



October 2025

You may remember the recent update from the **Rushville Parks Department** - a beautiful new pavilion at Carol Jenkins Park. It was made possible in part from a \$2,500 grant from the **Rush County Parks Fund**. It's a great addition to this special space and clearly appreciated by the community!

There's more to this story. The Rush County Parks Fund was created in 1995 by then-Parks Director **Dan Moster**.

Dan shared, *"It's beyond words what it feels like to see the Rush County Parks Fund have an impact like this project. I can't wait to sit underneath it, eat some lunch, read a book, relax, and enjoy! I hope others will too. To those that helped start the fund back in the mid-'90s, it was projects like this that were the goal."*

The fund has granted more than Dan's original gift - and will **KEEP** growing to support more projects **FOREVER**. He turned his passion for our parks into a lasting legacy. That's the power of endowment to support what you love about Rush County, Lisa.



**Fall Grants Support Music, Ag, Education, Athletics, and Well-Being**

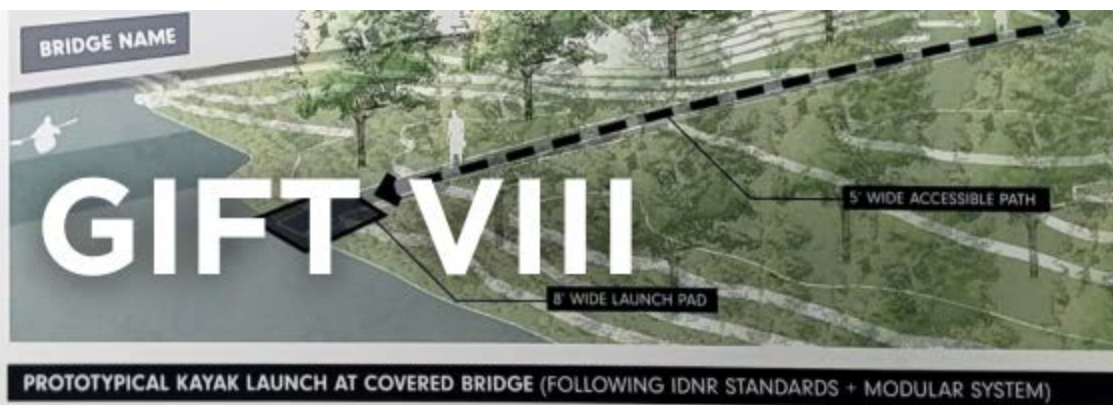


When a donor is passionate about a certain cause - like Dan Moster's love of parks, he or she might start a fund to support projects addressing challenges and making positive progress in that area. These are known as Field of Interest Funds.

**Which orgs received grants in the latest round?**

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## GIFT VIII Update: Exciting News & Progress



### BOARD ENGAGEMENT GRANT

By achieving 100% participation in a giving challenge, our board of directors has earned an unrestricted \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment. We are grateful to all current and past members since October 2023 for their generosity of time, talent, and treasure!

### BLIGHT ELIMINATION

The first vacant lot has been sold. We have accepted bids from contractors to prep six more properties for development – two in Carthage, two in Manilla, and one each in Arlington and Milroy. Look for demolition and clean up to begin within 60 days.

### RECREATION

Work is wrapping up on a county recreation plan. It will inform work to be completed with GIFT VIII dollars - think river access and playground updates - while giving towns a road map for future possibilities, too.

**Need a refresher on the \$5M GIFT VIII grant and activities?**

[READ MORE](#)

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## New Fund: Inspired by Appreciation and Family Ties

**Chris May** knew before he joined the RCCF staff in 2023 that he wanted to do something for his parents, **Doug and Lonnie**, to show his appreciation. In late 2024, he got his chance.



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## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Ignites Love of Reading

The best time for children to begin learning is before they enter the classroom. With 90 percent of brain development occurring in the first five years of life, early learning becomes an important step to encourage future success.

**One of the best ways to practice early education is reading, but access to books is not always easy.**



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## Ways to Give: Grain





If you're a farmer looking to reduce your tax burden, consider making a gift of grain to RCCF. At the time of sale, decide on a dollar or bushel amount to donate to RCCF and let any local elevator know. Tax benefits for you and ag programming dollars for your community.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Your Support in Action: Grantee Updates



Did you know that Indiana history is no longer part of the state curriculum? With a \$5,000 Community Grant the **Rush County Historical Society** and **Rush County Schools** are partnering to keep local history alive for our students.

Learning Indiana's history provides students with a sense of place and connects them to our past. History helps us all understand the world.



**Rush County Community Assistance Food Pantry**  
\$10,000 from the [Helen and Jim Ewing Fund](#)

RCCA used their grant to purchase a year's worth of both fresh and shelf-stable milk. Your gifts to this fund ensured that everyone visiting the pantry and kids who receive backpacks at school had milk.

**Rush County Victims Assistance**  
\$1,228 from the [Molly Spaeth Fund for Transformation & Well Being](#)

RCVA used their grant - the 1st awarded from this fund - to provide gas-only gift cards and personal care items to clients fleeing abusive situations. Your gifts are helping survivors be safe and independent.



**RUSH COUNTY**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CALENDAR**

[Find and submit local events.](#)

## **ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)**

Here are the top stories from last month.



**Katie's Final  
Assignment: A  
Summer in Review**



**New Fund: J.B. &  
Shelly Gardner Family  
Community Fund**



**New Fund: Holly Bess  
Community Fund**

## What Will Your Legacy Be?



There are many ways to make provisions now for a legacy gift to benefit RCCF after your lifetime. Anyone can be a philanthropist. **When you care about a cause, a gift of any amount to RCCF will make a difference forever.**

**LEARN MORE**

## September 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  
Bill Alsman  
Bonnie Sidebottom  
Brad Leising  
Carole Shields  
David Reeves

Paul Rosfeld  
Paul W. Barada  
Randy Davis  
Richard S. Earnest  
Robert May  
Suzanne Fry  
Tanya VanOsdol

Donna Garner  
Eleanor Yager  
Hella Döhne  
Jeanie Peggs  
Jeff Truster  
Jim & Melanie Gray  
John Pickett  
Leroy Messer  
P. Joyce (Redden) Wilson

William C. Lambert

**In Honor of:**

Julie Connolly  
Lonnie May  
Nancy O'Dell  
Penny Busald

**KEEP IN TOUCH**



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