

# Community Connection

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We are excited to announce the recipient of the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, Isabella "Bella" Cox of Scottsburg High School. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character and leadership. She joins 43 other Lilly Scholar recipients from Scott County since 1998.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private non-profit college or university.

Bella is the daughter of Jason and Kimberly Cox of Scottsburg. She plays in the marching band, is active in Key Club where she serves as President, is involved with the school's theater program, and is a member of Educators Rising. She is involved with her church's youth group, 4-H, and serves as junior faculty at Wonder Valley Church Camp. She works at Warrior's Den. Bella is undecided, but considering attending Indiana University in Bloomington to major in elementary education.

"My dream has always been to teach elementary school second grade at Lexington Elementary and the Lilly Endowment Scholarship has now made this possible," said Bella. "I can't wait to give the best quality education to my future students just as my teachers have done for me. There are not enough kind words I could say about the scholarship committee at the Community Foundation and the joy and positivity that they filled the room with. I am so blessed to have been chosen for this scholarship and

my appreciation is endless. Thank you to everyone around me for always assisting in my efforts and for giving me the ability to inspire the next generation of Scott County's students."

"On behalf of the Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors, we are pleased to announce Bella Cox as the recipient of the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship," said Scholarship Committee Chair Tinisha Bowles-Densford. "All students who applied and those who were named as finalists this year were exceptional. We congratulate Bella for being named as 2025 Lilly Scholar, and we are confident that she will be an outstanding representative of our community!"

Students were judged based on community involvement, extra-curricular activities, work activities, academics, financial considerations, honors and awards, letters of recommendation and three essays. Eight students advanced to the interview portion as finalists. After the scholarship committee narrowed the field, nominees were submitted to ICI for the selection of the Scott County recipient. ICI is the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, which approves the final selection of scholarship recipients.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1997-1998 school year. Since then, grant funding in excess of \$490 million has supported more than 5,300 Indiana students who have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship through the program. The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

# 4th StoryWalk Location Installed at New Spicertown Park



We are excited to announce the opening of our fourth StoryWalk® location in Scott County! This installation is located at the new Spicertown Park, 1228 W. Gibson Drive, Austin. The StoryWalk's purpose is to combine literacy, exercise, nature, and family bonding.

This installation is made possible through the generosity of a grant from Duke Energy Foundation, which was matched with a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

"This is a fun way for families to explore the new park together," said Lisa Huber, government and community relations manager for Duke Energy. "Kids can enjoy nature while reading and use their imagination while interacting with characters in the story."



**Top left: Author Dave Caudell and Duke Energy Government and Community Relations Manager Lisa Huber**



**Top right: Children enjoy reading the book pages**



Twenty signs are placed along the walking path around the park. Each sign shares an activity that a child can do to be interactive with their surroundings. The first book to be featured is *Emma Stein's First Halloween* and it is written by local author David Caudell.

There are three other StoryWalk installations in Scott County, located at Austin Community Park, Manaugh Memorial Park and Scott County Courthouse. The Community Foundation's Early Childhood Committee rotates the books quarterly, so families are encouraged to check back often for a new book.

The majority of the books will be used from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative, which is a program supported by the Community Foundation, United Way of Scott County, Friends of the Library, Kiwanis Club of Scott County, State of Indiana and numerous other donors. The Imagination Library provides free books for children from ages birth through five, mailed directly to their homes every month. In Scott County, there are currently 867 children receiving the age-appropriate books, and 2,319 children who "graduated" from the program when they turned five.

We want to thank the Scott County Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting ceremony, and the Austin Elementary K-Kids for serving hot cocoa and cookies.



**Shown above: Austin Elementary K-Kids**

**Below: Children check out the activities**



# Community Grants



We are thankful for all the donors who made these grants possible in the last few months! We are able to give year-round to wonderful organizations that are doing great work in our community. When you give to the Scott County Community Foundation, you are investing in the well-being of our residents. Don't forget—we still have matching funds available to unrestricted funds through a grant opportunity from Lilly Endowment Inc.! Contact us for information on how you can double your donation.

## Former Board Member Phil Bundy Passes Away

We are saddened to share the passing of former board member, Phil Bundy. Phil served on the Board of Directors from 2002-2005.

Phil dedicated his career to serving others. He worked at Cummins Engine Company for 16 years before transitioning to Morgan Foods, where he served as Vice President of Human Resources for 30 years. He was a member of Scottsburg First Baptist Church and was active in the Masonic Lodge 572 in Scottsburg, along with the Scottish Rite and the Shrine in Indianapolis. He



also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Phil married the love of his life, Linda, and joins her in eternal rest. He is survived by his daughter, Shelley (Travis) Lakins, his granddaughter Macy (Isaac) Comer, and great-granddaughter Saylor Comer.



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## *Looking Forward, Giving Back.*

### Grants and Scholarships Available to the Community

We invite the community to share these grant and scholarship opportunities and apply for funding!

Applications are available for our Community Grants Program. These grants are to be used for community betterment, health and human services, and education. We have almost \$131,000 in unrestricted funds that make these grants possible. Any charitable organization, school, or government entity is invited to apply. Applications are completed online and due Wednesday, April 30 at 3 p.m. Recipients are announced mid-June. A grants rubric and tutorial video is also available with the application link on our website.

Over \$115,000 in scholarship assistance is available to graduating high school seniors and non-traditional adult learners. Applicants are evaluated on a variety of criteria, to include financial need, academics, activities, honors and awards, essays, letters of recommendation, work, etc. Applications are available online and are due Friday, March 7.

The Youth Grantmaking Council is accepting applications for youth-related projects and programs. These requests should be \$1,000 or under and must benefit youth in Scott County. The application is due Feb. 28.

The Gladys A. Berna Education Fund has a teacher/classroom grant available for educators in Scott County School Districts 1 and 2. Funds can be used on a small classroom project or a field trip—anything that helps students further their education while taking some of the financial burden off teachers. The application is due Feb. 28.

All applications can be accessed from our website, [www.scottcountyfoundation.org](http://www.scottcountyfoundation.org), under the Grants and Scholarships menu. The exception is the Gladys A. Berna Education Fund, and that application link can be requested by contacting Community Foundation staff. Applicants are welcome to have staff review before submission.



**Leslie Fox with Austin Elementary School received a grant from the Gladys A. Berna Education Fund last year for her “Lava Lamps and Volcanoes Science Projects” request.**