



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## MATCHING FUNDS FOR UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS STILL AVAILABLE!

Gifts to unrestricted endowments will still be matched 2-to-1 until matching funds are depleted.

So don't wait! The time to take advantage of this unique opportunity to  
Make your gift go further will be gone soon!

## YOUNGEST-EVER EMERGING PHILANTHROPIST



Photo courtesy of Katlin Phillips/KCP Creative Imagery, LLC

Congratulations to Lauren Rutherford, the 2019 Emerging Philanthropist, and the youngest to ever hold that title. Lauren was instrumental in beginning PHS Care Club, a group of students dedicated entirely to raising funds to help others.

Under Lauren's guidance, the club has grown to more than 40 members; and she has directed its fund-raising efforts, led in its philanthropic deeds, and ensured the organization's continued operation and success following her graduation this coming May.

Lauren stands as a brilliant example of what young people can accomplish.

## JIM WHITE NAMED 2019 PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Jim White, founder and administrator of the Mercy Center and Grace Haven, has been named the 2019 Philanthropist of the Year. Along with his wife, Betty, and friends, Robert and Cindy Longest, Jim's efforts have fed the hungry, housed the homeless, and helped those whose lives have been ripped apart by addiction put the pieces back together.

Ever the quiet, modest one, Jim had little to say about the recognition; but he noted that he didn't accomplish these philanthropic feats alone...he gave credit to all who helped in the efforts.

We are thankful for those like Jim who see a need in our community and act to address that need. Congratulations to Jim and to those who helped him accomplish so very much to help others in Orange County.



Photo courtesy of Katlin Phillips/KCP Creative Imagery, LLC





LUCILLE VAAL  
2020 LILLY SCHOLAR

From the 33 applicants for this year's Lilly Community Scholarship, eight finalists were interviewed; chosen as the 2020 recipient for Orange County was Springs Valley senior, Lucy Vaal.

Lucy is the daughter of Robert and Donna Vaal, and she is planning to attend DePauw University to study Psychology. Her ultimate goal is to earn a Doctorate in Psychology or to pursue a career in law. While attending high school, Lucy was a member of the Student Council, SADD, FCCLA, and FFA. She also served as Secretary of her school's National Honor Society chapter, a member of the SVHS Academic Team, and a member of the OCCF Youth Council.

"As a child who has experienced life in the foster system and gone through the process of adoption, individuals in the fields of psychology and law have made a lasting impact on my resilience in overcoming trauma," she stated in her application essay. "My greatest hope is to one day do the same for other children in similar positions. I want to make something out of my trauma and myself; I want to help children like myself by going into the field of psychology or law.

Applicants for this year's Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship were required to have an SAT score above 1,000, rank in the top 25% of their class, and be on track to earn an academic honors diploma. Applicants were evaluated on academic skills, character traits, involvement in community and school, and financial need. Final decision following the screening and selection processes was made by Independent Colleges of Indiana. See the side bar on this page for more complete details of the Lilly Community Scholarship selection process.

DID YOU KNOW...

The selection process for each year's Lilly Community Scholarship Winner is lengthy and dictated by Lilly Endowment, Inc. through Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

First, the local committee meets to establish its selection points system, with criteria guidelines established by ICI. Once the system has been submitted to ICI and approved, the application process begins, with eligible students from all three county school systems applying online.

Once the application deadline has passed, the selection committee meets once again to determine finalists from all the applications received. Finalists are then subjected to an on-the-spot essay and a personal interview before the entire committee.

Once points from the finalists' performance are calculated, selections are brought before the OCCF Board of Directors for approval for submission to ICI, then sent to ICI for final approval. ICI considers the process, reviews the system utilized in selection, and either approves the selections made or makes selections of their own based on the system previously approved by ICI.



Photo courtesy of Destany Pingle

As part of its recognition of philanthropists throughout Orange County, the OCCF Youth Council each year honors local residents who have, through their "Golden Deeds", enriched the lives of those around them. This year, the group awarded trophies to (front row, from left) Gary McClintic, Kara Schmidt, Dr. Kara Pickens, Joni Lawyer, Rob Lee, Kristina Hole, Gayle Laughlin, and Mary Magner.

In addition to the Golden Deeds program, the Youth Council has rung bells for the Salvation Army, assisted with holiday markets, packed for the Backpacks programs, created and donated birthday boxes to the local food pantries, served at Judge Blanton's annual sports banquets, collected socks, hats, and gloves for local children in need, and much more. Planning for the new year, the group will be teaching the 4th grade education series to students in all three county elementary schools, volunteering at the Orange County Humane Society, planning their 2020 grant cycle, and hearing from 2019 Philanthropist of the Year, Jim White.

IN THE COMING MONTHS...

January 2020

Audit completion

February 2020

First letters regarding 2020 payout mailed.

April 2020

Payouts made

Annual grant cycles

May 2020

Scholarships awarded