

Optimistic About the Future

Steve and Cherie Bruhn were practically beaming while they spoke about their involvement with the Greater Lafayette community. Steve, a retired CPA, and Cherie, a retired registered nurse, are very invested in civic organizations that focus on youth. Through the Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club, they've helped organize the Annual Fat Tuesday Dinner, which raises money for local teacher grants. The Bruhns also participate in Christmas poinsettia sales to provide financial and hands-on support for a variety of youth organizations ranging from Junior Achievement to Big Brothers Big Sisters. The outreach is impressive for a breakfast club. Steve and Cherie have been involved for 21 years and they support the Lafayette Optimist Foundation.

Together, he and Cherie are committed to reading literacy. Giving children an early foundation in reading helps them become more successful in school and in life. They established the Steve and Cherie Bruhn Endowment for Imagination Library through The Community Foundation in 2023 to provide all children (ages 0-5) with the opportunity to love learning through books. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program is available in Lafayette through Right Steps, as well as throughout the USA and other countries. If available in their area, parents can sign up



Steve and Cherie Bruhn

their children to receive one free book per month until age five, for a total of 60 books.

The Bruhns have been married for almost 25 years. Cherie's two children, David and Heather, and three grandchildren, Lily, Ruby, and Liam, add joy to the Bruhn family. Pictures of happy children adorn the walls of their home. But into every life a little rain must fall. Steve was diagnosed with

cancer in 2020, amidst the onset of the coronavirus outbreak. In the years hence, he underwent radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, and infusions to combat the disease. Having 10 to 11 doctor appointments per week, they realized how difficult it must be for those without transportation or family help. Not to mention the financial hardships that may occur when a person is undergoing treatment. The Bruhns became supporters of the Community Cancer Network, whose mission is to support the non-medical needs of area cancer patients. They recently started an endowment through The Community Foundation to help the organization's outreach to its 12-county area.

Steve and Cherie continue to be optimistic about their future and exhibit their positivity by investing in the community they've come to love.

A Brush with Kindness

Things happen. As most homeowners soon discover, purchasing a house is just the first step in securing a safe and decent place to live. Appliances break, faucets leak, gutters clog, or the house requires accessibility upgrades. For those on fixed incomes, including the elderly and disabled, making repairs or upgrades presents a significant challenge. That's why the Brush with Kindness program exists.

As an arm of Habitat for Humanity, A Brush with Kindness has its first dedicated program director, Jeremy Vegter, whose entire attention is focused on addressing the community's need for minor home repairs and renovation projects. Labor, usually a prohibitive expense, is provided free of charge by volunteers. Since the program's inception in 1984, over 1,400 people in Greater Lafayette have received critical repairs to make their homes safer, more secure, and more accessible. this year, 180 people have benefitted from the program, with many more on the waiting list.

Additional criteria, besides the financial guidelines, stipulate that recipients must own their homes, not rent, and pay for the project materials (or make payments to the program). For extensive renovations, like roof or window replacements, A Brush with Kindness refers homeowners to trusted local contractors. A new program, CARE (Community Assistance for Repairs



Jeremy Vegter and Bob Anderson

and Equity), enables residents to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 for select home renovations. Applications for CARE and A Brush with Kindness can be submitted online at lafayettehabitat.org/bwkapp or called in at (765) 423-4590, extension 112.

Memorable jobs include helping Debra and Mel, both wheelchair-bound, to retain their home insurance by fixing their gutters and assembling a storage shed for their belongings. Janie, who has Parkinson's, had a walk-in tub installed so she could safely age in place. Popular projects include fixing up bathrooms, entryways, or doing yard work. But all repair jobs are considered. Most volunteers possess specific "handyman" skills, but others, such as student groups, spruce up, mulch, or paint where needed. Jeremy's goal is to increase the number of volunteers who are the lifeblood of the program's success.

The Community Foundation awarded the program a \$30,000 grant to purchase a truck for hauling ladders, mulch, and building materials to job sites. The 2025 Toyota Tacoma Extended Cab truck displays Habitat's

Recent Gifts APRIL • MAY • JUNE 2025

IN MEMORY

Jane Early Boswell
Stuart and Mary Lee Bollock
Barry Priest and
Rebecca Morrison

Thomas Brooks Jr.
Ball Eggleston, PC

George Evans
David and Sally Coates

Bob Findlay
Ed and Nancy Wagoner

Lillie Fisher
Larry and Marianne Rose

J. Frederick Hoffman
David and Carol Luhman

Rita Huddle
Elizabeth and Chad Arkels
and Family
Brian Bader

Christopher and Christina
Bader and Family

David and Angie Bader
and Family

Ed and Laura Bader
and Family

Martin Bader

Timmy Bader and Family

Craig Batogowski

Jeffrey and Rita Calvert

Alicia Clevenger

Troy Cloum

Cordogan Clark &
Associates, Inc.

Debra Cochran

Jane Denten

Chad and Stacey Delzell

Mary Erwin

Toni Espina

Barbie Friend and Family

Gaylen and Amie Hackemack

Nancy and Tony Hickel and
Family

Sue Holder Price

Kristine Hoschek

Les Huddle

Mickey and Sandra Johnson

Daniel Keener

John Keener, Jr.

Karen Keener

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Jim and Susan Marshall

logo and contact information to help advertise the program. The grant gives Jeremy and his volunteers the wheels to complete the jobs that make life more livable for others. To learn more about a Brush with Kindness, email bwk@lafayettehabitat.org.

“I’m continually reminded to be thankful and help those around me. Our mission is to make a difference through kindness,” said Jeremy.

Max for the Minimum

‘Tis the season to make sound financial decisions. If you own an Individual Retirement Account and are age 70½, you may donate up to \$100,000 directly to a charity tax-free from the account. If you are 73 or older, you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your traditional IRA each year by Dec. 31. RMDs are considered taxable income at your current tax bracket. However, if you don’t need the income, please consider maximizing your minimum distribution through a charitable donation to The Community Foundation, thus avoiding tax consequences and creating a world of good. For those who no longer itemize deductions, this is a great tax break.

“Contributions directly benefit the nonprofit organizations you care about. I use my distribution to pay for my yearly membership in the 100+ Women Who Care group.” Sue Carr

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT:

Candy Silver, Betty M. Nelson Director of Philanthropy, at 765-742-9078 or candy@inspiringgreater.org.

Grants

FIELD OF INTEREST

- BACH CHORALE SINGERS, INC.**
\$3,000 | Scholarships for Lafayette Children’s Choir
- BAUER FAMILY RESOURCES**
\$6,377 | Bauer’s Brighter Tomorrow Summer Camp
- CAREGIVER COMPANION**
\$768 | Caregiver Education Seminar support
- CARY HOME FOR CHILDREN**
\$5,000 | Learn, Shine, Show Up
- COMMUNITY CANCER NETWORK, INC.**
\$30,000 | Client services
- FAIR HAVEN FOUNDATION, INC.**
\$4,891 | Ada’s Place support for cancer care patients
- FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK INC.**
\$6,020 | Support for the Fresh Market Pantry
- FRANCISCAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION, INC.**
\$2,500 | Oncology Survivorship Program
- HANNA COMMUNITY CENTER**
\$3,410 | Subsidized childcare for economically or personally disadvantaged families
\$1,070 | Nurturing Resilience: Comprehensive care for underserved youth
\$587 | ADA park bench for senior accessible garden
\$20,000 | Level Up: Empowering the next generation summer youth summit
- HOMESTEAD RESOURCES**
\$2,190 | Youth development programming

Continued on next page

- Katie Traynor**
Carol Du Clos and
Megan Brown
Denise Koto
Amanda Nutty
Kelly Stein
- Jane Wilson**
Mike Wilson
- Gary Wolfelt**
Larry and Marianne Rose
- Tony Zamora**
Wanda Baker-Smith
Betty Zamora
- Lafayette Hearing Center**
Mary Jane Baer
Larry Davies
George Evans
Richard Frank
Barb Fraser
Marcella Gudeman
Bishop William Higi
Carol Hooker
June Kerr

- Mary Losey
Jerry McCarthy
Betty Jo Mullins
Dick Pracht
Joyce Provo
Fr. Richard Puetz
Sally Sparger
John Stephens
Sharon White
- IN HONOR**
- Linda Rohrman**
Jeannie Jones
- John and Prella McBride**
J. Scott McBride
- Meddie Silver**
Courtney Adams
- Steve Cotten**
Paul Addison
Alyssa Anderson
Valerie Bahr
Dana Byers

- Abigail Christiansen
John Fassnacht
Monica Figueras
Robin French
Pradeep Gnanapragasam
Lorelai Hamilton and Family
William Henry Harrison
Band Boosters
Stacey Hosler
Robert Howard
Susan Job
Diane Kelley
Jacqueline Knotts
Melissa Krathwohl
Megan Lawrance
Amy Leitze
Auburn Lindsay
Scott Martin
Mark McKowen
Wendy McNiven
Rustin and Amanda Meister
Everette Mills
Mary Mills
Margaret Musgrave

- Myers Insurance & Real Estate LLC
Kelsie Newberry
Robert Peck
Andrew Pfaff
Jean Pfaff
Kyle Pierce
Anna Pusey
Vanessa Quinn
Elizabeth Schmalzried
Jessica Schneider
Sarah Smith
Kimberly Stoughton
Susan Taulia
Aaron Taylor
Samantha Thonn
Maureen Timko
Scott and Erin Trzaskus
Cara Wetzel
Robert and Dana White

Grants

Continued

HUMANE SOCIETY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$7,100 | Outdoor dog run toppers

LAFAYETTE FAMILY SHELTER

\$1,300 | Outdoor classroom for gardening and teaching kitchen for the family shelter

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY (LUM)

\$18,626 | After School & 5th Quarter Summer Learning Program

LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES

\$2,161 | Transforming Together: Community beautification and neighborhood stewardship

\$1,050 | Enhancing emergency shelter and medical respite support at LTHC engagement center

\$1,400 | Empowering at-risk youth through stability, self-sufficiency, and nutrition

\$1,000 | Building stability for newly housed families: Essentials for children

\$9,768 | Advancing Literacy Through Technology: The LTHC literacy & education hub

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA, WABASH VALLEY REGION

\$1,668 | Suicide prevention materials

ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART

\$11,640 | A museum based arts-integrated literacy program for Indiana's learners

THE ARTS FEDERATION (TAF)

\$15,000 | Wabash Walls 2025
\$7,476 | Music access and equity

VOYAGEUR ANCIENT FIFE AND DRUM CORPS

\$1,000 | Support for youth music programs

WABASH CENTER INC.

\$12,568 | Literacy and development technology for children with autism

WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION (WREC)

\$2,167 | Restoration work for rural property

WILLOWSTONE FAMILY SERVICES

\$5,250 | New books for children

NOW GRANTS

JULY • AUGUST 2025

FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK INC.

\$10,000 | Walk-in freezer repairs

HOOSIER BURN CAMP, INC.

\$5,106 | Computer and office equipment upgrades

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY (LUM)

\$5,971 | Essential equipment for safe food service

LEGAL AID CORPORATION

\$6,700 | Technology upgrades

LONG CENTER

\$10,000 | Technology upgrades and hot water heater

NICHES LAND TRUST

\$1,380 | Clegg Memorial Garden Cottage HVAC repair

NEW ENDOWMENT

John K. and Prella P. McBride Endowment for United Way of Greater Lafayette

Inspiring Greater **POSSIBILITIES**

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 595
LAFAYETTE IN

Upcoming Events

EBERLE SERIES

Managing Board Conflict

Nov. 12 | 11 am - 2 pm | Lafayette County Club

GIVING CIRCLES

100+ Men Who Give

Dec. 2 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

100+ Women Who Care

Dec. 9 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

HOLIDAY GRANTS RECEPTION

December 11 | 5-6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club



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LIZ WETLI
Finance and Development Associate