



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S

1M

THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S

ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Kickoff Event

MORE THAN 400 NONPROFIT
PROFESSIONALS GATHERED
TO LAUNCH A NEW ERA OF
COLLABORATION AS PART OF LILLY
ENDOWMENT'S GIFT IX INITIATIVE

**VOLUNTEER
FAIR** CONNECTING
OVER 50 NONPROFITS WITH
THE COMMUNITY

HOPE ALLIANCE OF NWI
> DELIVERING LIFE-SAVING
SERVICES TO THE MOST
UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS
IN THE COMMUNITY

**CPCF RECEIVES NATIONAL
RECOGNITION**
> RE-ACCREDITATION WITH THE
NATION'S HIGHEST STANDARD
FOR PHILANTHROPIC EXCELLENCE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARY B. NIELSEN
PRESIDENT

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP
OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED,
IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD
AMERICAN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST
AND AUTHOR

One of the greatest strengths of our community is what happens when people come together around a shared purpose.

This spring, I had the privilege of witnessing that strength firsthand at the Crown Point Community Foundation's **Million Dollar Challenge Kickoff Event** (starting on page 6) as part of Lilly Endowment's new GIFT IX Community Support Grants Initiative, strengthening our region's nonprofit sector. More than 400 community leaders representing over 200 organizations gathered to explore bold ideas, build new relationships, and imagine what is possible when we work together. The energy in the room was inspiring and reaffirmed what we have long believed: meaningful change happens through partnerships and collaboration.

This issue of Giving Together highlights the many ways our community is making an impact. You'll read about **Hope Alliance of Northwest Indiana** and how a CPCF grant helped expand life-saving outreach services through a new mobile outreach van (page 4). You'll learn about our **17th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive**, where more than 50 nonprofit organizations connected with community members eager to serve (pages 14-15). We also celebrate the Crown Point Community Foundation's re-accreditation through **Community Foundations National Standards®** (page 11), a distinction that reflects our continued commitment to excellence, transparency, and stewardship.

At the heart of each story is a common thread: people working together to strengthen our community. Whether through volunteering, philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, or strategic partnerships, every contribution plays a role in creating opportunities and improving lives throughout Northwest Indiana.

As we look toward the future, I am excited about the possibilities ahead. The Million Dollar Challenge represents more than a grant opportunity - it is an invitation for our nonprofit sector to think bigger, collaborate more intentionally, and create lasting solutions for our region. Through initiatives like the **Nonprofit Academy** (page 13), we are investing in the relationships, skills, and leadership needed to turn bold ideas into meaningful action.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and commitment to our community. Together, we are building a stronger future for generations to come.

MARY B. NIELSEN



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CONTACT

115 S. COURT STREET, CROWN POINT, IN 46307

p 219.662.7252 f 219.662.9493

w thepcpf.org e info@thecpcf.org

f facebook.com/crownpointcommunityfoundation

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



IT'S ENLIGHTENING TO ATTEND THE VOLUNTEER FAIR TO SEE HOW THE VARIOUS CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY, AND WHAT WE CAN DO AS INDIVIDUALS TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS. ALSO, ALWAYS GREAT TO DONATE BLOOD TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HOSPITALS.

JOHN MANIS

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOARD MEMBER

< REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNITED WAY ENTERTAIN AND ENGAGE ATTENDEES DURING CPCF'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER FAIR & BLOOD DRIVE ON MARCH 7, 2026.



ON THE COVER

CPCF'S ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH LILLY ENDOWMENT'S NEW GIFT IX INITIATIVE



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cpcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate



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NATIONAL STANDARDS



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: THE HOPE ALLIANCE OF NWI TEAM PREPARES TO SUPPORT LOCAL NEIGHBORS IN NEED / KELLY PECK, FOUNDER OF HOPE ALLIANCE OF NWI, ASSISTS A COMMUNITY GUEST / A VOLUNTEER GATHERS ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES FOR A LOCAL GUEST IN NEED / KELLY PECK TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

With your help, Hope Alliance of Northwest Indiana is bringing life-saving services directly to individuals and families who need them most.

A CPCF grant for \$5,000 helped fund the purchase of Hope Alliance's new mobile outreach van, allowing the organization to expand its reach throughout the community.

Hope Alliance of NWI works to support individuals facing barriers to healthcare, transportation, food access, and other critical services. Through its program, Bridge to Hope: Harm Reduction in Action, the organization meets people where they are, often in communities where transportation is limited or unavailable.

Using the mobile outreach van, Hope Alliance provides naloxone distribution, safer use supplies, hygiene kits, food, diapers, emergency blankets, education, testing, and direct connections to care. The organization also partners with local food pantries to pick up and deliver groceries to individuals and families in need.

Through its street outreach efforts, Hope Alliance travels directly into neighborhoods where individuals may otherwise be unable to access traditional services due to a lack of transportation or other barriers.

"Hope Alliance came to me when I had no way to get help. They didn't judge me," said a guest of Hope Alliance. "They made sure I stayed safe."

Another guest shared the impact the outreach has had on her family. "Being a mom without a car can be challenging. I'm incredibly grateful that Hope Alliance went out of their way to pick up diapers for my children and provide emergency blankets. This support has truly made a difference for my family."

THIS GRANT HELPED US PUT A MOBILE OUTREACH VAN ON THE ROAD. THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN LAKE COUNTY, BRINGING LIFE-SAVING RESOURCES DIRECTLY TO PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE NO ACCESS. WE ARE MEETING INDIVIDUALS WHERE THEY ARE, BUILDING TRUST, AND CREATING REAL PATHWAYS TO CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

KELLY PECK

FOUNDER, HOPE ALLIANCE OF NWI

COMMUNITY GRANTS

THE CPCF AWARDED \$164,044.30 IN UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY GRANTS IN THE **FEBRUARY CYCLE**.

Animal Related - \$10,000.00

Humane Indiana - \$10,000.00

Funding to provide residents of South Lake County with free spay/neuter services and free or reduced cost wildlife educational opportunities including field trips, in-classroom lessons for students, and low cost attendance to Nocturnal Nature Night.

Arts, Culture - \$12,500.00

Cedar Lake Historical Association - \$1,000.00

Funding for the rehabilitation of the utility room in the basement of The Museum at Lassen's Resort.

South Shore Arts - \$4,000.00

Funding for a free elementary school art & literacy outreach program; the annual middle & high school artists' exhibition; the annual juried regional art show; and to present a special exhibition celebrating Northwest Indiana's Graffiti artists.

City of Crown Point - \$7,500.00

Support Salute to America 250 at annual 4th of July Parade.

Community Improvement - \$2,000.00

St. Michael's Church (Wheelchair Ramp Ministry) - \$2,000.00

Funding to install aluminum wheelchair ramps free of charge that can be reclaimed and reused after the clients need no longer exists.

Education - \$29,000.00

Franciscan Health Foundation - \$5,000.00

Funding to support the 2026 Safe Kids Day.

Crown Point Community School Corporation - \$23,500.00

\$4,500 - College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Tests:
Provide funds to pay for an AP exam on behalf of students with financial challenges.

\$10,000 (\$7,090 Unrestricted Fund + \$2,910 Community Literacy Endowment Fund)* - One District, One Book:
Provide funds to promote literacy and community by engaging students, families, and staff in reading the same book together.

\$5,000 - High School Sensory Room:
Funds to provide a teen-appropriate space for self-regulation, stress reduction, and quiet focus through calming, adaptable environments.

\$4,000 - Preschool Flexible Seating and Curricular Supports:
Funding to support self-regulation, engagement, and focus through play-based learning environments and adaptable seating options.

City of Crown Point - \$500.00

2026 Youth Community Achievement Award.

Food, Nutrition, Agriculture - \$25,000.00

Community Help Network - \$15,000.00

Funding to support the Buddy Bags Program, serving food to insecure students, and the Household Pantry, providing low income families necessities they cannot purchase with SNAP benefits.

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

Funding to support God's Groceries, providing and promoting balanced nutrition for the underserved population in our area.

Health - \$2,354.00

Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana - \$2,354.00

(\$2,000 Unrestricted Fund + \$354 The Manis Family Fund)*

Support for Mindful Moms: Pathways to Care, an evidence-based postpartum program that screens mothers for mood concerns and delivers CBT-informed individual and group counseling to promote healthy mood, coping skills, and emotional wellness after birth.

Housing, Shelter - \$15,000.00

SAFE Coalition for Human Rights - \$15,000.00

Support for A Better Way Home Women's Shelter, providing safety, life skills, and essential services for women who have been sexually assaulted and/or sex trafficked.

Human Services - \$55,000.00

Chasing Dreams - \$5,000.00

Support for the Chasing Dreams Summer Camp, providing educational independent life experiences.

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

Funding to support U.S. Military Veterans with PTSD and/or Traumatic Brain Injuries in training their dogs for better companions, emotional support, therapy dogs, and/or service dogs with "no cost" training in our Pets N Vets Program.

Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited - \$2,000.00

Funding for operating expenses of the therapeutic horseback riding program.

Lirio Resources - \$2,000.00

Support for the Daily Living Skills/Vocational Skills Learning Lab, providing hands on learning/training opportunities that will provide individuals in the program an opportunity to explore vocational interests and learn/maintain daily living skills.

Merrillville Rotary Club Charities - \$3,000.00

Funding for the Clothing Our Children vouchers.

Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation - \$12,000.00

Funding to support immediate financial assistance for families who have a child battling cancer in South Lake County.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHTEEN

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Kickoff Event



PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KARA HARRISON, DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICES AT HEDGES, SHARES THOUGHTS WITH THE ATTENDEES / PARTICIPANTS SHARE PERSPECTIVES, AND CELEBRATE A SHARED COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY.

A MILLION-DOLLAR OPPORTUNITY

Sparks Collaboration Across NWI

More than 400 community leaders representing over 200 organizations gathered at Avalon Manor this spring for what many described as the beginning of something transformative for Northwest Indiana.

The Crown Point Community Foundation's Million Dollar Challenge Kickoff Event brought together nonprofits, municipalities, police and fire departments, schools and universities, churches, healthcare organizations, and civic groups to explore what is possible when organizations unite around shared goals and bold ideas.

The Energy in the Room was Undeniable

"I had the honor to help kick off our Million Dollar Challenge with the CPCF," said Crown Point Community Foundation Board and recent Chairman of the Board Member, Mike Dexter. "The excitement in the room of 400 individuals who work extremely hard to help those in need was electric. It was incredible to watch all of these agencies brainstorm, interact, and think outside the box on what they could do to help their organization become stronger through this special program."

The event marked the official launch of the Million Dollar Challenge,

an innovative funding initiative designed to inspire collaboration, encourage creative problem-solving, and support transformative projects that improve quality of life throughout Northwest Indiana.

"This kickoff was more than an information session. It was the beginning of something transformative for our community," said CPCF President Mary Nielsen. "We're excited to explore what's possible when bold ideas and strong partnerships come together."

A Bold Vision for Community Impact

The Million Dollar Challenge was created to encourage organizations to think beyond traditional funding models and develop collaborative solutions to some of the region's most pressing challenges.

The culmination of this initiative will be the awarding of \$1,000,000 to local nonprofits to bring an actionable strategic plan to life. In addition, \$650,000 will be awarded through Immediate Mission Support Grants to organizations advancing to Round 2 of the process.

"The Million Dollar Challenge represents more than a funding



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A ROOM FULL OF CHANGEMAKERS UNITED AT THE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE KICKOFF EVENT TO ENVISION TRANSFORMATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY / A GROUP OF NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE / ATTENDEES TOOK TIME TO CONNECT, SHARE IDEAS, AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXTEND BEYOND THE EVENT / GUESTS TURN CONVERSATION INTO COMMUNITY IMPACT / KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AND BUFFY D. ADAMS, CPCF VICE PRESIDENT OF PHILANTHROPY, SHARE DETAILS ABOUT THE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE AND ITS VISION FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT / GUESTS CONNECTED WITH NEW FACES AND DISCOVERED POTENTIAL PARTNERS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION.

opportunity,” said Katie Sly, CPCF Program Director. “It represents an investment in collaboration, leadership, and long-term community impact.”

As part of the initiative, the CPCF’s Nonprofit Academy is aligning its programming to provide educational opportunities, leadership development, and networking experiences that help nonprofit organizations build the partnerships and capacity needed to bring big ideas to life.

“The Nonprofit Academy was created to support nonprofit leaders as they learn, connect, and build partnerships that move our community forward,” said Katie Sly, Program Director at the Crown Point Community Foundation. “By investing in collaboration and leadership development, we are helping organizations strengthen their impact, expand their capacity, and create lasting solutions to the challenges facing Northwest Indiana. The Million Dollar Challenge is an exciting opportunity to turn those partnerships into meaningful, community-wide change.”

As a result of the Kickoff Event, new partnerships began to formulate, innovative ideas were exchanged, and organizations were encouraged to think bigger about what can be accomplished together.

“The Million Dollar Challenge is an innovative grant opportunity to help our community in amazing ways by getting organizations to think outside the box to work together toward something bigger,” said CPCF newly elected Chairman of the Board, Corey Liss. “What an incredible opportunity we have been given from the Lilly Endowment to be able to do this.”

CPCF Board Member Ben Ballou believes the event marks an important milestone for the region. “The Crown Point Community Foundation’s Million Dollar Challenge Kickoff Event is the beginning of a new chapter for our community,” Ballou said. “The collaborative spirit, energy, and excitement of the nonprofit organizations in attendance will lead to a lasting impact on the lives of our citizens in need.”

Early Impact and Inspiration

The excitement of the day was matched by immediate action. During the Kickoff Event, the Crown Point Community Foundation awarded five grants for \$1,000 each to qualifying randomly-selected participating organizations. Congratulations to the grant winners: Coates, Inc.; Honor Flight Chicago; Jacob’s Ladder Pediatric Rehab Center; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lake County; and Urban League NWI.

For these organizations, the recognition was both meaningful and motivating.

“We are excited to have received the kickoff grant and plan to use these funds to support our college and career readiness programming, helping us continue to provide direct resources, guidance, and access to students in underserved communities,” said Catisha Toney, President & CEO at COATES Inc.

“At Honor Flight Chicago, we are always humbled by any donation or grant that we receive as we know it is another step towards taking ‘one more Vet’ to Washington, D.C., to see their memorials,” said Len Sherwinski, Northwest Indiana Coordinator for Honor Flight Chicago. “We are proud of the fact that because



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ATTENDEES SHARE SMILES, A SHARED PURPOSE, AND A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY IMPACT / COLLABORATION STARTS WITH CONVERSATION, AND EVERY SEAT AT THE TABLE BRINGS A VALUABLE PERSPECTIVE / CPCF EARLY IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): REPRESENTATIVES FROM NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) LAKE COUNTY - DOMINIQUE PETROVIC, MIRA MILENKOVIC, AND REBECCA CARNAGEY; REPRESENTATIVES FROM JACOB'S LADDER PEDIATRIC REHAB CENTER - MARIANN FRIGO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND LAURA CROHAN, CLINICAL COORDINATOR; CATISHA TONEY, PRESIDENT & CEO AT COATES INC.; LEN SHERWINSKI, NWI COORDINATOR AT HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO; AND KELLAUNA MACK, URBAN LEAGUE NWI ADVISORY BOARD / PARTICIPANTS EXPLORED OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER IN NEW AND MEANINGFUL WAYS / ATTENDEES CONNECTED WITH FELLOW CHANGEMAKERS, EXCHANGING IDEAS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT COULD SPARK FUTURE COLLABORATION / PROFESSIONALS SHARE IDEAS DURING THE EVENT.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

of our strong volunteer teams, 96 cents of every dollar goes to honor a veteran on a flight."

Attendees also praised the unique opportunity being created for the nonprofit sector.

"Wow, what an incredible event," said Leah Covert, Senior Manager of Volunteer Engagement at Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana. "We have a lot of community foundations in Northern Indiana and none of them put on an event like that or provide such a great opportunity."

"The Crown Point Community Foundation's Million Dollar Challenge event was truly outstanding," said Nicole Gladstone, President & CEO of MAAC Foundation. "The energy in the room was incredible, and it was such a great opportunity to connect with so many new people and build meaningful relationships."

"The Kickoff Event was extremely well attended by an enthusiastic group of representatives from nonprofit and government entities throughout the Region and beyond," said CPCF 1st Vice Chair, Dan Duncan. "This is a new exciting program from the forward-thinking CPCF staff. Their efforts resulted in an awesome event that will lead to great things for the community. Thank you to the team and the attendees for a great Kickoff."

As organizations continue developing partnerships and refining bold ideas sparked by the Kickoff Event, one thing is clear: Northwest Indiana is entering a new era of collaboration. The Million Dollar Challenge has already inspired new relationships,

innovative thinking, and a shared commitment to building a stronger future for the region.

Powered by Lilly Endowment's Community Support Grants

The Million Dollar Challenge was made possible through the Community Support Grants component of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX initiative.

Lilly Endowment provided the Crown Point Community Foundation with a unique opportunity to think boldly about strengthening the region's nonprofit sector and creating transformational community impact.

"Lilly Endowment Inc. has committed up to \$1,875,000 to the CPCF for this program, providing us the flexibility to use the funding in a way that would create the greatest community impact - whether through traditional re-granting or by pursuing something innovative and ambitious," said Buffy D. Adams, Vice President of Philanthropy at the Crown Point Community Foundation. "We chose to design a grantmaking program with the potential to be truly transformational for Northwest Indiana. By bringing together some of the region's most creative and dedicated nonprofit leaders, we're creating opportunities for bold ideas, meaningful collaboration, and solutions that can generate lasting community impact."

Another Opportunity to Multiply Impact

In addition to supporting the Million Dollar Challenge, Lilly Endowment's GIFT IX initiative includes a significant matching grant opportunity for donors.

Lilly Endowment Inc. has committed up to **\$1,875,000** in



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: TOGETHER, ATTENDEES EXAMINED CHALLENGES, IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES, AND BEGAN ENVISIONING WHAT'S POSSIBLE / ATTENDEES EXCHANGED CONTACT INFORMATION AND EXPLORED OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER ON SHARED COMMUNITY GOALS / ERIN HEDGES, PRESIDENT AT HEDGES, OFFERS PRACTICAL INSIGHTS ON CREATING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH COLLABORATION / PARTICIPANTS GATHERED OVER REFRESHMENTS TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS.

matching funds to the Crown Point Community Foundation. 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 the **GIFT IX \$1,875,000 Matching Challenge**.

This means the impact of your giving grows exponentially. A \$100 donation, for example, becomes \$300. A \$5,000 gift becomes \$15,000. Every dollar that is donated will be tripled through this match.

The CPCF currently oversees 79 Unrestricted Funds that fuel our grantmaking efforts throughout South Lake County. These funds enable our Grant Committee to respond to emerging needs and support the nonprofit organizations working every day to make our community a better place to live, work, and thrive. As of May 31, 2026, the Crown Point Community Foundation has captured \$625,000.00 in available funds through the Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT IX matching grant program. With more than \$1.25 million in matching funds still available, there remains a significant opportunity for donors to increase the impact of their charitable giving through June 30, 2028, or until all matching

funds have been exhausted.

"Now is the perfect time for anyone who has been considering contributing to the CPCF," said Mary Nielsen, Crown Point Community Foundation President. "Every dollar you give will be tripled, helping to make your money go even further in the community!"

The Partnership Behind the Possibilities

Founded in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K., Jr., the Lilly Endowment Inc. is one of the world's largest private philanthropic foundations and among the largest endowments in the United States. Though it awards grants both nationally and globally, Lilly Endowment has always focused on the city of its founding, Indianapolis, and its home state, Indiana.

Through its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative, now in its ninth phase, Lilly Endowment continues to invest in Indiana communities by strengthening community foundations and supporting local leadership.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVENTEEN

\$1,875,000
Matching Opportunity

**CPCF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND
OR ANY NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND**
\$1,875,000 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS

**\$2 FOR \$1
MATCH**



Donate Today!
SCAN QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.

MATCH COMPLETED

< \$625,000.00 COMPLETED

AS OF MAY 31, 2026.

MATCH TIMELINE: OCTOBER 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2028 - OR UNTIL THE FUNDING HAS BEEN EXPENDED.

DONATIONS

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

A

Mary Ann Abraham
AHEPA Chapter
No 78 Charities, Inc.
Jessica Albaugh
Dr. Jerry & Trish Allee
Joseph & Annette Allegretti
Thomas & Kathryn Anderson
Richard and Aquinas

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Suzanne Borto
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Baseball
Crown Point High School Theatre
Booster Association
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Dan & Alison Duncan

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Sharon Gremel
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Amh Hochbaum
Robert & Louise Hooper
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Donald & Joyce Huber
Emma Hutchings

I

John Isley

J

James and Jennifer Hutton
Jerry Ross Elementary PTO

K

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Janet Katich

Brett Keeler
Paula Keller
Dawn Kepshire
Tamra Kepshire
Susar Kerr
Heather Killion
Leslie Klauk
Lisa Koester
Glenn Kohlmeier

L

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Liss CARSTAR Collision Center, Inc.
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T

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School
Neal Tyler

V

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Lynn VanHouten
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Melissa Walley
Dr Cyndi & Timothy Walsh
Ronda Waters
Jean Wease
Winfield Parent Teacher Organization
Barry & Margaret (Forsythe) Wood
Suzann Wright

Y

Youche Country Club



CPCF EARNS RE-ACCREDITATION

with National Standards for Excellence

CFNS

ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
NATIONAL STANDARDS

Crown Point Community Foundation recently received re-accreditation with the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence. Community Foundations National Standards® establish legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere.

"Meeting the National Standards benchmarks is a rigorous, comprehensive process," said Susie Nelson, board chair of National Standards. "This re-accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates the Crown Point Community Foundation continues to demonstrate a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity and accountability as it carries out its mission."

The Community Foundations National Standards® program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 500 community foundations already accredited nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

"This is critically important to our donors," said Mary Nielsen, Crown Point Community President. "When people make a charitable bequest or establish a fund, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely and honor their charitable wishes. The National Standards accreditation says our house is in order."

Crown Point Community Foundation works to meet critical community needs and support local causes, including

supporting the arts and cultivating community gardens to strengthening veteran services, curing illness, expanding literacy, and programs that address food insecurity.

Crown Point Community Foundation offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to advance a cause, support an individual organization, provide flexible support for community needs or recommend individual grants. In addition to affirming the organization's philanthropic services, the re-accreditation validates Crown Point Community Foundation's grantmaking practices for the nonprofit community.

Community Foundations National Standards® is the first program of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, Crown Point Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come.

"Grantmaking is a lot like investing," said Mike Dexter, Crown Point Community Foundation Board Member. "We need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. With our National Standards accreditation, you can be assured that we're doing just that."

The Community Foundations National Standards Board is a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations and is responsible for the quality, value and integrity of compliance with National Standards. For more information on the National Standards Board, visit its website at www.cfstandards.org.



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

WAYS TO GIVE... FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



The CPCF offers a variety of options to assist you with your charitable giving. You can contribute to one of our community endowments or start a specific permanent fund dedicated to a particular cause or organization. Options include Unrestricted Community Endowments, Field of Interest Funds, Designated Funds, Scholarship Funds, and Donor-Advised Funds. Each of these vehicles offers different benefits and can be tailored to meet your unique philanthropic goals. Our commitment at the CPCF is to help you achieve your charitable intent now and forever.

Ways To Give:

- 1. Cash** - Cash donations can be made by mail, dropping off at our office, or online.
Mailing address: Crown Point Community Foundation,
PO Box 522, Crown Point, IN 46308.
- 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.



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT TAKES CENTER STAGE

at Latest Nonprofit Academy Webinar Training



TOBI JOHNSON, MA, CVA
AUTHOR, COACH, CONSULTANT, AND EXPERT TRAINER

The Crown Point Community Foundation's Nonprofit Academy continues to elevate professional development opportunities across the region, drawing more than 60 nonprofit professionals to its 90-Day Volunteer Recruitment Roadmap: A Focused System to Grow Your Team webinar.

The webinar was strategically offered ahead of the Foundation's annual Volunteer Fair, providing participating nonprofits with timely tools and strategies to strengthen their volunteer recruitment efforts and maximize their engagement with prospective volunteers at the event.

The webinar was led by Tobi Johnson, MA, CVA, an internationally recognized volunteer engagement expert, author, and founder of VolunteerPro. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and volunteer management, Johnson shared practical strategies organizations can use to attract, engage, and retain mission-aligned volunteers while creating a sustainable recruitment system.

Recruiting volunteers has become increasingly challenging in today's environment, where attention is fragmented, expectations are higher, and traditional recruitment methods are no longer as effective. During the training, participants learned how volunteer recruitment has evolved and explored modern marketing and engagement tactics that help organizations connect with prospective volunteers more effectively.

Johnson guided attendees through the development of a step-by-step 90-day volunteer recruitment campaign, outlining specific actions organizations can take before, during, and after recruitment efforts to generate interest, foster commitment, and

build stronger volunteer pipelines. The webinar also emphasized the importance of measuring results and making data-informed adjustments. Attendees learned how to track recruitment efforts, evaluate outcomes, and make strategic shifts to maintain momentum and maximize impact.

In addition to the live training, participants received a comprehensive toolkit that included a 90-Day Recruitment Strategy Workbook, a customizable Recruitment Plan Template, a bonus e-book on volunteer recruitment messaging, note-taking materials, and a completion certificate.

"The Crown Point Community Foundation provides excellent conferences and learning opportunities for nonprofits," said Daniesha Retic, Outreach & Operations at Coates Inc. "They are perfect for seasoned professionals or someone like me who is still learning and trying to grow in my role!"

The webinar is part of the Crown Point Community Foundation's Nonprofit Academy, an initiative designed to strengthen nonprofit organizations through high-quality training, networking opportunities, and professional development resources. By providing access to nationally recognized experts and relevant, actionable content, the Nonprofit Academy continues to support nonprofit professionals in building stronger organizations and creating greater community impact throughout Northwest Indiana.

THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT TRAINING AND
WELL DELIVERED. I AM TAKING AWAY
ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE.

CAMILLE MCDANIEL
VOLUNTEER OF AMERICA OREGON
VOLUNTEER SERVICES DIRECTOR

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

**DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

PLATINUM SPONSOR:

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**JOHN & ANN BARNEY
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

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



volunteer FAIR

CONNECTING
NONPROFITS
WITH VOLUNTEERS



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: U CHICAGO MEDICINE CROWN POINT REPRESENTATIVE CONNECTS WITH A VOLUNTEER / THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOBART SHARES INFORMATION WITH VISITORS / MARY NIELSEN, CPCF PRESIDENT, VISITS WITH THE PINK RIBBON SOCIETY, INC. / ATTENDEES VISIT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM LIRIO RESOURCES, INC.

CPCF CONNECTS THE COMMUNITY at the 17th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive

The Crown Point Community Foundation proudly hosted its 17th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive, continuing its longstanding commitment to strengthening community connections. The event drew more than 200 potential volunteers, who had the opportunity to meet and learn about over 50 nonprofits from throughout Lake County. "The Volunteer Fair connects our nonprofit organizations with members of the community to collaborate and better serve those in need," said Crown Point Community Foundation Board Member Ben Ballou. By bringing organizations and community members together in one welcoming and accessible location, the Volunteer Fair continues to strengthen the nonprofit sector, encourage volunteerism, and foster meaningful partnerships throughout the region.

"I was so thankful to be a part of another fantastic Volunteer Fair," said CPCF Board Member Chrisanne Christ. "The weather was cool and rainy outside, but the room was filled with warm hearts and smiles. It is an inspiring event and so wonderful being surrounded by such caring individuals!"

The Crown Point Community Foundation awarded five grants for \$1,000 each to qualifying randomly-selected participating organizations. Congratulations to this year's grant winners: Cedar Lake Historical Association - The Museum at Lassen's Resort, Lake County Right to Life, Lirio Resources, Inc., Phil's Friends, and Planting Possibilities.

"It was so exciting to hear our name called for the grant giveaway," said Julie Zasada, Executive Director at Cedar Lake Historical Association - The Museum at Lassen's Resort. "We have earmarked the funds to support our 6th season of Steam Through History, our signature resort history cruise experience on Cedar Lake. Oftentimes, the Volunteer Fair guests who visit our table aren't even aware there is a museum in Cedar Lake, much less one that offers authentic steamboat rides. We encourage them to come for a visit to get to know us better and discover all the ways they can become involved as a volunteer."

"Every year we are excited to participate in the CPCF Volunteer Fair," said Judy Earnshaw, Director of Operations of Phil's Friends. "We



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VOLUNTEERS ENJOY THEIR TIME WITH THE SAFE COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVES / ATTENDEE VISITS THE SOUTH POINTE YOUTH FOR CHRIST BOOTH / ATTENDEE DONATES BLOOD AT THE VOLUNTEER FAIR & BLOOD DRIVE / GIRLS ON THE RUN INDIANA CROSSROADS VISITS WITH GUEST / ATTENDEES SHARE A SMILE WITH FRANCISCAN HEALTH VASIA - LAKE COUNTY / CPCF GRANT RECIPIENTS POSE WITH MARY NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MARY NIELSEN, CPCF PRESIDENT; DANIELLE BOLTON, PROGRAM MANAGER AT LIRIO RESOURCES, INC.; MARY ANNE NEINER, PRESIDENT AT PLANTING POSSIBILITIES; JOE CASCONI, LAKE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE BOARD MEMBER; BETH WILLIAMSON, FAITHFUL VOLUNTEER AT PHIL'S FRIENDS; JULIE ZASADA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT CEDAR LAKE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - THE MUSEUM AT LASSEN'S RESORT; JACK PRUZIN, VOLUNTEER - THE MUSEUM AT LASSEN'S RESORT; KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM DIRECTOR; CPCF BOARD MEMBER CHRISANNE CHRIST.

gained many wonderful volunteers of all ages who joined the Phil's Friends team to bring hope and encouragement to cancer patients and their families. Being chosen as a grant winner this year was an added bonus. Thank You CPCF!"

"We were very grateful to be selected as one of the five grant recipients," said Mary Anne Neiner, President of Planting Possibilities. "Last year, we opened our new program in Crown Point, Seeding Success, where we provide prevocational training to adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. This grant will be applied to expenses of this program."

"Participating in the Volunteer Fair was such a blessing," said Joe Cascone, Board Member at Lake County Right to Life. "We were grateful for the opportunity to connect with volunteer-minded individuals, share our mission to help moms and babies, and meet so many organizations making a positive impact in our community. Thank you to the CPCF for continuing to host this event and support the important work being done throughout our community."

"With this grant, we plan to further strengthen our programs and expand our reach," said Danielle Bolton, Program Manager at Lirio Resources, Inc. "The funding will be used to enhance our resources and establish Learning Labs for our upcoming Adult Day Program."

"It's enlightening to attend the Volunteer Fair to see how the various charity organizations impact our community, and what we can do as individuals to support their efforts," said CPCF Board Member John Manis. "Also, always great to donate blood to support our local hospitals."

In addition to the Volunteer Fair, there was an onsite Blood Drive conducted by Versiti Blood Centers. The blood drive collected 17 units. The units will potentially help up to 51 patients in need! "Thank you for going above and beyond - your drive didn't just succeed, it soared," said Tracey Jaramillo, Senior Account Representative at Versiti Blood Centers. "I'm truly grateful for the effort you and your team put into making this event such a success. I'm excited to work with you again on your next drive!"

The Crown Point Community Foundation would like to thank all of the nonprofits who attended as well as the potential volunteers and blood donors. We would also like to thank the Crown Point Community School Corporation, LAMAR, The Times Newspaper, the Crown Point RoboDogs FIRST Team 2171, Versiti Blood Centers, and the CPCF Board of Directors for helping to make this event possible.

MEMORIALS

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

Alda Velluntini

Barney Enterprises Management
Services, Inc.
John R. Birdzell
Diane and Jeff. Reimer
Geoffrey Slaughter
Susan Wolski

Benton Scott Huddleston

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Betty Jane Buth

Eugene & Linda Matzat

BJ and Kay Hubbard

Scott & Janet Bordui
Roger & Mariellen Liggett

Bryan C. Niedert

Stacy Niedert

Carol Root

Thomas Elder & Susan Driscoll Elder

Celia Newcomb

John Means
Brian Newcomb
Chris Newcomb
Jeffrey Newcomb
Jim Newcomb
Jon Newcomb
Ronald D. Newcomb
Lori O'Brien
Kathy O'Brien
Shannon Rose
Katie Sly

Charles Kolar

Thomas Elder & Susan Driscoll Elder

Charles, Virginia and Jane Isley

William Thesing

Clayton D. Root III

John Birdzell
Elizabeth, Liz, and Scott Campbell

Cole Viers

Linda Viers

Don Viers, Lorraine Viers Steuer, Cole Viers, and Craig Viers

Coleen Viers

Dr. John P and Helen Birdzell, Joe Nerney, Jerry Caravana, and Leroy Doty

John Birdzell

Fr. Pat Kalich

Chuck & Darlene Hopp

Gordon Bates

Shirley Forney-Bates

Grace McBride

Jamie Delevic
Uncle Phil, Auntie Jess,
and Taylor Poulton

Jack Pettit

Jessica Albaugh

James and Betty McDonald

Robert & Pamela McDonald

James Niermeyer

Jeffrey Marchini

Jean Ann Johnston

Charlotte Fedorchak

Jennifer Neal

Jeanann Georgas-Freier
Cheryl Geras
Joseph and Barbara Guzik
Harrison and Maryann Neal II
Lyle Neal
David and Terri Wallace

Jim & Phyllis McDonald

Sarah McDonald Egan & Family

Joe and Marian Jollief

Jonathan & Margaret Jollief

Joseph and Maribel Costin

Laurence & Susan Costin

Joseph VanScoyk

Gigi & George Geimer-Messler

Kevin D. Perz

Jeffrey Perez

Larry Saylor

The Glick Family Foundation

Lisa Schaefer Stove

Kenneth & Rita Backe
Gerald & April Schaefer

Lonnie Knudsen

Gerald & April Schaefer

Margo Retson du Bernard

Andrew Kyres

Ralph Bennett III

Ralph Bennett IV

Ray Stuck and Helen Zielinski

Ted and Jackie Stuck Borggren

Robert (Bob) Hostinsky

Joseph & Lori Amodeo
Area Sheet Metal, Inc.
John and Ann Barney
Tony and Julie Bieszczat
Laura, Megan and Samantha Bodnar
Ginger and Tyler Cuevas
Megan Diaz
John & Louise Diederich
Emily Dodds
Elsie Frame
Rocco and Amy Imbesi
Maggie Jamrose
Jim and Patricia Landers
Jim & Kim Larsen
Melvin Lolkema
Kelly MacLennan
Maluchnik Family
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Martin
Daniela Martins
Sandi and Rosa Merlo
Mark and Sherry Moricz
Cheri Norton
Alvin & Georgene Paulauski
Wendy & Todd Piro
Tina and Victor Shamel
Ron & Deb Simko

Linnette Skinner

Phyllis Slesser

Vicki Solon

Sparks Family

Barb Specht

Mary Steele

Joan and Ellen Stinar

Jerry and Janet Stmary

Kerri & Andrew Tillema

Justin Tromp

Bob's friends at Valparaiso City Hall

Glen & Sarah Vandermark

Linda Ward

Rich & Kathy Zondor

Robert Swartz

David & Helen Batusic

Robert W. Lynn

Patricia Martin

Roger C. Van Slyke

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Ronald John Van Slyke

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Ryan William Lepak

Cheri Warnke

Sharon James

Michael James

Theresa Bartos

Joseph & Lori Amodeo
Diane & Jeff Reimer

Thomas A. Platt

Mark and Ruth Platt

Timothy J. Grzych

Karen Grzych

Wilbert Buth

Eugene & Linda Matzat

HONORARIUMS

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

Ann and John Barney
Craig & Janet Duchossois

Clayton Dyer Root III
Daniel Root

**Edward George and Katherine
Rose Huber's Birthdays**
Mary Kay Rowe

Faye Platt
Thomas Platt
Laura & Tom Bertagnolli
Jeff and Julie Pape

Jerry Ross
Manned Space Flight
Education Foundation

**Larry and Kim Geisen
at Christmas**
Jim Barcinski
Cheyenne Brewer
Jonathon & Tina Christiansen
Jamie Constant
Troy & Airel DeBaun
Anthony & McKenzie Geisen

Barb Gillian
Dan & Kim Greco
Julia Green
Taylor Jones
Gus & Michelle Katsaros
Jeffery & Deborah Kelley
Lowell Killion
Jeff & Jean Lahm
Katherine Lodovisi
Bob & Cinta Lowe
Ron Mesarch
Wendy Schreiber
Scott and Lynette Swets
David & Sally Szumski

Marty Wheeler
John R. Birdzell

Pene Castor
Dale & Terri Williams

The Gordon Family
Group241 Group

ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE KICKOFF EVENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

Thank You

The Crown Point Community Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to Lilly Endowment for making the GIFT IX initiative possible. Their investment reflects confidence in local leadership, community-driven solutions, and the power of philanthropy to create lasting change.

The Crown Point Community Foundation would also like to thank the **Avalon Manor Banquet Center** for hosting the Kickoff Event, as well as our partners **Party People Audio Video** and **Party Lane NWI Party** for helping to create an unforgettable experience. We also extend our appreciation to **Hedges** for helping create an unforgettable and impactful educational experience.

Together, through the **Million Dollar Challenge** and the GIFT IX **\$2 for \$1 Matching Opportunity**, the Crown Point Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment Inc. are helping build a stronger, more connected, and more impactful Northwest Indiana.



COMMUNITY
partners

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.



Member
FDIC www.centier.com

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



HELP US LEAD, ENGAGE
AND ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY



BALLOU LAW LLC

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

Northwest Indiana Center for Maternal Wellness - \$3,000.00

Funding for peer support programs that provide support for moms who are struggling with their mental health during pregnancy, postpartum, miscarriage or infant loss, as well as the early parenting journey.

Opportunity Enterprises - \$2,500.00

Support for Camp Lakeside, a fully inclusive and disability-accessible summer day camp.

Phil's Friends - \$5,000.00

Support to provide hope to cancer patients through free, personalized care packages, meeting practical, emotional, and spiritual needs beyond the medical setting.

Raindrops Rising Foundation - \$5,000.00

Funding to support the Survivor Assistance Fund.

The Caring Place - \$10,000.00

Funding for Partners in Protection (PIP), a trauma-informed partnership with local law enforcement in which specially trained officers staff overnight shelter shifts, increasing survivor safety, trust, and coordinated community response to domestic violence.

Wabash Center - \$2,500.00

Funding for a monthly social club that creates inclusive opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to build friendships, participate in community activities, and strengthen social skills.

Public Safety - \$2,345.00

Cedar Lake Police Department - \$2,345.00

Funding to purchase high-visibility traffic cones to support officer vehicle training, traffic management operations, and community events safety.

Recreation - \$4,345.30

Crossroads YMCA - \$3,500.00

Support for the 45th annual Hub Run, a 5K/2K race to raise funds for the Financial Assistance Program.

Crown Point Swim Club - \$845.30

Funds to help update the equipment that swim officials use during meets.

Youth Development - \$6,500.00

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana - \$5,000.00

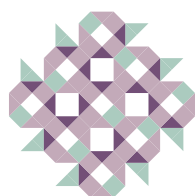
The Cedar Lake Club's E-Gaming Pathways Program will use new gaming equipment to grow youth skills, belonging, and participation through digital learning, mentorship, competitions, staff training, community partnerships, and engaging events.

Power Paws for Kids - \$1,500.00

Funding for general operating expenses and miscellaneous desired purchases.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: KIRK MUSPRATT, MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR OF THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY, LEADS A MEMORABLE SYMPHONY ON THE LAWN PERFORMANCE FOR THE COMMUNITY. / WINNERS OF THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE TRIVIA GAME CELEBRATE WITH FUN PRIZES / WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS ENJOY THE EVENING AT THE EAST POINT VENUE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 / COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER TO ENJOY A PERFORMANCE BY THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY.



CROWN POINT
community
foundation™

Upcoming Events

Symphony on the Lawn | Saturday, July 25

Location: Lawn of Saint Anthony Majestic Care at 7:30PM

Now in its 26th year, Symphony on the Lawn is much more than a concert, it is a cherished community tradition. Hosted in partnership with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, this free event brings together more than 4,000 residents each year to celebrate music, community, and the arts.

The evening showcases the incredible talents of local and regional musicians while fostering connection among people of all ages and backgrounds. By investing in this cultural experience, we help broaden access to the arts, inspire future generations of performers, and create opportunities for our community to come together in a meaningful way.

There is truly something for everyone to enjoy! Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and settle in for an unforgettable evening under the stars. Before the concert begins, be sure to visit the Summer Instrument Garden - an interactive experience that delights children and adults alike. Participants can explore a variety of orchestral instruments, discover the joy of music, and gain a deeper appreciation for the performance ahead. See you there!

Women's Giving Circle | Tuesday, September 8

For more details, visit www.thecpcf.org.

The Women's Giving Circle, a collective giving initiative of the Crown Point Community Foundation, invites women throughout our community to come together to make a lasting impact. Through annual contributions of \$100 or more, members pool their donations to create meaningful grant opportunities for local nonprofits.

Each year, members gather at the Women's Giving Circle event to learn about community needs, hear from nonprofit applicants, and cast their votes to determine which organizations will receive grant funding. The event is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when women unite around a shared commitment to philanthropy.

"After attending my first Women's Giving Circle event, I was eagerly looking forward to this past year's gathering," shared CPCF Board Member Shannon Sheehy. "It was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship with like-minded women who are passionate about improving our community."

Join us this September to experience the power of collective giving and help shape the future of our community through philanthropy.



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.

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 on the Lawn | Saturday, July 25, 2026

Women's Giving Circle | Tuesday, September 8, 2026



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.



BILLIE AND
FRAN HOFFMAN
FAMILY FOUNDATION



DEAN AND
BARBARA WHITE
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

EUGENE AND
JEAN WEASE



FORSYTHE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
RESEARCH RELATIONSHIPS RESULTS

Franciscan HEALTH
Crown Point



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