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PERMIT #115
PAOLI, IN
47454

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Catching up on the OCCF Youth Council...



The OCCF Youth Council ended its 2022-23 school year with an outing to Urban Air and Texas Roadhouse in Bloomington. The member with the most participation points during that school year was Julia Isom, and the senior with the most career points through his five years as a member was Lucas Pingle.

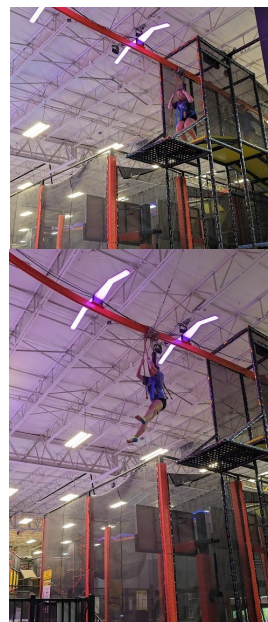
Newly-elected leadership for the 2023-24 school year includes President Julia Isom, Vice President Olivia McSpadden, Sec-

retary Myleigh Bush, Treasurer Aubrey Bledsoe, and Public Relations Officers Emma Samsil, Cambry Tinkle, and Kendall Vernon.

During this year school year, the group plans to sponsor a Coin War between the fourth and seventh grades in each of the county's schools, as well as a Trunk or Treat event in the Fall and an Easter Egg Hunt in the Spring. Also on their schedule is the annual Golden Deeds event, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, and serving at Judge Blanton's basketball dinners.

Currently the group is taking donations of candy or money for their upcoming Truck or Treat event at the community center; but they sponsor at least one collection of some type each month during the school year.

Photos: YC members enjoy their summer outing at Urban Air and Texas Roadhouse.



Contact us at 812-723-4150 Visit us at www.occf-in.org or facebook.com/orangecountycf

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COLUMNS

Welcome
aboard,
Kristina
Allen!



In July, Springs Valley native Kristina Grable Allen joined the staff of OCCF as Development Director. Upon the retirement of Executive Director Imojean Dedrick at the end of the year, Allen will step into that position.

Kristina and her husband, Ryan, have two children and live in West Baden. She was formerly a teacher in the Springs Valley school system for 17 years prior to accepting her new position. Kristina has been busy learning her new job, forming a new staff, and making plans to further advance the mission of the Foundation...building a better community together.

Changes to the Board Saying goodbye and hello...

Members of the OCCF Board of Directors may serve up to three three-year terms (a total of nine years). In 2023, as our fiscal year ends, we say good-bye to one long-time member and hello to the newest member of our governing team.

Susan Gilmore, who will be leaving the Board of Directors at the end of September, has been a member since 2014, having chaired the Scholarships and Finance Committees and served as Board Treasurer. She has also been a member of the Executive Committee, and has been instrumental in moving the Foundation forward through both rough times and good times.

Joining the board in Gilmore's place is Curtis Ralston. Ralston is an executive with Jasper Group. He and his wife Julie have three daughters.

The OCCF Board of Directors is composed of 15 members, five from each of the county's school districts. The board is an ever-evolving group of leaders and innovators, dedicated to building a better Orange County

through the mission of the Foundation.

According to the structure of the Foundation as a non-profit organization, the Board of Directors is the governing body. Their duties of care, loyalty, and obedience require them to ensure prudent use of assets, advance the Foundation's mission, make certain the Foundation complies with all laws, rules, and regulations governing a non-profit of the Foundation's type, and make decisions that are in the best interests of the Foundation.

No board member is compensated for their service. Each and every member volunteers their time and efforts toward building a better community...together!

Summer Grants >>>

Grants from the Simmons and Tegarden Funds

Through the generosity of donors Don Simmons and William Tegarden, funding is made available annually for charitable purposes serving the people of Orleans.



Bill Tegarden received the 2016 Philanthropist of the Year Award from OCCF Executive Director, Imojean Dedrick.



Orleans Philanthropist Don Simmons

Simmons Unrestricted

Through the years, the Simmons Unrestricted Fund has provided more than \$166,000 in funding for organizations serving the population of Orleans, Indiana from the large endowment established by Don Simmons, an Orleans native.

Grants 2023

This year the combined payouts from the Simmons and Tegarden Unrestricted Funds provided assistance to resilience programs at Orleans schools, the OHS Academic Team, food pantries serving the Orleans community, the Bulldog Courtyard project, the summer reading program at Orleans Library, Orleans Elementary's Diggin' Drones program, and the OHS Art classes. A total of \$18,018 was granted in 2023 from the two unrestricted funds.

Tegarden Unrestricted

Since its establishment in 2007, the Tegarden Unrestricted Fund has provided more than \$45,000 in funding for Orleans charities. William "Bill" Tegarden, creator of the fund, is a former OCCF board of directors member and the 2016 Philanthropist of the Year.



TEAM OC Orange County Youth Mentoring

In collaboration with Thrive Orange County, TEAM OC Orange County Youth Mentoring tackles issues facing local children each day. They are doing that through the development of a county-wide mentoring program involving both mentors and family members.

The program is designed to assist youth aged 7-10 years who score high on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) test. Adverse experiences such as domestic violence in the home, abuse, neglect, mental health or substance abuse in the home are potentially traumatic when occurring in childhood.

TEAM OC trains and matches mentors with children so they can grow healthier and thrive more completely. You can help as a volunteer, a board or committee member, a donor, or a business sponsor.

For more information, contact TeamOCmentors@gmail.com.

News in Brief...

NOS GRANT

Orange County has received more than \$74,000 in funding from the National Opioid Settlement. Currently a grant application process is underway to distribute the funding according to the established guidelines. For more information, check out the app at occf-ingrants.communityforce.com.

STAFF TRANSITION UNDERWAY

The transitioning of staff has begun. Kristina Allen came onboard in July to train as Executive Director and serve in that capacity upon the retirement of current ED Imojean Dedrick. In October, Jessica Meeks of Orleans will join the staff to train as Manager of Finance and Administration to replace Cathy Hardin, who is retiring from that position at the end of the year.

IT'S HAMMER TIME!

Through a generous grant from Smithville Charitable Foundation, OCCF has garnered monies for community placemaking projects. The latest beneficiary of that program fund is Orange County Habitat for Humanity. The Foundation was approached with the opportunity to provide 12 hammers for the local building trades class, members of which assist in the building of Habitat homes. The hammers' manufacturer had agreed to supply three free tools for every 12 purchased. How could we resist? Helping our young people learn the building trade while building homes...what a great chance to help the county!

SPECIAL VISITOR

Katie Goodrich, the new Director of Scholarships and Grants at Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI), visited the Foundation this Summer. She met with staff members Kristina Allen and Destany Pingle to discuss updates on ICI programs and the ongoing Lilly Community Scholarship program. ICI is the entity which makes the final determination on Lilly recipients each year, and established the guidelines for application and selection of nominees.

COMING UP...

Your OCCF staff is busy preparing for its annual event in December (watch for your invitation) while training new staff members and preparing to make the big transition at the end of the year. Stay tuned for exciting updates.



Imojean Dedrick, OCCF ED (left), and Kristina Allen, OCCF Development Dir. (right), present Habitat for Humanity Administrator, Brandon

Query, with a check to purchase 12 hammers and receive 3 free ones for the building trades class.



Building trades class members pose in the foundation of the home they are currently building.

2023 Sol Strauss Fund Grants

This year's \$10,980 payout from the Sol Strauss Supporting Organization Endowment Fund made the following grants possible:

IU Health Paoli Hospital	\$14,640
Paoli Pals League	\$500
First Chance Center	\$750
Paoli Community Food Pantry	\$2,000
Coats for Kids Orange County	\$1,500
Paoli Community Schools	\$1,500
Paoli Youth Football League	\$1,730
Orange Co. Cancer Patient Service	\$1,500
Hand Up Orange County	\$1,500

Sol Strauss' Legacy of Philanthropy...

Sol Strauss was once a bachelor gentleman who owned a dry goods store in Paoli. Little did anyone realize that he was amassing a fortune throughout his lifetime to provide for hospitals and charities. A refugee from Nazi Europe, philanthropy was Mr. Strauss' way of giving back to the community that welcomed him.

Since the Sol Strauss fund was, in part, returned to Orange County for management in 2006, it has provided more than \$344,000 in grant funding to the local hospital, charities, and non-profit organizations serving the people of Paoli.

Of each year's payout, four-sevenths (4/7) of the total is designated for the local hospital, with the remainder subject to a grant application process for Paoli organizations for charitable programs and projects.



Local philanthropist, Sol Strauss, whose legacy benefits Paoli residents and the local hospital.