FOUNDATION NEWSLETTERMARCH 2024



Hello Foundation Friends,

The end of February and the beginning of March have been filled with learning opportunities for the Foundation. We hosted a Placemaking workshop for 30 community members on February 26th, had a stakeholder meeting for a regional Wabash River Blueway Plan, and had a steering committee meeting for the Warren County Active Transportation Plan. On March 26th from 6:00-7:30 HWC Engineering will host its second Community Workshop for the Active Transportation Plan. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. On March 4th and 5th, 90 of the 92 counties in Indiana had Community Foundation representation at the Lilly Endowment Convening. There were many interesting speakers giving the Foundation field insights on several issues facing many of us in Indiana. As part of our Lilly GIFT VIII planning grant, the Endowment funded my attendance at a Creative Placemaking Conference from March 6th through 8th.

The Coffee shop is accomplishing exactly what the students set out to do. It is a place to gather, a place to get fast Wi-Fi, a place to meaningfully volunteer and a place to get a great cup of coffee or small food item. We have heard from patrons that it is the best cookie they have had, the best frappe they have had, and the best grilled cheese they have had. If you haven't checked it out, please do! Also, we will be having a modified schedule the next couple of weeks at the coffee shop, so please check our Facebook page or look at the sign on the door. If you would like to be a volunteer we could really use the help! Please let us know.

Thanks for all of your support,

Michele Stucky





BUNDLES OF BLESSINGS - \$500 GRANT



Bundles of Blessings Diaper Pantry is a new organization in Warren County serving Warren, Fountain, and Benton residents. They currently distribute bundles of 25 diapers every Thursday from 2:00-5:00 out of the Better Way Co-Op building in Downtown Williamsport. This \$500 grant is going to buy A LOT of diapers because the group is able to get them wholesale and receives funding from the Indiana Diaper Bank.

HOPE SPRINGS - \$1,000 GRANT



At the Women's Legacy Builders event on Monday, March 4th three organizations were asked to tell the attendees a little bit about their organizations and what they are currently doing. The attendees vote, and the organization with the most votes gets the largest grant. Hope Springs was this year's top choice and received \$1000.

SEEGER FILM CLUB - \$500 GRANT



Hundreds of kids and families enjoy the Free Movies at the Devon in the summer. While the movie is free for the attendees it is not free. Even though the Devon donates part of the cost, there is still about \$3,000 in film rights that have to be paid to be able to show those movies over the summer. Typically the film club writes grants to both Fountain and Warren County to cover the costs so that families can enjoy nine or ten free movies.



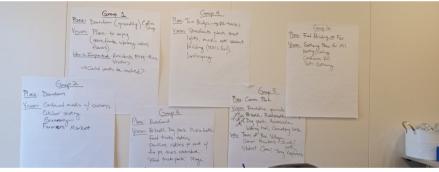
BALL STATE INDIANA COMMUNITY INSTITUTE TRAINING

As part of our Lilly GIFT VIII planning grant, we were able to bring Ball State back. They came and did a 2.5-day Community Development training back in December 2019 as part of Lilly GIFT VII. Even though the pandemic started three months later, we were able to accomplish many of the things they presented to us. This time around, they came for two one-day training sessions. The first was storytelling. They taught us how to weave a story about our community, or groups we are a part of, so that others can see what we do. We received tips about how to get our message across. The second training was about placemaking. There are small things that we can add in all of our communities that will enhance the quality of life. We got into groups and had time to think about a space in Warren County we would like to make better. This brainstorming session helped spark some ideas that might become future projects.









CREATIVE PLACEMAKING CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA GEORGIA

As part of the Lilly GIFT VIII planning grant, our executive director will be able to attend two placemaking conferences. The first conference was the South and Appalachia Creative Placemaking Summit. It took place in Atlanta March 6-8. The conference kicked off with the keynote speaker being the individual who initially created the idea for the Beltway. This project, when completed, will be a 22-mile loop trail around the perimeter of Atlanta using the abandoned rail line that had once been so vital to the city. It has already brough \$10 billion in economic development investment with the sections that are finished. There were presenters from both rural and urban environments. In addition, the Levitt Foundation, who specializes in outdoor music series hosted a three-part training opportunity. The goal of attending these conferences will be to bring back ideas that are impactful but also affordable.

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CREATIVE PLACEMAKING CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA GEORGIA









LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS







Warren County Bird Count Sycamore Audubon Society is looking for people to help count the birds they see and hear on MAY 11th



CALL Susan Ulrich at 765-583-2275 to sign up!



