

Gov. Daniels Declares Community Foundation Day in Indiana

Organized Philanthropy Helps Shape Indiana

Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed Monday, July 25, Community Foundation Day again this year to recognize the important work of Indiana community foundations. Our state's incredible community foundation infrastructure is part of a larger philanthropic sector. Together, Indiana's 1,400 private, corporate and community foundations make a significant impact on our state's economy, education, environment and people in need.

Indiana's formal philanthropies exist for the benefit of the common good. In short, they are incorporated charitable entities that function to distribute funds strategically, in order to address short-term needs and long-term challenges.

Though foundations often play a role in times of crisis, they are more than emergency ATMs. Foundations actively strategize and work together to create a better future for Indiana communities. Where foundations provide added benefit is their strategic approach to giving. It takes planning to be prepared to respond well to grim circumstances as they arise. Significantly, it takes even more effort to prepare for the future. Community Foundation leaders take it upon themselves to know the geographic regions in which they fund. They often focus their grantmaking on a particular need or type of funding.

Foundations as Innovators

Organized philanthropy often takes on the role of innovator. Foundations have the leeway to take risks where others cannot, strategically funding research or incubating pilot projects that lead to break-through solutions. The foundations and grantmakers represented by Indiana Grantmakers Alliance have been leaders and partners in initiatives with local, state and national impact.

Every resident in each of Indiana's 92 counties has access to a community foundation or affiliate fund in their home county—an asset no other state enjoys. In 1990, Lilly Endowment Inc. created the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative to seed the development of community foundations across the state. These organizations both raise funds and give funds back to the communities they represent. They provide the structure that helps people come together to plan and give wisely.

Here is what your Knox County Community Foundation is doing in our community:

Founded in 1996, your Knox County Community Foundation is celebrating 15 years of philanthropy this year. Our activities range from awarding scholarships and grants for local not-for-profit charitable organizations to collaborating with other community businesses and organizations to help meet local impact goals. Individuals may become involved in a variety of ways, including donating to an existing fund, creating their own fund, giving through their estate plans, or participating on a community committee. Among our program initiatives are the Sisters In Service (SIS) Women's TRYathlon, the Knox County Alumni Basketball Sectional Tournament, and the Youth Inspiring Peers (YIP) FRESHen Up Conference. For more information, visit our website www.knoxcountyfoundation.org or call 812.886.0093. Take time to learn about and support your Knox County Community Foundation and be a partner in our efforts "For Good. For Knox County. Forever."