



Unity Foundation
of La Porte County

Power for Good

2020 | uflc.net



SHAPING THE FUTURE



UNITY SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE

Over 40 unique scholarships available

Managing scholarships since 1996

Awards for certificates, associate, bachelors and doctorate programs

Invested nearly **\$4 million** in our families community through scholarships

Awarded **more than \$200,000 in 2020**

GRATITUDE FROM PREVIOUS WINNERS:

"A million thanks to the scholarship committee for choosing me as a recipient this year. I am beyond grateful to be awarded this scholarship as I continue my education post-undergrad."

"I feel truly honored to have been chosen, and the money will be very useful as I continue school."

"This money will help make my college education possible. You just helped me reach my first goal in life"

Congratulations to all the 2020 scholarship recipients! We know you will go on to do great things in the future, and we hope you will bring your talents back to La Porte County.

Coming into the Home Stretch

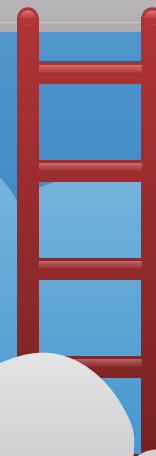
In October 2018, Lilly Endowment Inc. unveiled the Lilly GIFT VII Match Challenge, which allowed Unity Foundation to receive \$1 Million in match funding to our Community Funds if we raised \$500,000! A 2 to 1 Match is a fantastic opportunity for any non-profit, so we got right to work. Thanks to many generous donors, we are more than 85% of the way there! The finish line is in our sights, but we can't get there without your help! From now until the extended deadline of September 31, 2021 or until our goal is met, all donations made to a community fund, including our Power for Good fund, will be eligible for match dollars.

Community Funds are our most versatile at Unity Foundation because they are unrestricted. That means the money can go towards almost any charitable program or organization and can meet changing community needs as they occur. These funds also help fuel our annual Power for Good Community Grant Program where we award over \$160,000 to local projects and charities.

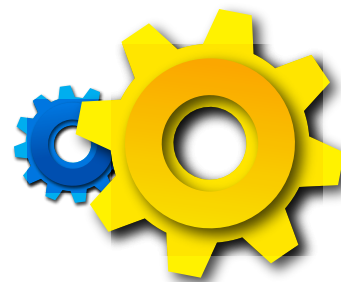
Because these are our most flexible and impactful funds, your matched gifts stretch far and wide across our community -- providing focused resources to our workers and volunteers dedicated to creating a safe, healthy, and fun La Porte County. Thank you for your support! We can't wait to announce when we have reached the goal and secured \$1 Million from Lilly Endowment for La Porte County -- now and forever!

we are almost there!

GOAL:
\$500,000
TO RECEIVE
\$1 Million



Want to help us with our \$1million goal?
Visit uflc.net/funds to make a donation to one of our Community Funds



Communitymatters

SHAPING THE FUTURE



Unity's COVID-19 Response

The La Porte County Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund was activated for people who wanted to make donations specifically for COVID-19 relief efforts. This fund is not endowed which means grants can be made immediately. Over \$60,000 has been raised so far.

We powered up our support for Home Team with the goal of saving lives by avoiding large scale homelessness and preventing the spread of the virus among those who were already homeless. La Porte County has an amazing group of leaders and funders who took charge of this effort and we were quick to support them.

We knew our nonprofits were facing a very uncertain future so we expedited our annual process of fund distributions early and got money in their doors when they needed it most. These early grants gave our agencies some breathing room as government and other agencies geared up.

Teaming up with our friends at United Way of La Porte County and Healthcare Foundation of La Porte (HFL), we helped populate and promote the COVID-19 Resource Hub hosted on HFL's website. Information is consistently updated and provides a reliable source of information. Everything from food pantry hours to Parent resources. Unity helped deploy a new Volunteer Hub.

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, Inc.

Interfaith Community PADS, Inc.

First Presbyterian Church of Michigan City

Keys to Hope Community Resource Center

COVID 19 Grants
Total to Date
\$34,350

First United Methodist Church of La Porte

New Day Foundation

Food Bank of Northern Indiana

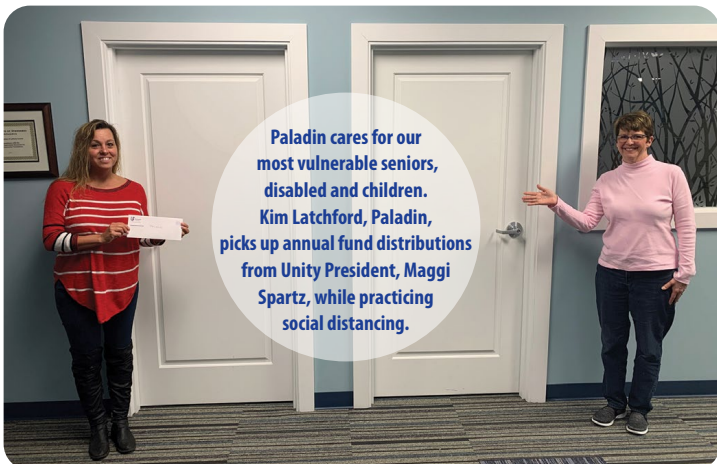
Salvation Army of La Porte

Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, Inc.

Franciscan Health Michigan City

Salvation Army of Michigan City

Paladin cares for our most vulnerable seniors, disabled and children. Kim Latchford, Paladin, picks up annual fund distributions from Unity President, Maggi Spartz, while practicing social distancing.



Vibrant

COMMUNITIES OF LA PORTE COUNTY

The first step of the Vibrant Communities Initiative was simple: talk to people. And we did! We had hundreds of conversations with community members who shared their personal experiences, professional knowledge, and passion for the future of La Porte County. We met in person, sent online surveys, and visited community groups to collect the thoughts of as many people as possible. Then in December we hosted our **Summit on the Future** where the results of all those conversations and fact finding were shared, discussed and prioritized. What arose was an updated vision statement and three main pillars: People, Place, and Prosperity. Citizens helped craft goals for each pillar and to prioritize them.

The next step was to create an Action Agenda, the first expression of community programs, policies

and projects to enhance the many communities in La Porte County. The first draft was completed with over 60 action items. Items were sorted by the type of community impact (Igniter, Catalytic or Transformative,) by level of control, timeframe, type of community (city, town, rural) and if the strategy cut across all of these.

In March, we were preparing to present the Action Agenda, but the COVID-19 crisis hit. The basic tenets of the Agenda have not changed, but the document needs to be reviewed before it is ready to be shared widely. The Agenda was always intended to be a living document which will evolve as we strive to strengthen La Porte County, now and forever.

Visit VibrantLPCounty.org to see more.



Planning Next consultants, Kyle May and Logan Stang with Unity Foundation President, Maggi Spartz at January's Steering Committee meeting.



Steering Committee members Rose Tejeda, Jim Jessup, Seth Sera, Mary Foell, Allison Goshorn, Shannon Eason, and Jack Arnett met in January to go over the proposed Action Agenda.

Many thanks to our diverse group of leaders:

Co-Chairs: Maggi Spartz Et Jack Arnett
Support staff: Deb Varnak Et Gail Johnson

Steering Committee Members:

Yolanda Davis	Leah Konrady
Ashley Dickinson	Dr. Vidya Kora
Shannon Eason	Nate Loucks
Katie Eaton	Bailey McGrath
Mary Foell	Randy Novak
Maria Fruth	Tony Rodriguez
Allison Goshorn	Richard Rupp
Jenilee Haynes	Beth Shrader
Ron Heeg	Seth Spencer
Jim Jessup	Rose Tejeda
Tom Keon	Peggy Thomas
Justin Kiel	Sandra Wood

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS 2020 SPONSORS

Power of Community

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BANK

NIPSCO

Power of a County

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SERVICES, INC.
Institutional Investment Consulting

Power of City

1st Source Bank

Edward Jones

Franciscan Health

**Harbour Trust & Investment
Management Corporation**

Kabelin ACE Hardware

**Newby, Lewis, Kaminski
& Jones, LLC**

Rice Farms, LLC

Power of a Family

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Walsh & Kelly, Inc.

Power of a Person

Fenker's Furniture

Horizon Awning

**Mayor Duane Parry
and the
City of Michigan City**



Unity Foundation
of La Porte County

Power for Good 

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Michigan City, IN 46360

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Welcome our new Vice President, Shannon Walker!

In March, Unity was excited to add Shannon Walker to our team, filling the position of Vice President. Shannon will oversee our scholarship and community grant programs, as well as marketing, operations, donor communication, and much more! Check out some FAST FACTS about Shannon.

- Undergrad from Franklin College, Franklin, IN; Masters from Purdue, West Lafayette, IN
- La Porte County native, La Porte High School graduate
- Certificate in Nonprofit management through IU School of Philanthropy, funded by Healthcare Foundation of La Porte
- Most recently, Executive Director of Association Advancement, La Porte County Family YMCA
- Subaru of Indiana Automotive – Community Relations/SIA Foundation
- Purdue University Libraries – Director of Strategic Communication
- Family: Husband, Joe; Daughter, Eva; Stepson, Carter; English bulldog, Roxy
- Shannon's sister is Courtney Parthun, City of La Porte Clerk-Treasurer
- Excited about La Porte County's growth and evolution into the future!

