

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

COLUMNS

The quarterly newsletter of the
**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION, INC.**

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1075 N Sandy Hook Rd, Ste 2
Paoli, IN 47454



MACKENZIE FREED NAMED 2021 LILLY SCHOLAR



Mackenzie Freed, a senior at Orleans High School, has been named the 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. As a Lilly Scholar, Mackenzie is the recipient of a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to the Indiana college of her choice and a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

The daughter of Bennie and Dawn Freed, Mackenzie has plans to attend either Hanover, Butler or Indiana Wesleyan University to study elementary education, with a minor in special education. She is the 40th Lilly Scholar to represent Orange County.

While attending high school, Mackenzie has been a member of Student Council, Pep Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Tri-Hi-Y. She is Vice President of her school's chapter of National Honor Society and is the Blood Drive Coordinator for NHS, as well. She acts as Treasurer of the OHS chapter of Business Professionals of America, is a Varsity Cheerleader and is the editor of the OHS yearbook, the Orleana. She has been a cadet teacher at Orleans Elementary, and was a student representative on the COSMOS committee.

Mackenzie has served as president of the Orange County Community Foundation Youth Council for two years and has volunteered her time with the Silver Bells project, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Angel Tree projects, Orleans Christian Church Youth Group, Colts Books for Youth and Bulldog Backpacks. Other projects Mackenzie has volunteered with include visiting residents at Paoli Health & Living, Mitchell Manor window painting and helping with bowling competitions for Special Olympics.

"Even from a very young age, I

knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Many kids go back and forth between career choices; however, my decision never had any ounce of uncertainty in it. I plan on being an elementary school teacher," Mackenzie wrote in her Lilly Scholarship application essay. "I will be a motivator, believer, innovator, and most importantly, an educator. To be a teacher in the state of Indiana, you must hold a bachelor's degree. This is how going to college and furthering my education comes in. I plan on going to a four-year college to obtain a degree in elementary education with a minor in special education. Once I graduate, I aim to land a job in Orange County."

The Orange County Community Foundation Lilly Scholarship Committee believes that Mackenzie will excel in her goals during her college education, as well as in her career.

The other six Orange County finalists for the 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship were Paige Jones, Devyn Martin, Gavin Morgan, Lauren Umpleby, Aerieenne Acuff, and Mya Miller.

While health care professionals from five counties are receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations upstairs, the Orange County Community Foundation Inc. remains on call for our donors, partners, and non-profits. During the post-Thanksgiving surge of cases, we locked our doors once again; but we continue to have at least one staff member in the office daily to take your calls while other staff members are working remotely from their homes. This way we reduce the probability of the spread of infection from one staff member to another, and ensure that someone will always be here to address your questions and receive your contributions, while the remaining staff are continuing to work from the safety of their homes.

Like all of you, we look forward to the day that the vaccination is available to everyone and this virus is vanquished. We're hoping to get back on track in 2021 with all the wonderful programs and projects we and our partners had planned for 2020 and continue pursuing our mission of *building a better community...together!*



LILLY ENDOWMENT GIFT VII

As part of Lilly Endowment Inc's GIFT VII initiative, the Foundation has received support in a number of meaningful ways. The initiative included a \$500,000 matching grant, two-thirds of which applied to gifts to unrestricted endowment funds that were matched 2-to-1. In mid-December, we completed that match with the help of our faithful and generous donors. The one-third available for discretionary gifts was fulfilled more than a year ago.

A \$50,000 planning grant, received in 2019, would have been completed, were it not for COVID-19 putting a halt to our planned meetings and projects. This grant was for planning stages of community leadership programs and projects, followed up by a \$100,000 implementation grant received to assist Lost River Market and Deli with the establishment of its community kitchen and the expansion of its freezer and refrigeration capacity.

Through board engagement we received an additional \$100,000 grant from LEI's GIFT VII initiative. The use of the grant will be determined by the Board of Directors at its January meeting, as it was as a result of their own gifts that we received this additional support from GIFT VII. We feel extremely fortunate to be assisted by Lilly Endowment through its GIFT (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) program, a valuable resource for community foundations state-wide.

See you next year at

The Gala

This December, we missed the opportunity to host all of you at our annual Donor Appreciation Dinner, and that is perhaps one of our biggest regrets. For many years, that event has been our chance to gather with you and to let you know how very much you are appreciated, to update you on all the Foundation's activities, and to join with you in celebrating the season.

But we're not letting COVID beat us. No way! Maybe we couldn't safely gather this December, but we can make up for it later. In September 2021, the Foundation celebrates 25 years of existence and 20 years of standing on its own. Look for your invitation, plan to join us....we have a lot of celebrating to do!

UPDATES...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

In October the Foundation began a whole new fiscal year, with some new members on our Board of Directors and some changes in the board leadership.

Joining us as Board members were Lee Collins, Susanne Crane, Brenda Johnson, and Roger Moon. With most 2020 meetings taking place virtually, these new members have nonetheless participated and eagerly approached their service to you through the Foundation.

Serving as President of the Board of Directors for fiscal year 2020-2021 is Miles Flynn, formerly Vice-President. He takes the place of outgoing President Janalyn VanEmon, who retired from the Board on September 30. Moving into the position of Vice-President is Michael "Mac" McCullough, with Shane Buffington continuing as Treasurer and Marsha Tellstrom returning as Secretary.

In 2019, the Board of Directors was re-structured to accommodate equal representation throughout the County, with five members from the Orleans School District, five from the Paoli School District, and five from the Springs Valley School District.

2019-2020 AUDIT: With the addition of social distancing and personal protection practices, the Foundation's annual audit took place as usual in November, and was conducted by the CPA firm of Deming, Malone, Livesay and Ostroff of New Albany. We're pleased to report that the audit, once again, clearly indicated that your community foundation is operating cleanly, without serious issues, and with total transparency.

ANNUAL PAYOUT: With the audit completed, work has begun regarding the 2021 payout from endowment funds, so look forward to receiving payout letters and annual reports in February.



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, your community foundation has continued to provide support to local non-profits and charitable agencies in facing the struggles created by the virus. With fund-raising activities limited, staff and volunteer shortages due to illness and quarantines, and the social-distancing requirements, our local charities have struggled to maintain their operations and abilities to sustain their programs and projects that benefit the people of Orange County. As the primary non-profit resource for our area, your community foundation has sought ways in which we can help our local charities meet their needs while continuing their valuable programs in the face of this unprecedented health crisis.

Through the generosity of local corporations, organizations, and individuals, three separate funds have been created to meet the needs of those non-profits and charitable groups serving Orange County.

From its own ORANGE COUNTY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND, the Foundation has granted nearly \$30,000 to the following organizations: Life Family Resource Center, Love Never Fails Outreach Ministries, Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation, Paoli Food Pantry, Hope Food Pantry (Orleans), Springs Valley Food Pantry, Orange County CASA, French Lick-West Baden Museum, First Chance Center, Southern Indiana Community Health Care, Campfire Ministries, LifeSpring Health Systems, and the Living Peace Center. This fund was made possible through grants from the Wendell and Helen Gooch Fund, the Add and Mabel Gray Fund, and the OCCF Discretionary Fund, along with

gifts from Hoosier Hills Credit Union, Mrs. Pat Clements, the Duke Energy Foundation, and Mrs. Janet Farlow Perry.

In June, 2020, the Foundation was fortunate to receive a \$114,000 grant from United Way of South Central Indiana and Lilly Endowment Inc. for the Tri-County COVID-19 Response Fund. From this fund, Southern Indiana Community Health Care, Youth First, First Chance Center, LifeSpring Health Systems, Prevent Child Abuse Orange County, Orleans Municipal Fire Department, French Lick-West Baden Museum, Love Never Fails, Orleans Community School Corporation, Backpacks of Blessings, Blackhawk Blessings, Bulldog Backpacks, Orange County Cancer Patient Services, Springs Valley Education Foundation, and the OCCF Youth Council have received grants to-date. More than \$52,000 of the Tri-County Crisis Response funds have been disbursed thus far.

In July, IU Health provided a grant of \$10,000 to address COVID-19 related issues facing Orange County. From that gift, the Mercy Center, Love Never Fails, Paoli Food Pantry, and Orange County Transit have received funding.

Online applications for the Tri-County COVID Response Fund and the 4th Orange County Crisis Response Fund are open, and will remain so throughout the response and recovery period resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. To apply, or to review eligibility requirements, visit occf-in.communityforce.com. For questions, give us a call at 812-723-4150. Someone is here during regular business hours to address your questions.

CRISIS GRANTS

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.”

Mohammad Ali

