



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.

[READ MORE](#)



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.



[READ MORE](#)

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.



[READ MORE](#)

Katie's Summer in Review

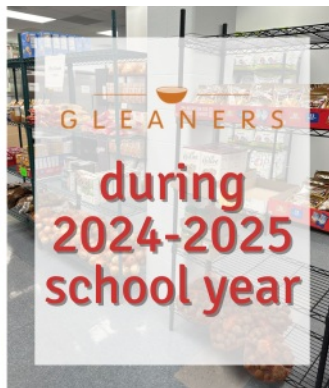
We're grateful to have had Katie Thoman as our intern this summer! Her last assignment before heading back to Franklin College was to share her experience. We hope you enjoy it.

"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."



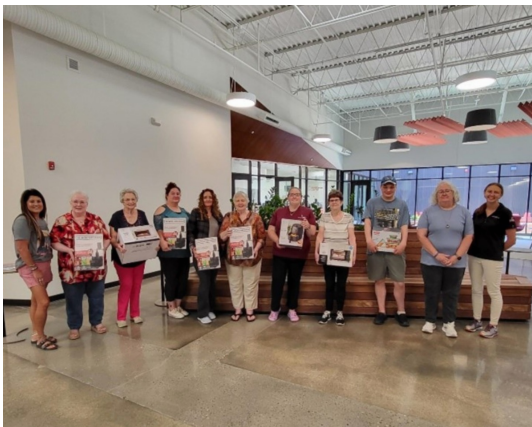
[READ MORE](#)

Your Support in Action: Grantee Updates



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



Contractor Meeting
Rush County Owner Occupied Rehab Program

Tuesday, September 23
5:00 PM
Love Community Center
1850 N Main St., Rushville, IN 46173

RUSH COUNTY INDIANA

The Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will be conducting an informational meeting for contractors interested in bidding on the county's Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

MEETING TOPICS

- Eligibility Requirements
- Sample Bid Forms
- Scope of Work
- Payment Process
- Warranty Requirements
- Timeline

Questions? Contact Liz Victoria Bechert & Kiley Sparks with SIRPC

812-689-5505

sirpc

[LEARN MORE](#)



RUSH COUNTY
COMMUNITY
CALENDAR



rushcountyfoundation.org/calendar

[FIND & SUBMIT EVENTS](#)

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Here are the top stories from last month.



[New Fund: Jim Payne
Family Community Fund](#)

[New Fund: Winkler-
Smith Family Community
Fund](#)

[New Funds Spark
Friendly Rivalry for
RCCF](#)

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

Randy Davis

KEEP IN TOUCH



Rush Co Community Foundation | 117 N. Main Street | Rushville, IN 46173 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!