

MULTIPLY YOUR GENEROSITY WITH THE LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.'S GIFT IX

Matching Opportunities!

Give Today!

**\$2 FOR \$1
MATCHING OPPORTUNITY**

CPCF COMMUNITY
GRANTMAKING FUND
OR ANY NAMED
UNRESTRICTED FUND

Plus...

**\$1 FOR \$1
MATCHING OPPORTUNITY**
CPCF NONPROFIT CAPACITY
BUILDING PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CPCF AWARDS OVER 100
SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2026

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

> HELPING ADULTS WITH
DISABILITIES BUILD THE
SKILLS THEY NEED TO PURSUE
MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

> CELEBRATING THE TRADITION
OF COMMUNITY & CHARITY BY
AWARDING FIVE, \$2,000 GRANTS
TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

HELEN KELLER

AMERICAN AUTHOR AND
DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATE

MARY B. NIELSEN
PRESIDENT

There is something powerful about seeing generosity in action. A gift may begin with one person, one family, or one organization, but when it is combined with the giving and commitment of others, its impact can reach far beyond what any of us could accomplish alone.

Through **Lilly Endowment Inc.'s GIFT IX initiative**, the Crown Point Community Foundation has an extraordinary opportunity to multiply your donation and build resources that will serve our community for generations. With **\$1,875,000 in matching funds available**, gifts to our Community Grantmaking Fund, any named unrestricted fund, and our Nonprofit Capacity Building Programs can go even further - strengthening our community today while investing in the organizations that will help shape its future.

You will also see the impact of giving in the stories of people and organizations making a difference throughout our community. Planting Possibilities is helping adults with disabilities develop practical skills, confidence, and pathways to meaningful employment. Our 2026 scholarship recipients remind us what is possible when a community invests in the dreams and potential of its young people and adult learners. And through our Women's Giving Circle, women are pooling their resources and their voices to support local nonprofits addressing needs and creating opportunities throughout our area.

That same commitment to strengthening our community can be seen throughout our nonprofit sector. Through the One Million Dollar Challenge and Nonprofit Academy, organizations across Northwest Indiana are building relationships, strengthening leadership, and exploring new ways to work together. These efforts remind us that philanthropy is about more than dollars - it is about bringing people together around ideas, opportunities, and a shared commitment to making our community stronger.

As you read this issue, you'll see the many ways people are contributing to that shared effort. Whether you give to a fund, establish a scholarship, volunteer your time, serve on a board, attend an event, or simply share our work with someone else, you are part of what makes this possible. Every act of generosity adds to something larger.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you for believing in the power of community and for continuing to give, serve, and lead alongside us. Together, we are creating opportunities today and building a stronger community for generations to come.

MARY B. NIELSEN



OCTOBER 2026
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JEANETTE HUSS

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x x.com/thecpcf



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



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THE CPCF SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT IS A FANTASTIC SHOWCASE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR TALENTED STUDENTS AND THEIR DESIRE TO BETTER THEMSELVES WITH FURTHER EDUCATION. IT IS AMAZING TO SEE OUR COMMUNITY EMBRACE THIS THROUGH SO MANY VALUABLE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

COREY LISS

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

< 2026 MARK EDWARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GAVIN JONES IS CONGRATULATED BY CPCF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD COREY LISS.



20



14

ON THE COVER MULTIPLY YOUR GENEROSITY TWO MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES!



6

THE FOUNDATION'S \$5,000 GIFT HELPED US COMPLETE OUR HORTICULTURAL TRAINING SITE AND DOUBLE OUR PROGRAM CENSUS SINCE 2025, GIVING MORE PARTICIPANTS THE SKILLS, CONFIDENCE, AND INDEPENDENCE TO PURSUE MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT.

KRISTY FLETCHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

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Scan QR Code to
Give Online Today:
cpcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: THE GREENHOUSE SERVES AS A HANDS-ON TRAINING ENVIRONMENT WHERE SKILLS AND POSSIBILITIES TAKE ROOT / PARTICIPANTS BUILD PRACTICAL SKILLS WHILE TENDING CROPS AT THE HORTICULTURAL TRAINING SITE / PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE THE RESULTS OF THEIR HARD WORK WITH A FRESH HARVEST / THE HORTICULTURAL TRAINING SITE PROVIDES A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS TO LEARN, GROW, AND PREPARE FOR EMPLOYMENT.

A new Crown Point program is helping adults with autism and other developmental disabilities build the skills they need to pursue meaningful employment.

The Crown Point Community Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Planting Possibilities for its Seeding Success program, a prevocational job skills training program based at Crossroads YMCA's Camp Triangle Hills in Crown Point.

Planting Possibilities serves adults with autism and similar developmental disabilities who have the desire and ability to work but may need additional guidance and opportunities to develop essential workplace skills in a supportive environment.

The horticulture-based program includes a quarter-acre garden, 3,000-square-foot hoophouse and on-site classroom. Participants gain hands-on experience growing produce and creating garden-related products while learning skills that can transfer to a variety of workplace settings.

Offered five days a week, Seeding Success focuses on skills such as communicating effectively with supervisors, co-workers

and customers; following directions; attending to tasks; workplace conduct and safety; and problem solving. The program qualifies as a Waiver-funded prevocational training service and is also available to private-pay participants.

As participants prepare for community-based employment, Planting Possibilities' job coaches help connect them with opportunities that match their abilities and goals. The program also gives YMCA summer campers opportunities to work alongside participants in the garden, encouraging greater understanding of the contributions people with disabilities make in their communities.

At full capacity, Planting Possibilities hopes to serve approximately 50 adults annually and help about 20 participants each year secure meaningful community-based employment.

OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE THEY NEED TO FIND MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT AND BECOME AN ACTIVE PART OF THEIR COMMUNITY.



MARY ANNE NEINER
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT
PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

COMMUNITY GRANTS

THE CPCF AWARDED \$120,917.00 IN UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY GRANTS IN THE JUNE CYCLE.

Arts, Culture - \$4,500.00

Old Sheriff's House Foundation - \$1 for \$1 match up to \$4,500

Rebuild the interior stairwell to the Warden's apartment.

Community Improvement - \$8,000.00

Lowell Moose Lodge #2437 - \$1 for \$2 match up to \$8,000

The Lodge is in need of a new roof.

Education - \$3,000.00

Dunes Learning Center - \$3,000

Students will experience the joy and wonder of connecting with the natural world while engaging in outdoor learning adventures that support social and emotional wellness, physical health, and classroom success.

Food, Nutrition, Agriculture - \$42,917.00

Christ Presbyterian Church - \$7,917

Christ's Care and Share Garden of Winfield aims to help address food insecurity needs by growing and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables free of charge to community members and local food assistance organizations.

Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana - \$25,000

To deliver nutritious meals with a wellness check and friendly visit to primarily low-income seniors and other vulnerable individuals who are unable to shop or prepare healthy meals in the towns of Crown Point, Winfield, Cedar Lake, and Lowell.

Pack Away Hunger - \$10,000

At this one-day service event at Crown Point High School on Oct. 10, 200 volunteers of all ages and abilities will work together to pack 100,000 highly nutritious, shelf-stable meals for distribution to food insecure people throughout Lake County.

Human Services - \$43,500.00

Fair Haven Rape Crisis Center - \$1 for \$1 match up to \$11,000

The Safe Entry & Survivor Care Project will strengthen survivor safety by providing secure building access upgrades while expanding emergency food and basic needs support for individuals and families in crisis.

For the Love of the Arts - \$7,500

Support and expand the SHINE Recovery Café's programming and supportive services for adults in recovery and individuals impacted by substance use and mental health challenges in Lake County.

In-Pact - \$1 for \$1 match up to \$12,500

The Olga Brinkman & Cyril Sandala Clubhouse, serving as the primary site for In-Pact's day programming, is in need of furniture and flooring updates.

Logan's Love (Logan Speaks) - \$2,500

Part 1: Rapid Wandering Response (Project Lifesaver):

Providing 20 individual transmitter kits at no cost for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down syndrome, dementia, and Alzheimer's who exhibit elopement or wandering behaviors.

Part 2: Trauma-Informed Emergency Response (Ben's Blue Bags):

Placing 20 additional Ben's Blue Bags directly into emergency fleet vehicles equips local police and fire personnel with communication boards and sensory de-escalation items.

Part 3: Inclusive Public Spaces (Mobile Sensory Trailer):

A mobile sensory trailer provides a climate-controlled, quiet, and regulated environment allows families to participate fully in community life, knowing a safe retreat is available if an individual experiences acute stress or sensory overload.

White's Residential & Family Services - \$5,000

2026 Operational Support for Josiah White's Merrillville Foster Care Office.

Sertoma Star Services - \$5,000

Funding to expand self-advocacy services and programming throughout Indiana by developing a consumers' social capital for learning community-based living skills and forming meaningful relationships within the community.

Public Safety - \$9,500.00

Crown Point Police Department - \$9,500

Fund to acquire (2) equipped police patrol E-bicycles to help deter crime and increase police visibility in parks, bike trails, and neighborhoods.

Youth Development - \$9,500.00

Girl Scouts Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana - \$2,500

Funding to host two seasonal outdoor to promote wellness, leadership, and Girl Scout membership in Crown Point.

South Pointe Youth for Christ - \$5,000

Funding to strengthen and expand Campus Life and Juvenile Justice ministry efforts throughout Lake County, with focused investment in Crown Point High School, Hanover Central Middle School, and the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center.

Young Ladies with a Purpose - \$2,000

Funding to provide mentorship, life-skills training, and supportive group activities that empower teen girls and women to build confidence, make positive choices, and thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually.



GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION.
IT IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

KATHY CALVIN

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE MORE

Multiply Your Generosity!

Through the continued investment of Lilly Endowment Inc., the Crown Point Community Foundation has an extraordinary opportunity to multiply charitable giving and strengthen our community for generations to come.

Through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT IX) initiative, the Crown Point Community Foundation has received access to **\$1,875,000 in matching funds**. Of that total, **\$1,725,000 is available as a \$2 for \$1 match for unrestricted endowment building**, while an additional **\$150,000 is available as a \$1 for \$1 match for CPCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Programs**, including the Nonprofit Academy. Together, these opportunities allow donors to multiply the impact of their generosity while investing in both the long-term needs of our community and the nonprofit organizations working every day to serve it.

The matching period for both opportunities continues through June 30, 2028, or until all available matching dollars have been expended. Whether you are passionate about building permanent resources that can respond to changing community needs or strengthening the nonprofit organizations serving Northwest Indiana, there is an opportunity to make your gift go further.

Unrestricted Endowment Building - \$2 for \$1 Match

The largest portion of the matching opportunity - \$1,725,000 - is dedicated to building unrestricted endowment funds at the Crown Point Community Foundation. Every gift made to the CPCF's Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund, or to any named unrestricted fund held at the Foundation, is eligible for an incredible \$2 for \$1 match.

That means every dollar donated is tripled. A \$100 gift becomes \$300. A \$1,000 gift becomes \$3,000. A \$5,000 gift becomes \$15,000.

Unrestricted endowment funds are especially important because they give the Foundation the flexibility to respond to our community's changing needs. The CPCF currently oversees 79 unrestricted funds that fuel grantmaking throughout South Lake County. Because these funds are endowed, they are designed to provide charitable resources not only today, but year after year.

Through grants recommended by the CPCF Grant Committee, unrestricted dollars support nonprofit organizations and community

initiatives addressing a wide range of needs and opportunities. From basic needs and youth development to education, arts and culture, community improvement, and more, these flexible resources allow the Foundation to respond where funding can make a meaningful difference.

“This matching opportunity is about more than making a gift go further today - it’s about building permanent resources that will support South Lake County for generations,” said Mary Nielsen, President of the Crown Point Community Foundation. “As our community’s needs evolve, these unrestricted funds give us the flexibility to respond where support is needed most and create a lasting impact for the future.”

Our community is already taking advantage of this opportunity. As of August 31, 2026, \$421,332.94 has been donated to eligible unrestricted funds. Each contribution helps build permanent charitable resources for our community while unlocking additional matching dollars from Lilly Endowment Inc.



CCPF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND OR ANY NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND
\$2 FOR \$1 MATCH

CCPF Nonprofit Capacity Building Programs - \$1 for \$1 Match

A strong community also depends on strong nonprofit organizations. Through GIFT IX, \$150,000 in matching funds has been designated to support CCPF Nonprofit Capacity Building Programs, providing donors with a \$1 for \$1 match for gifts made to this important work.

A key component of the Foundation’s capacity-building efforts is the Nonprofit Academy, which launched in 2024 as a comprehensive professional development initiative for Northwest Indiana’s nonprofit sector. While CCPF and other community foundations have offered professional education opportunities in the past, the Nonprofit

Academy provides consistent, year-round opportunities designed specifically to strengthen nonprofit organizations and the people who lead and serve them.

The Nonprofit Academy is structured around four key pillars: Workshops, Annual Conference, Peer Communities, and Leadership Bootcamp. Through these programs, nonprofit professionals, board members, and volunteers have opportunities to build practical skills, connect with peers, strengthen organizational leadership, and gain tools they can immediately put into action.

Since its launch, Nonprofit Academy programming has addressed topics including grant writing, fundraising, board governance, volunteer engagement, collaboration, program impact, social media strategy, technology, financial health, and organizational leadership. These opportunities help nonprofits address immediate capacity needs while also laying the groundwork for stronger, more sustainable organizations.

The impact reaches far beyond the individuals who attend a workshop or conference. When nonprofit professionals have access to high-quality training, resources, and connections, they are better equipped to lead their organizations, retain talented staff and volunteers, adapt to changing needs, and ultimately provide stronger services to the people and communities they serve.



CCPF NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS
\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH

An Opportunity to Invest in Our Community’s Future
Lilly Endowment Inc.’s GIFT IX matching opportunities provide two powerful ways to strengthen our community - building permanent, flexible resources for future needs and investing in the knowledge, leadership, and organizational strength of the nonprofits serving our region today. With \$1,875,000 in matching funds available, your generosity can go even further to help our community respond to challenges, embrace opportunities, and make a lasting difference.

\$1,875,000 Matching Opportunities

		MATCH COMPLETED	
CCPF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING FUND OR ANY NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND	\$2 FOR \$1 MATCH		< \$842,665.87 COMPLETED
CCPF NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS	\$1 FOR \$1 MATCH		\$150,000 AVAILABLE TO MATCH
\$1,725,000 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS			
\$150,000 IN AVAILABLE FUNDS			

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

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2026.



LAUREN FOSTER AND RUSSELL OLCHAWA WERE AWARDED THE 2026 DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE SCHOLARSHIPS. PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN; 2026 DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS LAUREN FOSTER AND RUSSELL OLCHAWA; AND CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR KATIE SLY.



^

THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL HELP ME CONTINUE MY EDUCATION AND ALSO CONTINUE TO PLAY TENNIS RECREATIONALLY WHICH IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THIS SPORT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.

MARY MUMAUGH

KAREN PRUZIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship Awards Night was held on May 7th at the Halls of St. George. The event brought together scholarship recipients, including graduating high school students, current college/trade school students, and non-traditional/adult learners, and their families to celebrate their outstanding achievements as they embark on a journey filled with growth and opportunity.

The Crown Point Community Foundation (CPCF) is proud to continue its tradition of helping to make higher education possible for local scholars. The Foundation awarded 116 scholarship awards to 104 students, totaling \$505,790.

"The Awards Night is a chance to celebrate the hard work and successes achieved by the students and to recognize those who made it possible for them to achieve their goals - family, teachers, coaches, administrators, friends, and the generosity of our donors," said CPCF Board Member Ben Ballou.

"I am so grateful to contribute to this community. Seeing the positive impact we have on the students plus our teamwork was incredibly rewarding," said CPCF Board Member John Manis.

"The Dean and Barbara White Scholarship will help me pursue my educational goals by easing the financial burden of college expenses," said Lauren Foster, who was one of the recipients of the Dean and Barbara White Scholarship. "It also gives me the opportunity to continue working toward my degree while gaining

the knowledge and experience needed to achieve my career aspirations. My long-term dream is to attend law school after earning my bachelor's degree at Purdue University. Knowing that I have support for my undergraduate education makes the financial stress of that journey feel far less overwhelming."

Each year, the CPCF Scholarship Committee (made up of community volunteers) reviews applications, interviews students and selects the recipients. Scholarships are awarded through special funds that have been established at the Foundation by generous donors in the community. Many scholarship funds are established with the purpose of honoring or memorializing an individual or family member.

"It's always an honor and privilege to be part of this great event. I feel like Scholarship Night is one of the cornerstones of our great community foundation," said CPCF Board Member Dean Jones. "The energy in the room plus the bright future & hopefulness on display is palpable. Congrats to all of the recipients!"

We extend our gratitude to our Community Partner, the Halls of St. George, for generously hosting the special evening; our Visionary Sponsors: Puntillo & Crane Orthodontics and CP Coworking; our Catalyst Sponsors, AmeriClean, LGS Plumbing, Inc., Commercial In-Sites, The Nickla Group, Party People Audio Video, and the Barbara Jenkins Tyler Speech Scholarship; and our Contributing Sponsors, Party Lane NWI Party, Steamwhistle Coffee Roasters, Tavern on Main, and Strack & Van Til. Their support, along with Shane Lawrence Photography, was instrumental in making this event a success!

>

MAINTAINING GRADES, LEADING EXTRACURRICULARS, AND BALANCING A PERSONAL LIFE AS A YOUNG ADULT REQUIRES MORE EFFORT THAN SOME PEOPLE REALIZE. KNOWING THAT OTHERS RECOGNIZE MY EFFORTS HELPS ME TO CONTINUE STRIVING FOR MY GOALS DOWN THE ROAD TO BECOME AN OPTOMETRIST. I KNOW IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT I UNDERSTAND I HAVE SUPPORTERS IN MY CORNER FOR EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

CECE CHENORE

KAREN & CORNEL RAAB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND
KAY HUBBARD MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



THE CPCF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NIGHT AT HALLS OF ST. GEORGE CELEBRATED 104 EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, RECOGNIZING THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND POTENTIAL OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS, INNOVATORS, AND CHANGEMAKERS. THE EVENING MARKED THE BEGINNING OF EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS THESE STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER ASPIRATIONS.



SETH DAVIS, RECIPIENT OF THE KAREN PRUZIN SCHOLARSHIP
PICTURED WITH CPCF BOARD MEMBER PAM SEAMAN.

^

THESE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE MADE ME SO MUCH MORE GRATEFUL, AND HAVE OPENED MY EYES TO DONATING TO YOUNG INDIVIDUALS WHEN I'M OLDER.

AMY JONGSMA

GIL AND GAIL STIENER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT AND L. JANE KEENE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Scholarship

Alec Matalin Memorial "Dope" Scholarship
Alfred J. Gruber Senior Social Studies Honorarium
Alvin & Kathryn Schmidt Scholarship
American Italian Benevolent Society Scholarship
American Italian Benevolent Society Scholarship
American Italian Benevolent Society Scholarship
American Italian Benevolent Society Scholarship
American Italian Benevolent Society Scholarship
Barbara Jenkins Tyler Speech Scholarship
Barney Family Scholarship
Barney's Hub Bootery Scholarship
Bryan C. Niedert Memorial Scholarship
Bryan C. Niedert Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500)
Burrell Family Scholarship
Burrell Family Scholarship
Candace Lynne Walton Scholarship
Celia C. Newcomb Memorial Scholarship
Charles Hall & Beatrice Joy Kolar Scholarship
Charles M. & Marjorie Quickle Memorial Scholarship
Charles M. & Marjorie Quickle Memorial Scholarship
Colonel John Wheeler Middle School Scholarship
CPCF - Women's Giving Circle Scholarship
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship

Name of Recipient

Sophia Rubio
Silas Borrmann
Sara Kamp-Austin
Keira Allegrezza
Vita Ayala
Kolby Henderlong
Katie Pampalone
Madilyn Pavicich
Cesar Querimit
Grace Griffith
Ma'Rae Wallace
Kara Vagelatos
Anthony Gambino, Jr.
Olivia Giaretta
Samantha Zivkovich
Dustin Depew
Emily Cicillian
Braden Porter
Colten Chandler
Elaina Lagos
Ana Markoska
Jennifer Reissman
Debbie Abad
Elena Apostolova
Meaghan Bruskoski

Amount

\$ 5,000.00
\$ 1,780.00
\$ 600.00
\$ 1,600.00
\$ 2,000.00
\$ 2,000.00
\$ 2,000.00
\$ 1,600.00
\$ 1,500.00
\$5,000/Semester (\$40,000) | 8 Semesters
\$2,735/Year (\$8,205) | 3 Years
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 3,445.00
\$ 3,445.00
\$ 1,175.00
\$ 3,000.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 3,190.00
\$ 3,190.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00



<

BEING SELECTED AS A RECIPIENT OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEANS THE WORLD TO ME. MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYED A HUGE PART IN MY SCHOLARLY JOURNEY. MY ENTIRE TIME PERIOD IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HELPED TO SHAPE ME INTO SOMEONE WHO LOVED THE PROCESS OF LEARNING NEW IDEAS AND SKILLS.

JOEY JENNINGS

MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY PTO
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



MORGAN BABBITT, RECIPIENT OF THE GEORGE LETZ III MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
PICTURED WITH SHARON LETZ AND CPCF BOARD DEAN JONES.

<

I'M PROUD OF ALL THE YEARS OF EFFORT I'VE PUT IN TO BE AWARDED THIS SCHOLARSHIP. THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS SHOWN ME THAT WHEN I GIVE AN HONEST ATTEMPT TOWARDS MY GOALS, I CAN ACHIEVE THEM.

OLIVIA MANSUETO

TRI KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



SARAH BARATH AND KYLEE DUSSEAU, RECIPIENTS OF THE JOHN D. AMODEO SCHOLARSHIP
PICTURED WITH CPCF BOARD BEN BALLOU.



Scholarship

Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship
Crown Point Community Foundation Scholarship
Crown Point Lions Club Scholarship
Crown Point Lions Club Scholarship
Crown Point Swim Club Alumni Scholarship
Crown Point Youth Baseball Scholarship
Crown Point Youth Baseball Scholarship
David Gergely Memorial Scholarship
Dean & Barbara White Scholarship
Dean & Barbara White Scholarship
Donald and Phyllis (Dillabaugh) Ross Purdue Scholarship
Donald and Phyllis (Dillabaugh) Ross Purdue Scholarship
Dorothy Dillman Max Scholarship
Dr. James W. Gentleman Memorial Scholarship
Dr. James W. Gentleman Memorial Scholarship
George Letz III Memorial Scholarship
Gil and Gail Stiener Family Scholarship
Helen Zielinski and Ray Stuck Family Scholarship
Jerry A. Caravana Athletic Director Scholarship
Jerry A. Caravana Athletic Director Scholarship
Jerry Ross Elementary PTO Scholarship
JoAnne and Jim Haag Scholarship
John D. Amodeo Scholarship
John D. Amodeo Scholarship
Joseph & Evelyn Skora Memorial Scholarship

Name of Recipient

Blake Colbert
Brooke Miller
Devion Outten
Bella Sevenz-Coleman
Ava Zandstra
Kaitlin Flewelling
Logan Deeb
Dominic Fantin
Andrew Long
Lauren Foster
Russell Olchawa
Levi Pogose
Gabe Sletto
Heather Hiller
Jessica Harper
Avery Moore
Morgan Babbitt
Amy Jongsma
Abigayle Kubiak
Kaitlin Flewelling
Kingston Rhodes
Sage Dorsey
Canon Maples
Sarah Barath
Kylee Dusseau
Blythe Dieck

Amount

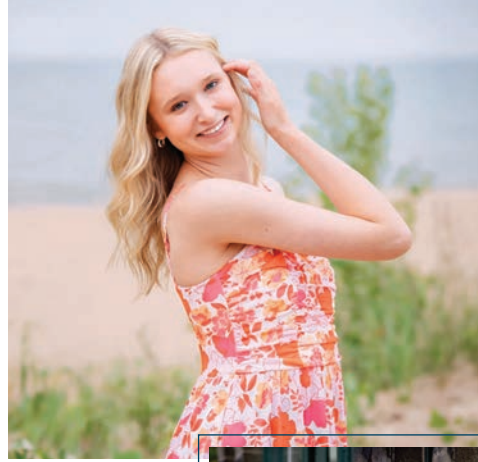
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$5,000/Year (\$20,000) | 4 Years
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 750.00
Full Scholarship | 8 Semesters
Full Scholarship | 8 Semesters
\$ 3,000.00
\$ 3,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 3,720.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,770.00
\$ 1,770.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 2,420.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 3,545.00

>

THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL ALLOW ME TO HAVE THE EDUCATION NEEDED TO LEARN ABOUT SPACE-EXPLORATION, PHYSICS, AND MORE. THIS WILL ALLOW ME TO BECOME AN AEROSPACE ENGINEER, THAT I HAVE DREAMED ABOUT BEING SINCE I WAS IN FIFTH GRADE.

GRACE GRIFFITH

BARNEY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



^

SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY IS THE ONLY WAY THAT MANY STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION. I WAS RAISED UNDER THE IDEA THAT EDUCATION IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING ONE CAN RECEIVE IN LIFE, AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS TRUE.

ANI OLCZAK

MANHART/GIBBONS FAMILY
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

<

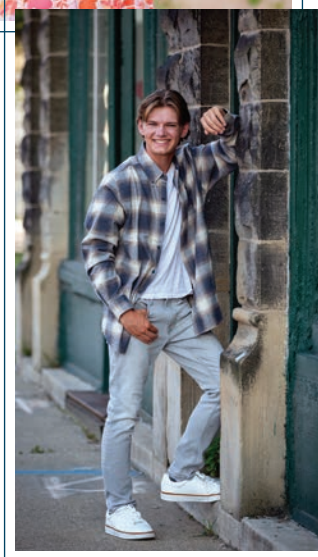
COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED SCHOLARSHIPS OFFER A WAY OF INSPIRATION TO DRIVE STUDENTS TO WORK HARD AND SET EXAMPLES TO UNDERCLASSMEN.

GABE SLETTO

DONALD AND PHYLLISS (DILLABAUGH) ROSS
PURDUE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



KAITLIN FLEWELLING WALKS TOWARDS THE STAGE TO ACCEPT THE CROWN POINT SWIM CLUB ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP.



Scholarship

Joseph & Evelyn Skora Memorial Scholarship
Joseph N. and Annette M. Allegretti Scholarship
Karen & Cornel Raab Scholarship
Karen Pruzin Scholarship
Karen Pruzin Scholarship
Kathy, Russ, and Jim Keller Scholarship
Kay Hubbard Music Scholarship
L. Jane Keene Memorial Scholarship
Lake Street Elementary PTO Scholarship
Lisa Schaefer Stover Scholarship
Liss CARSTAR Scholarship
MacArthur Elementary PTO Scholarship
Manhart/Gibbons Family Memorial Scholarship
Marilee Thanholdt Memorial Scholarship
Marion Kellum Performing Arts Scholarship
Marion Kellum Performing Arts Scholarship
Marion Kellum Performing Arts Scholarship
Marion Kellum Performing Arts Scholarship
Mark & Lindsay Bates Scholarship
Mark Edwards Memorial Scholarship
Marty Shahbaz Football Scholarship
Mary Gregory Geimer Memorial Scholarship
McMichael Family Scholarship
Mike Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Mike Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Mike Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Name of Recipient

Henry Maurer	\$ 3,545.00
Zach Brooks	\$ 1,000.00
CeCe Chenore	\$ 2,880.00
Seth Davis	\$ 2,500.00
Mary Mumaugh	\$ 2,500.00
Addison Dockins	\$ 955.00
CeCe Chenore	\$ 2,740.00
Amy Jongsma	\$ 1,095.00
Panagiotis Mattingly	\$ 1,000.00
Maeci Mullet	\$ 2,135.00
Anali Cuevas	\$ 2,000.00
Joseph Jennings	\$ 1,000.00
Aniela Olczak	\$3,085/Year (\$12,340) 4 Years
Ava Valdez	\$ 3,180.00
Trent Josleyn	\$ 1,500.00
Jazlyn Morales	\$ 1,500.00
Madeline Schroader	\$ 1,500.00
Abbey Shih	\$ 1,500.00
Eden Richardson	\$ 1,000.00
Gavin Jones	\$ 900.00
Nolan Cicero	\$ 1,530.00
Emily Yadron	\$ 2,500.00
Alicia Savoy	\$ 1,805.00
Oscar Biasi	\$ 3,000.00
Rylee Owen	\$ 3,000.00
Emily Yadron	\$ 3,000.00

>

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS THE AMOUNT OF GRATITUDE I HAVE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ME IN MY JOURNEY, LIKE THE MCMICHAEL FAMILY. YOUR SUPPORT IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL TO BE MORE COMMUNITY MINDED AND TO SUPPORT OTHERS IN THEIR QUEST FOR HIGHER LEARNING. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

ALICIA SAVOY
MCMICHAEL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



JERRY ROSS ELEMENTARY PTO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, SAGE DORSEY AND CPCF BOARD MEMBER JOHN MANIS.

Scholarship

Millicent & Forrest Everett Memorial Scholarship
Paul and Dorothea Everett Scholarship
Pete Breuckman St. Tradesman Scholarship
Pete Breuckman St. Tradesman Scholarship
Pettit Family Memorial Student Athlete Scholarship
Ralph E. and Dee Bennett Scholarship
Robert “Bob” Brown Scholarship
Robert Taft Middle School PTO Scholarship
Robert Taft Middle School PTO Scholarship
Ronald and Suzanne Borto Scholarship
Russ Keller Family Scholarship
Shirley Mudy Scholarship
Shirley Mudy Scholarship
Solon Robinson Elementary School PTO Scholarship
Solon Robinson Elementary School PTO Scholarship
St. Mary’s Catholic Community School Scholarship
St. Mary’s Catholic Community School Scholarship
Tim Galusha Memorial Scholarship
Timothy Ball Elementary PTO Scholarship
Timothy J. Grzych Memorial Scholarship
“Tiny” Knesek Bohling & Karla Stiener Scholarship
Todd Szanyi Memorial Scholarship
Todd Szanyi Memorial Scholarship
Tri Kappa - Sue Crisman Memorial Scholarship
Tri Kappa - Women’s Giving Circle Scholarship
Tri Kappa Scholarship
Tri Kappa Scholarship
Tri Kappa Scholarship
Tri Kappa Scholarship
Tri Kappa Scholarship
Trinity Lutheran School PTL Scholarship
Virgil A. Place Scholarship
Walter J. Bernacki Memorial Scholarship
Wilbert Butth Music Scholarship
William G. and Phyllis M. Fatch Scholarship
Winfield Elementary PTO Scholarship
Youche Country Club Scholarship
Zondor Family Scholarship
Zondor Family Scholarship

Name of Recipient

Addison Dockins
Maggie Krsteska
Ryan Finley
Trent Hurysz
Mark Gonzales
Christian Cutka
Ana Markoska
Ari Bairaktaris
Lola De La Rosa
Mindi Ramsey
Marisa McQuaid
Lilya Asztalos
Kaden Poppe
Eden Richardson
Luca Rodrigue
Alexandria Calzonzi
Sela Ruiz
Kamden Honickel
Abbey Shih
Luca Rodrigue
Kate Karamacoski
Dylan Bowen
Sienna Stilley
Jacqueline Ross
Kathryn Hemphill
Addison Batey
Ben Keller
Caleb Kotynski
Olivia Mansueto
Alyssa Steagall
Liana Lagos
Jase Edwards
Logan Deeb
Liana Lagos
Morgan Babbitt
Corbin Luchon
Parker Niksch
Eleni Paramantgis
Grace Stimac

Amount

\$ 855.00
\$ 2,215.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 4,000.00
\$ 1,385.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,480.00
\$ 1,480.00
\$ 745.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 500.00
\$ 500.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 1,000.00
\$ 3,965.00
\$ 500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 925.00
\$ 580.00
\$ 580.00
\$ 1,500.00
\$ 1,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 2,500.00
\$ 1,500.00
\$3,990/Year (\$15,960) | 4 Years
\$ 500.00
\$ 2,000.00
\$ 690.00
\$ 2,000.00
\$ 750.00
\$ 2,185.00
\$ 2,185.00

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.



COMMUNITY
partners

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

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

*Learning, Laughing,
& Leading Together!*



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CPCF PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN JOINS ERIN HEDGES, PRESIDENT OF HEDGES, AND KARA HARRISON, DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICES AT HEDGES, DURING THE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE'S POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #2: EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LOGIC MODELING AT THE SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER / PARTICIPANTS GATHER DURING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #3: BUILDING A STRONG SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AT THE DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER / NONPROFIT LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE REGION COME TOGETHER TO LEARN, CONNECT, AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AT THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #1: VISION & GOAL SETTING IN A COLLABORATIVE CONTEXT AT THE DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER / BUFFY D. ADAMS, CPCF VICE PRESIDENT OF PHILANTHROPY, AND KATIE SLY, CPCF PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CELEBRATE CALEB KREIS' GIVEAWAY WIN DURING THE SECOND WORKSHOP - BRINGING A LITTLE EXTRA FUN AND LAUGHTER TO A FULL DAY OF LEARNING AND COLLABORATION.

What started with a question on March 31st - What would your nonprofit organization do with One Million Dollars? - has become a journey of learning, relationship-building, creative thinking and, yes, even pajamas.

Since nearly 150 Requests for Ideas were submitted for the Crown Point Community Foundation's One Million Dollar Challenge, nonprofit organizations throughout Northwest Indiana have been doing much more than developing proposals. They have been sitting around tables with organizations they may not have known before, examining community challenges from new perspectives, learning new tools, and discovering just how much is possible when they look beyond the boundaries of their individual organizations.

Along the way, they have also laughed together, dressed for "vacation," showed up in pajamas, won prizes and made connections that could continue benefiting Northwest Indiana long after the One Million Dollar Challenge winner - or winners - are announced on December 3.

It is exactly the kind of impact CPCF hoped the Challenge would create.

"The One Million Dollar Challenge has become so much more than a funding opportunity - it has become a catalyst to fundamentally change how our nonprofit community works together," said Katie Sly, Program Director at the Crown Point

Community Foundation. "By providing hundreds of organizations with access to education, new tools, relationships, and opportunities to build capacity, we're creating impact that extends far beyond the funding itself."

Where Learning and Collaboration Meet

Education has been intentionally intertwined with the One Million Dollar Challenge from the beginning through CPCF's Nonprofit Academy, the Foundation's professional development initiative designed to strengthen Northwest Indiana's nonprofit sector.

That connection became especially evident on May 19, when more than 250 nonprofit professionals gathered at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center for the Nonprofit Academy's Collaboration & Partnership Development Workshop.

The day gave participants an opportunity to explore what successful collaboration requires while connecting with others doing important work throughout the Calumet Region.

It also helped CPCF recognize another opportunity.

After receiving nearly 150 Requests for Ideas, Foundation staff noticed that many organizations were proposing similar or overlapping concepts. Rather than simply moving forward with the original process, CPCF created roundtable discussions that brought organizations with related mission areas and ideas together.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KATIE SLY SPEAKS ALONGSIDE BUFFY ADAMS DURING A NONPROFIT ACADEMY'S COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, AT THE DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER / PARTICIPANTS TAKE A MOMENT TO SMILE AND CONNECT DURING A DAY OF LEARNING, CONVERSATION, AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING THROUGH THE NONPROFIT ACADEMY / PARTICIPANTS COME TOGETHER DURING THE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE'S POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #3 / KARA HARRISON OF HEDGES LEADS PARTICIPANTS THROUGH AN INTERACTIVE SESSION DURING THE PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #1 / NONPROFIT LEADERS SHARE INSIGHTS DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ON MAY 19 / HEDGES FACILITATORS ERIN HEDGES AND KARA HARRISON WORK ALONGSIDE PARTICIPANTS DURING POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #1, GUIDING COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION AND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS.

The assumption was that many of them already knew one another. What CPCF discovered was quite different.

"Even organizations working on very similar issues weren't necessarily connected," said Buffy Adams, CPCF Vice President of Philanthropy. "What started as a pivot in our process became an incredible opportunity to build relationships, uncover possibilities for collaboration, and connect organizations that may never have found one another otherwise."

Those conversations gave organizations a chance to learn more about each other, explore overlapping ideas and consider whether joining forces could create something stronger.

It also demonstrated one of the Challenge's central lessons: sometimes the most valuable outcome of bringing people together is simply creating the space for the right conversation to happen.

The Power of Partnership

For organizations advancing to Round 2 as Lead Applicants and Supporting Collaborators, the learning continued through CPCF's Power of Partnership Series, developed to provide practical tools and guidance as teams transformed promising ideas into collaborative initiatives.

More than 130 nonprofit professionals gathered on June 12 at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center for the first workshop, Vision & Goal Setting in a Collaborative Context.

Led by the team at Hedges, the interactive day challenged

participants to develop the foundation of strong collaborative initiatives. Teams worked to define a shared vision, clarify the problem they were trying to solve, translate their vision into actionable goals and establish frameworks for working effectively with their partners.

The process required organizations to look beyond what each could accomplish independently and instead ask what they could build together.

For Rick Peltier, Executive Director of the Franciscan Health Foundation, that shift has been one of the most meaningful aspects of the experience. "I am truly grateful for the Crown Point Community Foundation for the \$1M Dollar Challenge," Peltier said. "This is a game-changing opportunity, not just for the nonprofits in the room, but for those in our communities who will be positively impacted by the winning entry (or entries). They have encouraged us to look beyond our daily silos and think about the difference we can create when we work together."

Serious Learning Doesn't Have to Be So Serious

By July, participants had already spent plenty of time thinking deeply about collaboration. So the CPCF decided that the next workshop would feature a little getaway.

On July 10, more than 130 nonprofit professionals arrived at the Schererville Community Center dressed as their best "Vacation Self." Tropical shirts, flip-flops, golf attire, sports jerseys and other vacation-inspired outfits filled the room, with prizes going to a few participants who especially embraced the assignment.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ERIN HEDGES, OF HEDGES, LEADS THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #1, HELPING MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS BUILD A SHARED VISION AND SET GOALS FOR SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION / JULIE WENDORF, CROWN POINT LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SHARES INSIGHTS WITH FELLOW PARTICIPANTS DURING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #3 / LISA TATINA AND JODI BELLA CONNECT DURING PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #3 / PARTICIPANTS EMBRACE THE "BEST VACATION SELF" THEME DURING POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #2, BRINGING A LITTLE FUN AND CREATIVITY TO A DAY OF COLLABORATION AND LEARNING / PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE THEIR GIVEAWAY WINS DURING POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #3 / KRISTINA FRY, VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AT UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST INDIANA, AND RICK PELTIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FRANCISCAN HEALTH FOUNDATION, CONNECT DURING POWER OF PARTNERSHIP SERIES WORKSHOP #1.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIFTEEN

Then it was time to get to work.

The second Power of Partnership workshop, Effective Program Development Through Logic Modeling, again led by Hedges, helped participants explore how logic models can bring greater clarity and alignment to collaborative programs. Through hands-on activities, discussion and real-world examples, teams worked through how their proposed activities connect to intended outcomes and how they can develop programs positioned to create measurable, long-term impact.

The lighthearted theme was more than an excuse to have fun. It reflected something that has developed naturally throughout the Challenge: a sense of community among the people taking the journey together.

Building Skills Beyond the Challenge

The learning opportunities haven't been limited to organizations advancing through the One Million Dollar Challenge.

On August 11, more than 100 participants joined the Nonprofit Academy's Creating Competitive Grant Proposals webinar, also led by Hedges.

Designed for those with some grant-writing experience, the training explored key elements of a strong proposal, including an organization's description, needs statement, program description, measurement and budget. Participants also learned strategies for making proposals clearer, more persuasive and more competitive.

The webinar represented another way the Million Dollar Challenge and Nonprofit Academy complement one another. While one significant funding opportunity may have brought organizations together, the skills being developed can strengthen their work far beyond a single application.

"I truly believe we are building capacity and connections at a scale that will have a lasting ripple effect, shifting our local nonprofit landscape and the way our community approaches complex challenges for years to come," said Sly.

Pajamas, Pizza and Partnership

September brought the final installment of the Power of Partnership Series, and the CPCF made sure it was memorable.

Participants arrived for the September 11 workshop wearing pajamas, slippers and robes for a Pajama Party, complete with pizza, candy, and giveaways. Once everyone was cozy, however, there was important work to do.

More than 110 nonprofit professionals gathered for Building a Strong Sustainability Plan, which provided practical guidance for thinking beyond a project's launch and considering what will be necessary to sustain collaborative initiatives over time. Participants examined ways to strengthen their partnerships and think strategically about the long-term future of the projects they have spent months developing.

It was a fitting conclusion to a series that moved teams from vision and goal-setting to program development and ultimately sustainability.

And although the formal Power of Partnership workshops have concluded, the Million Dollar Challenge is far from over.

The Road to December 3

The next few months will bring some of the most anticipated milestones yet. Full applications are due in early October, followed by presentations to the CPCF Board of Directors on October 26.

Then, on November 5, the nonprofit community will come together again for the Nonprofit Academy Annual Conference, The Power of Me, continuing CPCF's investment in the people who lead and serve Northwest Indiana's nonprofit organizations. Finally, on December 3, CPCF will host its Evening of Gratitude, where the One Million Dollar Challenge winner - or winners - will be announced.

The excitement surrounding that announcement is undeniable. After all, \$1 million has the potential to bring a transformational idea to life.

Organizations that once worked independently are sitting at the same tables. Nonprofit professionals are learning alongside one another. New partnerships are forming, existing relationships are growing stronger, and leaders are approaching community challenges with a greater understanding of what their neighbors are doing - and what they might accomplish together.

The One Million Dollar Challenge Relationships Are Already Making an Impact

Sometimes collaboration begins with a formal partnership agreement. Other times, it starts with a conversation. Throughout the One Million Dollar Challenge, the CPCF has watched both new and existing relationships grow as nonprofit leaders learn more about one another and discover opportunities to work together.

For The Blind Social Center and Exceptional Equestrians Unlimited, the Challenge has helped strengthen a relationship that began before the initiative. The organizations were initially connected through Sandi DeVries, an advocate, neighbor and volunteer for The Blind Social Center. In July, members of The Blind Social Center visited Exceptional Equestrians, creating another opportunity to explore what their organizations might accomplish together.

"The One Million Dollar Challenge showed us what's possible when nonprofits collaborate," said Jeff Perz, Board Member and Treasurer of Exceptional Equestrians. "Together, we can take equine therapy beyond its traditional applications, explore new ways to address trauma, and expand the reach of these powerful services throughout our community."

Tony and Connie Blair, founders and executive directors of The Blind Social Center, similarly see opportunities ahead. "The Challenge has given our organization the opportunity to

connect, better understand others' missions, and explore the possibilities of working together," they said. "We believe this relationship has the potential to open new doors and create meaningful experiences for the blind and visually impaired individuals we serve."

For The Uthiverse Incorporated and For the Love of the Arts, however, the One Million Dollar Challenge helped spark an entirely new connection - and the organizations didn't wait for the Challenge to end before putting it into action.

Dr. Ken Barry, founder and Executive Director of The Uthiverse Incorporated, met Sade' Carrasquillo, CEO of For the Love of the Arts, at a One Million Dollar Challenge gathering and quickly recognized a strong alignment - not only for a potential grant partnership, but also for an opportunity to collaborate immediately.

In June, the organizations partnered to hold their first "It's OK! Teen Mental Health Pop-Up." Nineteen teenagers participated in a day focused on connection, wellness and fun.

Youth from Uthiverse led coping-skills training for teens from For the Love of the Arts, helping participants learn strategies they could immediately use as well as how to access 988 during a mental health crisis. Then came the fun: ATV rides, capture the flag and other activities gave the teens opportunities to laugh and build relationships.

"This collaboration was the catalyst for what Uthiverse believed could be a life-changing youth-led initiative," Barry said.

"We are incredibly grateful to the CPCF for sponsoring the One Million Dollar Challenge and creating a process that encourages organizations to move beyond working independently and begin building solutions together," Carrasquillo said. "No matter the final outcome of the Challenge, something important is already happening: new relationships are being formed, community voices are being heard, and partnerships are developing that we believe will continue well beyond this opportunity."

The \$1 million may not be awarded until December 3, but collaborations like these show that some of the One Million Dollar Challenge's most meaningful returns are already being realized.



THE BLIND SOCIAL CENTER ENJOYS A DAY AT
EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS UNLIMITED.

UTHIVERSE AND
FOR THE LOVE
OF THE ARTS
BRING STUDENTS
TOGETHER.

DONATIONS

APRIL 1, 2026 - AUGUST 16, 2026

A

Mary Ann Abraham
Jessica Pettit Albaugh
Americlean, Inc.
Janice Anthony

B

Irene Bairaktaris
Jeffrey & Roxanne Ban
Barney Family Foundation
Lori Bathurst
John Birdzell
Bethany Borgo
Gretchen Burdan

C

Juliana Caffarini
Penelope Castor
Cedar Lake Girls Softball
Ryan & Linda Collier
Colonel John Wheeler PTA
CP Coworking LLC
Crown Point Rotary
City of Crown Point
Crown Point Lions Club, Inc.
Marian Cunningham

D

Suzanne Demmond
Eric & Robin Dillon
Michelle Duffy
Dan & Alison Duncan

F

Danielle Flores
Greg & Nancy Forsythe

G

Christopher and Alesha Gall
Stephen & Letitia Gustas

H

Cindy Hall
Crystal Harrigan-Barry
Chuck & Darlene Hopp
Kevin Huseman
Emma Hutchings

J

Eric & Tara Johnston
Dean & Sara Jones

K

Judith Kaleta
Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc.,
Gamma Theta Chapter
Brett Keeler
Dawn Kepshire
Tamra Kepshire
Heather Killion
Leslie Klauk
Lisa Koester
Atty. Alex & Elizabeth Kutanovski

L

Judith Lazar
Kathy Lessner
LGS Plumbing
Jennifer Linsley
Liss CARSTAR Collision Center, Inc.
Corey & Charlotte Liss
Karen Lynn

M

Mark Magurany
Papa & Grandma McBride
Darlene McMichael
Jacklyn Mead
Darryl Miller

N

The Nickla Group LLC

O

Old National Bank

P

Party People
Peoples Bank, Ben Bochnowski
Jack Pettit
Puntillo and Crane Orthodontics PC

R

Patrick and Traci Rigsby
Daniel Root

Rubino, Ruman, Crosmer, & Polen, LLC
Attorneys at Law

S

Atty. Kathryn Schmidt
Dr. Pamela & John Seaman
Karl Seger
Peg Shaffer
SmartPayables
Tammie & Philip Sopczak
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T

Suzanne Teesdale
Brett Thompson
Mary Tracy-MacAulay
Tri-Creek Education Foundation, Inc.
Neal Tyler

V

Rebecca Vanderhye
John & Barbara VanRamshorst
Linda Viers

W

Jeremy Michael Walker
Melissa Walley
Cyndi & Timothy Walsh
Ronda Waters
Jean Wease
Dean & Barbara White Family Foundation, Inc.
Dale & Terri Williams
Suzann Wright

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors plays a vital role in advancing the mission of the CPCF and strengthening the communities we serve.

Board members provide leadership and guidance, select recipients of CPCF grants, help cultivate charitable giving, and serve as ambassadors for the Foundation throughout the community. We are proud to welcome the following outstanding business and community leaders to the CPCF Board of Directors and look forward to the experience and perspective they will bring to our work.



PATTIE KOBE
STATE OF MIND SALON & SPA

PATTIE KOBE

Pattie Kobe is an entrepreneur and community leader whose work has made an impact across Northwest Indiana for nearly three decades. Born in Lake County and raised in

Porter County, Pattie has deep family roots in the region and a longstanding commitment to helping Northwest Indiana thrive.

Pattie is the founder of State of Mind Salon & Day Spa, S.O.M. Properties, and the nonprofit Spice and Summit Project. Her career began at age 19 when she was recruited by Redken Fifth Avenue, launching a 17-year career presenting to audiences across the country. As an entrepreneur, she has built her businesses with a focus on financial stewardship, strategic growth, and strong leadership.

Giving back has remained an important part of Pattie's life. Her community involvement has included more than a decade of leadership with the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign, support of Lakeshore Public Media, fundraising and community events, and volunteering with Junior Achievement to help young people explore college and vocational career paths.

Pattie and her husband of 33 years, Tony, raised their two sons, Anton and Kyle, in Valparaiso. Outside of work and community service, she enjoys traveling - often by backpack - reading, and studying history, particularly the Industrial Revolution.

Pattie looks forward to bringing her entrepreneurial experience, community perspective, and passion for service to the Crown Point Community Foundation Board. She is excited to contribute her experience and perspective while helping advance opportunities that strengthen communities throughout the region.



MELISSA MYRES
KROGER PRECISION MARKETING

MELISSA MYRES

Melissa Myres grew up in Crown Point and graduated from Crown Point High School, where she attended alongside her husband, Grant Springman. She went on to graduate from the Kelley School of

Business at Indiana University, earning a degree in marketing and management with a minor in biology.

Melissa brings extensive experience in client partnerships, marketing, and business leadership to the CPCF Board. She joined 84.51° in 2020 and currently serves as Director of Client Success & Partnerships for Kroger Precision Marketing. Prior to joining 84.51°, she spent more than 11 years with Procter & Gamble. Melissa also serves her community as a Lake County Election Clerk and is an alumna of Delta Gamma.

Today, Melissa and Grant, a local physician, are raising their two children, Finley and Laurel, in the same community where they grew up. Her lifelong connection to Crown Point has given Melissa an appreciation for the people and organizations working to make the community stronger for future generations.

After seeing firsthand the meaningful impact of the Crown Point Community Foundation, Melissa was inspired to become more involved. She is especially drawn to the Foundation's commitment to creating sustainable change and building resources that will benefit the community.

Melissa is excited to serve on the CPCF Board and looks forward to helping create a lasting difference in the community she is proud to call home. She looks forward to sharing her experience while working alongside fellow Board members and community partners to strengthen Crown Point for generations to come.



Women's Giving CIRCLE

COLLECTIVE GRANTMAKING EVENT



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS ENJOY THE EVENING AT THE EAST POINT VENUE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): RUTH ARGENTA, LINDSAY FROHNAPPLE, BETTE OESTERLE, KAREN SCHRUM, DARLENE HOPP, EDEN KOENIG AND DONNA CRINER / (LEFT TO RIGHT): BARBARA MATTINGLY AND KAREN LYNN / WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE ATTENDEES (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): CPCF BOARD MEMBER CYNDI WALSH WITH LAURA SMALL, CAROL SANDERS, AND JILL BECKHAM / (LEFT TO RIGHT): ANN BARNEY, JANE LAMBESIS OF FEDERATED HERMES, KATHLEEN SMITH, KATHY ROESER OF THE ROESER GROUP AT MORGAN STANLEY, AND JULIE BIESZCZAT / (LEFT TO RIGHT): KAELYN MACUGA AND JILLIAN MILICKI / (LEFT TO RIGHT): CPCF PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN, ESTHER LAMBERT, AND CPCF BOARD MEMBER MELISSA MYRES.

The Women's Giving Circle once again demonstrated the power of women coming together to create meaningful change in our community.

An initiative of the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Women's Giving Circle invites women from across the community to join together through collective giving. With a contribution of \$100 or more, made at any point throughout the year, participants combine their generosity to create a greater impact for local organizations and causes.

Each year, the Women's Giving Circle gathers on the second Tuesday in September for its annual grantmaking event. During the evening, attendees hear directly from local nonprofits through

video presentations that highlight the challenges they are working to address and how grant funding could support their efforts. After hearing from each organization, attendees cast their votes to help determine which nonprofits receive grants. It's a meaningful way for women to learn more about the work happening in our community while having a direct voice in where their collective dollars can make an impact.

This year, the Women's Giving Circle contributed an incredible \$17,000 to support our community!

During the annual event, three nonprofit organizations were each awarded a \$2,000 grant, for a total of \$6,000 awarded directly by the Women's Giving Circle. An additional \$4,000 in two bonus

grants were made possible by the Tim and Cynthia Walsh Endowment Fund, a donor advised fund at CPCF, bringing the evening's total to five nonprofit grants.

The Women's Giving Circle also designated \$2,500 for the 2027 Women's Giving Circle Scholarship, extending its impact beyond grantmaking and investing in the next generation of community changemakers.

The remaining \$8,500 raised was directed to the CPCF Unrestricted Community Grantmaking Fund. This Fund provides grants to support community needs and programs three times each year through the grant process at the Foundation.

"CoAction is thrilled to have been chosen as one of the grant recipients at the Women's Giving Circle," said Lauren Zurbruggen, Community Engagement Director at CoAction. "This was our first time receiving an award through this event, and we are grateful to all of the generous participants who make it possible. These funds will help us to provide seniors and veterans in our programs with vital emergency kit supplies, so they are prepared to weather the storm!"

"Thank you to all the members of the Women's Giving Circle at Crown Point Community Foundation," said Jan Koutelas, Secretary of Dunes Dog Training Club, Inc. and Director of the Pets N Vets Program. "We plan to use this grant money to help our Veterans with their dog training needs, such as paying for the AKC registrations and awards which they receive when the Veterans and their dogs have passed the various levels of the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program, and we also will be able to provide them with training collars, leashes, service dog vests, and patches for the vests. We thank each and every one at the Women's Giving Circle for their support and generosity!"

"Receiving a Women's Giving Circle grant is both an honor and an encouragement to our entire In-Pact team," said Deanne Holmes, Executive Director of In-Pact. "We are grateful to be recognized alongside so many outstanding organizations serving our community. This \$2,000 grant will allow us to purchase generators that will help protect essential services during future storms and power outages, ensuring that those who rely on us continue to receive support when they need it most. We are grateful to the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Women's Giving Circle, and all who selected In-Pact for their trust and generosity in helping make our work possible."

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who voted to support this

important mission," said Donna Criner, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation. "This generous grant will go directly to our Medical Bill Assistance Fund, helping ease the financial burden for families when they need it most. We are truly blessed by a community that believes in caring for and lifting up others."

"We couldn't be more grateful for the generous support of the Women's Giving Circle of the Crown Point Community Foundation," said Phil Zielke, Founder & President at Phil's Friends. "On behalf of the cancer patients and families who will receive compassion, encouragement, and a care package in hospitals throughout Northwest Indiana - thank you for helping us bring hope when it's needed most."

"Attending my first Women's Giving Circle event was an amazing experience," said CPCF Board Member Melissa Myres. "Learning about the needs of our local nonprofits and voting on grants made me feel like my contribution mattered. I love any opportunity for women of the community to get together and make an impact!"

The event, held at The East Point Venue, was sponsored by Jane Lambesis of Federated Hermes and Kathy Roeser of The Roeser Group at Morgan Stanley.

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

GRANT AMOUNT: \$2,000 EACH



WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANT RECIPIENTS POSE WITH CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS AND CPCF PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CPCF PRESIDENT MARY NIELSEN; DEANNE K. HOLMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IN-PACT; PATTIE KOBE, CPCF BOARD MEMBER; SUE MORENO, MARKETING COORDINATOR, IN-PACT; LAUREN ZURBRIGGEN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR, COACTION; MELISSA MYRES, CPCF BOARD MEMBER; DONNA CRINER, CO-FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, NICK FOUNDATION; CPCF BOARD MEMBERS CYNDI WALSH AND PAM SEAMAN; KATHRYN LEONARD, FUNDRAISING/EVENTS MANAGER, NICK FOUNDATION; AND BUFFY ADAMS, CPCF VICE PRESIDENT OF PHILANTHROPY.

1. COACTION
2. DUNES DOG TRAINING CLUB (PETS N VETS)
3. IN-PACT
4. NORTHWEST INDIANA CANCER KIDS FOUNDATION
5. PHIL'S FRIENDS

MEMORIALS

APRIL 1, 2026 - AUGUST 16, 2026

Brett Branon

Matt and Sandy Bapple

Cynthia Bradford

Gigi & George Geimer-Messler

Dave Klein

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Simko

Debbie Hitchcock

Phil, Jess, and Taylor Poulton

Diane Radzinski

Matt and Sandy Bapple

Donna and Joe Heuer

Paula Keller

Edmond Sinnema Jr.

David & Helen Batusic

Edward Pawlowski

Gerald & April Schaefer

Gary Wendlinger

Matt and Sandy Bapple

Janet Gray

Matt and Sandy Bapple

John Howard

Nancy & Frank Eksten

John Starr

Shirley Forney-Bates

John Birdzell

Juanita Hembree

Matt and Sandy Bapple

Katherine Rose Huber and Edward George Huber's Birthdays

Mary Kay Rowe

Lisa Schaefer Stover Birthday

Gerald & April Schaefer

Kenneth & Rita Backe

Marie Van-Slyke Bean and Imogene Pilarski

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Pamela S. Gardner

Larry Gardner

Richard "Terry" VanSlyke

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Robert Van Slyke Sr.

Jeanne Van Slyke-Huddleston

Robin & Tom Parks

Chuck & Darlene Hopp

Tomas P. Luss

Darryl & Pat Miller

Wilbert E. Buth

Eugene & Linda Matzat



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND LEGACY FOUNDATION — JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE — LAKE COUNTY DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING



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



LEGACY
FOUNDATION
Lake County's Community Foundation

The true strength of a community is shown in how we respond to adversity together. When severe storms swept through Lake County on August 11, families and communities faced widespread damage, power outages, cleanup needs, and an uncertain road to recovery.

In the days that followed, neighbors stepped up to help neighbors. The Crown Point Community Foundation and Legacy Foundation joined forces to coordinate charitable support and ensure resources could quickly reach those most impacted. Generous early support from the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation helped jump-start relief efforts and donors near and far answered the call.

Since then, that generosity has grown into an extraordinary response. More than \$3.6 million has been raised to support the Lake County Disaster Relief Fund and other community relief funds, leading to more than \$1.84 million in disaster

HONORARIUMS

APRIL 1, 2026 - AUGUST 16, 2026

Pene Castor

Dale & Terri Williams

Lynn VanHouten

Donna Torrance

Dean White's Birthday

Craig White



PHOTOS FROM TOP LEFT: COACTION / FOOD BANK OF NWI / SALVATION ARMY NWI / CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

relief grants to date awarded to support recovery efforts throughout Lake County.

Those dollars are already making a difference. Grant funding is supporting frontline partners including CoAction, Food Bank of NWI, The Salvation Army NWI, and Catholic Charities as they help families with food, emergency financial assistance, case management, cleanup, and other critical needs.

While the immediate response has been significant, recovery does not end when the debris is cleared. A recent Disaster Recovery Needs Survey found that 82% of responding local nonprofits provided storm-related assistance, collectively serving more than 3,533 households. As needs shift from emergency relief to home repairs, financial stability, winter preparedness, and other long-term challenges, continued collaboration will be essential.

Crown Point Community Foundation and Legacy Foundation remain committed to standing alongside our community throughout the recovery process - working with nonprofits, community partners, local leaders, businesses, volunteers, and residents to direct resources where they can make the greatest difference.

To everyone who has donated, volunteered, responded, or helped a neighbor: *thank you!* Your generosity is helping Lake County recover, rebuild, and move forward - together.



SCAN AND GIVE TODAY
bit.ly/CrownPointAidAndReliefFund



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.



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:

Nonprofit Academy - The Power of Me - One-Day Conference | Thursday, November 5, 2026

Giving Tuesday | Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Evening of Gratitude and Million Dollar Challenge Winner Announcement | Thursday, December 3, 2026



COMMUNITY
partners

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.



BALLOU LAW
LLC
BILLIE AND
FRAN HOFFMAN
FAMILY FOUNDATION



DEAN AND
BARBARA WHITE
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

EUGENE AND
JEAN WEASE



Franciscan HEALTH
Crown Point



HOFFMAN
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

JOHN & ANN BARNEY
FAMILY FOUNDATION

John W. Anderson
Foundation



Morgan Stanley



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