Who We Choose To Be



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NOBLE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT
2025




WEST NOBLE
AUTISM





Our Vision

AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, WE CONNECT PEOPLE WHO CARE TO CAUSES THAT MATTER, UNLOCKING WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR NOBLE COUNTY.

TOGETHER WE CONNECT, WE STEWARD, WE STRENGTHEN AND WE UNLOCK WHAT'S POSSIBLE TOGETHER.

FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Every community is defined not simply by its geography, but by its character. In Noble County, we are defined by something deeper than boundaries or buildings. We are defined by who we choose to be.

This year's theme, "Who We Choose To Be," is a celebration of the people of Noble County who step up as generous neighbors, thoughtful leaders, and champions for education and community care. It honors the individuals, families, volunteers, and donors who do more than hope for a stronger community, they invest in it.

Again and again, we have witnessed a powerful truth: Thriving communities are not accidental. They are intentional. They are built by people who choose service over comfort, generosity over indifference, and action over intention.

Over the past year we've seen how scholarships are opening doors for students who once questioned what was possible. In childcare centers, housing initiatives, healthcare services, and workforce programs, families are finding stability and opportunity. In nonprofit organizations large and small, local leaders are responding to real needs with practical solutions and unwavering heart.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because neighbors support neighbors. At the Community Foundation of Noble County, we have the continued privilege of witnessing these choices every day. We see what happens when generosity is stewarded with integrity and what happens when philanthropy blends the personal with the visionary.

As we look ahead, we are proud to introduce a vision that reflects both who we are today and who we are becoming. One rooted in connection, grounded in action and centered on unlocking possibility.

On the previous page, we share the words that will guide our next chapter; a clear expression of our vision and our promise to Noble County.

Because ultimately, the future of our community is shaped by one simple and powerful truth: Who we as a community choose to be, determines what Noble County can become.

Margarita White, President & CEO

IMPACT STORIES

HELPING HANDS OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP

In 2025, we continued to respond to one of Noble County's most urgent needs - food insecurity - by supporting the ongoing work of Helping Hands of Orange Township.
This volunteer-led nonprofit opens its doors each week to provide food, clothing, and household essentials to neighbors facing hardship. Seniors living on fixed incomes. Families navigating rising costs. Individuals with disabilities. Parents working hard but still struggling to stretch a paycheck.

During that time, Helping Hands served more than 8,500 individuals, including nearly 6,800 Noble County residents. That is not just a number. At a time when our region faced a period of unprecedented food insecurity, this represents much needed stability for so many households in need.





Through grant support and community generosity, we helped ensure pantry shelves remained stocked and weekly distributions continued without interruption. Together, we are not only meeting immediate needs, we are reinforcing a safety net built on compassion and consistency.

Helping Hands operates with a simple but powerful mission: To ensure no neighbor goes without the essentials of daily life. This is what it means to connect people who care to causes that matter.

When volunteers give their time, when donors give their resources, and when a community chooses to act, hunger is met with help.

THE CREW YOUTH CENTER

Building on our investment in early childhood care and education, in 2025 the Community Foundation of Noble County further invested in the next generation by expanding access to safe, supportive after-school programming through The Crew Youth Center.

This unique organization serves middle and high school students, many of whom face poverty, food insecurity, and limited adult support. Like so many across Noble County, nearly half of students in the East Noble school system qualify for free lunch through direct certification, meaning their households rely on SNAP assistance.

That is where The Crew steps in. Through our grant support, we helped expand The Crew's After-School Program which welcomed 1,549 students in 2025 as well as focused services for 163 unique students. These students benefited from programming designed to strengthen academic performance, build life skills, and foster purpose.

Four days a week, students receive: Meals, mentoring, homework assistance, academic support, career exploration, and life-skills training. Through the Crew's programming, students are not only supported holistically they are seen. This is what it means to respond intentionally.

By supporting The Crew Youth Center, we are strengthening more than an after-school program. We are reinforcing a network of stability and belonging for youth who need it most.

Because who we choose to be as a community is reflected in how we show up for our young people and in 2025, we chose to continue our investment in their future.



UNIFIED TRACK | WEST NOBLE HIGH SCHOOL

In 2024 Teachers at West Noble High School launched Unified Track, a unique program to support students from the classroom to the athletic track. It's a program that reminds us what inclusion truly looks like.

Now in its second year, Unified Track received additional support from the Community Foundation of Noble County to further its mission: "We are all different, but as a team, we all fit together."

After their inaugural season, coaches Alicia Squire and Haley Duncan recognized something important: their athletes' needs are different. Some students experience sensory sensitivities. Others struggle to communicate when they are cold, wet, overwhelmed, or uncomfortable. Rain-soaked uniforms, wet shoes, or a damp shot put can create barriers that traditional athletic programs rarely consider.

So in 2025, we helped meet those needs. Grant support provided practical items such as ponchos, umbrellas, warmups, extra shoes, towels, equipment bags…small adjustments that make a big difference. These tools ensure neurodiverse athletes can compete comfortably, confidently, and safely.

But this story is about more than supplies. It is about partnership. Throughout the season, students with disabilities and general education peers are paired together, learning to overcome obstacles, celebrate victories, and embrace differences as strengths.

Through this truly inclusive approach, empathy becomes an everyday practice. As the team continues to grow, so does a culture of acceptance within the school community. When we remove barriers, belonging grows. And when young people learn that every difference has value, we shape a future defined not by limitation, but by unity. Because who we choose to be is reflected in whether everyone has a place on the team.



Investing in Leadership

In 2025, we continued our investment in the people at the heart of service and leadership throughout Noble County.

Through P.U.L.S.E. (Philanthropists Utilizing Lifelong Service and Education), student leaders from Central Noble, East Noble, and West Noble stepped forward to serve their communities; not just as volunteers, but as impact-makers.

Together, they awarded more than $11,500 in grants, completed eight service projects, and led initiatives like the Senior Citizen Prom, responding directly to needs they saw in Noble County. In the process, these incredible students learned essential leadership through hands on experience positioning them as future leaders in and around Noble County.





At the same time, we continued to invest in those already in leadership throughout the region. By partnering with Community Foundations throughout the region - such as Dekalb, LaGrange and Steuben, as well as the Dekko Foundation and Crossroads United Way - we've expanded community access to leadership training, workshops and resources.

Together we've spearheaded an ongoing series of Nonprofit Leadership and Community Impact workshops, to help strengthen our region's organizations providing advanced training in community engagement, financial planning and high-impact program development.

We are not only meeting today's needs, we are strengthening the people who are leading the way to tomorrow.

THE MATCH AND MILESTONES

In 2025, the Community Foundation of Noble County experienced a remarkable year of generosity and growth. Through the support of our donors and partners, the Foundation awarded $1,517,527 in grants and $225,300 in scholarships, investments that strengthened local nonprofits, expanded opportunity for students, and ensured critical support reached our community when it was needed most.

We also welcomed eight new charitable funds, bringing our total to **217**. Each fund represents more than a financial gift. Each fund is part of a shared commitment by our community to building a stronger, more resilient future together.





At the heart of this momentum was the Lilly Endowment Inc. match. Through this transformative opportunity and the generosity it inspired, over $1 million was raised, significantly **expanding our capacity to support early childhood education** - such as support for Noble Early Learning - and our unrestricted **opportunity fund for years to come.**

Together, these investments do more than meet today's needs, they create lasting resources that will continue to serve Noble County for generations. These investments have also paved the way for the **Community Foundation's next bold step: The 30 by 30 campaign, launching in May 2026.**



IMPACT
BY THE NUMBERS

In **2025 the Community Foundation of Noble County achieved a number of impactful milestones.** From grants and scholarships awarded, to the launch of new funds and matching investments, the Foundation's impact across Noble County can be seen in the numbers.

127
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

$2,004,520
AWARDED IN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

267
GRANTS AWARDED

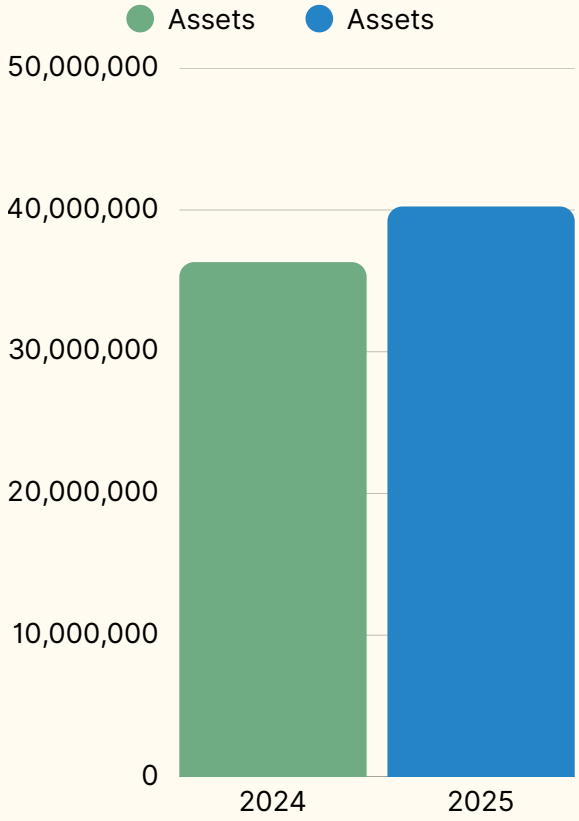
$1,369,119
FUNDS RAISED

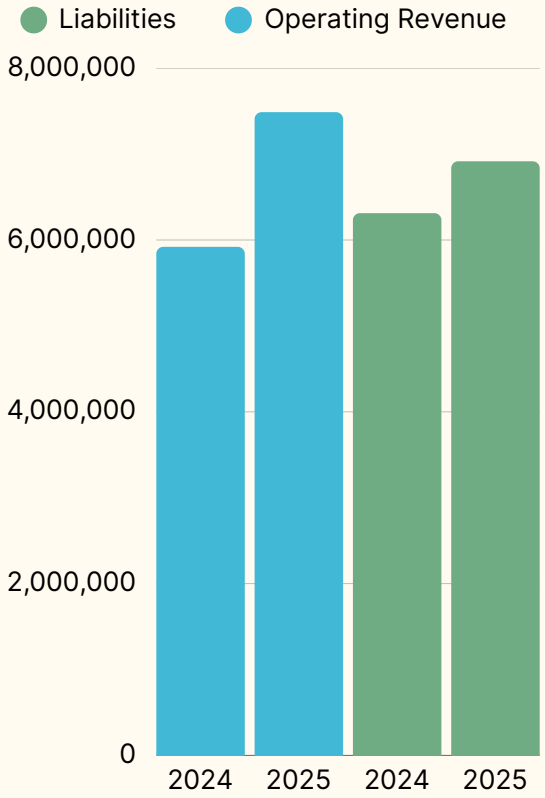
Along with these substantial milestones, the Foundation saw an increase in our overall capacity thanks to the generosity of our community and our partners. Together, we increased our capacity by raising over $1.3M in new funds.

YEAR OVER YEAR

BY THE NUMBERS CONTINUED

FOR A DETAILED BREAKDOWN, PLEASE SEE THE APPENDIX.





APPENDIX

Community Foundation of Noble County

Statement of Financial position

2024 - 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,011,533	$ 4,295,089
Interest and dividends receivable	5,930	9,198
Accounts receivable	-	483
Notes receivable	47,123	-
Prepaid expenses	20,602	20,372
Right of use asset	22,733	31,899
Investments	42,864,052	38,079,003
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	193,825	199,841
Total assets	$ 47,165,798	$ 42,635,885

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$ 5,711	$ 4,365
Grants payable	283,576	161,182
Accrued wages	10,056	7,840
Accrued payroll taxes and withholdings	-	1,862
Right of use liability	22,733	31,899
Agency funds	6,594,427	6,105,476
Total liabilities	6,916,503	6,312,624
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	1,876,306	1,613,810
With donor restrictions	38,372,989	34,709,451
Total net assets	40,249,295	36,323,261
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 47,165,798	$ 42,635,885

B

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2025 Total	2024 Total
Operating revenue and support				
Contributions and pledges	$ 11,205	$ 2,259,210	$ 2,270,415	$ 1,667,714
Non-cash contributions		2,078	2,078	99,616
Investment return, net	89,846	4,311,783	4,401,629	3,371,101
Administrative fee income	769,503		769,503	710,385
Fundraising		6,448	6,448	7,797
Other income	26,830	11,488	38,318	63,894
Total operating revenue and support	897,384	6,591,007	7,488,391	5,920,507
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satsifaction of purpose restrictions	1,255,417	(1,255,417)		
Pursuant to spending policy	1,672,052	(1,672,052)		
Operating expenses				
Program services	2,378,178		2,378,178	1,717,399
Supporting services:				
Management and general	1,060,109		1,060,109	1,005,273
Fundraising	124,070		124,070	89,526
	3,562,357		3,562,357	2,812,198
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	262,496	3,663,538	3,926,034	3,108,309
Net assets at beginning of year	1,613,810	34,709,451	36,323,261	33,214,952
Net assets at end of year	$ 1,876,306	$ 38,372,989	$ 40,249,295	$ 36,323,261

OUR BOARD

The Community Foundation of Noble County is made possible through the commitment, dedication and support of our board of directors and support staff.



Gary Gatman
PRESIDENT



Denise Lemmon
VICE PRESIDENT



Bryan Shearer
TREASURER



Lori Jansen
SECRETARY



Sandy Saggars



Les Nivens



Trey Forbes



Kenny Kill



April Weimer



Tyler Moser



Shelley Mawhorter



Clint Phares



Kirsten Owen



Jared Knipper



Sam Tipton



Bev Fitzpatrick

OUR STAFF



Margarita White
PRESIDENT & CEO



Jazmin Herrera, MNA
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP



Jennifer Norris
DIRECTOR OF SCHOLARSHIPS

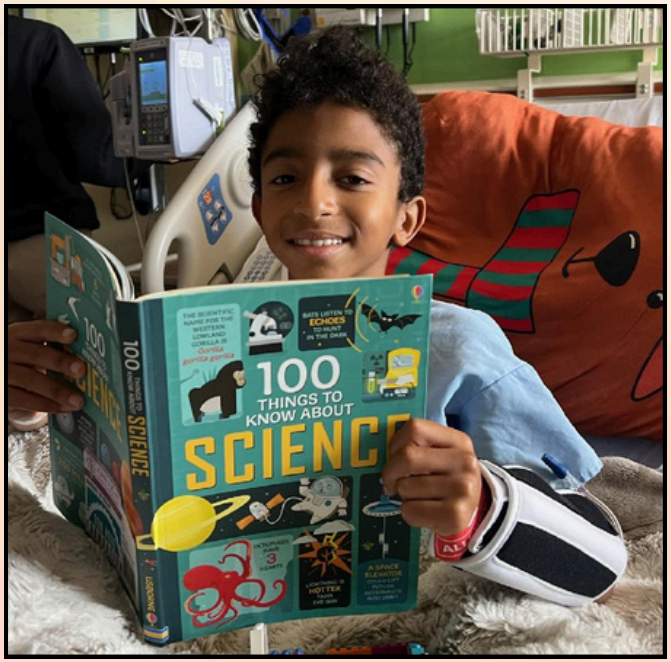


Caroline Sizelove
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE



LaToya Kelham
FINANCIAL COORDINATOR


FLINT & WALLING
MFG. CO
KENDALLVILLE
IND. U.S.A.


100
THINGS TO
KNOW ABOUT
SCIENCE


















CHARGERS
CHARGERS







COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of NOBLE COUNTY

PO BOX 210,
LIGONIER IN 46767

(260)894.3335

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT US AT

WWW.CFNOBLE.ORG