



communitymatters

A newsletter from the Spencer County Community Foundation

Supporting Our Sisters Fund Celebrates!



left to right: Julie Kemp, Joy Zook, Pat Koch, Ann Moore, Sandra Kramer, Marlene Parsley, Debbie Stevenson, Annie Oxley, Barbara Hinton, Donna Ayer, Pam Thompson, Mary James.

In 2006, a group of visionary women started the Supporting Our Sisters Fund, at the Spencer County Community Foundation, as a permanent resource to support our local programs that give opportunities, encouragement, knowledge and hope to our community's women of all ages. Founding members include Vicki Brauns, Barbara Hinton, Becki Hochgesang, Ann Jochim, Helen Kennedy, Annie Oxley, Marlene Parsley, Cheri Robinson, Debi Stevenson and Laurie Wilhite.

The Spencer County Supporting Our Sisters Fund is dedicated to improving the status and quality of life for women and girls in the Spencer County, Indiana area through purposeful philanthropy and the establishment of a permanent endowment. The Spencer County Supporting Our Sisters Fund is committed

to:
Supporting critical programs for women and girls through grants to eligible organizations.

Providing a vehicle for women to assume greater roles as philanthropists.

Over the past 4 years, the Supporting Our Sisters Fund has distributed over \$21,000 in funding to organizations supporting the needs of women and girls in Spencer County. They have grown to over 30 members. This year's recipients include: Heritage Hills Middle / High School's, Tri-Cap, SonShine Early Learning Ministry and Chrisney Elementary School .

Call Laura to find out how your philanthropic dollars can make a real impact!

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Community Foundation

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The Spencer County
Community Foundation, a
member of the Community
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confirmed in compliance with
national standards for U.S.
community foundations.



Our Mission

To foster an attitude of
giving today for a better
tomorrow.

Winter 2010/2011

Community Foundation Announces Scholarship Opportunities

Marlene Parsley, President of the Spencer County Community Foundation, has announced that scholarship opportunities are available through the Foundation's Community Scholarship program and the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program.

The Community Scholarship program is made up of ten scholarship funds (check page four for a complete list), each with individual selection criteria and eligibility requirements, created by donors to provide Spencer County students with opportunities for advanced education. Awards are made by the Community Foundation following a competitive process. All awards are made without regard to race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin. The deadline to apply for the Community Scholarships is February 7, 2011 for most - but check the website for specific dates.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, fully funded by Lilly Endowment, is administered locally by the Spencer County Community Foundation. Lilly Endowment has changed the availability of these prestigious scholarships, now basing the number of scholarships awarded per county on the population of said county. This year, Spencer County will only have one scholarship, which covers tuition for four years of undergraduate study at an accredited Indiana college or university and an allowance for required fees, books, and equipment. Further criteria apply. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, January 21, 2011.

Applicants are required to submit their applications online this year. Detailed information and application forms for both programs are available at www.spencercommunityfoundation.org or by contacting Laura Harmon, director of the Foundation, at 812-649-5724 or laura@spencercommunityfoundation.org.

What are the needs of Spencer County?

(We would like to know.)

We announce the beginning of the priority needs assessment and would like to extend an invitation to ALL members of the Spencer County community to become involved.

Three tiers of involvement are currently available: A **partner** is someone who has a vested interest in the Priority Needs Assessment and would like to help facilitate the project. A **participant** is one who would like to contribute ideas to the project, just not as a partner. An **observer** is someone who would only like to see the end results of the project.

This report will represent an effort to look at Spencer County's most pressing issues in:

- Education: Supporting educators, students, and families and enhancing educational programs.
- Environment & Agriculture: Protecting natural resources, conservation and preservation
- Health, Wellness, and Recreation: Promoting healthy living, and programs to help citizens stay active.
- Historical Aspects: Preserving and supporting historical sites and landmarks.
- Senior citizen Initiatives: Helping senior citizens to live independently, if able, or helping them get the care they need (meals, nursing homes, etc.).
- Youth Initiatives: Supporting daycare and youth programs.

Round table discussions will be held in 2011 for each of these areas, to discuss in detail. Electronic surveys, face-to-face conversations and mailed questionnaires will also be used throughout the project.

Maggie wants to talk to you... give her a call at 812-649-5724 or register on-line at www.spencercommunityfoundation.org.

Talk with Trustees

In each edition of communitymatters, we will spotlight members of our board. They will be asked various questions that pertain to their involvement with the Foundation. Please let us know if you have a question you would like for them to answer.

Q: How long have you been involved with the Spencer County Community Foundation?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: Since 2008.

Todd Ruxer: Two years.

Q: Why did you become involved?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: A former board member, Ann Jochim, asked me to join the board. As I learned more about the Foundation, I realized that it focuses on the "big picture" of Spencer County. The Foundation seeks to match donors with those who have needs, whether it's a small-town fire department that needs \$500 to buy radios or scholarships worth thousands of dollars. Each of these ideas helps to create a better future for our county.

Todd Ruxer: To help make our community stronger.

Q: If the Foundation gave you 1 million dollars to use for the good of Spencer County, what would you do with it / how would you spend it?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: I would spend half of it to fund education projects for local schools, specifically library resources, supplies and salaries. I don't think we can pay our teachers too much! The other half I would use for tourism projects, as tourism brings money into the county, creates jobs, and shows off the county's many natural and man-made attractions.

Todd Ruxer: For outdoor recreational opportunities.

Q: What do you feel people need to know about the Foundation?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: That you don't need to give thousands of dollars to become involved and make a difference.

Todd Ruxer: Anyone can contribute with any amount of money.

Q: What do you hope the Foundation can accomplish within the next 5 years?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: Double the number of people involved in the Foundation's work: as donors, board members and volunteers.

Todd Ruxer: Continue to increase our growth.

Q: What is the one thing that you treasure or you value the most about our Spencer County community?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: Its natural beauty. We have rolling hills and beautiful forests and are bounded by the Ohio River. What else could you want?

Todd Ruxer: The small rural towns that we are able to call home.

Q: What one item would never be found in your refrigerator?

Mary Jeanne Schumacher: Peanut butter!

Q: What is the last book you have read?

Todd Ruxer: 'Strong Fathers Strong Daughters'

Mary Jeanne Schumacher is the Director of Communications at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology. She is married to Riley Schumacher and has one son, Christopher, a junior at Heritage Hills. Live in Santa Claus.

Todd Ruxer is the Service Manager at Ruxer Furniture and Appliance. He is married to Angie and they have three wonderful children; Aubrey, Abigail and Tyler.

The Spencer County Community Foundation is represented by civic leaders who live in the county and who are motivated by a true desire to help their neighbors, colleagues, and friends connect with charities they care about in a meaningful and lasting way. They are dedicated to making grantmaking decisions based on their first-hand knowledge of the community's greatest needs as well as awarding scholarships to the most qualified candidates.

Officers

Marlene Parsley, President
Daren Brown, Vice President
Jane Boultinghouse, Secretary

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Our thanks to American Electric Power for providing the Foundation with office & meeting space.



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VISIT US @

www.spencercommunityfoundation.org

Did you know...

The House has passed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853), and the final bill includes a provision to extend the tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes. The bill was signed into law on December 17.

It also gives individuals until January 31, 2011, to take a retroactive donation for 2010.

Community Scholarship Funds

Raleigh and Thelma Abshier Scholarship

Brauns Family Scholarship

Community Trust Scholarship

Harold and Thelma Hunter Scholarship

Mabel Mason Ryan Memorial Scholarship

Mike Ryan Memorial Scholarship

Gene and Christina Schwindel Scholarship

Spencer Industries Incorporated Scholarship

Aliene Vance Memorial Scholarship

 Schmidt-Yeager Scholarship

Find us on Facebook



Type into your Facebook search engine, Spencer County Community Foundation, and Like our page to receive updates about events and giving opportunities.

The Spencer County Community Foundation:

- * promotes philanthropy at all levels,
- * builds and maintains a permanent collection of charitable funds that benefit the entire community, and
- * serves as a trustworthy partner and leader in shaping effective responses to community needs.