

Catalyst

A SPARK. A CHANGE. A BEGINNING... FOR GOOD THINGS.

A Lasting Legacy - Neal & Joy Carlson

At our annual celebration luncheon, held in November, we were thrilled to announce the establishment of the Neal & Joy Carlson Legacy Society and honored that both Neal and Joy and members of their family were present.

The Neal & Joy Carlson Legacy Society will recognize estate gift donors whose generosity will benefit our community, forever. It is fitting that the society be named for the Carlsons because of their long and fervent support of the Community Foundation through gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Neal Carlson served on the Community Foundation's board of directors from 1972 to 1997 and as the first Executive Director from 1990 to 1995. Neal and Joy served as volunteer scholarship reviewers for the Foundation for more than 20 years.

Moving to Kosciusko County in 1954, Neal and Joy were heavily involved in community service. Joy, a nurse, was one of the founders of Home Health Care, now called Kosciusko Home Care & Hospice, and was a long-time volunteer with Salvation Army and Mobile Meals. Neal, a banker, was active with the Kiwanis, Boy Scouts and the Kosciusko County Historical Society - in addition to many other community organizations.

Neal and Joy were recognized as Warsaw's Man and Woman of the Year - Neal in 1976, and Joy in 1978 for their many community efforts. Neal was awarded the Hoosier State's highest civic honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash, in 1997.

The Carlsons created numerous endowments at the Community Foundation that will benefit the entire Kosciusko County community, forever.

Leaving a gift in your Will is an easy way to help the causes you care about most, even after you are gone. If you would like to learn more about the Neal & Joy Legacy Society, please visit <https://kcfoundation.org/legacy-society> or call us at 574-267-1901.



Joy and Neal Carlson



KEYS Celebrates 20th Anniversary



2015-2016 Group Photo (the 20th class!)

Front Row (L-R): Kendra Housel (WCHS), Athena Schlitt (WCHS), Alex Fiscus (Wawasee HS), Elizabeth Kleopfer (Wawasee MS), Miriam Hagg (WCHS), Lauren Housel (Lakeview MS), Jane Hanes (LCA), Morgan Ziebarth (LCA)

Middle Row (L-R): Jared Krugman (Wawasee HS), Jon Harmon (LCA), Jakob Jones (TVMS), Shay Merley (TVHS), Sydney Wiedeman (WCHS), Landon Twombly (LCA), Camden Tucker (TVHS)

Back Row (L-R): Hannah Rhoades (Wawasee HS), Jairus Boyer (Wawasee HS), Hannah Jansma (TVHS), Aerin Shewman (TVHS), Chance Blair (LCA)

During the 1995-1996 school year, Kosciusko County Community Foundation brought together middle and high school students from Tippecanoe Valley, Warsaw and Wawasee School Corporations to form Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services (KEYS). A grant from Dekko Foundation helped develop the program aimed at teaching young people about leadership, board governance, team building and effective grantmaking. In 2002-2003, Lakeland Christian Academy students joined KEYS. KEYS members belong to the group from their eighth grade year until they graduate from high school.

"I have gained knowledge in many areas, including learning how endowments and non-profit businesses work, constructing minutes for a meeting, being financially responsible for the grantmaking funds KEYS distributes each year, playing an active role in a grant cycle and making a difference in my community through philanthropic work," said KEYS sophomore member from Warsaw Community High School, Miriam Hagg.

Since inception, KEYS has awarded over \$396,000 in educational grants and has given away nearly 3,000 books as part of Read Across Kosciusko County, their literacy outreach to second graders.

To celebrate their recently completed 20th year, KEYS is embarking on a campaign to raise \$20,000 toward their endowment, which generates income used for their educational grantmaking and program support. **Dekko Foundation is matching every dollar given to the endowment, up to \$10,000!** KEYS hopes to reach their goal by May and is planning a celebration party for when their goal is met. KEYS alumni, chaperones, Community Foundation board members and KEYS donors will be invited to attend.

Gifts to the KEYS Endowment can be made online at www.KCFoundation.org/donate. Checks can be made payable to Kosciusko County Community Foundation, 102 E Market Street, Warsaw, IN 46580. Be sure to designate your gift to the KEYS Endowment.

Barn & Business Breakfast Event Designed for Business & Community Leaders

Whether a manufacturing business, service provider, sales distributor or farm – every business in Kosciusko County can gain something from the upcoming Barn & Business Breakfast, hosted by Kosciusko County Community Foundation and Kosciusko County Farm Bureau. The event will be held on **March 7 from 6:30-8:30 a.m.** at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center at Grace College.

At last year's event over 200 leaders from a wide array of industries attended. They expressed appreciation for the opportunity to converse with other leaders about specific topics addressed at the breakfast, and they said they found the presentation by the keynote speakers relevant to their work.

This year's keynote speaker will be AgriNovus President and CEO, Beth Bechdol, who will share insights from AgriNovus' recently published report on workforce and talent development. In addition to her leadership role at AgriNovus, Bechdol serves as Ice Miller's Director of Agribusiness Strategies and is the former deputy director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. She has extensive trade and farm policy expertise. Bechdol received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in international law and international affairs and her master's degree from Purdue University in agricultural economics.

Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no charge to attend the event, however registration is required. Reservations can be made online at <https://connect.kcfoundation.org> or by calling the Community Foundation office at 574-267-1901.



Beth Bechdol, CEO of AgriNovus, will be the keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Barn & Business Breakfast.



Volunteer Scholarship Reviewers Needed!

If you have 4-6 hours during the month of April to review and rate scholarship applications, you have a high speed internet connection, and you want to make a difference in someone's life, ask for our Scholarship Volunteer Application by calling 574-267-1901 or by emailing Melissa@kcfoundation.org.

Our Mission:

By bringing caring people and charitable endeavors together, we make donor dreams shine for the good of our community.



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Upcoming Events

February
23
Read Across Kosciusko County
KEYS members and volunteers read to every 2nd grade classroom in Kosciusko County at the same time!

March
1
Community Funds Grant Application Deadline, 4:30 p.m.
Learn more at [KCFoundation.org/community-funds](https://www.kcfoundation.org/community-funds).

March
7
3rd Annual Barn & Business Breakfast, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Join other business and community leaders at the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center for networking and keynote speaker, Beth Bechdol, CEO of AgriNovus. Event is free but registration is required. Register at <https://connect.kcfoundation.org>.

March
15
General Scholarship Application Deadline, 4:30 p.m.
Learn more at [KCFoundation.org/scholarships](https://www.kcfoundation.org/scholarships).

March
16-17
Riley Radio Days
Listen to WRSW 107.3 FM as local families share their experiences at Riley Children's Hospital and how the KC Riley Kids Fund helped them.

May
1
Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up Grant Application Deadline, 4:30 p.m.
Learn more at [KCFoundation.org/kremc](https://www.kcfoundation.org/kremc).

May
3
Hats Off to Women, Women in Philanthropy Luncheon, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
This by-invitation event at Tippecanoe Lake Country Club will celebrate women and the many hats they wear! We will be inspired by stories of local women who have made a difference.