



December 2024

I saw this post on social media recently and immediately felt it.

Ready or not - the giving season is here. It can be joyous. It can be stressful. It can be completely overwhelming in either direction.

**Whatever you are able to give, it's enough. And all of those "MUCHs?" Together they add up to even MORE than we can imagine.**

Read on for stories of MUCH generosity.

In the spirit of the season - with some big liberties taken...

**On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas our community gave to us –**

- \***SEVEN** new funds started,
- \***SIX** -ty seven% match met,
- \***FIVE** days a week (except for 12/24, 25, 31 & 1/1)
- \***FOUR** grateful staff,
- \***THREE** LCC grants,
- \***TWO** upcoming deadlines,
- \***and A** Lilly Scholar excited as can be.

**We're so grateful for you, Lisa, and wish you a holiday season that's merry and bright!**

**PSA for the upcoming holiday:**

Don't come at me with your little gift bag or Christmas tin and be all "it's not much, but."

Let me tell you something. If you think enough of me to build, buy, make, bake, paint, craft, or grow something for ME... out of 7 billion people, this ONE thing is just for ME.

THAT is MUCH.

Let's not forget that this year when we say "it's not much, but..." because the thoughtfulness to think of someone else IS "much."

**Congratulations, Jenna!**



Congratulations to **Jenna Lawler**, the 2025 Rush County Lilly Endowment Community Scholar! She receives full tuition, required fees and up to \$900/yr for required books and equipment for four years.

***“The Lilly Scholarship truly has opened up a life changing opportunity for me. I now can attend school close to my family without fear of the financial burden it would cause otherwise. I am beyond grateful for this honor and know that I will do my best to proudly represent my community. I am once again fueled by the generosity of others,”*** said Jenna.

Want to learn more about Jenna and her future plans?

[READ MORE](#)

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## Donors Start 7 New Funds



Our donors are known for their generosity. Since September, seven new funds have been created to support the community in various ways.

For a limited time, **all gifts made to Community Funds are being matched 2:1** through Lilly Endowment Inc.’s GIFT VIII initiative. A donation of \$10,000 is required to start and name a new unrestricted fund. But with these matching dollars, donors can set up a fund with a minimum gift of \$3,334.

**Donors for each of the five new community funds took advantage of the match to triple their impact.** There's never been a better time to make a bigger difference.

- **J.B. and Shelly Gardner Family Community Fund**  
Started by J.B. and Shelly Gardner to support the ever-changing needs and interests of the Rush County community with an unrestricted community fund.
- **Jim Payne Family Community Fund**  
Bryan and Deb Garlock started this unrestricted fund in honor of Deb's dad, Jim, for his 90th birthday.
- **RHS Class of 1964 Community Fund**  
Anita Mohr and Chris Levi, alongside numerous classmates, started this unrestricted fund in honor of their graduating class.
- **RCHS Class of 1975 Community Fund**  
Started by anonymous donors to honor the graduating class of 1975 with an unrestricted fund.
- **Winkler-Smith Family Community Fund**  
Priscilla Winkler, Charles and Lurinda Smith, and Melissa Winkler combined their contributions to start this unrestricted fund.
- **Manilla Community Volunteer Fire Department Fund**  
This fund was started by an anonymous donor to provide annual support to the Manilla Community Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Harcourt Family Scholarship Fund**  
Started by Carl and Barbara Harcourt, honoring Russell and Betty B. Harcourt, Marilyn Hardwick Woods, Maurita Ball, Betty Spyrisson and Sharalie Harcourt, this fund provides a scholarship to residents of Orange or Anderson Township in Rush County for any schooling beyond high school.

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**GIFT VIII 2:1 Community Grants Match Update:  
\$176,196, 67% of Our Goal**

**Your Donation, TRIPLD**

**\$250 = \$750**

**\$100 = \$300**

**\$50 = \$150**

**TRIPLE your impact** when you take advantage of a **\$2 match for each \$1 you donate** to our unrestricted Community Grants Funds. Don't delay - this is offer is limited!

**Or start your own fund. Did you know you can use the match to create your family's legacy? A gift of \$3,334 (normally \$10,000) will start the Benjamin Family Fund.**

You can split that gift as many ways as you like. Or even use the sale of appreciated stock or a QCD from your IRA.

Need more info? Contact Chris at [cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org](mailto:cmay@rushcountyfoundation.org) or (765) 938-1177, ext 1. Whatever name you choose, you will make a BIG impact for Rush County!

**TRIPLE YOUR IMPACT**

***Once the goal of \$262,500 is met - the match will be gone. But \$787,500 will benefit our community forever!***

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## 3 Grants to Benefit the Love Community Center

With the [Love Community Center](#) (LCC) set to open in early 2025, our attention is focused on supporting its partners and its sustainability. Three grants have been awarded to RCCF for the LCC's needs. We're so grateful to these organizations for their investment in our community!



**Duke Energy has made an \$8,000 grant** to RCCF in support of the Rush County Community Assistance Food Pantry and their new space at the LCC.

These dollars will go into RCCF's [Schroeder Fund](#) for sustainability of LCC.

[READ MORE](#)

**CenterPoint Energy Foundation has made a \$50,000 grant** to RCCF.

These dollars will also go into the Schroeder Fund.

[READ MORE](#)

**Early Learning Indiana has made a \$158,000 grant** to RCCF in support of Westminster Preschool, the LCC childcare provider.

These dollars will help cover credentialing and licensing for staff, construction costs, and materials and supplies for the program.

[READ MORE](#)



## Join the CIRCLE, Our Women's Giving Group



### MEMBERSHIPS DUE 12/31

Are you a Rush County female looking to make a meaningful impact locally? Then the CIRCLE (Chicks Impacting Rush County Life), our women's giving group, is looking for you!

RCCF's **CIRCLE Fund** offers women the chance to combine their financial resources to make a large grant each year to a transformative project. Voting takes place at their annual event each spring.

**New memberships and renewals of \$300 are due by 12/31/2024** to participate in 2025. Mail or drop off payment: RCCF, 117 N Main St, Rushville, IN 46173.

[JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE](#)



## IMPORTANT DATES

**CIRCLE Memberships due by 12/31/2024.** [Make a \\$300 gift online](#) or by mailing/dropping off payment to: RCCF, 117 N Main Street, Rushville, IN 46173

**2025 Scholarship Applications due by 2/15/2025.** [Apply now.](#)

**Community Events Calendar:** [Find and submit local events.](#)

## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



[2024 Community Grants total \\$132,489!](#)



[Which orgs received awards in the 2nd round?](#)



[What are the ABCs of RCCF?](#)

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## Ways to Give: Stock



Gifts of stock are an easy and convenient way to support the Foundation that don't require dipping into your bank account.

Ask your financial advisor to transfer your stock to RCCF.

DTC: 0057

Account #33106245-1-9

Edward Jones Tax ID #: 43-0345811

[\*\*LEARN MORE\*\*](#)

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## November Tribute Gifts

Each gift you make in memory or in honor of a loved one supports Rush County forever. We are grateful for your kindness and generosity!

**In Memory of:**

Alice Ruth Wiley, Glen Wiley, Lauren  
Alice Wiley  
Ashley Spurlin  
Bess Heller  
Bill Griffis  
Briana J. Springman  
Charles Niccum  
Dave Schrage  
Donna Hood  
Fay Webb  
Forrest and Louise Piles  
Jane Billman  
Laurie Norris  
Leo and Mary Durbin  
Linda Richards  
Link Fraley

Louise Kendall  
Marcus Bostic  
Marie King  
Marilyn Vogel  
Noah Hughes  
Pippa Flanary  
Richard Dunn  
Rick Bane  
Russell and Betty Bane  
Scott Southerland  
Shirley Henshaw  
Tom Naylor

**In Honor of:**

David Bane  
Pippa's Birthday

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Rush Co Community Foundation | 117 N. Main Street | Rushville, IN 46173 US

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