



September 2025

Live life local. That's our tagline — and a call to action.

I'm about to suggest a simple (not necessarily easy) way to do this. *And yes, the irony of this digital message is not lost on me!*

Phones, computers, TVs... they're always in front of us. They inform. They entertain. But they also distract.

What if — once a day — instead of reaching for a screen out of habit, we chose something else?

Take an intentional break. A tech-free timeout. Need ideas?:

- Go for a walk
- Search for the color purple
- Write a note to someone you admire — and mail it
- Cook something to share
- Visit a friend or neighbor
- Sit quietly and notice the sounds around you
- Smile at everyone you meet (babies, dogs, and cows included!)

Then, hit **reply** and tell me about your timeout. I'd love to hear from you — and I'll tell you about mine. This is the fun part of email.

The stories you're about to read are rooted in local life. They're from folks who are turning their attention and intention to living their love for Rush County. This is how we live life local, friends. Are you in?

## New Fund: Gardner Family Channels Their Passion for Community

As Rush County natives and residents, J.B. and Shelly Gardner developed a passion for supporting their community.

When Shelly read an article about another family who had started a fund at RCCF, she and J.B. were inspired to create a family fund that would help the community.

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## New Fund: Honoring the Beauty of Holly Bess

Known for her energetic and lively spirit, **Holly Bess** was widely respected by her Rush County community. Her vivacious, and sometime mischievous, nature was a source of joy to her family, friends and community. Even as she battled an aggressive cancer, she remained brave and full of grace, faith and love. Her death in February of 2024 affected many who knew her.



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## New Fund: Dedicated Volunteer Blazes Trail to Support Manilla Community VFD

Darwin Brewer's passion for helping others as a volunteer firefighter was first ignited as a child. Because his father was a volunteer fireman in Pike Township in Marion County, Brewer grew up admiring the people who helped the community in emergencies. When his family's house caught fire, he knew he wanted to become a firefighter, sparking a lifelong dedication. He was 16 years old at the time.

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## Katie's Summer in Review

We're grateful to have had Katie Thoman as our intern this summer! Her last assignment before heading back to Franklin College was to share her experience. We hope you enjoy it.

*"As I approach the end of my summer internship at RCCF, I am confronted by all the experiences and memories I have accumulated, like a highlight reel."*



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## Your Support in Action: Grantee Updates

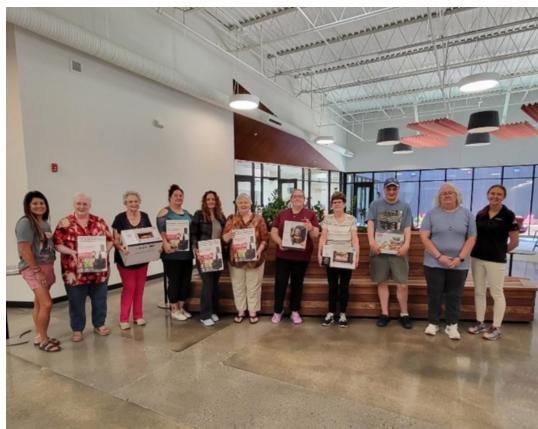


**133,480**  
pounds of food distributed  
6% increase



Gleaners received a \$15,000 Community Grant to help stock the school-based food pantries at Milroy Elementary and RCHS during the 2024-2025 school year.

The food distributed, including 60,000 pounds of produce, was the equivalent of nearly 111,000 meals!



## Rush County Community Assistance

### Food Pantry

\$1,500: [Rita Yager Memorial Ag](#)

[Fund](#) for the "Food is Medicine" program

This program combined nutrition education, healthy cooking, and improved health outcomes.

Participants received 8 weeks of instruction, recipes, and meal kits. 9 participants received a cooking appliance for completing the program.

## City of Rushville Parks Department

\$2,500: [Rush County Parks Fund](#)

Grant to help with costs of installing a new pavilion at Carol Jenkins Park

The pavilion opens up a new space for programming and events at the park. A concrete pad and sidewalk make it accessible to all.

## Important Dates



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## RUSH COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR



[rushcountycastle.org/calendar](#)

[FIND & SUBMIT EVENTS](#)

## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



## What Will Your Legacy Be?



Retirement assets like an IRA, 401(k) or pension are a powerful way you can care for your loved ones and support Rush County forever. By designating RCCF as a beneficiary, you can leave a percentage or specified amount of your retirement plan to carry on your values.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## August 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  
Betty Green  
Bob Pychinka  
Carole Shields  
Donna Garner  
Eleanor Yager  
Holly Bess  
Jeff Truster  
Leroy Messer  
Marcus Gordon  
Ned Foster and Arlene Strait  
Paul Rosfeld  
Penny Busald

Scott Brooks  
Suzanne Fry  
Tanya VanOsdol  
Warren Mauzy

### In Honor of:

Angie Bane  
Celebration of Tammy O'Mara's  
60th Birthday  
Chris May  
Pete Connolly  
Rita and Jeff Morgan  
Taylor Philhower

KEEP IN TOUCH



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