

SPECIAL EDITION

HEALTHY NEW ALBANY™



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Celebrating 25 years of impact.



THE NEW ALBANY *Community Foundation*

Celebrating 25 years of impact.

Peter Aaron



James DeCamp



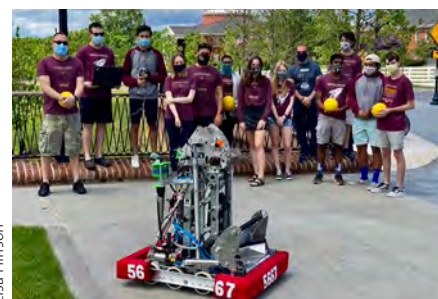
Lorn Spolter



Lisa Hinson



Lisa Hinson



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December 2020

Dear Friends,

The New Albany Community Foundation entered this year with the spirit of celebration. 2020 marks the Foundation's 25th anniversary so we were excited to highlight this significant milestone and celebrate the many donors and programs that have had such a positive impact on our community.

Little did we know the challenges that 2020 would bring, with a pandemic and recession. Nor did we know how profoundly the community would respond with support for neighbors who were experiencing hardships.

To capture the extraordinary donor impact, we have compiled a collection of articles that appeared in *Healthy New Albany Magazine* over the past year. The articles tell the story of this unprecedented year as it unfolded and the remarkable manner in which the community responded. As noted in one of the feature stories published prior to the pandemic in the January-February 2020 issue:

For 25 years, the citizens of New Albany have been answering the call to create a collaborative culture that has placed New Albany on the path to build and sustain an extraordinary community that residents enjoy today.

As with the rest of the country, 2020 tested our community in so many ways, and reflective of the community's values, residents and businesses came together to meet those challenges. Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and community leaders for being a part of this amazing community and for continually working toward the betterment of the entire community.



With appreciation,

Craig Mohre
President
The New Albany Community Foundation

P.S. The Foundation is grateful for the efforts of CityScene Media Group and *Healthy New Albany Magazine* in producing this series on the Foundation and its donors.

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Photo by Peter Aaron

This story originally appeared in the January/February 2020 issue of *Healthy New Albany*.



Jack Kessler and Ralph Johnson in 2004.

A Foundation is Born

The NACF has humble beginnings with visionary leaders

By Bob Valasek

It is difficult to picture New Albany without the many amenities residents and visitors enjoy today. Twenty-five years ago, the New Albany we know now was just getting started; and much of what makes it one of America's top communities can be traced to a transformative idea that Jack Kessler and Dr. Ralph Johnson devised and put into action.



Author and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough visited New Albany in 2002 for the first ever Remarkable Evening to benefit the NACF Library Fund. Photo by Lorn Spolter

Kessler, the Columbus stalwart and co-founder and chairman of The New Albany Company, and Johnson, former longtime superintendent of New Albany Schools, saw a unique opportunity to connect the residents of New Albany to the community as partners.

"When we set up the Foundation 25 years ago, it really was the beginning of New Albany," explains Kessler. "We thought if we could develop in the people of New Albany a sense of community and a commitment to it, that would be a great way to start. And what better way to do it than with a Foundation?"

As Kessler and Johnson co-founded the New Albany Community Foundation, their first project was born out of necessity, but it would prove symbolic for the way New Albany solves challenges.

"When we first came out to New Albany there was no library and the public school system was in need of improvement," says Kessler.

He and Johnson decided that, rather than creating an education foundation, collaboration between the schools and the community was more important.

"We went to the Columbus Metropolitan Library and partnered with them to have the public library set up in the New Albany school system.

The metropolitan library brought the books out, and the New Albany schools then had a full library,” says Kessler.

This meant that during the day it was the library for the school and students, and at night and on the weekends, it was the library for the residents of New Albany.

This arrangement was only temporary of course, and, through the fledgling foundation, building a library that could be a centerpiece of life in New Albany became the focus. Library trustees and New Albany residents Cindy Hilsheimer, Charlotte Kessler and Jackie Woods led the campaign with the Foundation, and to help achieve their goal they brought two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough to New Albany for what became the first Remarkable Evening. The event with McCullough raised more than \$1 million to fund the book collections, and build and endow what is now the Charlotte P. Kessler Library.

As he read from his recent biography about John Adams and told inspiring stories to the audience, McCullough had this to say about New Albany’s new initiative:

“And the very idea that your New Albany Foundation’s first undertaking is a library... When the city of little town of Nantucket burned down in the 19th century, the first building they built out of the ashes, literally, was the old Atheneum, the public library, which still stands. And you can be sure your public library is going to have just as much symbolic importance to this community, this extraordinary community.”

Kessler attributes the success and staying power of the Foundation to the residents’ commitment to their community and to strong leadership.

“I think it shows that the people who live in New Albany are generous and they care a lot about their community,” he says. “You can’t have anything like the Foundation be

successful without great leadership, both from the board and the staff. Craig Mohre has been a very effective CEO. He’s just done a fabulous job.”

Kessler approached Mohre back in 2002 about helping draft a plan to move the Foundation forward, and then suggested Mohre lead the Foundation. It was an easy decision for Mohre.

“How does one say no to the opportunity to help bring so many leaders together to help build such an incredible community?” Kessler says.

For 25 years, the citizens of New Albany have been answering the call to create a collaborative culture that has placed New Albany on the path to build and sustain an extraordinary community that residents enjoy today.

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.



David McCullough helped dedicate the Columbus Metropolitan Library New Albany Branch in Market Square.

Jack Kessler and Dr. Ralph Johnson at an early New Albany Community Foundation Remarkable Evening benefit.

Photos by Daniel Floss

“I think it shows that the people who live in New Albany are generous and they care a lot about their community.”

—JACK KESSLER



Materials from The Remnant Trust were on display at the New Albany Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library thanks to a generous Foundation donor. Photo by Lorn Spolter



Photo by Peter Aaron



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When you give to The New Albany Community Foundation, you give to the greater good.

There are chapters in the history of every community that define its future. Here, in New Albany, at Remarkable Evening 2019, we recently completed a chapter that promises to add to our legacy of generosity. We celebrated the vision that is making Rose Run Park, Raines Crossing and the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater a reality. We celebrated the potential of our young people. And we celebrated the commitment to service displayed by our friends and neighbors. But most of all, we celebrated how fortunate we are, and how remarkable it is, to call New Albany home.



When you donate through the Foundation, gifts of any size, large and small, generate impact in so many ways. Over the years, grants have been made to support a wide range of initiatives. Including the establishment of an author residency program at New Albany Schools, a community well-being program, the New Albany Symphony Orchestra, Veterans Field, scholarships, Safety Town and so much more. If you've given, we thank you. And if you are yet to make a gift, we invite you to join us.

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Big Projects Lead to Big Impact

The NACF strengthens the four pillars after introducing thriving resources

By Bob Valasek

Standing on the top step of the entrance to the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, one can see the Georgian-style bricks on the north-facing side of the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany. These two buildings, separated by a very short distance directly across Dublin-Granville Road, are now connected by the new Rose Run Park paths and pedestrian bridge. Their origin stories and significance to the New Albany community, however, have always been connected thanks to the New Albany Community Foundation.

In the early 2000s, the NACF determined four areas, now known as the four pillars, where the foundation would focus its impact: lifelong learning, health and wellness, arts and culture, and environmental sustainability. In pursuit of these pillars, the foundation



Above: The Community groundbreaking celebration of The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts in 2006 included youth and adult performers, city and school leaders, and Foundation donors, among others.

Photo by Lorn Spolter

Right: The New Albany Lecture Series uses The McCoy as its home base since it debuted in 2014. The Foundation's lecture series is widely recognized as one of the country's best and regularly reaches capacity.

Photo by James DeCamp

Left: The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts has been utilized by many adult and student groups, including the Central Ohio Leadership Academy, a leadership development program for central Ohio high school students.

Photo by Scott Cunningham



often serves as a convener, gathering the right civic and private entities to help turn ideas into reality. The foundation plays this role for both the McCoy Center, which opened in 2008, and the Heit Center, which opened in 2015.

When the school district was ready to build an auditorium on its new learning campus back in 2002, the original plan called for a modest cinder block structure with a budget to match, but the success of the first Remarkable Evening and subsequent student lecture with David McCullough had community leaders thinking bigger and feeling inspired by the recent public-private collaboration behind the new Columbus Metropolitan Library - New Albany Branch. They saw a need for a space where the entire community could gather to engage the arts and lifelong learning opportunities, but the question remained: How could they make this happen?

“In most communities, different governmental entities and organizations often focus more narrowly on the traditional roles, such as police and road maintenance for cities, fire department for townships,” says Craig Mohre, president of the NACE. “They limit their involvements to the traditional roles, and they often operate in silos, sometimes not communicating much or working collaboratively with other or-



John G. McCoy is recognized at the 2008 dedication of The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts. Photo by Lorn Spolter

ganizations. The foundation’s role was to bring people together and help them see what could be possible if we could all work together.”

One of the community members that the foundation involved in the initial stages of the McCoy Center was Francie Henry, regional president at Fifth Third Bank and the McCoy Center’s founding chair.

“The community foundation provided the vision and strategy that enabled our community to think differently about a venue to support our students, which could also serve as a community resource

and a family gathering space,” Henry says. “They were also instrumental in researching similar projects both near and far that provided us the necessary data and knowledge to understand how best to proceed. Finally, they were able to convene both public and private funding and collaboration to build the one of a kind, best-in-class arts center.”

In 2010, Dr. Phil Heit approached Mohre and the foundation about wanting an organization focused not just on physical, mental or community health, but on all areas of health.

Healthy New Albany programming attracts community members to the Heit Center for education on a variety of health topics.

“I got together with Craig Mohre and shared the idea of starting Healthy New Albany. Craig, the great convener he is, and I pulled together a group of volunteers from the community, whereby someone said, ‘Let’s start a farmers market,’ and another wanted to see a community garden,” Heit says. “Things developed from there, leading to *Healthy New Albany Magazine*, lectures and more.”

It became obvious to Heit and others that, in order for Healthy New Albany to reach its potential, it needed a physical location. At the same time, the City was looking to spur more private investment and provide its residents with health offerings, and it was out of this need that the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany was conceived.



Michael Feinstein performed at the McCoy in 2018 with the New Albany Symphony in celebration of its 10th season. Photo by John Garner



The New Albany-Plain Local Schools drama department regularly performs in both the Irving Schottenstein Theater and Mershad Hall at the McCoy. Photo courtesy of New Albany Schools



Entertainer Martin Short performed at the second year fundraising gala for the McCoy. Photo by Michael A. Foley



The New Albany Lecture Series 2019-2020 season-opening lecture featuring Colin Powell and Madeleine Albright in discussion with Fareed Zakaria. The lecture series has been presented at the McCoy since it debuted in 2014. Photo by James DeCamp



Healthy New Albany programming attracts community members to the Heit Center for education on a variety of health topics. Photo courtesy of Healthy New Albany

“The City of New Albany took the lead with financing and constructing the Heit Center, but as with most of our community projects, it was truly a collaborative effort,” says New Albany Mayor Sloan Spalding.

“The City, the school district and Plain Township have been amazing partners to the foundation in advancing projects,” Mohre adds.

Today, both centers are thriving. The McCoy Center, serving as the anchor of the Learning Campus, is in use 300 days a year; and the Heit Center, operating as a mainstay of the Village Center, currently has more requests for community use than the space can handle.

The McCoy Center hosts the New Albany Symphony Orchestra, national recording artists, the New Albany Ballet Company, National Geographic Live, a vast array of New Albany-Plain Local Schools events, and the foundation’s New Albany Lecture Series lectures.

“I believe it is a window to the arts right in our back yard,” Henry says. “It is a beautiful venue where memories are made every day.”

The Heit Center includes a state-of-the-art fitness center and primary care, sports medicine and physical therapy services, along with countless community engagement classes, lectures and events.

“We are also seeing the Heit Center as a factor in attracting people to move to New Albany, as availability of health and fitness services are important factors for many potential residents,” Heit says.

Fulfilling the foundation’s four-pillar vision, the McCoy Center and the Heit Center exemplify what makes New Albany a unique and special city.

“They bring people together around shared experiences in those areas,” Mohre says, “which is what community building is all about.”

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.

ADDING UP TO GREATNESS | STATISTICS FOR 2019

135

Programs implemented at the Heit Center

4,000

People in total at packet pick up for the Walking Classic, Mother’s Day bRUNCH and Kids Triathlon

374

Events, community and school, at the McCoy

102,401

Attendees in total at the McCoy



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When you give to The New Albany Community Foundation, you give to the greater good.

In New Albany, the power of every gift is magnified by the spirit of collaboration that defines this remarkable community. Here, we have a proud history of working together to turn big ideas into initiatives that create tremendous impact. You can feel it in the incredible arts and performance centers where the community gathers. And in the education, health and wellness programming that enriches us all. The City of New Albany. New Albany Schools. The Township. And, of course, The New Albany Community Foundation have all seen how much more can be accomplished when goals are shared. And dreams are realized. Together.



When you donate through the Foundation, gifts of any size, large and small, generate impact in so many ways. Grants have been made in support of worthy efforts that touch lives throughout our community. Including The New Albany Lecture Series community and student lectures, the E3 Learning Lab, the Homework Help Center at the Branch Library, Safety Town and many more. The Foundation has been at the center of these efforts that bring us together. If you've given, we thank you. And if you are yet to make a gift, we invite you to join us.

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It's Time to Talk

*Mental health conversations with the
NACF lead to community action*

By Bob Valasek

For the last 20 years, the New Albany Community Foundation has taken the lead to start conversations about challenges facing New Albany residents.

Around the time of the first New Albany Lecture Series lecture, central Ohio experienced an increase in teen suicides, raising concern among residents, school officials and city leaders who understood New Albany was not immune to the trend. Communities can choose to ignore such issues in order to avoid any perceived negative attention, but New Albany chose to confront the problems head-on.

Above: Elizabeth Vargas is interviewed by ABC's Stacia Naquin for a 2018 New Albany Lecture Series program on mental health and addiction. Photo by James DeCamp

Right: Results of the student mental health interaction led by Nationwide Children's Hospital at the Glenn Close New Albany Lecture Series Student Lecture in 2019. Photo by Lorn Spolter





Over 15,000 students from throughout central Ohio have attended the New Albany Lecture Series student lectures to date. Photo by James DeCamp



Mariel Hemingway with New Albany High School students in 2015. Photo by Lorn Spolter



Patrick Kennedy meets with students during his 2017 visit. Photo by Lorn Spolter

“In New Albany, we care about everybody and we wanted to find a way for the community to express this,” says Craig Mohre, president of the NACF. “We looked to start a community discussion that would help remove the stigma associated with mental illness.”

The foundation decided to make mental health a focus by encouraging community dialogue and awareness of resources. During the 2015, 16 New Albany Lecture Series season, the NACF took its first public step toward convening a community conversation about eliminating the stigma associated with mental health related topics, but it didn’t happen overnight. There was significant work done behind the scenes prior to Mariel Hemingway coming to New Albany, and significant progress has been made in the years since.

Hemingway had just written a book chronicling her famous family’s generational battle with mental illnesses. The timely subject matter coupled with her celebrity status was a perfect fit for a New Albany Lecture Series lecture, and the community response was tremendous.

The next day, Rocky Fork Company owner Brian Bailey, who had attended the Hemingway lecture, visited Mohre in his office. Bailey wanted to make a corporate gift to support evidenced-based behavioral health programming. Another anonymous donor decided to establish a fund that would engage the schools in confronting mental illness, and the seeds for the Well-Being Initiative were planted. The Well-Being Initiative is a group of community leaders working in collaboration with school officials to create a best-in-class well-being model focused on New Albany students.

With an enthusiastic endorsement from New Albany-Plain Local School District Superintendent Michael Sawyers, many people were eager to get involved.

“The foundation’s impact is quite real and aligns with our district’s purpose: to create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student,” says Sawyers. “For many years now, the New Albany Community Foundation has realized our school district’s need to support the developmental aspects of educating our students.”

One of the initial supporters of this conversation was Fran Horowitz, chief executive officer of Abercrombie & Fitch Co.

“Nothing could be a more timely or relevant topic than mental health,” she says. “Through various causes we support, we understand the severity of mental health issues facing our communities today, and A&F Co. is dedicated to driving awareness and providing funding to local, national and global organizations supporting those in need.”

Another important early contributor to the effort was Rick Bayer. Bayer spent years volunteering with Concord Counseling and knew immediately that he wanted to help with this burgeoning project. As the momentum grew, so did the understanding that the focus needed to be broader than addressing only mental illness; it needed to emphasize total well-being.

“Our ultimate goal is to help each student navigate the inevitable challenges they will experience during this stage in their lives and give them a solid well-being foundation they can build upon into adulthood,” Bayer says.

Looking to keep the community energized while building off of Hemingway’s successful appearance, the foundation brought Patrick Kennedy to New Albany as part of the 2016-17 New Albany Lecture Series season. Kennedy’s discussion provided the community with another success story as he recounted anecdotes from his life that demonstrated the power of a substantial support system.

In addition to the New Albany Lecture Series lectures, the foundation gifts students each speaker’s book, and provides the opportunity for them to attend a special student lecture event to ask questions and learn more about the speaker. To date, more than 14,000 students from over 50 area schools and youth organizations have attended New Albany Lecture Series events, including the well-being focused lectures given by Mariel Hemingway, Patrick Kennedy, Elizabeth Vargas, Glenn Close and in the coming season, Michael Phelps.

The Well-Being Initiative’s success depends on an all-hands-on-deck approach to create the type of support system that

Kennedy touted. Sarah Underhill led the Parent Education Team and works to involve families in the initiative. Underhill recently launched the Well-Being Connection, aimed at bringing expanded programming to the community so that a culture of well-being grows in New Albany.

“I hope to see parents become empowered to help their children as mental health issues arise,” Underhill says, “and for them to become a part of a larger community that values sharing and learning about how to help our community improve everyone’s well-being.”

The support from the foundation’s donors and sponsors makes the New Albany Lecture Series speakers available to the community and has helped to power the Well-Being Initiative in the schools, and now the Well-Being Connection. One of

these partners is the Berend family. Cindy and Keith Berend have made a multi-year commitment to support behavioral health programs.

“Cindy and I believe that if New Albany is to become the healthiest community in America, we cannot leave mental health out of the picture,” says Keith Berend. “We are simply honored to be able to help.”

These partnerships enable the foundation to generate resources for transformational investments in education, health, the arts and environment, and to keep community conversations about important issues such as mental health and well-being at the forefront today and for years to come.

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.



Glenn Close speaks to a packed house at The McCoy Center, as students from central Ohio schools attended the New Albany Lecture Series student lectures in 2019. Photo by Lorn Spolter



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As your community foundation, we never shy away from a challenge.

As our donors and neighbors voiced concern about the growing mental health challenges faced by every community, we not only took notice, we brought the issue to the surface for all to see. To begin, we brought leading mental health advocates to New Albany, including Mariel Hemingway, Patrick Kennedy, Elizabeth Vargas and Glenn Close. They each shared their perspective, as well as their personal stories, in a series of meetings, forums and lectures. Students, community members and mental health advocates all participated. The impact was powerful and lasting. Now, mental health issues are where they should be. Out in the open, where they can be addressed.



When you donate through the Foundation, gifts of any size, large and small, generate impact in so many ways. Grants have been made in support of worthy efforts that touch lives throughout our community. Including The New Albany Lecture Series community and student lectures, the E3 Learning Lab, the Homework Help Center at the Branch Library, Safety Town and many more. The Foundation has been at the center of these efforts that bring us together. If you've given, we thank you. And if you are yet to make a gift, we invite you to join us.

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This story originally appeared in the July/August 2020 issue of *Healthy New Albany*.



New Albany Food Pantry volunteers prepare for pantry open hours.

Maintaining a Strong Foundation

Foundation donors help community respond to COVID-19 challenge

By Bob Valasek

While the New Albany Community Foundation's impact can be felt in visionary programs such as the New Albany Lecture Series and ambitious projects such as the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, the foundation's most meaningful influence may be when it helps the community meet its most basic needs.

As COVID-19 turned the daily lives of New Albany residents upside down, the foundation, its donors and its community partners solidified a plan, quickly refocusing on community-based efforts that support those in need during this unprecedented time.

Working as a convener, the foundation gathered city, school, business and community leaders to help raise, prioritize and distribute funds to programs that could assist and benefit the community. Whether the partner was a large corporation or the donor was a local family, the foundation served as the community connector to ensure the effort had the greatest impact.

When Facebook broke ground on the New Albany data center in 2017, the plan was always to form a strong community partnership. As the COVID-19 response began to take hold, Facebook took action.

"So far, we've donated almost \$1.1 million in grants to a variety of organizations, and we're not done yet," says Amber Tillman, community development manager at

Jennifer Wilcoxon, director of the New Albany Food Pantry, and Emily Leatherman of AmeriCorps sort bagels and breads to be distributed to families.

Photos by Lisa Hinson



Members of The Antidote with their tracking board of mask strain reliever orders. As of June, The Antidote had produced and distributed more than 14,000 MSRs that were sent all over the country to healthcare workers and first responders. Left to right: Aditya Chittari, Evan Garner and Varun Chitiveli. Photo by Lisa Hinson

Facebook. “This has included \$37,900 to the New Albany Community Foundation which funded a box truck for New Albany Food Pantry deliveries to support New Albany-Plain Local School students, families and others for meals.”

As the schools moved to distance learning as a result of COVID-19, the NAFPP knew that meant the 500 NAPLS students who receive breakfast or lunch at school would need support.

“When schools abruptly closed in mid-March, the pantry team quickly mobilized to activate emergency plans to both continue serving its existing clients and support NAPLS students during the closure,” says Jennifer Wilcoxon, NAFPP executive director.

As the effects of distance learning and the stay-at-home order took hold, the pantry’s needs increased substantially.

“Our client numbers have risen close to 40 percent as we are now serving 77 new families and have provided 51,000-plus meals since schools closed,” says Wilcoxon.



Sarah Ryan and Jennifer Wilcoxon at the New Albany Food Pantry. Photo by Lisa Hinson

Additionally, community donations have also funded the pantry’s summer meals program, providing some much-needed support during an uncertain time.

Angela Douglas, former pantry director and current operations director for Healthy New Albany, saw the effects of the foundation’s donors on the pantry immediately.

“We greatly appreciate the NACF’s efforts as it helped us purchase critical resources and raise visibility of the work the pantry is doing,” says Douglas. “This is extremely important for us as many community members do not realize there are neighbors in our community that live in our school district that struggle with food insecurity.”

In addition to the need for food, the COVID-19 crisis revealed a need for personal protective equipment (PPE). Aaron Westbrook, New Albany High School alumnus and founder and CEO of Form5 Prosthetics, knew his company had to alter how it interacts with clients, so he set forth to use its skills and equipment differently.

“Our team quickly felt called to use our passion, creativity and 3-D printers to produce PPE for those in need,” says Westbrook.

Form5 set a goal to produce 10,000 face shields, nearly half of which they expected to complete before the end of May.

“The foundation’s support to mobilize the community in a way that brings us together during such a difficult time to help each other out is what makes them so special,” Westbrook says.

It was a similar entrepreneurial spirit that drove three local brothers to do their part as well. As the reality of stay at home began to set in, Cooper, 14; Elliot, 11; and Simon Fleishman, 9 decided to do something productive with their time and energy. As they began organizing some old toys in a donation pile, one of the boys had the idea to sell their collection of over 100 Thomas the Tank Engine toys and donate the money. They were happy when they found a buyer willing to give them \$100 for their collection, but the excitement really came when they learned about Huntington partnering with the foundation on a \$25 for \$25 gift matching program. The brothers’ \$100 suddenly became \$200.

“When we saw the initiative to utilize their \$100 sale of the train toys and double the value during the foundation’s drive, the boys were even more excited to make that effort stretch even further,” says the boys’ mother, Jennifer Fleishman. “It was exciting to watch them light up again knowing they were able to trigger a bigger dose of good.”

Another beneficiary of the Huntington Match was the New Albany-Plain Local Schools Student Success grants. The Student Success grants help the school district triage the immediate needs of local families, whether the need is for food, internet access or mental health services.

“The offer by the New Albany Community Foundation and the matching funds provided by Huntington Bank are incredible gestures,” says NAPLS Superintendent Michael Sawyers. “Together, our community partners and the school district are easing families’ anxiety to best meet the personal, academic and developmental needs of our students and families alike.”

Form5 was also a Huntington Match recipient. Craig Mohre, president of the NACF, says the foundation’s efforts during this pandemic wouldn’t be possible without community support.

“Our goal at the New Albany Community Foundation is to help build an extraordinary community,” Mohre says. “The giving spirit of our community is always strong, and during this unprecedented and unpredictable challenge, that light shines brighter than ever.”

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.



Aaron Westbrook, CEO of Form5 Prosthetics, set a goal to create 10,000 face shields in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photos courtesy of Form5 Prosthetics



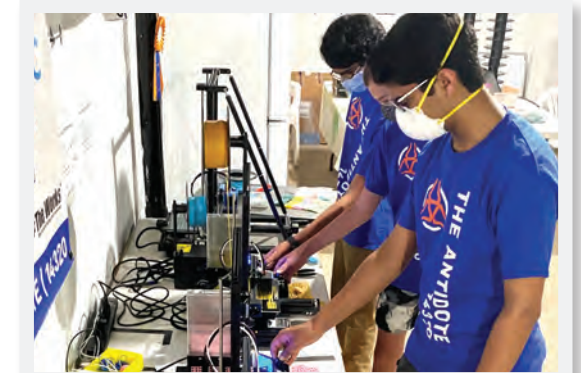


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Can A Local Community Respond To A Global Pandemic? The Answer Is A Resounding Yes.

Like the pandemic, your response has been unprecedented. Because so many of you have given to our COVID-19 Assistance Fund, we have made grants of nearly \$150,000 to the needs that are most important to you. We addressed food insecurity with a grant to the New Albany Food Pantry. A grant to the Wellbeing Connection was made in support of mental health services. While our grant to Form5 Prosthetics is funding the production of PPE face masks for our frontline responders. In addition, grants were made to two local school groups, The Digital Eagles and The Antidote, both of which are manufacturing safety materials for healthcare workers. But our most significant efforts have been made in support of the schools. Where multiple grants and initiatives are making it possible for our children to return to a safe learning environment.



As the year began, we never envisioned the profound impact the coronavirus would have on our community. But like all communities, we have felt the effects of this global pandemic. Moving forward, we will concentrate our efforts toward helping our schools prepare for the upcoming year. The outpouring of support from our neighbors, as well as local businesses, such as Huntington and Facebook, has been inspiring. But as you know, the need will continue. If you've given to the COVID-19 Assistance Fund, we sincerely thank you. And if you are yet to make a gift, we invite you to join us in this important effort.

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Overcoming the Barrier

During distancing, NACF focuses on togetherness

By Bob Valasek



Whether it is trying to maintain physical distancing, reduce the emotional distance between different groups in our society or master the art of distance learning, 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges to our community. Through it all, the New Albany Community Foundation has continued to do what it has always done best: bring people together.

Both despite and because of these distancing difficulties, the foundation has worked to continue conversations, create programming and garner support for important causes, and the community has answered the call.

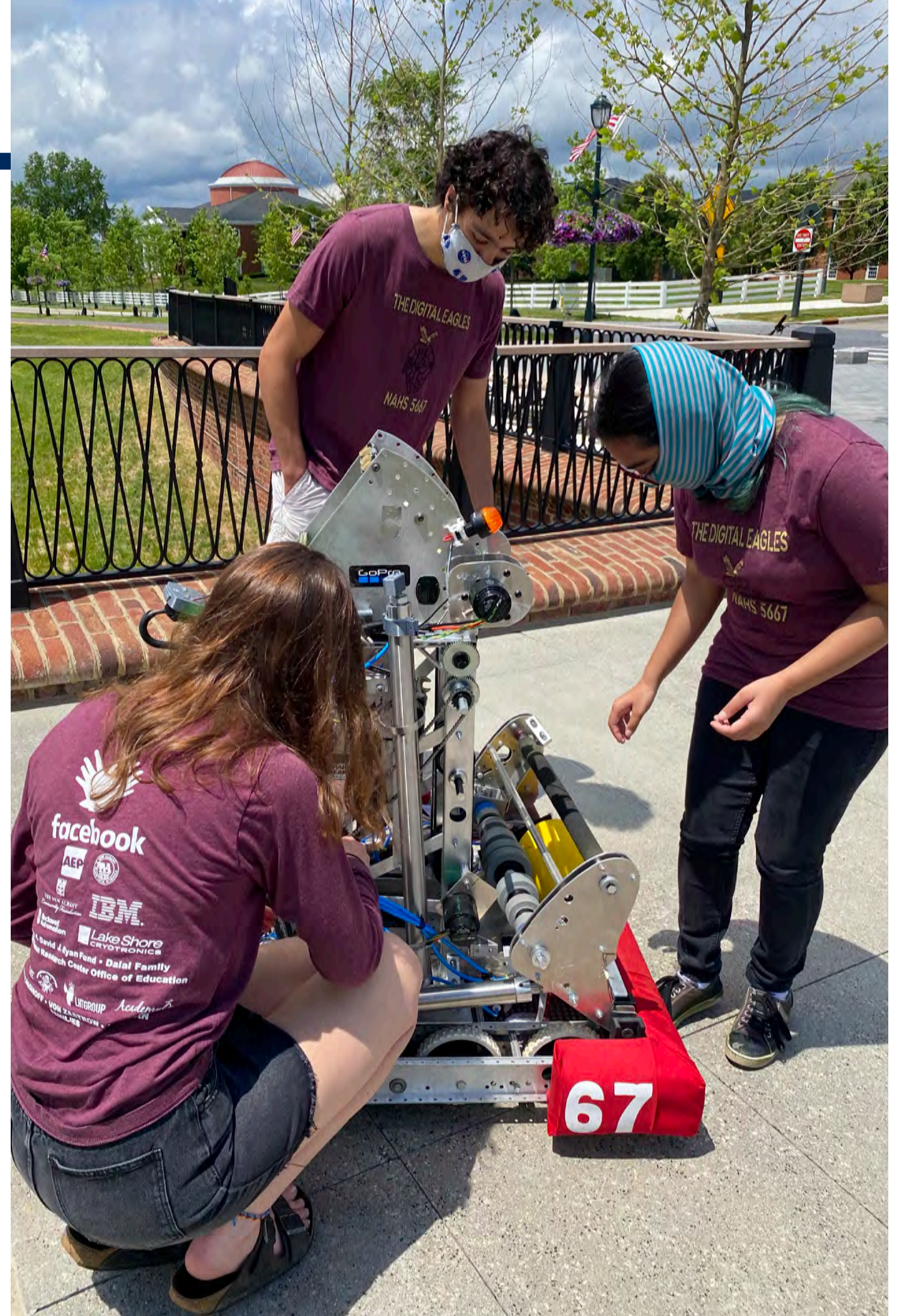
The City of New Albany's Rose Run Park opening happened to coincide with New Albany residents' need to maintain social distancing and get outdoors this past spring. Families had new paths to walk and run, cyclists enjoyed a stretch of the new Velo Loop, and thanks to a generous gift from residents Sandy Raines and Ron Cadieux through the foundation, the beautiful new Raines Crossing pedestrian bridge and

Above: New Albany City Manager Joe Stefanov, professional engineer Andy Walther and Mayor Sloan Spalding, pose together at the site of the upcoming amphitheater next to the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts.

Photo by Jeffrey Hall

Right: New Albany High School's award-winning Digital Eagles Robotics Club with their creation, BOBOT. The Digital Eagles helped with the production of PPE equipment for back to school with support provided by foundation donors.

Photo by Lisa Hinson





The Charleen and Charles Hinson Amphitheater moves closer to reality as additional foundation donors step forward to support the project. The Amphitheater will provide another venue for community events, arts and cultural programming. Rendering by Frank Costantino

promenade connect the school campus to the new Marie-Luise & Michael Marx Family Reading Garden.

“The entire community will benefit from our city leaders’ vision and the generosity of the Sandy Raines and Ron Cadieux family, and the Marx family has been generous to the community through the years, contributing their time, talent, and treasure,” says Craig Mohre, president of the New Albany Community Foundation.

Another outdoor project, the Charleen and Charles Hinson Amphitheater, is taking shape just across the road, within the Rose Run corridor and adjacent to

the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts on the school campus. Slated for completion in summer 2021, the city-owned and -maintained amphitheater will accommodate outdoor events and performances including community arts organizations, school groups and community events. Mohre says the foundation anticipates hosting a benefit event in 2021 to help raise funds for the project.

The amphitheater and the McCoy Center will eventually host audiences, but for the time being, large gatherings require adjustments, and the foundation’s 2020-2021 lecture series programming is no exception. Through the years, the foundation has convened for community conversations on important, timely matters, such as mental health, civil rights, and civil discourse and debate, bringing the community together to promote lifelong learning and greater understanding of these subjects.

As part of the upcoming season and at the recommendation of an advisory group formed by New Albany residents and community leaders, the foundation will present *Conversations on Social Justice*. The new series will house two programs, and these moderated discussions will be

streamed live. The first will feature distinguished university professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, Eddie S. Glaude Jr., interviewed by Darlene Hill of WCMH-NBC4, and the second program is expected to occur in October and also feature respected social justice scholars and authors. The foundation will also host Margaret Trudeau, author, activist, mother of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and former wife of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, for a discussion confronting the stigmas surrounding mental health, and the New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate program will feature former senior adviser to Barack Obama David Axelrod and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Dan Buettner, acclaimed author and health expert, will also be part of this season’s lineup.

The foundation has also focused on helping the New Albany Farmers Market make adjustments to the unique challenges of 2020. In addition to moving the location from Market Street to the Church of the Resurrection parking lot to allow for easier social distancing, the farmers market instituted safety protocols in order to operate successfully through the 2020 season, all of which comes at a cost that the foundation helped offset.

“The support of the New Albany Community Foundation has been invaluable in helping us to conduct a safe and enjoyable market,” says Jackie Krebs, farmers market co-manager. “With the foundation’s generous financial support, we are able to implement a full range of safety protocols including masks, dispensers for hand sanitizer, signage and other social distancing measures. Additionally, the foundation’s support of our marketing efforts has enhanced the community awareness of this year’s market.”

Perhaps no effort has garnered and required more community attention than distance learning for New Albany schools. The question of whether students would return to in-person school in the fall has been on the mind of students, parents, teachers, and administrators from the time distance learning was implemented in March. Among the variables facing a safe return to school, the one constant need



The Foundation’s COVID-19 call to action generated support for Form5 Prosthetics, allowing them to produce thousands of face shields for healthcare and frontline workers. Form5 Prosthetics founder Aaron Westbrook helped load some of the face shields for delivery to Maryhaven. Photo by Lisa Hinson

was for personal protective equipment. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the foundation has focused its attention on community organizations providing assistance to community residents in need, and after the success of its first fundraising campaign, the foundation launched a second-phase safe return to school appeal.

“We appreciate and value the donors to the New Albany Community Foundation for their support and response to the

fund established to help supply personal protective equipment, sanitizer, safety shields and other requests that the district provided to the foundation when they asked us how they could help support a safe return to school for all,” says New Albany schools Superintendent Michael Sawyers. “The generosity of our community is greatly appreciated.”

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.



Foundation donors provided a grant in support of the 2020 Farmers Markets which adapted to social distancing requirements and other safety measures during the 2020 season.

Photos by James DeCamp



A Reading Garden that will serve as a quiet and contemplative place connecting the library to the new Rose Run Park became a reality in July 2020. The Marx family’s generous gift through The New Albany Community Foundation led to this new civic asset that will serve the entire community for years to come. Photo by James DeCamp



Voices that bring us new perspectives, bring us together.

Today, more than any other time in our 25-year history, our commitment to lifelong learning has never been stronger. Through The New Albany Lecture Series and our recently announced Conversations on Social Justice, we will bring the issues of the day into sharp focus. We are living through a time that presents a unique opportunity for us to come together to seek greater understanding. This community has a history of meeting every moment. We invite you to join us for these important conversations.

Visit newalbanyfoundation.org for information on how to access these virtual and free events.

THE NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
is pleased to present the 2020-2021 season of

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Eddie S. Glaude Jr. <i>Distinguished University Professor; Chair, Department of African American Studies, Princeton University</i>	Darlene Hill <i>NBC4 Anchor, Ohio State Alumna and winner of the Peabody, Edward R. Murrow and multiple Emmy awards</i>	Ibram X. Kendi <i>Award-Winning Historian and Leading Antiracist Voice</i>	Michelle Alexander <i>Civil Rights Lawyer, Advocate, Legal Scholar and Author</i>
Conversations on Social Justice 1		Conversations on Social Justice 2	
SEPTEMBER 16		OCTOBER 21	

				
David Axelrod <i>Director, University of Chicago Institute of Politics and CNN Senior Political Commentator</i>	Chris Christie <i>55th Governor of the State of New Jersey</i>	Colleen Marshall <i>Anchor, NBC4 and host of "NBC4's The Spectrum"</i>	Dan Buettner <i>Explorer and Writer for National Geographic</i>	Margaret Trudeau <i>Bestselling Author and Mental Health Advocate</i>
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This story originally appeared in the November/December 2020 issue of *Healthy New Albany*.



With the support of Foundation donors, The New Albany Food Pantry significantly increased its capacity during COVID-19 in order to meet the increased need among those who live in the school district. Pantry staff and volunteers gather outside the food pantry this Fall in front of a box truck donated by Facebook. Photo by James DeCamp

Civic Action, a Hallmark of New Albany

New Albany donors give back

By Bob Valasek

National Philanthropy Day is Nov. 15, a day set aside to celebrate charitable activities and those who make an altruistic impact on society.

Since its inception 25 years ago, the New Albany Community Foundation has served to help its donors make the type of meaningful difference in their community that National Philanthropy Day is meant to recognize.

The foundation's donors come from varied backgrounds and circumstances, but they share a common goal of helping build an extraordinary community in New Albany. Over the past 25 years, the foundation and its donors have established a community culture of giving, and that spirit is contagious.

Helping to set the tone early on with one of the foundation's first major efforts were Jonathan and Marcy Schaffir.

"Our involvement began with the fundraising efforts to build a branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library in New Albany," Jonathan Schaffir says. "We were new to the area and strongly supported the town's effort to have its own public library. We sensed that New Albany had the potential to develop a top-notch educational environment, and we were eager to contribute to that goal."

Left: Claire, Alan, Caroline and Jane Klodell, along with family and friends, established a fund at the Foundation in honor of Alexandria Loew Klodell. The fund supports writing initiatives and provides books to enhance learning for students at the New Albany Primary School. Photo by Kim Rottmeyer



While Safety Town did not occur in 2020 due to the pandemic, more than 5,000 young children have graduated from the program since it was launched in 2004 with the support of Key Bank and the New Albany Women's Network through the New Albany Community Foundation. Photo by A. Grabaskas



Foundation donors support a wide range of community initiatives including programming that supports healthy living like the New Albany Walking Classic. Photo by Lisa Hinson



Janice and Herb Wolman



Marcy and Jonathan Schaffir



Jennifer and Adam Zochowski



Sara and Chris Zochowski

Photos by James DeCamp and Allison Schaffir

This same sentiment is shared by longtime donors Herb and Janice Wolman. The Wolmans cite the New Albany Lecture Series and the support of both the food pantry and Healthy New Albany as some of these most impactful foundation led improvements.

“Our involvement goes back to the early days, and we were motivated by wanting to do anything that would improve the quality of the community where we chose to live, and the foundation seemed to be an important part of doing that,” Herb Wolman says.

In some instances, the donors take the form of an organization rather than an individual or family. The New Albany Women's Network worked through the foundation in 2004 to help launch, with the support of Key-Bank, New Albany Safety Town. Each summer, rising kindergarteners and first-graders partake in this safety focused educational camp. What started as a grassroots effort among a small group of passionate community members has now seen nearly 5,500 kids receive lessons from local police officers, firefighters and certified teachers before graduating from the program.

Searching for a unique way to honor the memory of his late wife Alexandria Loew Klodell, Alan Klodell and the couple's children created a fund with the help of family and friends to support reading and writing initiatives at the New Albany Primary School. Creating a fund through the foundation seemed like a perfect fit.

“Alexandria was very involved in the community as one of the founding mem-

bers of the New Albany Women's Network and through various other volunteer endeavors including some that were associated with the foundation,” Klodell says.

Before her sudden passing in 2018, Alexandria Klodell worked as an administrative assistant in the school's front office, touching the lives of countless children and parents every day.

“I couldn't think of a more perfect way to pay tribute to her as, after her family, supporting the local schools, especially the children at the primary school, was a life passion of hers,” Klodell says.

While the Wolmans and the Schaffirs helped put things in motion for the foundation, newer donors such as Jennifer

and Adam Zochowski, and Sara and Christopher Zochowski, Adam's brother, are helping to keep that momentum going.

When Jennifer and Adam Zochowski began donating to the foundation in 2016, they were motivated to become donors as a way to help them truly feel a part of the community.

“It was important to us that we give back because we feel it's important to improve the lives of others if the means to do so are available,” Jennifer Zochowski says. “It was also a way to educate our son on the importance of charitable contributions.”

After living in cities all across Ohio, Sara and Christopher Zochowski landed in New Albany in spring of 2015.

“We fell in love with New Albany due to the feel of a small, close-knit community and the master planning of the town,” Christopher Zochowski says. “We knew that this was our home for good, and it was at this time that we decided to make our town a bit better than we found it by establishing a charitable fund.”

As the foundation looks back across its first 25 years and forward to its future, its donors and the culture of giving they have created together are a lasting legacy on our extraordinary community.

Bob Valasek is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.



The Wellbeing Connection is funded by New Albany Community Foundation donors and is led by New Albany resident Sarah Underhill. Mental health advocacy and connecting residents to mental health resources are goals of the Wellbeing Connection. Photo by James DeCamp



THE NEW ALBANY
Community Foundation

Celebrating 25 years of impact.

In 2020, two fundamental priorities emerged. Our health. And our humanity.

While we entered the year with a carefully constructed plan, a global pandemic and a movement to advance social justice put those plans on hold. So we shifted our focus and asked you to join us. And you responded with an outpouring of support. Because of your generosity, we made grants totaling nearly \$200,000 toward the safe reopening of our schools, to the New Albany Food Pantry and in support of local mental health initiatives. We also introduced our Conversations on Social Justice with a virtual event featuring Eddie S. Glaude Jr., who chairs the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. We all came away from the conversation with a greater understanding of how to care for each other. Looking back, that's what this year was all about.



When you donate through the Foundation, gifts of any size, large and small, generate impact in so many ways. Grants have been made in support of worthy efforts that touch lives throughout our community. Including the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater, which will provide a gathering place for community events, enabling us to build and strengthen community bonds. The Foundation has been at the center of efforts like this that bring us together. And it's all made possible by your support. If you've given, we thank you. And if you are yet to make a gift, we invite you to join us.

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