



communitymatters

A newsletter from the Posey County Community Foundation

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Online giving accepted on our website at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org

Posey County Community Foundation

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The Posey County Community Foundation, a member of the Community Foundation Alliance Inc., is confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations.

Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter

Winter 2009

To Women...From Women Women's Fund Awards Grants



Macey Montgomery (front) and Haley Goad, fifth-graders at Farmersville Elementary School, enjoy learning about nutrition during a Girl Power program offered at their school last year. Girl Power sessions, which are held monthly, include topics such as self-esteem, careers, manners and community service. "Our girls thoroughly enjoy the Girl Power program," said Chris Johnson, the school nurse and Girl Power coordinator. "They are realizing their strengths along with building their confidence and self-esteem. We are very appreciative of the grant we have received from the Women's Fund and the Posey County Community Foundation."

The Women's Fund of Posey County recently awarded grants totaling nearly \$5,000 to five nonprofit organizations serving Posey County:

The American Red Cross of Posey County will provide training to Posey County mothers on how to perform CPR on their infants and children.

❖ The Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County will purchase the book *What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick* for Posey County mothers in need to help them reduce their medical costs.

❖ Posey County Steps Ahead will purchase portable cribs for mothers in need so that they can provide their babies a safe place for sleeping.

❖ The Posey County Domestic Violence Task Force will provide gas cards for use by clients.

❖ West, Hedges Central, and Farmersville elementary schools will offer the after-school program Girl Power for fifth-grade girls.

The Women's Fund, which got its start in 2004, was established as a permanent resource to make yearly grants supporting women of all ages, such as programs that prevent domestic violence, secure family-supporting jobs, promote health and education and, perhaps most importantly, develop confidence.

With the award of this year's grants, the Women's Fund has supported Posey County's women and girls with grants totaling more than \$36,000 in its short five-year history. 📺



Couple Put Love of Community to Work

In 1999 Ann Scarafia, as president of the Posey County Community Foundation's board, called on neighbors to tell them about a matching grant incentive being offered at the time by the Foundation through Lilly Endowment. Talking to her neighbors about the reasons to begin their charitable giving while they were alive caused Ann to begin thinking about her own situation.

Ann and her husband, Bob, had already made the decision to include the Foundation in their will, but the idea of giving sooner began to form. In addition, Ann's father, Alfred Pfister, had died earlier in the year, and they could use a portion of the inheritance for their gift, honoring his memory as well. The Scarafias chose to create a donor-advised fund called the Scarafia-Pfister Family Fund.

The Scarafias have named their children as advisors to the fund, and they have put the fund to use in an interesting way. The amount available for grant-

ing each year is equally divided among the family advisors who, after careful study and consideration, select the nonprofit organization that best matches their own charitable interests.

The Scarafias feel that the fund has provided the whole family with a valuable experience. Not only are they more aware of the value of giving but they also take a hands-on approach to learning about the needs in their community. "The idea that this fund will be around through our children's

and their children's lifetimes, and beyond, is very appealing," said Ann, "and we couldn't be more pleased that their desire to serve the community mirrors our own."

Ann and Bob both come from families of very modest means and consider themselves in the middle class economically. "We always thought that philanthropists had to be millionaires," said Ann, "but we've learned that, through the Foundation, anyone can be a philanthropist." 🏠

Helping your family build a tradition of giving

Donor-Advised Funds provide a convenient, flexible way for your family to get involved with your community and with one another. This type of fund is typically less costly to administer than other forms of philanthropic giving, such as a private foundation, but it still allows you to establish a charitable legacy in your family's name, fulfill multiple charitable interests, and teach giving values to the next generation.

By working through your community foundation, you can choose to combine your gift with others to increase the impact in areas your family cares about most. Gifts typically qualify for maximum tax benefit, and you take advantage of the expertise of our professional program staff and investment managers. Your family can establish a fund today and make grant recommendations now or in the future. Call Julie Eickhoff at 812.838.0288 to learn more.

Backpacks Carry More Than Books



Amy (not her real name) made it to school on time Monday morning but she wasn't quite prepared to start her day. Her teacher suspected the reason: Amy was hungry. A usually bright, funny, intelligent third-grader, Amy begins to cry as she confirms her teacher's suspicion.

Her teacher knows that sending Amy to the office for whatever breakfast can be found will embarrass the girl, but she has no choice; she must see that Amy is fed, not just because she can't be expected to concentrate and learn on an empty stomach but because of what she knows in her heart: no child should ever go hungry.

Those who think this is an isolated occurrence would be wrong; in fact, it's a fairly common scene played out in schools across the country.

In the 2008-09 school year, 20 percent of students enrolled at South Terrace and North elementary schools depended on the free lunch program for their most nutritional meal of the day.


The reason may be that children are simply not being cared for at home or, just as likely, that parents and guardians are stretching a budget so overburdened that providing for adequate food takes a backseat.

No matter the reason, the Posey County Community Foundation is supporting a program aimed at making sure kids like Amy don't have to come to school hungry on Monday mornings.

The Foundation recently awarded a grant to the Tri-State Food Bank in support of its Weekend Backpack Program. The goal of the program is to ensure

that children identified as at-risk for not having access to sufficient food over the weekend have a fallback or, in this case, a "backpack" plan.

Beginning this school year, staff at South Terrace and North elementary schools will privately distribute backpacks filled with enough nutritious, nonperishable food to last children through the weekend.

"Studies prove that healthy, well-fed children concentrate better in the classroom and that good nutrition helps brain growth, which gives children greater capacity to learn," says John Hillenbrand, youth program coordinator for Tri-State Food Bank. "We are grateful for the Foundation's support in helping us bring the Weekend Backpack Program to these children." 

Moriah Seifert receives Benjamin Wilson Arthur Spirit Award

Moriah Seifert, daughter of Christina and Tim Seifert of Mt. Vernon, has been named the 2009 winner of the Benjamin Wilson Arthur Spirit Award.

The award is named for Benjamin Wilson Arthur, a young

Posey County boy who was killed in a hiking accident at Shawnee National Forrest when he was just eleven years old.

"Benjamin was a wildly creative boy with an insatiable thirst for knowledge," says his mother, Sara

Wilson Arthur. "Losing our boy has and will be the hardest thing we will ever encounter. He was the light in our days."

Benjamin had learning

Continued next page

Gifts by Will

Many people have a strong desire to support their Community Foundation, yet may not be able to make a large gift during their lifetime. One of the easiest ways to make a significant gift is through a bequest in a will.

Bequests can be used to create a fund to benefit the Community Foundation's operations or discretionary grantmaking, to benefit specific charitable endeavors important to donors, and to benefit a fund already created by the donor or others.

Bequest provisions in a will allow donors to control the distribution of their estate and to

preserve as much of the estate as possible through judicious use of tax-saving opportunities. A bequest can be:

✱ **Specific** – Leave an outright gift of money, stock, land, or other property.

✱ **Residuary** – Bequeath all or part of the balance of the estate to a beneficiary after all of the specific bequests have been satisfied.

✱ **Contingent** – Provide for the disposition of the estate if one or more of the named beneficiaries fail to survive the donor. It can be used in conjunction with a specific bequest or a residuary bequest.

Once the decision to contribute has been made, donors are advised to consult with an attorney or tax advisor regarding the most advantageous rules and methods of giving.

Want to know more about estate planning? Sign up at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org for *GiftLegacy*, our free online newsletter designed especially for people interested in giving to the causes they care about using planned giving tools. 📧

don't miss this...

Get To Know Us – November 14

Join us for an introduction to the Foundation at the Conference Center in New Harmony from 4 to 6 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will be served. RSVP: 812.838.0288.

National Philanthropy Day – November 15

Don't forget to celebrate your charitable spirit on this special day!

Grant Cycle Begins – January 1, 2010

Visit our website or call 812.838.0288 for dates and details.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Applications Due – January 19, 2010

Details, applications, and related forms will be available at our website beginning November 2

Community Scholarship Applications Due – February 1, 2010

Details, applications and related forms will be available at our website beginning November 2

Arthur Award

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Benjamin Wilson Arthur

disabilities—attention deficit disorder and dysgraphia—that hampered his success in school. The martial art taekwondo helped him focus and provided a

tremendous boost to his self-esteem. Sara says that Ben truly loved the sport and appreciated the discipline it provided.

Benjamin's love of taekwondo sparked Sara and Robert Arthur's creation of the Benjamin Wilson Arthur Spirit Fund with the Posey County Community Foundation.

Annual proceeds are used to award scholarships to third- and

fourth-graders who have learning differences for instruction at Brice's American Taekwondo Association Black Belt Academy.

Moriah, a student at Marris Elementary School, says that taekwondo classes have helped her get in shape, get better grades, and make lots of new friends. 📧



Moriah Seifert



We'd love to hear from you!

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