

# BRIDGES



Building bridges to support the future of Montgomery County

## A Challenging Crisis, A Caring Community

Summer 2020

Our everyday vocabulary has changed considerably these last few months. For example, deciding on a mask was a topic usually reserved for Halloween activities. Almost overnight, what we once considered normal activities became obsolete as the pandemic emerged and gained a foothold here in our country. Today, we still find ourselves in the midst of challenging times on many levels. And yet, these times have also produced opportunities to demonstrate compassion and generosity. One amazing expression of this has been through your gifts to our COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund.

In efforts to better serve our community, this past March the MCCF Board of Directors approved the establishment of a COVID-19 Emergency Fund. This fund enables us to provide immediate assistance in our community through emergency grants to areas of greatest need. Specifically, we have provided emergency grants in the areas of food insecurity, child care, health and human services. To date, a total of \$216,719 has been distributed to various local nonprofits. Some examples that your generosity to this fund has helped provide:

- over 3,000 weekend meals for families served through the Boys and Girls Club in April and July
- food for local food pantries
- staffing and transportation for summer food deliveries through the three local school corporations
- thermometers, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and other COVID-19 related health needs to multiple agencies
- general operating needs for local child care facilities

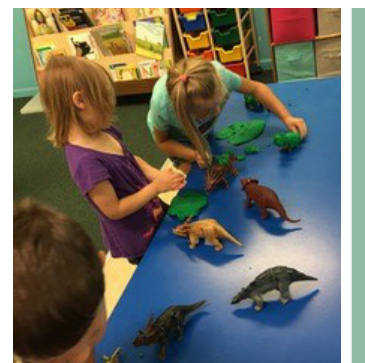
Those are just some examples of what we have accomplished together because of your support. We have witnessed our community drawing together through generous financial support, volunteer efforts, and simple acts of kindness. Our nonprofits continue to serve our community and provide stability in spite of the challenges. We have seen the resilience of the human spirit as individuals and agencies alike have found ways to work around many of the roadblocks this pandemic has caused. We are so grateful to be part of this compassionate community, and for your generosity, especially now.



Like most of our local child care facilities, Little Creations Child Care Ministry felt the punch of the pandemic as enrollment dropped off during the early stages of shutdown. That in turn created a ripple effect on the staff and the families they served. Many on staff were part of single income families and their income was vital. With

lower enrollment, they were not able to offer a reduction in rates for some of their families in need.

They continued to provide care for several children of essential workers and remained open. However, as time went on, there was a growing concern about their ability to do so. When Kelly received a phone call from Jessica Fitch at Little Creations, her voice conveyed unmistakable worry and concern. Funds were tight and she had no idea how they were going to make payroll.



*"The emergency grant we received was such a blessing. MCCF stepped in at just the right time."* - Lorrene Eads, Director, Little Creations Child Care Ministry

Because of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, we were able to provide them with an emergency grant so that payroll could be met and jobs saved. As of this writing, they are now back to full enrollment and thriving. Two other local child care facilities, Fuzzy Bear and New Beginnings,

have also received emergency grants enabling them to continue to provide this essential service in our community.

# MCCF SCHOLARSHIPS



Students from our Montgomery County high schools finished their senior year in ways no one could have envisioned. But not even a pandemic could stop them from finishing the course and making plans for their future - whether by joining the workforce, or continuing their education. We congratulate each and every one of our local graduates and commend them for a job well done, especially during this year that was anything but normal.

Though we were not able to present our MCCF scholarship awards in person this year, we were nonetheless delighted to award 111 new scholarships totalling over \$136,000 to local students! Scholarship awards for 2020 totaled \$331,250, not including Lilly Endowment Community scholarships.

Our scholarship funds were established by donors who had a desire to help further the education of our youth, and they left a tremendous legacy in our community. We are so grateful - as are the hundreds of students whose lives they have impacted.



Meet Jesse Hortin, one of our 2020 MCCF Scholarship award recipients, and a graduate of Crawfordsville High School. He is currently attending Ivy-Tech and pursuing dual certificates as an Industrial Electrician and an Industrial Mechanic. These two certificates are valuable to his current employer,

Frito Lay, because of the hands-on, specific training. Jesse has known for a while that this is the path he wanted his life to take and relishes waking up every morning doing something he enjoys.

One of the MCCF scholarships that Jesse received was the Rodney Britton Scholarship by Howard and Maxine Cook, which requires study in the mechanical or industrial field. Howard and Maxine owned and/or operated several local businesses including Merchants Delivery and Storage, North American Van Lines Agency, Pelican Service Company, and Maxine's Accessories. Howard was an inventor and obtained a patent in 1947 for his Electric Tail Gate Lift. He also served our country during World War II in the U.S. Navy. During the war, Maxine was a local telephone operator and then later, she assembled B-25 airplanes in a factory in Los Angeles. She moved back to Crawfordsville and after her marriage to Howard, helped him with their businesses. Through a bequest, they established this scholarship fund in memory of Maxine's son, Jon Rodney Britton.

The Britton Scholarship is awarded to graduates of Montgomery County public high schools, who will be attending a 2 or 4-year vocational or technical college for study in the mechanical or industrial field. It is one of our six non-traditional scholarships as it can be awarded to someone who has previously graduated.

Jesse is so grateful for the MCCF scholarships he received as the pressure and concern over college debt has been lifted. Howard and Maxine Cook passed away several years ago, but they are still providing this young man with the help he needs today.

## SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP



- In the interest of everyone's health and safety, our MCCF Scholarship Workshop has gone virtual. Local experts have recorded their presentations to share with incoming seniors and their families.
- These presentations are available on our website at <https://www.mccf-in.org/scholarship-workshop> and can be viewed at your convenience. Topics cover college admissions, funding, writing essays, interview and application tips.



**Summer Food Deliveries** – Through conversations with our three local school superintendents, we learned that a major concern was food insecurity for their students, especially as the pandemic continued. As a result, MCCF provided an emergency grant to each school corporation so that food could be delivered over the summer. Hundreds of families were served and over 300,000 meals were delivered!



*“The COVID-19 emergency grant Southmont Schools received from the Montgomery County Community Foundation was absolutely vital to our families. Public schools provide so many important supports for students, and meal service often times tops the list. When schools were closed in March we quickly recognized that many of our children no longer had access to the nutrition they rely on each day. Because of an inspirational team of individuals, and the emergency grant from MCCF, Southmont Schools was able to deliver over 100,000 meals through our Mobile Meals Service. While we are proud of this effort, we are even more appreciative of the Montgomery County community for supporting our families during a time of crisis and uncertainty.”*

- Dr. Shawn Greiner, Superintendent, Southmont Schools

## Board Spotlight: **Torey Rauch**



### **Background Information:**

Torey and his wife, Bethany, were born and raised here in Montgomery County and they have chosen to stay here and raise their two-year old daughter, Ella. Torey is a financial advisor for PNC Investments and when not in the office, he enjoys time with his family.

### **Fun Fact about Torey:**

Torey is an avid hunter and conservationist and spends a lot of time working to improve wildlife habitat.

### **In Torey's words:**

#### ***What is the greatest thing about living in Montgomery County?***

The greatest thing about living here would be all of the wonderful relationships and connections I've made over the years. It's also wonderful to live close to all of our family and longtime friends.

#### ***Why did you choose to serve on the MCCF Board?***

I was honored to be given the opportunity to serve on the MCCF Board after serving on the investment committee. This county has always been very good to me and my family, so I found it to be a wonderful opportunity to give back and become more involved in our community.

#### ***What kind of animal best describes your personality?***

The animal that best describes my personality would be a tiger. I am sometimes quiet and reserved, but when I set my mind to something, I typically attack it (and as a DePauw alumnus in Wabash territory, it is a great way to bring a "Tiger" into the conversation!).

#### ***What did you want to be growing up? Did that happen?***

Growing up I always wanted to find a career that allowed me to help build relationships with people, while at the same time allowing me to be present for my family. Building a financial advisory practice may not have been exactly what I thought I would be doing when I was a child, but I couldn't imagine doing anything different - especially since being a professional athlete didn't work out!

**Chief Executive Officer  
Kelly S. Taylor**

It is often stated that we are living in unprecedented times, but that is not the case. Consider the following - in the

year 1919, many people felt that the country was becoming unhinged. There were race riots, terrorist bombings, political division, and a devastating ongoing flu pandemic. Sound familiar?

Maybe more accurately it could be said that we are living in unpredictable and uncertain times. And just like 100 years ago, it isn't just one thing, but many. All of us have been forced to make adjustments as ordinary daily routines have become anything but ordinary these days. And while we have all been impacted in some ways, we have not all been affected the same. For example, some find it challenging to now work from home, while others find it challenging to now be without work.

Our nonprofits have felt the impact in greater ways as well. Most, if not all, fundraising events and activities were either changed dramatically or cancelled entirely due to health concerns. These agencies depend on fundraising for a great percentage of their operating budget. And yet the needs of the people they serve continue and will likely increase.

We have stayed in close contact with the nonprofits, and I am encouraged by their commitment to our community and their flexibility in adapting to so many changes. In our efforts to help them, we have also made changes in our grant process. We have allowed for existing grants to be moved to operating needs if requested, and reduced or eliminated reporting requirements. We are listening and reacting more proactively, and increasing the ability to make grant decisions more quickly - as in the case of our COVID-19 emergency grants.

None of the grantmaking, or scholarships, or emergency responses from the MCCF would be possible without our donors. You have continued to give even as you have also felt the impact. As examples, two families gave their stimulus checks because they simply wanted to share with the community. Another very generous gift came from a former resident now living in France who was aware of the needs here and wanted to do what she could to help in this present crisis. Space doesn't allow me to mention all of the countless ways we are encouraged by your faithful support, and we are so grateful.

I suspect that 100 years ago, many wondered if the pandemic would ever end. It did. So as we wait, let's remember that working together we can do so much more. For just such a time as this.

Looking forward. Giving back.  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
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