

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

FALL 2026

Inspiring Greater

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF **YOUR** COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

It's a Family Affair

A new chapter of giving for the Olson family is being written in the archives of The Community Foundation. Karen McCullough is the newly titled Richard H. Olson Family Director of Grants and Marketing, made possible through a generous gift by Rick Olson. This makes the third named position among the five staff members, the other two being David Lasater, the James Kirby Risk Endowed President and CEO, and Candy Silver, the Betty M. Nelson Director of Philanthropy.

Rick credits his parents, Edgar and Hedy Olson, for inspiring his philanthropy. The elder Olsons embraced the community with a quiet, yet substantial generosity. In fact, Edgar was a member of a roundtable of friends and fellow business leaders and bankers who championed founding The Foundation over 50 years ago to support and grow the Greater Lafayette community. He was a civil engineer and the second owner and president of Kettelhut Construction.

Edgar and Hedy forged a path of philanthropy for their children to follow in their footsteps. In 1992, Edgar established their first advised endowment, the Olson Fund, in which they or their successors could recommend grant distributions. After Edgar passed, Hedy Olson honored his memory by establishing the Edgar B. Olson Endowment for the Long Center. This designated fund provides ongoing support for their beloved Lafayette landmark. In 2006, Rick and his sister Kris Olson Potter set up the Olson Community Endowment Fund from Hedy's estate, another advised fund, as an additional vehicle for the family to direct and carry on the Olson legacy of philanthropy.



Rick Olson and his daughter, Katy Olson

Jim Risk, Betty M. Nelson, and Rick Olson

Rick served on The Community Foundation's board and various committees for 12 years, learning about all of the unmet needs of our growing community. Continuing the family tradition, Rick established the Olson Heritage Endowment to address those needs. Together, he and his daughter Katy have supported countless initiatives through the family's advised funds, such as building a new dance studio at Tippecanoe Arts Federation and kitchens at the YMCA, Food Finders Food Bank, and LUM.

Discretionary endowments complement funds dedicated to specific interests or organizations. These funds allow The Foundation the flexibility to address the community's most pressing needs. Grant Committee members evaluate recipient requests based on want vs. need, potential impact, other funding sources, and the number of people who will benefit. Rick Olson established just such a fund on his daughter's behalf, the Kathryn E. Olson Endowment.

The Olsons' legacy in Greater Lafayette fulfills and builds upon Edgar and Hedy's early dreams to do good and will continue to do so in perpetuity.



Members of The Foundation board past and present

Impact Grants Fuel Transformational Change



Representatives from organizations awarded Impact Grants: Cars for Keeps, Homestead Resources, LTHC, LUM, and the Lafayette Family YMCA.



The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette completed a transformative grant cycle this summer, awarding more than \$3 million in Impact Grants to local nonprofits – the most The Foundation has ever awarded in a single grant cycle.

This funding was made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc. through the Community Support Grant component of the ninth phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT IX) initiative. This is one of 92 Community Support Grants being awarded through GIFT IX, a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative designed to support the efforts of community foundations to strengthen the quality of life in the communities they serve.

“The Community Foundation was thrilled to have its proposal of \$3 million granted in full by the Lilly Endowment Inc. These funds enabled us to identify and support both ‘big idea’ projects and critical infrastructure improvements that address pressing local needs and strengthen the quality of life for Tippecanoe County residents,” said David Lasater, the James Kirby Risk Endowed President and CEO of The Foundation.

The Foundation announced the opportunity in early February and accepted Letters of Intent through the end of that month. A total of 42 project proposals requesting \$27.3 million in funding were reviewed. After several highly competitive rounds of review, five projects were selected to receive funding:

Cars for Keeps to assist the organization in securing a permanent facility and subsequently the ability to obtain an auto dealer’s license

Homestead Resources in support of the purchase and renovation of a building to serve as a home of their own

LTHC Homeless Services in support of several capital projects including the completion of the McCarty Hope Apartments and critical infrastructure stabilization for existing housing

Lafayette Urban Ministry to support a critical shelter expansion and improvements

Lafayette Family YMCA to help facilitate a capital revitalization of Camp Straight Arrow, an outdoor day camp established in 1969 to serve area youth

“As excited as we are to play a small role in these projects, I also found inspiration in the reactions of the organizations whose projects were *not* selected for funding,” said Karen McCullough, the Richard H. Olson Family Director of Grants and Marketing. “Despite disappointment, every response expressed gratitude in being considered and confidence in the amazing impact that will come from the projects that *were* funded. The support and collaboration that exists within our nonprofit community is exceptional and inspires me every day.

“We would also be remiss if we failed to thank our wonderful Grants Committee on behalf of The Foundation. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their thoughtful dedication to this process.”

New Endowments

- Steve and Marie Cherie Bruhn Endowment
- Steve and Marie Cherie Bruhn Endowment for Junior Achievement Serving Greater Lafayette
- Centier Bank Endowment
- Class of 1988 Janie Norman Scholarship
- Bob and Shirley Fitzgerald Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Robert and Deborah Hagen United Way Campaign Chair Endowment
- Lafayette Community Public Art Endowment
- The Madrid Endowment
- Richard H. Olson Director of Grants and Marketing Endowment
- Opus 1 Endowment
- Purdue Women's Club Scholarship
- Marianne and Larry Rose Endowment for Imagination Library
- Thomas and Paulette Schwartzel Endowment
- Tricia's Hope Endowment
- Jean and Wally Tyner Endowment
- Jean and Wally Tyner Endowment for Lafayette Urban Ministry
- Jacques and Laura Vanier Family Endowment

TO LEARN MORE contact
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- EBERLE SERIES**
Improving Board Performance
October 14 | 11 am | Lafayette Country Club
AI + Board Governance: Opportunities and Safeguards
November 4 | 11 am | Lafayette Country Club
- 100+ MEN WHO GIVE**
December 1 | 5-6:30 pm | Lafayette Country Club
- 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE**
December 8 | 5-6:30 pm | Lafayette Country Club
- GRANTS RECEPTION**
December 10 | 4-5:30 pm | Lafayette Country Club

Max for the Minimum

If you are age 73 or older, and you own a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your account each year by December 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.

This year I will again contribute the RMD from my IRA to the Sparrow Discretionary Endowment Fund. This fund has grown considerably over the years due to the wise investments of the Community Foundation. I have been pleased with the selection of community nonprofits whose grant applications have been chosen for funding. It's fun to read the list of successful Spring/Fall and NOW Grants in the newsletters and know that I played a tiny role. And better still, to know that my modest impact will continue long after I am gone!

Mary Jo Sparrow

Recent Gifts

APRIL, MAY, JUNE | 2026

IN MEMORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jane Early Boswell
Stuart and Mary Lee Bollock
Katherine Patrick
Barry Priest and
Rebecca Morrison
Zebra Landscape | Nicole Ahl Durbin
Joseph and Judith Dufficy |
| Jim and Mary Beth Buescher
Sarah Buescher | Marilyn Howland
James Ross, Jr. |
| W. Nicolas Delgass
Elizabeth Delgass | Rita Huddle
Daniel Keener |
| | Connie Lux
Dennis and Jeanne Gernhardt
John and Prella McBride
Meddie and Candy Silver |

IN HONOR

- | | |
|---|--|
| Mick and Shirley McTague
Bill and Mary Kay McDaniel | John and Prella McBride
J. Scott McBride |
| Judy Boswell Reece
Robert and Kim Early | Steve Cotten
Cameron Converse |
| Katie Traynor RN
Carol Du Clos and
Megan Brown
Amanda Nutty
Gary and Cindy Traynor | |

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



Grants

MAY + JUNE + JULY 2026

IMPACT GRANTS

CARS FOR KEEPS

\$375,000 | Permanent facility

HOMESTEAD RESOURCES

\$746,744 | Permanent facility

LTHC HOMELESS SERVICES

\$750,000 | McCarty Hope apartments, medical respite space, and capital maintenance

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY

\$756,531 | Shelter expansion and improvements

LAFAYETTE FAMILY YMCA

\$400,000 | Camp Straight Arrow revitalization

FIELD OF INTEREST

ANIMAL ADVOCATES OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$3,000 | Home Together program

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

\$9,500 | Supporting life skills for at-risk youth

CITY OF LAFAYETTE

\$620 | Streetscapes project 2026

COMMUNITY CANCER NETWORK

\$32,000 | Client services

FAIR HAVEN FOUNDATION

\$5,876 | Support for Ada's Place cancer care patients

FOOD FINDERS FOOD BANK INC.

\$6,491 | Support for the Fresh Market Pantry

HUMANE SOCIETY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$4,433 | Dog kennel upgrades

INDIANA CHAPTER OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

\$12,443 | Reach Out and Read - Tippecanoe County

JESSIE'S KIDS FOUNDATION

\$6,000 | Learn, Shine, Show up program

LAFAYETTE MASTER CHORALE AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR

\$1,923 | Scholarships for Lafayette Children's Choir

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY

\$4,613 | Summer youth enrichment

\$6,650 | Hygiene products for pantry

\$8,997 | Youth literacy programming

ROBERT AND ELLEN HAAN MUSEUM OF INDIANA ART

\$47,430 | Visual Bridges: enhancing literacy through the Arts

THE ARTS FEDERATION

\$2,500 | Arts education for at-risk youth

\$17,576 | Wabash Walls 2026

\$10,523 | Music access and equity

WABASH CENTER

\$812 | Guardianship program

WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

\$2,209 | Native prairie establishment on North River Road

WEST LAFAYETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$2,500 | Reading Challenge book awards

WILLOWSTONE FAMILY SERVICES

\$9,356 | Baby and toddler books for families

NOW GRANTS

CIVIC THEATRE

\$7,195 | Office copier

FOREST ACADEMY

\$4,595 | Computers and printers

HOMESTEAD RESOURCES

\$8,348 | Support for loan program

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF GREATER LAFAYETTE

\$1,280 | Tulip classroom air conditioner

NICHES LAND TRUST

\$9,995 | Equipment transport trailer

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

\$9,843 | Waterproof lighting equipment

TRANSFORMED BIRTH SERVICES

\$5,000 | Mobile baby pantry

WOLF PARK

\$5,000 | Electronic wolf habitat signs

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 595
LAFAYETTE IN

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LAFAYETTE

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LIZ WETLI

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