



Community Foundation of Crawford County
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NEWS RELEASE

The Community Foundation of Crawford County (CFCC) has received a Community Leadership Grant of \$100,000 as part of the seventh phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VII) initiative. With the grant, the community foundation will work with the community to develop a county-wide website with accompanying community calendar.

The CFCC is one of 84 foundations in Indiana receiving grants through this round of GIFT VII grantmaking. Lilly Endowment created GIFT in 1990 to help local communities in Indiana develop the philanthropic capacity to identify local needs and challenges. It launched GIFT VII in 2018 and made available a total of \$125 million to help Indiana foundations strengthen their leadership capacities in the towns, cities and counties they serve. Lilly Endowment expects to make additional GIFT VII grants in the coming months.

As part of GIFT VII, the CFCC was awarded a planning grant of \$50,000 in 2019 to convene local stakeholders to identify, prioritize and assess opportunities and challenges in Crawford County. Many community factors were discussed during meetings, the first Crawford County Leadership Institute (CCLI) was held, surveys were conducted, and input was widely encouraged by all ages and demographics represented in Crawford County. Previous surveys were also used in the decision making process.

Topics included in most discussions were broadband (high speed internet / fiber optic cable); lack of internal communication between organizations; inability for the general public to know how or who to contact for their concerns; overlapping community events and activities; a central place to post/advertise community needs, childcare deficits; transportation; addiction treatment and recovery; and small business web presence.

“Based on surveys, the input of residents, and the Crawford County Leadership Institute team along with the size of the grant available, the community website and calendar was selected as the project,” said Nick Siler, CFCC Board Chairman. “It will address many of the needs identified through public input, the CCLI and area community leaders. Crawford County will see the installation of fiber optic cable over the next several months, so this project comes at the perfect time for our community. The website and calendar will create branding for Crawford County and the subsequent marketing of it, and provide a one-stop-shop to access various sectors within Crawford County. The site will also promote various activities all over the county, will help businesses who need an online presence, and encourage families to come to

Crawford County to enjoy our rural way of life. For residents, this site can be a source of pride in what we have here, while not changing what makes Crawford County special."

Buehler Designs, owned and run by Crystal Buehler, was the firm awarded the contract on this multi level project. "Her compassion for our community, appreciation for Crawford's rural outdoor way of life, and her collaborative approach, along with her skills and expertise led to her selection by the committee and the CFCC Board of Directors," said Christine Harbeson, CFCC's executive director.

Harbeson added, "We are excited to be a part of the growth and development of Crawford County. In the coming months:

- we will develop a logo for the website that represents Crawford County;
- we will develop an enrollment form and initiate enrollment from area businesses and nonprofits;
- and we will track how this information is used when the marketing of the website and calendar begins connecting the people of Crawford County to one another and the areas surrounding our community.

We are part of Indiana Uplands and peripherally Metro Louisville and Evansville and we need to grow our relationship with these areas as well. Connectedness is what makes us a community. Due to the significant mileage between towns and the distance between Crawford County and our regional neighbors, an instrument like this is needed for to achieve this. We are just so happy to be a part of it and are grateful to LEI for making this project possible! Crawford County businesses and nonprofits will be hearing more from us very soon, and we will continue to share updates with our community."

The CFCC was founded in April 1998 by a volunteer Board of Directors that represented a variety of interests from Crawford County. To date, the CFCC has awarded nearly \$8 million in grants for programs/projects supporting Crawford County children and youth, education, housing, health and human services, the environment, technology advancements, literacy and the arts, and has awarded well over \$2 million in scholarships benefiting Crawford County students. The CFCC currently manages more than 80 charitable endowment funds on behalf of families, individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations. To see updates from the CFCC, like them on Facebook at CFCC4Ever.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds significant programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. However, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

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