

## Triple Your Impact

**\$2 FOR \$1 UNRESTRICTED  
COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND MATCH**



*Plus...*

**\$1 FOR \$1  
MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES**

- OPERATING FUND - GENERAL CPCF FUND
- SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN PROJECT FUND

**VOLUNTEER  
FAIR** CONNECTING  
OVER 40 NONPROFITS WITH  
THE COMMUNITY

**JACOB'S LADDER PEDIATRIC  
REHAB CENTER**  
> CHANGING LIVES WITH THEIR  
LITTLE LISTENERS ROADSHOW

**5 QUESTIONS  
WITH CPCF  
BOARD MEMBER**  
> SHANNON SHEEHY

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SMALL ACTS, WHEN MULTIPLIED  
BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, CAN  
TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

HOWARD ZINN  
AMERICAN HISTORIAN

### Triple Your Impact—And Help Us Cross the Finish Line!

MARY B. NIELSEN  
PRESIDENT

At the Crown Point Community Foundation, our mission is built around the power of community giving—and right now, your impact can go even further. Thanks to the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., every dollar donated to our Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund, or any named unrestricted fund held at the CPCF, will be tripled through a **\$2 for \$1 match** as part of their **\$1,875,000 Matching Challenge**.

We've already seen what's possible when our community comes together. Because of your support, we've awarded impactful grants to organizations like Jacob's Ladder Pediatric Rehab Center, where infants and toddlers are receiving critical early hearing screenings. Like Opportunity Enterprises, where youth of all abilities experience summer camp side-by-side. Like the Crown Point Police Department, where new community programs are building trust and safety.

Our Nonprofit Academy is also thriving. The recent conference on "Magnetic Storytelling: Crafting Compelling Narratives for Fundraising Success" inspired nonprofit leaders to sharpen their fundraising strategies and connect in meaningful ways. New workshops have equipped participants with skills in grant writing, communications, and capacity building. The energy is contagious, and it's making our nonprofit sector stronger, smarter, and more collaborative.

We also celebrated another successful Volunteer Fair. Our 16th year of connecting passionate individuals with local nonprofits. Over 225 potential volunteers and more than 40 organizations came together in one space to fuel a shared mission of service.

All of this momentum is powered by you. And there's still more to do.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join us in reaching the finish line for the Matching Challenge. Gifts to our Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund will be tripled, and donations to our Operating Fund or Symphony on the Lawn Project Fund will be doubled. No matter the size of your gift, your impact will be multiplied.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we thank you for your loyal support and partnership!

MARY B. NIELSEN



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MARY B. NIELSEN

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
JEANETTE HUSS

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THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER FAIR IS  
A WONDERFUL EVENT THAT MATCHES  
GENEROUS PEOPLE WITH  
PASSIONATE CHARITIES.

**GREG FORSYTHE**

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



ON THE COVER  
**TRIPLE YOUR  
IMPACT!** WITH OUR  
\$2 FOR \$1 COMMUNITY  
GRANTMAKING FUND MATCH



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SHANNON SHEEHY

I LOVED ATTENDING THE NONPROFIT  
ACADEMY'S MAGNETIC STORYTELLING  
CONFERENCE. IT WAS A GREAT  
COMBINATION OF EDUCATION,  
APPLICATION & NETWORKING.  
A VERY BENEFICIAL EXPERIENCE.

**AMY WULF**

COMMUNITY LIAISON  
VNA HOSPICE NWI



Scan QR Code to  
Give Online Today:  
[cpcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate](https://cpcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate)





PHOTOS: THE LITTLE LISTENERS ROADSHOW SCREENINGS FROM JACOB'S LADDER PEDIATRIC REHAB CENTER, INC. HELP LOCAL CHILDREN.

### With your help, hearing tests were made available to our youngest Hoosiers.

A CPCF grant for \$8,000 was awarded to Jacob's Ladder Pediatric Rehab Center, Inc. to assist in the Little Listeners Road Show Program.

Jacob's Ladder was created when Mariann Frigo, an occupational therapist, could not find comprehensive pediatric resources for her son Jacob after he graduated from the First Steps early intervention program at three years old. Mariann and her husband Noel founded Jacob's Ladder Pediatrics with a vision to create a pediatrics specialty company that could encourage, educate, and empower families while providing high-quality physical, occupational and speech therapy to the special needs children of Northwest Indiana.

Today, Jacob's Ladder provides in-home therapy services in seven counties to nearly 800 infants and toddlers a week and to nearly 200 school-aged children a week at their rehab center in Chesterton, Indiana.

The Crown Point Community Foundation grant supports Jacob's Ladder's free hearing tests for infants and toddlers residing within CPCF's service area. Screening infants and toddlers can be useful as a preventative measure to ensure that they are progressing at the expected rate and to watch out for potential precursors to language delays. This program helps to prevent children from falling behind, as well as to improve the monitoring of children's language milestones and to maximize the efficiency of connecting them to resources and support such as audiologists.

This is a critical period to identify and support infants and toddlers in the community. Nearly 60% of hearing loss is attributed to avoidable causes. It is critical to not only assist the children who are already presenting signs of developmental delays, but to screen children who are not.

WITH THE HELP PROVIDED BY CPCF, WE WILL  
BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE LITTLE LISTENERS  
ROADSHOW SCREENINGS FOR MANY YEARS.



MARIANN FRIGO  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST,  
JACOB'S LADDER PEDIATRICS



# COMMUNITY GRANTS

THE CPCF AWARDED \$162,601.43 IN UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY GRANTS IN THE **FEBRUARY CYCLE**.

## Arts, Culture - \$5,000.00

### Indiana Ballet Theatre Northwest - \$2,000.00

Funding to educate and train teachers and dancers on movement and dance, improve technique, injury prevention and deepening the love of the art.

### The City of Crown Point - up to \$3,000.00 (\$1 for \$1 Match)

Support to enrich the city's downtown by displaying artwork on traffic control boxes located in/adjacent to the Courthouse Square Historic District.

## Education - \$31,500.00

### Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana - \$1,500.00

The Storybook STEM Adventures bring literacy & STEAM together, including hands-on activities that connect art and science to inspire young minds.

### Crown Point Community School Corporation - \$22,500.00

Funding to offset the cost of College Board Advanced Placement Tests for students with financial challenges (\$4,500.00) and funding to purchase a laser cutter and engraver for the CPHS Engineering / Robotics Programs (\$18,000.00).

### Franciscan Health Foundation - \$7,500.00

Funding to support the 2025 Safe Kids Day in Crown Point.

## Food, Nutrition, Agriculture - \$25,000.00

### Community Help Network - \$15,000.00

The Buddy Bag Program provides weekend supplemental nutrition for public school students in South Lake County and the Household Pantry provides necessary items for low income families.

### St. Mary Catholic Church (God's Groceries) - \$10,000.00

Funding to support God's Groceries which provides/promotes balanced nutrition for the underserved population.

## Housing, Shelter - \$15,000.00

### SAFE Coalition for Human Rights - \$15,000.00

Funding to support women who have been sexually assaulted and sex trafficked by providing safety, life skills, and essential services.

## Human Services - \$46,652.78

### Chasing Dreams - up to \$3,500.00 (\$1 for \$1 Match)

The Summer Camp provides educational life experiences to individuals with various disabilities transition into life as independent members of the community.

### Chicagoland Immigrant Welcome Network - \$2,000.00

Funding to facilitate community workshops that provide awareness of immigrant rights and offer exploratory consultations.

### Dunes Dog Training Club (Pets N Vets) - \$3,000.00

The Pets N Vets Program supports U.S. Military Veterans in training their dogs for better companions, emotional support, therapy dogs, and/or service dogs.

### Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited - \$2,000.00

Funding to further enhance the therapeutic benefits of the program by constructing an outdoor riding arena.

### Merrillville Rotary Club Charities - \$2,000.00

Clothing Our Children program to provide winter clothing for disadvantaged children in the Crown Point area.

### Mommy's Haven - \$5,000.00

Funding to provide group therapy and therapeutic programming for residents.

### Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation - \$15,000.00

Support for the Financial Assistance Program for families who have a child battling cancer in South Lake County.

### Opportunity Enterprises - \$5,000.00

Funding to support the fully inclusive and disability-accessible summer day camp.

### Phil's Friends - \$4,500.00

Funding for care packages and cards of hope for cancer patients.

### Powers Health Cancer Research Foundation (Cancer Resource Center) - \$1,500.00

Funding to support the National Cancer Survivors Day (NCSN) event in Crown Point, celebrating and honoring cancer patients throughout their cancer journey.

### Wabash Center - \$3,152.78

Funding for the Summer Camp for children and young adults with disabilities.

## Public Safety - \$20,114.65

### Cedar Lake Police Department - \$4,302.15

Funding to purchase needed equipment to improve the response to Life Saving Incidents (Choking / Active Shooter).

### Crown Point Police Department - up to \$10,812.50 (\$1 for \$1 Match)

Acquire rifle rated ballistic safety shields for Patrol and School Resource Officers.

### MAAC Foundation - \$5,000.00

The Stutzman Hall K9 Training Center will provide indoor training for all working dogs, while the First Responder Mental Health initiative is expanding into a full conference to support the well-being of those who serve our communities.

## Recreation - \$3,500.00

### Crossroads YMCA - \$3,500.00

The 5K/2K Hub Run raises funds for the YMCA Financial Assistance Program.

## Youth Development - \$10,334.00

### Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana - \$7,500.00

The Cedar Lake Club is making enhancements with new games, carpeting, and furniture to improve activities, sustain engagement, and grow long-term impact.

### Kelly's Kindness Company - \$1,334.00

#### (\$1,000.00 Unrestricted Fund + \$344.00 The Manis Family Fund)

Funding to provide art therapy classes to teach youth how to use art and other grounding techniques to help calm anxiety, stress, OCD characteristics, and/or fear.

### Power Paws for Kids - \$1,500.00

Support for general operating and miscellaneous marketing items.

## Pro-Active Grants - \$5,500.00

### City of Crown Point - \$500.00

2025 Youth Community Achievement Award.

### 2025 Volunteer Fair - \$5,000.00

Five grants for \$1,000 each were awarded to randomly-selected participating organizations (Lake County Right to Life, Lakeshore Public Media, Meals on Wheels of NWI, National Scleroderma Foundation-Lower Great Lakes, and Trade Winds).



EVERY DONATION  
TO THE FOUNDATION,  
NO MATTER HOW LARGE  
OR HOW SMALL, MAKES  
OUR COMMUNITY A  
STRONGER AND  
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

**SHANNON SHEEHY**  
CPCF BOARD MEMBER

A GIFT IS A GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
SUPPORT THE CPCF'S  
MISSION AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF  
THOSE LESS FORTUNATE  
IN OUR COMMUNITY.

**BEN BALLOU**  
CPCF BOARD MEMBER

# Triple Your Impact

## \$2 FOR \$1 UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND MATCH

**Thanks to your generosity, the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT VIII \$1,875,000 Matching Challenge initiative is already seeing amazing results in our community.**

Launched in October 2023, this initiative offers \$1,875,000 in matching funds to the Crown Point Community Foundation. This transformative opportunity maximizes the power of your gifts, enabling us to broaden our unrestricted community grantmaking, support essential community projects and programs, and enhance our organizational capacity for even greater impact.

Available matching opportunities include: Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Funds, which offers a \$2 for \$1 match; the Operating Fund - General CPCF Fund with a \$1 for \$1 match; the Symphony on the Lawn Project Fund with a \$1 for \$1 Match; and the CPCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Programs Fund with a \$1 for \$1 Match.

Because of generous donors, the CPCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Fund is fully matched! Now, **we need your help to reach the finish line** to complete the remaining match opportunities! We're almost there—help us reach 100%! With your support, we can unlock the full potential of the Lilly Endowment Inc. matching gift.

**Every dollar you give will be doubled or tripled**, multiplying your impact and helping build a more connected and resilient South Lake County. Let's finish this together for our community!

### UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUNDS - \$2 FOR \$1 MATCH

The majority of the Matching Challenge is designated for any Crown Point Community Foundation Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund, which has \$1,500,000 available in matching funds.



A core component of our work involves expanding our support to address ever-changing and relevant community needs through our grants to local nonprofits. By growing our unrestricted endowed assets, we can provide more support to current critical needs, address emerging challenges, and capitalize on new opportunities that enrich the quality of life for all residents.

**For every \$1 donated to the CPCF Community Grantmaking Fund, or any named unrestricted fund held at the CPCF, Lilly Endowment adds another \$2, effectively tripling your donation.** This generous match, along with your donations, will add \$2,250,000 to our unrestricted pool of Community Grantmaking Funds, having a profound effect on nonprofits throughout Lake County.

Through our unrestricted grantmaking, a \$5,000 grant was awarded to the Challenger Learning Center in Hammond. The grant helped to provide summer camp scholarships and program fee assistance to Northwest Indiana families.

"With the support from the Crown Point Community Foundation, nearly 2,000 students from our region participated in STEM learning in our summer enrichment camp at Challenger," said Lara Bates, Executive Director at Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana. "Through this initiative we were able to increase access to STEM and remove some of the financial barriers that families are faced with when looking for summer enrichment opportunities. We are truly grateful for the support and Crown Point Community Foundation's commitment to future STEM leaders."

Unrestricted grantmaking also resulted in a \$2,500 grant being awarded to Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana. The grant provided scholarship opportunities for female students to participate in the program, which encourages girls to be physically active.

"Girls on the Run is a group of supportive girls that encourage each other to do better in all aspects of life," said Sarai, a Girls on the Run participant. "I love my team!"

An \$8,600 grant was awarded to Indiana Plan. Indiana Plan creates opportunities for minorities and women in the construction trades by providing basic construction awareness training that will prepare them for the apprenticeship application process.

"We are incredibly grateful for the powerful moral and financial support from Crown Point Community Foundation," said Roman Bronson, NWI Area Director for Indiana Plan. "With your assistance, we have been able to expand our program capacity as well as provide additional resources to trainees so they can take advantage of more pre-apprenticeship opportunities with the union building and construction trades!"

And, here are a few more nonprofits that have been positively impacted by the Crown Point Community Foundation's unrestricted community grantmaking:

A \$5,000 grant was awarded to Opportunity Enterprises to help support their Camp Lakeside program. Camp Lakeside is a fully accessible summer day camp for school-aged kids of all ability

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

# \$1,875,000 Matching Opportunities

MATCH COMPLETED

<b>CPCF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND OR ANY NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND</b> \$1,500,000 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$2 FOR \$1 MATCH	<b>\$1,370,924.33</b> COMPLETED
<b>OPERATING FUND - GENERAL CPCF FUND</b> \$187,500 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH	<b>\$165,250.52</b> COMPLETED
<b>SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN PROJECT FUND</b> \$40,000 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH	<b>\$30,142.01</b> COMPLETED
<b>CPCF NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS</b> \$147,500 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH	<b>\$147,500.00 - MATCH COMPLETED</b>

AS OF MAY 29, 2025.

MATCH TIMELINE: OCT. 1, 2023 - DEC. 31, 2025.  
OR UNTIL THE FUNDING HAS BEEN EXPENDED.



levels, providing eight themed weeks that engage campers in activities in art, stem, nature exploration, archery and a host of others.

"Camp Lakeside is the embodiment of the work we do at Opportunity Enterprises, said Walter Lenckos, Senior Director of Respite Operations at Opportunity Enterprises. "It creates truly inclusive community spaces for kids of all abilities to experience summer fun together. The Crown Point Community Foundation was invaluable in helping us bring these experiences to life."

A \$15,000 grant was awarded to Safe Coalition for Human Rights. SAFECHR provides effective and sustainable support for victims of human trafficking, increases awareness, and reduces the amount of trafficked persons. The grant supports Ashely's House, a facility in East Chicago which provides women who are victims of trafficking with a safe place to sleep, support in obtaining permanent housing and employment, and support in obtaining mental well-being.

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to The Humane Society of Hobart's Project H.O.P.E. Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Pets Effect) brings resource equity to pet families and keeps pet families together through the provision of affordable veterinary care and pet family resources.

Another \$10,000 grant made possible through unrestricted grantmaking was awarded to TradeWinds' food pantry. The TradeWinds community pantry serves Lake and Porter County residents in need of a helping hand due to food insecurity, offering drive-thru services once a month where clients select food and orders are delivered to the client's vehicle.

"The TradeWinds Community Food Pantry has been a great addition to TradeWinds' wrap-around services," said Lisa Tatina, Director of Development & Marketing. "We are helping many people who

struggle to make ends meet every month. Our food pantry offers an array of foods and necessities. We hear our pantry is one of the best. We take pride in what we do and how we get the food out. With the help of grant funding and donations, we have been able to do more and purchase the food we need. Without the support, we would not be as successful."

Unrestricted grantmaking has also helped our heroes in the Crown Point Police Department. A \$6,000 grant was awarded for their trading card program. Individual police officer trading cards were developed for community awareness and involvement, providing each officer 1,000 individual cards, with their picture on one side and a bio on back, to pass out to local children while on duty. The trading cards have put a name with a face to Crown Point police officers, and more importantly have given a reason for positive interaction between local youth and police officers.

"The trading card program helps our youngest community members recognize our officers, as well as lets children and families know our officers are friendly, helpful and approachable," said Ryan S. Patrick, Chief of Police for the Crown Point Police Department.

It's easy to see the profound impact that the Crown Point Community Foundation's Unrestricted Community Grantmaking efforts is having on the community. And, you can help to increase this support! Your donations can be tripled by taking advantage of this amazing opportunity. **We've almost reached our \$1,500,000 goal for the Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Funds Matching Challenge - help us reach the finish line!**

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE!

In addition to the Community Grantmaking Fund, these funds are also eligible for matchmaking opportunities:



## OPERATING FUND - GENERAL CPCF FUND - \$1 FOR \$1 MATCH

By investing in the growth of our own internal capacity, most significantly towards the development of a new headquarters, we are investing in our ability to better serve our local nonprofits and the overall community. These funds help support our mission by allowing us to expand programming, increase staff capacity/efficiency, and enhance our visibility in the community.

## SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN - \$1 FOR \$1 MATCH

Our annual Symphony on the Lawn program, in its 25th year, is far more than just a cultural event. This free community concert, hosted in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, represents an opportunity to foster unity, and broaden the exposure and appreciation for the arts.

## CPCF NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS - MATCH IS COMPLETE, THANK YOU!

Recognizing the pivotal role of local nonprofit organizations in community development, we are investing in their future through the Nonprofit Academy, a comprehensive workforce development initiative designed to bolster the effectiveness and talent retention in the Lake County nonprofit sector. This new initiative provides an innovative solution to address immediate internal capacity needs and lays the foundation for sustainable growth and opportunities within the local nonprofit sector.

## MULTIPLYING YOUR GENEROSITY

Whichever funds you choose to give to, it's easy to see the positive impact you can make in our community. There's still time to make your donations go further by taking advantage of these matching opportunities!



SCAN QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.

### CPCF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND OR ANY NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND

\$2 FOR \$1 MATCH



SCAN QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.

### OPERATING FUND - GENERAL CPCF FUND

\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH



SCAN QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.

### SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN PROJECT FUND

\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH



## 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](http://www.geisenfuneralhome.com)



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MARY NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER VISIT WITH COMMUNITY HELP NETWORK / A VOLUNTEER SIGNS UP WITH THE G.A.P. FOOD PANTRY / THE YMCA CONNECTS WITH A VOLUNTEER / SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST REPRESENTATIVES TALK WITH A VOLUNTEER / ATTENDEE DONATES BLOOD AT THE VOLUNTEER FAIR & BLOOD DRIVE / MARY NIELSEN WITH NICK FOUNDATION.



## volunteer FAIR

CONNECTING  
NONPROFITS  
WITH VOLUNTEERS

**The Crown Point Community Foundation proudly hosted its 16th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive, continuing its mission to foster community connection and engagement.**

This year's event welcomed more than 225 potential volunteers, providing them with the opportunity to meet over 40 nonprofits from across Lake County—all gathered in one accessible and welcoming space to share their missions and volunteer needs.

"Our community Volunteer Fair was a huge success again this year," said Crown Point Community Foundation Chairman Mike Dexter. "This event has grown into an incredible opportunity for local nonprofit organizations and community volunteers to connect, fostering greater awareness and engagement. When nonprofits and volunteers come together to share their time and talent, our entire community benefits."

The CPCF awarded five grants for \$1,000 each to randomly selected participating organizations. Congratulations to this year's

## 16 Years OF CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

grant winners: Lake County Right to Life, Lakeshore Public Media, Meals on Wheels NWI, National Scleroderma Foundation-Lower Great Lakes, and TradeWinds.

"We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Crown Point Community Foundation for their generous support," said Dionna Bartos, Executive Director at National Scleroderma Foundation - Lower Great Lakes Chapter. "Receiving a grant towards the National Scleroderma Foundation Lower Great Lakes Chapter is an important step in advancing our mission to promote medical research, raise disease awareness, and provide essential support and education to individuals affected by scleroderma, along with their families and support networks. The National Scleroderma Foundation's vision is to be a relentless force in finding a cure and improving the lives of those impacted by scleroderma. Additionally, the Volunteer Fair event will help strengthen our chapter by engaging volunteers who will help raise awareness, contribute time and skills, and support our community in meaningful ways."





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LAKE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION WITH A VOLUNTEER / EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS UNLIMITED SHARES INFORMATION WITH VISITORS / VOLUNTEERS ENJOY THEIR TIME WITH CEDAR LAKE HISTORICAL ASSOC./THE MUSEUM AT LASSEN'S RESORT / A VOLUNTEER SIGNS UP WITH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY / CPCF GRANT RECIPIENTS POSE WITH MARY NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (BACK ROW): MARY NIELSEN, CPCF PRESIDENT - CPCF BOARD MEMBERS CHRISANNE CHRIST AND COREY LISS - KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER - RYAN ELINKOWSKI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FAITH EVERS, VOLUNTEER MANAGER FROM MEALS ON WHEELS OF NWI - RUSSEL BRODHACKER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, TYLER ZUCCARELLI, DIGITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR, AND THOMAS DUNCAN, PRODUCER/DIRECTOR FROM LAKESHORE PUBLIC MEDIA - CPCF BOARD MEMBERS GREG FORSYTHE AND JOHN MANIS - MIKE DEXTER, CPCF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, AND BEN BALLOU, CPCF BOARD MEMBER. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (FRONT ROW, SEATED): JOE CASCONI, LAKE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE BOARD MEMBER - MICHELLE PETERS, VOLUNTEER AND COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION - LOWER GREAT LAKES CHAPTER, AND OLGA ELEK, MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR AT TRADEWINDS.

I look forward to attending the Volunteer Fair every year because it warms my soul to be amongst so many caring individuals," stated CPCF Board Member Chrisanne Christ. "Our nonprofits care so deeply about improving the lives of others and our volunteers want to find the cause that speaks to their hearts. It was an invigorating day!"

"Attending the Crown Point Community Foundation's Volunteer Fair was a blessing," said Joe Cascone, Board Member of Lake County Right to Life. "We were grateful for the opportunity to share our mission and connect with individuals who are passionate about supporting moms and babies. It was also inspiring to meet so many incredible people from other volunteer groups. The wisdom and compassion within our community is truly heartwarming. Thank you, CPCF, for making this event possible year after year. Your support empowers us to serve those who need us most."

"Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana is grateful to be a grant recipient at the Crown Point Community Foundation Volunteer Fair," said Faith Evers, Meals on Wheels Volunteer Manager. "This event has provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with dedicated volunteers who help us serve our neighbors in need. The support from this grant will strengthen our volunteer program, ensuring that our delivery drivers and kitchen helpers feel prepared and

appreciated in their roles. We are thankful for this opportunity to continue delivering nutrition, compassion, and community. Thank you, Crown Point Community Foundation!"

"The 16th Annual CPCF Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive was the perfect platform to highlight volunteer opportunities at TradeWinds Services," said Marketing and Social Media Coordinator Olga Elek from TradeWinds. "Our volunteers play a vital role in helping individuals with special needs reach their full potential, and events like this help us grow that mission. The day was made even more special when TradeWinds was honored as a grant recipient. We are deeply grateful to the CPCF for this generous support. This grant will have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of children and adults with special needs, their families, and the broader Northwest Indiana community."

In addition to the Volunteer Fair, there was an onsite Blood Drive conducted by Versiti Blood Centers. The blood drive collected 13 units. The units will potentially help up to 39 patients in need.

The CPCF would like to thank the Crown Point Community School Corporation, LAMAR, The Times Newspaper, Versiti Blood Centers, and the CPCF Board of Directors for helping to make this event possible.

# DONATIONS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

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## WAYS TO GIVE... FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

1. **Cash** - 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.



HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE  
AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



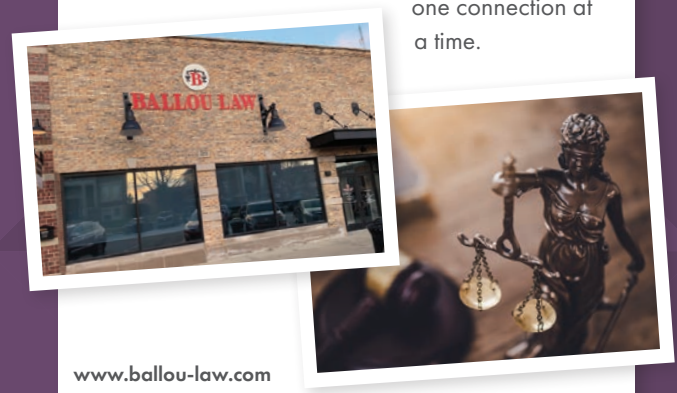
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**WHY WE GIVE:** At Ballou Law, our commitment extends beyond the services we provide to our clients. We believe in using our resources, time, and talents to create a stronger, more vibrant community for all. As a proud Community Partner, Ballou Law is deeply invested in the well-being of South Lake County. Supporting the Crown Point Community Foundation allows us to be part of something bigger: driving real, long-lasting change and ensuring that essential programs and services are accessible for generations to come.

**MISSION:** At Ballou Law, we strive to deliver high-quality, client-centered legal services that are both timely and cost-effective. We recognize that every client is unique and deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, and honesty. Our practice is built on trust, integrity, and professionalism—values that guide not only our legal work but also our commitment to community impact.

Together with the Crown Point Community Foundation, we're building a better future for South Lake County—one case, one cause, and

one connection at a time.



[www.ballou-law.com](http://www.ballou-law.com)

# MEMORIALS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

## Alec Matalin

Lynn & Allen Aron VanHouten  
Robert VanHouten & Colleen Jay  
Laurie Zditosky

## AnnMarie Usdowski

Gigi & George Geimer-Messler

## Benton Scott Huddleston

Jeanne VanSlyke-Huddleston

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## Celia Newcomb

Jim Newcomb

## Charles & Virginia Isley

John Isley  
William Thesing

## Cole Viers

Linda Viers and Chelsea  
& Taylor Baran  
Coleen Viers

## Craig Viers

Coleen Viers

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Martha, Chris & Bethany Garretson

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Karen Mitcheltree

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Joel Boomsma

## Karen Burish

Robert Burish

## Karen Pruzin

Thomas G. Pruzin

## Kegan Hall

Valerie Dussich-Hall & Kevin Hall

## Ken McEntire

Helen McEntire

## Kevin D. Perz

Jeffrey, Perz

## Larry Saylor

The Glick Family Foundation

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Kenneth & Rita Backe  
Gerald & April Schaefer

## Lorraine Viers Steuer

Coleen Viers

## Lynette Fredericks

Gigi & George Geimer-Messler

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Patricia Martin and Brad Mock  
Linda Murphy  
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Donna Paulsen & Tom Press  
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Michael & Mary Jo Rymarczyk  
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Tim, Laura, and Julia Smith

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**Tim Grzych**

Nancy Laabs

**Wilbert & Betty Jane Buth**

Eugene & Linda Matzat

**William Strachan**

Helen McEntire

# WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER



ALEKS JASNIC  
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

## ALEKS JASNIC

Aleks Jasnic is originally from Illinois and currently lives in St. John with her husband of nearly nine years. They have three young children—Milan (7), Jana (5), and Kristina (4)—and enjoy spending time together as a family going to the movies, bowling, or being outdoors.

Aleks and her husband are both first-generation Americans born to Serbian immigrant parents. They are actively involved in their church, St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, and remain deeply connected to their heritage and faith.

Aleks serves as the Accounting Assistant at the Crown Point Community Foundation. She enjoys solving problems, expanding her knowledge of nonprofit operations, and supporting the Foundation's financial processes.

She is grateful to be part of an organization that gives back to the community and looks forward to contributing her skills to further the Foundation's mission. With Aleks on the team, the Foundation continues to grow in its service and impact.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE RANDOMLY DRAWN \$2,500 GRANT RECIPIENTS AT THE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, "MAGNETIC STORYTELLING: CRAFTING COMPELLING NARRATIVES FOR FUNDRAISING SUCCESS" GATHER FOR A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH MARY NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, AND MALLORY ERICKSON, AUTHOR, POSTCAST HOST & OWNER OF MALLORY ERICKSON COACHING, LLC. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JENIFER OKAMURA, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AT MEALS ON WHEELS OF NWI; ASHLEY LUPTAK, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER NWI; LAURA WEBER, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER NWI; JEFFREY PERZ, TREASURER AT EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS UNLIMITED; KATIE SLY; MARY NIELSEN; AND MALLORY ERICKSON / ATTENDEES LISTEN TO SPEAKER MALLORY ERICKSON ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024, AT THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY / PARTICIPANTS TAKE NOTES DURING THE PRESENTATION / A PANEL OF LOCAL NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS DISCUSS FUNDRAISING TOPICS WITH MALLORY ERICKSON / ATTENDEES AT THE NONPROFIT ACADEMY ONE-DAY CONFERENCE.

## BUILDING STRONGER NONPROFITS

### Professional Growth Through the Nonprofit Academy



#### The Crown Point Community Foundation's Nonprofit Academy continues to raise the bar for nonprofit professional development in Northwest Indiana.

The Nonprofit Academy is setting the new standard for nonprofit professional development to support those seeking to enhance their skills and broaden their impact. Through annual educational and networking opportunities, this initiative equips nonprofit professionals with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to drive their organizations forward and amplify their mission impact.

The Academy hosted its one-day conference, "Magnetic Storytelling: Crafting Compelling Narratives for Fundraising Success," led by renowned fundraising strategist Mallory Erickson-executive coach, consultant, and author of *What The Fundraising*.

More than 70 nonprofit professionals attended the energizing event, eager to sharpen their storytelling strategies and drive donor engagement.

"The conference was engaging and incredibly practical," stated Nico Wood Kos, Grant Manager at Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & NWI. "I walked away with valuable tips for drafting impactful reports for grant funders and crafting compelling stories for our donor newsletter at Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and NWI. Thank you to the Crown Point Community Foundation for creating such a valuable experience for local nonprofits."

"I recently attended the Magnetic Storytelling conference which transformed my fundraising approach," said Dominique Smiley, Director of Engagement at Center of Workforce Innovations. "Before this, I struggled to express the emotional essence of our mission in a





PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ATTENDEES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AT THE CPCF NONPROFIT ACADEMY WORKSHOP - BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING, HELD AT THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY / FACILITATOR, MARY KOMENAS FROM PURDUE EXTENSION LAPORTE COUNTY LENDS HER EXPERTISE AS SHE SUPPORTS DIANE GORA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY / ATTENDEES PARTAKE IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS / NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS JOIN IN A GROUP ACTIVITY / SMALL GROUPS WORK THROUGH EXERCISES WITH FACILITATOR JOSE VALTIERRA.

way that resonated with potential donors. The hands-on strategies I learned refined our messaging and boosted my confidence."

As a surprise highlight, three organizations (Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana, and Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited) were each awarded \$2,500 grants in a random drawing.

"Through the Nonprofit Academy, nonprofits have embraced new opportunities to learn, collaborate, and innovate together—making the program a tremendous success," said Katie Sly, CPCF Program & Engagement Officer. "The enthusiasm and strong turnout from professionals at all levels highlight just how essential these professional development opportunities are for strengthening the sector and empowering nonprofits to drive greater impact."

The Academy also hosted a two-day workshop, "Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing," led by the expert team at Purdue Extension. This hands-on session brought together 24 participants to explore the fundamentals of grant writing—from crafting strong proposals to identifying new funding sources.

"The Nonprofit Academy Workshop: Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing was a fantastic way to take an entry level deep dive into Grant Writing," said Vita Ayala, Project Assistant with Powers Health

Cancer Research Foundation/Cancer Resource Center. "Whether you have worked on grants before, or if this is your first time, the class offered insight to help present the best version of your organization. The study guide is something I will keep at my desk to reference when writing future grants down the road."

Thank you to everyone who supported this new initiative and helped make it a success, especially our Presenting Sponsor, the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation; our Platinum Sponsor, NIPSCO; and additional support from the John & Ann Barney Family Foundation. Thanks also to the Crown Point Community Library for hosting these events and our CPCF Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our community. We look forward to driving further growth and impact in our community together!

## NONPROFIT ACADEMY PARTNERS

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

**DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

PLATINUM SPONSOR:

**NIPSCO**

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS:

**JOHN & ANN BARNEY  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**





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.

# HONORARIUMS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

**Barbara White's Birthday**

Craig White

Joseph & Carol Sanders

Carol Drasga

**Betty Jean Druckten**

Joe & Judi Hahn

**John & Ann Barney**

Craig & Janet Duchossois

**Faye Platt's Birthday**

Thomas Platt

Laura Bertagnolli

Jeff and Julie

**Martha "Marty" Wheeler**

John & JoAnn Birdzell

**Pene Castor**

Dale & Terri Williams

**JoAnne Tubb's 80th Birthday**

Mary Jo Klepsch



## Women's Giving CIRCLE

COLLECTIVE GRANTMAKING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 | 6:00PM

The Women's Giving Circle, a Crown Point Community Foundation initiative, invites women to support local causes by pooling donations of \$100 or more. Contributions are accepted year-round, and at the annual event on the second Tuesday in September, members vote to award grants, directly impacting the community.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**\$2 FOR \$1**

*Match  
Opportunity!*

50% of your gift to the  
Unrestricted Community  
Grantmaking Fund will  
receive the match.



# 5

## Five Questions for Shannon Sheehy

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Shannon Sheehy grew up in Cedar Lake and graduated from Hanover Central High School. She went to Butler to study psychology but then realized it wasn't for her. She returned to help run the family business, Sheehy Well & Pump Co., and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. Shannon has two children. Nathan will graduate from the Colorado School of Mines with a math major in May, and Mitch is headed to University of Wisconsin–Madison to study wildlife ecology in August.

"I have supported funds at CPCF both personally and through the business for many years, and have seen first-hand the great benefits that the Foundation provides to the community," Shannon said. "When I was approached to fill a spot on the board, I jumped at the chance to give my time as well as treasure back to the community through this impactful organization."

### 1. When were you most satisfied in your job?

Every once in a while I take a moment to watch the equipment get pulled out of the yard in the morning, going to various job sites in order to procure a safe and reliable water source for the communities we serve. Knowing that my family has been depended upon to provide a vital resource in this area since 1939 gives me great satisfaction.

### 2. What is your personal mission statement?

Leave the world a better place than the way you found it.

### 3. What is your greatest failure, and what did you learn from it?

I am rather risk averse, so I don't do many things where failure is a possibility. One area however where I continually fail is growing houseplants. I won't give up, but I really am too much of a black/white numbers person to observe the nuances in the growth of a plant to adjust water, light, food, etc. I end up with a lot of pathetic looking plants. I am sure there is a lesson the plants are trying to teach me, I will keep at it till I learn it.

### 4. What are you most proud of?

My children. They are really well-grounded, smart, compassionate humans.

### 5. What is your favorite memory from childhood?

Riding bikes all over, all the time.





CROWN POINT  
**community  
foundation™**

PO Box 522  
Crown Point, IN 46308

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE  
IN SOUTH LAKE COUNTY

## TOGETHER WE BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

The Crown Point Community Foundation is a public charity. Small donations are just as important as large donations to make sure that we serve the public's best interests.

**OUR SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT COME FROM JUST ONE PERSON,  
ONE FAMILY, OR ONE COMPANY BUT A STEADY STREAM OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

If you have a cause you care about in the community, we have a fund to support your interest. It's easy to make a donation.

Mail your check today in the enclosed envelope provided or simply donate online at: [thecpcf.org/donate.html](http://thecpcf.org/donate.html).

We invite you to be a part of your public Foundation so that together we can do more good things in our community!

### Upcoming Crown Point Community Foundation Events:

**Symphony of the Lawn** | Saturday, July 26, 2025

**Women's Giving Circle** | Tuesday, September 9, 2025



### 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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FRAN HOFFMAN  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**



**DEAN AND  
BARBARA WHITE  
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