

Catalyst



A SPARK. A CHANGE. A BEGINNING... FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Foundation Board Approves New 5-year Strategic Plan

After a six-month planning process, the Board of Directors of Kosciusko County Community Foundation approved its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The new five-year plan outlines the Foundation's primary goals and objectives and provides a strategic road map for Community Foundation staff and board.

Indianapolis based consulting firm Johnson, Grossnickle, and Associates was engaged as facilitators of the strategic planning process. A 10-person committee of Community Foundation staff, board members, and donors led the project, with all staff and board members taking part in a strategic planning retreat last autumn.

"The objective was to create a detailed, yet flexible, five-year plan comprised of strategic goals, action plans, and financial support for the plan," said Strategic Planning Committee Chairperson Jane Wear. "The process began with an unbiased interview of community leaders and donors regarding the effectiveness of the

Community Foundation. Board and staff input was also collected."

The Strategic Plan also includes revised Vision and Mission Statements. "After very thoughtful consideration and deliberation, the mission statement was revised to more succinctly communicate the focus of the Community Foundation," said Wear.

"The final strategic plan was reviewed several times to assure the Community Foundation is poised to continue its longstanding history and commitment to donors, employees, communities, nonprofits, and philanthropy."

Three primary goals were set out in the plan: to deliver high-impact grants and services, to grow the Community Foundation, and to support initiatives that attract and retain a strong workforce throughout Kosciusko County (*in keeping with the \$4.3m grant we received from Lilly Endowment, Inc. for our Working Together Initiative*).

To view an executive summary of the strategic plan, please visit www.kcfoundation.org/about-us/publications

Our Vision

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation will serve as a trusted catalyst to strengthen connections, engage and build communities, and achieve quantifiable impact.

Our Mission

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation brings caring people and charitable endeavors together to inspire generosity and strengthen communities.

We accomplish our mission by:

Serving as the vehicle for donors' charitable dreams.

Awarding grants to charitable projects and organizations.

Addressing community needs as a catalyst and convener.

"The best thing about KEYS is the relationships made with people, learning how each person is good at something different, which makes them unique," said Titus Taylor, a sophomore from Wawasee. "it's the relationships that will help us accomplish more as a group."

Building Pathways to Philanthropy

KEYS (Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services) is the youth philanthropy group at KCCF. Their time is spent learning and practicing giving of their time, talent and treasure. Working on "SWAT Teams" (Grant Making, Activities, and Public Relations), they use teamwork and leadership skills to positively impact our community. Here is a glimpse at some things they have been working on this school year:

- Leading grant making efforts to improve education in Kosciusko County. This school year, KEYS awarded 21 grants totaling \$14,288.
- Site visits to the schools as a follow-up to past grants and their impact; get the word out to more teachers and organizations about grant opportunities.
- Using print and social media to share what they are learning and doing with the community.
- Presenting the "Nonprofit Spotlight" where they educate each other on local organizations.
- A visit to Camp Crosley for bonding and team building exercises.
- A visit to Wawasee Area Conservancy to clean up signs and fences, and leaf raking. (photo)
- Annual visit to Head Start where they read and



made Christmas crafts with preschoolers.

- A visit to Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts to learn more about the theatre and conservatory.
- Experienced process art during a visit to Spoonful of Imagination Art Studio.
- Planning for Read Across Kosciusko County, when members read to 45 2nd grade classrooms from all 16 Kosciusko County elementary schools simultaneously, AND gift each student with a book, made possible with a KEYS grant.

KEYS comprises 20 students, one grade level representative from the four school districts located in the county. Students are nominated as 8th graders and serve with KEYS until they graduate from high school.

New Nonprofit Sustainability Grants

The Community Foundation has announced a new one-time grant opportunity for charitable nonprofits serving residents of Kosciusko County. Applications are currently being accepted to fund projects that aid in building nonprofit capacity and sustainability. Grant dollars for this initiative come from the Community Foundation, K21 Health Foundation and the Dekko Foundation.

Local charities may apply for funds to hire fundraising consultants and to purchase or upgrade donor management software or technology. Grants are also available for operating campaign fundraising matches. For more details, or to apply, please visit

www.kcfoundation.org/grants/npsustainabilitygrants/

Applications are due April 1, 2022.



Working Together - four 'pillars' to build a stronger community

In December 2020, the Community Foundation was awarded grant funding of \$4.3million from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. to support a new initiative to reduce barriers to employment in Kosciusko County.

The **Working Together** initiative has four pillars: workforce **housing**, accessible quality **childcare**, **talent** attraction and retention, and job **training** for people with disabilities. To facilitate this \$7.9million initiative, the Community Foundation has partnered with specialized agencies for each of the pillars.

The staff of Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) is leading a number of efforts to improve access to housing to meet the demands of our growing workforce. KEDCO is also coordinating new talent attraction efforts such as the Dual Career Program and customized tours for potential new residents.

New resources being offered through Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce's Launchpad program are helping expand childcare options, and local, income-eligible families can now avail of new scholarship funding



to help alleviate the financial burden of childcare.

Improved services (before/after school, summer and holiday care) for children with special needs are now also being offered through the Kosciusko Community YMCA.

And Cardinal Services is the strategic partner tasked with coordinating more job-specific training programs for people with disabilities, improving access to jobs for our disabled residents and further supporting our economy.

Housing

Support the development of attainable housing throughout Kosciusko County to support a growing workforce.

Childcare

Increase access to affordable quality childcare for working parents and guardians across Kosciusko County.

Talent

Establish programs that showcase the benefits of living and working in our community to attract and retain professionals.

Training

Support job-specific training for disabled members of our community in order to better equip them for the local workforce.



Considering Your Legacy?

We offer free online resources to help you create your estate plan.

<http://kccfgift.org/>



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Upcoming Events

February

23

Nonprofit Workshop: The Annual Operating Campaign

Learn more at <https://kcfoundation.org/events>

April

1

Nonprofit Sustainability Grant Application Deadline

Learn more at <https://kcfoundation.org/grants/npsustainabilitygrants>

March

1

Community Funds Grant Deadline

Learn more at <https://kcfoundation.org/community-funds>

May

1

KREMC Operation Round Up Grant Deadline

Learn more at <https://kcfoundation.org/kremc>

March

15

Traditional Scholarships Application Deadline

Learn more at <https://kcfoundation.org/scholarships>

