



HIGHLIGHTS

Lilly Scholarships Accepted

Winners of the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship are **Gennaro Barca** (St. Joseph HS), **Daniella Morales** (Adams HS), **Bella Schaeztle** (Penn HS), and **Jayden Wang** (Penn HS).

Senior Living Grant Awarded

enFocus was the recipient of a \$200,000 **Senior Living Grant** for their Greener Homes Retrofit program for seniors.

La Casa de Amistad Meets Goal

Our friends at **La Casa de Amistad** are celebrating 50 years of service to the community. The 2021 **Leighton Award** winning organization is also thrilled to announce that it reached its Leighton match goal and will receive the full award amount toward its endowment.

Spring Success Fest Scheduled

We're continuing to help local students qualify for 21st Century Scholarships. Our **Spring Success Fest** will be April 13 at the Community Learning Center.

Fellows Pack Meals with Cultivate

In January, our **21st Century Success Fellows** served with **Cultivate Culinary** and helped pack 798 meals.



AACF Celebrates 25 Years of Impact

Founded in 1999, the African American Community Fund has given more than \$1.3 million back to St. Joseph County



Rendering of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Center. The AACF provided \$150,000 toward this project.

When **Richmond and Virginia Calvin** brought together the first stakeholders to help establish the **African American Community Fund**, do you suppose they ever imagined the outsize impact their work would have a quarter-century later?

You bet they did.

As co-chairs of the campaign to create the AACF, the Calvins were working with the future in mind. And thanks to the power of endowment, it's a long future indeed. Built from one primary fund and 20 individual funds established by African American families and organizations, the AACF is a unique and vital community resource.

It's been more than 25 years since those first meetings and conversations, and in the time since, the African American Community Fund has given more than \$1.3 million to African American causes and organizations across St. Joseph County.

The Fund has helped renovate **Dismas House**, supported the expansion of the **St. Joseph County Public Library**, supported arts productions, provided dozens of scholarships, and helped launch **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** in St. Joseph County.

Most recently, the African American Community Fund helped bring a Harriet Tubman statue to South Bend and committed its largest-ever gift to the new **MLK Jr. Dream Center**.

The AACF continues to look for new and effective ways to identify and support projects of importance to the local African American community, and they're going to be able to do so for a very, very long time.

You can help continue the long legacy of the African American Community Fund by making a gift at cfsjc.org/give.

Imagination Library Delivers 600,000th Book

Literacy program serves more than 10,000 local families every single month

Fewer than five years after joining with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** to promote literacy for children and families in St. Joseph County, the Community Foundation was able to help deliver its 600,000th book in November 2023.

Books are available to all children from birth to age 5 in St. Joseph County and come at absolutely no cost to families. Since the beginning of the partnership, more than 20,000 local children have received books through the program.

The Imagination Library has grown steadily since its inception in St Joseph County and we are now serving more than 10,000 area children each month.

Age-appropriate titles are selected by the Imagination Library's Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, and it's a highlight of every family's month when the books arrive in their mailboxes.

Learn more about the Imagination Library at cfsjc.org/DPIL.



A Legacy of Patronage for the Arts

Gene and Jane Bruce talk about their support of the South Bend Civic Theatre

Gene and Jane Bruce know what it's like to find love in unexpected places. They found each other when Gene's first wife passed away. They found a passion for local theatre when they saw *Fiddler on the Roof* in the basement of an elementary school in Manhattan, Kansas. And after chasing a 29-year military career across the nation, the Michigan boy and the Georgia girl found a hometown to call their own in South Bend, Indiana.

"Why would anyone ever want to live anywhere else?" Gene asks.

The couple came to South Bend in 1993. Gene worked as the Executive Dean at Ivy Tech and Jane ran the pharmacy at the South Bend Clinic. They continued a love for live shows, and when a friend invited them to check out the old **South Bend Civic Theatre**, they were smitten.

"We liked it because it showcased local talent up close and personal," says Gene. "But what has really caught my fancy is the concept of community."

Gene and Jane would be quick to tell you that supporting SBCCT means more than financial gifts. Gene and Jane are active volunteers at the theatre. Gene is a past board member and board president. They helped move the theatre into its new and improved space, and they are ardent evangelists of the theatre's mission.

That's why the Bruces have chosen to work with the **Community Foundation** to create an endowment that supports their dear theatre family in perpetuity. Endowed funds guarantee a stream of income to support the work of the South Bend Civic Theatre and create a legacy for the Bruces that will far outlast them.

"We're in the position we can do something," says Gene. "And with the Community Foundation, we know it's in good hands."

The Bruces continue to contribute to the Civic Theatre's endowment, growing the perpetual income that will support the theatre for decades.



Gene and Jane Bruce at the Civic Theatre

Each year, as the deadlines for their required minimum distributions creep up, the Bruces ask themselves the same question that they'd challenge others to consider:

"Where are you going to put that money to do some good?" asks Gene. "To really have an impact for a long time?"

Angela Workman, VP Program, Steps Away

"After 24 years at the Community Foundation, it's time to try something new."

Angela Workman has been a part of the Community Foundation since nearly the very beginning. She was the fourth employee hired in 1999 when she started as Executive Administrative Assistant and worked her way up to become Vice President, Program in 2019.

"I'm proud of the way we do our work and proud to be a part of the great reputation of this place," she says. "But after 24 years at the Community Foundation, it's time to try something new."

Workman has been a part of nearly everything the Foundation has touched for nearly 25 years. The Foundation and the community are better for her efforts.

"Angela has been a delight to work with," says Community Foundation President **Rose Meissner**. "She has made tremendous contributions to initiatives such as the 21st Century Scholar Success Initiative, ArtsEverywhere, and Imagination Library program. We are grateful for her time at the Foundation and wish her all the best as she moves onto her next chapter."

Workman's last day with the Community Foundation will be March 15, 2024.

"We couldn't do what we do without the good things happening in our community and the people who support them," she says. "I love the people I've worked with."



Angela Workman addresses donors at a Community Foundation event.

Make a Gift that Pays You an Income Now...

...and benefits charity later AND now!

Now is a good time for people over the age of 70 ½ to think about setting up a **charitable gift annuity**. This is a wonderful way to make a gift that pays you income for life and benefits charity upon death. Rates went up on January 1, making them even more attractive.

A gift annuity has two components: financial (the income you receive) and charitable (the assets remaining at death go to charity).

Thanks to the **Secure 2.0 Act**, you can make a one-time transfer of \$53,000 directly from your IRA to the Community Foundation to fund your gift annuity (double that for spouses). This transfer counts toward your **Required Minimum Distribution** (RMD) and is excluded from your income.

This is a great option for people who do not need their full RMD and would like to convert it to a lifetime income stream.

Typically, the annuity would pay you now and only benefit charity later. However, **Lilly Endowment Inc.** will now match the charitable gift value of your annuity \$2 for every \$1.

How It Works: John is 75 years old. He transfers \$53,000 directly from his IRA to the Community Foundation to receive lifelong payments from a charitable gift annuity. Based on his age, he qualifies for a 7% annuity rate. He will receive annual payments of \$3,710. Over his lifetime, the total payments are estimated to exceed \$58,000. Upon death, any assets remaining in the annuity will go into the **Community Endowment Fund**.

But that's not all! John's gift annuity brings immediate income to John and also to the Community Foundation. Lilly Endowment Inc. will match the charitable value of his annuity (\$20,000) with a \$40,000 current contribution to our Community Endowment Fund, increasing the support we can give to local charities each year from now on.



For a free, personalized illustration, contact Rose Meissner (574.232.0041 / rose@cfsjc.org)



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UZIMA! dancers pose for a photo after performing *ASHE: A Celebration of Voices* on January 20 at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Foundation Announces \$197,000 in Arts Grants

The Community Foundation is thrilled to announce the most recent round of ArtsEverywhere grants to benefit eight local nonprofit organizations.

The Music Village was the recipient of a \$140,000 Major Venture grant, payable over three years. This grant will support the development of a recording arts studio and the creation of recording arts programs, as well as funding endowment.

First time recipients included **UZIMA! Drum and Dance** and **Sappy Moffitt Field Foundation**.

The \$2,500 granted to UZIMA! will support production expenses for a pair of public performances, including a large-scale Juneteenth celebration at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The grant also supported expenses for UZIMA!'s January performance of *ASHE: A Celebration of Voices*, which was produced in partnership with seven local church choirs and The Pokagon Band's Drum Circle.

A \$10,000 grant made to Sappy Moffitt Field Foundation will fund visiting artist residencies, community-based workshops, and three public murals depicting South Bend's underrepresented histories. Murals and programs will be presented at Foundry Field at Southeast Neighborhood Park.

Additional grantees include **Patchwork Dance Company**, **United Youth Theatre**, **WVPE**, **WNIT Channel 34**, and **South Bend Lyric Opera**.



South Bend Mayor **James Mueller** speaks at the Foundry Field groundbreaking in May 2023.