

# BRIDGES



Building bridges to support the future of Montgomery County

## Nourish

*Feeding our Future Match*

Spring 2019

### \$2: \$1 MATCH

Every dollar given during this campaign will receive a TWO dollar match!

### The Need:

Most of us have not experienced the pain of consistently going to bed hungry. Most of us as parents have not experienced the agony of knowing our child is hungry and we are unable to provide. Yet that is the sad reality many children and families face right here in our community. And it's not just a matter of missing a meal here and there, but rather a consistent food insecurity crisis that causes persistent suffering.

Hunger has a negative impact on children that goes way beyond a growling tummy. Children who are food insecure:

- Are more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school
- Can have difficulty concentrating in school
- Experience social and behavioral problems
- Experience chronic health issues
- Are more likely to suffer depression and anxiety

These are the sad and sobering facts of children facing hunger. Just as staggering are the numbers: our food insecurity rate of all children right here in Montgomery County is 19.9%; the number of our children who live in poverty is 16.2%; and the number of our students on free/reduced lunch is 47%. The problem is real and it's right in our own backyards.

### The Program:

The Nourish Backpack program, administered by the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, provides backpacks of food to children in need in all of the county elementary schools, two of the middle schools, and several pre-schools. Since 2014, they have provided over 41,000 backpacks of food. These backpacks are sent home with the children every Friday afternoon and help ensure that the children will not go hungry over the weekend. It takes hundreds of volunteers contributing hours of their time to make this program successful. And, as you can imagine, it also takes financial support to keep the program running. Much of the funding is provided by community partners, individual donations, and fundraising events. But funding can fluctuate, even though the needs remain the same, or might even increase.

### The Result:

Through surveys conducted at the end of each school year, families participating in the program said it made a positive difference in their family. Nearly all of them said they feel their community and school care about them. Many of them said their child's health has improved, and that the backpack program allows them to use their financial resources for other necessities like rent and utilities.

### The Campaign:

The Nourish Fund is an endowed fund established at the MCCF during the Lilly GIFT VI campaign. This fund provides support to the Nourish Backpack program. In conjunction with the YSB, we are launching the Nourish Feeding our Future Matching Gift Campaign. Through the generosity of an anonymous private funder, gifts made to the MCCF Nourish Fund during this campaign will be matched at an incredible \$2: \$1. So every dollar received will receive a match of two dollars, up to \$100,000 in donations. When we reach this match, the Nourish Fund will have \$300,000 in the endowment, and will generate about \$10,000 annually in support to the Nourish Backpack program. And this endowment will be here **forever** to support this vital program. This incredible match, which will double your donation, is undeniably one of the fastest ways we can provide more support to the Nourish Backpack program.

### The Testimony:

*"I just want to first off thank God for all of you. Your help was never expected but came to us in a time of need when we took in another child unexpectedly. I greatly appreciate everyone and everything that is involved. May God bless each and every one of you!"* - A parent of a student participating in the Nourish backpack program.

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](http://www.mccf-in.org) or by using the enclosed reply card. Thank you!

The first round of 2019 MCCF grants were awarded this week with surprise visits by Kelly Taylor, Director, and Cheryl Keim, Grants Coordinator!

Total Awards =  
**\$133,642**

## MCCF 2019 Grant Awards



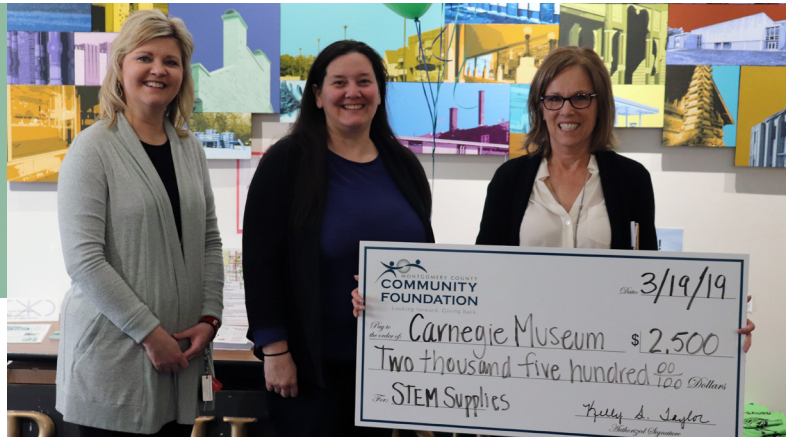
New Beginnings Child Care received \$17,400 for moveable partitions, furniture and furnishings to create much needed additional classroom space. Annette Richter, Director (above photo, far left) and Kathy Mennen, NBCC board member, were surprised and thankful for the grant.

*"What an amazing gift the MCCF has given New Beginnings Child Care. The Board was beyond excited when they learned about the grant. Thank you for all the Foundation does for us and the community!"* - Kathy Mennen

### Carnegie Museum - \$2,500

To increase the museum's STEM and Computer Science offerings, and for the 2019 exhibit on Emergency preparedness.

*All smiles: Kat Burkhart (middle) Carnegie Museum Director, accepts the grant award.*



### Friends of Sugar Creek - \$1,862

To provide support for Kids, Canoes, and Crinoids educational program for youth ages 10-14, which will be held this summer.

*Austin Brooks and Cindy Woodall gladly accept the grant award.*

### Mountie Mission - \$25,000

To purchase a van for pick-ups and deliveries of donated household goods and clothing, which is made available for those in need.

*Trey Etcheson, Mountie Mission board member, was thrilled to accept the grant award.*







### North Montgomery School Corporation - \$6,000

To support the expansion of their Early Learning Academy into Sommer and Sugar Creek elementary schools.

*Colleen Moran, NMSC Superintendent, Anthony Tharp, Pleasant Hill principal, and Jim McBee, NMSC Transportation Director are excited to accept the grant award.*

*We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors who make all these grants possible! For a list of the funds that supported these grants, please visit [mccf-in.org/awarded-grants](http://mccf-in.org/awarded-grants).*

### Walnut Township Community Organization - \$10,280

To add restroom facilities to their Community Building.

*Ed Ebaugh and Martha Janssen could not have been happier to accept this grant award.*



### Waveland Strong, Inc - \$42,600

For electrical upgrades and lighting in the Waveland Park, which is the venue for various community activities and events. A private funder provided \$28,400 of this grant.

*Gina Hole, Kerri Simpson, Troy Phillips and Ron Keedy were thrilled to accept the grant award.*

### Wayne Township Community Improvement Inc - \$28,000

For construction of a permanent stage and installation of electricity in the Waynetown Park.

*Bob Cox, Steve Proctor and Brian Fletcher were so glad to accept this grant award.*



The state of workforce is a key component in our county's overall economic health. It is a complex topic and must be viewed from various perspectives to fully understand. The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the MCCF have partnered to bring you *Community Insights*, a three-part series focused on Montgomery County workforce. You are invited to attend to hear speakers share about important issues related to our workforce and allow you the opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts, and engage in your community.

**The first session will be held on: Tuesday, April 9 at 5:15 p.m. at Fusion 54, 4th floor** and the topic is, The Workforce: The Big Picture. Guest speakers will be Cheryl Morphew, Montgomery County Economic Development and Rick Hernandez, Crawfordsville – Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Each will provide an overview of the workforce from their respective perspectives and allow time for questions from the audience. Facilitated small group discussion will follow. Light refreshments will be served and the session will conclude by 6:45 p.m.

## COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

**The series will continue Wednesday, April 17 at 5:15 p.m. at Fusion 54.**

The topic will be, The Workforce: The Human (resources) Perspective. The panel will include representatives from a variety of types of employers. They will talk about the strengths of the workforce and its unique

characteristics as well as the challenges they face and how they are addressing them. Facilitated small group discussion will follow.

**The series concludes Tuesday, April 23 at 5:15 p.m. at Fusion 54.**

The topic will be, The Workforce: Getting Schooled. This panel will consist of various school representatives and will look at what local schools are doing to prepare students for the workforce. Again, facilitated small group discussion will follow.

Learning more about the state of the workforce in our county may illuminate areas of challenge and opportunity. We are eager to have this important community input as we work to become more intentional in our grantmaking. It is also important to the LWV and the information may direct their future work as well. The public is invited to attend one or all of the conversations in the series.

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

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