



**HIGHLIGHTS**

**WE'VE MOVED!**

We've officially moved into our new offices in the St. Joe County Public Library's beautiful new **Community Learning Center**, located at the intersection of Michigan and Wayne. The address is 305 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601. Please note that our mailing address (listed at the bottom of this page) has not changed.

**FREE WILLS GUIDE AVAILABLE**

At the Community Foundation, we believe that everyone should have a will. To help, we offer a free guide to planning your will: **"Provide & Protect,"** a 24-page booklet that will guide you in collecting the material you'll need to meet with your attorney or estate planner and create your will. You can download this free guide at [cfsjc.org/willsguide](https://cfsjc.org/willsguide), or call us at 574-232-0041 and we'll mail you a copy.

**MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER**

**Malissa Ayala**, previously with the Community Foundation from 2002 to 2010, has returned after more than a decade working with financial aid and scholarships for IU South Bend and Purdue University. As Senior Program Officer, Education, Malissa will be working with our full range of education initiatives, including our 21st Century Scholar Success Initiative.



Malissa Ayala, Senior Program Officer, Education



Aaron Perri, executive director of South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts, in his favorite spot at the Morris

# Community Foundation Makes \$1 Million Grant for Morris 100

As the venue celebrates its 100th anniversary, a major capital campaign will support renovations, upgrades, and new construction.

What's Aaron Perri's favorite spot in the Morris? Up on the second floor balcony, looking out over the main lobby.

"I love watching everyone come in," Perri, executive director of South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts, says. "It's that sense of anticipation. It's magical."

The Morris Performing Arts Center has welcomed literally millions of audience members through that main lobby over the past century. In its early years, they came to see stars such as Harry Houdini and Frank Sinatra; recently, Blue Man Group, Harry Connick Jr., and the South Bend Symphony Orchestra are among the acts that draw people through the Morris doors.

Built in 1922, the Morris turns 100 this year. Although this longevity is something to celebrate, it also means that the Morris needs additional investment to keep its magic alive for the next generation.

"This is a very synergistic time," Perri says. "We're celebrating the Morris's impact over the past 100 years while we're investing in the building's future, on behalf of the patrons who will be here for the *next* 100 years."

The \$30 million Morris 100 campaign will support three phases of work. The first, which begins in late June, will make major building improvements, including a new roof, floor, lighting, and HVAC systems. Comfortable new seating will be installed throughout the facility, too.

The second phase will be an addition to the Morris, located on the north side of the building. It will include flexible space designed to be used by local

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MORRIS continued from p. 1

arts organizations, new bathrooms, elevators, and a 300-car parking garage with direct building access.

The third and final phase will focus on enhancing the building's exterior greenspaces.

The Community Foundation recently approved a \$1 million grant to support the Morris 100 campaign, bringing the campaign's fundraising total to approximately \$20 million, or two-thirds of its goal.

"The size of the grant reflects the importance of the Morris to our community," says Rose Meissner, president.

It's one of the largest grants that the Community Foundation has made.

"The size of the grant reflects the importance of the Morris to our community," says Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation. "We couldn't be more excited about this project. The Morris ties us together across generations, communities, and regions. It's a key component of a city that is flourishing, and that's something we all love to see."

Learn more about the Community Foundation's grantmaking in support of local arts at [cfsjc.org/arts](https://cfsjc.org/arts).



Rose Meissner announces the Foundation's \$1 million grant at a recent press event



Dick Pfeil (second from left) with daughter Laura, son John, granddaughter Katie, daughter Mary, and grandson James

## Donor Spotlight: Dick Pfeil

Parks. Accessibility. Education and workforce development.

Local philanthropist Richard "Dick" Pfeil immediately saw the connection between these themes—all close to his heart—and the big, beautiful courtyard at the center of the renovated St. Joe County Public Library.

Dick has a passion for green spaces, as evidenced by his decades of advocacy on behalf of the local Parks Department (now South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts). Accessibility has always been an important focus for him, since he's the father of two adult children—Mary and John—who are confined to wheel chairs. And, as a local businessman, he's been a vocal proponent of the importance of public education and workforce development.

But before he finalized his family's financial commitment, he wanted to know what his two local children, Laura and John, thought about the project.

Laura and John were both enthusiastic. They said, "Hey, Dad, we must go together and do this deal."

The Richard Pfeil Family Courtyard serves as a central connecting point for the Library's beautifully updated main building, tech center, and the new Community Learning Center. Surrounded by a glass hallway that offers attractive views from many angles, the courtyard's lushly landscaped green space will host programming for children and adults, as well as other special events.

Along with Beutter-Kernan Hall, Judd Leighton Auditorium, Dr. James M. & Marjorie H. Wilson Family Local & Family History Area, and Peter and Wilma Veldman Children's Area, the Richard Pfeil Family Courtyard is one of the five "gems" of the newly renovated library. Together, these marvelous resources will continue to contribute to the vitality of our community for decades to come.

# Grant Supports Campaign for New Center for Youth Success

A \$250,000 grant from the Community Foundation is adding lift to Youth Service Bureau's capital campaign.

Six years ago, it was just a sketch on a napkin. Now, that dream is becoming a reality for Youth Service Bureau (YSB). After 50 years of serving young people in St. Joseph County, the organization recently launched a \$6 million capital campaign to fund a new facility: the YSB Center for Youth Success.

Each year, more than 1,000 young people in St. Joseph County find themselves alone, struggling with homelessness, poverty, abuse and neglect. They sleep in cars, on couches in homes of friends or strangers, or even in abandoned buildings, all while continuing to attend school and participate in daily life. YSB is the only agency of its kind in St. Joseph County that serves these

teens and young adults, providing an essential alternative to interventions by law enforcement, child welfare, and the juvenile justice system.

But YSB has outgrown its three scattered, aging residential buildings, which are ill equipped to provide the spaces and services that its clients need to thrive.

It's a project that will have immediate benefits in our community—and will change the future for many of YSB's young clients.

That's where the YSB Center for Youth Success comes in. The new 20,000-sq.-ft. facility will consolidate all of the organization's programs into one efficient space. It will be built on 15 acres of donated land at Hickory and McKinley in South Bend, and will create a welcoming environment where young people can find safety,

shelter, and the support they need to exit homelessness forever. Also, the expanded space will create new opportunities for volunteers and supportive professionals to work directly with young people onsite.

To support this important effort, the Community Foundation has made a \$250,000 Special Project challenge grant to YSB's capital campaign. This grant will provide a 1:1 match for campaign donations up to that total.

It's a project that will have immediate benefits in our community—and will change the future for many of YSB's young clients.

"Without intervention, many of today's homeless and at-risk youth are almost certain to be tomorrow's homeless adults," says Jennifer Pickering, executive director of YSB.

**Our Community Endowment Fund helps us support important projects like this one, now and in the future. To give, visit [cfsjc.org/give](https://cfsjc.org/give).**



An architectural rendering of the YSB Center for Youth Success

## 21st Century Success Fellows Update

The Community Foundation's first cohort of 21st Century Success Fellows, a centerpiece of our **21st Century Scholar Success Initiative**, has been visiting local schools and encouraging eligible students to enroll in Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program. They're also helping current Scholars complete their required program activities.

You can learn more about these inspiring young Fellows and the good work they're doing at [cfsjc.org/fellowship](https://cfsjc.org/fellowship).



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Anthony Ray Hinton and Bryan Stevenson

## An Evening with Anthony Ray Hinton

**DATE:** Monday, April 25, 2022

**TIME:** 6:30–7:30 PM

**LOCATION:**

Judd Leighton Auditorium  
Community Learning Center  
305 S. Michigan St.  
South Bend, IN 46601

Enter through the door marked "Auditorium" on Michigan just south of Wayne.

## AACF Sponsors "One Book, One Michiana" Event

Every April, the St. Joe County Public Library launches "One Book, One Michiana," a program designed to draw the community together over a shared book. This year's title is *Just Mercy*, the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller written by civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has focused his career on reforming America's prison system and has overturned the false convictions of dozens of inmates.

In order to draw attention to Stevenson and his important work, the Community Foundation's African American Community Fund has approved a grant to the Library to bring Anthony Ray Hinton to our community to speak. Hinton, one of the men whose stories is included in *Just Mercy*, was arrested and charged with two counts of murder in Alabama in 1985. He knew that he was innocent and believed that he would be released, but the system failed him. He was sentenced to

death. But with the help of Bryan Stevenson, Hinton was exonerated and released from Death Row in 2015. His personal story will add a powerful dimension to our community's discussion of *Just Mercy*.

Join us for this free event, sponsored by the African American Community Fund, at the St. Joe County Public Library. You'll find details at [cfsjc.org/upcoming-events](https://cfsjc.org/upcoming-events).