

# LEADERSHIP HANCOCK COUNTY



CARRYING THE TORCH OF LEADERSHIP FOR  
HANCOCK COUNTY FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS

**CLASS OF 2023-2024 DIRECTORY**



# Melissa Ewald

## Executive Director

Melissa grew up in Henry County and has lived in Greenfield since 2003. Melissa, and her husband, Andy, have two children and a beautiful granddaughter.

Melissa loves this community and has been involved in many ways. She was the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Hancock County and has since volunteered as a driver. She served as a ReadUp tutor, on the Board of Directors of FUSE (Families United in Support and Encouragement) for 6 years and is currently a Rotarian.

Melissa is the Marketing Director with the Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Melissa is also a Real Estate Broker with Level Up Real Estate Group and honored to be named Best Realtor of Hancock County by the Daily Reporter in 2021.



# LHC

## Board Members



**Melissa Ewald**  
Executive Director



**Courtney Miller**  
President



**Lori Cooley**  
Vice-President



**Jane Barton**  
Secretary



**Alisha Love**  
Treasurer



**Kerry Grass**



**Amy West**



**Andrea Mallory**



**Ryan Nasby**



**Danielle Nylund**



**Stephanie Kendall**



**Jason Wells**



**Chantel Fowler**



**Libby Manship**



## LHC CLASS OF 2023-2024

Shanna Agner  
Angie Armstrong  
Cody Baker  
Laura Barnett  
Evan Beaty  
Christina DeWitt  
Ryan Fennell  
Chase Ferguson  
Robin Holmes

Amy Hughes  
Penny Hunt  
Sarah Hurst  
Jake Kersey  
Emily Loewen  
Karen Newell  
Brooke Palmer  
Laura Parker  
Myron Rahn III

Bryan Smith  
Nichole Stark  
Matt Strahl  
Kimberly Watts  
Missy Wilcher  
Suzanne Woodland  
Kirbie Young



# Shanna Agner

NineStar Connect

*Network Operations Manager*



- **INTERESTS:**

On weekends I play golf with friends & family. I love being outside and watching my bonus kids compete in all their sports. I enjoy hanging out with my nieces & helping out with them whenever I can!

- **FAMILY:**

My husband & I have been married for 6 years. He has two awesome kiddos - a 15 year old son & 13 year old daughter. We enjoy traveling and exploring new places together.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I enjoy coaching Middle School tennis at Mt. Vernon where I also volunteer as a Marauder Mentor. I attend Realife Church and serve as much as I can.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I collect Funko Pops and my current collection has over 350 figures.





# Angie Armstrong

Groups Recover Together  
*Regional Director*

- **INTERESTS:**

Family, camping, reading, travel, competitive darts.

- **FAMILY:**

I grew up on a farm in Hancock County, riding horses. The farm is still in my family, who I share with my mother and my children. I have 4 children, Caleb, Olivia, Lauren and Lilly. I also have a boxer named Max, who I adore.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Recovery walks, spreading the word about addiction, and saving lives.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I rode horses until my 30's, I currently own the farm that my great-grandfather had given to my grandfather when he came home from the war in the 40's; I have a set of identical twin girls who most can't tell apart.



# Cody Baker

Hancock Health - Hancock  
Wellness Center, McCordsville

*Fitness Supervisor*



- **INTERESTS:**

Traveling, CrossFit, time with friends and family, all the food

- **FAMILY:**

Currently engaged to my fiancée, Haley, getting married in May of 2024.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Hancock Flat 50, Hancock County Biometrics

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I'm allergic to bees, but love honey.



# Laura Barnett

Hancock Health

*Senior Recruiter*

- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy reading, cooking, music (both playing and enjoying others'), dabbling in interior design with mixed results, gardening and traveling with family and friends.

- **FAMILY:**

I have two teenaged sons and we share the house with our two dogs and my fiancé.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am newer to the Greenfield area and hope to learn more about opportunities to become involved here. I have served as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in the past and also enjoy volunteering with various groups that support mental health advocacy, awareness and research; children's welfare and animals.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I have perfect pitch! It's a skill that's earned me the privilege of responding to "hey mom please tune my guitar" more times than I can count. My family feels that my interesting fact is that I caught my first fish when I was 34 years old.





# Evan Beaty

City of Greenfield - Planning  
Department

*Associate Planner*



- **INTERESTS:**

My hobbies and interests span a wide gambit, but include gaming, story-telling, and history.

- **FAMILY:**

I recently became engaged to my best friend and we moved to Indiana together to start a new life last year.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Since moving to the region in November 2022, I've started a job as a Planner with the City of Greenfield, which has given me exposure to all manner of different groups and organizations, from Main Street to Hancock Community Foundation, and involved me in community events almost every other week.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

During my Masters Degree, we did a foreign study in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We stayed 1 mile from Copa Cabana beach and worked on designing developments surrounding the Olympic Park.



## Christina DeWitt

Hancock Health Connection  
Center

*Healthy Community Manager*

### • INTERESTS:

I enjoy reading, cycling, baking, and yoga. Anytime spent with family and friends, especially on the beach, is my most favorite interest.

### • FAMILY:

My Husband and I have been together for 13 years and share a beautiful life together. God has blessed us with four children ranging from five to fifteen years old.

### • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I have been in Social Work for the last ten years primarily focusing on Leadership Development and Children, Youth, and Families. I gained my Masters of Social Work Degree; Community and Organizational Leadership in 2018 and I have been with Hancock Health since 2021. Through this role, I have the opportunity to be engaged in the Community in various of ways in order to identify needs and address barriers our community members are facing.

### • INTERESTING FACT:

I cannot watch a movie without researching the plot prior. I must know what happens from start to finish before actually starting the movie. I hate the suspense of not knowing.



# Ryan Fennell

Hancock County Public Library  
*Communications Specialist*



- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy reading, writing, baking and woodworking.

- **FAMILY:**

I enjoy getting to be an uncle.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I have worked at Hancock County Public Library for ten years.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I have had all kinds of pets growing up, including dogs, cats, rabbits, fish, alpacas, guinea pigs, chickens, and a tarantula.



# Chase Ferguson

Fortville Tire *Automotive*  
*Technician*

- **INTERESTS:**

Friends, music, video games, and vehicles.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I work on vehicles for people in the community of Fortville.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I enjoy music and items from different cultures such as vehicles from Japan and music like European Dark Wave.



# Robin Holmes



GBC Bank

*Account Services Center  
Supervisor / Accounts  
Payable*

- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy shopping, reading, and spending time with my family.

- **FAMILY:**

I have been married to my husband Jerry for 20 years and we have 2 children.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I try to help out with bank sponsored events and school events.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

My kids keep me busy running them around and attending their extra curricular activities.



## Amy Hughes

A Focused Touch Day Spa

*Owner, Massage Therapist*

- **INTERESTS:**

My new found love is gardening. When I have spare time, I like to crochet and listen to live music. I love date night with my husband and spending time with my kids and granddaughter.

- **FAMILY:**

My husband and I have been married for 6 years and we have 5 children between us, ages 15-28, just one more at home! We also have a beautiful 3 year-old granddaughter.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am an active member and ambassador for the Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce and soon to be member of Greenfield Rotary. We donate many gift cards and baskets to various charities, festivals and events around Greenfield.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I didn't become a massage therapist until I was 37! I was a stay at home mom for 10 years and worked in medical administration. On the first night of massage school I swore I would never work at a spa or own my own business.



# Penny Hunt

Hancock County Community  
Corrections

*Office Manager*



- **INTERESTS:**

Spending time with my family is my greatest joy. I enjoy reading and crafting for fun and I spend a great deal of time working on our farm, especially with cattle. All things agriculture hold a special place in my heart.

- **FAMILY:**

My husband Deryl and I have been married 32 years and have two daughters and a son, as well as two “bonus” sons and an almost five-year-old grandson. We are very fortunate to have our kids all living just a few minutes away from us.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am a member of the Hancock County 4-H Club Agricultural Association, currently serving on the By-laws Committee. In 2022, I began serving as a 4-H project judge in Henry County.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

When I find a book I love, I will read it multiple times. I have read the entire Harry Potter series at least 15 times.





# Sarah Hurst

Hancock Health - Hancock  
Wellness Center

*Exercise Specialist*

- **INTERESTS:**

My main interests are concerts, CrossFit, Bengals football and hanging out with my two pups.

- **FAMILY:**

My husband and I got married October 2022 and we have two 4-legged children, Mr. Smits and Grezz. My parents and grandparents still reside in my hometown, Connersville.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

The majority of my community involvement has been Hancock Regional related with events such as the 5210 school program, biometric screenings, CrossFit competitions and the Flat 50.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

My dad is an amputee from surviving a motorcycle accident and he is my hero!





# Jake Kersey

MJW Mortgage

*Corporate Branch Manager &  
Senior Loan Officer*



- **INTERESTS:**

Deep appreciation for music, traveling, concerts, basketball & football (Pacers/Colts), working, & dog rescue.

- **FAMILY:**

Emma (wife), Barrett (son) - 4 years old, Baylor (daughter) - 2 years old, Lilly (golden retriever), Nabi (golden retriever), Ripp (golden retriever) & Mya (puggle)

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Board Member, Hope House  
Club Member, Rotary Club of Greenfield  
Co-Chair, Steak N Bake

- **AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT ME:**

Our female golden retriever, Nabi, is from a dog meat farm in South Korea. She was rescued and flown over.





## Emily Loewen

Hancock County Sheriffs  
Department

*Jail Corrections Officer*

- **INTERESTS:**

I love to read, cook and spend time with my family.

- **FAMILY:**

I am engaged to my fiancé, Cody, and we have a 2-year-old daughter.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am a Child Passenger Safety Technician and love helping families ensure their children are safe riding in their vehicles.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I love puzzles and can complete multiple types of Rubik's Cubes.



# Karen Newell

Hancock Hope House, Inc.

*Program Coordinator*



- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy acrylic paint pouring and dot art painting as a way to relax. I also like to experiment with cooking recipes from other cultures.

- **FAMILY:**

My family relocated to Hancock County when I was a sophomore in high school. I spent twenty-two wonderful years with my late husband here in Greenfield and I am happy to say that much of our family still resides here. I am “mom” to Buster, a very large American Bulldog.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Leadership Hancock County will allow me the opportunity to discover where my interests and talents could best serve the needs and opportunities of our community.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I have been an online gamer for years and have many friends from every corner of the world that I maintain contact with.





# Brooke Palmer

State Farm Insurance

*Agent and Owner*

- **INTERESTS:**

Purdue men's basketball, football and volleyball. Spending time with my family. Coaching and being involved in my kids' activities. Reading.

- **FAMILY:**

I've been married to my husband, Andrew, for 10 years. Andrew works for the city. We have 4 boys. Hank is 9, Leo & Jack are almost 7 and Luke is 5. This year they are all in school full-time!

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am a member of Tri Kappa. In the last year, I have purchased a building downtown, renovated it, and am involved in Greenfield Main Street. I am a coach and a commissioner for Greenfield Area Soccer Club. I am a parishioner at St. Michael Catholic Church. My kids attend St. Michael's Catholic School and I volunteer there, too.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

When I was 8 months pregnant with the twins, the car I was driving was struck by lightning.



# Laura Parker

Community Foundation of  
Hancock County

*Communications Manager*



- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy camping, art, graphic design, community events, live music, and time with family and friends.

- **FAMILY:**

I am married to Randy, we love our children and grandchildren very much and enjoy watching them in sporting events, 4-H shows, or just having fun as little kids. We enjoy getting away together as often as possible in our camper.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Arts District Steering Committee (Committee is in Development)

I also spend a lot of time freelancing in the evenings.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I can either be very quiet or have very quick wit. My mom was struck by lightning when she was pregnant with me!





# Myron Rahn III

Hancock County  
Public Defender Office

*Chief Deputy Public  
Defender*

## • INTERESTS:

I love cooking and grilling. I'm a cinephile and enjoy nearly every genre throughout numerous decades. I can sometimes be found doing wood working in my garage. Otherwise, I'm likely reading, spending time with my family, or making my daughters' eyes roll from awful dad jokes.

## • FAMILY:

I am married to the beautiful Angela Rahn. I have two daughters, Sydney (12yo) and Samantha (9yo), as well as a bonus daughter (Hailey) and bonus son (Wyatt). Thanks to Hailey we have a sweet but feisty grandson, Walker. Last but not least is Millie, our 1 year old goldendoodle mix.

## • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I have lived and worked in the community since 2009. I was a board member for the Fortville-McCordsville Chamber of Commerce for multiple years.

## • INTERESTING FACT:

I once ate 7 1/2 pounds of crab legs in a sitting. I also enjoy singing and acting; and one day look forward to a burgeoning stand-up career.



# Bryan Smith

NineStar Connect *Technical*  
*Services Supervisor*



- **INTERESTS:**

Love to meet new people, explore new places, cooking out and trying new foods, sports, entertaining and helping friends, campfires, and movies / card games.

- **FAMILY:**

I am blessed with (5) beautiful and talented children with an additional (3) grandchildren on top of that. I believe the greatest treasure a man can possess is the Lord all mighty, a loving family, and an endless supply of friends.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Board member of the Eastern Hancock Athletic Booster Club, Co-op Community Service Day, The Riley Charles Settergren Foundation, and assisted coaching both youth baseball and football. I currently sit on the Hancock County Plot Committee, as well.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I like to read about John Fitzgerald Kennedy as he demonstrated leadership qualities of charisma, energy, enthusiasms, and confidence. I admired JFK's deep commitment to public service and his love for the United States of America.





# Nichole Stark

Hancock County Sheriffs  
Department

*Lieutenant*

## • INTERESTS:

I am currently a chauffeur for my children when they need to get back and forth to all their activities. However, in our down time, I enjoy spending time with my family, playing board games and reading books.

## • FAMILY:

I am the oldest of 6 children. I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers. My two sisters live in Greenfield. My oldest brother lives an hour north of Greenfield. My middle brother is a sophomore at Purdue. My youngest brother just started his freshman year of high school. I have a daughter and son.

## • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I am on the board as President of Greenfield Fastpitch Softball Association that is run out of Brandywine Park. For the past 5 years I have been a soccer coach with Greenfield Area Soccer Club that is run out of Brandywine Park. I was a girl scout leader for my daughter's girl scout troop for 7 years.

## • INTERESTING FACT:

I have only lived in Greenfield for 8 years. I grew up 2 hours north of Greenfield in a town called Winamac.





# Matt Strahl

NineStar Connect

*Energy Advisor*



- **INTERESTS:**

Spending time with my family & friends, karaoke, music, electronics, and food!

- **FAMILY:**

I have a lovely fiancée and together we have four children.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am the 4-H Superintendent for Electric Projects.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I love to DJ and karaoke!





# Kimberly Watts

Agape Therapeutic Riding  
Resources

*Community Engagement  
Manager*

## • INTERESTS:

There are too many things to name! Some favorites include spending time enjoying the outdoors, cooking, traveling and learning about different people and places.

## • FAMILY:

Coming from a long line of Hoosiers, I'm proud to say I'm from Indiana! I have the best parents in the world and grew up appreciating the value of watching fireflies hover over the fields, enjoying the Indy 500 on the radio, and enjoying a true Indiana delight- experiencing all four seasons in one day thanks to our weird Indiana weather!

## • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Through my role at Agape I am blessed to help cultivate unbridled hope in the barn and support our community partners in various ways. I also serve as a mentor at the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University- Boiler Up!

## • INTERESTING FACT:

Twice I have hiked up an active volcano and once had my shoes begin to melt.

As a kid I got to sing backup for Gloria Estefan.

In college I secretly housed a pot belly pig in my dorm.

Can you guess which one *\*isn't\** a fact! (Hint: no idea what pigs like to eat!)



# Missy Wilcher

Hancock County Community  
Corrections  
*Field Officer*



- **INTERESTS:**

Family, crafts, rollerskating

- **FAMILY:**

Married for over 30 years to Rick. together for almost 34 years. He is a GPD Officer, set to retire in February.

2 boys, Tyler-29 and Dylan-25 years old, both married, both served in the military. Both of my daughters-in-law, Ashley and Kyara are in to physical fitness.

1 girl, Mya-18 years old, just graduated with Academic Honors and plays the violin.

1 grandson, Conor-4 years old, he is just amazing and has my whole heart. He calls me "Lolli."

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I am not currently involved in any specific events or organizations, but I help any where that I can.

I have run the Shop with a Deputy and Cops 4Kids programs in the past, as well as multiple events for the Sheriff's Dept.

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I learned how to roller skate at 4 years old. Still love it and have my own speed skates.



# Suzanne Woodland

Cumberland Metropolitan  
Police Department

*Chief of Police*

- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy traveling, riding my bike and spending time with my family.

- **FAMILY:**

I come from a very close family, I have two sons and 3 grandchildren who I love more than life

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Member of the Hancock County Exchange Club, participates in promotional assessment processes for other agencies

- **INTERESTING FACT:**

I am the first female appointed to chief at my department. Graduated from the FBI National Academy Session 283.



# Kirbie Young

Hancock Health  
*Clinical Manager*



- **INTERESTS:**

I enjoy going on trips with my family to explore new places.

- **FAMILY:**

I am married to my incredible wife who is very supportive. I've been blessed with amazing children and am thankful of my family support.

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

I'm an active member of my church, have volunteered with the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in Knightstown, and am looking for more ways to become involved in my community.

- **AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT ME:**

I am a veteran, having served on combat deployment.

# How We Began

In January 1994, Nancy King, Hancock County Home Economist, met with Thomas Seng, CEO of Central Indiana Power, to discuss forming a leadership organization in Hancock County.

Together, Nancy and Thomas, along with Thomas P. Miller and Bobby Keen, formed the initial Leadership Hancock County steering committee.

## **The Original Steering Committee**

Bill Riggs	Marcia Parker
Bobby Keen	Mike Burrow
Debbie Clause	Nancy King
Gary Newman	Steve Vail
Gene Behler	Thomas P. Miller
Judy Crist	Thomas Seng
Karin Blue	Tim Raun
Linda Bond	

This committee shared the vision and volunteered to do the tough work to get the organization started.

## **Applicants for the Inaugural 1995-1996 Class**

Baird Hill	John T. Fleming
Bob Harold	Joseph Fitzgerald
Bob Perry	Mark Marshall
Carolyn Thomas Wooden	Paul Fedorchak
Cathy Shuler	Rev. Donald Watso
Debbie Clause	Rev. Jerald Mielke
Deborah Colbert	Robert Gorczyca
Douglas Harvey	Robert Young
Dr. Edward Elliott, Jr.	Sarah Burke
Dr. Sandra Espy	Shelly Lesandrini
Dr. Susan Kindig	Stacia Alyea
Gary Clinkenbeard	Steven Spangler
Jason Crouse	Susan Ramey
Jeff Phares	Terry Melvin
John Robert Hill	

Leadership Hancock County has continued to grow and develop leaders in our community through classes, training, projects and more.

## **Some of the early projects included:**

Education about duties of elected officials	Breakfast Buddies
Public information access - virtual courthouse	Volunteer Hancock County
Post-secondary education in Hancock County	MOB: Monitors on buses program
Hancock County senior connection	Adopt a grandparent program
You have your health	Food Pantry
Gateway to community service for youth	Teen Health Summit
Citizens against domestic violence awareness campaign	Created the PARCs organization (county parks department)



# STACIA ALYEA AWARD WINNERS

## STACIA ALYEA AWARD RECIPIENTS

<b>1997</b>	Mark Copeland
<b>1998</b>	Dianne Osborne
<b>1999</b>	Derek Towle
<b>2000</b>	Linda Banning-Thompson
<b>2001</b>	Rev. Russ Abel
<b>2002</b>	Donieta Ross
<b>2003</b>	Janice Cassell
<b>2004</b>	Christine Rapp
<b>2005</b>	Bridget Foy
<b>2006</b>	Linda C. Gellert
<b>2007</b>	Kelly Andrews
<b>2008</b>	Anita K. Turner
<b>2009</b>	Trent Smoll
<b>2010</b>	Jean Thomas
<b>2011</b>	Retta Livengood
<b>2012</b>	Donald J. Munden
<b>2013</b>	Mary Jane Smith
<b>2014</b>	Andrea Mallory
<b>2015</b>	Keely Butrum
<b>2016</b>	Kari Sisk
<b>2017</b>	Laurene Lonnemann
<b>2018</b>	Maria Bond
<b>2019</b>	Jeff Rasche
<b>2020</b>	Jane Barton
<b>2022</b>	Aimee Herring
<b>2023</b>	Hart Summeier

Stacia Alyea was a member of Leadership Hancock County's inaugural class, in 1996. She was well-regarded by her classmates, who noted her commitment to her community, her family and her career as a member of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department.

In April 1996, near the end of her year in Leadership, Stacia, 35, was killed in an accident during a pursuit of a drunken driver. She had received an award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving the week before for her work in drunken driving enforcement. Her Leadership class created the Excellence in Leadership Award to honor her memory. The first award was made in 1997. The annual award recognizes an individual from the class who shows outstanding leadership qualities. Criteria are those that Stacia best exemplified:

- A balanced commitment to community, home and work
- A passion for improving life circumstances
- Dedication to improving the lives of others
- Integrity, dedication, candor and compassion

The award is perhaps most meaningful to its recipients because it is voted on by fellow class members.



# LEADERSHIP HANCOCK COUNTY

## 2023-2024 CLASS SCHEDULE

### LEADERSHIP RETREAT DAYS

September 14 & 15, 2023

### NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

October 4, 2023

### LOCAL BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE DAY

November 1, 2023

### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

December 6, 2023

### GOVERNMENT DAY

January 3, 2024

### SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

February 7, 2024

### HISTORY DAY

March 6, 2024

### LEADERSHIP APPLICATION AND ALUMNI LUNCHEON

April 3, 2024

### GRADUATION

May 1, 2024

### OUR MISSION

Empowering leaders through education and connections,  
cultivating growth in our community.

### OUR VISION

Leadership Hancock County will guide the path of  
leaders who strive to be advocates of growth, driving our  
community forward.

