

AUTUMN 2008

WHAT GIVES

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

Economic Rescue Package Includes Help for Charities

Provision Permits Tax-free Charitable Transfers from IRAs

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a two-year extension of Charitable IRA legislation, making it easier for Americans to give to causes they care about. The Charitable IRA provision, first enacted for 2006 and 2007, has the power to help local charities weather the current economic crisis. The extension goes through 2009.

In these financially turbulent times, millions of Americans continue to save pre-tax dollars in individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Thanks to regular investments and long-term returns, an estimated \$4.7 trillion is invested in IRAs. The new law allows taxpayers 70 ½ and older to share the wealth by giving retirement savings directly to charity—and bypassing income tax.

This new law is a boon to local charities that are experiencing the effects of a tough economy. The tax benefit expires December 31, 2009.

“It is a win-win—for people who would rather give to charity than pay taxes and the nonprofit organizations they choose to support,” said September McConnell, Whitley County Community Foundation director.

Thanks to decades of deliberate saving, some of today’s retirees have more money in their IRAs than they need for daily living expenses and long-term care. Charitable individuals and couples have expressed an interest in giving the funds to charity, but income tax must be paid on all withdrawals, which reduces the value of the gift. Others are concerned about designating their children as IRA beneficiaries, since that may draw unintended tax consequences.

“For larger estates, a good portion of IRA wealth goes to estate taxes and income taxes of beneficiaries,” McConnell said. “Experts estimate heirs may receive less than 50% of IRA assets that pass through estates.”

A provision in the new federal law extends an option: transferring IRA assets directly to charity. By going directly to a qualified public charity such as the Whitley County Community Foundation, the money is not included in the IRA owner’s income and—most important—is not taxed, preserving the full amount for charitable purposes.

During 2008 and 2009 only, holders of traditional IRAs who are at least 70 ½ years old can make direct charitable transfers up to \$100,000 per year. A single person can transfer \$200,000 free from federal tax; a married couple can transfer up to \$400,000 free from federal tax from separate accounts. Whitley County Community Foundation can help donors execute the transfers and choose from several charitable fund options for their gift. Donor Advised Funds do not qualify for tax-free IRA transfers.

“This really is a limited-time offer: the window is open now, but it will close at the end of 2009,” said McConnell. “For anyone interested in establishing a permanent legacy in this community, this is the opportunity of a lifetime to make the gift of a lifetime.”

Through philanthropic services, strategic grantmaking and community leadership, The Whitley County Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. ♥

Giving Circle Continues Free Mammogram Program

The Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health has announced that for the fifth consecutive year, certificates for free mammograms are available to Whitley County women who do not have insurance and would not otherwise be able to afford the vital screenings.

Through a partnership with Parkview Whitley Hospital, the Giving Circle was able to respond to over two dozen requests for the lifesaving screening certificates last year, a number they hope to surpass this year. Any Whitley County resident interested in receiving a gift certificate should contact

Kendra Zickafoose at the Whitley County Community Foundation by calling 244-5224. Local physicians will also have a limited number of certificates to make available to patients in need.

In addition to the Free Mammogram Program, the Giving Circle also partners with the American Cancer Society to offer a program called Look Good . . . Feel Better, for Whitley County residents who are battling cancer. The free program provides participants with make-up kits and educational tips on how to look and feel better when undergoing treatment for cancer. The next session will take place at the Community Foundation on Monday, November 3 from 6-8 p.m. Call 244-5224 for more information. ♡

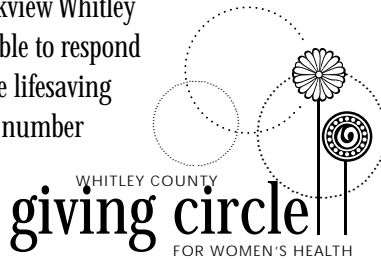


Photo By Mark Parker, Columbia City Post & Mail
Senior Lady Eagles show off the pink jerseys that were auctioned to raise funds for the fight against Breast Cancer.
Seniors, from left to right: back row; Kelsey Graves, Morgen Hoffman, Jennifer Nierman. Front row; Katie Foy, Lauren Greulich.

Girls Soccer Team "Kicks" off Breast Cancer Awareness Month for October

The Whitley County Giving Circle for Women's Health received some wonderful assistance in kicking off awareness activities to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Columbia City Lady Eagles Soccer team, led by Coach Bill Duffy, literally got the ball rolling! On September 24th, the players wore pink jerseys in their game against the Heritage Lady Patriots. Following the game, the jerseys were auctioned, with proceeds benefiting The Giving Circle's free mammogram program. "This is the team's 15th anniversary, and we wanted to celebrate by finding a way to give back to the community," explained Coach Duffy. "When we learned about the Giving Circle's program which provides mammogram gift certificates for women in our community who would not otherwise be able to afford the screening, we knew we'd found our cause." The team's enthusiasm quickly spread, as other CCHS Clubs joined in the Homecoming Week efforts to raise money for free mammograms. Eagle spirit prevailed as over \$7,000 was raised. ♡



Teens often inspire youngsters and when students at Little Turtle Elementary School heard about the pink soccer game from third grade teacher Janet Hinen, they decided to hold a fund-raiser of their own. The Tickled Pink Comedy Club was created; for a .25 cent donations to the Giving Circle, students could stand up and share a joke. Here's to The Little Turtle staff and students who found a way to battle cancer with laughter.



Get a Mammogram: Do it for Your Family, Do it for Yourself

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray picture of the breast. A mammogram along with a breast exam by your doctor or nurse can find breast cancer at an early stage when it can best be treated. A mammogram does not cause cancer. Because the amount of radiation used is very low, the risk of any harm is extremely small.

What happens during a mammogram?

A mammogram is a simple test. When you go for a mammogram, the technician taking the picture will place your breast between two X-ray panels. The panels will push your breast between them to get a clear picture. You may feel a little bit of discomfort but each X-ray takes less than one minute.

Who should get one?

Women in their 40s and older should get a mammogram every 1 to 2 years. A woman's chance of getting breast cancer is greater as she ages.

Why should I have one?

Mammograms can save your life by finding breast cancer early. A mammogram can show cancer that is too small for you or your doctor to feel. When breast cancer is found early, you have more treatment options.

"Early detection will give you more treatment options and certainly a better chance to survive."

~ Robin Chin, breast cancer survivor

Help for Single Parents Offered Through Horizons of Hope Fund

Trying to balance the responsibilities of family and work can be a real challenge. Add the pressures of higher education requirements into the mix, and one is soon overwhelmed. The Horizons of Hope Fund was established to recognize and encourage single parents who have returned to school. Created to help lighten the load, Horizons of Hope assistance can be used for tuition expenses, books, supplies, transportation, childcare or other living expenses.



Single parents in Whitley County currently enrolled in classes are eligible for assistance. All applicants must be referred to the Foundation by a social service agency such as a church or school. Assistance is available, up to \$500 per semester, for parents with full or partial custody of their children, and who have not previously earned a degree from a 4-year institution. ♥

When Deer Becomes Dear

To learn more about how the current economy may be impacting our local food pantries, volunteers from the food banks were invited to the August meeting of the Community Foundation's Grants Committee.



As might be expected, the pantries are seeing an increased need for donated items, due in part to a number of factory closings in our area. When the volunteers mentioned there are freezers for meat donations, Grant Committee members got creative. Noting that many local farmers have extra deer tags, Program Director John Slavich and Committee member Andy Moore made some calls. As a result, Randy Krider at Krider Meats generously agreed to process ten deer at cost. The Grants Committee set aside funds to cover the expense, and so far, over two deer have been donated to local food pantries. Kriders also generously donated 300 pounds of sausage to the effort. We thank them for their willingness to partner in this great cause. ♥



Diaper Drive A Success

The Community Foundation staff conducted a diaper drive to benefit BABE as their 2008 United Way's Day of Caring project. Thanks to the public's enthusiasm and generosity, almost 6,000 diapers were collected! On behalf of Whitley County families who utilize BABE, we offer our sincere thanks. ♥

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p>Aileen Meier, <i>President</i></p> <p>David Smith, <i>Vice President</i></p> <p>Rosemary Steiner, <i>Secretary</i></p> <p>Clark Waterfall, <i>Treasurer</i></p>	<p>Ralph Bailey Dale Duncan John LeFever Rob Marr Harold Norman Bill Overdeer Laurie Steill John Whiteleather</p>
--	---

STAFF

September McConnell,
Executive Director

Vanessa Bills,
Business Director

John Slavich,
Program Officer

Kendra Zickafoose,
Communications Officer

Jenna Ott,
Development Coordinator

OUR OFFICE

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



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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 313
Columbia City, IN