



UNITY

Strengthening La Porte County | NOW AND FOREVER

2024 - 2025
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





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Cover photo by Andy Neal

ABOUT UNITY

Unity Foundation is your local community foundation, created by and for the people in La Porte County. Our core purpose is to help you help others. We do that by giving grants and scholarships to the local community, helping donors establish long-term charitable giving plans, and working with local organizations to support their community-driven efforts.

UNITY FOUNDATION OF LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Front row from left: Dr. Vidya Kora, Sandra Wood, PhD, Diana Kabelin Corley, Kathy Henrich

Middle: Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Katie Eaton, Maggi Spartz, Jon Gilmore, Stephanie Oberlie, Angie Nelson Deutch, Laura Franscesconi

Back: James Kaminski, Ron Ragains, Ed Volk, Scott Rice, Kim Sauers, Paul Applegate, Seth Spencer, Dale Parkison

From Our Leaders

This past year has been one of incredible progress and meaningful milestones for Unity Foundation of La Porte County. We continue to be inspired by the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our partners, and the commitment of our board, staff, and community. The coming pages highlight the accomplishments we've achieved together and showcase the depth of our collective impact. Together, we're building a stronger, more vibrant La Porte County.

This year, we awarded more than \$1.6 million to benefit local organizations and students. We now steward assets of nearly \$60 million, invested wisely to ensure lasting impact for generations to come. We are also proud to have renewed accreditation with Community Foundations National Standards, affirming our commitment to integrity, accountability, and excellence.

Through the Lilly Endowment Inc. GIFT VIII initiative, we have been deeply engaged in fundraising, planning and collaboration at both the county and regional levels, earning \$3.6 million to "Open the Door To Housing" and \$20 million for "NWI Thrive: Elevating the Region through Nature, Culture and Wellness." Both grants contain multiple projects that will significantly improve our community's future.

This past year, Unity supporters came together to help us with our matching challenge from Lilly Endowment Inc. We are grateful to all of our donors for their generosity in building our community funds, strengthening our flexibility to support La Porte County where it's needed, when it's needed.

This year also marks a special moment in our history. After 33 wonderful years of Maggi Spartz's consistent and passionate leadership, Jeri Pat Gabbert joined Unity Foundation as the new President & CEO. As we enter our next chapter, we are forever grateful for our community's trust and support. Together, we will continue to be a lasting Power for Good in La Porte County... today, tomorrow, and forever.

Jeri Patricia Gabbert, President & CEO

Jon A. Gilmore, Chair

UNITY FOUNDATION OF LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



"I am honored to join the Unity Foundation of La Porte County and excited to work alongside such a dedicated team. I look forward to partnering with nonprofits, community members, and local leaders to build on Unity's strong legacy and create meaningful impact for our community."

– Jeri Pat Gabbert, Unity Foundation of La Porte County, President & CEO

Introducing Our New President & CEO: Jeri Patricia Gabbert, CFRE



After a comprehensive national search, Unity Foundation of La Porte County is proud to announce the appointment of philanthropic leader Jeri Pat Gabbert, CFRE, as our next President & CEO, effective November 3, 2025.

Jeri Pat comes to Unity Foundation after more than 22 years working at the intersection of philanthropy, education, and community engagement. She previously served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Philanthropic Officer for the Porter County Community Foundation. In addition, she served as the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and External Affairs at Indiana University Northwest and held advancement leadership roles at Valparaiso University.

Jeri Pat serves as a faculty member at The Fund Raising School, Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the nation's premier school of philanthropy. She earned the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation in 2009 and continues to give back to the profession through her leadership. Jeri Pat serves on the Committee on Directorship for CFRE International, is the past chair for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District V (CASEV), is the past chair for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Indiana (CASE Indiana), is the current chair of the Association of Christian Fundraising (ACF), and is a proud member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), where she is also a charter member of the AFP Northwest Indiana Chapter.

Unity Foundation's Search Committee Chair Stephanie Oberlie commented, "Jeri Pat's proven record of leadership, her deep knowledge and skills in philanthropy, and her demonstrated commitment to 'giving back' make her the ideal candidate to lead us forward. Her leadership style is collaborative, compassionate, and visionary, and we know that she will continue to inspire us all as we move into the next phase of the Foundation's work. We are thrilled to have Jeri Pat take on this new role and look forward to the future she will help create for our communities."

Jeri Pat holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hanover College in Communication and a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies from Ball State University.

Unity Foundation of La Porte County retained Kittleman & Associates to lead the search. Kittleman is a retained executive search firm, founded in 1963, specializing in CEO recruitment for not-for-profit organizations throughout the U.S.

STAFF



Jamie Miller
Development Officer



Margie Nasser
Administrative Assistant (P/T)



Andy Neal
Operations Manager



CC Payne
Director of Operations



Marisa Rempala
Marketing & Program Manager

MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen La Porte County now and forever by building permanent endowments, providing leadership, offering philanthropic vehicles for everyone, and being a catalyst for social and economic vitality.

VISION

We envision La Porte County to be a vibrant collection of unique communities that invest in their diverse people, grow their economic and health vitality, and promote innovative leadership through talented citizens for a rich quality of life for all.

WAYS TO GIVE

We provide flexible, efficient, and tax effective options to ensure your charitable giving achieves the greatest possible impact.

Give to Unity Foundation, your favorite fund, or start a new fund!

We welcome gifts in many different forms, including:

- One-Time Cash, Check, Credit Card or ACH Donations
- Recurring Monthly, Quarterly, or Yearly Gifts
- Securities or Stocks
- Grain
- Real Estate
- Mention Unity or Your Favorite Fund in Your Will
- Life Insurance or Retirement Funds – Designate Unity as a Beneficiary
- Charitable Gift Annuities

Every gift makes a difference in our community, no matter the size.

A gift to Unity is more than a one-time contribution—it's an investment in the future of La Porte County. Through the power of endowment, your generosity will keep growing and supporting our community, year after year...**forever.**

WHY GIVE?

Leave a Legacy

Including Unity in your will or estate plans is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to leave a lasting legacy. With the help of your professional advisor, you can add just a few sentences to your will or trust to ensure your values live on through a gift to Unity. You'll continue to use your assets during your lifetime, while knowing that one day your generosity will support our community for generations to come. And as an added benefit, a bequest may reduce taxes for your loved ones.

View sample bequest language and explore how thoughtful planning can benefit you, your loved ones, and our community: uflc.giftlegacy.com



Federal Tax ID #35-165-8674

“Every day I plant seeds for trees under which I will never sit. Remember, your donations to Unity or a specific fund last forever.”



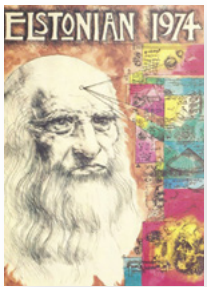
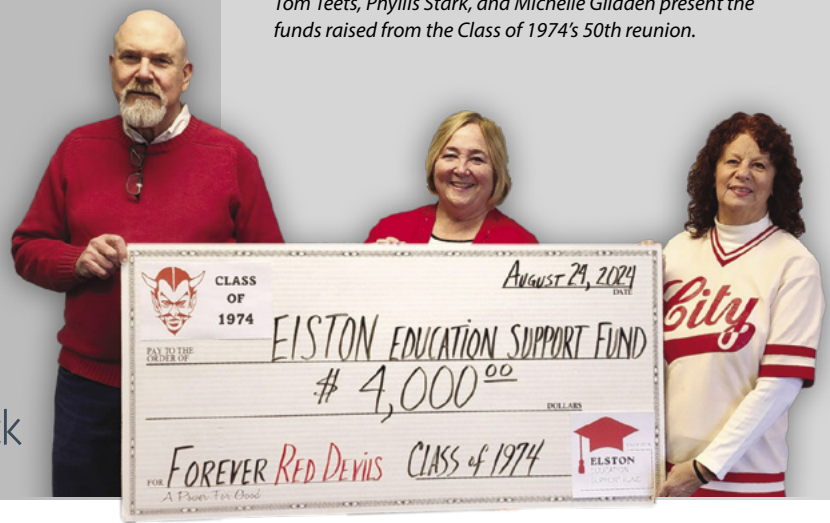
Discuss your giving ideas, learn how to start your own fund, or ask about building funds for your favorite cause or organization:

Contact our Development Officer, **Jamie Miller**, at 219-879-0327.

FOREVER RED DEVILS:

The Elston Class of 1974 Gives Back

Tom Teets, Phyllis Stark, and Michelle Glidden present the funds raised from the Class of 1974's 50th reunion.



A walk down memory lane: The Elstonian 1974, the yearbook from the Class of '74's senior year.

It was the summer of 2024, fifty years after a group of classmates from Elston High School proudly donned their caps and gowns at their 1974 graduation ceremony. As they prepared for their 50th class reunion, they looked forward to reminiscing with old friends—but they also felt inspired to do something greater. With the same school spirit that once filled the halls of Elston, the classmates decided to honor their memories by supporting the next generation of Michigan City students.

Fueled by camaraderie, classmates Tom Teets, Phyllis Stark, and Michelle Glidden coordinated a reunion fundraising campaign and rallied their peers to give back. Through this initiative and the generosity of classmates, the Elston Class of 1974 raised \$4,000 for the Graduates of

Isaac C. Elston High School Education Support Fund. Administered by Unity Foundation of La Porte County, this fund benefits Michigan City Area Schools by providing educational materials, special programs, and support for student needs not covered by the school budget.

One notable donor was Nancy Byers, whose connection to this campaign underscores the lasting impact of a single act of generosity. Nancy was inspired to give in honor of a scholarship she received 50 years ago. In 1974, Mrs. Bartholomew, principal of Jefferson Elementary, awarded Nancy a \$500 scholarship as a thank-you for her volunteer work with Cub Scouts. "It was a surprise and really unexpected," Nancy said.

Long inspired to pay it forward, Nancy calculated what the original \$500 scholarship would be worth with compound interest over five decades. She donated the equivalent—over \$2,500—to help the Class of 1974 meet their fundraising goal. Nancy remarked, "That small scholarship made a difference. Now, 50 years later, I'm doing the same for someone else."

Her gesture exemplifies how the ripple effects from one act of kindness can last for generations.

The class's collective impact didn't stop there. Due to a special matching opportunity, the \$4,000 originally raised was doubled, turning their combined effort into an \$8,000 gift that will benefit students for generations to come.

The Elston Fund, established in 2018 by the Elston High School Class of 1968, has grown considerably since its inception thanks to gifts from entire classes and individual donors. Since 2018, this fund has granted more than \$17,000 to programs supporting financial literacy, robotics, classroom technology, mentorship, and even a personal hygiene care closet for students in need.

With this new gift, the fund's impact will continue to grow, providing grants that will help support Michigan City schools and students forever.

Support this fund and learn more about the other funds making an impact in our community:

Visit uflc.net/funds



COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

Unity Foundation supports the betterment of La Porte County in many ways. Often, this means stepping up as a connector when no one else is convening—bringing partners together, aligning resources, and advancing large-scale projects that might not otherwise take shape. Unity is proud to provide the structure and shared vision that turn community aspirations into reality.

In early 2025, Unity announced that we were awarded two grants through Lilly Endowment's GIFT Phase VIII initiative. These grants will support two distinct community betterment projects—one focused locally and the other regionally. Together, these efforts will strengthen and connect La Porte County and transform Northwest Indiana. Even more exciting is that Unity is one of only six community foundations to receive both grants! Read on to learn more about these initiatives and the progress made so far.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Open the Doors to Housing: Building Capacity and Creating Opportunity Across La Porte County

Finding a safe, affordable place to call home is a challenge for many people across La Porte County. Through the *Open the Doors to Housing* initiative, Unity Foundation is working with partners to change that.

Funded by a \$3.6 million Lilly Endowment Grant, this collaborative effort offers three strategies to accelerate housing development in La Porte County: 1. Support workforce and affordable housing projects already in the planning phase, 2. Support Smart Development, and 3. Remove barriers and streamline the development process.

The initiative builds on the community's Vibrant Communities Action Agenda and unites local partners—including the Health Foundation of La Porte, the City of La Porte, Michigan City, La Porte County, Habitat for Humanity, and Homeward Bound—to move shared housing goals forward.

To guide the work, Unity selected Interurban, a nonprofit group, to help coordinate planning, manage the projects, and engage with the community.

As the initiative continues through 2026, *Open the Doors to Housing* will catalyze new construction, leverage public and private investment, and ensure that La Porte County remains a vibrant place where residents of all incomes can live, work, and thrive.

Building in progress at Habitat for Humanity's Woodward Block.



Building in progress at Homeward Bound's Karwick Village.

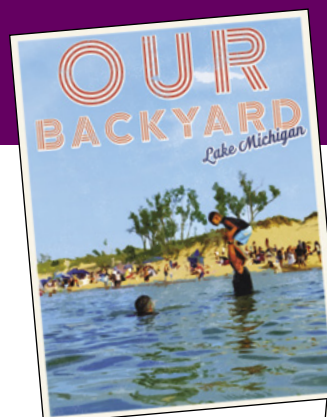


In its first year, *Open the Doors to Housing* made real, visible progress:

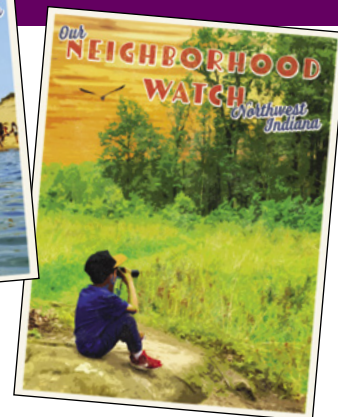
- Homeward Bound broke ground on Karwick Village, their first cooperative housing units in Michigan City.
- Habitat for Humanity's Woodward Block advanced construction on two more new affordable homes in La Porte.
- The City of La Porte and La Porte County continue developing their comprehensive plans, both expected to be completed in 2026.
- Michigan City is modernizing its permitting system.
- Partners are collaborating to develop training around housing-related issues, like zoning.



Unity staff visiting the new South Shore Double Track Station located at 11th Street in Michigan City.



Postcards invited Northwest Indiana residents to provide input on the NWI Thrive project proposal.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

NWI Thrive: Elevating the Region through Nature, Culture, and Wellness

NWI Thrive is a \$20 million regional placemaking initiative made possible through a Lilly Endowment GIFT Phase VIII Implementation Grant. The Legacy Foundation, Porter County Community Foundation, Crown Point Community Foundation, and Unity Foundation of La Porte County are collaborating to connect people and places across Northwest Indiana through creative design, access to nature, and cultural vitality.

The effort links major regional investments—the South Shore Commuter Rail, the Marquette Greenway, and Indiana Dunes National Park—by creating new trail connections, educational “Discover Hubs” at train stations, and unified wayfinding.

Year One Highlights:

- Selected HWC Engineering as Owner’s Representative.
- Completed site visits and detailed scoping reports for 11 trail and placemaking projects spanning East Chicago to Michigan City.
- Chose SmithGroup, SEH, and Rieth Riley as the Design and Construction team for their expertise in multimodal transportation, public space design, and regional infrastructure.
- Hosted a public launch event at Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk to share the vision for a healthier, more connected region.

In 2025–26, NWI Thrive will engage communities, work with environmental education and tourism groups, and prepare shovel-ready projects to unify trails, downtowns, and natural assets—laying the groundwork for a healthier, more connected Northwest Indiana for generations to come.

Additional Community Betterment projects supported by Unity include:



Visit uflc.net/communitybetterment to learn more about these projects.

2025 Scholarship Recipients

\$325,000
AWARDED TO
174 LOCAL STUDENTS
IN 2025

NEARLY
\$5M AWARDED
SINCE 1992

**Bhagirathi Agrawal
Scholarship**
Drew Bush

**Judith A. Amor Nursing
Scholarship**
Mia Taylor

**Diane Kay Bamberth
Memorial Award**
Faith Spain

**Gustav J. & Elma A.
Banzhaf Memorial
Scholarship***
Trenten Chalik
Kimberly Crawford
Wyatt Keller
Reese Yettaw

**Bensz Family
Scholarship**
Emilio Munoz
Naomi Williams

**Lloyd G. & Betty Jane
Clayton Scholarship**
Haleigh Miller

**William Vernon
Compton Scholarship**
Gavin Zolvinski

**Cunningham
Scholarship**
Natalie White

**Ernest & Mildred
Delco Scholarship**
Avery Mouglin

**Carley Dickard
Memorial Scholarship**
Naomi Williams
Megan Zolvinski

**Galena Township
Scholarship Award**
Owen Chalik
Trenten Chalik

**James A. & Phyllis A.
Garwood Memorial
Music Scholarship**
Kairah Ohime

**Donald & Beverly Guse
Scholarship**
Jayde Pryor

**Harold & Rowena
Hargrave Scholarship**
Grant Ott-Large

**Robert J. Hiler
Memorial Scholarship**
Macie Binkley
Justin Bunce
Byonka Hernandez
Aryanna Hernandez

**Ruth M. Howe
Nursing Scholarship**
Dominic Yanke

**Ingersoll Trust
Scholarship**
Logan Higley
Megan Zolvinski

**Bruce R. Johnson
Scholarship**
Lexi Johnson

**Richard James Johnson
Agriculture Scholarship**
Ava Redlin

**Dr. King S. Jones
Memorial Scholarship**
Maya Ruiz

**K.A.T. Volunteer
Scholarship**
Dominic Bartels
Catherine Gantuangco
Kaitlyn Morrison

**Arthur & Alice
Kabelin Scholarship**
Allison Galinowski
Katelyn Hertges
Logan Higley
Kamryn Kubik
Michaela Miller
Brayden Sobecki

**Kabelin Family
Scholarship**
Thomas Hill

**Jerry Karstens
Athletic Scholarship**
Roberto Smiertelny
Avery Tulacz

**Sandra Calkins
Kowalski Scholarship**
Taylor Cleek
Autumn Duncan
Anessa Ibrahim

**Richard & Tracy Krause
Scholarship**
Wyatt Keller
Owen Keller
Emma Luther
Samantha Wilson

**La Porte County
Nursing Scholarship**
Dominic Bartels
Allison Grabarczyk
Emma Heffron

Lexi Scheidt
Taylor Skibinski

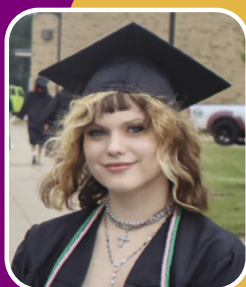
**La Porte County
Symphony Orchestra
Deborah DePoy
Music Scholarship**
Vanessa Horne

**Robert E. LeRoy
Scholarship**
Haleigh Miller

**Marilouise Lundgren
Lossing Memorial
Scholarship***
Evan Conrad
Caiya Cooper
Emma Fleshman
Emma Mitschelen
Addysen Morros

**Jack and Shirley
Lubeznik Scholarship**
Kyra Krachinski
Brooke Lakin
Emilio Munoz
Khushi Patel
Krystani Quinn
Aaverie Wingard

**Robert L. Ludington
& Anita Huppenthal
Ludington Scholarship***
Kaleb Bacztub
Mia Bauer
Katherine Bellah
Jayana Blakely
Reilly Briggs
Blayne Brooks
Drew Bush
Haylee Busse
Robert Carnes
Caitlyn Carnes
Owen Chalik
Olivia Cramer-Stevens
Kimberly Crawford
Logan Crawford



"Your investment in my future has given me the opportunity to pursue a career that not only benefits me, but also allows me to serve and support countless others...I will carry your kindness with me every step of the way."

— AUTUMN DUNCAN
Nursing student and recipient of the Sandra Calkins Kowalski Nursing Scholarship



"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me as it helps me afford my dream of being able to help people in need. I am extremely grateful."

— ROBERTO SMIERTELNY
Kinesiology student and recipient of the Jerry Karstens Athletic Scholarship and the Robert L. Ludington & Anita Huppenthal Ludington Scholarship.

*One or more recipients of this award preferred to remain anonymous

2025 LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Bailey Chavis, Michigan City High School (*left*) and **Colton Barnes**, South Central High School (*right*) are the 2025 recipients of the prestigious Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Bailey and Colton are outstanding La Porte County students who embody the spirit of community, true leadership, and perseverance this scholarship honors. With the objective of increasing the number of Indiana residents who hold college degrees, the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program provides full tuition, required fees, and a supplies stipend for four years of undergraduate study at any public or private Indiana college or university.



Zoe Crofton
Brenda Del Real
Corban DeWitt
Vanessa DeWitt
Sean Egan
John Egan
Lila Gillisse
Donovan Gualito-Villa
Abbas Hakim
Zachary Hanchar
Mirabellah Hernandez
Logan Higley
Valerie Horne
Regan Hughes
Amelia Jaracz
Lexi Johnson
Wyatt Keller
Justin Kiel
Kayla Kuzdas
Ryan Lipsett
Sophia Marr
Rebecca Marxman
Mia Mejan
Michaela Miller
Kaitlyn Milligan
Miranda Moser
Mary Neary
Emily Notaro
Hannah Parker
Khushi Patel
Caloe Peretti
Lauren Poe
Zoe Pressel
Jayde Pryor
Taylor Reaves
Norah Richardson
Jonathan Rocke
Caleb Rosa
Natalia Ruiz
Hannah Schoner
Cooper Scroggin
Katherine Sheerin
Rachel Sherrick
Dale Simmons
Brooke Skalka

Michael Smelser
Roberto Smiertelny
Brayden Sobecki
Alissa Sonnenberg
Sidney Swanson
Savannah Swanson
Daya Thompson
Charles Tonagel
Kendall Troy
Rebecca Tuholski
Kiersten Vaughan
Riya Verma
Audrey Wagers
Michael Walker
Mark Wert III
Naomi Williams
Nicholas Willoughby
Reese Yettaw

Ruth & Leonard Minich Scholarship

Katelyn Hertges
Haleigh Miller

Dr. Edwin C. & Alice J. Mueller Scholarship

Dominic Bartels

Coach Nova Scholarship

Kimberly Crawford

Loyal Perlich Outstanding Speaker Award

Jannis Jacuinde-
Montesinos

Pioneer Scholarship*

Tyler Bacztub
Whitney Compton
Kylie Currin
Isabella Gosciniak
Kayla Kuzdas
Miranda Moser
Jayde Pryor
Gideon Rosa
Belle Scott
Avery Tulacz

Dr. Florian M. and Christine M. Predd Scholarship

Caloe Peretti

Ida M. Reffett Debate Scholarship

Jannis Jacuinde-
Montesinos

Redington & Rootes Scholarship

Brennan Balka
Lillian Burke
James Collins
Ella Dubbs
Sydney Hill
Anna Kubik
Brenda Lopez
Grant Ott-Large
Pooja Verma

Robert A. & Dorothy W. Rocke Scholarship

Drew Bush
Lila Gillisse
Logan Higley
Mia Mejan
Brayden Sobecki
Faith Spain
Charles Tonagel
Megan Zolvinski

Row Crop Agricultural Scholarship

Lyla Bannwart
Katelyn Hertges
Zoey Parrett-Hock
Ava Redlin

Donald F. Scott Motivational Scholarship

Dejah Hawkins Garner
Adrian Huizar
McKenzie Losinski
Emilio Munoz
Krystani Quinn
Alyssa Shaia
Tristan Sherwood
Ashley Sparks
Naomi Williams

Floyd O. & Betty Shunk Scholarship

James Collins
Ella Dubbs
Allison Grabarczyk
Taylor Higley
Olivia Lemon
Haleigh Miller
Tristen Poe
Tyler Troy
Mason Tulacz
Pooja Verma
Brenna Woodruff

Edward B. & Grace A. Steele Siperek Scholarship

Dominic Bartels
Charles Tonagel

Tanber-Blair Golf Scholarship

Szymon Chrzasczcz
John Egan
Natalie White

Neil G. Thompson Memorial Scholarship

Faith Spain
Savannah Swanson
Michael Walker

John R. & Florene A. Troyer Scholarship

McKenzie Losinski
Brianne Simmons

D.I. Walker Scholarship

Drew Bush
Jannis Jacuinde-
Montesinos
Mia Mejan
Ava Redlin
William Tallackson

Arlo & Jayne Westphal Memorial Scholarship

Kairah Ohime

Gerald & Carol Wollert Scholarship

Michaela Miller

Unity Foundation County Wide Scholarship*

Kate Borrelli
Haylee Busse
Natalie Fritzen
Lila Gillisse
Zachary Hanchar
Amelia Jaracz
Kayla Kuzdas
Brooke Lakin
Anna Landing
Avery Mougin
Caloe Peretti
Alivia Rocke
Michael Smelser

**Give now to help support generations
of La Porte County students!**

CLICK OR SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:
uflc.net/fund-category/scholarships-awards



33 YEARS AT THE HELM

In 1992, Unity Foundation of La Porte County was created by a visionary founding board with dreams of a new nonprofit organization that would serve all of La Porte County, forever. Maggi Spartz was named the first president, and under her steady leadership, the Foundation grew from its early beginnings into a thriving philanthropic force. Her vision, dedication, and collaborative spirit helped shape Unity Foundation into an organization that now touches countless lives each year.



Maggi, an avid sailor, at the helm during the 2025 MAC race.

HONORING *Maggi Spartz*

"For 33 years, you've been my crew. You've shown me what is possible when people care deeply about their community. As I pass the helm into new hands, I know in my bones that this foundation—our foundation—is in the best possible hands. Yours." – Maggi

Maggi's passion for La Porte County and the region over 33 years has been unmatched. She is known for closely listening to donors and uncovering people's passions for causes they care about. Over the course of her career, she has invested immeasurable time and energy into unifying the county and region and being a champion for innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship.

Under Maggi's guidance, Unity Foundation has awarded nearly **\$29 million in grants and scholarships, grown over 400 funds, and supported projects in education, the arts, the environment, and community development.** Her leadership has inspired donors, volunteers, and community members alike, demonstrating the power of collective action and generosity.

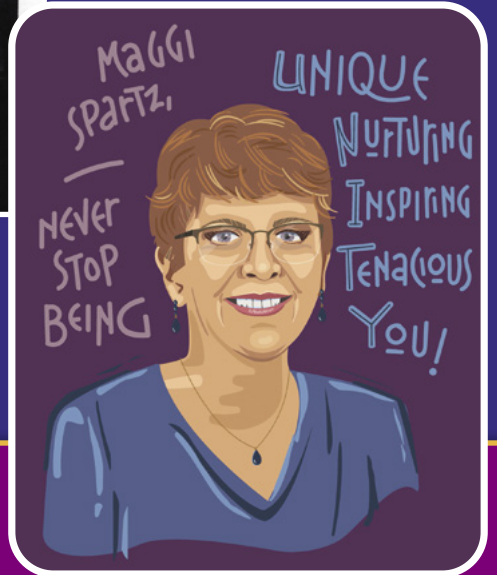




In September 2025, more than 200 community members gathered to honor Maggi, celebrating her accomplishments and presenting her with the prestigious Circle of Corydon Award, which honors Hoosiers who have made remarkable contributions to the State of Indiana. At the event, it was announced that in recognition of Maggi's instrumental role in protecting, creating, and donating Unity Park to the City of La Porte, a waterfront section of the park would be permanently named the "Maggi Spartz Promenade."

The recognition followed a momentous year for Maggi, who in 2025 also received the Jim Jessup Spirit of Leadership Award (Leadership La Porte County), the Excellence in Leadership Award (Michigan City Chamber of Commerce), and the Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award (Rotary Club of Michigan City).

A portrait of Maggi commissioned and donated by The Lubeznik Center for the Arts in honor of her career. Artwork by Judith Mayer.



PHOTOS: LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

The Unity Foundation's Founding Board at the 1992 Kickoff Dinner.

Maggi does the honors during the Ribbon Cutting of the STAR Center (2018).

Maggi and YMCA members celebrate the rehomed playground equipment at the former Michigan City YMCA (2002).

Unity donates Unity Park to the City of La Porte (2016).

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Maggi with State Representative Jim Pressel, who presented her with the Circle of Corydon Award (2025).

Maggi and her husband Tom pose with her Excellence in Leadership Award, presented by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce (2025).

The early days: Maggi, Unity's only employee at the time, calling prospective donors (1993).

TO MAGGI SPARTZ:

Thank you for your extraordinary service, vision, and heart. Your leadership has shaped La Porte County and inspired us all. We wish you fair winds and calm waters as you begin the next chapter of your journey. Together, we will carry forward the work you began, building on the legacy you've built for generations to come.

NEARLY

\$240,000

AWARDED TO

60

LOCAL PROJECTS
IN 2025

TOGETHER, We Are a Power for Good!

Each year, Unity Foundation invites nonprofits, schools, and government organizations serving La Porte County to apply for Power for Good Grants. These grants of up to \$5,000 support a wide range of projects and programs that strengthen our community and enhance quality of life for all.

2025 Power for Good Grant Recipients and Projects:

Advancing Christ's Kingdom Ministries-Michigan City
ThanksGIVING Turkeys 2025

Arts in the Park
Summer Concert Series

Boys & Girls Clubs of La Porte County
Afterschool Ultimate Journey Programming

Catholic Charities
Safe Haven: Homeless Prevention Program

Center of Workforce Innovations
Bridging Generations: Intergenerational Mentorship for Workforce Empowerment

Center Township Trustee - La Porte County
Community Food Boxes

Citizens Concerned for the Homeless
Food Rescue Initiative Program "FRI" Mobile Food Distribution Event

Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee, Wills Townships, Inc.
Food Pantry Support

Deliverance & Victory Outreach Ministries
"Soul Food Bistro Inc." A Non-profit Comprehensive Job Training Program

Diamonds and Pearl Mentorship
"HealHER" A Breast Cancer Walk with a Dual Purpose

Dunebrook
Trauma-Focused Therapy for Child Abuse Victims

Dunes Arts Foundation
Creative Theatre Arts Program for Safe Harbor Summer Camp Students

Family Advocates
Exterior Access Renovation

Fly High Youth Services
Fly High for the Holidays

HealthLinc
Increasing Literacy in LaPorte County

Humane Indiana
Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education

Independent Cat Society
Keeping Up with Kittens: Spay and Neuter Assistance

Intrepid Phoenix
Fitness for Recovery from Substance Use Disorder

Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts
Activating Neighborhoods through the Arts

Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana
JA Elementary Programming: Michigan City Area Schools

La Porte County Drug Free Partnership
Outreach to Address Mental Health and Substance Use Disparities Among Underserved Groups

La Porte County EMS
La Porte County EMS CO Meter Project

La Porte County Family YMCA
"NextGen Y" Junior Staff & Mentoring Program

La Porte County Meals on Wheels
Blizzard Box Bonanza 9

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra
Ellis Island: Dream of America

La Porte High School
Competitive Workforce Development Through Robotics

LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center
NOVA Program Learning Space Upgrade

La Porte Fire Department
La Porte Fire Department Training Center Resources

La Porte Lake Association
Pine & Stone Lake Invasive Milfoil Weed Treatments



1. Volunteers preparing backpacks for the Salvation Army of Michigan City's Weekend Backpack Feeding Program; 2. Dunes Arts Youth Theatre students perform at the final presentation. 3. A student receives no-cost services at the Open Door Adolescent Health Center, located on-site at Michigan City High School.

These grants are possible because of the generosity of many donors, including visionary donors who set up **Community Funds at Unity Foundation** (listed on page 16). The following funds provided additional support for this year's grants: African American Empowerment Fund, Barry C. Dulyea Arts Fund for Children, Charles Westcott Youth Fund, Glick Foundation Fund for the City of La Porte, The Graduates of Isaac C. Elston High School Education Support Fund, Honor Our Military Fund, Jeanette Popp Kent Mental Health Fund, Jerry Peters Memorial Fund, John A. and Dorothy Sieb Carstens Fund, Kay Franklin Commemorative Fund, La Porte County Educational Advancement Fund, La Porte County Mental Health Fund, Lorraine Gehrke Orłowski Fund for Housing & Homelessness, Polad Animal Care Endowment Fund, Ulery Family Fund, Unity Foundation Literacy Fund, and the Womens Well Being Fund.

Leadership La Porte County
High School Program

MAKS CORP

La Porte County Emergency Request/Safety Items Program

Michigan City Art League

Art Opportunities for La Porte County Residents

Michigan City High School

"Future Wolves" Elementary Sports Program

Michigan City Holiday Meals

Free Holiday Meals

Michigan City

Police Department

Strengthening Community Resilience Through Direct Client Support

Michigan City Public Library

Ozobots for Creative Coding in Children's Makerspace

Nest Community Shelter

Nest Community Shelter La Porte Expansion & Capacity-Building

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

New Hope Food Pantry

New Prairie High School

Mathematics at Work

Open Door Adolescent Health Center

School-based Health & Mental Health Clinic

The Pax Center

The Pax Gardens

REAL Services, Inc.

Food for Senior Nutrition Program

Reins Of Life, Inc.

Equine-Assisted Programs for People with Disabilities

A Rosie Place for Children

Magical Sleepover Adventures for Medically Fragile Children in La Porte County

Sacred Heart Food Pantry at St. Mary

Feeding the Poor and Needy in an Uncertain Time

Safe Harbor Nurturing Minds

Safe Harbor Summer STEAM Camp 2026

The Salvation Army of La Porte Indiana

Client Choice Food Pantry

The Salvation Army of Michigan City

Weekend Backpack Feeding Program

Service League of Michigan City

Equipment Inventory Additions

The Social and Learning Institute

Dunes to You: Outdoor Learning for All Abilities

Soul Steppers Drill Team, Inc.

Ambassadors Marching to Always Remember

South Central Jr. Sr. High School

Classroom Computer System Updates

Stepping Stone Shelter for Women

Basic Needs and Food Initiative

Swanson Center

Outreach to Homeless Individuals in La Porte County

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Church Community Food Pantry

United Way of La Porte County

Veterans Stand Down Event

We All in Recovery Inc.

Recovery Cafe

Westville Elementary

Young Authors Event

Women's Care Center, Inc.

Expanding Access to Critical Services for Moms and Babies

Youth Service Bureau of La Porte County

School Buddies



60 organizations were recognized as 2025 Power for Good Grant recipients at Unity's Annual Celebration Luncheon in October 2025.

For a limited time, gifts to Unity's Power for Good Fund will be matched with \$2 for every \$1 donated.

Visit uflc.net/donate to learn more.

GRANT IMPACT

What's in a Grant?

To most people, a grant looks a lot like a check—but it is much more than that. Behind every Unity grant, there is a community working toward a shared goal. There is a donor with a vision and an applicant with an idea to bring that vision to life. There is a committee carefully reviewing the request and a dedicated team turning the plans into action. And finally, there are everyday people whose lives are touched by the results.

Grantmaking is not flashy. It mostly happens behind the scenes, and it probably won't stop you in your tracks or make you snap a picture...but the results just might.

Read on to learn more about the community impact supported by some of our recent grants.



MEALS ON WHEELS BLIZZARD BOX BONANZA

La Porte County Meals on Wheels nourishes and enriches the lives of seniors, disabled, and homebound individuals by providing hot meals delivered daily by caring community volunteers. Unity Foundation has been a proud supporter of their "Blizzard Box Bonanza" project for many years through our Power for Good Grant Program.

Each November, Meals on Wheels delivers clients their "Blizzard Boxes," which provide ten, shelf-stable, easy-to-prepare meals. In the event of hazardous weather that prevents volunteers from making meal deliveries, clients are instructed to use a meal from their Blizzard Box.

These emergency kits ensure that no client misses a meal, even when winter roads are impassable.



EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY'S COMFY AND CALM CORNER

Edgewood Elementary teachers Sharon Arndt and Alicia Olson received a Teacher Grant from Unity's Michigan City Education Foundation Fund for their kindergarten classroom's "Comfy and Calm Corner."

The corner provides activities to help students reframe their mindset, take a break to refocus, or express feelings they have not yet learned to verbalize. It includes alternate seating along with emotion-focused books and activities, coloring, and anything that squishes, pulls, or has texture.

The best part? The kindergarteners had a voice in the planning and selection of the materials!



THE SOCIAL & LEARNING INSTITUTE'S "DUNES TO YOU" PROGRAM

Since 1976, the Social & Learning Institute (SLI) has been a cornerstone of support for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in La Porte County. Unity is proud to support their "Dunes to You" program through our Power for Good Grant Program.

The Dunes to You Program, a partnership between SLI and the Dunes Learning Center, ensures that SLI students have meaningful opportunities to explore and engage with the natural world in ways that are accessible, empowering, and inclusive.

These experiences promote a deeper understanding of the world around them, reminding students that they are a vital part of something bigger!



THE PAX CENTER'S COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Pax Center's mission is to keep La Porte County well-loved and well-fed through a network of community gardens, food pantries, and community meals. For the past couple of years, Unity has helped support their Pax Center Community Gardens through our Power for Good Grant Program.

Located in La Porte, the Pax Gardens are open to neighbors and community members for communal gardening and connection. They also serve as a production site for the Pax Center's Market, supplying free, fresh produce to the community twice a week during harvest season.

Access to these gardens promotes healthy eating, community engagement, and well-being for La Porte County residents.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Boys & Girls Clubs of La Porte County offer free afterschool and summer programs that promote academic success, character & citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In 2024, Unity supported the Springfield Club with a Power for Good grant for the 2024–2025 school year, helping keep this program free for local families.

No-cost afterschool programs support families' financial stability and give young people a safe and engaging environment to learn and grow!

UNITY

Strengthening La Porte County | NOW AND FOREVER

FUNDS

VIEW FUNDS
AND GIVE ONLINE

Click or scan QR code or visit: uflc.net/donate/funds-by-interest/



As your local community foundation, Unity Foundation of La Porte County helps people like you invest in our community's future. Join us in our mission to strengthen La Porte County now and forever.

COMMUNITY FUNDS

These funds give Unity Foundation the flexibility to respond to our community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities. Because they are not limited to a specific purpose, they allow us to make grants where they're needed most, when they're needed most.

For a limited time, gifts to Community Funds will be matched with \$2 for every \$1 donated.

Learn more at uflc.net/donate.

Power for Good Community Fund
AAUW La Porte Community Fund

Backer Family Fund

Bowers & Smyrl Families
Community Fund

Fred & Helen Brust
Community Fund

*Burton B. Ruby Family
Community Fund

Sara & Bill Carlisle
Community Fund

Carla Carstens and Ted Herr
Community Fund

Petrea A. Clark Community Fund

*Diana and Ronald Corley
Community Fund

John P. & Anne H. Daley
Community Fund

Ernest & Mildred Delco
Community Fund

Pauline M. Dent Memorial Fund

Randy & Jane Dorman
Foundation Fund

Charles T. & Pauline J. Dye
Endowment Fund

Mark E. Essling Community Fund

*Francesconi Family Fund

Sanford Z. Friedman
Community Fund

David C. Gardner
Community Fund

Christopher B. Jollief
Memorial Fund

Kabelin Family
Community Fund

Dennis B. Kelley
Community Fund

Ruth W. Pollingue
Community Fund

Purdue Federal Credit Union Fund

Scott & Marianne Rice Family
Community Fund

Tom & Judy Ringo
Community Fund

*Bob Rose Community Fund

Ruth Sabin Community Fund

Philip A. Sprague
Community Fund

Thomas C. & Blanch G. Stokes
Community Fund

Tower/Oktoberfest
Community Fund

John & Jean Vail
Community Fund

Sandra L. Young
Community Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS & AGENCY FUNDS

These funds benefit a specific charitable organization or cause.

ANIMAL CARE & ANIMAL EDUCATION

Animal Lover's Fund

Fried's Cat Shelter Endowment

Independent Cat Society

La Porte County Small Animal Shelter

Michiana Humane Society

Polad Animal Care Fund

Washington Park Zoo Fund

Clarence Weinkauff Jr. Grant Fund

ARTS & CULTURE

Arts in the Park Fund

Arts United Fund of La Porte County

Bankoff Family Fund for the
Sinai Sunday Forum

Beverly Shores History Museum
& Art Gallery Fund

Carillon Fund of the
Presbyterian Church of La Porte

Barry Dulyea Arts for Children Fund

Dunes Arts Foundation Endowment

Festival Players Guild Endowment Fund

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Arts Fund

Barbara S. Friedman Poet Laureate

Indiana Humanities Fund

Evelyn & Robert Johnson Fund for Music

La Porte County Symphony Fund

La Porte Little Theatre Club
Endowment Fund

La Porte Music Club, Inc. Fund

Dale E. Landsman Arts Foundation

Jack & Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts

Jerry Peters Memorial Fund

Ted & Ruth Rohrbaugh Fund for
Michigan City Band Music

Julia Diane Ragains Slawin Music Fund

Sculptor Isamu Noguchi Tribute Fund

Stisher Family La Porte High School
Band Fund

Taleamor Park Environment & Art Fund

Sandra L. Young Arts Appreciation Fund

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PHILANTHROPY

African American Empowerment Fund

Mike Brennan Operating Endowment Fund

John A. & Dorothy Sieb Carstens Fund

Economic Development Investment Fund

Galena Township Community
Endowment Fund

*New Fund

Hanna, Indiana Community Fund
Honor Our Military Fund
Jim Jessup Future Leaders Fund
Kankakee Valley Workforce Development Fund
Kiwanis Club of La Porte Charitable Fund
La Porte County Celebration Fund
Leadership La Porte County Fund
Michigan City Lion Charities, Inc. Endowment Fund
Joseph & Jerome Nickels Fund
Rotary Club of Michigan City Foundation Fund
George H. & Madeline A. Smrt West Side Neighborhood Fund
United Way of La Porte County Endowment Fund
Unity Foundation Operating Fund
Vibrant Communities of La Porte County
Wanatah Lions Club Endowment Fund
Westville Chamber Community Fund
Ron Wood Jr. Memorial Water Safety Fund

EDUCATION

Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Fund
Janet Collings Drayton Teacher Innovation Fund
The Graduates of Isaac C. Elston High School Education Support Fund
Ivy Tech MC Pejic Campus Fund
La Lumiere School Endowment Fund
La Porte County Educational Advancement Fund
La Porte Educational Development Foundation Endowment Fund
La Porte High School Class of 1952 Fund
League of Women Voters Education Fund
Marquette Catholic HS Education Fund
Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation
Michigan City Area Schools Endowment Fund
Michigan City Education Foundation
J. Robert & Marjorie Miller Teacher Advancement Fund
Morgan Family Foundation Fund
Jeanette and George Neagu Gardens for All Fund
Notre Dame Catholic School Education Fund
Peepers for Teachers
Queen of All Saints School Language Arts
South Central Education Foundation
Michelle T. Stonewall Memorial Special Education Fund
Teacher Innovation Fund for MCAS
Westville Schools (MSD of New Durham Twp) Endowment

EMERGENCY SERVICES, HOUSING & FOOD

Affordable Housing Fund for the Greater Michigan City Area
American Red Cross Endowment Fund – La Porte County Chapter
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary
Food Bank of Northern Indiana Fund
Home Team Project Fund
Homeward Bound Villages Endowment Fund
Housing Opportunities Endowment Fund
La Porte County Disaster Relief & Recovery Fund
La Porte County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. Endowment Fund
La Porte County Meals on Wheels Endowment
Michigan City Holiday Meals
Lorraine Gehrke Orlowski Fund for Housing & Homelessness
Nest Community Shelter Endowment Fund *(formerly Interfaith Community PADS)*
The Salvation Army of La Porte Endowment Fund
The Salvation Army of Michigan City
The Salvation Army of Michigan City Major Building Repairs Fund
Sand Castle Shelter for Women & Children
Stepping Stone Shelter Endowment Fund
*Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen Endowment Fund

ENVIRONMENT, PARKS, & RECREATION

Barker Woods Stewardship Fund
Beechwood Golf Course Endowment Fund
Dunes Environmental Learning Center Tuition Assistance Fund
Environmental Improvement Fund for La Porte County
Fedder's Alley All Inclusive Playground & Fitness Park Fund
Fort La Play Porte Endowment
Fox Memorial Park Endowment Fund
Friendship Botanic Gardens Fund
Julian's Wild Wild Hero Foundation
June B. Kelley Garden Fund for Long Beach
La Porte City Park Foundation Fund
La Porte County Conservation Fund
La Porte County Park Foundation Fund
Long Beach Tree Fund
Mill Pond Park Fund
Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award
Rotary Special Projects Fund
Save the Dunes Conservation Fund Endowment

UNITYFUNDS

Shirley Heinze Land Trust Endowment for La Porte County
Trail Creek Watershed Partnership Fund
Urban Forestry Fund – Michigan City
Unity Park Endowment Fund

FAMILY SUPPORT

Children's Fund (Child Abuse Prevention) – Dunebrook
Family Advocates (CASA) Fund
Held In Hope Endowment Fund
La Porte Family YMCA Child Care Fund
Women's Care Center of Greater La Porte County Endowment Fund
Womens Well-Being Fund

HEALTH CARE

Center for Hospice Care Fund
Duneland Health Council Fund
Erdheim – Chester Disease Global Alliance Fund
Franciscan St. Anthony Health, Michigan City Fund
Mosette Levin Cancer Fund
New Day Foundation Endowment Fund
Open Door Community Health Alliance Endowment Fund
Dr. R. Thomas Rocke SMILE Foundation
VNA Hospice of NWI
La Porte County Endowment

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project Fund
Dick Reel Memorial Pioneerland Fund
Michigan City Lighthouse Catwalk Maintenance
Rumely/Allis-Chalmers La Porte Heritage Center Fund
Washington Park Bandstand Fund

LITERACY & LIBRARY SERVICES

Kay Franklin Commemorative Fund
La Crosse Public Library Fund
La Porte County Public Library Endowment Fund
Marquette Catholic High School Library Fund
Michigan City Public Library Fund
READ La Porte County Literacy Fund
Unity Foundation Literacy Fund

(continued on next page)

**New Fund*

(continued from previous page)

MENTAL WELL BEING

Anam Cara Endowment Fund
Mental Health Fund of La Porte County
Samaritan Counseling Centers Fund
Worthy Women Transformation
Endowment Fund

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H of La Porte County
Boys & Girls Clubs of La Porte County
Endowment Fund
Boy Scouts of America
LaSalle Council #165 Fund
Imogene L. Dahl Purdue Extension Fund
DeCamp's Band of Brothers Fund
Dr. Fischer LPHS Athletic Fund
Foundations for Youth
(Youth Service Bureau)
Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana
Hands off Heroin Fund, MSD
New Durham Twp Schools
Imagination Station Fund
Junior Achievement of Michigan City
La Porte County Fair Fund
La Porte County Family YMCA Fund
La Porte County Family YMCA
MC Elston Branch Endowment Fund
La Porte Jaycees Deserving Children
Endowment Fund
LOK Wishing Tree Foundation
*Long Beach Youth Community
Outreach Fund
MCHS Athletic Booster Club
Zach McCoy Youth Development Fund
Aaron McNew Memorial Fund
Leigh & Marcia Morris Fund
New Prairie Athletic Capital Fund
Kent D. Ribordy Youth Fund
Philip A. Sprague Care & Share Fund

*New Fund

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Agricultural Scholarship Fund was created by local farmers who recognized that fewer young people entering the field could have serious effects on our food supply. Since 1999, the fund has awarded more than \$50,000 to La Porte County students pursuing education and careers in agriculture.



Steck Family Music Education Fund
Teen Dream Fund
Tuholski & Oberlie Environment
& Arts Fund for Youth
Wenig Family Healthy Lifestyle Fund
Charles Westcott Youth Fund
Youth 2 Youth Endowment Fund

RELIGIOUS

Bethel Presbyterian Church
of Union Mills Fund
*Columbarium Fund of the
Presbyterian Church of La Porte
First United Methodist Church
of La Porte Endowment Fund
Holy Family Parish Endowment
Music Fund for First United
Methodist Church of La Porte
Presbyterian Church of La Porte
Endowment Fund
Sinai Temple of Michigan City Endowment
St. John's United Church of Christ,
Michigan City
Trinity Church Fund, Michigan City
Wanatah Sacred Heart Catholic Church

SENIOR CITIZEN WELL BEING & OTHER-ABLED

Agrawal Family Fund for Social
& Learning Institute
Gardner & Guerrucci Memorial Endowment
Fund for Social & Learning Institute
Gesse Family Endowment
for the Other-Abled
Legacy Fund for the Swanson
Activity Center for Older Adults

Library Services for the Disabled Fund
Paladin Endowment
Reins of Life Michigan City
Endowment Fund
Ruth C. Sabin Senior Center
for Healthy Living Fund
Senior Independence Fund
SHARE Foundation with the
Handicapped Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Agricultural Scholarship
The Judith A. Amor Nursing Scholarship
Lake Hills Connie Bachmann Scholarship
Diane Kay Bamberth Memorial Award
Gustav J. & Elma A. Banzhaf Scholarship
Benzs Family Scholarship
Barbara Brandon Piano /
Organ Achievement Award
Lloyd G. & Betty Jane Clayton Scholarship
William Vernon Compton Scholarship
Earl & Faye Cunningham Scholarship
R.E. Daly III La Lumiere Scholarship
Ernest & Mildred Delco Scholarship
Carley Dickard Memorial Scholarship
Galena Township Scholarship
James A. & Phyllis A. Garwood
Memorial Music Scholarship
Donald & Beverly Guse Scholarship
Harold & Rowena Hargrave Scholarship
Robert J. Hiler Memorial Scholarship
Ruth Howe Memorial Nursing Scholarship
The Ingersoll Trust

LONG BEACH YOUTH COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

The Long Beach Youth Community Outreach Fund supports programs that empower local youth while strengthening their connection to the history, culture, and natural environment of Long Beach. By fostering learning, leadership, and community engagement, the fund helps young people thrive and builds a stronger, more vibrant community for all.



Richard James Johnson
Agriculture Scholarship
Dr. King S. Jones Memorial Scholarship
Arthur & Alice Kabelin Scholarship
Kabelin Family Scholarship
K.A.T. Volunteer Scholarship
*Jerry Karstens Athletic Scholarship
Harry Kelling Scholarship
Kelly-Prentiss Scholarship
Sandra Calkins Kowalski
Community Nursing Fund
Richard & Tracy Krause Scholarship
The La Porte County E-Z Riders
Horse & Pony Scholarship
La Porte Amateur Music Scholarship
La Porte County Nursing Scholarship
La Porte County Symphony Orchestra
Deborah DePoy Scholarship
Robert E. LeRoy Tennis Scholarship
*Lindborg Family Agriculture Scholarship
Linnen Family Scholarship for La Lumiere
William P. & Mary Lou Linnen
Fund for St. Mary's College
Linnen Memorial Fund for La Lumiere
Marilouise Lundgren Lossing
Memorial Education Fund
Jack & Shirley Lubeznik Scholarship
Robert L. Ludington & Anita Huppenthal
Ludington Scholarship
*Mandeville Family Scholarship
Ruth & Leonard Minich Scholarship
Morgan Family Scholarship
Dr. Edwin C. & Alice J. Mueller Scholarship
Coach Nova Scholarship
Loyal Perlich Outstanding Speaker Award
Pioneer Scholarship
*Dr. Florian M. & Christine M. Predd
Scholarship
Redington & Rootes Scholarship
Ida M. Reffett Debate Scholarship
Robert A. & Dorothy W. Rocke Scholarship
Frank & Dorothy Schellin Scholarship
Donald F. Scott Motivational Scholarship
Floyd O. & Betty L. Shunk Scholarship
Edward B. Siperek & Grace A. Steele
Siperek Scholarship
Irvin E. & Peg Swanson Scholarship
Tanber-Blair Golf Scholarship
Neil G. Thompson Memorial Scholarship
John R. & Florene A. Troyer Scholarship
Unity Foundation County-Wide Scholarship
D.I. Walker Scholarship
Arlo & Jayne Westphal Memorial Scholarship
Westville Police Department Scholarship
*Gerald and Carol Wollert Scholarship

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

These funds are for charitable purposes recommended by the Donor Advisor. Their recommendations are honored as long as they are deemed legal and charitable in nature.

Agrawal Family Fund
Amberg & Spartz Family Fund
Alt Family Fund
Paul & Sharon Applegate
Family Foundation
Don & Sue Babcock Dream Fund
Bagnall Family Fund
Milton L. & Sylvia R. Bankoff
Memorial Foundation
Bensz Family Advised Fund
Muriel R. & Myron E. Berkson, M.D. Fund
Brennan Family Fund
Fred & Helen Brust Fund
Dent & Sterger Families Foundation Fund
Jeff & Dawn Dunifon Family Fund
Mitch and Karyl Feikes Family Foundation
Fly High Fund
Shaw & Greta Friedman Advised Fund
Marie Gaddy Foundation
Micky Gallas Family Fund
Gilmore Family Fund
GoMetz Farm Fund
Charles K. & Janet Greenwald Family Fund
Hay Family Advised Fund
Hal & Rose Higdon Running Activity Fund
Anthony & Nichole Hilb Family Fund
Jack L. Jones Advised Fund
Ralph & Charlotte Jones
Family Endowment
Kabelin Family Fund
Kora Family Fund
Lake Family Fund for La Porte County
Lake Family Fund
Levine Family of La Porte Fund
Lighthouse Place Charitable Fund
Rose & Walter Machnyk
Donor Advised Fund
Magnuson Family Advised Fund
Manges Family Fund
Bruce & Julia Manner Social Capital Fund
McDermott Family Fund
Terence Metcalf Memorial Fund
Ndukwu Family Opportunity Fund
Nelson & Deutch Community Fund

UNITYFUNDS



NDUKWU FAMILY OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Ndukwu Family Opportunity Fund supports initiatives and programs that create opportunities, growth, and well-being for students and residents across La Porte County. By enhancing educational access and enriching everyday life, the fund helps individuals reach their potential and contributes to a stronger, thriving community for generations to come.

Debbie New Paholski Foundation
Jim and Kathy Nova Foundation
Jerome C. & Kathy A. Orcutt Fund
Pontius Family Foundation
William & Marie Priebe Memorial Fund
Random Acts of Kindness Fund
Ransom Family Foundation
Cheryl J. Reinhart Advised Fund
T.H.E. Fund
Salmon Family Fund
Paul & Terri Sammann Fund
Saint Stanislaus Kosta Building
Improvement and Education Fund
G.W. Schmidt Foundation
Eugene & Elaine Shurte Family Fund
Scott E. & Kimberly A. Siefker Fund
Stalbrink & Lapaich Family Fund
Donnie & Peggy Thomas
Empowerment Fund
Ticsay Family Charitable Foundation
Ulery Family Fund
Varnak Family Foundation
Woodrow & Doherty Family Fund
Robert W. & Sharon L. Wright
Community Fund
Anonymous Funds

**New Fund*

GOLD KEY SOCIETY

Gold Key Society members play a **key** role in strengthening La Porte County through philanthropy. These professional advisors connect their clients' charitable interests with opportunities at Unity Foundation, helping create lasting impact in our community.

Whether motivated by tax benefits, a passion for a specific cause, or the desire to leave a legacy, Unity offers tools to help every donor achieve their charitable goals. Talk with your advisor to learn more, or explore giving options at uflc.giftlegacy.com.



Each gold key represents a client who has partnered with Unity to make a difference, guided by the expertise of their professional advisor.

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AFS Company, LLC

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Blue Sky Financial Partners, Inc.

*New Gold Key Member

Unity Foundation is proud to recognize Patrick Spence as their new outside investment manager!



Patrick Spence
Edward Jones



Kendall Snider
Edward Jones



Julia Kretlow
Edward Jones



Tom Kaminski, CFP
Twin Robins Capital

IN MEMORY OF

Cheryl Allen
Joe Bachani
Connie Bachmann
Annette Baker
Mark Bauer
Thomas J. Biela
Walter Binder
Kathleen M. Brennan
Fred Brust
Pudge Bumgardner
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Tom & Judy Ringo
Burton (Bud) Ruby
Robert Rose, Sr.
Marilyn Davis Savich
Robert (Gene) Schultz
Eugene Shurte
Rodney Wayne Smith
Ron Dombkowski and
Tom Smith
Mayme Stump
Tina Sonderby
David Sonnenberg
Phil and Esther Sprague
Donnie Thomas

TRIBUTES

July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025



IN HONOR OF

@rig2paddlecrew
Beth Berkson
Dr. Andrew & Myka Berkson
Rabbi Marc Berkson
Susan Berkson
Liz Bernel
Cheryl Chapman
Class of 1975
Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins
and Her Career in Education
Elston 1974 Class Reunion
Tim and Katy Gartland
Jack Jones

Ralph Jones
Keith Kalvaitis
Sue Lawrence's 90th Birthday
Mary Lou Linnen
Janis Mitchell
Emilio Munoz
Andy Neal
Stephanie Oberlie
Mona Pavey
Pam Richardson
Maggi Spartz
Jalyn and Rhianna Tandy
Richard Tuholski

VISIONARIES

Unity Visionaries see beyond today to enrich our community far into the future. They were inspired to start a permanent fund; name Unity as a beneficiary of their will, insurance policy or IRA; or to create a charitable gift annuity. By doing one or more of these acts, they are meeting their goals today, while making a lasting expression of their family values.

We love our Visionaries and they love what Unity does to help them strengthen La Porte County now and forever! We are grateful for their trust and their commitment to our future.

ORDINARY
PEOPLE,
EXTRAORDINARY
VISION



Susan Aaron
Dr. & Mrs. Amarnath
B. Agrawal
Blayne & Cathy Albrecht
Judi & Brett Alcorn
David W. Alt
Willis E. Alt Jr.
Matthew & Maria Amor
Paul & Sharon Applegate
Benjamin Bachmann
Scott Bachmann
Dr. Barbara Backer
George Bagnall
Steve & Darlene* Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Baltes
Mike & Lou Ann
Bankowski
Ron Bensz*
Elizabeth H. Bernel
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin
E. Bowers
Barbara Brandon
Mike & Kathleen
Brennan*
Darrin Brooks
Helen Brust
Marilyn Burrows
Carrie Campbell Heuer
Meg Caplice
William & Sara Carlisle*
John Carmen
Carla Carstens
& Tedd Herr
Thomas & Sandy Cipares
Robin Clark
Lin Conley
Lisa Corey
Dr. Ronald & Diana Corley
Daryl L. Crockett*

Earl & Faye Cunningham
Rita Dagys
Jeff Deutch &
Angie Nelson Deutch
Todd & Stephanie
Dickard
Pamela Dishman
Randy & Jane Dorman
V. Michael &
Cherri Drayton
Shirley Duerr
Jeff & Dawn Dunifon
Jim & Nancy Dworkin
Dr. Irvin Watkins
& Dr. Barbara
Eason-Watkins
Thomas & Sheryl
Edwards
Michael Essling
Stephanie Essling
Julie Euler
Bill Euler
Mitch & Karyl Feikes
Mark & Laura Francesconi
Shaw & Greta Friedman
Marie Gaddy
Tom Garwood
Therese Gavin
Katie Geise
Tabb Gesse
Jon & Sherry Gilmore
Cary & Kristy Guse
Hal & Rose Higdon
Kevin & Camile Higdon
Anthony & Nichole Hilb
Janet Howell
Frank Howe*
Carolyn Ignatuk
Alison Jaksa

Jim & Virginia Jessup
Bruce R. Johnson
Jonathan & Margy Jollief
Greg Jones
Jeff & Margaret Jones
Chip & Susie Jones
Jerry & Kay Kabelin
Dennis Kelley
Andrew C. Kesling
Dorothy Kesling-
Rosenblum &
Dr. Joe Rosenblum
Jim Kniola
Dr. & Mrs. Vidya Kora
Joyce T. Kovacevich
Stanley Kowalski
Richard & Tracy Krause
Dr. Stephen Kroccek
Robert & Lori Lake
Deborah Landry
Peg Landsman
Elizabeth LeRoy
Dan* & Linda Lewis
Yon & Alice Lindborg
Beth Linnen
Joseph Linnen
Dr. Lawrence Lobl
Bridget Lockhart
Glenn & Kathy Lubeznik
Daniel & Tricia Luck
Michele & Jim Magnuson
Garrett L. Mandeville*
Dave Manges Family
Bruce & Julia Manner
Dr. Ben & Darlene Mannix
Marsha Markle
Diana & Michael*
McCarthy

Patrick & Susan McCoy
Michael & Deborah
McDermott
Constance McKeague
The Merrill Family
Ann Metcalf*
Melinda Metzger
Drs. David C. &
Lovera Wolf Miller
Fred Miller*
Jake E. Miller
Martin Minich
Leigh & Marcia Morris
Ndukwu Family
Jim & Kathy Nova
Chuck & Rita Oberlie
Dorothy Ostrega
Glenna M. Ott
Mike Paholski
Marilyn Pavey*
Michael Perlich
Barrie Peterson
Clifford & Lisa Lee
Peterson
Christine Predd
Jo T. Presser
Janet P. Priebe Protas
Ron Ragains
Warren & Sandy Ransom
Larry Reed*
Mary Beth Reel
Cheryl Reinhart
Dan & Pam Ribordy
Scott & Marianne Rice
Dennis & Francis
Sipocz Richardson
Michael & Amy Riehle
Dr. Tom & Cindy Roberts
Bob Rose

Thomas & Ann Roush
Michael & June Salmon
Paul & Terri Sammann
Brenda Schultz
Gerald & Betty Seegers
Elaine Shurte
Scott & Kimberly Siefker
Maggi & Tom Spartz
Richard Stalbrink &
Amber Lapaich
Peter & Mary Kay Steele
Mickey & Teri Stisher
Dr. Tom &
Kimberly Stokes
Michael & Loretta
Stonewall
Tom & Marti Swanson
Linda Terzino
Lane & Tim Theriac
Peggy Thomas
Jeanne Ticsay
Nathan & Kristen Ulery
Chris & Deb Varnak
Edward L. Volk
Ellen Waite-Franzen
& Scott Franzen
Susan Weinkauff
Dr. Janet Weiss*
Don Wenig
Dennis & Jane Westfall
Gerald & Carol Wollert
Michael A. Woodrow
& Kelly Doherty
Robert & Sharon Wright
Sandy L. Young
Susan Zolvinski
Anonymous Donors

* Deceased

Community Partners

Through generous sponsorships, Community Partners further Unity's impact and support our mission to strengthen La Porte County now and forever.

Together, we are a Power for Good!

"1st Source Bank is built upon Community Leadership, so much that we've included it in our organizational core values. We support the Unity Foundation of La Porte County because they align with our passion of engaging in the communities where we live and work. They make it easy for us to give back to our community in a variety of ways to strengthen La Porte County now and into the future."



"Building a stronger La Porte County is a vision NIPSCO is proud to support. By partnering with Unity Foundation of La Porte County, NIPSCO is helping to create long lasting prosperity and economic vitality for the communities of La Porte County and the communities we serve."

Katie Eaton, NIPSCO Public Affairs & Economic Development Manager, (center) with Unity Foundation staff members



"At Horizon Bank, we're deeply committed to our community's growth and success. That's why we proudly support the Unity Foundation—a trusted partner whose mission is to strengthen La Porte County now and forever by building permanent endowments, providing leadership, offering philanthropic tools for all, and serving as a catalyst for social and economic vitality. Through their diverse giving opportunities, the Unity Foundation continues to create meaningful, lasting impact in the community we all call home."



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNERS

Applegate & Company, CPA's
Centier Bank
The City of Michigan City & Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch
Edward Jones
Harbour Trust & Investment Management Group
James Burg Trucking Company
Kabelin ACE Hardware
Newby Lewis Kaminski & Jones, LLP
Purdue University Northwest
Rice Farms LLC
Sera Group

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Summary Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Source: Audited Financial Statements

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$1,731,118
Investments.....	48,929,749
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts.....	408,577
Receivables.....	3,857
Right of use assets.....	13,924
Net property and equipment	366,304
Total Assets.....	\$51,453,529

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$35,082
Right of use liabilities.....	13,924
Non-current liabilities.....	1,455,273
Total Liabilities.....	\$1,504,279

Net assets without donor restrictions.....	\$2,636,168
Net assets with donor restrictions.....	47,313,082
Total Net Assets.....	\$49,949,250
Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....	\$51,453,529

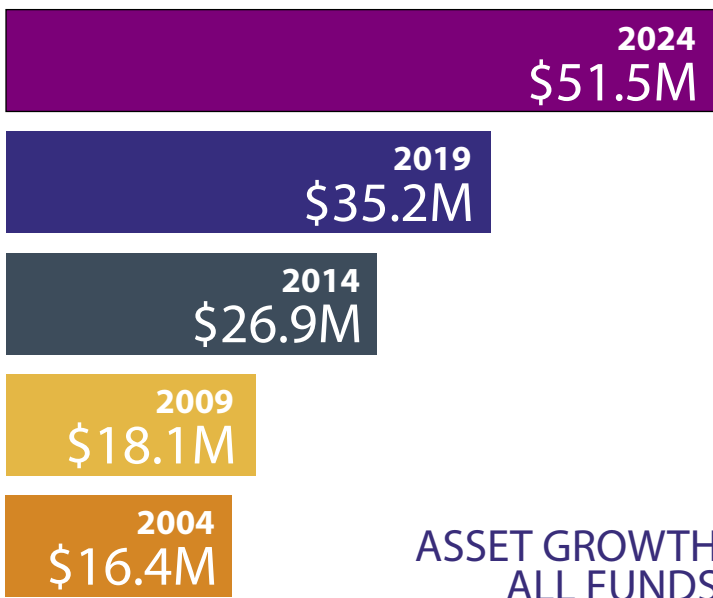
REVENUES, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT

Revenue and support	
Investment return, net	\$3,869,868
Contributions.....	4,476,110
Gift-in-kind rent.....	66,348
Rent income	98,932
Change in value of charitable remainder trusts.....	16,804
Special events, Project fee, Admin fee income.....	710,442
Total revenues, gains and other support.....	\$9,238,504

EXPENSES

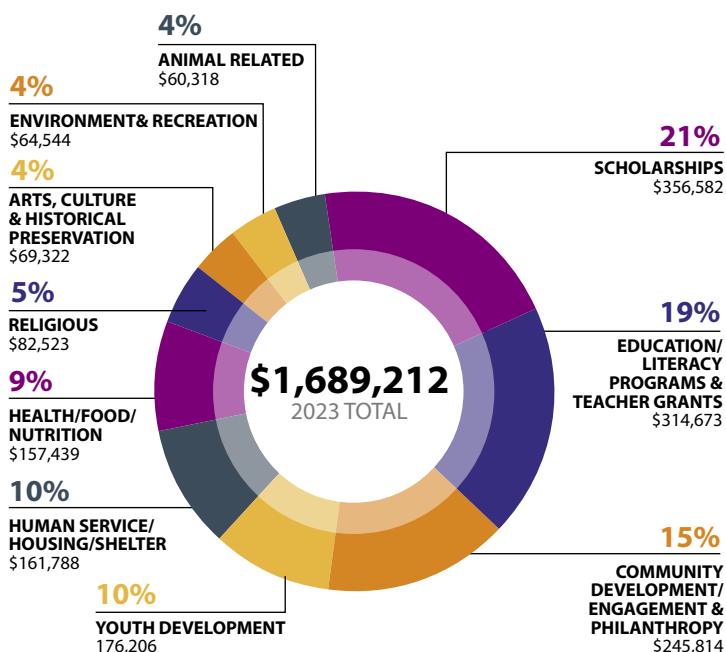
Program services	\$2,687,354
Supporting services.....	373,853
Fundraising.....	351,288
Total Expenses	\$3,412,495

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$5,826,009



ASSET GROWTH
ALL FUNDS

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS



The above represents summarized financial data for the year ending December 31, 2024 as audited by Estep Burkey Simmons, LLC. A complete audited financial report is available upon request. The Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Inc., is a tax-exempt public charity under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3).

As reported by our independent investment advisors, The Mason Companies, the year-to-date time weighted returns, net of fees, for permanent assets under management as of 12/31/24 were 9.21% vs. GRP (Growth Reference Point) of 11.27%. The 3 Year return was 3.02% vs GRP of 2.78%; 5 Year: 7.54% vs. GRP of 6.50%; 7 Year: 6.85% vs. 6.27% GRP.



Unity Foundation
of La Porte County

422 Franklin St., Suite C
Michigan City, IN 46360

219-879-0327

uflc.net | unity@uflc.net



Community Partners

Through generous sponsorships, Community Partners further Unity's impact and support our mission to strengthen La Porte County now and forever.

**Together, we are a
Power for Good!**



"Mason Investment Advisory Services is once again honored to support the Unity Foundation of La Porte County. We are extremely proud of this partnership, as Unity Foundation has a long history of driving real world impact through active community engagement and investing in the people and organizations that are committed to bringing about change for generations to come."



*Pictured left to right:
Norma Winning, Allie Gormier, and Jason Doyle
work closely with Unity Foundation.*

"Our mission statement goes directly to **Quality of Life / Quality of Place**, so giving back is a natural happening for us.

We are embedded in the community and that allows us to be connected at the grass root level where giving back is essential. We continue to give back by connecting with folks through Vibrant Communities—providing a path for local input and connecting."

—Jack L Arnett, Chief Executive Officer

For a limited time, gifts to Unity's Power for Good Fund will be matched with \$2 for every \$1 donated.
Learn more at uflc.net/donate.