



Vanderburgh Community Foundation

VCFocus

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New VCF Funds Are Strengthening Our Community

This year, present and former residents of Vanderburgh County created new funds that strengthen the community by providing financial support for areas of special interest to them. Starting a fund in an area that you would like to impact is an excellent way to support our community, just as Jef and Neal Franklin, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, and others are doing.



Make a Positive Impact through VCF

Do you have an area of special interest you would like to impact? A fund is an excellent way to leave a personal legacy that will strengthen our community. Getting started is easy and our staff will handle all the details.

Call Barbara Dicken at 422-1245 or email info@vcfoundation.org.

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Franklin

“My mother was a high school English and drama teacher in the town where I grew up,” says Neal Franklin. “She loved the theater and gave me this great love for the performing arts.”

“I love live theater and the symphonic band,” she explains. “I have been on the board of the Philharmonic Orchestra, and have been guild president, for the past three years. I’m on the orchestra board again next year, and I am on the board of the USI Arts and Humanities Society.”

Neal explains that the performing arts were a major reason she and her husband, Jef, who retired from Welborn Clinic last year, decided to live in Evansville.

“We came to Evansville in 1975,” she says, “and chose to live here because of the availability of the ‘bonus things’ in the community—the Philharmonic Orchestra, the arts, the museum, the zoo, and two universities. Those are the reasons we decided to make Evansville our home and why, even in retirement, we have no intention of leaving.”

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**Vanderburgh
Community
Foundation**

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.

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A member of the Community Foundation Alliance.



Neal explains that during the past year she and Jef have been updating their wills and estate planning.

“We had not done that in 10 years and our circumstances had changed,” she laughs. “We had become 10 years older!”

Jef adds that he and Neal wanted to leave a substantial portion of their estate to their favorite causes. “The performing arts seemed the logical place for us to make specific bequests,” he explains.

The Franklins established funds in three areas, all related to the performing arts. Two of the funds are designated to provide exclusive benefits to specific organizations, while the third is a field-of-interest fund that allows performing arts groups to request money in the form of grants.

“The Vanderburgh Community Foundation offers the most flexible ways in which we can make bequests. It was important to us to not have our children directly involved in making bequests or gifts, because we felt that was rather an unfair responsibility for them to have.” —Neal Franklin

“The Vanderburgh Community Foundation offered us a way to make sure our wishes were carried out,” says Neal. “Obviously the process was new to us, and Barbara Dicken was very helpful. She really opened up our options and we had lots of flexibility in how we wanted to do this.”

In addition to this flexibility, Jef and Neal emphasize that they chose VCF to administer their funds because the Foundation represents a source of continuity and strength for the community.

“While specific arts organizations do, unfortunately, come and go,” says Jef, “the Vanderburgh Community Foundation will be here to see that the money we are leaving goes where we intended it. This ensures that funding is available for the long-term



Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard established a fund to commemorate his twentieth wedding anniversary. Left to right: Amy, Mattie, and Randall Shepard.

survival of, in our case, the performing arts. And that will be a source of strength for our community in the years to come.”

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard

“Community foundations have a special importance in the world of philanthropy—and in building communities,” says Evansville native Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. “Community foundations offer the opportunity to focus resources on particular projects, and the flexibility to create charitable institutions that look across the range of needs and deploy assistance wherever needed.”

Recently, he established a fund to commemorate his twentieth wedding anniversary. The Amy W. MacDonell-Randall T. Shepard Historic Preservation Lecture Fund is a field-of-interest fund to reimburse the travel expenses and/or honorarium of a speaker presenting an annual lecture in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Month, held in May.

“The Vanderburgh Community Foundation gives potential donors the best of both worlds,” he explains. “It creates an opportunity to focus your charitable intent, if that is what you want to do,

and to do so under capable long-term management and stewardship. I think the real benefit is that hope for the future—that big idea of what Evansville and southwest Indiana can be.”

“There is an important global benefit to the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, and that is the creation of a place where people of like mind can gather together—giving their time, money and advice—to talk about the future of this community.” —Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard

Fund Benefits Evansville African American Museum

The board of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation has created an endowment fund of \$10,000 in honor of Evansville native and television favorite Ron Glass, to benefit the Evansville African American Museum. Glass was the keynote speaker at the Foundation’s 2007 Spirit of Giving event.

“The Ron Glass Endowment will be used as an addition to our capital campaign, which ends December 31, 2009,” says Lana Burton, President of the Evansville African American Museum Board. “These funds have started our endowment, and we’ll continue adding to it.”

A vital addition to the story of Evansville’s history, the Evansville African American Museum offers

an introductory video and scale model of the historic Lincoln Gardens community, an interactive computer-generated tour of the historic neighborhood, and other attractions.

The museum also features an exhibit honoring “Neighborhood Heroes,” including such notables as Ron Glass; Elbert Cox, the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. in mathematics; and jazz drummer “Big Sid” Catlett, who performed with Louis Armstrong.

“The Evansville African American Museum explores the roles that African Americans played in our community, but it is not just for African Americans,”



Sondra Matthews, Founder, Evansville African American Museum (left) accepted the donation from Allison Comstock, Past President, Vanderburgh Community Foundation, at the Foundation’s 2007 Spirit of Giving event.

says Burton. “This museum strengthens our entire community because it

“I am thankful for the opportunity to be instrumental in adding the Evansville African American Museum to your extensive roster of beneficiaries.” —Ron Glass

showcases our diversity and how we have worked together to make Evansville the all-American city that it is.”

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Scholarships Strengthen the Community

Scholarships assist future leaders in reaching their highest potential and are a powerful source of strength for our community. The Vanderburgh Community Foundation awards a wide range of Community Scholarships, as well as administering the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program for Vanderburgh County.

Community scholarships are established by individuals, families, corporations, and organizations, and are vital to helping promising young students

in our community achieve their educational goals. Establishing a scholarship is easy, and our professional staff will handle all the administrative details.

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation is proud to present these winners of VCF scholarships, and of Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships that VCF administers in our community.



Brandt T. Lydon
Mater Dei High School



Megan J. Reynolds
Reitz Memorial High School



Karen E. Scheller
Mater Dei High School



Joseph D. Tolen
Central High School



Elizabeth N. Uduehi
F. J. Reitz High School



William E. Wasserman
Evansville Day School



Kasey L. Wright
University of Southern Indiana



Establish a Scholarship Today

Establishing a scholarship through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation is an excellent way to give direct financial assistance to the promising young students who will provide leadership and strength for our community in the future.

Call Barbara Dicken at 422-1245 or email info@vcfoundation.org.

New Community Scholarships Provide Support

New scholarships are being established by people in our community to honor a loved one, support a special interest, or build up a cherished institution.

“Scholarships are a wonderful way to honor individuals and institutions,” says Tom Bear, VCF Board Member and Scholarship Chair. “We encourage members of our community to create scholarships so that worthy students will have the educational opportunities they deserve.”

Thomas F. Walls Youth Hockey Scholarship

Lee Ann Wambach and Dennis Walls, parents of Thomas F. Walls, established the Thomas F. Walls Youth Hockey Scholarship. “Thomas was an excellent student and scholarship winner and received the Indiana High School Hockey Association Academic All-State Award at his final state tournament in 2005,” says Wambach. “This scholarship is established to honor my son, to thank the Evansville Youth Hockey Association for providing him with the opportunity and challenge to work hard and succeed, and to recognize future hockey players who achieve success as students and as athletes.”

Cassin David Educational Scholarship

The Cassin David Educational Scholarship was created by Steve and Mary David. “I was an educator before I retired from the Evansville school system,” says Mary Cassin David. “So I understand how important education is and how hard it is for some of these families to get the funding they need to send their kids to school. Steve and I decided that this scholarship would allow us to give back to the community in a unique way. And in the future, perhaps recipients of this scholarship can give back to the community in the same way.”

Melba Jean Racener Scholarship

The Melba Jean Racener Scholarship is an annual scholarship created through the estate plan of Melba Jean Racener to support students majoring in advertising. Melba Jean was a true pioneer, and among her many accomplishments was forty years of growing the Racener Advertising Company. Melba Jean’s community service contributed to her election as the first woman president of the Evansville Advertising Club.

See additional information about these and other scholarships on our Web site at vcfoundation.org.

Unrestricted Grants Help Strengthen Our Community

Start your own unrestricted fund today. Contact Barbara Dicken at 422-1245 or email info@vcfoundation.org.

VCF Puts Your Resources into Action

Unrestricted grants are funded by the giving of community members like you, and are used wherever the resources are most needed in the community. These grants support a wide range of organizations as they strengthen our community.

Vanderburgh Community Foundation is pleased to announce 13 unrestricted grants to the following organizations.

ARC, Inc.

Therapy swing for child development

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center

Free Family Resource Library for low-income or one-parent families

ECHO Community Health Care

Incentive for the “Keep Kids Current” program to provide education to the parents of uninsured and underinsured children, to help them provide their children with preventive care

Evansville Christian Life Center

Replace the rear entry doors of the facility

Koch Family Children’s Museum

Supplies for the “Arts History” program to provide art education for young people

Lampion Center

A LapScan 4000 for trauma treatment, and emotional trauma treatment training for two therapists

The Potter’s Wheel Inc.

Resources for the soup kitchen “The Diner,” which provides affordable meals for low-income families

St. Vincent’s Day Care Center

Purchase of art and educational materials for 18 classrooms, to upgrade the learning environment

S.O.U.L. Empowerment

Assistance with the purchase of a treadmill and an elliptical trainer for the Youth Fitness/Fun Camp and Weekend Childcare Ministry programs

Tri-State Men’s Center

Challenge grant for the “Brother’s Keeper” program, which provides temporary shelter and support services to help ex-offenders re-enter society

Vanderburgh County Council on Aging

Materials needed for the “Handyman Program” for installation of assist-devices in the homes of elderly, low-income residents to help prevent injuries caused by falls

Visiting Nurse Association

New Telehealth Monitor to help provide quality home health care to those in need

YWCA

Funding for 50 percent of “Positive Futures,” an annual program of weekly meetings for pregnant and parenting teens

Community Children Benefit from Women’s Fund Grant to Boys & Girls Club

Children at the Boys and Girls Club of Evansville are benefiting from a \$55,000 grant from the Women’s Fund of Vanderburgh County, administered through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation. The new fund is sponsoring the Cub and Cadet Game Room.

“Cubs and Cadets are children six to nine years old,” says Jamie Morris, Resource Development Director, Boys and Girls Club of Evansville. “The Cub and Cadet Game Room is one of our most active rooms. On any given day we can have between 50 and 100 children in this age group at our facility.”

The Cub and Cadet Game Room allows children to enjoy table tennis, foosball, and art activities.

“It’s a safe and exciting environment for the children,” Jamie explains. “We have a wide range of organized programming to enrich their educational experience, and of course we talk about making healthy life choices.”

The Boys and Girls Club is an important source of social support and educational encouragement for Cubs and Cadets.

“The Boys and Girls Club will ultimately provide these children with tools to help them succeed in school, as well as outside of school,” Jamie emphasizes. “Research shows that this curriculum is effective and is changing lives. This support will help these children to be successful in life and that will strengthen our community.”



The Boys and Girls Club provides educational support to help children succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Areas of focus on the new Web site include:

- Who We Are
- News and Events
- Giving Through Your Community Foundation
- Donors Making a Difference
- Grantmaking
- Women’s Fund
- Community Scholarship Program
- Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program
- For Professional Advisors
- Contact

Discover VCF Online

The Vanderburgh Community Foundation has a new Web site—www.vcfoundation.org—that features helpful information presented in a format that is dynamic and easy-to-use.

The new Web site will allow visitors to discover how they can join VCF in helping to create a strong and vibrant community through charitable giving.

It includes an introduction to the VCF professional staff and board of trustees, information about donors, VCF grant and scholarship recipients, and much more.

“As a center for charitable investment in the community, we help donors achieve their vision by providing assurance that their gifts make a difference and help strengthen our community,” says Nick Cirignano, VCF Board President. “The new Web site is an important way that the Vanderburgh Community Foundation can connect donors with the causes they care about.”

Visit vcfoundation.org today and find out how you can make a difference and strengthen our community.



S A V E T H E D A T E

SPIRIT OF GIVING 2008

*Your giving through the Vanderburgh Community Foundation has strengthened
our community, and we celebrate your generosity.*

Vanderburgh Community Foundation: Spirit of Giving 2008

Thursday, October 30, 2008 ~ Lunch at The Potter's Wheel ~ 333 Jefferson Ave.

Make plans now to join us! Look for more information soon at www.vcfoundation.org.



2008 Spirit of Giving Event Planning Committee

Jingle Hagey, Chair

Joseph Franklin

Mary-Beth Owen

Cindy Fine

Lisa Jones

Scott Wylie

David Mitchell

Kristen Tucker

Karen Lamond

Thank You to These 2007 Spirit of Giving Event Sponsors

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Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP

South Central Communications

Vectren Corporation

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...is a brighter future.

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The Vanderburgh Community Foundation Invites You to...

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Vanderburgh Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships

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Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County

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