



Rush County Community Foundation

live. life. local.

August 2025

I scrapped the intro I wrote earlier in the week. It was about being prepared.

Well, I wasn't quite prepared when a bigger inspiration hit - in the form of a 10-year-old.

I was coming out of the Love Community Center Wednesday night, a few steps behind a boy and his grandma. He ran back to hold the door for me. Such a sweet gesture. I smiled and thanked him. As we walked to our vehicles, he turned toward his grandma grinning and exclaimed, "I LOVE this place!" My smile returned.

Because we love this place and the people in it, we prepare **And we want the generations that come after us to love it, too.**

Together, we make sure all our kids have supplies for the new school year. We make a will to provide for our loved ones. We donate to make sure that life in Rush County gets better with each passing year. That sounds an awful lot like love to me. Wouldn't you agree, friends?

Heading Back-to-School Fully Stocked





We had a great time sharing supplies and smiles with the kids at the **Back-to-School Resource Fair & Supply Giveaway** on July 16 at the Love Community Center! With 27 tables to visit, students and parents alike came away with an abundance of resources. 267 backpacks were distributed. Then add in an open house from Westminster Early Learning Academy and free day at the Rush County Recreation Center... it was a HUGE success!

New Fund: Celebrating the Payne Family's Legacy



Deb Garlock wanted to do something special for her father's 90th birthday celebration. **Jim Payne** has long been known for his support of the Rush County Community. She turned to RCCF for a meaningful gift.

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New Fund: Supporting and Preserving Rush County Nature



Rush County Nature Preservation Fund

As a young child, **Julie Osting Connolly** was an outdoor girl. She spent her childhood hunting arrowheads, helping her dad with the livestock and exploring the wilderness around her house. Often accompanied by her dogs and pony, she lived what she calls a “feral childhood” deep in the woods of Mahoning Valley.

Now, she takes on a new adventure.

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New Fund: Devoted Rush County Family Gives Back



The **Winkler and Smith family** know the importance of giving back to the community, so when **Charlie Smith** proposed around the kitchen table that they could create a family fund through RCCF — “It was not a hard sell,” he said.

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New Funds: Passionate RCHS Alum Makes Community Involvement a Slam Dunk



In the 1975 and 1976 school years, the RCHS boys' basketball program reached its pinnacle.

One student from the class of 1976 remembers, *"Basketball was everything."* The intense community pride entangled with the teams' successes inspired this student to create something special.

With the help of a few others, the Student of 1976 (who wishes to remain anonymous) decided to establish the **RCHS Class of 1975 Community Fund** and the **RCHS Class of 1976 Community Fund** at RCCF.

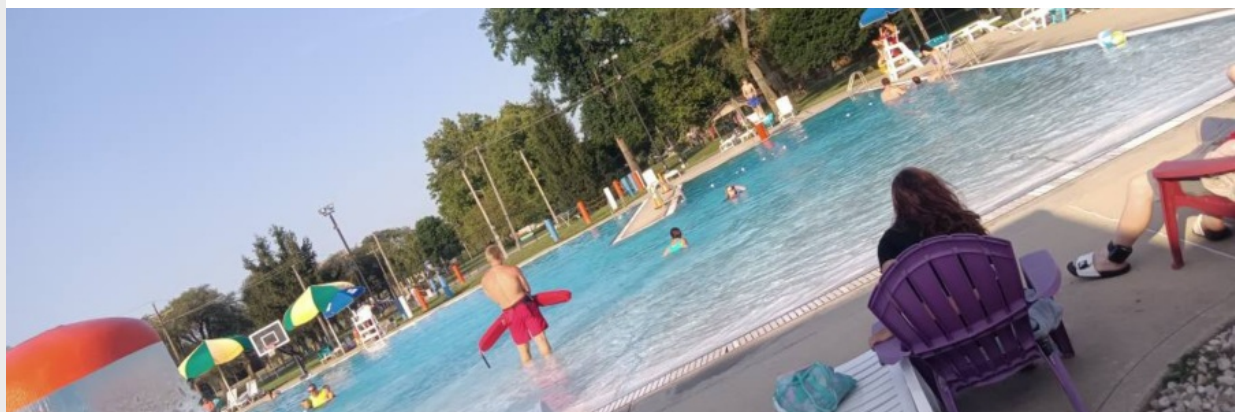
[READ MORE](#)

The "Hometown Throwdown" is a friendly competition between the RCHS classes of '75 and '76 to see which will make the most donations to their class fund. Bragging rights are on the line!

[Make a gift](#) and follow the score on Facebook and our website.



Your Support in Action: Grantee Updates



The Porch of Recovery

\$2,993 Community Grant to provide safe, sober, recreational activities for those in recovery.

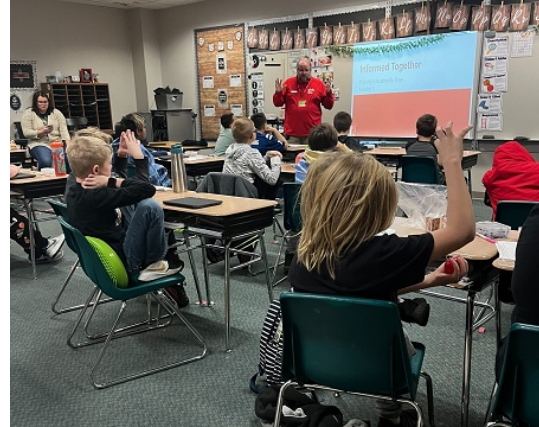
"We had an amazing evening! This is what recovery is all about. Special thank you to Rush County Community Foundation for providing us with this event! Tonight we had 52 people in recovery join us. Thank you to everyone that came." - The Porch of Recovery Facebook post



Rush County 4-H Horse & Pony Club

\$7,988.75 Community Grant to add bleachers to the park

This addition of new 5-tier bleachers at the horse park significantly increased their seating capacity, allowing us to accommodate more spectators and enhance the overall event experience.



Girls Inc.

\$10,000 Community Grant to provide life skills lessons to 450 Rush County girls and boys in grades 5-8

Topics were introduced in age-appropriate lessons in gender-specific classrooms and included puberty, hygiene, healthy relationships, social media, and vaping.



Community Grants Cycle II Letters of Intent due 9/1/2025

Unrestricted grants open to nonprofits serving Rush County. [LEARN MORE](#)

Field of Interest Fund Grant Applications due 9/1/2025

Grants for programs/projects focusing on agriculture, autism, education, mental health, music, sports, and suicide prevention. Open to nonprofits and teachers.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



[Which orgs received a grant in cycle I?](#)



[Honoring our past and current board members](#)



[County receives \\$500,000 grant for owner occupied repairs](#)

Protect What Matters Most: It's Make-A-Will Month



You'd do anything to protect your loved ones, right? Of course you would. Having a will is an essential way to safeguard their interests.

What if we told you there's a way to write your will for **FREE** online in under 20 minutes? Go to freewill.com to get started today. August is National Make-A-Will Month. It's the perfect time to check this off your to do list and protect what matters most.

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

July Tribute Gifts

Each gift you make in memory or in honor of a loved one supports Rush County forever. We are grateful for your kindness and generosity!

In Memory of:

Alice Ruth Wiley, Glen Wiley, and
Lauren Alice Wiley
Bob Pychinka
Drew Thomas
Jack Clarkson
Jeanie Peggs
Judy Schwarze
Leroy Messer
Marlene Maxwell
Mary Lou Veatch

Mike Marshall
Sylvia Hook
Tanya VanOsdol

In Honor of:

Bear's 1st Birthday
Diane & Dan Harris
Doug May

KEEP IN TOUCH



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