Curb Appeal

The first step in selling a house is improving its curb appeal. So holds true for businesses and organizations. By giving a great first impression, potential patrons are more likely to stop by and look inside. A $6,495 grant for exterior landscaping to the YWCA from The Community Foundation generated the desired curb appeal to open the door for more improvements.

President and CEO Allison Beggs said, “The grant was a seed. Sometimes an investment in how you look can change the community’s perception. The change in the outward appearance inspired others to invest in internal changes like building upgrades and improvements to the facility and equipment and a general freshening of the interior. The landscaping became an outward manifestation of the wonderful things that were happening on the inside.”

“The Community Foundation helps provide the things we desperately need, such as mechanical improvements, equipment purchases, or security upgrades for our domestic violence shelter,” said Beggs. “We could not do the work without them.” Grants for capital needs help leverage nonprofit budgets to concentrate on vital programming.

The YWCA offers two unique programs in the area: free cancer screenings for uninsured, under-insured, and minority women in 41 Indiana counties; and a domestic violence program which supports and empowers survivors through an emergency shelter and other services. Additionally, the YWCA offers dance, volleyball, and other activities. The YWCA is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year and is just getting started.

Make a Difference with your IRA

Key decisions regarding your Individual Retirement Account are at hand if you are 70 ½ or older. You must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) each year, which is considered taxable income at your current tax bracket. If you don’t have a present need for the revenue and want to make a charitable impact on the community without any tax penalties, consider gifting it to a qualified charity.

Bob Griffiths, an Investment Associate at Merrill Lynch and past board member of The Community Foundation, advises those who are not sure which charity to support to consider The Foundation. “The Community Foundation is proven with an impressive track record and supports a wide variety of charitable causes that benefit much of the community,” said Griffiths. “Wonderful organizations exist because of the generosity of individuals who want to give something back or leave something behind.” Simply contact your IRA plan administrator to set it up.

Tax laws allow individuals to give up to $100,000 per year to a charity of their choice. Consider naming The Community Foundation as a part of your charitable giving. Contact Candy Silver, director of philanthropy at 765-742-9078 or candy@cfglaf.org to learn how. Together we can do a world of good.
Up Close and Personal

The Community Foundation hosted a bus tour event in October to give 35 donors and board members the opportunity to see and learn about three local nonprofit organizations behind-the-scenes. “It’s extremely worthwhile for board members and others involved with The Community Foundation to visit our community resources and see their operations firsthand,” shared previous board member Mike Gery in regards to the event. “You can read or be told about what they do, but to visit them and to ask questions internalizes the value they have in the community.”

The first stop was at NICHES Land Trust’s headquarters at Clegg Memorial Garden. “The Community Foundation is a great supporter and partner in helping build the capacity of NICHES to manage the land to keep it open for the public,” said Executive Director Gus Nyberg. Over the years, Community Foundation grants helped purchase a work truck, canoes, a mower, brush cutters, and boulders and soil to create the Outdoor Classroom and Natural Play Area at Clegg. NICHES manages 45 properties in 13 Indiana counties with a mission to conserve natural areas and connect people to nature.

Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) at the Wells Community Cultural Center was the second stop where participants could see the completely remodeled building, made possible in part by Foundation grants. Specific contributions from The Community Foundation funded the art studio, and a donor-advised fund financed the dance studio. CEO Tetia Lee said, “With the renovation, we now have more flexibility within the building that was not possible before.” TAF has beautiful new galleries and space for performances, various programs, classes, workshops, and new meeting rooms, one in which hosted a catered dinner by The Outpost for the tour group.

The final bus stop was at the Farm at Prophetstown, located inside the park. Participants toured the property and sampled homemade apple dumplings prepared by Event Coordinator and Chef Lauren Reed. The private nonprofit farm grows, raises, uses, and sells its own food and allows visitors to get a glimpse of rural living back in the early 1920s. The Farm spotlights sustainable agriculture, homesteading, heirloom gardening, and farm-to-table cooking. The Community Foundation provided a grant to help purchase a “new” 1927 Gibson piano player, which adds musical enjoyment to the Farmhouse experience.

To those considering supporting a new or existing endowment, previous board member Patti Truitt suggested, “Take a tour and see the breadth of an agency’s work and what tugs at your heart.” It is amazing what you can experience up close and personal.
Eric Lin, age 32, is the son of two Purdue professors and grew up in West Lafayette. He graduated from Purdue with a degree in accounting and industrial management and was working in Chicago for IBM when he realized something was missing. “I never imagined that I’d be back in town; I never imagined that I’d be working for a nonprofit. But things happen for a reason,” said Lin.

When he moved back to town, an accounting professor referred him to Wabash Center, where he worked as a contractor for process improvement projects. From there, Eric became the organization’s controller and, most recently, its director of development. “I love working for a mission; I never have a problem waking up and going to work to help the people we serve,” said Lin. “It’s easier to be positive and I have more clarity of purpose.”

Eric’s work ethic and positive attitude were influenced by his hardworking parents, Ching Ching Wu and Tsang Long Lin, who are both “double doctors.” They taught him to be civic-minded and generous. His mother taught him to choose to have a positive response in the face of adversity.

Seeing firsthand how Wabash Center benefitted from Community Foundation grants opened Eric’s eyes. “The Foundation is so supportive for projects that aren’t necessarily popular to support, but are vital — capital projects like cabinetry and air-conditioning units. We absolutely have to have these things,” said Eric.

He also gained firsthand knowledge of many other nonprofits in Greater Lafayette. “There are so many inspiring people doing great things in our community that it’s hard not to get involved,” said Lin. His hobbies are accounting and connecting with people. He uses these gifts in leadership roles with the West Lafayette Library Foundation, Lafayette Parks Foundation, and Tippecanoe Arts Federation, among others. “Knowing how The Community Foundation is there for Wabash Center and touches so many other organizations, when the opportunity came up for the Lilly Endowment matching campaign, I knew I had to do it,” said Lin. He chose to honor his parents by setting up a discretionary endowment in their name during the Lilly Phase VII Matching Campaign last December.

“It took me coming back as an adult to really experience the sense of community we have and see what it takes to have a good community. I now realize how pervasive and supportive The Community Foundation is to all of that,” said Lin. He is greatly inspired by the people he serves at Wabash Center. “When someone with limited abilities and opportunities can achieve great things, there is no excuse for anyone else not to try. We all have potential and should strive to reach it,” said Lin.
Nonprofits Receive Funding

**FALL COMMUNITY GRANTS**

**Bauer Family Resources**  
$22,507 | Creating space for new Recovery Café Program

**Duncan Hall**  
$23,200 | Building and roof repairs

**Food Finders Food Bank**  
$11,132 | Electric pallet jacks

**Joyful Journey**  
$14,040 | Specially designed chairs to meet client needs

**NICHS Land Trust**  
$7,714 | Brush cutters and accessories

**Tippecanoe County Historical Association**  
$20,124 | Arganbright exterior renovations

**Tippecanoe County Public Library**  
$15,933 | New South Branch technology for youth services department

**Wabash Center**  
$30,000 | Renovations to main campus offices

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**Willowstone**  
$16,830 | Computers and accessories for new counselors

**YWCA**  
$13,520 | Fire safety and security equipment

**NOW GRANTS**  
*July – December 2019*

**Art Museum of Greater Lafayette**  
$2,915 | Dehumidifier for art gallery

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Lafayette**  
$5,899 | Copy machine

**Food Finders Food Bank**  
$2,985 | Security cameras

**Haan Museum of Indiana Art**  
$4,200 | HVAC equipment

**Heartford House**  
$6,862 | Conference room furniture

**Indiana Golf Foundation**  
$7,000 | First Tee equipment for Tippecanoe School Corporation

**Junior Achievement**  
$6,500 | Office furniture

**LTHC Homeless Services**  
$2,774 | Security cameras

**NAMI-WCI**  
$3,600 | Copy machine

**Right Steps Childcare Centers**  
$7,500 | Network equipment for new childcare center

**Tippecanoe County Historical Association**  
$5,300 | Parking lot improvements and signage at Arganbright

**Tree Lafayette**  
$3,000 | Funding to purchase trees

**YMCA**  
$5,000 | Playground equipment at Childcare Center

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**GIVING GROUPS**

**Men Who Give**  
$8,400 | Food Finders Food Bank – Earhart Backpack Program

**100+ Women Who Care**  
$14,700 | Heartford House

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2020 APPLICATION DEADLINES

**SPRING COMMUNITY GRANTS**  
March 24, 2020, noon  
$7,500 and above

**FIELD-OF-INTEREST GRANTS**  
June 1, 2020, noon  
Various amounts

**FALL COMMUNITY GRANTS**  
July 28, 2020, noon  
$7,500 and above

**NOW GRANTS**  
Available any time from January 1 through November 30, 2020

Less than $7,500

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Duncan Hall received a grant for building and roof repairs.