

CROWN POINT
community
foundation™

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE
IN SOUTH LAKE COUNTY

COMMUNITY IN ACTION



ANNUAL
REPORT 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

SUCCESS SEEMS TO BE CONNECTED

WITH ACTION. SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE KEEP MOVING.
THEY MAKE MISTAKES, BUT THEY DON'T QUIT.

CONRAD HILTON

AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO
FOUNDED THE HILTON HOTELS CHAIN



MARY B. NIELSEN
PRESIDENT



MIKE DEXTER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the generosity, partnership, and shared commitment that continue to strengthen South Lake County. This year marked an important milestone as the Crown Point Community Foundation celebrated 35 years of connecting the passion of generous donors with the evolving needs of our community. Together, we continue to create opportunities that improve lives today while building a stronger future for generations to come.

Because of your support, the Foundation awarded \$1,591,542 through grants and scholarships that expanded educational opportunities, strengthened nonprofit organizations, addressed food insecurity, enhanced public spaces, and supported countless programs that enrich our communities. Every dollar invested represents hope, opportunity, and the collective belief that working together creates lasting change.

Throughout the year, our community came together in meaningful ways.

We celebrated the 16th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive, the 25th Anniversary of Symphony on the Lawn, and another inspiring year of the Women's Giving Circle—events that not only bring people together but also demonstrate the power of philanthropy, volunteerism, and community spirit.

We also continued investing beyond grantmaking by strengthening the nonprofit sector through the Nonprofit Academy and by growing permanent endowment funds that will provide resources for future generations. Whether supporting families through expanded access to nutritious food, helping students pursue higher education, or creating opportunities for collaboration among local organizations, every accomplishment reflects what is possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

None of this would be possible without you—our donors, fundholders, volunteers, nonprofit partners, board members, and community supporters. Your generosity and trust continue to inspire us every day.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum, embracing new opportunities, and ensuring that the Crown Point Community Foundation continues to serve as a catalyst for positive change throughout South Lake County. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us create a stronger, more vibrant community for years to come.

Yours in Philanthropy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Nielsen".

MARY B. NIELSEN

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael P. Dexter".

MICHAEL P. DEXTER



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Give Online Today:
theccpf.org/donate.html



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

Executive Committee



MIKE DEXTER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS



COREY LISS
FIRST VICE CHAIR
CARSTAR LISS AUTO BODY



CYNDI WALSH
SECOND VICE CHAIR
WALSH ADVISORS



DARRYL MILLER
TREASURER
RETIRED, INLAND STEEL



GREG FORSYTHE
SECRETARY
FORSYTHE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Board of Directors



CHRISANNE CHRIST
EX OFFICIO
CENTIER BANK



JOHN BARNEY
EX OFFICIO
BARNEY ENTERPRISES



SCOTT BABJAK
TELIX PHARMACEUTICALS



BEN BALLOU
BALLOU LAW, LLC



JEFF BAN
DVG TEAM, INC.



INDIRA BRIGHAM
UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS



DAN DUNCAN
PEOPLES BANK



KEVIN HUSEMAN
KINGDOM HOUSING, LLC



DEAN JONES
MIRAR CUSTOM HOMES, INC.



JENNIFER LINSLEY
CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



JOHN MANIS
HEIDBREDER, INC.



DICK SAUERMAN
RETIRED, NEW BUFFALO SAVINGS BANK



PAMELA SEAMAN, DO
SOUTH LAKE WOMEN'S HEALTH, P.C.



SHANNON SHEEHY
SHEEHY WELL & PUMP CO., INC.

CPCF STAFF 2025



MARY B. NIELSEN
PRESIDENT



BUFFY ADAMS
VICE PRESIDENT OF
PHILANTHROPY



JEANETTE HUSS
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
AND COMMUNICATIONS



ALEKS JASNIC
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT



JIM NEWTON
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE MANAGER



KATIE SLY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



KATHY WILLIAMS
EVENTS ORGANIZER
AND OFFICE ASSISTANT

ACTION IS THE FOUNDATIONAL
KEY TO ALL SUCCESS.

PABLO PICASSO
SPANISH PAINTER AND SCULPTOR
WHO CO-INVENTED CUBISM
WITH GEORGES BRAQUE.

ABOUT THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Our vision is to serve as a well-managed agent for giving and receiving. The Crown Point Community Foundation (CPCF) will help to positively shape the future of the community and act as a facilitator of community good.

Since 1990, we have served the citizens of **Crown Point, Cedar Lake, Lowell (Tri-Creek), and Winfield** through a range of charitable and civic activities while helping individual donors achieve their philanthropic goals. As a public charitable organization, the CPCF is dedicated to building permanently endowed funds. A 19 member volunteer board of directors, composed of local leaders, oversees the investment of these pooled funds. These endowments then fund the distribution of grants to worthy causes each year.

TOGETHER WITH OUR FUND HOLDERS, DONORS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS, WE ARE CREATING A STRONGER, MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY THROUGH A SHARED COMMITMENT TO GIVING.

MARY B. NIELSEN

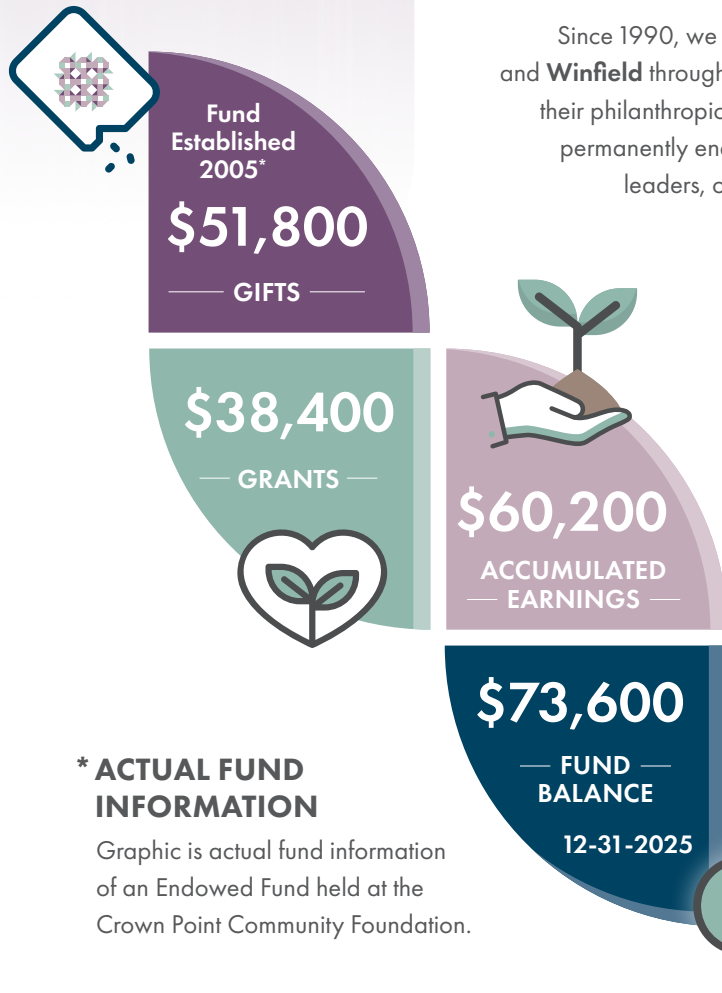
PRESIDENT, CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HOW IT WORKS THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT

GROWTH OF AN ENDOWED FUND

With an initial gift of \$51,800 in 2005, the fund balance 20 years later is \$73,600 and has already distributed \$38,400 in grants!

Learn how to make your love for South Lake County and beyond last with your own Endowment Fund.



CREATING A BETTER FUTURE IN SOUTH LAKE COUNTY IN THREE STEPS

1

Receive Gifts

Individuals, groups and businesses create an endowment (permanent fund) at the CPCF.

2

Grow Gifts

The endowments are invested by the CPCF and its Board of Directors.

3

Give Gifts

Grants are awarded in specified cycles throughout the year. Grants are given both to causes which were specified by donors and to those that are selected by the CPCF grant committee.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS ENJOY THE EVENING AT THE EAST POINT VENUE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): CPCF PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN; JANE LAMBESIS OF FEDERATED HERMES; KATHY ROESER OF THE ROESER GROUP AT MORGAN STANLEY; KAY NEWTON; AND CPCF BOARD MEMBER CYNDI WALSH / MARY NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CPCF AND KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAMS DIRECTOR VISIT WITH COMMUNITY HELP NETWORK AT THE VOLUNTEER FAIR & BLOOD DRIVE / GUESTS ENJOYED AN EVENING OF MUSIC BY THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

A YEAR OF COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Throughout 2025, the Crown Point Community Foundation brought people together through three signature events that inspire generosity, celebrate community, and create meaningful opportunities for connection: the Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive, Symphony on the Lawn, and the Women's Giving Circle.

Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive

Each spring, the Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive brings together more than 50 nonprofits from across Lake County with community members eager to make a difference. Celebrating its 16th anniversary in 2025, the event continued its tradition of inspiring volunteerism while strengthening local organizations. As a special highlight, five participating nonprofits were randomly selected to receive \$1,000 grants from the Foundation, providing additional support for their important work in the community.

Symphony on the Lawn

Despite rainy weather, the 2025 Symphony on the Lawn was a wonderful success. The concert was moved indoors to Crown Point

High School, but the excitement and energy of the evening never missed a beat. Guests enjoyed a beautiful performance by the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Kirk Muspratt, as the community celebrated two special milestones: the 25th anniversary of Symphony on the Lawn and the 35th anniversary of the Crown Point Community Foundation.

Women's Giving Circle

The Women's Giving Circle (WGC) brought women together once again for its annual Collective Grantmaking Event at East Point Venue, celebrating the power of collective philanthropy. Through the generosity of its members, funding was awarded to support local nonprofits, the 2026 WGC Scholarship, and the Foundation's Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund.

Open to all women in the community, the WGC invites participants to make a gift of \$100 or more. Together, members combine their giving to create a greater impact for South Lake County through collaborative grantmaking.



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE, FROM THE LEFT: HEALTHY CHOICES START WITH ACCESS. THE MOBILE FOOD MARKET BRINGS FRESH FOOD DIRECTLY TO NEIGHBORHOODS IN LOWELL / RESIDENTS GATHER AT THE MOBILE FOOD MARKET TO RECEIVE FRESH PRODUCE AND STAPLE FOODS IN A WELCOMING COMMUNITY SETTING.

With your help, more South Lake County families have reliable access to healthy food close to home.

A CPCF grant for \$20,000 was awarded to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to support a monthly Mobile Market in Lowell, delivering nutritious food to residents facing food insecurity.

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana has been leading the Region's fight against hunger since 1982, distributing approximately 9.4 million pounds annually to children, adults, families and seniors throughout Lake and Porter counties. Through a network of more than 150 partner agencies and innovative programs, including Mobile Markets, Pantry Pack, Senior Nutrition initiatives and Food is Health partnerships, the organization serves more than 60,000 individuals every month, ensuring that nutritious food reaches those who need it most.

Thanks to the grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana was able to amplify its monthly Mobile Market initiative in Lowell, hosted at Faith Bible Church.

The program was created in response to growing food insecurity in South Lake County, where fluctuations in unemployment and changes in SNAP access have made it more difficult for many families to put healthy meals on the table. By bringing food directly into the community, the Mobile Market removes transportation barriers and makes nutritious groceries more accessible for local residents.

"By meeting people where they are, we can reduce food insecurity, improve health outcomes, and ensure that more of our neighbors have reliable access to the food they need to thrive," said Victor Garcia, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. "Together, we are helping build a stronger and healthier South Lake County for all members of our community."

The Lowell Mobile Market serves nearly 300 residents in South Lake County each month, reaching approximately 3,500 individuals annually. Each distribution provides between 25 and 40 pounds of nutritious food and serves up to 100 families, helping supplement household grocery budgets while ensuring children, seniors and our



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CONVENIENT ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD HELPS MAKE HEALTHY EATING A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE / HEALTHY FOOD AND HAPPY FACES GO HAND IN HAND / FARM-FRESH PRODUCE IS A KEY INGREDIENT IN THE MOBILE FOOD MARKET'S MISSION TO NOURISH THE COMMUNITY.

neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food.

The program is made possible through strong community partnerships. Faith Bible Church provides the location and volunteers for each monthly distribution, while local grocery stores donate food that helps stock the Mobile Market. Together with the Crown Point Community Foundation, these partnerships allow the Food Bank to bring essential nutrition directly into neighborhoods, creating

a convenient and welcoming resource for families throughout South Lake County.

For more information about the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana's programs, please visit www.foodbanknwi.org.



THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT TRULY ENHANCES OUR MOBILE MARKET EFFORTS IN LOWELL AND HELPS US PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO FAMILIES IN SOUTH LAKE COUNTY.

VICTOR GARCIA
PRESIDENT AND CEO
FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA



HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE
AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



WHY WE GIVE: Dawn Foods fuels the creativity and success of bakers and food entrepreneurs. Baking is more than ingredients — it's about delight, growth, and possibility. We provide innovation, expertise, and partnership to elevate every experience, while also investing in our communities through Hunger Prevention and Health, Education, Community Vibrancy, and Volunteerism.

MISSION: At Dawn Foods, our mission is to delight customers worldwide with innovation, quality, and trusted expertise. For over a century, we've partnered with bakers to grow businesses and inspire joy. Beyond baking, we strengthen communities by supporting Team Members and organizations that foster vibrancy, belonging, and positive impact—carrying forward a legacy of partnership, passion, purpose, and service.



< **Symphony on the Lawn:**
Dawn Foods presents a donation of \$5,000 to our friends at CPCF for the Symphony on the Lawn.



www.dawnfoods.com

Unrestricted Endowment Funds for Community Grants

Unrestricted Endowment Funds are created by donors who want to support a broad range of community causes and entrust the CPCF to allocate those funds to causes with the greatest need.

Alex and Ila Magiera Endowment Fund
Anthony & Carol Volattorni Memorial Giving Fund
Art Hill Ford/Lincoln Mercury/Carroll Chevrolet Endowment Fund
Bates Family Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Benjamin T. & Angela J. Ballou Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Bill & Betty Kennedy Family Endowment Fund
BJ & Kay Hubbard Endowment Fund
Bob and Bernice Anderson Endowment Fund
Cedar Lake Community Endowment Fund
Charlie and Marilyn Kaper Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Clayton Dyer Root, Jr. Endowment Fund
Clayton Dyer Root III Unrestricted Endowment Fund **(New Fund)***
Corbin Family Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Corey & Charlotte Liss Community Endowment Fund*
CPCF Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund
Crown Point Community Foundation Fund
Daniel Reinhardt Root & Carol McInerney Root Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Darryl & Patricia Miller Endowment Fund
David & Helen Batusic Unrestricted Fund
Dean and Barbara White Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Dexter Family Endowment Fund
Dolores E. White Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Donald and Joyce Huber Family Endowment Fund
Donald and Theresa Cowan Family Fund
Don & Alice Burrell Family Endowment Fund
Don and Joyce Carnahan Endowment Fund
Dr. William and Ramona Jean Smead Family Fund
Edward G. and Katherine R. Gerlach Huber Memorial Fund
Edwin and Catherine Huber Family Endowment Fund
First Financial Bank Endowment Fund
Fran and Billie Hoffman Fund
Frank “Mitch” Cueller Memorial Fund*
Geisen Family Endowment Fund
Gordon and Nina Bates Endowment Fund
Greg and Nancy Forsythe Christian Giving Fund
G.W. Gintert Family Fund
Heritage Quilters Fund
Hilary and Margaret Raab Fund
Howard Wise Endowment Fund
Jack & Diane Kemp Endowment Fund

Jeff and Linda Bryner Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Jim and Betty McDonald Endowment Fund
Jim and Kim Larsen Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Jimmy & Marian Hooseline Family Trust
Joe and Marian Jollief Unrestricted Endowment
John and Maureen Rogers Unrestricted Endowment Fund
John & Ann Barney Unrestricted Endowment Fund
John & Diane Burrell Family Endowment Fund
John Dockus Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Jon and Cindy Harts Family Endowment Fund
Joseph D. Nerney, Jr. Memorial Community Fund*
Joseph K. Beckman Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Joseph L. and Maribel C. Costin Family Endowment Fund
Karen & Cornel Raab Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Karl F. Seger Endowment Fund
Letz Family Endowment Fund
Marge and Hugo Breuckman Fund
Marie Van Slyke Bean Endowment Fund
Mary and David Root Endowment Fund
Michael and Sherron Pampalone Endowment Fund
Otto Richard Fifiel Memorial Endowment Fund
Peter & Betty Kolodziej Memorial Endowment Fund
Purdue Federal Credit Union Endowment Fund
Richard and Laura Sauerman Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Richard J. and Gwendolyn L. Buehler Endowment Fund
Robert and Joyce Nutt Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Robert W. and Karen J. Lynn Family Endowment Fund
Rouge Family Endowment Fund
Russell C. Westphal Family Memorial Fund
Schroeder Family Fund
Theodore L. and Tennessee E. Sendak Family Endowment Fund
Thomas H. Durant Endowment Fund
Tom and Kathy Liss Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Vern and Jeanne Segert Endowment Fund
Violet and Irvin Guritz Endowment Fund
Wellman Family Endowment Fund
White Family Fund
William and Maxie Scott Endowment Fund
William G. and Phyllis M. Fatch Fund

**No grants in 2025.*



PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LARRY AND KIM GEISEN POSE TOGETHER DURING A MEMORABLE VACATION IN HAWAII, WHERE THEY ENJOYED THE ISLANDS' BREATHTAKING BEAUTY AND TIME SPENT TOGETHER / LARRY AND KIM GEISEN SMILE FOR A PHOTO WHILE VACATIONING IN FLORIDA, MAKING THE MOST OF THE SUNSHINE STATE'S WARM WEATHER AND COASTAL CHARM.

For generations, the Geisen family has made it a priority to run their funeral home business with integrity while finding meaningful ways to give back to the community.

As the fifth-generation owner of Geisen Funeral Home, Larry Geisen, alongside his wife Kim, has carried forward a deep family tradition of giving back that dates back 160 years.

Their roots in the community run incredibly deep. The Geisen family has been active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church since its establishment in 1865, a devotion that continues today with Larry serving on the church's finance committee. Larry is a former Executive Committee Member of the Crown Point Community Foundation, and Geisen Funeral Home is a proud Community Partner of the CPCF.

To ensure their spirit of generosity would endure, they established the **Geisen Family Endowment Fund** at the CPCF. While the fund stands as a testament to their personal dedication, it has also inspired a unique and heartwarming holiday tradition among those who know them best. Every year, rather than purchasing traditional holiday presents, the staff members of Geisen Funeral Home come together to make a collective contribution to the endowment fund

on Larry and Kim's behalf as their annual Christmas gift.

"Our staff's annual gift is incredibly meaningful to Kim and me. It allows our shared passion for this community to keep growing year after year," Larry said.

With their son, Anthony Geisen, now active in the day-to-day management of the funeral home as the sixth generation, Larry and Kim are beginning to enjoy a well-deserved new chapter. Alongside their three children - Alle (Jeff) Guidarelli, Anthony (Kenzie) Geisen, and Nicholas Geisen - they are spending more time traveling with family and friends, golfing, cooking, relaxing at the lake, and making memories with their three grandsons: Baker, Lincoln, and Brody.

Through their business, their church, and their growing endowment fund at the CPCF, Larry and Kim are ensuring that the Geisen family's legacy of compassion will be felt by local families for generations to come.

To learn more about establishing an Endowment Fund for Community Grants or adding a contribution to an existing fund like the **Geisen Family Endowment Fund**, please visit thecpcf.org.

Community Grants Awarded

Distributions from the Unrestricted Endowment Funds provide grants to nonprofit organizations within the following categories to address the broad needs in the community.

\$558,879

Animal Related - \$13,750

New Leash On Life
The Humane Society of Hobart, Inc.

Arts, Culture - \$13,000

City of Crown Point
Crown Point Music Boosters
Harmony Handbells
Indiana Ballet Theatre Northwest, Inc.
Lakeshore Public Media

Community Improvement - \$5,000

Lake County Master Gardeners

Economic Development - \$4,300

Indiana Plan for Equal Employment, Inc.

Education - \$39,800

Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
City of Crown Point
Crown Point Community Schools
Dunes Learning Center
Franciscan Health Foundation
Junior Achievement of Chicago

Food, Nutrition, Agriculture - \$85,500

Cedar Lake United Methodist Food Pantry- Project Love
Community Help Network, Inc.
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
NWI No Child Hungry
Pack Away Hunger
St. Mary Catholic Church
TradeWinds Services, Inc.

Health Related - \$42,833

Crown Point Fire Rescue
Franciscan Health Foundation - Northern Indiana
National Scleroderma Foundation
Pink Ribbon Society, Inc.

Housing, Shelter - \$32,250

Fair Haven Center for Women
SAFE Coalition for Human Rights, NFP
The Caring Place

Human Services - \$173,852

Ben’s Blue Bags
Best Buddies Indiana
Chasing Dreams
Chicagoland Immigrant Welcome Network
CoAction
Community Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.
Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana
Dunes Dog Training Club, Inc. / Pets N Vets Program
Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited
Family House Inc.
First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point
Hanover Community School Corporation
Hearts in Motion
Hope Alliance of NWI
In-Pact
Lake County Right to Life
Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana
Merrillville Rotary Club Charities, Inc.
Mommy’s Haven
Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation, Inc.
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.
Phil’s Friends
Planting Possibilities
St. Jude House, Inc.
St. Vincent DePaul Society

Community Grants continued:

TradeWinds Services, Inc.
Veteran Impact Services, Inc.
dba Operation Charlie Bravo
Wabash Center
White's Residential & Family Services

Public Safety - \$20,115

Cedar Lake Police Department
Crown Point Police Department
MAAC Foundation Inc.

Recreation - \$109,280

Crossroads YMCA
Southlake/Griffith/Hammond/Whiting Branches
Crown Point Lacrosse
Dean & Barbara White Southlake YMCA

Northwest Indiana Fencing Club, Inc.
Red Cedars Family Teacher Organization (FTO)

Youth Development - \$19,200

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana
Children First Learning Center Foundation
Crossroads YMCA
Southlake/Griffith/Hammond/Whiting Branches
Girls on the Run Indiana Crossroads
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
Kelly's Kindness Company
Power Paws for Kids, Inc.
Youth for Christ of NWI

Field of Interest Funds Grants Awarded

Field of Interest Funds allow donors to address an area they care deeply about without naming a specific charity. The foundation grant committee awards grants to nonprofits that fit the donor's category of interest.

\$3,826

Community Literacy Endowment Fund - \$2,785

Supports: Provides funding for literacy related programs and projects within the Crown Point Community Foundation's service area.

2025 Grant: Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative

Reason: Purchase of the remaining language-based curriculum materials and manipulatives for the Early Childhood Program.

Family Recovery Court Fund*

Supports: Provides funding for essential needs, services, and stability assistance including educational opportunities for Lake County Indiana Family Recovery Court current, past, or eligible participants and their families.

Peg Shaffer Instrumental Arts Fund - \$707

Supports: Instrumental Arts Initiatives for education, enjoyment, and Mental Health & Wellness related programs.

2025 Grant: Crown Point Music Boosters

Reason: Support for the Steel Band to perform at the Opening Session of the Indiana Music Educator's Association State Convention.

The Manis Family Fund - \$334

Supports: Mental Health related causes and issues.

2025 Grant: Kelly's Kindness Company

Reason: Provide up to 8 free art therapy classes to teach the youth in the Crown Point area how to use art and other grounding techniques to help calm anxiety, stress, OCD characteristics, and/or fear.



HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE
AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



WHY WE GIVE: Geisen Funeral Home has been a part of the Crown Point community since 1867, when Peter Geisen added undertaking services to his furniture business downtown. We know the importance of providing the best service to our funeral families and to various local charitable organizations and programs. We want to make a difference to help our community flourish, as we have for over 150 years.

MISSION: We are dedicated to providing guidance, options and compassion with the highest level of standards and integrity. We will offer exceptional funeral and cremation services by our professional and caring staff. We will always strive to exceed the expectations of each family we serve.



Habitat for Humanity Women's Build:

Geisen staff members volunteered for a Habitat for Humanity Women's Build.



Veteran's Dinner:

Geisen Funeral Home hosts an annual Veteran's Dinner, a time-honored tradition at the Geisen Reception Centre in Crown Point.

www.geisenfuneralhome.com

*No grants in 2025.

Scholarship Funds Grants Awarded

Scholarship Funds are created by donors to invest in students' futures. Some scholarships help students from a particular high school or area; others provide financial assistance to those pursuing a specific field of study; still others assist students most in need. Donors are able to set the criteria for applicants.

\$442,319

Alec Matalin Memorial "Dope" Endowed Scholarship Fund
Alfred J. Gruber Senior Social Studies Honorarium Fund
Alvin & Kathryn Schmidt Endowment Fund
American Italian Benevolent Society Endowment Scholarship Fund
Barbara Jenkins Tyler Speech Scholarship Endowment Fund
Barney Family Scholarship Fund
Bryan C. Niedert Memorial Scholarship Fund
Burrell Family Scholarship Endowment Fund
Caleel Foundation Scholarship Fund
Candace Lynne Walton Scholarship Endowment Fund
Celia C. Newcomb Memorial Scholarship Fund
Charles Hall & Beatrice Joy Kolar Scholarship Fund
Charles M. & Marjorie Quickle Memorial Scholarship
Christopher Day Memorial Scholarship Fund
Clayton Gaudry Memorial Scholarship Fund
Colonel John Wheeler Middle School Endowment Fund
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship Fund
Crown Point Lion's Club Scholarship Fund
Crown Point Swim Club Alumni Scholarship Fund
Crown Point Youth Baseball Scholarship Endowment Fund
David Gergely Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund*
Dean and Barbara White Scholarship
Dockus Charitable Scholarship Endowment Fund
Donald and Phyllis (Dillabaugh) Ross Purdue Scholarship Endowment Fund
Dorothy Dillman Max Scholarship Fund
Dr. J. Robert Mayden Memorial Scholarship Fund*
Dr. James W. Gentleman Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary PTO Scholarship*
George Letz III Memorial Scholarship Fund
Gil and Gail Stiener Family Fund
Helen Zielinski & Ray Stuck Family Scholarship Fund
Isabelle Melchor Memorial Scholarship Fund*
Jerry A. Caravana Athletic Director Endowment Scholarship Fund

Jerry Ross Elementary PTO Scholarship Fund
JoAnne and Jim Haag Scholarship Fund
John D. Amodeo Scholarship Fund
Joseph & Evelyn Skora Memorial Scholarship Fund
Joseph N. and Annette M. Allegretti Fund
Karen & Cornel Raab Scholarship Fund
Karen Pruzin Scholarship Endowment Fund
Kathy, Russ, and Jim Keller Endowment Fund
Kay Hubbard Music Scholarship Award Fund
L. Jane Keene Memorial Scholarship Fund
Lake Street Elementary PTO Scholarship Fund
Law Enforcement Academy Fund*
Lisa Schaefer Stover Endowment Fund
Liss Carstar Scholarship Fund
MacArthur Elementary PTO Scholarship Fund
Manhart/Gibbons Family Memorial Endowment Fund
Marie Van Slyke Scholarship Fund
Marilee Thanholdt Memorial Fund
Marion Kellum Performing Arts Scholarship Fund
Mark and Lindsay Bates Scholarship Fund
Mark Edwards Scholarship Fund
Marty Shahbaz Football Scholarship Endowment Fund
Mary Gregory Geimer Memorial Scholarship Fund
Maurine M. Schlemmer Memorial Scholarship Fund
McMichael Family Endowment Fund
Mike Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
Millicent & Forrest Everett Memorial Fund
Paul D. & Dorothea Everett Fund
Pete Breuckman Sr. Tradesman Scholarship Fund
Pettit Family Memorial Student Athlete Scholarship Fund
Ralph E. and Dee Bennett Scholarship Endowment Fund
Robert "Bob" Brown Scholarship Endowment Fund
Robert Taft Middle School PTO Scholarship Fund

*No grants in 2025.

Scholarship Funds Grants Awarded continued:

Ronald & Suzanne Borto Scholarship Endowment Fund
Russ Keller Family Scholarship Fund
Shirley Mudy Scholarship Fund
Solon Robinson Elementary School PTO Scholarship Fund
St. Mary's Catholic Community School Scholarship
Tim Galusha Memorial Scholarship Fund
Timothy Ball Elementary PTO Scholarship Fund
Timothy J. Grzych Memorial Scholarship Fund
"Tiny" Knesek Bohling and Karla Stiener Scholarship Endowment Fund
Todd Szanyi Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
Tri Kappa Scholarship

Trinity Lutheran School Scholarship Fund
Virgil A. Place Scholarship Fund
Walter J. Bernacki Memorial Scholarship Fund
Wilbert Buth Music Scholarship Fund
William G. & Phyllis M. Fatch Scholarship Fund
Winfield Elementary PTO Scholarship Fund
Youche Country Club Scholarship Endowment Fund
Zondor Family Scholarship Endowment Fund*

**No grants in 2025.*

>
THIS SCHOLARSHIP
MEANS A LOT TO ME
BECAUSE IT ALLOWS
ME TO PURSUE MY
INTEREST IN COMPUTER
SCIENCE AT PURDUE
WEST LAFAYETTE. IT IS
A SYMBOL OF THE
GENEROSITY OF OUR
COMMUNITY AND I
FEEL VERY HONORED TO
BE CHOSEN FOR IT.

LOGAN KNAPP

DONALD & PHYLIS (DILLABAUGH)
ROSS PURDUE SCHOLARSHIP

>
BEING A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
HAS BEEN SUCH A BLESSING
AND HONOR. I AM SO THANKFUL
THAT I WAS CHOSEN FOR THE
DR. JAMES W. GENTLEMAN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP, AND
I APPRECIATE EVERYONE BEHIND
THAT SCHOLARSHIP FOR HELPING
INVEST IN MY FUTURE EDUCATION.

MAKENNA CARMICHAEL

DR. JAMES W. GENTLEMAN
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



<
THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS HELPED ME
MENTALLY AS IT IS ALSO A SYMBOL
OF MY HARD WORK AND DEDICATION
FOR WHICH I HAVE KNOWN FOR MY
WHOLE LIFE. IT IS ALSO A SYMBOL OF
WHAT AN AMAZING JOB MY PARENTS
HAVE DONE BY RAISING ME WITH
THIS MINDSET THAT WORKING HARD
SILENTLY WILL EVENTUALLY PAY OFF.

DANE HAYDEN
DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



<
RECEIVING THE DEAN
AND BARBARA WHITE
SCHOLARSHIP IS AN
INCREDIBLE HONOR. IT
REPRESENTS THE BELIEF
THAT OTHERS HAVE IN MY
POTENTIAL AND MOTIVATES
ME TO CONTINUE WORKING
HARD TOWARD MY GOALS.
IT'S MORE THAN JUST
FINANCIAL SUPPORT - IT'S
ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEEP
STRIVING FOR SUCCESS.

MYRA WEIS AMOS
DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Designated Grants Awarded

Designated Funds are established by donors to benefit specific charitable organizations and purposes. Donors can identify an eligible charity to benefit.

\$269,999

Aameer Sahi Memorial Fund

Supports: Forest Ridge Academy, scholarship program.

Anthony Kinkade Foundation

Supports: St. Mary Catholic Community School, math and reading programs.

Beth S. Buoscio Endowment Fund

Supports: Timothy Ball Elementary School Art Department.

Betty Biegel Endowment Fund

Supports: St. Mary Catholic Community School, tuition assistance program.

Bieker Family Endowment Fund

Supports: 50% St. Mary Catholic Community School and 50% Community Grant making Fund which supports a broad range of community needs and causes.

Bill and Norma Rosenbower Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

Bob and Pat Turner Library Fund

Supports: Crown Point Community Library.

Charles and Mable Wise Swisher Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

Charles and Virginia Isley Endowment Fund

Supports: Crown Point Community School Corporation.

Chuck and Helen Sauerman Endowment Fund

Supports: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Crown Point Aid & Relief Fund*

Supports: Financial assistance in emergency situations.

Dan & Vicky Klein Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

David and Maria Hibbs Endowment Fund

Supports: Forest Ridge Academy.

Don and Joyce Gertz Endowment Fund

Supports: St. Mary Catholic Community School, tuition assistance program.

Don Hess Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports: Franciscan Alliance, Inc. Crown Point EMS Academy.

Dr. James M. and Mrs. Kathleen M. Rajchel Endowment Fund

Supports: St. Michael the Archangel National Catholic Church.

Dr. Jerry and Trish Allee Fund

Supports: Crown Point High School, Latin Club.

Dr. John P. and Helen M. Birdzell Community Fund

Supports on a rotating basis: Crown Point Fire Department; Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc.; Crown Point Community Library; Rotary Club of Crown Point; Crown Point High School Student Activities; First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point; Crown Point Babe Ruth Baseball League; St. Jude House, Inc.; Tri Kappa Sorority (Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc., Gamma Theta Chapter); Crown Point Garden Club; and the Crown Point Police Department.

Edith Reinhardt Root Endowment Fund

Supports: Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, Inc.

Edna Mae Buckley & Merritt Buckley Old Courthouse Memorial Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

George and Laura Wild Endowment Fund

Supports: Crown Point Community Library.

Hanover Schools Education Foundation Endowment Fund

Supports: Hanover Schools Education Foundation.

**No grants in 2025.*

Designated Grants Awarded continued:

Home Lumber Endowment

Supports: Mental Health America of Lake County; and Crown Point Parents as Teacher Program.

Ivy Tech Community College Foundations of East Chicago De La Garza Campus in East Chicago Endowment Fund

Supports: Ivy Tech Foundation, East Chicago De La Garza Campus in East Chicago.

James and Mary Ann Greiner Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

James and Sandra Niermeyer Family Endowment Fund

Supports: St. Mary's Catholic Church, needs for Church or School.

Jerry & Phyllis Keough Family Endowment Fund

Supports: Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Jim and Marge Forsythe Courthouse Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

Jimmy D. & Marian S. Hooseline

Supports: Salem United Methodist Church.

John & Catherine Peterman Endowment Fund

Supports: Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative.

John and Ann Barney Family Foundation Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

John and Maureen Rogers Fund

Supports: In-Pact, Inc.; and Lake County Animal Adoption and Control Center.

John Cain Honorarium Arts Endowment Fund

Supports: South Short Arts (for an annual named prize in honor of John Cain and financial support of the Salon Show exhibition of South Shore Arts).

Joshua Prunsky Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports on a rotating basis: Babe Ruth Baseball; Crown Point Junior Football; and Crown Point Little League Baseball.

June and Bernard Carstens Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

Karen's Kids Endowment Fund (New Fund) *

Supports: Bibich Elementary School.

Kathleen Gleason Leurck Fund *

Supports: The Crown Point Community Foundation Operating Endowment Fund.

Kegan Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund

Supports: Forest Ridge Academy, Scholarship in Memory of Kegan Hall.

Lake County World Wars Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports: Friends of the Veterans Memorial Parkway, Inc.

Manhart/Gibbons Family Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports: 50% to Northwest Indiana Symphony; 25% for scholarships to graduating high school students in the area of music; and 25% Community Grant making Fund which supports a broad range of community needs and causes.

Margarete B. and William H. Fifield Endowment Fund

Supports: Franciscan Health, Crown Point; Lake County Parks Department; and Crown Point Community Library.

Marilou Crisman Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports: Logansport Art Association, Inc.

Mary Govert Fund

Supports: Bethel Church for aid with aiding and assisting victims of domestic violence who reside, with small children within service area of CPCF, pay for rent and utilities for up to one year, renewable from year to year.

Norma N. Rosenbower Memorial Giving Fund

Supports: Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana; American Cancer Society of Northwest Indiana; American Red Cross of Northwest Indiana; Amvets - NWI Post, Cedar Lake; First United Methodist Church of Crown Point; First United Methodist Church, annual birthday luncheon; Food Bank of Northwest Indiana; Franciscan Health Foundation Northern Indiana; Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana; Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc.; Mercy Home for Boys and Girls; National

**No grants in 2025.*

Designated Grants Awarded continued:

Foundation for Cancer Research; Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, Inc.; Pink Ribbon Society; Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (Rehab Institute of Chicago); St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; and Women’s Giving Circle.

Patrick and Daniel Doherty Fund

Supports: Cedar Lake United Methodist Food Pantry; Center Township Trustee, First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point; Food Bank of Northwest Indiana; Hobart Food Pantry; and Ross Township Food Pantry.

Peter and Mary Kucia Memorial Fund

Supports: St. Mary Catholic Community School, tuition assistance program.

Richard (Dick) & Myrene Gordon Fund

Supports on a rotating basis: Crown Point High School English Department; and Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative.

Robert and Joyce Nutt Endowment Fund

Supports: Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Ron and Diane Hall Endowment Fund

Supports on a rotational basis: Funds for each school in the Crown Point Community School Corporation.

Roselyn Trimble Family Endowment Fund

Supports: Paladin Inc/The Arc Northwest Indiana; St. Jude House, Inc.; St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Crown Point Food Pantry; St. Matthias Food Pantry; First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry; Holy Spirit St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry; and St. Clare Clinic Food Pantry.

Schererville Parks Foundation Inc. Fund

Supports: Schererville Parks and Recreations Department.

Sharon James Endowment Fund

Supports: St. Jude House, Inc.

Stanley B. Lee Fund

Supports: Bethel Church, Benevolent Ministry - Aid and assist victims of domestic violence who reside with small children within service area of CPCF, pay for rent and utilities for up to one year, renewable from year to year.

Superior Petroleum Products Inc. Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

The Honor Endowment Fund

Supports: CPEMA Association, Inc.

The LaMere Family Endowment Fund

Supports: Provides tuition assistance to a St. Mary’s Catholic School student attending Andean High School.

Tom and Kathy Liss Courthouse Endowment Fund

Supports: Lake Courthouse Foundation.

Trinity Lutheran Church-Lowell Fund

Supports: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lowell.

Vada Pinter Endowment Fund

Supports: Crown Point Community Library; Crown Point Fire Department; and Crown Point Police Department.

Visiting Nurse Foundation Fund

Supports: Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Inc., Haven House, Inc.; Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter; Centers for Possibilities; Franciscan Communities; and Sojourner Truth House.

Wilbert & Betty Buth Endowment Fund

Supports: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trinity Cares program.

William and Mary Carroll Fund

Supports: Crown Point Police Department; Crown Point Fire Department; Crown Point Community Library; St. Matthias Church; and Franciscan St. Anthony Health, Crown Point.

Supports on a rotating basis: Crown Point Cal Ripken Youth Baseball; Crown Point Junior Bulldogs/Panthers; Crown Point Girls Softball League; and Crown Point Pups Basketball.

William C. and Jean Keehn Endowment Fund

Supports: First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point; Lake Courthouse Foundation; and the Crown Point Community Foundation Operating Endowment Fund.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SITE CONDITIONS DURING TREE REMOVAL / TREE REMOVAL IN PROCESS / PROPOSED FUTURE PLANS FOR THE PORTSIDE SUITES.

With your help, survivors of sexual abuse are one step closer to having a safe place to heal and rebuild their lives.

A CPCF grant for \$10,000 was awarded to Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center to support Portside Suites, a transitional housing initiative designed to provide safe housing and supportive services for survivors.

Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center is Northwest Indiana's trusted rape crisis center, providing 24/7 crisis response, advocacy, hospital accompaniment and long-term support for survivors of sexual violence and trauma throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. In addition to direct services, Fair Haven educates youth, families and communities through prevention programs that promote safety, healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention.

The grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation helped prepare the Portside Suites site for future construction through tree removal and trimming and enhanced software to support housing services and federal reporting requirements. The funds also provided food, household

items, gas cards and other necessities for clients participating in housing-related services.

"Healing begins where safety, dignity and hope meet," said Kelly Vates, Founder and Executive Director of Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center. "Fair Haven is helping create that place for survivors in Northwest Indiana."

For more information, please visit: fairhavenrcc.org.



MANY SURVIVORS FACE BARRIERS WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LEAVE AN ABUSIVE SITUATION. PORTSIDE SUITES ADDRESSES THESE CHALLENGES.

KELLY VATES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FAIR HAVEN RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Donor Advised Funds Awarded

Donor Advised Funds allow the donor to make recommendations for their charitable choices. Each year the Foundation notifies the donor of their available distribution amount. The donor then recommends one or more eligible charities to receive the grant distributions.

\$91,260

Alan Jon "AJ" Roach Jr. Memorial Fund
 Alec Matalin Memorial Endowment Fund
 Angela M. Fealy Family Fund
 Angela M. Fealy Family Fund
 Bill and Norma Rosenbower Endowment Fund
 Billy and Phyllis Walker Endowment Fund
 Borto Family Fund
 Brandon Aaron Huseman Memorial Endowment Fund
 Carole and Jack Esala Endowment Fund
 Charlie Scott Memorial Fund
 Cindy and Ed Hall Endowment Fund
 Corey & Charlotte Liss Family Endowment Fund
 Cornel and Karen Raab Donor Advised Endowment Fund
 Crown Brick and Supply Endowment Fund
 Cuculich Family Endowment Fund*
 Dale and Terri Williams Family Endowment
 Devitte Family Fund*
 Dominic and Nancy Vicari Family Fund
 Dr. Frederick and Mary J. Klepsch Family Fund*
 Edward A. and Clara R. Bapple Cedar Lake Endowment Fund
 Eksten Family Endowment Fund
 Grace Catherine McBride Memorial Endowment Fund **(New Fund)***
 Greg and Linda Armstrong Family Endowment Fund
 Harold L. and Martha Wheeler Family Endowment Fund
 Helen Zielinski and Ray Stuck Family Endowment Fund
 Hub Bootery Fund
 James & Irene Gentleman Family Endowment Fund
 JoAnne and Jim Haag Endowment Fund
 Jo Schweitzer Family Fund
 John Tubbs Family Endowment Fund
 Johnston Family Endowment Fund

Joseph and Jane Nerney Fund
 Joseph P. & Ruth B. Schramm Endowment Fund
 Joshua and Melissa Sickinger Endowment Fund
 Kathleen and John Roeser Endowment Fund*
 Keith & Mary Nielsen Family Endowment Fund*
 Klebs-Sickinger Family Fund
 Kristin M. Harts Endowment Fund
 Larry and Kimberly Geisen Endowment Fund
 Marge & Melissa Kerr Endowment Fund
 Marjorie Swallow Memorial Endowment Fund
 Michael & Diane O'Brien Family Endowment Fund*
 Patricia A. Huber Endowment Fund
 Peter "Big Pete" and Lois Briggs Memorial Fund
 Peterman Family Fund
 R. F. Bieker Foundation
 Richard and Laura Sauerman Endowment Fund
 Robert and Peggy Ligda Endowment Fund
 Roger & Donna Pace Family Endowment Fund
 Ronald and Anna May Allee Endowment Fund
 Ryan William Lepak Memorial Fund
 Sheehy Remaly Family Fund*
 Sheehy Well Fund*
 Susan Driscoll Elder & Thomas A. Elder Fund
 Ted and Lin Zapinski Endowment Fund
 The Barney Fund
 The Brigham Family Fund
 Thomas and Faye Platt Family Endowment Fund
 Tim & Cynthia Walsh Endowment Fund
 Vieweg Family Endowment Fund*
 Wayne A. Gruber Horticulture Fund*
 Women's Giving Circle Fund

*No grants in 2025.

Agency Funds Awarded

Agency Endowment Funds are created by nonprofit organizations. Each year, distributions from the agency fund help support the operational and program needs of the nonprofit organization or are invested back into the fund for continued growth.

\$224,358

Campagna Academy Endowment Fund
Cedar Lake Historical Association Endowment*
Challenger Learning Center of Northwest IN Inc. Endowment Fund
Crossroads YMCA
Crown Point Community Library Endowment Fund*
Crown Point Community Schools Endowment Fund*
First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund
First United Methodist Church of Crown Point Endowment
Forest Ridge Academy Endowment Fund
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation Fund
Good Samaritan Endowment Fund
Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana Endowment Fund*
Indiana Ballet Theatre NW, Inc. *
John Kern Fund*
Lake Court House Foundation Endowment Fund
Masonic Temple Association Endowment*
Meals on Wheels of NW Indiana Endowment Fund
Northwest Indiana Special Education Coop Endowment Fund
Northwestern Indiana Nursery and Landscaping Endowment Fund
Oktober Committee Museum Endowment Fund
Old Sheriff's House Gladys Harmack Forgey Endowment Fund
Shrine of Christ's Passion Endowment Fund

Solon Robinson PTO Endowment Fund
South Shore Arts Endowment Fund
Southlake YMCA Endowment Fund
St. Anthony Medical Center Fund
St. Jude House Endowment Fund*
St. Mary Catholic Community School Endowment Fund*
The Arc Northwest Indiana
The Women's Center of Northwest Indiana Endowment Fund
Tri Kappa, Gamma Theta Chapter Endowment Fund
Tri-Creek Education Foundation Fund
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Fund
University of St. Francis, Crown Point Endowment Fund
White's Residential and Family Services
Winfield Community Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund
Wittenberg Lutheran Village Endowment Fund

*No grants in 2025.



VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS MERELY A DREAM.
ACTION WITHOUT VISION JUST PASSES THE TIME.
VISION WITH ACTION CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

JOEL A. BARKER
FUTURIST, EDUCATOR,
AND AUTHOR



LILLY ENDOWMENT INC. ANNOUNCES GIFT IX

One challenge complete. Another begins.

In 2025, the Crown Point Community Foundation celebrated the successful completion of its Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT VIII \$1,875,000 Matching Challenge while launching an exciting new opportunity through the next phase of the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative.

Originally announced in 2023, Lilly Endowment Inc. launched phase VIII of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative, committing up to \$210 million to support Indiana's community foundations. This new phase focuses on three primary goals: strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of foundations, enhancing leadership capacity, and advancing strategic initiatives that improve quality of life across Indiana communities.

As part of this ambitious initiative, Lilly Endowment designated \$135.3 million for Matching Fund Grants, empowering community foundations to grow their unrestricted assets, expand internal capacity, and address local needs through innovative projects and programs.

The Crown Point Community Foundation (CPCF) was awarded **\$1,875,000** in Matching Fund Grants. In response, CPCF introduced four Matching Challenge Opportunities designed to elevate its impact across South Lake County. These opportunities are a direct reflection of the Foundation's long-term strategic vision—one rooted in flexibility, sustainability, and a deep commitment to meeting both current and emerging needs in the community.

Building on that success, Lilly Endowment introduced GIFT IX, providing the Crown Point Community Foundation with another opportunity to inspire local philanthropy. Beginning October 1, 2025, every dollar donated to the Foundation's Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund - or any named unrestricted endowment fund held at CPCF - was tripled through a **\$2 for \$1 match** as part of the new **GIFT IX \$1,875,000 Matching Challenge**.

The matching challenge allows donors to make an even greater impact. A \$100 gift becomes \$300. A \$5,000 contribution grows to \$15,000. Every dollar invested strengthens the Foundation's ability to address emerging needs and support the nonprofit organizations that serve South Lake County.

Today, CPCF stewards 79 unrestricted funds that provide flexible resources for community grantmaking. These funds empower the Foundation to respond to changing needs, invest in innovative solutions, and ensure charitable dollars continue making a lasting difference for years to come.

"We're grateful to Lilly Endowment for making it possible that every donor's gift to an unrestricted fund will have an even greater impact," said Mary Nielsen, CPCF President.

Match Timeline is October 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028 or until the funding has been expended.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: RESIDENTS LEARN GARDENING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES DURING AN EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP AT THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT PURDUE EXTENSION LAKE COUNTY / BEES BUSILY GATHER NECTAR AMONG THE VIBRANT BLOOMS, PLAYING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN POLLINATING THE GARDEN / A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF FLOWERS, HERBS, AND NATIVE PLANTS FILLS THE GARDEN / LAKE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS WORK TOGETHER TO PLANT AND CULTIVATE THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY / ONE OF THE MANY BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS FLOURISHING IN THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN.

With your help, a new community garden is taking root in Crown Point, creating a place where residents can learn, connect, and grow together.

A CPCF grant for \$5,000 was awarded to the Lake County Master Gardeners Association to support the Purdue Extension Community Demonstration Garden. The garden features a variety of gardens that provide hands-on education, food donations, and an inclusive green space for visitors of all ages and abilities.

The Lake County Master Gardeners Association is a nonprofit organization of Purdue Extension trained volunteers dedicated to "Helping Others Grow." Through workshops, demonstration gardens, youth outreach, and community partnerships, the organization shares research-based gardening knowledge while promoting environmental stewardship, healthy food choices, and sustainable gardening practices throughout Lake County.

Developed in partnership with Purdue Extension and Lake County Government, the 6,000-square-foot garden will feature four themed spaces designed to inspire learning and showcase practical gardening techniques while creating a welcoming environment for the entire community. Educational signage, accessible pathways, and year-round displays will encourage visitors to explore the gardens and learn how to apply sustainable practices at home.

"Together, the Foundation's investment and our volunteers' dedication have transformed this space into a beautiful educational resource for our community," said Kristin Overbey, President of the Lake County Master Gardeners Association and Co-Chair of the Demonstration Garden.



WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL TO THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION THAT IS HELPING FULFILL OUR VISION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN.

BETH CARUANA

CO-CHAIR OF THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
MASTER GARDENER'S PROGRAM, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Operating Sustainability Funds

It is the mission of the CPCF to enable donors to give back to our community by establishing various types of funds. We offer these services through a small but efficient staff and a business plan that maximizes efficiencies while reducing cost. Operating Sustainability Funds support the day-to-day operations of the CPCF.

\$154,555

Ann & John Barney Operating Endowment Fund
Beckman Family Operating Endowment Fund
Bruce & Betty Fleming Operating Endowment Fund
Carsten and Georgia Falkenberg Operating Endowment Fund
Centier Bank Operating Endowment Fund
Charles W. and Mable Wise Swisher Operating Endowment Fund
Chase Operating Endowment Fund
Circle Restaurant Operating Endowment Fund
City of Crown Point Operating Endowment Fund
Cornel and Karen Raab Operating Endowment Fund
Darryl & Patricia Miller Operating Endowment
David & Helen Batusic Operating Endowment Fund
Ed and Leona Luke Operating Endowment Fund
Gil and Gail Stiener Operating Endowment
Greg and Nancy Forsythe Operating Endowment Fund
Harold L. and Martha Wheeler Operating Endowment Fund
Harris N.A. Operating Endowment Fund
Hooseline Family Operating Endowment Fund
John and Cathy Peterman Operating Endowment Fund

Joseph and Jane Nerney Operating Endowment Fund
Joseph N. and Annette M. Allegretti Operating Endowment Fund
Kathleen and Anthony Zdanowicz Operating Endowment Fund
Ken and Helen McEntire Family Operating Endowment Fund
Ken Homeier Family Fund
Lake Court House Foundation, Inc. Operating Endowment Fund
Marge Brady Kerr, in memory of JW Kerr, Jr. Operating Endowment Fund
Matt and Sandy Bapple Operating Endowment Fund
Mike & Karen Dexter Operating Endowment Fund
Operating Endowment Fund-Crown Point Community Foundation
Paul Martin Leurck Fund
Ray and Bernice Liss Family Operating Endowment Fund
Richard and Josephine Schweitzer Family Fund
Ronald W. & Suzanne M. Borto and Family Operating Endowment Fund
Southlake YMCA Operating Endowment Fund
St. Anthony Medical Center Operating Endowment Fund
Virginia and A.D. Luers Operating Endowment Fund
White Family Operating Endowment Fund
William Bixenman Operating Endowment Fund

WAYS TO GIVE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

- 1. Cash/Checks** - Cash donations can be made by mail, dropping off at our office, or online.
- 2. Stocks or Securities** - The Foundation has the ability to accept gifts of publicly traded stocks.
- 3. IRA Distributions** - Qualified Charitable Distributions can be made directly to the Foundation from your IRA custodian, reducing taxable income (*Distributions cannot be directed to a Donor Advised Fund*).
- 4. Wills and Bequests** - Talk with your attorney and name the Crown Point Community Foundation as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your estate. Please use the following wording - "I give or bequeath to the Crown Point Community Foundation, 115 S. Court St., Crown Point, Indiana % or the sum of \$ of my residuary estate."
- 5. Life Insurance** - You can designate all or a portion of your life insurance policies, potentially saving Indiana inheritance tax and federal estate taxes.



SCAN QR CODE TO
DONATE TODAY.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: HANDS-ON MAPLE SUGARING ACTIVITIES TAUGHT STUDENTS HOW TO COLLECT AND RECORD FIELD DATA / THROUGH WATERSHED INVESTIGATIONS, STUDENTS EXPLORED THE SCIENCE BEHIND LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS / LEARNING SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES GAVE STUDENTS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH MAPLE SUGARING RESEARCH / WATER QUALITY INVESTIGATIONS CHALLENGED STUDENTS TO TEST SAMPLES AND ANALYZE THE HEALTH OF LOCAL WATERWAYS.

With your help, Crown Point High School students are discovering science beyond the classroom while exploring future careers in the great outdoors.

A CPCF grant for \$2,800 was awarded to Dunes Learning Center to support Environmental Science students as they learn, work together, and explore STEM career opportunities through hands-on experiences at Indiana Dunes National Park.

As the education partner of Indiana Dunes National Park, Dunes Learning Center inspires curiosity and environmental stewardship through onsite learning experiences. The organization connects students with nature while teaching sustainable practices and helping them better understand the unique ecosystems of Northwest Indiana. Last year alone, Dunes Learning Center reached more than 20,000 students across the region.

Thanks to the grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation, Crown Point High School Environmental Science students participated

in two immersive field experiences that combined scientific research, environmental stewardship, and career exploration. During the fall, students explored how everyday actions impact the Lake Michigan watershed while paddling Voyageur canoes at Marquette Park Lagoon. In the spring, students traveled to Indiana Dunes National Park to take part in real-world scientific research and learn about the stewardship efforts taking place within the park.

By combining outdoor exploration with real scientific research and meaningful career conversations, the program helped students see new possibilities for their futures while strengthening their connection to Northwest Indiana's remarkable natural resources.



THANKS TO CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAD THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER HOW EVERYDAY ACTIONS IMPACT THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

MICHELLE KRUEGER
GRANTS DIRECTOR
DUNES LEARNING CENTER



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE IN-PACT CLUBHOUSE IS A PLACE WHERE INDIVIDUALS CAN LEARN, CONNECT, AND THRIVE. UPDATED SECURITY CAMERAS HELP ENSURE THE SPACE REMAINS SAFE AND WELCOMING FOR EVERYONE / CREATIVE ACTIVITIES ENCOURAGE SELF-EXPRESSION, CONNECTION, AND CONFIDENCE / NOTHING BEATS SUMMER SMILES AND A LITTLE FRIENDLY FUN ON A HOT AFTERNOON / RESIDENTS THRIVE IN A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

With your help, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living in even safer, more supportive environments.

A CPCF grant for \$21,400 was awarded to In-Pact to replace outdated, non-repairable security cameras at the organization's Clubhouse, Main Office, and Crown Point group homes, strengthening safety while supporting comprehensive, compassionate care.

Since 1980, In-Pact has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and promoting the welfare of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Northwest Indiana.

The organization provides residential services, community support, day programming, and behavioral services, serving adults with a wide range of abilities while helping them live as independently and successfully as possible.

Thanks to the grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation, In-Pact was able to modernize camera systems in key residential facilities and program spaces where aging equipment no longer provided the level of service needed to support residents and staff. The upgraded cameras enhance security in shared living areas and entrances while providing valuable tools for quality assurance, staff training, and incident review.

"These enhancements strengthen the security of our homes while supporting quality assurance, staff training, and our ongoing commitment to providing the highest standard of care," said Deanne K. Holmes, Executive Director of In-Pact.

For individuals receiving services, the upgraded technology provides another layer of protection while helping staff respond more effectively when concerns arise. Because many residents may have difficulty communicating details after an upsetting incident, recorded video



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: UPGRADED SECURITY CAMERAS HELP PROTECT THE SPACES WHERE COMPASSIONATE CARE HAPPENS EVERY DAY / EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES LIKE PUZZLES CREATE MOMENTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, FRIENDSHIP, AND FUN / A SAFER VIEW FROM EVERY ANGLE / THE NEW CAMERA SYSTEM GIVES STAFF ANOTHER TOOL TO SUPPORT THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUALS THEY SERVE.

and audio can help staff better understand situations, resolve concerns promptly, and ensure every individual is treated with dignity and respect. The improvements benefit approximately 94 residents, including 88 who live within the Crown Point Community Foundation service area.

The new camera systems also strengthen In-Pact's behavioral support services. By allowing behavior specialists to observe everyday environments without disrupting them, the technology helps identify environmental factors that may influence behavior, evaluate interventions, and improve individualized support plans.

"Cameras allow Behaviorists to observe an individual's environment without affecting or changing it by our presence," said Karen Warner, LCSW, Director of Behavior Support. "In addition to maximizing individual safety and care, cameras allow a higher level of assessment for ongoing support to achieve a higher quality of life for all our individuals."

Through these thoughtful improvements, In-Pact continues its commitment to providing safe, respectful, and impactful services while maintaining the trust of individuals, families, employees, and the community.

For more information,
please visit: in-pact.org.

In  Pact ^{INC.}

THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING OF THE
INDIVIDUALS WE SUPPORT ARE ALWAYS OUR HIGHEST
PRIORITIES. BECAUSE OF THE CPCF'S INVESTMENT,
WE STRENGTHENED SAFETY MEASURES IN EVERY ONE
OF OUR RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOMES AND DAY
FACILITY THROUGH UPGRADED CAMERA SYSTEMS.

DEANNE K. HOLMES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IN-PACT

Donors

A

360 Fit, LLC
Mary Ann Abraham
AHEPA Chapter No78 Charities, Inc.
Dr. Jerry & Trish Allee
Joseph & Annette Allegretti
Trish Alt
Amodeo Properties, Inc.
Joseph & Lori Amodeo
Thomas & Kathryn Anderson
John W. Anderson Foundation
Janice Anthony
Ruth Argenta
Greg and Linda Armstrong

B

William & Bette Babjak
Scott and Tracy Babjak
Frank Baccino
Kenneth & Rita Backe
Irene Bairaktaris
Ballou Law, LLC
Atty Benjamin & Angela Ballou
Jeffrey & Roxanne Ban
Matt and Sandy Bapple
Chelsea & Taylor Baran
Shvonne Barber
Jim Barcinski
Barney Enterprises
Barney Enterprises Management Services, Inc.
Barney Family Foundation
John & Ann Barney
Denise Bashore
Mark & Lindsay Bates

Lori Bathurst
David & Helen Batusic
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HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE
AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



WHY WE GIVE: Centier Bank strives to ensure that the quality of life for all who live and work in our communities is a top priority. Through corporate dollars, volunteerism, and financial education, we consistently aim to make a greater impact in our communities. Centier has preserved hometown banking since 1895, and promises to continue that legacy for generations to come.

MISSION: Indiana's largest private, family-owned bank is a testament to the idea that no matter how large a business grows, it is still possible to provide remarkable service. This comes naturally to Centier associates because of our servant heart culture. We have come to be known for warm, personalized service and relationship-style banking. Centier Bank's commitment to community means neighbors are serving neighbors, working together to create a better way of life today and for future generations.



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Centier Bank and our Associates
are dedicated to the communities
we serve across Indiana.

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WEALTH MANAGEMENT
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WHY WE GIVE: Forsythe Wealth Management was founded with a distinct stewardship mindset. We believe the ability to grow financial wealth comes with a duty to share some of that wealth with others. We give a significant portion of our income to charitable causes and encourage our clients to consider doing the same.

MISSION: Forsythe Wealth Management's mission is to guide clients toward achieving their financial goals. We deliver customized advice to help clients *have the money they need when they need it*, giving them peace of mind to focus on other aspects of life. In fulfilling our fiduciary duty to put client interests first, we always strive to be trustworthy, responsive, and easy to work with.



SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN:
Forsythe Wealth Management generously sponsored a Sundae Funday ice cream social, bringing the community together to celebrate 25 years of Symphony on the Lawn and 35 years of the Crown Point Community Foundation.

www.forsythewealth.com



Pre-Design Phase

- Primary goal: Scope Confirmation
- Initial site visits & jurisdiction meetings
- Development of risk/value analysis of grant application project scopes
- Further develop alignments & initial development of construction costs
- Confirm design timelines, detailed scopes, and construction timelines
- Schedule: Fall 2025 to mid 2026

PHOTOS FROM LEFT: PROJECT PARTNERS COLLABORATE TO REFINE PRIORITIES AND LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR NWI THRIVE'S FUTURE SUCCESS / INITIAL SITE VISITS PROVIDED VALUABLE INSIGHT AS PARTNERS EVALUATED PROJECT LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY NEEDS.

CREATING CONNECTIONS ACROSS NWI

Advancing a shared vision for a more connected and vibrant region.

The Crown Point Community Foundation continued its partnership with the Legacy Foundation, Porter County Community Foundation, and Unity Foundation of La Porte County to advance NWI Thrive, a transformative regional initiative made possible through a **\$20 million Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT VIII Community Leadership Grant**. Together, the initiative is creating stronger connections between communities, trails, transit, and Northwest Indiana's remarkable natural and cultural destinations.

During 2025, NWI Thrive moved from vision to implementation. Project partners completed key planning milestones by working closely with local communities to refine project scopes, confirm priorities, and lay the groundwork for future improvements. Community engagement remained central to the process, ensuring each project reflects the unique character and needs of the communities it will serve.

The initiative will feature seven Discovery Hubs, trail connections,

regional wayfinding, educational programming, and a long-term maintenance endowment. Together, these investments will create welcoming gateways near South Shore Line stations while improving access to trails, parks, and destinations across Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties.

"NWI Thrive reflects what's possible when communities come together around a shared vision," said Mary Nielsen, President of the Crown Point Community Foundation. "This partnership will strengthen our region by creating places and connections that residents and visitors will enjoy for generations to come."

Throughout 2025, NWI Thrive built strong momentum through collaboration, thoughtful planning, and community engagement. As the initiative continues to take shape, it represents a lasting investment in the quality of life, connectivity, and natural beauty that make Northwest Indiana a remarkable place to live, work, and explore.





PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ATTENDEES AT THE NONPROFIT ACADEMY'S LEAD WITH PURPOSE: STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP / KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. REBECCA HEISS, ENERGIZED ATTENDEES WITH POWERFUL INSIGHTS ON TRANSFORMING STRESS INTO STRENGTH - SHARING PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO REFRAME PRESSURE AS A TOOL FOR SUCCESS AND BUILD LASTING PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE DURING THE POWER OF WE CONFERENCE / ATTENDEES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AT THE CPCF NONPROFIT ACADEMY WORKSHOP - BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP LED BY THE EXPERT TEAM AT PURDUE EXTENSION / ERIN HEDGES AND KARA HARRISON, FACILITATORS OF THE BOARD GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP, ASSIST DIANA EDELSON WITH HER QUESTION.

BUILDING STRONGER NONPROFITS TOGETHER

Three educational experiences. One stronger nonprofit community.



The Crown Point Community Foundation's Nonprofit Academy continued to strengthen Northwest Indiana's nonprofit sector in 2025 by providing high-quality professional development opportunities that equipped nonprofit leaders, staff, and board members with the skills and connections needed to maximize their impact.

Throughout the year, the Academy hosted three educational programs designed to meet organizations where they are and support their continued growth. Participants sharpened their grant writing skills during the Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing workshop led by Purdue Extension, strengthened governance and leadership practices through Lead with Purpose: Strategies for Effective Board Governance, presented by Hedges, and joined more than 100 nonprofit professionals at the annual Power of We Conference, featuring nationally recognized speakers, interactive breakout sessions, and meaningful networking opportunities.

"The Nonprofit Academy continues to bring nonprofit professionals together to learn, collaborate, and grow," said Katie Sly, CPCF Program

Director. "Whether participants attended a workshop or our annual conference, each event was designed to strengthen organizations, inspire new ideas, and ultimately create greater impact throughout our community."

Thanks to the generous support of our Presenting Sponsor, the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation, our Platinum Sponsor, the NiSource Charitable Foundation and NIPSCO, and additional support from the John & Ann Barney Family Foundation, the Nonprofit Academy continues to expand its reach and impact. The Foundation also extends its appreciation to the Crown Point Community Library, Avalon Manor Banquet Center, workshop facilitators, speakers, and community partners who helped make the 2025 programs a success.

As the Nonprofit Academy continues to grow, the Crown Point Community Foundation remains committed to investing in the people behind our nonprofit organizations - because when nonprofit leaders thrive, our entire community benefits.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

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**CROWN POINT
community
foundation**
CREATING A BETTER FUTURE
IN SOUTH LAKE COUNTY

Memorials

Nothing can ever replace the loss of a friend or loved one, but we can commemorate their life with an everlasting tribute reminding us that they are not forgotten. A memorial donation is a fitting way to remember a special person while at the same time helping others.

Doris M. Austgen	Kathleen Hughes	Pat Radu
Carol Bangsberg	Charles, Virginia and Jane Isley	Bob Reeves
Gordon Bates	Sharon James	Carol Root
Joseph K. Beckman	Jean Ann Johnston	Clayton Dyer Root III
Richard “Dick” Beckman	Joe and Marian Jollief	Norma Ruble
Ralph Bennett III	Fr. Pat Kalich	Larry Saylor
Dr. John P and Helen Birdzell	James and Lyra Kennedy	Lisa Schaefer’s Birthday
Ralph Bosetti	Lonnie Knudsen	Scott Seger
Nona Brady	Charles Kolar	Theodore Sendak
Wanda Burdan	Ryan William Lepak	Paula Shrum
Karen Burish	Ronald A. Lorenzo	Lorraine Viers Steuer
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Ronald Gang	Steven Nigro	Cole Viers
Mary and Roger Geimer	Shirley Orze	Craig Viers
Timothy J. Grzych	Kevin D. Perz	Don Viers
Donna and Joe Heuer	Imogene Pilarsi	Alfred and Norma Vittorini
Fran and Billie Hoffman	Thomas A. Platt	Barbara White’s Birthday
BJ and Kay Hubbard	Patricia Prange	Dean White’s Birthday
Benton Scott Huddleston	Olive Pryce	Ray Stuck and Helen Zielinski

Honorariums

Birthdays, weddings, graduations, anniversaries, and retirements are part of a long list of special events and reasons for honoring someone with a gift. An honorary gift is a fitting way to honor a special person while helping others.

Ann and John Barney	Larry and Kim Geisen at Christmas	Faye Platt
Gordon Bates Birthday	Edward George’s Birthday	Faye Platt’s Birthday
Pene Castor	The Gordon Family	Clayton Dyer Root III
Margot Clark	Art Hill	Marty Wheeler
Dan Duncan, Community Volunteer	Katherine Rose Huber’s Birthday	Terri and Dale Williams

Every effort is made to accurately list our contributors. If a name has been inadvertently omitted from the report, we apologize.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CELEBRATING SPECIAL HOLIDAYS TOGETHER, THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF NWI CREATES FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES THAT BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER AND BUILD LASTING MEMORIES / YOUNG STUDENTS HAVING FUN TOGETHER / LEARNING PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS CAN BE EXCITING. ACTIVITIES LIKE WASHING CARS GIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD INDEPENDENCE, DEVELOP NEW ABILITIES, AND HAVE FUN WHILE LEARNING / STUDENTS STAY ACTIVE AND ENGAGED OUTDOORS, ENJOYING PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR FRIENDS WHILE BUILDING TEAMWORK, CONFIDENCE, AND HEALTHY HABITS.

With your help, individuals with Down Syndrome are gaining new opportunities to build independence, develop healthy habits, and connect with their community.

A CPCF grant for \$25,000 was awarded to the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana to support the expansion of its Friendship Center, creating additional space for programs that teach healthy cooking, nutrition, physical activity, and essential life skills.

Since 1987, the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana has provided support, advocacy, education, and inclusive programming for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. As a fully volunteer-run organization, DSANWI offers more than 130 free programs, activities, and events each year, helping participants build friendships, develop new skills, and become active members of their communities. The organization serves individuals of varying abilities and hopes to expand available services in the new, larger space.

Thanks to the grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation, construction is underway on an expansion that will grow the Friendship Center from 1,500 to 4,000 square feet. The new space will feature a commercial teaching kitchen, additional program areas, and room for physical activity, allowing DSANWI to expand its Healthy Living Program and provide more opportunities for hands-on learning.



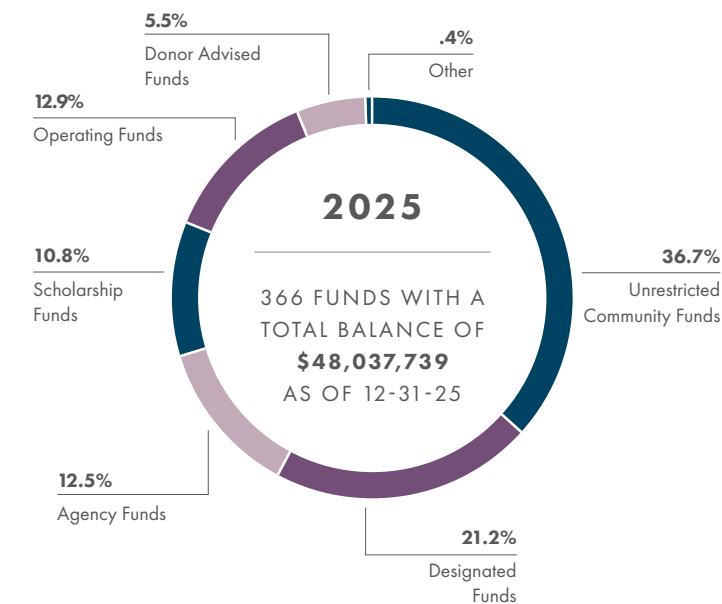
WE WERE THRILLED TO RECEIVE SUCH A MEANINGFUL GIFT FROM THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING BRING THIS EXCITING NEW SPACE TO LIFE WHILE ALSO MAKING REAL-WORLD LEARNING POSSIBLE.

CHRISTINE LONGO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF NWI

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Over the past 35 years, the Foundation’s assets have grown thanks to generous donors and excellent investment returns. Our assets allow us to fulfill our mission to South Lake County and beyond, giving grants and scholarships.



EACH FUND TYPE FULFILLS THE DONOR’S WISHES

Unrestricted Fund distributions are granted to nonprofits providing services within South Lake County. Nonprofits apply for a grant; our grant committee reviews the applications and awards these grants.

Donor Advised and Designated Fund distributions are granted according to the donors instructions, to nonprofit organizations.

Agency Funds are set up by a nonprofit organization to support their operational and program needs.

Operating Fund distributions support the foundation, allowing us to fulfill our mission to our donors, fund holders and community.

Scholarship Funds are set up by donors. Students apply for these scholarships yearly. The scholarship committee reviews all submitted applications and makes recommendations based on the criteria of each scholarship.

IN 2025, WE
AWARDED MORE THAN

\$1.5 MILLION

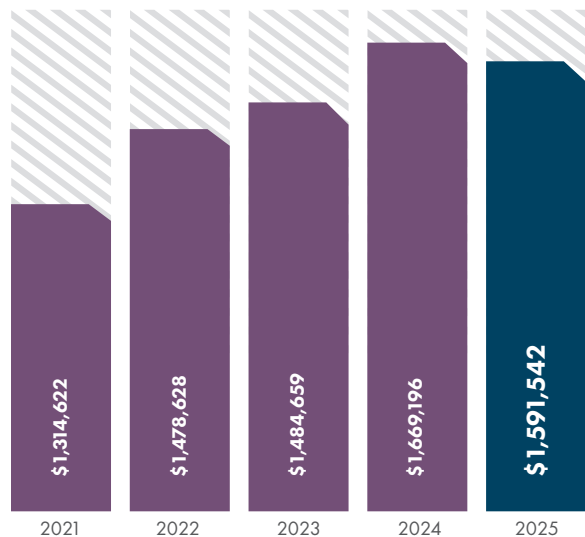
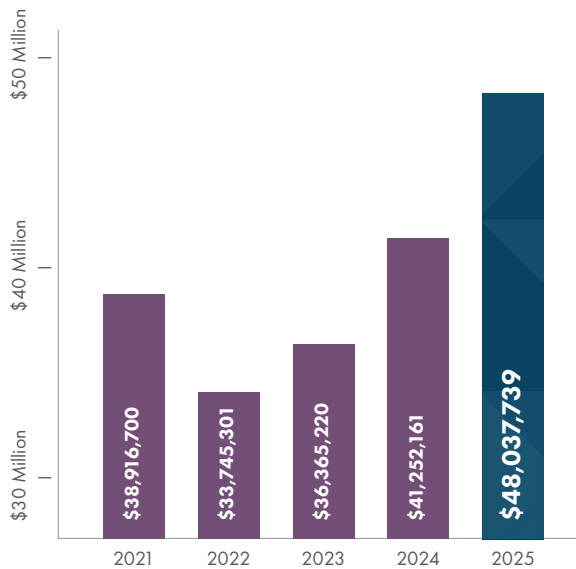
IN GRANTS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS



NUMBER OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

In 2025, the Crown Point Community Foundation distributed 459 grants and scholarships that supported a multitude of causes and higher education.

TOTAL ASSET GROWTH - PAST 5 YEARS -



GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Excluding internal grants.

FINANCIALS

Crown Point Community Foundation, Inc.
summarized financial information
year ended December 31, 2025.

Total Assets:	\$ <u>48,037,739</u>
---------------	----------------------

Liabilities and Fund Balance:

Agency Funds	3,771,066
--------------	-----------

Endowment/pass-through Funds	<u>44,266,673</u>
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Total Liabilities and Fund Balance:	\$ <u>48,037,739</u>
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Revenue:

Contributions and grants received	3,842,062
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Investment return	4,799,613
-------------------	-----------

Operating endowment revenue	<u>400,260</u>
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Total Revenue	\$ <u>9,041,935</u>
---------------	---------------------

Expense:

Grants paid to the community	1,437,282
------------------------------	-----------

Administrative fee expense	369,450
----------------------------	---------

Operating expenses	<u>723,095</u>
--------------------	----------------

Total Expense	\$ <u>2,529,827</u>
---------------	---------------------

Change in Net Asset	\$ 6,512,108
---------------------	--------------

COMPLETE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH ACCOMPANYING FOOTNOTES ISSUED BY
BLUE & CO., LLC ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S OFFICE.



Thank You

SOUTH LAKE COUNTY



HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY

Community Partners are local companies or individuals who join forces with the Crown Point Community Foundation to promote and expand philanthropy, address community issues, and develop nonprofit excellence.



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