endowments

- Exchange Club of Lafayette Foundation Endowment for At-Risk Youth
- Ward and Netta Frey Family Endowment
- Ward and Netta Frey Family Endowment for Crestview Community Church Youth
- Michael R. Raisor Memorial Endowment
- Randy and Kathy Vernon Endowment for Tippecanoe County Council on Aging
- Tom Walsh Endowment for Tippecanoe County Council on Aging
- Michael G. and Jane A. Wilson Endowment

**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF GREATER
LAFAYETTE**

Eleanor Walters

Linda Bowman and
Glenn Tompkins

Rick Westerman

John Jones

Tony Zamora

Paul Preckel and
Janet Winters

Matt Zika

John and Karen Zika

Lafayette Hearing Center

*Gifts in memory
of these individuals*

Gene Ansell
Ron Baker
Helen Bradford
Guthrie Carr

Wini Clark

Dale Colby
Phyllis Covington
Joe Donnoe
Howard Dushane
Annabelle Eller
Paul "Spider" Fields
Sally Gustafson
Phyllis Hunt
Horace "Skip" Jackson
Clarence Jackson
Barbara Kane
Harley Miller
Dick Pattengale
Judy Tesmer
Don VanMeter
Victoria Willis
Patty Wood

IN HONOR

Cheryl Altinkemer

Jennie Jones

Roger and Cathy Bauer

Mark Bauer

Linda Bowman and Glenn Tompkins

Neal and Molly Biggs
Marc and Beth Ditto
Tracey Tompkins

Kelly Cwiertny, Ken Marra, and Peter Marra

Jerry Marra and
Barb Schuster

Joan Hughes

Linda Bowman and
Glenn Tompkins

Linda Rohrman

Jennie Jones

Dr. Julie Schleck

North Central Health
Services IN

Bernie Seaman

Jennie Jones

Tom and Mary Jo Sparrow

Frederick Sparrow

ONLINE GIVING

Gifts to The Community
Foundation may be
made online at
www.cfglaf.org.



Grants

BATTLE GROUND STPS

\$10,000 | Transportation and storage for community

CIVIC THEATRE

\$5,412 | Restroom updates

FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK

\$9,916 | Network needs at Fresh Market and warehouse

LAFAYETTE SYMPHONY

\$10,000 | Computer equipment and office furniture

LONG CENTER

\$10,000 Production office equipment

LYN TREECE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

\$5,735 | Communication and entry security system

NAMI WEST CENTRAL INDIANA

\$7,300 | Living Room technology and furniture



Artists Lauren Grace, Justice Fuller, and Vickie Maris perform at Songwriter's Association of Mid-North Indiana's annual scholarship event, Songwriter in the Round.

SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF MID-NORTH INDIANA

\$8,575 | Soundproof door

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

\$9,911 | Collections care materials, lighting upgrades, and public program technology upgrades

WABASH CENTER INC.

\$5,971 | Security cameras for residential homes

Upcoming Dates

EBERLE SERIES

Setting the Foundation of your Strategic Planning | March 1, 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette Country Club

Improving Board Performance April 12 (virtual), 10 - 11:30 am

Recruiting for Success | May 3, 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette Country Club

Register at: uwlafayette.org/eberle/

GIVING CIRCLES

100+ Men Who Give

May 9 | September 12 | December 5
5 - 6:30 pm | Lafayette Country Club

100+ Women Who Care

May 16 | September 19 | December 12
5 - 6:30 pm | Lafayette Country Club

SCHOLARSHIP DESSERT RECEPTION

April 20, 7 - 8 pm | Lafayette Country Club



Director of Finance and Operations

ANGELA STRADER

Director of Philanthropy

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

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