

A
CENTURY
OF
VISIONARY
STEWARDSHIP



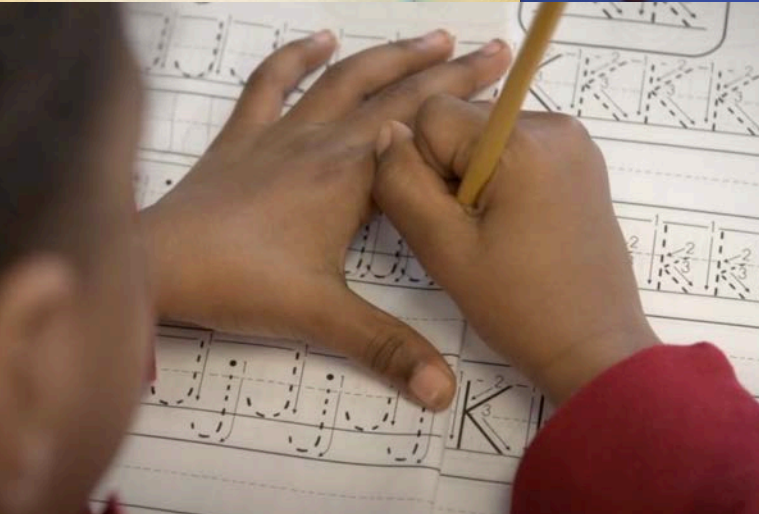
100 YEARS / 1922-2022

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF GREATER FORT WAYNE



“Riches are essentially a trust which came from the community and which should return to benefit the source from whence they came.”

—Andrew Carnegie



The last 100-and-counting years in the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne’s history wouldn’t be possible without the guidance and support of our founders, boards, staffs, donors, and volunteers.

This enduring commitment to our community is inspiring.

1000

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The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has been keenly focused on the wellbeing of our community for more than 100 years. When we face challenges, we face them together — and when we succeed, we celebrate together. Indeed, we've made great strides. And with each step forward, we're reminded of how far we have yet to go.

The last century has paved the way for the next. Building a stronger community means collaborating with open arms, planning with purpose, and working with resilience. It's what we've always done, and it's what we'll always do. Together, we help Allen County reach new heights — creating meaningful, generational impact on our residents and community.



History



ORGANIZATIONAL FOUNDERS

ARTHUR F. HALL, CHAIRMAN

V.W. DAVIS

C.B. FITCH

JUDGE O.N. HEATON

F.D. PRESTON

GEORGE WALDSCHMIDT

JUDGE SOL. A. WOOD

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

1965

1973

1984

1995

2018

EARL WARD

PAUL CLARKE

BARBARA BURT

DAVID BENNETT

R. BRADLEY LITTLE



PAUL CLARKE Creating a Legacy

Helen and Paul Clarke moved to Fort Wayne from Cleveland in 1954 to become corporate counsel and Executive Vice President of North American Van Lines. Paul retired from North American in 1970, and became the Foundation's first official Executive Director in 1973. Having served on the Board of Directors, he was invested in growing the Foundation's assets. He and his wife personally contributed millions of dollars through stock donations, accounting for rapid growth of the Foundation. Paul founded the Paul Clarke Foundation in 1992, which operated for 15 years before its assets flowed into the **Paul Clarke Endowment Fund** at the Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation established the **Paul Clarke Legacy Society** and **Paul Clarke Visionary Award** in his honor. The Paul Clarke Endowment Fund also funded the creation of the **Paul Clarke Nonprofit Resource Center Fund**, which provides funding to ensure the continuation of high-quality organizational effectiveness services to the nonprofit community in Allen County.



BARBARA BURT Honoring a Trailblazer

Barbara Burt was a trailblazer. She was the second woman to graduate from Michigan Law School, and graduated first in her class. Barbara volunteered her time and talent to countless community organizations and devoted her legal skills to promote local philanthropy, all the while seeking to improve the quality of life for all Allen County citizens. Under her leadership, the Foundation was selected as one of the first **Lilly Endowment GIFT recipients**. She was responsible for the significant growth in the organization, including the creation of two supporting organizations and the addition of 30 restricted funds.

Barbara Burt also led Foellinger Foundation as President and CEO from 1995 to 2001 and was Board Chair from 2001 to 2008. To celebrate her philanthropic and nonprofit leadership, they established the **Barbara Burt Innovative Leader Fund**, which is housed at the Community Foundation.

Milestones

1920s – 1990s

Community Foundation established.

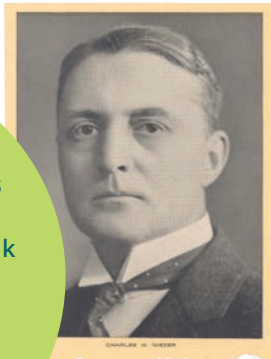
1922



ARTHUR HALL

Foundation trustees resolved to sunset the organization due to the Great Depression.

1927



Foundation received its first gift from Charles and Rose Fox Niezer. Charles, First National Bank CEO and Rotary Club President, made the gift to honor his late wife, who died in a car accident that year.

1941



First offices located in Lincoln Bank Tower.

1956

Foundation resurrected after 20 years of dormancy.

1967

Unrestricted assets exceed \$250,000.

1966

Assets exceed \$1 million.

1980

Assets exceed \$2 million.

1983

In 1985, annual grants awarded totaled \$145,626. By 2004, annual grants awarded totaled nearly \$6.5 million.



1998



Foundation selects first Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Investing in Future Generations

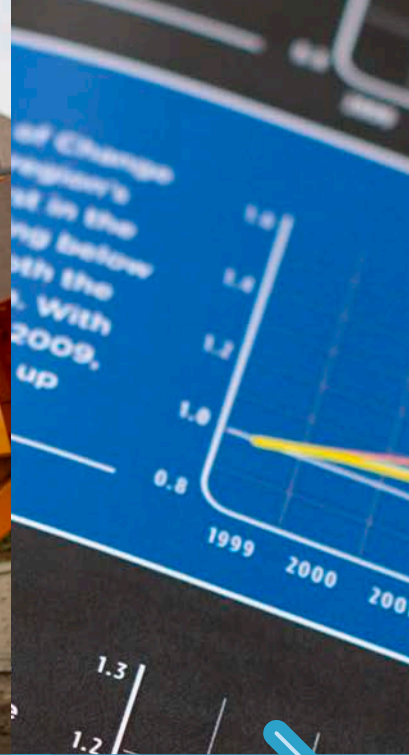
Lilly Endowment Inc. launched their **Community Scholarship Program** to raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana, while also increasing awareness of the potential impact community foundations can have on quality of life. Every year, the Community Foundation identifies a select number of Lilly Endowment Community Scholars based on the population of Allen County, hoping to encourage the state's most talented students to attend an Indiana higher education institution and pursue an occupation in the state. In Allen County, we intentionally choose students who are not only top performers in their classes — but also have overcome significant barriers.

Lilly Endowment Inc. has also invested in significant programming and initiatives in our community, such as *Everybody Reads*, *Riverfront Development*, and more.

Milestones

2000s

Headquarters moved to The Steinger Center at 555 E. Wayne Street.



2007

2008

2009

Assets exceed \$100 million.



Foundation receives Talent Opportunity Success grant.

Increasing Quality of Life

Lilly Endowment Inc. supported **Talent Opportunity Success (TOPS) 2015**, an initiative designed to accelerate regional initiatives to transform and expand the availability of highly skilled workers, technicians, and graduate-level talent for regions in Indiana. The success of the program was critical to the economic viability of the region, its role as a critical component of the economy and the State of Indiana, and the quality of life of its citizens.

The Community Foundation collaborated with the Northeast Indiana Foundation, business leaders, government leaders, education leaders, and more to secure the **\$20 million TOPS grant** — known locally as **The Talent Initiative**.





Children's Health Collaborative launched.



Photo: M James Photography

2015

Riverfront Fort Wayne funding secured.

Revitalizing Our Community

In 2015, the Community Foundation received a \$1 million matching grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support riverfront development efforts, which was part of Phase VI of the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) program.

In 2016, the Community Foundation helped secure a total of \$13 million to launch Riverfront Fort Wayne. The Foundation led fundraising efforts to raise \$3 million in private dollars that were matched with \$1 million from GIFT VI. This gift was used to leverage \$3 million from Allen County Capital Improvements Board and \$6 million from Fort Wayne City Council through the City Light Lease Fund. These funds were used for riverfront clean-up and restoration, permitting, site preparation for future construction, and design and construction of a promenade.

Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne launched.

Moving What Matters

The economic health of women and future success of girls is crucial to our community's success. Knowing that, the Community Foundation stepped back and asked, what is the current state of women and girls' well-being in Allen County? We realized we couldn't answer that meaningfully — the last time our community took a comprehensive look at the economic health of women and girls in our county was in 1974. That's why we conducted the **Women and Girl's Study of Greater Fort Wayne**.

The results? An increased focus on young women and girls, personal safety, and economic security — and, ultimately, forming the **Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne**.

2020

Milestones 2010s – 2020s



Youth Empowered Philanthropy (YEP) launched.

2020



2012



Milestones 2020s

Assets exceed
\$220 million.



2021

2022



Foundation celebrates one hundred years.

A Century of Visionary Stewardship

In 2022, the Community Foundation celebrated its 100th anniversary. At a celebration event, we unveiled a new visual identity and vision plan. In addition to rolling out this evolution, we also awarded five Legacy Partners grants, totaling \$100,000, and announced a new grantmaking program focused on finding new nonprofits and community groups to fund small projects and programs making an impact in our community.

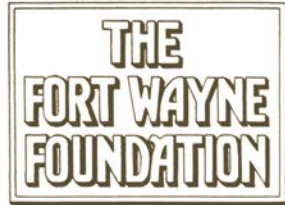
20s

Brand Evolution

Since our founding as The Fort Wayne Foundation in 1922, our brand has continued to evolve over the years—just as Greater Fort Wayne has. We're proud that we've always aligned with the direction, and the momentum, of our community.



In January 2022, the Foundation unveiled new branding during a press conference.



Fort Wayne
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Fort Wayne
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
For good. For ever.™



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Greater Fort Wayne



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF GREATER FORT WAYNE



Vision Plan

The **Let's Rise Vision Plan** outlines five focus areas that will uplift the wellbeing of our community: Connected Community, Inspiring Places, Everyone's Economy, Lifelong Learning, and Healthy Mind and Body.



Pillars



**CONNECTED
COMMUNITY**



**INSPIRING
PLACES**



**EVERYONE'S
ECONOMY**



**LIFELONG
LEARNING**



**HEALTHY MIND
AND BODY**





We Love Our Community

Together, we will continue to champion greater wellbeing and quality of life for all our community. **Thank you.**

