



HIGHLIGHTS

STAFF OPENING AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Want to be part of a great team focused on making our community a better place? You're in luck: We've got a position open here at the Community Foundation, as part of our Program team. You can find all the details at www.cfsjc.org/news.

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

This year, we received 109 applications for the prestigious **Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship**. This impressive pool included students from 14 area high schools. Over the next two months, our Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Committee will be reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews.

NEW STAFF MEMBER EMILY HOOVER ON BOARD

We've recently added a new staff member to our Program team: **Emily Hoover**, who will be focusing on the Community Foundation's grants and scholarships. Previously, Emily worked in financial aid for Indiana University South Bend. She holds a BS in Marketing with a minor in Computer Information Systems from the University of Indianapolis.



Emily Hoover, Program Officer



The Foundation's first cohort of 21st Century Success Fellows gets to know each other on the Aerial Adventure Park course at Rum Village.

Community Foundation Launches 21st Century Success Fellowship

Through this new fellowship, a group of 21st Century Scholars enrolled in local colleges and universities will provide "near-peer" mentoring to younger students while developing their own leadership potential.

Over the past year, the Community Foundation has been working hard on our recently developed 21st Century Scholar Success Initiative—a far-reaching partnership that includes school corporation superintendents and higher education chancellors, social service providers, and workforce and economic development organizations, all working together to support our county's current and future 21st Century Scholars. A major \$4 million grant from the Lilly Endowment (announced in December of 2020) has given this effort powerful support.

Now, we're launching an exciting new

component of this initiative: the 21st Century Success Fellowship.

MENTORING, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Chosen through a competitive application process [*find full details online at www.cfsjc.org/fellowship*], 21st Century Success Fellows are students at local colleges and universities who are enrolled in Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program. Each Fellow receives a \$5,000 award from the Community Foundation, which is in addition to their state-funded tuition award. To fulfill the requirements of the fellowship, they participate in educational opportunities that focus on personal leadership development, career preparation, and degree completion. Fellows also mentor middle school and high school students, helping them enroll as 21st Century Scholars and successfully navigate the program.

This mentoring component developed out of focus group research conducted

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Fellows Represent Wide Range of Schools, Majors

Meet our inaugural cohort of 21st Century Scholar Success Fellows:

- **Chloe Clayborn**, Bethel University; Sports Management
- **Cameron Lidgard**, IUSB; Business Management
- **Naire Little**, Bethel University; Graphic Design
- **Allyson McKelvey**, IUSB; Nursing
- **Roman Robic**, IUSB; Criminal Justice
- **Valeria Alvarez**, Holy Cross College; Business and Health Care
- **Reagan Ayala**, IUSB; Marketing/Advertising
- **Nayeli Belmares**, Holy Cross College; Elementary Education
- **Julian Garcilazo**, Holy Cross College; Clinical Psychology
- **Jessica Mejia-Abrajan**, Holy Cross College; Psychology
- **Tayla Rayoum**, IUSB; Behavioral Neuroscience
- **Grace Selis**, IUSB; Exercise Science

Know a college-level 21st Century Scholar who might be interested in our Fellowship program? They can learn more about the program requirements and application process at www.cfsjc.org/fellowship.

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on behalf of the Community Foundation. Through it, we learned that younger students often turn to “near peers”—older siblings, cousins, or friends—for advice about high school and post-secondary education. Many focus group participants indicated that they’d enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program because of the influence of these “near peers.” Through our partnerships with local schools and social service organizations, these Fellows will have many opportunities to inspire and support younger 21st Century Scholars.

“This fellowship will cultivate the talent and potential of these resilient young people—not just for their own personal benefit, but for our larger community and for the other young people they inspire to follow in their footsteps,” says Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The Fellowship team will increase each year. Each spring, the Foundation’s Fellowship committee will receive applications from college-level 21st Century Scholars and select cohorts of ten new Fellows. And thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Leep Family Foundation, a campaign is being launched to endow the program,

ensuring the 21st Century Success Fellowship continues to change lives for many years to come.

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FIRST MEETING OF FELLOWS

The inaugural class of 12 Fellows gathered as a group for the first time in mid-September. Their first meeting included a trip through the trees at the Rum Village Aerial Adventure Park, promoting a sense of team unity and shared purpose. MJ Murray Vachon, a licensed clinical social worker, worked with the students as part of the event.

“It was a big success!” says Amy Rauch, the Foundation’s program director, education. “The weather was perfect and the students enjoyed getting to know each other.”

Stay tuned: We’ll provide more updates on our Fellows in the months ahead.

Make a gift to support the Fellowship endowment at www.cfsjc.org/give.



Fellows Grace Selis and Nayeli Beymares work through a series of icebreakers at their first meeting.

Big C Lumber Fund Supports Education, Employees' Families

Corporate scholarships held at the Community Foundation help the children of local employees pay for college or trade school.

At the Community Foundation, we believe in the importance of education from the earliest years of a child's life through adulthood. The Foundation holds more than 65 scholarship funds, which distribute close to a million dollars in scholarships each year.

The Big C Lumber Fund has awarded \$136,000 in scholarships to children of employees.

Some of these scholarship funds were established by companies to benefit the children of their employees. The Big C Lumber Fund is an inspiring example.

Big C Lumber Chairman Emeritus Roger Foley established the scholarship fund in honor of his parents, Bill and Gladys. Both put a high value on education. For Bill, who was born and raised on a rural Kentucky farm, a

college education allowed him to escape long hours and tedious work.

Nick Brady, co-chairman of Big C Lumber and son-in-law of Roger, explains that the fund's goal is to help the children of employees unlock similar opportunities.

"The ability to obtain a college education at a reasonable price is something that Bill felt very strongly about," Brady says. "Roger and Matt Magor, our company's most recent past president, took this to heart after Bill passed away and established the fund."

The Big C Lumber Fund has awarded \$136,000 in scholarships to children of its employees since it was established in 2004. This year, five students received new or renewing scholarships worth \$4,000 each.

Corporate scholarships are a powerful way to support and encourage employees. Learn more about creating a scholarship fund online at www.cfsjc.org/createafund.



Big C Granger employee Mike Kerr [right] stands with his son Payton Kerr, a student at Indiana University Bloomington whose \$4,000 Big C Lumber scholarship was renewed this fall.

CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIPS HELD AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INCLUDE:

- 1st Source Scholarship
- Big C Lumber Scholarship
- Laidig Scholarship
- Robert O. Neeser/Cassady, Neeser & Brasseur Scholarship

Find details about all of our scholarship programs online at www.cfsjc.org/scholarships.



Rose Meissner

Rose Meissner Named YWCA's Woman of the Year

The YWCA of North Central Indiana has named Rose Meissner, the Community Foundation's president, as its 2021 "Woman of the Year."

"We are so happy to shine the spotlight on a remarkable woman whose work has positively impacted the lives of thousands in our community," says Susan Tybon, executive director of the YWCA.

"Rose has dedicated nearly three

decades to connecting people who care with causes that matter. In that time, she's shown tremendous determination, compassion, and love. We're all in her debt."

Past recipients of this award include Nancy King, Patricia Cressy, Maggie Kernan, Dorothy Weikamp and Barbara Warner. The YWCA will recognize Rose at its annual "Tribute" event on October 14.



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SBSO Simulcast Highlight of Series

A highlight of this year's Community Foundation Performing Arts Series at the Chris Wilson Pavilion in Potawatomi Park was the live radio simulcast of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra's concert on August 28.

Thanks to a new partnership with station manager Anthony Hunt and 88.1 WVPE-FM, we were able to share the concert with a far wider audience than we'd normally reach. The sound quality was excellent, and it provided a wonderful alternative to in-person attendance for those who are not comfortable with large gatherings. We hope to offer the simulcast again in 2022.



South Bend Symphony Orchestra at the Chris Wilson Pavilion, August 28



Rotary volunteers at the September 2021 Carter Work Project in Mishawaka

Grant Supports Rotary, Habitat

A \$30,000 Special Project grant from the Community Foundation to the South Bend Rotary Charitable Foundation is playing an important role in Phase II of Habitat for Humanity's Carter Work Project.

In August of 2018, Habitat volunteers for Phase I—including a team from the Community Foundation—built 23 new homes in Mishawaka, just south of Byrkit and Jefferson streets. In this new phase, the Rotary Club of South Bend and other area Rotary clubs are working with Habitat to create a safe,

universally-accessible playground in nearby Darnell Park. It's the first time that Habitat has included a playground in one of its builds, and the amenities will include playground equipment and a green lawn for neighborhood families to enjoy.

Our Special Project grants help local charities take on big projects that make big impacts. Learn more at www.cfsjc.org/spgrants.