

REASONS TO FEEL GREAT ABOUT 2021



Rush
County
Community
Foundation
live life local

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We celebrated the good work we've done together over the last 30 years with **#RCCFFlashbackFriday** posts, a virtual scavenger hunt of grant-funded projects and an **in-person gathering** that truly felt like a homecoming.



The Open Resource received a grant for **\$16,190** to launch their innovative Digital Navigators program. They purchased internet-ready devices to give to program participants. Volunteer instructors offer free classes to teach skills necessary to navigate the online world. *"Technology is always changing. People will be left behind. We're here to make sure that they're not,"* said volunteer, Carole Yeend.

The Fred Marshall Healthy Futures Fund was established by the Buchanan Family Foundation. It supports a six-week healthy cooking course from Rush County Community Assistance/Purdue Extension.

Wilma Jo Kile established the **Ebert H. and Bessie M. Schroeder Fund** in memory of her parents to support the REC Center. She told us, *"I can think of nothing else that would provide the value-added amenities for the residents of Rush County than a multipurpose community center. My parents always wanted to do what was right, and I want to honor that feeling."*

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girls inc.

Girls Inc. of Shelbyville/ Shelby County received a grant of **\$7,500** to purchase monthly subscription boxes for 50 Rush County girls ages 6-10 to provide fun, educational activities centered on literacy and math.

\$216,000

More than **\$216,000** were awarded in scholarships. A total of 112 awards were made to 61 local students. The average award was \$1,930.



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Imagine: Nation, the arts and cultural council of Rush County, received a grant for **\$11,200** to create a gallery space and classroom in the Booker T. Washington school building. They also hosted a free Shakespeare in the park performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* by national touring company, The Brown Box Theatre Project, on July 30th at Riverside Park Amphitheater, including two page-to-stage workshops for adults and youth with cast members. *"I took my girls, ages 4 and 12, and they're still talking about it! My 12-year-old is interested in more Shakespeare. My 4-year-old re-enacts the scenes from the balcony on our playground. I'd love to see more plays at the amphitheater,"* shared one mom.



Work on the REC Center continued behind the scenes. Here's a sneak peek of the latest design.



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The Rush County Youth Athletic Fund granted **\$359** to Eric Wagner, RCHS Boys Soccer Coach, to purchase a camera to record matches for team review.

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The Milroy Economic Development Corporation received a grant for **\$10,500** to paint a large-scale outdoor mural to include community input and participation.

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The Molly Spaeth Fund for Transformation and Well-Being was established by her family to support projects and programming that improve the social and/or mental well-being and betterment of individuals locally. *"Molly was a social worker and had great compassion for at-risk children, teens, adults, and the elderly. We look forward to witnessing how her fund will support, improve, and transform the physical and mental well-being of Rush County residents,"* shared Molly's sister, Toni Schultz.

The Carthage Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for **\$3,728**. They purchased additional grain bin rescue tools and training.

The Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for **\$29,010** to buy four air packs, which allow firefighters to breathe within toxic smoke conditions.



The Rush County Education Fund granted **\$173** to Amaranta Kemple, Spanish teacher at RCHS, for vocabulary building tools to be used by her students.

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The **First5 Fund** was established to support high-quality early learning opportunities for our community's youngest residents.



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The **Community Based Action Planning (CBAP)** initiative launched with community input and volunteers prioritizing projects to include: mental health, local gateway signage, downtown beautification, tourism, post-secondary skill trade education and apprenticeships, parks programming, county-wide land use, blight elimination and internet access.



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Executive Director, **Alisa Winters**, was selected as one of **24 participants in the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's inaugural John Mutz Philanthropic Institute**. "I've had the opportunity to learn about board development, public policy, how storytelling and communications can advance philanthropy, and the future of giving. I am grateful for the entire experience and look forward to continuing to grow personally and professionally," she said.



The **Music for Rush County Fund** granted **\$5,983** to the Heart of Rushville to help secure a well-known act for the final concert of the Riverside Park Amphitheater to coincide with the Bicentennial celebrations to be held in September 2022.

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The **Youth in Philanthropy Fund** granted **\$1,200** to RCHS to help continue its popular program to provide approximately 375 healthy breakfast snacks each week.

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Community Grants Awards totaled
\$96,003

PUBLIC SAFETY
\$32,738 / 34%

ARTS & CULTURE
\$31,700 / 33%

LITERACY & EDUCATION
\$31,565 / 33%

23

Donors to RCCF's **CIRCLE Fund** awarded a grant of **\$10,500** to Rushville Public Library's "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. This initiative will put new books in the hands of every Rush County child from birth to age five through a partnership between the library, First5 and local childcare and healthcare providers.



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RCCF donated **\$10,000** toward **Rush County's** year-long **bicentennial** celebration.

Local organizations received **\$260,411** in annual support from funds they set up themselves (agency endowment) or by a donor (designated purpose).

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The **Alex Workman Memorial Fund** and **Rush County Education Fund** combined to fund **\$7,563** in projects to three elementary schools: Milroy, RES East and RES West. These projects are all designed to help students with social and emotional challenges succeed.



The **Kenneth and Charlotte Brashaber Teacher Enhancement Award** granted **\$1,000** to Daniel Riddell, mathematics teacher at Rushville Consolidated High School (RCHS), to use toward obtaining his Master's Degree in Mathematics at Indiana Wesleyan University.

The **Helen and Jim Ewing Fund to Help the Elderly and Feed the Hungry** granted **\$12,500** to Gleaners Food Bank to support the school-based food pantries at RCHS and MES.



Rush County Community Assistance Food Pantry



Henry Henley Public Library received a grant for **\$7,875** to upgrade the electricity and install venting for the restroom and a cleanout for sewage repairs in the coming years.

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2021 was another year we couldn't have predicted. It was certainly filled with ups and downs. But the list you're about to read is full of two qualities - *impact and hope*.

In honor of our 30th anniversary in 2021, we thought it would be fun to take a look at 30 highlights of the year, in no particular order. Each of these highlights supports our three goals - to serve donors, to make grants and to provide leadership. This is the foundation of the Foundation, if you will. But none of it would be possible without you. *Thank you.*

For lists of our donors, board, volunteers, honor and memorial gifts, and financials, please visit rushcountyfoundation.org/2021-impact.

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Your generosity made #1-29 possible and **helped grow**

RCCF's assets to \$22.5 million



to support our community forever.