

Taking their Own Advice

Have you ever noticed people who preach advice to others, yet neglect to follow it themselves? Fred Astaire once quipped, “If we followed our own advice, we’d be successful.” This is a story of a young couple who did exactly that.

Erik and Katy Props’ careers were in giving others valuable advice. For Erik, that meant guiding and advising Purdue undergraduates on how to land meaningful careers after graduating from the Krannert School of Management, now Daniels School of Business. His influence not only helped develop students’ leadership and networking skills but also brought them in front of companies seeking prime candidates through the career fairs he organized. For 30 years, Erik has been helping to shape and prepare students for life beyond college.

Katy has a degree in Financial Counseling and Planning. She served as a trust officer and credit analyst for First Merchants, then Lafayette Savings Bank in the early part of her career. Her financial knowledge, plus a fortuitous selection of investments, yielded a gain. They faced the choice of paying taxes or making a difference in the community they loved. They chose wisely by taking the advice Katy gave to others.

Katy’s family has a history of philanthropy with Indiana’s Community Foundations dating back to her grandparents in Lake County. Her parents continued the tradition in Cass County, so it made sense for the Props to explore starting an endowment in Greater Lafayette. The Props have two high school-aged sons, Nicholas and AJ. Ensuring opportunities for them to participate in camps and local youth activities inspired Katy and Erik to help disadvantaged children enjoy the same experiences through their donor-advised Props Family Endowment. The beauty of these types of funds is their flexibility, determined by the donor’s current philanthropic focus.



The Props Family

“The best part about being involved with The Community Foundation is hearing about all the potential programs available and feeling connected with the community,” said Katy. They also actively volunteer with Food Finders and its various community outreach programs, helping those in need.



2026 Scholars

2026 Scholars

GEORGE BALFE SCHOLARSHIP

Abel Munoz, Jefferson High School

ROGER BLALOCK SCHOLARSHIP

Christabel Anumenechi, Purdue University

Cindy Afoakwa-Acheampong, Purdue University

TARA BALFE CLIFFORD SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Harrison, Jefferson High School

JANE EARLY BOSWELL SCHOLARSHIP

Klarissa Swindle, Jefferson High School

SAMUEL AND PEARL MAE FRITTS COLE SCHOLARSHIP

Makennah Dale, Eastern Illinois University

Brooke Slivinski, University of Southern Indiana

SAMUEL C. CURTIS SCHOLARSHIP

Charles Kallok, Purdue University

MAX AND ELSIE GOKEN SCHOLARSHIP

Clark Benhart, West Lafayette High School

Brady Clark, Faith Christian High School

Maurice Rivera, McCutcheon High School

Sophie Swisher, Jefferson High School

ROBERT AND DOROTHY HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP

Nikkii Carlisle, Ivy Tech Community College

Jessica Castro, Ivy Tech Community College

JEFF HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Lilah Fennell, Jefferson High School

Marquis Fowler, Jefferson High School

Celia Kem, Jefferson High School

Ella McGurr, Jefferson High School

Allison Niethammer, Jefferson High School

Sophia Pazera, Jefferson High School

Valery Portillo Orellana, Jefferson High School

Charles Renie, Jefferson High School

Judith Williams, Jefferson High School

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Keiley Eads, McCutcheon High School

Antonio Figueras, Harrison High School

Lucas Learman, McCutcheon High School

ELIZABETH MACKAY SCHOLARSHIP

Dylan Bryan, McCutcheon High School

Ella Love, West Lafayette High School

SHIRLEY AND MICK MCTAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

Emma Wykoff, McCutcheon High School

HARLAN W. AND DOROTHY W. PARR SCHOLARSHIP

Hema Lingireddy, Purdue University

Favour Ojike, Purdue University

James Sadler, Purdue University

Kaley Mumma, Purdue University

ROLAND G. PARRISH BCC SCHOLARSHIP

Joel Joseph, Purdue University

Lenford Pinnock, Purdue University

**PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP
IN HONOR OF TARRUS RICHARDSON**

Daniel Armstrong, Purdue University
Naima Daniels, Purdue University
Miles Jenkins, Purdue University
Aarion Kuykendall, Purdue University

**PRICE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY
OF THOMAS M. PRICE**

Mikenna Rock, McCutcheon High School

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL
HEALTH NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**

Anne McNevin, Purdue University
Ratinder Kaur, Purdue University

DAVID SMYSER SCHOLARSHIP

Carter Benson, Jefferson High School

BETTY M. SUDDARTH SCHOLARSHIP

Kaitlyn Riffey, Harrison High School

KATIE TRAYNOR, RN, SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Liu, Purdue University
Emma Schuetz, Purdue University

**TRUITT FAMILY WEST LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL
LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

Andrew Richards, West Lafayette High School
Isabel Kaplan, West Lafayette High School

ROBERT AND MARILYN WHITSEL SCHOLARSHIP

John Bade, Jefferson High School
Sophia Betz, McCutcheon High School

JACOB E. AND MARY ANN WIEBERS SCHOLARSHIP

Phineas Mummert, Faith Christian High School

**WEST LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN
SCHOLARSHIP**

Clark Benhart, West Lafayette High School

Coffee with the CEO and Grants Director

Community nonprofit organizations are working hard to maneuver an ever-shifting funding landscape, increased community needs, and significant budget cuts. To further encourage transparency and open communication, The Foundation hosted its first ever “Coffee with the CEO and Grants Director” event on January 13. The event offered an opportunity to be intentional in making time for nonprofit professionals to connect with one another, share their recent challenges and successes, and discuss how The Foundation might step in as a stronger partner in their work.

Over 60 individuals representing 43 nonprofit organizations were able to join our conversation and provided invaluable feedback on their experiences. One challenge reiterated multiple times was a need for expert assistance with things like marketing, website design, strategic planning, and fundraising. As a result, The Foundation’s Board of Directors opted to provide a grant cycle for Consulting Assistance with funding made possible through a Board Participation grant from the Lilly Endowment.

We received 32 Letters of Intent for consulting projects and with support from North Central Health Services, we were able to grant 8 requests totaling \$149,500. A full list of benefiting organizations can be found in the Grants listing of this newsletter.



Coffee with the CEO and Grants Director event

Recent Gifts JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH | 2026

IN MEMORY

Rita Berninger

Larry and Marianne Rose

Sam Biederstedt

Larry and Marianne Rose

Jane Early Boswell

Stuart and Mary Lee Bollock

Barry Priest and Rebecca

Morrison

Marilyn Brouillette

JoAnn Brouillette

Fritz Cohen

David Bridges and Vicki Burch

Mary Lou Curtis

David Bridges and Vicki Burch

Marilyn Howland

James Ross, Jr.

Cheryl Knodle

David Bridges and Vicki Burch

Lynn Layden

Charles Layden

Ken McCammon

Larry and Marianne Rose

Lauren Pennell Galbraith

David and Carol Luhman

Dave Scholer

Larry and Marianne Rose

Steve Schwendenmann

Larry and Marianne Rose

Carolyn Smyth

Larry and Marianne Rose

Charles Vaughn

Ball Eggleston PC

Dennis and Jeanne Gernhardt

Shannon Withers

David Bridges and Vicki Burch

Gladys Wright

David Bridges and Vicki Burch

Lafayette Hearing Center

Sam Biederstedt

David Bohlinger

Eldora Bonges

Mike Brummett

Sharon Easterday

Francis Garing

Marilyn Howland

Ann Hunt

Trudy Jolicoeur

Kay LaFever

Bill Nelson

Judy Pence

Pat Peterson

Carol Stevens

Anthony Tselepis

Marcia Wooldridge

IN HONOR

Bernie Seaman

Jennie Jones

Grants

FEBRUARY + MARCH + APRIL 2026

SPRING GRANTS

HUMANE SOCIETY FOR GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$21,782 | Noise reduction ceiling tiles

NICHES LAND TRUST

\$30,000 | Footsteps – a new nature preserve for Tippecanoe County

PAUL'S PLAN MINISTRIES INC.

\$45,000 | Vans for Lighthouse Recovery Homes

LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES

\$30,000 | Technology upgrade

WEST LAFAYETTE STEAM ACADEMY

\$55,000 | Bus for Before- and After-School Care Program and Summer Camp

SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF MID-NORTH INDIANA (SAMI)

\$23,010 | Live sound equipment for Lafayette festivals and concerts

OUTREACH ADVOCACY CENTER INC.

\$18,203 | Medical exam room equipment

RIGHT STEPS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

\$24,230 | Technology upgrades

NOW GRANTS

GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN

\$8,200 | Porch roof replacement

HUMANE SOCIETY FOR GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$1,112 | Shade sails for outdoor dog runs

IMAGINATION STATION

\$7,155 | Security and fire alarm system

LAFAYETTE FAMILY YMCA

\$9,540 | Out of School Time iPad upgrade

LEADERSHIP LAFAYETTE

\$7,891 | Technology upgrade

LIFT PEOPLE INC.

\$9,595 | Technology and AV enhancement

LONG CENTER

\$7,200 | Office computer and display monitors

LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES

\$5,000 | New boiler for Family Permanent Supportive Housing

NICHES LAND TRUST

\$7,726 | Equipment for growing staff

PAUL'S PLAN MINISTRIES INC.

\$10,000 | Lighthouse Recovery Home

ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART

\$6,478 | Technology and storage equipment

SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF MID-NORTH INDIANA (SAMI)

\$9,582 | Recording equipment for live music, radio, and video interviews

STAR CITY EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

\$8,615 | Child monitoring and continuing education equipment

THE ARTS FEDERATION

\$9,877 | Ductless heating unit

THOMAS DUNCAN HALL INC.

\$10,000 | Refinish parlor floors

UNITED WAY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$10,000 | Replace aging HVAC, storm windows, and hot water heater

CONSULTING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Total Amount Granted: \$149,500

RIGHT STEPS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY (LUM) AND LAFAYETTE FAMILY SHELTER

FOREST ACADEMY

JOYFUL JOURNEY

FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK INC.

PAUL'S PLAN MINISTRIES INC.

OASIS COMMUNITY INC.

STEAM ACADEMY

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 595
LAFAYETTE IN

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

September 8 | 8 am

100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

Sept. 22 | 5 – 6:30 pm Lafayette Country Club

100+ MEN WHO GIVE

Sept. 15 | 5 – 6:30 pm Lafayette Country Club

EBERLE SERIES

Deep Dive into Fiduciary

Responsibilities for Board Members

Sept. 2 | 11 am – 2 pm

Lafayette Country Club

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

300 Main St. | Suite 100
Lafayette, IN 47901

765.742.9078

inspiringgreater.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

