



community matters

A newsletter from the Perry County Community Foundation

Help us celebrate philanthropy!



Philanthropy is commonly defined as the giving of one's time, talent or treasure for the sake of another, or for the common good; voluntary action for the public good; or voluntary giving or service, primarily for the benefit of others.

Perry County is lucky to have so many philanthropists in our community. In 1993, one group of local philanthropists created the Perry County Community Foundation to help everyone who cares about Perry County achieve their charitable vision by making their philanthropy meaningful, easy and effective.

Since then, the Foundation has grown to administer seventy-four charitable funds with various purposes, including education, community development, health, human services, recreation, environment, youth development, arts and culture.

Perry County Philanthropy Month

Philanthropy is such a big part Perry County's culture that November has been declared "Perry County Philanthropy Month" by the Perry County Commissioners.

Over the past 16 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.48 million in grants and scholarships in Perry County. Wow!

Would you like to see what organizations have been impacted by grants from the Foundation? All you have to do is look around.

Organizations that have received grants from the Foundation are display-

ing Big Blue Bows in November as part of Perry County Philanthropy Month. There are some organizations, however, which do not have an office or place to display these bows for all to see. For these organizations, we have paid tribute to them in the display window of the Tell City/Perry County Public Library. Be sure to stop by to check out these organizations as well.

Inspire Others, Share Your Philanthropic Acts

As part of Perry County Philanthropy Month, we want to know about your November 2009 philanthropic acts. Register your philanthropic acts at www.perrycommunityfoundation.org by December 5, 2009. Click on Perry County Philanthropy Month! You may choose for your name to remain anonymous. You may also drop a copy of your philanthropic acts off at our office.

Lifetime Philanthropist Award

Do you know someone who has committed him or her lifetime to being a philanthropist? If so, nominate him or her for our Lifetime Philanthropist Award at www.perrycommunityfoundation.org. Click on Perry County Philanthropy Month! You may also stop by our office to pick up a nomination form. 📄



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

Our Mission

To work with our community to encourage giving of time, talent and treasure; to provide grants and scholarships; and to collaborate on projects to make Perry County a better place to live.

Winter 2009

In the words of ...

Stephanie Epple talks about life after the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

I will never forget the day I was called to the guidance counselor's office and there stood Lee Brown, board member for the Perry County Community Foundation, congratulating me on winning the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. I remember calling my parents to tell them the good news while at school. Their excitement was overwhelming, along with my own. I felt like a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders.

For so many nights, I stayed up late to fill out scholarship applications, write essays and just pray that all my hard work in school would pay off. I felt doomed at times, as most scholarships were primarily based on financial need and my parents' combined income put them just above the cutoff. I also did not qualify for any government financial aid. Although I knew my parents would help me financially with college, it was such a relief knowing I was not going to be a huge burden on them. Being the youngest of four children, I saw firsthand the sacrifices my parents made to put my older siblings through college.

The Lilly Scholarship paid my full tuition the first four years of college and provided a generous book stipend. I used the scholarship to attend Pur-

I feel blessed to have been given so many great opportunities and hope the citizens of Perry County realize how their gifts to the Perry County Community Foundation help so many people and organizations in our community.



Stephanie Epple with her husband, Jerrad, and their daughter Claire. The Perry County Community Foundation awarded the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship to Stephanie in 2000.

due University in West Lafayette and majored in pre-pharmacy. I spent many early mornings and late nights studying. Thankfully, I was accepted into the school of pharmacy after two years of pre-pharmacy classes, and I graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree after completing four years at the Purdue School of Pharmacy. Words alone can not describe what the Lilly scholarship has meant to me. It provided me the financial assistance I needed in order for me to focus on my studies and not waste such a wonderful gift.

After college I accepted a pharmacist position at CVS Pharmacy in Tell City and married Jerrad Epple, a fellow Perry County resident. Together, we purchased a home near Tell City

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and started a new life where we had both grown up. In the fall of 2006, we opened Chicago's Pizza, and we were fortunate enough to win Small Business of the Year from the Perry County Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

Jerrad and I were also blessed last November with a wonderful daughter named Claire. We are both so happy to be raising a family in Perry County surrounded by family and friends. I am proud to be a part of a community that helps others, and in turn, encourages me to do more as well.

I have been lucky enough to participate in a couple of United Way events and I joined the Perry County Junior Women. I have met many great people who volunteer so much of their time and are an inspiration to others. My hope is to be able to give back to the community that has given so

much to me. I feel blessed to have been given so many great opportunities and hope the citizens of Perry County realize how their gifts to the Perry County Community Foundation help so many people and organizations in our community. 🌍

Be Our Friend!

We recently launched a Facebook group to stay in touch with our friends, share news of our activities, and expand our reach throughout Perry County, Indiana, and the world. Simply sign into your Facebook account and search for "Perry County Community Foundation." We look forward to having you as our friend.



Grants in action...

Cannelton City Schools was given a \$5,688 grant this year to help renovate the Cannelton Elementary School playground. "This photo shows the new surfacing and the new play curbing that was put in to replace the layers of old pea gravel and torn tarp that was there before," said Ginger Conrad, the school's principal. "Also, the play curbing replaced the worn-out, creosote-laden railroad ties. We love it! It is safe and healthy. Thanks so much."



The Perry County Agriculture Extension Committee/4-H Fairgrounds Committee received a \$4,000 grant this year for a new sidewalk, handicap-accessible ramp and handrails for the 4-H fairgrounds. Pictured are members of the 4-H Fairgrounds Committee standing along the new ramp at the fairgrounds. 🌍