

BRIDGES



Building bridges to support the future of Montgomery County

Summer 2019

SUMMERTIME IS PARK TIME



It's summertime! Whether you enjoy swimming, gardening, or picnicking in the park, there is something for everyone in the great outdoors. Our county is fortunate in that we have beautiful state parks to wander in and explore - but we also have some great smaller community parks to play in, have a picnic, or just gather with family and neighbors. Three of these parks, located in New Ross, Waveland and Waynetown, recently received MCCF grants to make improvements. So grab the kids, or the grandkids, and get outside to one of our local parks this summer!

In 2018, the Town of New Ross received \$9,281 for the installation of new playground equipment at the **Leland Cornett Memorial Park**. And as you can see from the photo, the equipment is being used for fun and exercise! More recently, an MCCF grant in the amount of \$10,280 was awarded to add a restroom to the community building located nearby.



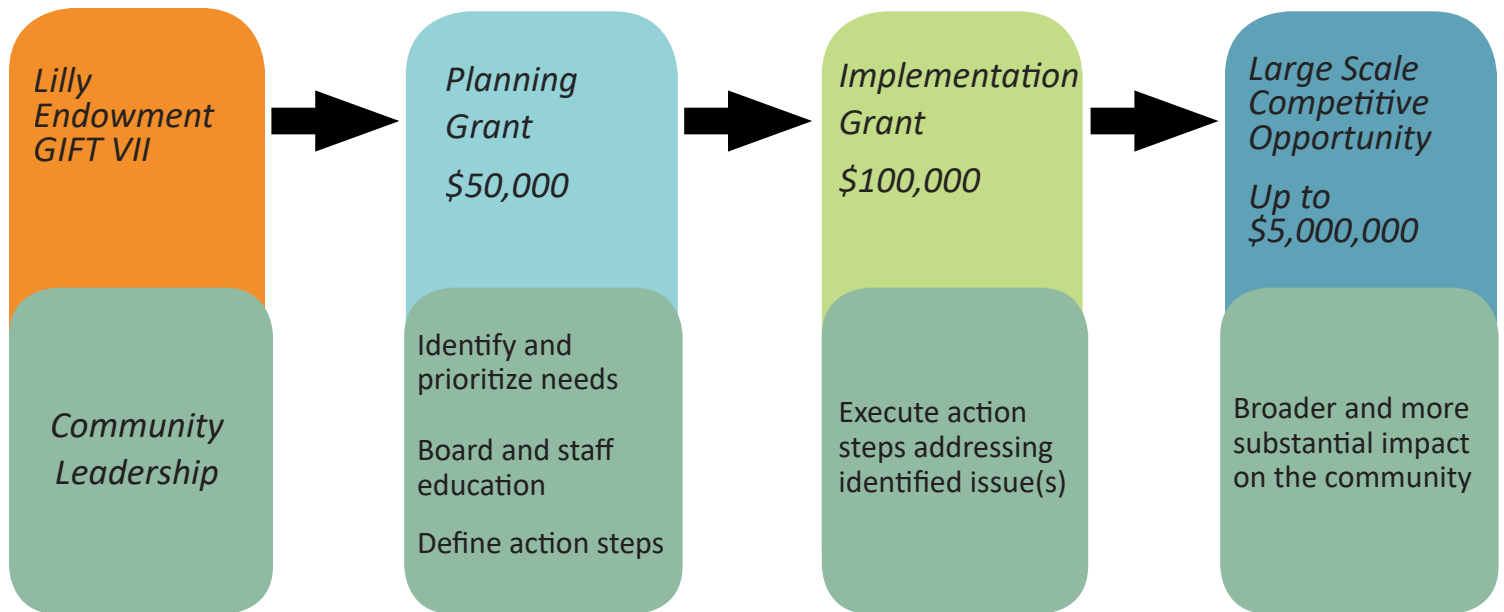
Waveland Strong, Inc. received \$42,600 for new lighting at the **Waveland Town Park**, along with additional and upgraded electrical service. The park is in the center of town and is the venue for the monthly Farmers' Market and Movies Under the Stars events.



To help fund the construction of a permanent, covered stage in the **Waynetown Park**, the Wayne Township Community Improvement, Inc. received \$28,000 earlier this year. The park hosts a variety of events throughout the year including the Freedom Fest, Fish Fry, baseball tournaments, and Christmas in the Park.



Lilly Endowment GIFT VII - Community Leadership



If someone asked you to identify the most pressing challenges in our community, how would you respond? If you spend some time to really think about that, you quickly realize it is a daunting task. Issues overlap and it can be overwhelming to determine which one to tackle first. However, we have accepted this challenge as part of the Lilly GIFT VII initiative.

This competitive grant process, known as **Community Leadership**, presents three opportunities: The first one is the Planning Grant, the second is the Implementation Grant, and then there is a larger scale funding opportunity beyond that. In this first grant opportunity, Indiana community foundations were invited to apply for a Planning Grant to help us build leadership competencies and develop plans to address high priority needs in our community. The MCCF Board and staff believed this was another way we could help strengthen our community and so we applied for the grant, which Lilly approved. We are now moving forward in this process.

Discovery/Learning

What does this mean and what is involved? This is a process of discovery involving several components. We will gather community data to help us understand where we are with key metrics. We plan to hold listening sessions with a variety of groups so we can learn more. These groups will include our nonprofits, our donors, key community leaders, and local industry and businesses.

Identifying areas of need/opportunities

Where do we start? Initially, when applying for the Planning Grant, Lilly asked us to identify three areas of concern and/or opportunities in our community. We did this through our involvement in a variety of task forces, meetings with our donors, and working closely with our nonprofits. We determined these as the most pressing challenges and promising opportunities in our community that we would like to investigate further: Childcare/early childhood learning, Quality of Place/Life Matters, and Workforce Development. However, in this process we could discover other areas in which we need to focus, but this is a starting point.

Board/Staff Involvement

What will be the role of the MCCF Board and staff? For this to be a successful endeavor, it is critical that our MCCF Board and staff gain understanding about community leadership. While we have been involved in various community leadership projects, and served as a convener of several groups, our involvement has not focused specifically on solving a community identified issue. Our board members and staff will listen and learn about our community and understand how that information will help us move forward in leading and identifying key issues. With the Planning Grant, we will engage a consultant with expertise in the area of community leadership and strategic planning who will help guide us.

Community

How can you help us? We need to hear your voice and your concerns about the issues that keep you up at night. Only a broad representation of the community will help create a successful outcome - an outcome that will make this a better community for all of us. There will be more information to follow and we will be asking for your input and your participation will be critical. So please stay tuned to our social media, e-newsletter and local newspapers as we'll need you, our community members, participating and sharing your voices and knowledge to help MCCF pursue our greatest opportunities. We are so grateful for your faithful partnership with us to build a better community for everyone.

Nourish

Feeding our Future Match

A \$2 MATCH FOR EVERY \$1

A student receives her backpack of food through the Nourish program, as well as some books that she is quite proud to display!



UPDATE and REMINDER: There is still time to make a gift to the Nourish matching gift campaign! So far we have received nearly \$18,000 in donations and we are so grateful for each gift which will support the Nourish Backpack program. But there is still so much more we can do with your help!

As a reminder, through this matching gift campaign, you will receive a **TWO DOLLAR MATCH** for every dollar you give. It's an incredible match and an incredible opportunity for you to help fill a hungry child with food, and with hope.

Your donation to the Nourish Fund today will help ensure a healthier tomorrow for children in our community. Donations can be made online at www.mccf-in.org or by using the enclosed reply card.

Executive Director
Kelly S. Taylor

A simple and powerful message of kindness. Holocaust survivor, Eva Mozes Kor, shared this message wherever she went. I was fortunate to hear Eva speak several times over the past year. At the age of 10, Eva was sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, along with her twin sister, Miriam, where they were subjected to human experimentation.

When Eva spoke at Crawfordsville High School in April, she shared her words of kindness and forgiveness. After all that she endured, she found her voice and shared a simple message. Showing kindness to others should be an easy and natural act, but one that we can forget or easily overlook.

Eva recently passed away while on a trip to Poland. She was an inspiration to many of us and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have spent some time with her. As we remember Eva and her incredible legacy, take a moment to spread a little kindness and forgiveness in her honor.



The last photo ever taken of Eva's family. Eva is to the right of her mother and Miriam on the left. When she returned home after Auschwitz, this is all that was left of her family.

"Anger is a seed for war. Forgiveness is a seed for peace." - Eva Kor

Looking forward. Giving back.
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