

SUMMER 2010

WHAT GIVES

News, Issues and Events Shaping Philanthropy
at the Whitley County Community Foundation

Bob Brittain's Legacy

The Columbia City community lost a gem with the unexpected passing of lifelong resident Robert E. Brittain on April 20, 2010. An English teacher and Speech & Debate Coach at Columbia City High School for more than 40 years, Bob dedicated his career to his beloved students. He coached four State Debate Championship teams and was named to the National Forensic Hall of Fame in 2000. Upon retiring in 2004, he maintained a very close professional relationship with the high school staff and continued to share his knowledge by coaching and mentoring students in Speech & Debate. He is survived by his brother Richard (Anna) Brittain, of Powell, Ohio.

Bob faithfully served on the Board of Elders for Blue River Community Church and was a true servant leader for many civic organizations including the Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee, the Columbia City Kiwanis Club, the Whitley County Literacy Council, and the Peabody Library Board of Directors, as well as the CCHS Alumni Association.

Bob Brittain lived his life with the compelling need to make a difference. His old, green, Ford Taurus was usually the first car into the high school parking lot in the morning and the last to pull out in the evenings; a true reflection of his uncompromising work ethic and the dedication he felt to his students. Upon learning of his death, hundreds of friends and former students flooded



Facebook with reflections of the significant impact Mr. Brittain had upon their education.

In 2004, his desire to plan for the future led him to the Community Foundation where he established an endowment fund to benefit the Columbia City Eagles Speech & Debate Team. Never one to covet the spotlight, he was insistent that the Fund would not be named for him. Upon his passing, he left a very generous bequest to the CCHS Eagles Speech and Debate Fund, a final gesture in securing his legacy. Although those of us who knew him feel the void of his passing, there's sweetness in knowing that for years to come, Bob Brittain will continue to have a role in shaping students who participate in Speech & Debate at Columbia City High School. ♥



Foundation Announces Grants

Local students stepped back in time and attended the Historical Museum's Civil War Camp this summer. A grant from the Foundation provided scholarship assistance.

Donors who give to the Whitley County Community Foundation can make their gifts to projects close to their hearts, or simply direct the Foundation to use their donations where they are most needed. The May Grants session reflected the good that can be accomplished through both types of giving, as almost \$125,000 was awarded to worthy projects in Whitley County. Applications were reviewed by the Foundation's Grants Committee and the following recommendations were approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors:

- **Columbia City Parks Department:** \$30,000 toward the construction of a bridge over the Blue River, that will be part of a walking trail connecting the northern section of Columbia City with Morsches Park, the YMCA and Peabody Library. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.
- **Indian Springs Middle School:** \$30,000 to implement Project Lead the Way-Gateway to Technology curriculum. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.
- **Churubusco Childcare Center:** \$5,090 to support a school age super summer enrichment program. Made possible by the Dekko Childcare Fund.
- **South Whitley Park Board:** \$5,000 as a community matching challenge for continued renovation of the Town Park Playground. Made possible by the Theodore Schultz Fund.
- **Whitley County Salvation Army:** \$5,000 to be used for a county-wide "Tools for School" program. Made possible by the Whitley County Cares Fund.
- **Whitley County Domestic Violence Task Force:** \$5,000 to develop and implement emergency protocol for crisis situations and implement community educational opportunities to raise awareness of domestic violence. Made possible by The Donald Ferber Fund.
- **Smith Green Community Schools:** \$5,000 to implement Project Lead the Way Biomedical Engineering curriculum. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.
- **Early Childhood Alliance:** \$5,000 to offer "parents as Teachers" program for at risk Whitley County families with young children. Made possible by the Dekko Childcare Fund.
- **Beds & Britches, Etc.:** \$5,000 to purchase inventory for clients with babies and young children. Made possible by the Whitley County Cares Fund.
- **Columbia City High School:** \$4,482 to purchase 40 calculators and over view screen. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.
- **Churubusco Elementary School PTO:** \$4,000 for educational technology. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.
- **Eagle Quest Church:** \$4,000 as a challenge match to purchase Angel Food Ministry boxes to provide holiday meals. Made possible by the Whitley County Greater Good Fund.
- **The Potter's Hand:** \$3,000 to purchase materials for volunteer carpenter projects for the elderly in need. Made possible by the Whitley County Cares Fund.
- **The Center for Whitley County Youth:** \$3,000 toward building student ownership and participation in fund raising events for the organization. Made possible by The Greater Good Fund.
- **Erin's House for Grieving Children:** \$2,500 to offer programming to Whitley County youth at no charge. Made possible by the Shirley Gates Fund.
- **Whitley County Giving Circle for Womens' Health:** \$2,300 toward *Girls Rock!*, a self-esteem workshop for young girls. Made possible by the Shirley Gates Fund.
- **Churubusco United Methodist Church:** \$2,000 to purchase an automated external defibrillator. Made possible by the Shirley Gates Fund.
- **The Whitley County Humane Society:** \$1,400 to update donor tracking and assist with their fall appeals campaign. Made possible by The Greater Good Fund.
- **Whitley County Autumn Art Fair:** \$1,100 toward expenses for running the annual fair. Made possible by the Whitley County Arts Alive Fund.
- **The Whitley County Historical Society:** \$500 to provide financial assistance scholarships for children who wanted to attend Civil War Camp. Made possible by the Weick Fund.
- **Columbia City First Church of God:** \$500 toward expenses associated with their community garden. Made possible by the Greater Good Fund.

2010 WCCF Scholarship Recipients

- Kenny Beck "Changes in Latitude" Scholarship – Mallory Sims, Stephanie Kyler & Brittany Laux, CCHS
- Daniel E. Bolinger Memorial Scholarship – Autumn Gregory, Whitko
- Lawrence and Freida Bunnell Scholarship – Nicole Hyndman & Stephanie Kyler, CCHS
- Bernice Carver Scholarship of Hope – Derek Kissinger, CCHS
- Churubusco High School Fine Arts/Theatrical Scholarship - Zane Sade & Taylor Sordelet, Churubusco
- Columbia City Rotary Scholarship – Mikaela Michel, Nicholas Burlage and Mallory Sims, CCHS
- Joey Devito Memorial Scholarship – Emily Radke, CCHS
- Roark Maxwell Fizer Memorial Scholarship - Chelsea Geiger, CCHS
- Betsy Jayne Gates Memorial Scholarship – Cassie Gareiss, CCHS
- HANDS Foundation Scholarships – Kaitlyn Boner, CCHS; Kelli Klaehn, Churubusco & Gabe Starkey Whitko
- Heimbach Award – Ivan Fung, CCHS
- Robert Hood Award – Kaileb O'Connor, CCHS
- JAKES Scholarship – Nicholas Burlage & Jeffrey Gruetter, CCHS
- Robert and Grace Karst R.N. Scholarship – Alexandra Bunyan, CCHS & Kayla Kessie, Whitko
- Ben Konger Memorial Scholarship – Mallory Geist, Churubusco
- Lilly Endowment Community Scholars: Christin Rethlake & Alexander Parker, CCHS
- Lilly Endowment Finalist Award - Cheyann Hibbert & Alivia Walker, CCHS & Rachael Woodcox, Whitko
- Natalie Mason Mullins Scholarship – Alivia Walker, Nicole Hyndman, Abigail Harvey, Nick Houser, Jennifer Sherbahn, Devin Bassett & Marla Walters, CCHS
- Dan Mullett Scholarship – Emily Espich, CCHS
- Audry Neeley Scholarship – Brittany Sherry, Whitko
- Tom Ness Memorial Scholarship – Kaycee Bills, CCHS
- Andrea Norman Henry & John Anthony Norman Theater Scholarship – Zane Sade
- Ohki Award – Abigail Chambers, CCHS
- Tiffany Parker Scholarship – Mindi Hoffman, CCHS
- Eric Reed Memorial Scholarship - Kaitlyn Boner, CCHS
- Joseph and Irene Shull Scholarship - Madalyne Pattee & Cheyann Hibbert, CCHS
- Scientific & Regulatory Consultants Scholarship - Kaitlyn Boner, CCHS and Stephanie Weigold CCHS, and Caleb Schuman, Whitko
- John Simmons Scholarship – Erik Kolwicz
- Kenny Simon Memorial Award – Jeff Gruetter, CCHS and
- Andrew C. Spencer Memorial Scholarship – Jordan Hamilton, Churubusco High School
- Turtletown Players Scholarship – Zane Sade, Churubusco High School
- The Senator Harold "Potch" Wheeler Memorial Scholarship – Chris Bachelder, CCHS
- Howard and Mimi Wherry Scholarship - Alivia Walker & Chelsea Geiger, CCHS
- Charles White Nursing Scholarship – Gabrielle Mishler, Lydia Perry & Kayla Ormsby, CCHS
- Whitley County Art Guild Anne Hamilton Scholarship - Cassie Gareiss & Mikaela Michel, CCHS and Rachael Woodcox, Whitko
- Whitley County Builders' Association Scholarship – Derek Kissinger, CCHS
- Whitley County Korean War Veterans Memorial Scholarship – Matthew Schmidt, CCHS
- Whitley County Retired Teachers Scholarship – Stephanie Weigold, Whitko
- Megan Christine Young Memorial Scholarship – Alexis Bankson, Churubusco High School
- Rely & Izora Zumbrun Scholarship – Erin Culver & Kevin Deutsch, CCHS



In May, Derek Kissinger of Columbia City High School was presented with the Bernice Carver Scholarship of Hope by CCHS Principal Greg Goevert and CCHS alum Ted Gruver. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the scholarship award, which was created by Don and Barbara Frey in memory of Barbara's Aunt Bernice, a beloved educator who dedicated almost four decades of her life to teaching in Whitley County.

Foundation Welcomes Summer Intern

Nick Ewing, a freshman at IPFW, has joined the Foundation staff as a summer intern, thanks to the new Community Foundation Intern program funded by Lilly Endowment. The internship is intended to provide real-life work experience and help him to advance his educational and personal development. Nick brings his production skills in video-taping and editing to the Foundation and will be working on a piece that will celebrate the Foundation's upcoming 20th anniversary.



Look Good Feel Better

Monday, August 2, 6-8 pm

Cancer can rob a woman of her energy, appetite and strength, but it doesn't have to take away her self-confidence. *Look Good Feel Better* . . . is a free program of the American Cancer Society that teaches beauty techniques to women cancer patients in active treatment to help them combat the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment.

A *Look Good Feel Better* program will be offered by the Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health at the Whitley County Community Foundation on Monday, August 2nd, from 6-8 p.m. A volunteer cosmetologist will teach women how to cope with skin changes and hair loss using cosmetics and skin care products donated by the cosmetic industry. The free cosmetic kits are available in light, medium, and extra dark shades to enhance all complexion types. Women also learn ways to disguise hair loss with wigs, scarves and other accessories.

While the program is free, space is limited. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 to register. Participants may also bring a guest for support. ♥

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Whitley County Community Foundation to champion the spirit of philanthropy and generate permanent endowments. We will assess and address local needs and direct funding to best meet community aspirations.

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OUR OFFICE

400 N. Whitley Street
Columbia City, Indiana 46725
(260) 244-5224 phone
(260) 244-5724 fax
sepwccf@gmail.com



400 N. Whitley Street
Columbia City, Indiana 46725-0527

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