



Ripley County Community Foundation  
**FOUNDATION'S VOICE**  
Printed by McPherson's Printing—Sunman, Indiana

## Time is Running Out

The mission of the Ripley County Community Foundation has always been to build an enduring source of charitable assets to benefit the citizens and qualified organizations of the county. Since 1997, the RCCF has continually worked on this goal. (To date we have over 85 funds with monies endowed for perpetuity to support non-profit organizations, churches, youth programs, community programs, as well as provide scholarships for qualified students. The Foundation has granted over \$10 million to date for many good causes in our county.)

In order to continue its good works, the RCCF needs to raise operating money. This is ALWAYS a challenge. People hear that the Foundation has millions of dollars in assets and think this money is available for use by the Foundation. This is not the case. This money is endowed. That means it cannot be touched for any reason other than for the purposes for which the endowment was set up by the fund originator. For

example: Mr. Charles Gillman started a fund to benefit Safe Passage. The money in this fund must always be used for Safe Passage.

Operating funds for the Foundation are invested in a separate fund set up for the purpose of helping RCCF pay the salaries of its Executive Director and the other part-time employees, pay the phone bill, buy office supplies, and basically pay for those things necessary to run an office. The staff is very good at being frugal—but only so much can be done with spit and string.

To encourage donations to the Operating Endowment, the Foundation has set aside \$100,000 from its Unrestricted Fund to use as a match for any donations to help with operating costs. Matches will be offered as follows:

- A gift of less than \$5,000 will be matched at 50%
- A gift of \$5,000 or more will be matched at 100%

The minimum donation to start a named operating endowment fund is normally \$5,000, but by taking advantage of the match, you can

have your family's name memorialized by opening a fund with \$3,333.33.

In addition to the RCCF match, the Rising Sun Regional Foundation has also awarded a grant to match 20% of a gift to an operating endowment—whether it be your named operating endowment or the RCCF Operating Endowment. Therefore, the \$3,333.33 would then become the \$5,000 fund with the RCCF match. Then the original donation would be matched at 20% by the Rising Sun Regional Foundation.

This wonderful offer expires on December 31, 2008 or when the \$100,000 is depleted, whichever comes first.

We hope, despite the terrible economy and the many other reasons there are to turn aside, that you will remember the Ripley County Community Foundation during the holiday season this year. Take a moment to think about the many ways the RCCF has impacted our county and decide to be a part in the good the Foundation does in our communities.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Darnold—Friendship  
George Junker II—Batesville  
Ron Knueven—Sunman  
Deb Locke—Batesville  
Bud McGowan—Batesville  
Jenny Miles—Sunman  
Janet Moore—Milan  
Bill Van Hook—Batesville  
Brenda Wetzler—Osgood

### STAFF

Sally Morris—Executive Director  
Jane Deiwert—Program Officer  
John Kellerman II—Attorney  
Vicky Wilson—Bookkeeper  
Lin Phaneuf—Admin. Assist.  
Cheryll Obendorf—EcO15 Coord.  
Janet Kruse—Program Asst.

## RCCF has a New Logo

There are lots of people working behind the scenes at the Community Foundation. A few of those wonderful volunteers are on the Marketing/PR Committee. In recent months the committee has been working on redesigning

the logo for the Foundation, trying to update it and bring more attention to the words "Community Foundation." Special thanks to our Graphic Design guru, Amy Wonnell, and to the rest of the committee: Rev. Ed Scherer-Berry, Chairman, Paula Behlmer, Linda

Chandler, Anita Fledderman, Ron Green, Scott Hookway, Cathy May, and Diane Raver. Turn the page to see the results of their efforts!

---

## RCCF PRESENTS ITS NEW LOGO!!

# Ripley County Community Foundation



---

## Disaster Grant Awarded to RCCF

by Jane Deiwert

When storms swept central Indiana in early June, the damage to some counties was catastrophic. Ripley County was one of the counties declared a disaster area. Ripley County was again declared a disaster area after Hurricane Ike blew through Indiana in September, requiring another clean-up of the county.

Since that declaration, the Ripley County Community Foundation has become the recipient of a \$100,000 grant for long-term disaster relief and recovery. The funding of this grant was made possible by a \$45 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to United Way. Ripley County

does not have a United Way so the Ripley County Community Foundation is serving that role.

A local Ripley County Disaster Grant Committee was formed to investigate ways the monies could best be used to benefit the county. Committee members included: Pat Thomas- Ripley Co. Health Dept., Sandy Vanderbur-Red Cross, Commissioner, Commissioner Bob Reiners, Kelly Vollet- Ripley County Technology, Dave Osborne-Purdue Extension, Wayne Peace-EMA Director, and Sally Morris and Jane Deiwert from the Ripley County Community Foundation.

The \$100,000 grant money will be used to help the county purchase a new phone system to be in compliance with the National Homeland Security; to replenish fuel and stone expended in the March, June, and September disasters; to restock the Ripley County Food Bank; and to purchase water rescue equipment to be used in the event of future flooding. Ripley County Community Foundation wants to help make a difference in the lives of its residents by easing the burden from the disasters of 2008.

---

## EcO15 Grant Update

by Cheryl Obendorf

Ripley County's EcO<sub>15</sub> grant proposal is currently being reviewed by The Heritage Fund – the Community Foundation of Bartholomew County. When approved, this three-year initiative will incorporate a focus on enhancing the existing infrastructure of education with emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs in each of the four school systems in Ripley County, particularly the schools' Project Lead The Way programs. EcO<sub>15</sub> will also support and encourage incumbent workers, unemployed individuals, and high school juniors and seniors in attaining Manufacturing Skills Stan-

dards Council (MSSC) certification.

EcO<sub>15</sub> continues to work with manufacturers and educators in the area to generate a dialog, an exchange of ideas and needs. There has been great response from the manufacturing community and schools in the area to this effort. Batesville Tool & Die will be hosting a video production shoot on November 17 which will involve three students from each high school exploring careers at Batesville Tool & Die. The video will be shown on the schools' Channel One programs, local cable, and Arrangements are being made for

groups of junior and senior students to tour manufacturing facilities in the area, including Hill-Rom and Batesville Tool & Die. EcO<sub>15</sub> will be involved with the Ripley County Business Alliance and the Franklin/Ripley County SPF-SIG Project, which kicks off on November 17.

Over time, EcO<sub>15</sub> will help increase skill levels and the quality of the work force. In turn, existing companies will be supported with a pool of skilled workers, the economy of the region will be strengthened, and a higher quality of life will be created for residents in the region.

---

## Gala Takes on a Western Look

Despite it being the worst week for the stock market in decades, the yearly fundraising Gala, held on October 11, was a success!

The committee of Stephanie Baker-Milan, Lisa Combs-Milan, B.J. Cox-Batesville, Jenny Darnold-Friendship, Marie Dausch-Sunman, Natasha Kellerman-Batesville, Deb Locke - Batesville, Linnie Lynd-Milan, Cindy

McKittrick- Milan, Jenny Miles-Sunman, Lin Phaneuf-Batesville and Marge Walke-Batesville, worked hard to make the evening memorable. To help with a western theme, the Building Trades class at the Southeast Career Center, under the direction of Gary Payne, cut out and painted a herd of long-horn steer, coyote, cowboy and cowgirl silhouettes. Jac-Gen-Del advanced art students and their

teacher, Carrie McNew, painted a western sunset that was used as a backdrop behind the band. (The class also painted a wonderful western-themed toy box for the live auction.) Dale Lutz of Lutz Auctioneer Service presented items up for sale in the live auction with his trademark humor. (No one will forget the joke about Grandpa and the ice cream truck!!) Folks attending were treated to fried chicken



## Gala (con't.)

and Rocky Mountain barbecued brisket as well as an incredible dessert bar—all prepared by the Knights of Columbus chefs. Skill draw winners this year were: Marie Dausch—\$1000; John Campbell—\$500; George Brinkmoeller—\$250; Shirley Campbell- \$125; Gretchen Junker-\$75 and Lynn Herbert—\$50.

The RCCF wishes to thank those who helped bring about this fun evening:

“Diamond” Sponsors: Enhanced Telecommunications Corp.; Attorney Lynn Fledderman; Friendship State Bank and Margaret Mary Community Hospital. “Boots and Hat” Sponsors: Gus and Nancy Hillenbrand; Indiana

Virtual Academy; Laws-Carr-Moore Funeral Home; Lutz Auctioneer Service; and Moore’s Computer Services. “Lariat” Sponsors: Pat and George Brinkmoeller; FCN Bank; Dr. Jim and Mary Freeland; Dr. Jeffrey and Patricia Hatcher; Hilliard Lyons/Greg Rust; Bill and Kim Kelley.

“Bandana” Sponsors: A to Z Music; Rodney and Bobbie Brandes; State Representative Cleo Duncan; Vic and Dee Dee Kaiser; Judge Jim and Sally Morris; Bob and Lin Phaneuf; Judge Carl and Katherine Taul and Margaret Veatch.

Special thanks to the Not for Profit Band; Knights of Columbus Hall and staff—especially Diane Gehring; The

Hillenbrand Foundation; Lutz Auctioneer Service; Southeastern Indiana Career Center—Building Trades Class; Green Tree Players; Jac-Cen-Del Advanced Art class and teacher Carrie McNew; Webber Photographic; Sunman American Legion; Amy Wonnell; Randy Streater, Marty Junker; George Brinkmoeller and to our wonderful Gala committee members.

Thanks also to the merchants, businesses, professionals, individuals and anonymous donors who contributed the items for our auction. Finally thanks to all who attended and supported our Gala!

***Give back ... forever!***

**We're on the web!**  
**rccfonline.org**

## Passing the Gavel ...

by Bill Van Hook, President of the Board

They say time passes quickly when you're having fun. I say it passes quickly no matter what your circumstances.

This is my last message for the newsletter. I have been honored to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Ripley County Community Foundation. When I started my term, I had no grand plan or personal agenda. But that does not mean that the RCCF did not move forward. During my tenure, several new programs were initiated and existing programs were advanced.

One of the more exciting new programs is EcO15. This is a \$600,000 grant from the Heritage Fund that will offer the youth of Ripley County many new choices through educational opportunities in the advanced manufacturing, health care and hospitality fields. Hopefully, this will then affect earning opportunities further down the road for students participating in

these classes—whether they attend college or not.

A match was initiated last year to leverage money for RCCF's Operating Endowment. (You can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter.) The Board appreciates those farseeing donors and fund originators who have forgone the opportunity to choose a particular charity or watch a scholarship student grow into a contributing adult and instead have recognized the value of the Foundation and all that it does in Ripley County and have contributed to the Operating Endowment.

Although I'm finishing my term as the Board President, I will continue to serve on various committees and will remain on the Board for another year. I have come to love the Ripley County Community Foundation and feel a real sense of pride in being associated with it. The good the Foundation does in the communities of Ripley County is beyond measure.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't see or hear about some good work that the RCCF has been a part of. I

am constantly amazed! Sally Morris, the Executive Director, has a sign on her desk that states, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people can make a difference, in fact it is the only thing that ever has." I know this is true—I've seen it work in the RCCF.

When you're considering your tax status at the end of 2008, or you want to "give back" to your community, I hope you will remember the Ripley County Community Foundation.



## IMPORTANT DATES

September 23—Congratulations to Chad and Jenny Miles (Board Member) on the birth of their daughter, Campbell Lynn.

November 13—President's Circle Dinner honoring donors and Fund Originators at Hillcrest Country Club.

November 21—Board Retreat

November 27 & 28—Offices closed. Happy Thanksgiving!

December 24, 25, 26—Offices closed. Merry Christmas!

December 31—Operating Endowment Match ends.

December 31—SRD grant ends.

December 31 & January 1—Office closed. Happy New Year!

The Board and Staff  
wishes you a happy  
holiday season.

