

BRIDGES



Building bridges to support the future of Montgomery County

Winter 2018



SURPRISE!

We received some totally unexpected, but absolutely delightful, news a few weeks ago. Lilly Endowment launched their seventh phase of a matching gift opportunity through GIFT VII. Some of you may remember that Lilly had a similar incentive in 2014, known as GIFT VI, and that was a huge success. It was successful because of the generosity of our donors as they realized the tremendous opportunity to receive matching gifts for their donations. And this opportunity is even bigger and better than before – what a great surprise!

So just how is it bigger and better?

In this phase, new gifts to unrestricted funds will be matched two to one. This means every dollar of unrestricted gifts will receive two dollars of matching funds – wow! This matching opportunity applies to gifts to new or established funds. Whether you are looking for ways to grow your established unrestricted fund, or considering starting an unrestricted fund, there has never been a better time than now.

Does the matching incentive apply to other funds as well?

The answer is – yes! There is also a match for gifts to designated, field of interest, or scholarship funds in the amount of .50 cents on the dollar. If you have a passion for a particular charitable organization, or even a general area of interest, then perhaps this is the path for you. This is still a great incentive and a perfect way to increase the value of your charitable giving.

Why is the matching incentive more favorable for unrestricted gifts?

Lilly Endowment strongly believes in providing community foundations with more flexible resources so that we can strategically address local needs. Building our unrestricted endowment will give us a greater capacity to meet the ever-changing needs and challenges of our community. For example, recent grant applications look far different than five or ten years ago simply because the needs have changed. Needs have also increased and we just do not have adequate unrestricted funds to meet all the multiplying needs in our community. Our desire and our mission is to build and strengthen our community, and with your help, along with these matching funds, we would be closer to doing so.

If a named fund is important to you, can you do so with this matching gift incentive?

Absolutely! And it's so much easier with this match. Let's say you considered establishing an unrestricted fund, which is a fund that benefits a wide variety of needs in our community. With this match, you can establish a named fund for \$1,700, rather than the required \$5,000. But if you have a particular passion or area of interest, you can establish a designated (restricted) fund for a specific cause for \$3,400, rather than the required \$5,000. Either of these funds can be in your name, or in the memory of a loved one.

Love our community

We do love this place we call home, our community. And we know that you do too. Together, we can help make it even stronger and better. Gifts during this campaign will not only *immediately increase* in value, but also their value will steadily *increase forever* as it is invested back to our community. The campaign runs now through December 31, 2020 and gifts of any size will be matched on a first given, first matched basis while matching funds are available. For more details about gifts that qualify for the match, and how you can take advantage of this great opportunity, please contact Kelly at 765-362-1267.

Three Building Blocks of Education

Distributing shrinking funds for growing needs in education is always a delicate balancing act for administrators. All students deserve the best that education has to offer, which requires allocating resources so that every classroom is well-supplied, and so that every student is well-equipped. Teachers often use their own money to purchase supplies or to fund classroom projects because there is no “extra” money for those things. And because those issues will continue to exist, there are some proactive steps being taken by those who see the value in providing now for future needs:



Kathy and John Steele

The Kathleen and John Steele Fund for Crawfordsville Community Schools

Familiar faces to the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation are Kathy and John Steele. Kathy was a teacher and eventually became Superintendent, and John worked as a computer programmer. Their service to and influence on the Crawfordsville school community is indelible. In 2001, they started a pathway fund that would benefit the Crawfordsville schools and in 2004, it became a fully endowed fund. This was the first MCCF fund to provide support to one of our county schools. John and Kathy, who realize the priceless value of education, wanted to create an opportunity to assist teachers and students forever. As Kathy once stated, “this is a great way to thank the school system and the community for all the support they have given to our family over the years.” To date, the Kathleen and John Steele Fund for Crawfordsville Community Schools has distributed over \$4,300, which has been used to support the schools in a variety of ways.

The Southmont Education Fund

A few months ago, Dr. Shawn Greiner, Superintendent of South Montgomery School Corporation, talked with Kelly about starting a fund to benefit South schools. He wanted to address the multitude of educational needs that he knows will be present in the future, and he strongly believes in the value of an endowed fund that will provide ongoing support. Because South schools are in the middle of a construction project, vendors, architects, and attorneys involved in the project were given the opportunity to contribute initial funding. That proved to be a successful idea and the Southmont Education Fund quickly became an endowed fund. Dr. Greiner made the decision to allow the fund more time to grow and hold off distributions for now – which will make an even greater impact over time. He also had a unique idea and created a recognition program that allows donors to make a gift to this fund in honor of a beloved teacher, or an alumnus, or to honor anyone associated with South schools. Honorees are given a certificate and their names listed on the Mountie Proud Honor Roll, which is posted on their website.



Dr. Greiner meets with Kelly to sign the fund agreement



Dr. Moran and Jim McBee meet with Kelly to sign the fund agreement

The North Montgomery Education Fund

As it often goes, word got around and Dr. Colleen Moran also wanted to be a part of this opportunity to create ongoing support for North schools. She also liked the idea of a recognition program, and so the True North Distinction award was created and honorees receive a Charger Ovation certificate. The idea has caught on and several teachers, past and present, have already received this honor. With the establishment of the North Montgomery Education Fund, all three county schools will now benefit from MCCF funds.



GIFT IDEA: What do you get that wonderful, dedicated teacher who was a great influence on you, or your child, or even your grandchild? Or perhaps the instructional assistant or volunteer who patiently helped you or someone you love with a math or reading assignment? Maybe a school administrator who found solutions to your problem, a school secretary who gave a listening ear, or a school nurse who lovingly cared for your child? Making a gift in their honor to one of these school funds is a **GREAT IDEA** for Christmas, birthdays, teacher recognition - anytime! And with the GIFT VII match, your gift goes even farther, and your school will benefit for years to come. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your home for this gift - just visit us online at www.mccf-in.org and click on Donate Now!

Love Where You Live Wrap-Up

We have thoroughly enjoyed our Love Where You Live campaign and hope that you have too. Over the past year, we have been able to capture the great things happening in Montgomery County - and there are many! We get to see these things on a daily basis but realize that many do not. Our goal was to share the positives with everyone!

This is an exciting time to live in Montgomery County. With so many changes and improvements in the works, a momentum has begun - one of love for our community. As the project wraps up, we will have featured close to 60 different organizations, individuals, events, and more.



This has been an incredible opportunity to learn about the people making a difference in our community.

There is no shortage of people or organizations willing to help others. There are also a ton of "hidden gems"

So many of us are lifelong residents. It's easy to forget sometimes that we have wonderful places, people, resources, and more. Taking a step back to feature these things provides an entirely new perspective. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Below is just a sample of the wonderful things happening in our community featured during our Love Where You Live campaign:



Southmont Advanced Manufacturing

This showcased a group of students learning technical and vocational skills for future careers in manufacturing. They have a great teacher and many local factories have stepped in to form a really special partnership.

Crawfordsville Main Street Flower Baskets



Each spring, flower baskets are prepared to hang in downtown Crawfordsville during the summer months. CMS and the Flower Lovers Garden Club work for days to assemble everything so that they can provide a warm welcome to downtown visitors.



Ladoga Riley Read-a-Thon

Ladoga Elementary School students could earn the chance to spend the night at school by raising money for Riley Children's Hospital. They had special activities throughout the night, most of which had special ties to Amber Powers Sparks. Amber coordinated the event when she returned to LES as a teacher and the event has continued as a tribute to her memory.

Nicholson Garden



Nicholson Elementary School students have a garden that is very lovingly maintained by the school's garden club, with the help of the Montgomery County Master Gardeners. They all work together to plant, harvest, and learn gardening tips along the way.



Executive Director
Kelly S. Taylor

Near the end of the day on Wednesday, October 10th, I checked my email one last time. An email from Lilly Endowment INC caught my immediate attention. I bypassed all the other emails in my Inbox and clicked on this email and began reading, and as I read, my excitement grew. A wonderful surprise was in that email - LEI was letting me know about their GIFT VII Matching Gift Challenge. It's been four years since GIFT VI and we never know just what Lilly Endowment has planned or their timing. But this is big news and one of the best matching opportunities I have ever seen!

So what does this announcement mean to our community? It's an opportunity to bring nearly \$1 million in endowment funds to Montgomery County to help us continue to focus on quality of life in our community. For those of you who have always wanted to leave a named lasting legacy, GIFT VII offers an incredible opportunity. With an unrestricted gift of \$1,700, you can have a named fund. It's the perfect opportunity to leave a lasting gift and honor your family name, or the name of a friend, teacher, or special person in your life.

Because it takes \$5,000 to establish a named fund, with the LEI \$2:\$1 unrestricted match, you can start this fund with just \$1,700 and Lilly will match it with \$3,400. In the time I have been with the MCCF, I have never seen a two for one match like this.

This is truly a great time to make a gift with these matching incentives. It's also a great way to create a lasting legacy that will carry your name, or the name of someone very dear to you. But most of all, this is a great time to make an impact on your community forever. Please call or stop in if you have any questions - I welcome the opportunity to talk with you!




COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Looking forward. Giving back.
P.O. Box 334119 E Main
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
PHONE: 765-362-1267
WEB: mccf-in.org

Electronic Return
Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Crawfordsville, IN
Permit No. 10