



The Legacy

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

Winter 2021

Reflections from Retiring Board Chairperson, David Friedel



Owen County Community Foundation's former Board Chairperson, David Friedel

Reflecting on my three years as the Chairperson of the Owen County Community Foundation's (OCCF) Board of Directors (2019 - 2021), OCCF and the county has experienced a lot of change. I am proud to be a part of OCCF and was honored to serve as Chair. Your OCCF enters 2022 as strong as ever, passing the \$11 million mark in total assets in 2021.

MYPath has progressed to being an attraction for Owen County (OC) and continues to move forward, just completing a Next Level Trails grant application to the state for a three-year project that would make significant improvements to the Trail. We have an active network of volunteers; Friends of MYPath has been established as a (501(c)(3) status organization; a three-year contract has been signed with Kyle Hannon to act as Project Manager, and MYPath has a strong Board of Directors.

OCCF celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2019 and awarded 25 \$1,000 grants to 25 different OC non-profit organizations to commemorate the milestone. Also, in '19, a new Scholarship Awards Ceremony was designed and executed and continues to be very successful. Karah Bobeck was hired to manage development and communications and has done a fantastic job. She came to us as an IU Kelley School of Business graduate and has been a welcomed addition. The Board began to plan for the future with a newly developed Succession Plan and Policy, which in 2020, morphed into a Selection Committee for a new CEO after learning Mark Rogers wanted to retire early. Additionally, the Board created a Governance Committee to ensure sustainability, education, and accountability for the Directors.

And what a year 2020 turned out to be, with the world enveloped in a pandemic - one like most of us had never seen. COVID brought new challenges to everyone in Owen County. The OCCF's staff, Board, and Committee members had to learn to meet remotely and accepted the technological tasks of doing so. The community needed help and in 2020 and 2021, the OCCF collaborated with various local, state, and federal agencies and programs, to administer the allocation of over \$250,000 to Owen County businesses to help them survive. Further, we gave out more than \$100,000 to OC non-profits to aid them in providing support to OC citizens harmed by the pandemic.

The Board continued educating itself on the "Rising Generations" to understand how to include the younger segment of our population with the work of the Foundation. The last quarter of '20 involved welcoming and integrating our new, highly qualified CEO, Janet Rummel. It turned out to be baptism by fire, but she hit the ground running.

2021 has proven to be even busier than '19 and '20. The staff has been implementing new software, made

possible by a generous donor, for our donor and accounting database and scholarship management.

These exercises have required delving into all aspects of OCCF and reviewing, revising, updating, creating new, and/or deleting old practices and policies as needed before making the transitions to the new software.

The core Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was formed in late '20 made up of staff and four directors, to begin the process of developing a Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2026. This process began with Governance drafting a new mission, vision, and core values, with Board approval.

The SPC collected data and statistics about Owen County; conducted seven different focus groups of a diverse cross-section of the population; and then drafted goals and objectives. The process culminated in June of '21 with a retreat attended by staff, all Board members, some OCCF committee members, and our consultant as a facilitator. The retreat was a resounding success with valuable and enlightened interaction and input, as a version of a final draft of the Strategic Plan was accomplished.

New in 2021, is a collaboration between OCCF, Owen Valley Middle School, the Regional Opportunities Initiative, the IU School of Education, and Smithville Foundation, to establish the Young Entrepreneur Store and Maker Space at OVMS. This initiative has many educational purposes, such as entrepreneurship, design, hands-on projects, financial literacy, and philanthropy. Staff and the Grants Committee are also committed to helping area non-profit organizations improve their sustainability and fund-raising capabilities.

Your Owen County Community Foundation is a terrific entity. We approach 2022 blessed with a talented, energized staff (Janet, Maria, and Karah) who are passionate about their work. Janet Rummel, as CEO, is continuing the OCCF tradition of outstanding leadership and has a wealth of valuable knowledge and experience from her previous endeavors and PhD education. OCCF is promoting positive change in Owen County, along with others. Please be a part of it.

My thanks to OCCF for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Board. It has been a rich experience. Thanks also to all of our current and past Board members who have supported me the past three years and made the time enjoyable and rewarding.

David Friedel
Chairperson, 2019-2021

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Owen County, now and for generations to come.

Our Values:

- ❖ Philanthropy: We will promote community involvement and charitable spirit.
- ❖ Stewardship: We will support and preserve donor intent across generations.
- ❖ Leadership: We will act as a catalyst and collaborate with others to build a better tomorrow.
- ❖ Integrity: We will act ethically in every relationship.
- ❖ Excellence: We will meet or exceed expectations in all we do.
- ❖ Respect: We will honor the dignity and worth of all.

Chairperson:

David Friedel

Vice Chairperson:

Rob Babbs

Secretary:

Myrna Fields

Treasurer:

Kaye Erney

Board Members:

Barbara Bonness

Susan Coulter

Kaye Erney

Myrna Fields

Brad King

Heather Light

Nancy Lorenz

Grant Minnemeyer

Amber Mullin

Dale Walker

Tom Wallace

Staff:

Janet Rummel

President & CEO

Maria O'Connor

Senior Director

Karah Bobeck

Director of Development & Communications

In Memory of our First Executive Director, James D. Fulford

Tributes and Memorials

The individuals listed here have been honored by a contribution to one of the permanent endowed funds within the Owen County Community Foundation. Such tributes recognize friends or family on the occasions of a birth, anniversary, birthday, holiday, or any special celebration. It is another way to make a lasting impact in the community with a contribution to the Owen County Community Foundation. Quarter Four tributes and memorials will be featured in our 2021 Annual Report.

IN HONOR:

July 1st - September 30th:

- in honor of Adam & Kassie Smithy; Chase Coffield, Diana Gardner-Cole, Michael McNulty, Pamela Richards
- in honor of Dick Dyar; Dr. Amy Locke
- in honor of John Fuhs on his birthday; Kristen Fuhs Wells
- in honor of Julia Sieradzan's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Julie Carpenter's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Kelsey Hanlon; L C M Roddye
- in honor of Lori Rudzinski's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Ray Sieradzan's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Rebecca Applegate; Kelsey Hanlon
- in honor of Shirely Wilson's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Tad & Shirley Wilson; Don & Marilyn Jackson
- in honor of Tad Wilson's birthday; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in honor of Wally DeFord's birthday; Marilyn Sheppard DeFord

IN MEMORY:

July 1st - September 30th:

- in memory of Bill Gillaspay; Mary Ellen C. Smith

- in memory of Brandon Staley; Judge Lori Thatcher Quillen and her staff, Owen County Court Services, Tad & Shirley Wilson

- in memory of David Drescher; Judy Drescher

- in memory of Drew O'Connor; Maria O'Connor

- in memory of Elizabeth Jones; Robert Jones

- in memory of Erika Wells; Gerald Wells

- in memory of Frank & Betty Stewart; Jane Mellenthin

- in memory of Gary Collenbaugh; Coal City High School Class of 1960

- in memory of Gib Tucker's birthday; Darin & Carol Tucker

- in memory of Gretchen Scholl; Jane McCollum

- in memory of Herbert & Wilma Skinner; Jane Mellenthin

- in memory of Irene Brock; Jane McCollum

- in memory of Janet Berry; Jane McCollum

- in memory of Janet Hunter; Teresa Boruff-Young, Adam & Jenna Bowen, Penny Lane Burris, Janet Chaffin, Frank & Julie Coffin, Paul & Dana Cummings, Clare J Dibble, Joe & Bette Dixon, John & Nancy Fuhs, Kelsey Hanlon, A.J. Hanson, Tina Hayden, Joe & Judy Heinmiller, Don & Marilyn Jackson, Jennifer Jackson, Edward & Julia Jordanich, Kevin & Patricia Lowther, Jane Mellenthin, Cheryl Moke, Allen Mondell,

- Anton & Shannon Neff, Boyd & Karen Osler, Kurt & Beth Petry, Robert J Ramsak, Joan Reding, Don & Sally Risser, Jack & Linda Simmerman, Kathy Spinks, Kirby & Ronda Stogsdill, Mark & Holli Truesdel, Darin & Carol Tucker, Clark & Suzi Tyler, Joyce Vaulter, Matt Worland

- in memory of Janice Melton; Robert & Linda Hancock

- in memory of Jason Hinkle; Richard & Myrna Fields

- in memory of Jerry Wilson; Steve & Alice Parrish

- in memory of Jim Drescher; Fred Drescher

- in memory of John Wardlaw; Ed & Joan Staubach

- in memory of JW Kelley; Mary Ellen C. Smith

- in memory of Kenneth McCollum; Lisa Bassett and Family, Kimberley Frazier and Family, Jane McCollum, Mark McCollum and Family

- in memory of Larry Hight; Tom & Jennifer Abrell, David & Patricia Barr, Richard & Myrna Fields, Robert & Linda Hancock, Tina Hayden, Ronald & Shirley Heidrick, Mike & Bonita Humphrey, Anne Keeler, Virginia Latham and Family, Alyson McIntyre-Reiger, The Moyer Family, Edith Prater and Family, Lonnie R. Rickey, Roger Sherer, Spencer-Owen School Staff, Darin & Carol Tucker, William & Linda Vaughan, Tom & Becky

- Wallace, Larry & Judy Watson, Kevin & Linda Wilson, Bradley & Mary Wiseman

- in memory of Lew Moke; Cheryl Moke

- in memory of Linda Gentry; Robert & Linda Hancock, Kimberly Tucker

- in memory of Lucian Hall; Owen County Court Services

- in memory of Lynn Arnett; Jordan Quillen

- in memory of Marion, Dorothy, and Steve Steiner; Mark & Eleanor Steiner

- in memory of Misty Chapman; Owen County Public Library Staff

- in memory of Nelda K Wells; Gerald Wells

- in memory of our son, Matthew Foster; Clarence & Marlene Foster

- in memory of my wife, Patty Sadler, on her birthday; Walter Sadler

- in memory of PFC Brett E. Wood; American Legion Auxiliary Unit No 285, American Legion Post 285, Bill Ranard Auto Repair, Bob's Gun Shop, Byers Home Furnishings, Casida Barber Shop, Cheryl Moke, China Wok, Doggy Style Pet Salon, Don Nicholson, Edwards Motors Inc, Fuhs Attorney at Law, Gosport VFW Post 7850, Green Dental of Owen County, Hair Designs by Kathy, Home Team Properties, Ideal Credit Corporation, Insurance Pros LLC, Insurance Services, Inc., Janet

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Every effort is made to ensure your name and your Tribute and/or Memorial is written as you wish. If your name or recipient is incorrect or you wish to be listed differently (Mr. & Mrs. or first names), please contact us by phone, email, or regular mail.

Remember Your OCCF In Your Will

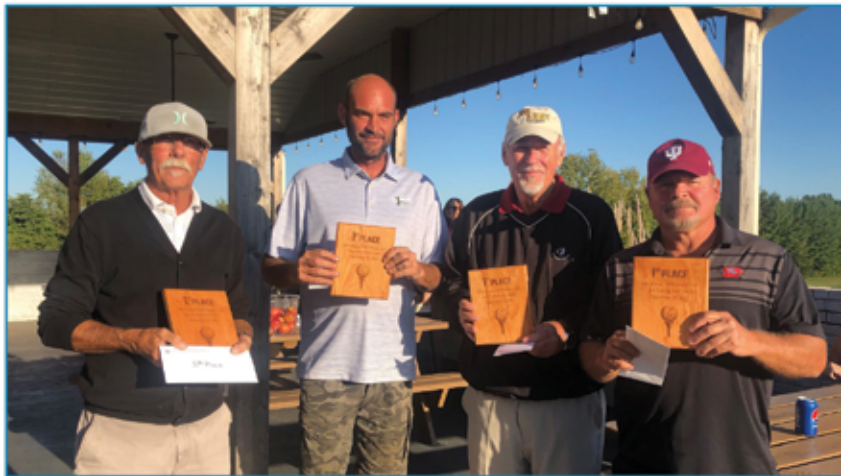
THE LEGACY



Photographer Darrell White's drone footage of Rolling Meadows.

19th Annual SMV Realty, LLC ~ Jim Fulford Golf Open Sets Record!

Announcing record fundraising for the third year in a row! We are proud to report that the 19th annual SMV Realty, LLC ~ Jim Fulford Golf Open was by far our most successful yet. Through the support of our golfers, sponsors, and prize providers, your Owen County Community Foundation raised \$48,700.58, after expenses, to help operate this local charity. Due to the great involvement of the JFO Committee, your OCCF was able to obtain enough prizes to fundraise using a new strategy (for us) - selling raffle tickets! Our team staked out at Babbs Supermarket for several days leading up to the tournament to sell tickets, engage with the public, and educate fellow community members about the Foundation's mission. Thank you, Babbs, for allowing us a prime piece of Owen County real estate for our fundraising efforts. Additionally, our wonderful hosts at Rolling Meadows and Mulligan's Restaurant partnered with your OCCF to provide a Dine, Play, and Shop for OCCF experience from the Sunday prior to the tournament through that Thursday. Ten percent of all revenue collected during those five days was generously donated to the Foundation. The course is absolutely beautiful these days, and we offer our thanks to the entire Rolling Meadows team for their great support of our event.



The reigning champions of the Annual SMV Realty, LLC ~ Jim Fulford Golf Open: Jack May, Greg Granger, Jack Noel, and Jerry Maners.

Just like they have for the last eighteen years, 21 foursomes of charitably-minded golfers met up at beautifully maintained Rolling Meadows Golf Course to play in the annual event. Tournament sponsor SMV Realty, LLC led the list of 60 sponsors who supported the event and made the 2021 tournament a huge success. Sally Vance herself, with a little help from her daughter, Karen, even joined the celebration via Facetime to say hello to some of her long-time Owen County friends.



A wonderful view of the beautifully maintained Rolling Meadows Golf Course on tournament day.

The golfers were competing for a grand prize provided by the French Lick Resort & Casino, which included a round of golf on the Pete Dye and Donald Ross courses and a stay at the popular resort for each member of the winning team. There were also several other team prizes for the other competitors and some individual prizes for "closest to the pin" and "longest putt."

The staff and volunteers who helped plan and work at the event were led by the Fulford Open Committee of Wally DeFord, John Dyar, Brad King, Julia King, and Grant Minnemeyer.

Thank You For Your Continued Support



The MYPATH Trail System receives a grant from the Bloomington Board of Realtors' donor-advised fund to purchase trail cameras and a professional pedestrian traffic counter.

MYPATH Update

The OCCF's support and leadership of the MYPATH trail system in Spencer and Owen County have created an active link between downtown commerce and a unique natural setting. Through weekly trail walks and regular work sessions, MYPATH volunteers have established a trail with beautiful river vistas, a wetland trail, a premier bird watching area, a reforestation project, and a prairie restoration. Downtown signage and planned crosswalk beautification will help downtown visitors experience MYPATH and its even-

tual connection between the Family YMCA and McCormick's Creek State Park. Next year, MYPATH plans to upgrade the surface of the natural trail section, providing an ADA accessible pathway to the vistas and natural setting. To cross Eliston Creek, MYPATH is planning to reclaim, restore and relocate the abandoned Hancock School Bridge. Overseeing future operations of MYPATH will be Kyle Hannon. Kyle has been involved in trail projects around the state, including service as Chairman of



A warm welcome to the new director of the MYPATH Trail System, Kyle Hannon.

the Indiana Bicycle Trails Task Force. We welcome Kyle as he takes the reigns of leadership and accomplishments from Mark



A frosty morning on the MYPATH Trail System.

Rogers and Allie Peot. Mark will continue to serve as President of the Friends of MYPATH volunteer group.

Exciting Changes in Store for Grants Program

Your OCCF's staff and Grants Committee have been working diligently this year to test out a new rubric and process for awarding grants. The rubric and new application process scores the proposals on the following criteria: community need; the benefit to residents of Owen County and/or local community; project goals; invested community partners; stakeholder support; the organization's capacity; the feasibility of the proposed project; and how the outcome will be evaluated. The

organization must also comply by having a current tax-exempt status and an up-to-date IRS Form 990. This comprehensive evaluation includes a site visit conducted by a staff or committee member. Performing site visits helps to cultivate a reciprocal relationship: the committee member walks away with a reliable first-hand account of how the organization operates, and the organization has the opportunity to tell their story, show off the program/projects that they

are proud of, and ask questions about the Foundation. In 2022, another new feature of your OCCF's grants program will be the addition of two types of grants: Rapid Response and Large Impact. Rapid Response Grants will offer assistance of up to \$1,000 to non-profit organizations in need of immediate support. For example, when the Spencer Lions Club had their deep fryer go caput at the beginning of their famous fish fry fundraiser at the Owen County Fair,

the Foundation was able to provide a grant the following day. Large Impact Grants (up to \$30,000) are designed to address community needs by helping local organizations transform innovative ideas into new programs and expand their reach into additional populations within Owen County. The traditional Community Grants program, now aptly named Community Investment Grants, will continue to award grants of up to \$5,000 three times annually.

Visit OCCF online at
www.owencountycf.org



“100 for 100” Campaign

100 for 100 Donors through 12-22-2021

The OCCF is a qualified charity with an IRS designation of 501(c)(3), yet we operate like any business by ensuring that we cover our full operating expenses each year. By always managing our operating expenses carefully, we have provided over \$10 million in grants, scholarships, and community programs to support our Sweet Owen. While we don't run up much of a bill to operate your OCCF this doesn't mean that we don't need your help.

The “100 for 100” challenge is the Board's way to invite you to make a modest gift of \$100, or a gift of your choice to our operating fund. Please be assured that your contribution will be put to good use to help your OCCF continue to operate on a sound financial footing. Your support ensures that the OCCF meets its future responsibilities as a strong community leader. As for our donors, thank you for being there for our organization and Owen County communities, forever.

A friendly reminder - our 100 for 100 campaign is being transitioned into a spring campaign in 2022. Please expect our 2022 letters to reach you earlier than in past years.

Carole Alford
George Allison
Robert & Jamie Andree
Gary & Judy Armstrong
Rob & Cassie Babbs
Kellan Babbs
Fred & Kathy Balash
Dr. Ed & Leanne Barnett
Karah Bobeck
Steve & Dora Bobeck
Bill & Glenda Breeden
Craig & Margo Brighton
Dave & Barbara Brinson
John & Carol Brown
Michael G. Bruner
Keith Bucklew
Rick Burger
Penelope Carpenter
Donnie & Rachel Carver
Duane & Elaine Cheney
Andy & Beth Cline
Barbara Cooper
Susan Coulter
Dr. Donna Cowan
Jim & Brenda DeCoursey
Marilyn Sheppard DeFord
Wally & Kathy DeFord
Tom & Ronda Derleth
Vicki Dittmore
The Dragonfly Gallery
Drescher Auction & Real Estate
Elite Electric, LLC
Tom & Kaye Erney
Dr. Keith M. Ernst
Ernie & Carolyn Evans
Richard & Myrna Fields
Ethan Fields & Randee Portteus
Bruce & Karen Fisher
Kent & Linda Franklin
David Friedel & Ann Mahrtd
John & Nancy Fuhs
Tom & Karen Fulk

Kenneth & Mary Margaret Goldstein
Green Dental of Owen County
John & Cindy Hackworthy
Bruce & Mary Hamlin
Sally Hardy
Steve & Kathleen Harriman
Harriman Farms
Jim & Jane Heckman
John & Deanna Heckman
Dale & Amanda Hinthorn
Home Team Properties
Nel Hostetter
Edward Howard
Lee & Karen Huss
Insurance Services, Inc.
Don & Marilyn Jackson
Becky Johnson
Robert T. Jones
Elizabeth Schenck Jones
John Keeler
Verl & Debbie Keith
Jeffrey Lee Keith
Duncan & Caity Keller
Brad & Robin King
Joe & Brenda King
Dorothy Kinney
Vic & Shirley Kinney
Nancy Knapp
Aaron & Sarah LaGrange
John & Julie LaMere
Jack Laymon
John & Sherri Lehmbek
Bob & Carolyn Livingston
Jamie & Jennine Loughhead
Lovett Used Cars Inc.
Joyce Mackey
Terrie & Frances MacMorran
Steve & Lynn Mader
Mader Construction
Robert & Alice McAuley
Evan McKalip & Shelley Harriman
Jane McCollum
Dr. Terry & Dr. Deb McDaniel
Don Meek
Jane Mellenthin
Philip & Jacqueline Merk
Ken & Dianne Miller
Mark Minton
Marsha Minton
Diane Monroe
Bruce & Anita Morgan
Joe & Anne Mueller
Mullin Equipment
Connie Murphy
Jo Ann Neal
Tony & Victoria Neff

Connie Neihart
Ray & Helen Nelson
Charles & Marge Neumeier
Dale & Rachel Nicholson
Alvaro & Leslie Nieves
Maria O'Connor
Lois J. Ohler
Owen County Preservations, Inc.
Owen Valley Flooring
Owen Valley Winery
Seth & Sarah Parker
Steve & Alice Parrish
Dr. Kurt & Beth Petry
Providence Ministries of Otter Springs, Inc.
Kelly Raaf
Dick Ranard
RE/MAX Select Associates
Mary Gates Rice
Marcus Robinson
Don & Lori Rudzinski
Janet Rummel
Walter Sadler
John B. Savage
Lew Scholl
Jack & Linda Simmerman
Jack & Ginny Sims
Mary Ellen C. Smith
Mark & Nancy Snapp
Nancy Sparks
Spencer Exchange Club
Mike & Barbara Spinks
Ed & Joani Staubach
Dr. John & Tina Stearley
Bill & Mikki Stockwell
Kirby & Ronda Stogsdill
Denise Sudol
Sweet Owen Realty
T&T Repairables
June Ellen Thompson
Al & Bonnie Tinsley
Charlie & Shelly Townsend
Al & Joan Tucker
Phyllis Tucker
Darin & Carol Tucker
Doug & Judy Tucker
William F. Trent
Robert F. Truesdel
Tom & Becky Wallace
Watts Law Office, PC
Billy & Rebecca Welch
Gerald Wells
Gordon & Dr. Diane Wells
Mariann Snyder White
Darrell & Loretta White
Bill Willen
Scott Winders
Donna Zamber

Making Tax-Smart Charitable Gifts

The Owen County Community Foundation does not provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal, and accounting advisors.

Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a way to potentially donate more tax efficiently. The tax strategy allows IRA owners who are 70.5 or older to [donate IRA assets directly](#) to charity. Thus, you avoid paying taxes on your distributions. This tax-minimizing strategy is limited to \$100,000 per year. For those age 72 or older, your QCD could be used towards completing your required minimum distribution (RMD). To be clear, technically, you won't get a tax deduction for your QCD to charity. But at the same time, you aren't required to pay taxes on the distribution, and it isn't counted towards your AGI. This could help keep other income streams in lower tax brackets or potentially even reduce your Medicare premiums and taxation of your Social Security benefits.

The QCD tax benefit only applies to owners and beneficiaries of individual retirement accounts who are 70½ or older. Even though the age at which the RMD requirement kicks was raised to 72 by the SECURE Act, the QCD age remains at 70½. This gap can allow IRA owners who are not yet subject to RMDs to use QCDs, if they are at least 70½.

Timing: First Dollars Out Rule

Under the tax rules, the first dollars distributed from a retirement account (that is subject to an RMD), in any year are deemed to go to satisfy that RMD. That's why those who wish to reduce their RMD income with QCDs should do the QCD with the first distributions out of the IRA by transferring the amount they wish to give directly from the IRA to the charity, before taking any RMD for the year. When it comes to making charitable gifts from your IRA, [January is the new December](#).

Make An Impact in Our Community During Your Lifetime

A **Charitable Lead Trust** helps you build a charitable fund with your community foundation during the trust's term. When the trust terminates, the remaining assets are transferred to you or your heirs, often with significant transfer-tax savings.

How it works

- You transfer cash, appreciated stocks, real estate, or other assets into an irrevocable charitable trust.
- We set up a fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.
- Your Charitable Lead Trust pays the community foundation an annual amount to build a charitable fund. You designate the trust to exist for a specified number of years or until your death.
- You also designate your family or anyone you choose as the final beneficiary of your trust.
- We handle all the administrative details, issuing grant awards to charities in the name of the fund you establish (if you prefer, grants can be made anonymously).
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift – and all future earnings from your gift – is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

Bringing Warmth and Holiday Cheer to Owen County's Youth

For the second year in a row, your OCCF partnered with the Spencer Fraternal Order of Police to carry out a successful Shop with a Cop program. In November, nearly 60 children and their families gathered at our local Walmart to shop with officers from four main agencies that serve Owen County including the Owen County Sheriff's Department, the Spencer Police Department, Indiana State Police, and Indiana Conservation Officers.

This event was followed up by a county-wide toy drive in which approximately 300 children ranging in age from infants to 18 years old were each provided two toys which were passed out at the Owen County Fairgrounds by the Owen County Sheriff's Department. Your OCCF provided support by supplying volunteers, toys, and funds for this project.

Your OCCF's Board and Staff would like to issue a special thank you to an anonymous donor who contributed a substantial portion of the funds used to help our Owen County youth this holiday season.



Owen County Sheriff, Sam Hobbs, helps pick out an outfit at the Spencer Fraternal Order of Police's 2021 Shop with a Cop program.

Owen Valley FFA Scholarship Fund

In 1998, the Owen Valley FFA Scholarship Fund was established to provide support, in perpetuity, to one of the most well-known youth programs available within our Owen County communities. Our local FFA chapter has been near and dear to our hearts for many years. Jack Simmerman, the Founding Father of your OCCF, educator, and former Owen Valley FFA advisor, kept us apprised of all of the great work the students and their leaders accomplished during the early stages of the Foundation's growth. Fast forward to 2019 when Tom Wallace, also a former educator and Owen Valley FFA advisor, joined our Board of Directors and was able to put his many years of community knowledge to work

at our non-profit. The FFA as an organization has matured well beyond the Future Farmers of America of their past. While still using agricultural education as the core of their programming, developing leadership skills is now a huge part of the FFA experience. Students are challenged with real-life agricultural experiences and competitions that give them valuable hands-on learning. The current FFA advisor, Mrs. Shelby Wolford, continues to do a masterful job of encouraging students to join FFA and channels the amazing, youthful energy of the chapter members into positive experiences. Unique to the Owen Valley FFA chapter is the nationally recognized FFA goat farm which opened in 2003. The farm is entirely operated by the students in their spare time and is a true profit and loss operation. It is an understatement to say that our local FFA has enjoyed great success for many years and has contributed to the education and training of thousands of local students. Each year, your OCCF Scholar-



Owen Valley students get the baby goats used to handling at the Owen Valley FFA's goat farm.

ship administers the Owen Valley FFA Scholarship to an Owen Valley High School graduating senior who is a member in good standing of the Owen Valley FFA Chapter and who is pursuing post-high school education in any area, preferably a program longer than one year. Since the fund's establishment, it has experienced steady growth, but it is still about \$12,000 short of meeting the endowment goal of a self-sustaining \$25,000

balance. Please consider supporting a deserving Owen Valley FFA student on their college journey by contributing to this scholarship fund. Want to help? If you would like to support the Owen Valley FFA Scholarship Fund and help a college-bound student, please consider making a contribution to this fund. You can donate using cash or check or through our secure online donation portal at www.owencountycf.org.

Tributes and Memorials

Continued from page 2

Rummel, John Brighton VFW 7850 Auxiliary, Levy Heating & Cooling, Low Bob's Discount Tobacco, Mary Gates Rice, Mercer Realty, Mohr's Motors LLC, Our Community Bank, Owen County Democratic Party, Owen County Home Company, Owen County State Bank, Sons of American Legion, Spencer Coffee House, Spencer Exchange Club, Studio 560, Unraveled, Valley Optical, Valvoline Express Care, VFW Auxiliary Post 1405, West & Company Realtors, West & Parrish & Pedigo, World Arts

- in memory of Roma Wilson; Steve & Alice Parrish
- in memory of Sandra Hacker; Owen County Court Services
- in memory of Terry Heck; John & Julie LaMere
- in memory of Woodrow Barton; Marilyn Sheppard DeFord
- in memory of Zach Tucker; Phyllis Tucker

Lilly Endowment Community Scholar Update - Jacy Schrougham

We love to stay up-to-date on the successes of our past Owen County Lilly Endowment Community Scholars and share those updates with our community. We recently caught up with Jacy Schrougham, our 2012 Lilly Scholar, who graduated from Owen Valley High School. Jacy graduated a year early with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University to return home and take care of her mother due to a medical emergency. After graduating, she taught at Spencer Elementary for four years. In 2020 Jacy moved across the country to Columbia, Maryland.



The 2012 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar, Jacy Schrougham, and her partner, Jay.

She currently teaches fifth grade at Glenelg Country School, and just this December graduated with her Master's degree in Literacy, Culture,

and Language Education from Indiana University. She and her partner Jay recently bought a house and are enjoying life on the East Coast!



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Website: www.owencountycf.org



Community Foundation National StandardsSM

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Follow us on Twitter 

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We invite you to join us ...

Retirement Open House



Honoring

Mark Rogers

JAN	⋮	Abram Farm	⋮	3:30 PM
29	⋮	380 State Road 43	⋮	-
Saturday	⋮	Spencer, IN 47460	⋮	5:30 PM