



MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Madison County Community Foundation received 43 applications for Impact Madison Grants*, representing more than \$386,000 of need. We were able to grant more than \$200,000 to over 40 non-profit organizations, but a great need still exists.

18 PROJECTS STILL NEED FUNDING IN MADISON COUNTY

The program/project requests listed in this document were submitted by the following organizations during our Impact Madison grant cycle. The organizations and requests have been fully vetted by Madison County Community Foundation's grant committee.

The Madison County Community Foundation is giving **TWO \$2500 bonuses***:

- To the organization with most funds raised for their program/project
- To the organization with greatest number of unique donors for program/project

Contribute today and support the projects that are meaningful to you.

**Donations must be made through link below to qualify for bonuses*

Gifts accepted from May 13, 2024- June 30, 2024

Make your gift here: <https://tinyurl.com/CloseTheGapMCCF>

The Animal Protection League Inc.
 Ambassadors for God's Creatures
 Christian Women Connection
 Combat Ministries
 Dying Defiantly
 Essential Senior Health and Living
 Firefly Children & Family Alliance
 First Choice for Women
 Guardian Advocates, Inc

Habitat for Humanity of Madison County
 Intersect Inc.
 Lil Miracles Pregnancy Resource Center
 Little Red Door Cancer Agency
 Madison County Community Music
 Man 4 Man
 More Than a Phone
 Servants at Work
 Society of St Vincent

***Impact Madison Grants:** Grants are made to support projects and programs of non-profit agencies located in or serving residents of Madison County in the following focus areas: **Arts, Culture, and History, Health and Human Services, Education, Thriving Community** (animal welfare, recreation, parks, etc.), **and Women and Children.**

This type of grant helps meet emerging local needs through strategic grantmaking to our nonprofit partners. Grants from this fund reflect Madison County's unique people, issues, and ideas. The Impact Madison Fund helps us support long-term solutions, respond quickly to emergencies, and meet the changing social, cultural, and educational needs our community faces.

The Animal Protection League Inc., Indiana

Building the APL

The grant funds would be used for several things. We would love to use these funds to help with obtaining and building out a new facility. The APL is in the process of obtaining a new location/building to be able to house and care for more animals and these funds would allow the APL to have the proper housing accommodations within the facility. These funds would also be used to help with the everyday care of the animals.

Ambassadors for God's Creatures

Cause for Compassion Initiative

The Cause for Compassion Initiative was started in 2021, under Ambassadors for God's Creatures array of services. It was in response to the rise in vet care costs and the overwhelming number of disadvantaged and low-income pet owners who simply could not afford vet care, routine and/or emergency, for their pets who had infections, parasite infestations, minor injuries, major surgeries and the need to humanely euthanize their pet. Customers must apply for assistance, be on some form of public assistance and apply, as well as be denied Care Credit. Customers are asked to sign an agreement, indicating they will pay an amount they are able to contribute to the bill and also agree to 'give back' and volunteer with Ambassadors for God's Creatures. Since starting this initiative we have provided financial assistance to over 90 pet owners and spent over \$45,000. We have helped dogs who have been shot with emergency vet care, mass removals from dogs, teeth extractions, eye removals in cats, flea infestations, parvo cases, and leg amputations in both dogs and cats. Without the financial assistance to these pet owners, their pets would have suffered, gone without treatment, potentially died and/or have to be euthanized due to the injury or condition.

Christian Women Connection

Operation "Thank You"

Teachers in Anderson Community Schools, as in many other areas, are underpaid, overworked, and under resourced. In effort to provide a better overall experience for children, we'd like to come alongside our teachers and help them to be celebrated, resourced, and supported. We are requesting funds to help us provide needed supplies for teachers in their classrooms to directly benefit students to be disbursed at a "Thank You" event to coincide with, Teacher Appreciation week, where our local heroes will be honored, given personal gifts of appreciation.

Combat Ministries

Safety/Security Improvement

Combat Ministries seeks to improve the safety of our facilities by adding a security system to create more secure access to our building, provide camera monitoring inside and outside the facility, and include an alarm system for the safety and well-being of our clients.

Dying Defiantly

Excursions

I am thrilled to share with you an innovative initiative that has been a beacon of light for those we serve – the Excursion Program. This remarkable program is designed to bring the world to individuals who, due to health constraints, can no longer travel. Through the power of MetaQuest VR goggles, we offer a virtual bucket list experience that transcends the boundaries of their current reality.

Imagine being able to walk the streets of Paris, gaze upon the majestic peaks of the Himalayas, or dive into the vibrant coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef, all from the comfort and safety of your home. The Excursion Program makes this possible. It's more than just virtual reality; it's a gateway to joy and a reminder that the spirit of adventure can thrive, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Each virtual journey is carefully curated to align with the individual's dreams and desires, creating a personalized experience that is both immersive and emotionally fulfilling. Our team works tirelessly to ensure that every adventure is as authentic and engaging as possible, providing not just escapism, but a true sense of exploration and discovery.

Essential Senior Health and Living

Senior Speaking Series: Prioritizing Wellness for the Mind, Body, and Soul

The programming grant aligns with our organizational goals and the needs of the communities we serve. With the support of this grant, we intend to hold a 3-event series in May, July, and September to allow seniors to hear from local doctors, caregivers, and other organizational speakers. Seniors will join us as esteemed speakers to share invaluable insights, practical tips, and inspiring stories aimed at nurturing mental clarity, physical vitality, and spiritual fulfillment. From mindfulness practices and gentle exercises to profound reflections on life's journey, this series offers a holistic approach to wellness tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of our senior community. We believe with the funds of this grant we have the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of seniors in our community. We are eager to further discuss our Senior Educational Series and provide any additional information needed to support this application.

Firefly Children & Family Alliance

Car Seat Safety in Madison County

Through CPCS, highly trained Community Liaisons provide in-home assessment and case management to help families achieve their goals and self-sufficiency. The program has a 97 percent success rate at keeping families out of the child welfare system. We served 390 families through this program in the county last year. The program works in collaboration with the FRC, which is a low-barrier, stigma-free hub for community resources, including a pantry with food and safety supplies. The FRC had 429 unique visitors last year with more than 1,691 visits.

We help equip families to provide safe homes for their children in a variety of ways. If funded, this grant would help us expand a key component of our work, car seat education. We are a permanent car seat fitting station, in partnership with Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and the only station with flexible hours and broad capacity. We also offer community clinics in other locations. Grant funds will help maintain our existing work and add two additional car seat clinics within the county. We expect to distribute at least 100 car seats total. The grant will allow us to train and certify two additional staff members as car seat technicians. We will also expand our ability to participate in collaborative community events and partnerships.

First Choice for Women

ParentCare Program: Motherhood Topics, Fatherhood Topics, Dr. Dad, Cribs and Toddler Milestones

Our goal is to partner with and support women and men who are parenting children from pre-birth to age 4 years through education and mentoring. These are the core components of the Parent Care program which engages parents through remote or on-site delivery of video lessons and discussions with trained Volunteer Advocates. Lessons cover prenatal and newborn care, infant and toddler developmental milestones, discipline, school readiness, and more. The core crib program requires lessons on child health and safety topics, SIDS prevention, healthy pregnancies, and car seat safety practices. Clients choose additional topics based on their parenting needs to complete the 15-lesson program. Clients and Advocates meet weekly to discuss each lesson which allows clients to earn credits (known as 'Baby Bucks') redeemable for baby clothes, nursery and toddler accessories, equipment, diapers, wipes, and formula in the center store. Upon completion of the Crib program, clients earn a choice of crib and mattress, car seat, or gift card. The courses are offered in both English and Spanish and have been developed to meet the specific issues and differing roles of fathers differing roles of fathers and mothers. All other programs including Toddler Milestones, Dr. Dad, and Healthy Eating, are chosen based on the client's needs.

Guardian Advocates, Inc

Search Engine Optimization

According to the US Bureau of Labor and statistics, volunteering in the US., 41.6 percent of potential volunteers initiate contact by searching volunteer opportunities through a Google search. As competition for volunteers is fierce, it is important that an agency be "findable." 75 percent of searchers do not scroll past the first page of Google results. In other words, to be found by potential volunteers, an organization must be in the first 5 Google results listed.

SEO, or search engine optimization, is the process used to optimize a website's technical configuration, content relevance and link popularity so its pages can become easily findable, more relevant, and popular towards user search queries; and therefore, search engines rank them better. (Wikipedia) Guardian Advocates is a program that is intended to rely on a volunteer matched with each client. We need to rank highly on Google search to be found by those people that want a volunteer opportunity.

Habitat for Humanity of Madison County

Expansion and Development of Volunteer Program

HFHMC is requesting funds to help fund an AmeriCorps/Vista Volunteer position as part of the expansion and development of our Volunteer Program. This is necessitated by the rapid increase of needed house builds in our area, detailed later in this grant narrative. The Volunteer program will also include volunteer recruitment and retention. We currently have a core group of 20 men and women who build houses on a regular basis. This volunteer base has been “stretched” as the organization has grown and increased the number of builds. In addition, this is an aging volunteer group and the need to “recruit” younger volunteers to assist has become more evident and crucial every day. One example: The volunteers for wheelchair ramp builds are not our “core” volunteer team, so we are constantly recruiting during the build season. We now see the need for a person to work with our volunteer program, as well as the needed tools to do so, to continue to increase impact, both through building houses and wheelchair ramps.

The AmeriCorps/Vista program is the domestic version of the Peace Corps. Habitat for Humanity International has worked with AmeriCorps/Vista program since 1994 and will work with our Affiliate on recruitment and placement. Also, we will have the ability to recruit within our community for an AmeriCorps/Vista.

Community Need:

The requested funds and expansion of HFHMC are in response to our community's need. An ongoing challenge in Madison County is safe and affordable housing. DATA USA tells us that 13.4% of Madison County's population are living with severe housing problems. Habitat for Humanity's role in this challenge is to develop home ownership opportunities for low to moderate-income individuals who would not be able to obtain a mortgage through traditional methods. Most Habitat for Humanity's house builds are currently in Anderson, where the homeownership rate is 56.2%, while the national average is 67.9%. (2020 Census).

The benefits of homeownership are provided through research by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Two prime examples:

- 1) U.S. homeowners have an average net wealth that is 400% higher than that of renters with similar demographics and earnings, and home equity represents the largest proportion of wealth (34.5%) for U.S. households.
- 2) Children of low-income homeowners are 11% more likely to graduate from high school and are 4.5% more likely to complete post-secondary education than children of low-income renters.

Habitat not only builds homes alongside families who need them, but also vets the potential owners and provides training and resources to help them navigate into homeownership successfully. We regularly experience the joy of hosting “mortgage burning” celebrations with our homeowners who have successfully paid off their mortgage.

The other role Habitat plays in this challenge is helping people stay in their homes by installing wheelchair ramps. The Institute on Disability, reports that 19% of individuals in Madison County have some form of disability. The individuals who receive a wheelchair ramp report that they have reported that they are less fearful of being able to leave their home and that they are more able to make medical appointments and participate in social activities.

Intersect Inc.

Intersect New Office Project

Intersect has been in existence in Madison County for 22 years this April. We have been renting space at the Impact Center for over 10 years. This has been a good partnership with the Impact Center and the community. However, one of the perks of being here was unlimited use of the conference room to host meetings and events. We now have another tenant that is much needed in this community but requires use of the conference rooms on a continuous basis. Also, we are hiring 2 more staff for a total of 9 due to another grant and we are out of room in our current office for 2 new staff workstations. Therefore, it has become apparent that we need to move to a new space.

We have found a space on 53rd street in Anderson which currently houses Work One but has space at the back of the building. The space and location are perfect, with a large parking lot to house our Hidden In Plain Sight trailer and an additional storage barn close to the entrance of what would be Intersect's office entrance. However, the space needs to be reconfigured to fit our staff and the needs of the organization.

There are 2 large rooms that need some additional work (photo of the rooms uploaded under supplemental documents). An office for the Executive Director to be built within one room, an opening made to connect the two rooms, a sink/biological area that will need to be taken out, some flooring repairs and cleaning, and a few walls built to make a storage room and conference room for staff and volunteer/board meetings. It will also need to be repainted and new desks with chairs will need to be purchased. A conference table and 10-12 chairs will also need to be purchased. We currently use office partitions in our current space, but these partitions will not work for this new space. The contractors that have looked at the space are consulting with electricians as well, as electricity will need to come down from the ceiling to power the computers and any other electrical items that staff will need. Signage will also need to be created and purchased to identify the new space.

I understand that this is rental and not a purchase, however, as a not for profit, we have been advised of all the costs that can occur when purchasing a building. Maintenance can add up quickly and if a heating or cooling unit goes out, that could be 10's of thousands of dollars. This is why we would rather have leases. Also, if we do the work, the leasing agent has agreed to lower the rent of the office space which will assist us in the long run and lock in our rent for a 3-year lease.

Board members and staff also believe that there will be a great opportunity for collaboration with Work One both with their staff and their clients. We could train the staff in our Quit Now Indiana process to help those clients that may want to quit using tobacco/nicotine. We could also do a stress management and communication workshop with their staff at no fee because of sharing the building. These programs assist employees in dealing with stress and how to better communicate with each other in the workplace. Parking is also plentiful, and fairs could be held there to bring people to the site during the summer, inviting other vendors to collaborate with. I have reached out to the Operational Manager for Work One, but we have missed connecting. I will continue to try to connect to discuss these opportunities.

Lil Miracles Pregnancy Resource Center, Inc.

Technology Update: CenterPiece Software from EKYROS, Computer Purchases, and IT Support

With this software/computers, we will increase our productivity in areas such as client, donor, staff, volunteer, scheduling, grant prep, accounting, marketing, and administrative mgmt.

CenterPiece Software from EKYROS.com: \$1,440/3 years. LM will be able to track client information, upload documents, class enrollment, send client letters, calendar, reminders, etc. They have a donor module that shows donor info at a glance, gives ability to batch/email receipts, campaign mgmt, donor letters, follow-up and QuickBooks integration.

There is a staff module which includes tracking for volunteers, time cards, track appointments, letters, follow up, document storage, reporting and analytics, video training, and statistics.

Computers for the 6 positions: Ex Dir, Mrkt Dir, Reception, volunteer/donor, data entry, and peer counseling @ 650 \$
3,900

High-speed internet/tech framework: \$700

Clawson Comm. & Dan Roseberry are donating labor and materials (see collaboration ltr) which totals \$9,300.

Little Red Door Cancer Agency

Little Red Door Support Services

Little Red Door is requesting \$7,500 in support of our Rides of Hope transportation program and our nutritional supplements program. These programs provide low-income, medically underserved cancer patients in Madison County with services that help them access the medical care they need and improve their quality of life during treatment. This support leads to improved treatment outcomes. Grant funds would be used specifically on direct program costs to provide transportation assistance and nutritional support to clients in Madison County.

Madison County Community Music

Building a Solid "Bass"

In a musical ensemble, the overall sound is built upon the bass instruments (string bass, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, bass drum, etc). We are using this metaphor as an anthem in this first year as an incorporated organization to strive to acquire the foundational base equipment and promotional opportunities we need to operate and otherwise sustain us for decades to come. Income from this grant would be utilized to purchase large, communal, student-grade organizational instruments that are shared between groups, hire guest instructors, build a sheet music library, provide scholarships, acquire marketing equipment, and begin an endowment to perpetually fund the program.

Several key instruments are necessary for a solid start: tuba, bass clarinet, string bass, and percussion equipment. Long-term, it would be great for the ensemble to have some other back up instruments, but these large instruments are difficult to transport safely, rather expensive for total beginner students to invest in, but essential to the ensemble. Acquiring these basic instruments will probably cost about \$10,000-\$20,000 (depending on used/new availability) but should be in good working order for the next 20 years or more with routine maintenance and care making this item very sustainable for the future.

As students are just beginning, we bring in professional players to teach proper foundational technique. In subsequent years, our 2nd and 3rd year players have passed on this essential technique to "next year's" total beginners. We would like to keep bringing in professional players to teach upper-divisional technique (which later can be transmitted again to younger players through our organization's members). This process is sustainable but will cost us from \$1,000-2,000.

Sheet music for the group to perform typically costs \$30-70/song. 3 different groups playing 3 concerts/year and 3 songs/concert each means we need about 25-30 pieces of music each year. After our third year, we will be able to recycle some of the music which will make this sustainable. \$3000 creates a basic music library that can be indefinitely expanded within the general operating budget.

Our goal is to help anyone ages 12-100+ with any financial means have access to music. Even though our costs are remarkably low (around \$8-20/week depending upon the instrument), nearly 1/10 students request scholarship to help. We would like to have these available for people who need them. Ultimately, we would like to make this scholarship fund (along with other costs) sustainable through endowment. We estimate we could have \$2500 worth of scholarship requests this year which would cover about 20 students annually.

There is some marketing tools we would like to acquire to help recruit students and other champions of community music. We need to acquire a folding table, tablecloth, retractable banner, promotional flyers, and a rolling cart. These items should last for several years to help us to spread the word to potential students and donors whose contributions can further sustain this item in the project. Cost: \$250-500.

While Building a Solid Bass extends beyond the maximum request amount of this grant (\$10,000), we are hoping MCCF can be a regular partner and sponsor of helping make high-quality, accessible musical education and community a reality in Madison County. Let's work together to help dreams come true for anyone in Madison County who says, "I wish I would have kept playing the _____" or "I always wanted to learn to play the _____."

Man 4 Man

Vehicle Upgrade & Repair

Currently, M4M has four vehicles that are in various stages of repair. Some are running but need significant repair, others are broken down and need to have major parts and labor to get them running safely again. These vehicles are used to conduct the various businesses (listed above) that M4M performs in the community. All these vehicles are old and continue to break down, and therefore need repairs regularly. M4M will need \$6500 to get all four vehicles running, \$2000 to continue the continuing repairs, and \$1500 for gas in 2024 (This will not cover the total gas needed but will cover some of the costs). The mileage on these vehicles is well over 100,000 for each one, but with proper repair and maintenance, they will continue to service our businesses and our customers. This will allow the businesses to continue and grow and will increase the funds that are available for this worthy organization. The most important issue is to maintain the safety of the vehicles such issues as brakes, exhaust, windshield, etc. After that is to repair issues that keep the vehicles running so that the men can do their work, get a paycheck, and serve the community.

More Than a Phone

More Than a Phone supports Alternatives Anderson

More Than a Phone requests support to empower survivors of domestic violence by providing them with essential resources, particularly mobile phones and connectivity services. With your help, we can ensure survivors have access to communication tools vital for safety, support, and accessing resources, helping them rebuild their lives with resilience and hope.

Servants at Work

Wheelchair Ramps in Madison County

Servants at Work (SAWs) constructs ADA-compliant wooden ramps (and other entryway solutions) for clients who are disabled and have an income level of less than 80% of AMI for the State of Indiana. Significantly, we also provide memorable and high-impact service opportunities for Indiana's churches, corporations, civic organizations, and individuals.

Since 2021, with the support of volunteers and community partners like MCCF, Servants at Work has built an average of 18.3 ramps annually for low-income Hoosiers with mobility challenges in Madison County. \$10,000 from the MCCF in 2024 would support our mission here and potentially allow us to expand our service to even more clients by covering the real cost of five or six of our Madison County ramp projects this year.

Society of St Vincent

Beyond Shelter and Furniture-Providing Living Supplies to our Clients

This grant will continue to allow our organization to provide non-food items to our clients and their families. When clients visit our warehouse, whether to obtain financial assistance or to pick up household furniture, they are provided non-food items kits to take home with them. These kits consist of basic household items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, and bar soap. Upon request, personal hygiene kits are also given consisting of shampoo, deodorant, cleaning supplies, and toothbrushes. Home visitors offer similar kits to clients. In addition, dish packs can be obtained by our clients in which handheld can openers are provided along with donated dishes and silverware. During the Christmas season special bags for children are handed out.