

No Time to Waste

Young at heart and passionate about improving the lives of others, you'd never guess Mike Wilson was retired, let alone 80 years old. He's been an active member of the Kairos Prison Ministry in Westville, Indiana, for the last ten years. Kairos helps create Christian communities within prison walls. Not everyone is suited for this calling, but Mike Wilson embraces Christ's teaching to visit and minister to the imprisoned, as found in Matthew 25.



Jane and Mike Wilson

The non-denominational outreach effects change and is available in all prisons. It costs \$10-12,000 to put on a retreat weekend for the prisoners, including food and supplies. Once, Mike gave a presentation for Kairos at one of the Foundation's 100+ Men Who Give meetings, of which he is a member, and the necessary funds were awarded to them.

Mike wasn't always a solo act. He was happily married for 58 years to Jane, the love of his life, until she passed away in April of 2024. They met at a school dance in Albany, Indiana and both graduated from Purdue University. Mike was the president and owner of Advantage Title Company; Jane was an elementary teacher for Lafayette School Corporation. Jane was the kind of person who reached out and pulled others up through her community activities, whether it was Lafayette Urban Ministry or the Purdue College of Education Dean's Advisory Council.

Their philanthropic relationship with The Community Foundation started in 2022 when they established the Michael G. and Jane A. Wilson Endowment, a donor-advised endowment to support local nonprofits. The Wilsons became passionate ambassadors of Joyful Journey – an organization that serves those experiencing changes in mobility or cognition through an adult day center. Jane transitioned from being a volunteer to a "Friend" at Joyful Journey once she lost

her ability to communicate due to frontal temporal lobe dementia. Mike instituted a scholarship for day service assistance in her name, and now the *Jane's Smile Scholarship* keeps Jane's smiling influence alive for others.

Then in 2023, they established the Mike and Jane Wilson Family Endowment through The Community Foundation during a Lilly match campaign. The funds are awarded to address the most pressing needs of nonprofit organizations. "We chose The Community Foundation because it was a good place to help the groups that need it, and they can do more than I can individually," said Mike.

Mike and Jane have two children, Kathy and Lance, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. They loved to travel and did so around the world. Jane's beautiful cross-stitch renditions of their favorite travel spots adorn a wall of their condo. "We didn't waste time. Still don't," said Mike.

Let the Show Go On

In 1931, the Lafayette Little Theatre was formed to provide entertainment during the dark days of the Depression. It allowed community members to live vicariously in different theatrical roles, while giving the patrons a chance to escape ordinary life. Live entertainment was precious then, bringing hope, laughter, and a sense of community, and it remains just as important today in our digital and AI-influenced age.

Renamed the Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette in 1966, the organization is the second oldest, continuously running live theatre companies in Indiana. Moving to the historic Monon Depot in 1980 was a showstopping gamechanger. The beautiful 1901 Colonial architecture train station, once a luxurious building in its heyday, was transformed to become a perfect, permanent venue for intimate theatre experiences.

But history has a price. As buildings age, things happen. Staff must continually maintain the older building and systems and make vital upgrades so the show can go on. Raquel Lopez, Civic's producing artistic director, reached out to The Community Foundation for a Fall Grant to replace two aging HVAC systems that were negatively affecting the costume/set production shop and Civic office spaces. Costumes and set materials such as paints and fabrics are temperature and humidity-sensitive and require proper climate control to prevent mold, warping, and deterioration. Staff, volunteers, and guests also require adequate temperature regulation to maintain their optimum efficiency and happiness. The grant of \$21,861 was used to replace the two HVAC units.

Raquel also applied for a grant to purchase more body microphones for stage actors. Larger casts in musicals necessitate more mics for clear transmission of songs and words to the audience. The mics use hearing loop technology to accommodate those patrons with hearing aids. Although they already have many microphones, the Civic's inventory is aging, expensive, and has a relatively short lifespan. Improving the sound quality makes it a more enjoyable experience for everyone. Four new body mics were purchased with a Community Foundation grant of \$8,867.



New body mics being premiered in the Civic Youth Theatre production of Beetlejuice Jr.

“Having worked in Reno, Nevada, before moving to Lafayette, I was unfamiliar with The Community Foundation,” said Raquel. “I am blown away by what the CFGL does. We’re so grateful for the grants and access to capital resources for our theatre, office, and shop. Their support is priceless.”

Enjoy one of Civic’s upcoming holiday shows to hear and see the difference that a grant can make. lafayetteticivic.org

Recent Gifts JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2025

IN MEMORY

- Rita Biederstedt**
Larry and Marianne Rose
- Jane Early Boswell**
Stuart and Mary Lee Bollock
Barry Priest and
Rebecca Morrison
- Jim and Mary Beth Buescher**
Sarah Buescher

- Donna Burk**
Dennis and Jeanne Gernhardt
- Diane Carson**
Karen Berger
Christopher Burke Engineering
Cordogan Clark & Associates,
Inc.
Michelle Conwell
Charles Gullion
Andy and Linda Gutwein

- Bali Heir
INOK Investments, LLC
Berma Johnson
Amanda Findlay
Lafayette Police Foundation
Dennis and Linda Leman
Lacy and Laura McCarty
Adam and Gabriela Murphy
Brian and Laura Shull
Ron and Gale Turco

- Frank and M. Jane Turpin
JoAnn Vorst
Dan and Jo Wade
Laura Walls
Lyn and Ken Wuethrich
- Bob Findlay**
J. Edward and Nancy Wagoner
- Rita Huddle**
William Small
- Leta Kelley**
Jack Kelley

2026 Resources for Nonprofits

DOUGLAS W. EBERLE NOT-FOR-PROFIT BOARD GOVERNANCE SERIES

The Eberle Series provides educational and networking opportunities for local nonprofit leadership and their board members. The 2026 Series features a combination of foundational concepts from prior sessions and new content. All sessions will take place at the Lafayette Country Club from 11am – 2pm with lunch provided. The cost will be \$30 per session or \$160 for the full series.

FEBRUARY 11 | *Setting the Foundation of Your Strategic Plan*

MARCH 4 | *Fundraising Essentials for Board Members*

APRIL 8 | *Leadership Mindset in Motion*

MAY 6 | *Leading the Board: Demystifying the Role of the Board Chair*

SEPTEMBER 2 | *Deep Dive into Fiduciary Responsibilities for Board Members*

OCTOBER 14 | *Improving Board Performance*

NOVEMBER 4 | *AI + Board Governance: Opportunities and Safeguards Panel*

Visit: uwlafayette.org/Eberle to register

NEW IN 2026

April 23 | *Choosing Your Cause Training*
10 am – noon | Lafayette Country Club | No cost to attend

This session will provide an opportunity for individuals – community leaders and members, current and future board members, volunteers - interested in serving on a nonprofit board to explore their personal passions and learn how and where to find meaningful board service opportunities in the community. This session will require a separate registration. Visit: uwlafayette.org/Eberle to register.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY FUNDRAISING TRAINING

The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette is pleased to build on the success of the Fundraising trainings hosted in 2025 and offer two courses in 2026! This world-class curriculum is ideal for nonprofit organizations looking to strengthen their fundraising efforts. The sessions will run from 8 am – 5 pm on the dates listed and will take place at the Lafayette Country Club with lunch provided. To register, contact Karen at karen@inspiringgreater.org.

APRIL 20 – 22 | *Developing Major Gifts* | \$300 per person

SEPTEMBER 14-16 | *Fundraising Campaigns: From Capital to Comprehensive* | \$300 per person

Accreditation Renewal

The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette has recently renewed its accreditation with Community Foundations National Standards® – the highest standards for philanthropic excellence.

This accreditation is not mandatory, but we chose to participate to affirm our commitment to excellence and accountability. To receive accreditation with National Standards, The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette submitted our policies and procedures to a rigorous review of 26 National Standards in six key areas of community foundation operations, including donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration.

We work to support the nonprofits who are dedicated to sustaining our community. National Standards says that we meet the most rigorous standards in philanthropy and is a promise to our community that we'll continue to do this good work together. For more information about National Standards, visit cfstandards.org.

Dave Lahr

Larry and Marianne Rose

Larry and Becky Lyons

Nathan Dixon

Claire Kegley

April Lapetoda

Amanda Pynaert

Patricia Ross

James and Marylin Howland
Ross

Christy Smith

James and Virginia Clemenko

Bob Sorensen

Linda Sorensen

Katie Traynor

Kevin and Gail Bosman

Carol Du Clos and

Megan Brown

Brent Eggers

Gareth and Lynn Leviton

William and Mary Malloy

Eric and Sara Miedema

Amanda Nutty

Mark and Mary Pacchini

Mike and Margaret Schreiber

Kelly Stein

IN HONOR

Steve Cotten

Jerome and Linda Day

Mark and Angela Peterson

William Henry Harrison

Band Boosters

Betty Nelson

Shannon Stanis

Joe Seaman

Jennie Jones

Grants

FALL GRANTS

- CIVIC THEATRE**
\$21,861 | HVAC units for workshop and offices

FRANCISCAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION, INC.
\$25,000 | Stop the Bleed for Greater Lafayette Schools

HEARTFORD HOUSE
\$44,395 | Security and technology enhancements

LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES
\$50,000 | Securing shelter for families: exterior restorations

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA - WABASH VALLEY REGION
\$20,775 | Furniture for new 988 Training Center

ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART
\$35,500 | Haan Mansion porch and sidewalk restoration

WABASH CENTER INC.
\$51,000 | Replacement windows for Grant's House



Legal Aid Corporation's new office chairs

NOW GRANTS
JULY • AUGUST 2025

- CIVIC THEATRE**
\$8,867 | Body microphones

THE HISTORIC FIVE POINTS FIRE STATION EDUCATIONAL CENTER
\$2,149 | Video display for visitor orientation

LAFAYETTE SYMPHONY, INC.
\$3,997 | Essential equipment for the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra

- LEGAL AID CORPORATION**
\$2,112 | Office chair upgrades

LIFE HAS NO BOUNDARIES
\$1,921 | Computer and office equipment

MODIFIED ATHLETICS FOR KIDS, INC.
\$5,475 | Equipment upgrades for Camp WACK

PAULS PLAN MINISTRIES INC.
\$10,000 | IRACS Reentry Vehicle

ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART
\$7,937 | Internal security system upgrade

SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF MID-NORTH INDIANA (SAMI)
\$9,146 | Photography equipment
\$9,870 | Video Transmitters

YOUTH ACTION COLLECTIVE
\$6,500 | Youth service materials

NEW ENDOWMENTS

- Christena Louise Baugher Endowment for United Way of Greater Lafayette

Laurie and Bill Selby Endowment



300 Main St. | Suite 100
Lafayette, IN 47901
765.742.9078
inspiringreater.org

DAVID LASATER
James Kirby Risk President and CEO

KAREN MCCULLOUGH
Director of Communications,
Marketing, and Grants

CANDY SILVER
Betty M. Nelson Director of Philanthropy

ANGELA STRADER
Senior Director of Finance and Operations

LIZ WETLI
Manager of Office Operations

Upcoming Events

- GIVING CIRCLES**

100+ Men Who Give
Feb. 3 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
May 12 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
Sept. 15 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
Dec. 1 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

100+ Women Who Care
Feb. 10 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
May 19 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
Sept. 22 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club
Dec. 8 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm | Lafayette County Club

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 595
LAFAYETTE IN