

building foundations
strengthening community

through your funds administered by the
Vanderburgh Community Foundation



VCF Pledges \$60,000 to Fight Poverty

According to the National Task Force on Community Leadership, a “community foundation is a catalyzing force that creates a better future for all by addressing the community’s most critical or persistent challenges, inclusively uniting people, institutions and resources, and producing significant, widely shared and lasting results.”¹

In 2008, the board of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation took a serious look at how the Foundation can best fulfill its mission, “to improve the quality of life in Vanderburgh County,” during these difficult economic times. The board realized that the community foundation is in a position to make a significant impact on the economic and social well-being of our community.

Through a thorough study of the most urgent needs of our community, and with the help of the United Way’s Comprehensive Community Assessment, the VCF board determined in what areas immediate attention is required. In Vanderburgh County and throughout the five-county area of Gibson, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties, the number-one need identified was breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

¹ FRAMEWORK for Community Leadership by a Community Foundation, December 2008, by CFLeads, Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group, and the Council on Foundations.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation board leapt into action and immediately formed a Community Coalition Committee, chaired by Tim Hayden, Director of Operation for the Evansville Courier & Press. Through this committee, the VCF will act as a facilitator, leveraging its professional and financial resources to bring together corporate, political, community, and nonprofit leaders to address this issue.

The Foundation has committed \$60,000 and is challenging others to meet or exceed that commitment in the first efforts to lead the regional fight against generational poverty. In order to better understand the primary contributing factors and economic impact of the cycle of poverty in successive generations, the board has commissioned the University of Southern Indiana to conduct a study, which will serve as the basis for a plan. The study report will be made available to the community in early 2010.

A reduction in the number of individuals trapped in the cycle of poverty will have a profound effect on quality of life for all residents, in addition to creating significant improvement in the economic environment in Southwest Indiana.



The VCF Community Coalition met in September to continue work on its initiatives. Members include (front row, from left) Tim Hayden, Barbara Dicken, Jingle Hagey, (back row, from left) Shawn Hayden, Mark Miller, and Tom Bear. (Not pictured: Jennifer Elston, Scott Evernham, Jef Franklin, and Cheryl Steinbacher.)

Many organizations, including Destination Home, The Salvation Army, Tri-State Food Bank, and others, are already working to provide a solution to the problem of generational poverty. The Evansville City Council and Vanderburgh County Commissioners have established the Commission on Homelessness. That group has formed five committees, including the Raising Incomes Committee, to increase opportunities for low-wage and low-skill workers to obtain the necessary skills and employment to earn a living wage.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation will work with these groups and others to form a community-wide, organized, fully-funded effort to combat generational poverty.

For more information about the VCF Community Coalition Committee and the fight against generational poverty, contact Barbara Dicken at 422-1245 or email barb@vcfoundation.org.

VCF Presents 2008 Spirit of Giving Young Giver Award



Meagan Meadors received the 2008 Vanderburgh Community Foundation Young Giver Award.

On October 30, 2008, the Vanderburgh Community Foundation presented its Young Giver Award to Meagan Meadors. The award recognizes service by an individual or group of young people under age 23 who have demonstrated outstanding charitable commitment to our community through direct financial support or volunteer participation, without a desire for name recognition, and encouraged and motivated others to undertake philanthropic or volunteer activities in the community.

Meadors was honored for her work with a number of organizations, including the Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden, Reitz Home, Tales and Scales, Make a Wish, Albion Fellows Bacon Center, and Wesselman Park Nature Center.

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Begins Endowment Fund



Habitat for Humanity provides low-income families with homes like these in New Haven, a 13-acre subdivision with 60 homes slated for completion in late 2009.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Habitat for Humanity of Evansville has established a new agency endowment fund.

According to Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Executive Director Lori Reed, "There are many Habitat donors whose deepest desire is to see the ministry become totally sustainable. Establishing this endowment will help low-income families become homeowners... in perpetuity."

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, started in 1984, works to eliminate poverty housing and to make adequate housing a matter of conscience and action.

Two longtime supporters of the organization funded the creation of the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Endowment Fund. Other donors soon followed their lead and have contributed to the fund during its first year.

Anyone may contribute to the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Endowment Fund online at www.vcfoundation.org or by mailing a tax-deductible contribution to the Vanderburgh Community Foundation. When contributing, please indicate the name of the fund.

All donors who contribute to the endowment or who have made provisions for Habitat for Humanity in their estate plans automatically become members of the Perigo-Prickett Legacy Society, a recognition society named for two Evansville men instrumental in founding Habitat for Humanity and for establishing Habitat for Humanity of Evansville.

Thanks to These Spirit of Giving Event Sponsors

The VCF is deeply grateful to these generous sponsors of the 2008 Spirit of Giving event.

Old National Bank

Vectren Foundation

Courier & Press

Deaconess Health System

Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP

South Central Radio Group

Tucker Publishing Group

WTVW Fox 7

Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders, LLP



April Jackson Wall celebrated the dedication of her new Habitat home on August 10, 2009, with her son, Averil, and then-fiancé, Bill Wall. Wall's family is one of 15 in the New Haven neighborhood who were not affected by the 2005 tornado.

You help the community in a meaningful and lasting way when you establish a fund with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation

You Can Make a Difference through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation is a charitable organization founded in 1992 to strengthen our community. It awards grants to local nonprofits, brings individuals together to address community needs, and offers personalized charitable gift planning services to donors.

The Foundation is made up of a collection of endowed funds focused on charitable endeavors. Grants and scholarships are awarded out of the income generated from the endowments, leaving the principal intact.

You can strengthen the community through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation by starting a fund.

- Designated funds serve a particular charity of your choice, which receives fund proceeds in perpetuity
- Donor-advised funds support different needs from year to year; donors or their designees are involved in identifying the needs to be addressed
- Field-of-interest funds address a particular area of need identified by the donor; the Foundation's leadership awards grants to the most deserving programs in your area of interest
- Unrestricted funds are discretionary endowments that benefit hundreds of charitable organizations; the Foundation's trustees identify where the dollars will be most effective
- Scholarship funds, created in honor or memory of someone special to you, help increase access to education

Find out more about starting a fund today, or through your will. See our website at www.vcfoundation.org or call Barbara Dicken, Director, at 812-422-1245.

St. Vincent's Day Care Center Provides a Safe Place to Play

In 2009, the Vanderburgh Community Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to St. Vincent's Day Care Center for a much-needed upgrade to its infant and toddler playground.

Originally founded by the Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent's Day Care provides a safe haven for hundreds of Evansville's poorest children. The goal of St. Vincent's is to establish a solid early childhood educational foundation in the lives of very young, at-risk children who would otherwise have limited access to affordable, safe, high-quality child care. St. Vincent's serves up to 200 children daily, aged six weeks to six years. Ninety percent of enrolled children live in poverty.

In addition to providing child care, the staff of St. Vincent's supports the entire families of the children, meeting diverse needs.

For example, when one boy began exhibiting increasingly aggressive behavior while his parents were in the midst of a custody dispute,

St. Vincent's staff arranged for counselors and play therapists to work with the boy, and the staff helped the child's father develop a closer relationship with his son. Soon after, the boy's outbursts stopped and he began getting along well with other children in the classroom.

Another four-year-old boy was attending St. Vincent's Day Care Center when his family's home burned down. The family was left with nothing. St. Vincent's Day Care Center staff posted flyers letting other families and staff know about ways they could help. Through this effort, the family received clothes, food, money, and gift cards to get back on its feet.



The ultimate goal of St. Vincent's is to establish a solid early childhood educational foundation in the lives of children who would otherwise have limited access to affordable, safe, high-quality child care.



Today, the St. Vincent's Day Care Center infant and toddler playground is once again a safe place for children to play.

The boy's mother was overwhelmed by the response from the other families, most of whom were also struggling.

Recently, lead paint was discovered on the eaves of the St. Vincent's Day Care Center building, surrounding the infant and toddler inner courtyard playground. The paint was peeling and falling into the play area, endangering the health and safety of the children.

Because of the imminent safety risks and the difficulty in meeting this unbudgeted capital expense, St. Vincent's Day Care Center asked the Vanderburgh Community Foundation to fund the needed repairs to make the playground safe for the children. The VCF grants committee believed the need to be of the utmost priority and provided the grant for the removal of the lead paint. Today, the playground is once again a safe place for the children to play.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation provided a grant to fund repairs needed to make the playground safe.

VCF Presents 2008 Spirit of Giving Silent Philanthropist Award



James McCarty, Sr. (shown with his wife, Bonnie McCarty) is the recipient of the 2008 Vanderburgh Community Foundation Silent Philanthropist Award.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation presented its Silent Philanthropist Award to James McCarty, Sr., during the organization's second annual Spirit of Giving awards October 30, 2008. The award recognizes an individual who has quietly demonstrated an outstanding charitable commitment to our community through direct financial support or volunteer participation, without a desire for name recognition, and encouraged and motivated others to undertake philanthropic or volunteer activities in the community.

McCarty's decades of service with a number of organizations include his founding and underwriting of the Bosse CARES program, designed to increase college-going rates. In honor of his generosity, the Vanderburgh Community Foundation formed the James A. McCarty Spirit of Giving Endowment Fund. Contributions will benefit education in Vanderburgh County.



For Good. Forever.

The focus of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation is to promote philanthropy and build endowment for the good of the Vanderburgh County community... forever.

Vanderburgh Community Foundation
18 Northwest 4th Street, Suite 306
Evansville, Indiana 47708

Phone: 812-422-1245

www.vcfoundation.org

A member of the
Community Foundation Alliance.



©2008 Vanderburgh Community Foundation