2025

Community Foundation of Louisa County

An affiliate of
Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Support quality of life initiatives in our communities by connecting people who care with causes that matter.

ABOUT US

Established in 2005, the Community Foundation of Louisa County works to:

- Build community capital for today and for future generations.
- Serve donors' needs by providing flexible and cost-effective means to achieve charitable giving goals.
- Provide a neutral space for collaboration on community improvement initiatives.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County became an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine in 2016. Through this partnership, the Community Foundation of Louisa County serves residents of Louisa County through our granting program and the development of new funds that benefit Louisa County. The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine provides policy governance and administrative oversight for the affiliate including tax-deductibility for donors.

OUR PURPOSE

The Community Foundation of Louisa County strives to create positive, sustainable change.

ADVISORY BOARD

Kathy Barrick
Kabe Boysen
Kara Hammer
Thad Helmig
Sherry Humphreys, Chair
Steve Sents
Allie Todd
Donna Williams, Vice Chair
Tom Wilson

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR

Kelse Truitt

DONORS

We make giving simple, convenient, and tax-advantageous, so you can give more to the causes you care about and create a lasting legacy.

COMMUNITY

We serve as a community catalyst and connector to help address our county's most pressing issues. Our unique role allows us opportunities to take leadership and drive change in key areas.

NONPROFITS

Your organization can change the world, and we can help - build long-term assets, establish a home for reserve funds, and apply for grants to further your mission.

20 YEARS OF GIVING

Celebrating 20 years of giving back in Louisa County.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) is marking two decades of supporting local projects and empowering our community!

From its humble beginnings in 2004 to stewarding over $3.2 million in assets today, CFLC has reinvested over $1.7 million into Louisa County. Recent investments include a $25,000 Impact Grant to the Louisa County Fairgrounds for a Multi-Purpose Barn Project, and targeted support for youth mental health in partnership with Louisa County Community Services.

To encourage new fund creation, CFLC offered a $2,000 match for every new endowment opened, making it easier for donors to leave a lasting legacy.

$20,000 IN GIFTS TO FOOD PANTIRES AND LIBRARIES

To mark its 20th anniversary, the Community Foundation of Louisa County launched its “20 Years of Impact” initiative, awarding $20,000 to local food pantries and $200 to each county library.

Southeast Louisa County Food Pantry

Columbus Junction Public Library

Oakville Food Pantry

Morning Sun Food Pantry

“Our food pantries and libraries are cornerstones of our community.”

- Kelse Truitt, Director of CFLC

FINANCIALS

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

$198 thousand
in total grants

45
nonprofits funded

$20 thousand
in scholarships awarded

$571 thousand
in total donations

$3.2 million
in total assets

42
funds

established to support a wide variety of charitable causes

Figures are based on unaudited financials as of 12/31/25.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Short-Term Liquid Portfolio

- 10-Year Average Rate of Return: 2.20%
- 10-Year Compounded Annual Growth Rate: 2.19%
- 2025 Rate of Return: 3.92%

100% Fixed Income

Conservative Portfolio

- 10-Year Average Rate of Return: 6.69%
- 10-Year Compounded Annual Growth Rate: 6.47%
- 2025 Rate of Return: 12.72%

60% Fixed Income
40% Equities

Active Portfolio

- 10-Year Average Rate of Return: 9.02%
- 10-Year Compounded Annual Growth Rate: 8.56%
- 2025 Rate of Return: 18.23%

30% Fixed Income
70% Equities

Dynamic Portfolio

- 10-Year Average Rate of Return: 10.34%
- 10-Year Compounded Annual Growth Rate: 9.62%
- 2025 Rate of Return: 19.91%

20% Fixed Income
80% Equities

WELCOME KELSE TRUITT

After seven months with the Community Foundation of Louisa County, Affiliate Director, Kelse Truitt has already made a meaningful impact. With a strong background in accounting and business, along with more than a decade of involvement in community-focused organizations, Kelse brings valuable experience and a deep commitment to local philanthropy.

Her leadership, collaborative approach, and knowledge of nonprofit operations have strengthened partnerships, supported the Advisory Board, and helped advance opportunities across Louisa County as the Community Foundation continues to grow and expand its impact.

CREATING LEGACIES

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Community Foundation donors give for a variety of reasons - from honoring a loved one to leaving a legacy, to simply giving back to the community that shaped their lives. We make giving simple, convenient, and tax-advantageous, so that you can give more to the causes you care about and create a lasting legacy.

WAYS TO GIVE

CASH

STOCKS

REAL ESTATE

GRAIN

LAND

...and more!

Endowed or Non-Endowed

- Endowments cater to **ongoing needs** and will last forever. These assets will provide an annual stream of revenue to fund charitable initiatives or help sustain important charities today and tomorrow.
- Non-endowed funds cater to the **needs of today** through immediate impact. This provides flexibility to grant from the fund as needed to support causes and projects throughout the existence of the fund.

Unrestricted or Restricted

- Unrestricted funds have a wide charitable focus and provide the **flexibility to address ever-changing community priorities.** It leads to longer-term engagements that are less based on projects and more based on a shared mission.
- Restricted funds have a **specific charitable focus** and will support the causes and projects as designated by you, the donor.

DID YOU KNOW?

We support communities beyond Louisa County that are important to our donors.

Community Foundation donors entrust us with their gifts for local, national, and international charitable purposes.

A LEGACY ROOTED IN GENEROSITY AND PURPOSE TRANSFORMING FARMLAND INTO A FOREVER GIFT

The Community Foundation of Louisa County is honored to steward a remarkable legacy gift that will impact generations to come, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine.

Through thoughtful estate planning, Andrew Hafner entrusted ownership of a farming corporation, including more than 300 acres of productive crop ground, to the Community Foundation to carry forward his philanthropic vision. His foresight transformed his life's work into a permanent source of support for causes that reflected his values and commitments.

Andrew's gift established three permanent endowment funds that provide annual support to local and national organizations.

- **Andrew C. Hafner St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Inc**., Endowment Fund supports research of children's illnesses, diseases, and like childhood health problems.
- **Andrew C. Hafner Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Scholarship Endowment Fund** supports scholarships for Louisa-Muscatine High School graduates who demonstrate financial need.
- **Andrew C. Hafner Letts United Methodist Church Endowment Fund** supports repairs, maintenance, and upkeep of the church.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generosity of donors, **$20,900 in scholarships were awarded** to students throughout Louisa County.

"Without this scholarship, I would not be able to attend Iowa State University, which is where I feel is the best fit for me and the major that I have chosen!"
- Kaden Yerington, Wapello HS

Columbus Community High School:
- Lisle (Doc) and Jeanette Luithly Memorial Scholarship

Wapello High School:
- Don and Donna Williams Scholarship
- Edwin R. Hicklin Memorial Scholarship
- Ray and Evelyn Werner Education, Human Services, or Agriculture Scholarship

Louisa-Muscatine High School:
- Andrew C. Hafner Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Scholarship
- Bill Bartenhagen Trade School Memorial Scholarship
- Robert and Marilyn Schlutz Future of Agriculture Scholarship

GRANTING

ENDOW IOWA GRANTS

In November 2025, the Community Foundation awarded over $111,000 in grants to support 35 charitable programs or projects in Louisa County through the Endow Iowa Granting Program.

City of Letts for new Scholastic books for children ($2,500).

City of Letts for new flags at Letts Cemetery ($2,600).

City of Wapello for two ambulance cots, cot restraints, and two infrared vein finders ($6,000).

City of Wapello for the Third Place Initiative at Keck Memorial Library ($1,000).

City of Wapello for classroom and office chairs for the new fire station ($3,300).

Columbus Community School for an ecologically beneficial outdoor learning space ($2,000).

Community Action of Southeast Iowa for housing assistance to Louisa County residents ($2,500).

EveryChild for Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center ($2,500).

Fellowship of Christian Athletes for sending student athletes to FCA summer camp ($1,350).

Friends of the Columbus Junction Public Library for many "250th" celebrations ($3,052).

Grandview Community Fund for a new holiday decor nativity scene ($2,400).

Hometown Pride Louisa County for repairing floor for Fairview Church Restoration project ($1,600).

Junior Achievement of the Heartland for expanding financial literacy and career in youth ($3,600).

Letts Boy Scout Troop 54 for new tents and assistance with recharter fees ($1,000).

Louisa County Conservation Environmental for large-scale visual aids for education ($1,000).

Louisa County Extension for "Annie's Project", empowering women in agriculture ($2,700).

Louisa County Fair Association for horse arena improvements ($5,000).

Louisa County Public Health for the Healthy People, Healthy Communities program ($7,500).

Louisa County Sheriff's Office for a license plate recognition system ($7,500).

Louisa-Muscatine School District for supporting a new school therapy dog ($3,000).

Louisa-Muscatine Community School District for a CPR training initiative ($3,100).

Louisa-Muscatine Community School District for an outdoor classroom and prairie restoration project ($1,600).

Louisa-Muscatine Community School District for new curriculum books in the talented and gifted program ($1,608).

Louisa-Muscatine Parent Teacher Organization Inc for the character counts program ($1,000).

LULAC Council 317 Columbus Junction for supporting golden loteria events and authentic Hispanic meals and memories ($2,100).

Lutheran Services in Iowa for the new parent and nest programs ($1,000).

Morning Sun Community Fund for the county-wide story walks initiative ($7,500).

Morning Sun Community School District for the pickleball court project ($4,000).

Morning Sun Community School District for new library books ($2,000).

Morning Sun Fire Department for an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the fire truck ($2,130).

Morning Sun Hometown Pride Inc for land survey funding for the splash pad project ($2,000).

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation for new picnic tables at the Prairie Outdoor Classroom ($4,500).

Wapello Community Schools for new soccer goals ($3,000).

Wapello Community Schools for new library books at the elementary and secondary libraries ($2,000).

COMMUNITY CARING AWARD

CELEBRATING LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

To celebrate the good work being done throughout Louisa County, the Community Foundation recognizes local volunteers through our annual Community Caring Award.

2025 COMMUNITY CARING AWARD PRESENTED TO JERRY KIRK

The Community Foundation of Louisa County awarded the 2025 Caring Award to Jerry Kirk, Mayor of Letts. Jerry was nominated by Karen Koppe for his dedication to improving the quality of life in the Letts' community.

Jerry Kirk has served as Mayor of Letts since January 2000 and has been a dedicated member of the Letts Fire Department since 1997. Throughout his tenure, he has played a key role in major community improvements, including the development of the city park, construction of the community building that now houses City Hall and the library, redevelopment of the former school and bank properties, and the installation of solar panels at the community center and sewer lagoon. He also represents Letts on several county committees, advocating for the community's needs.

Jerry was honored with the Community Caring Award following the March 6 City Council meeting, attended by family, city leaders, firefighters, and community members. In recognition of his service, he received a $300 donation to the local nonprofit of his choice.

IMPACT INITIATIVES

LOUISA COUNTY 4-H BARN IMPACT GRANT

The new All-Species 4-H Building at the Louisa County Fairgrounds is a major investment in the future of Louisa County agriculture and youth.

This large, modern facility will support hands-on learning, host educational events, and strengthen the local 4-H program for generations to come.

Kathy Vance sharing the Multi-Purpose Barn Capital Campaign with the Advisory Board

In 2025, the Community Foundation helped make this vision a reality with a $25,000 Impact Grant.

DONATE TO PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY

A donation to the Community Foundation of Louisa County Partners in Philanthropy Fund supports the operations of the Community Foundation of Louisa County and provides the immediate flexibility to impact current community priorities.

Scan the QR code to donate!

OUR MISSION

Supporting quality of life initiatives in our communities by connecting people who care with causes that matter.

FUND LIST

Advancing Community Healthcare Scholarship Endowment Fund - Supports local healthcare professionals in Louisa County who are pursuing advanced education to strengthen patient care in their community, with special emphasis on those working toward becoming nurse practitioners.

Andrew C. Hafner Letts United Methodist Church Endowment Fund - Provides support to the Letts United Methodist Church in Letts, Iowa, for the repairs, maintenance, and upkeep of the church.

Andrew C. Hafner Louisa Muscatine Community School District Scholarship Endowment Fund - A scholarship awarded to a Louisa-Muscatine High School graduate who demonstrates financial need.

Bill Bartenhagen Trade School Memorial Scholarship Fund Endowment - A scholarship awarded to a graduating Louisa-Muscatine High School senior pursuing a post-secondary education in a trade school.

Cedar River Haven Charitable Fund - Supports the mission of Cedar River Haven to help women in recovery from substance use disorder to learn a new way of life and embrace their potential by offering safe shelter, employment opportunities, community, and life skills.

Columbus Junction Community Pool Fund - Provides funding support for the Columbus Junction Community Pool Project.

Columbus Junction United Methodist Church Endowment - Supports the charitable, scientific, and educational purposes of the church.

Don and Donna Williams Scholarship Endowment - Scholarship established by Don and Donna Williams for graduating Wapello High School students pursuing post-secondary education in the state of Iowa.

Don and Donna Williams Wapello Youth Fund - Supports community-based youth sports and STEM programs in Wapello, Iowa, serving children from preschool through 8th grade outside of school-sponsored activities.

Edwin R. Hicklin Memorial Scholarship - Scholarship established in memory of Edwin R. Hicklin for Wapello High School graduating seniors pursuing post-secondary education in the state of Iowa.

Louisa County Impact Endowment Fund - Supports projects that improve the quality of life in Louisa County.

First United Presbyterian Church of Morning Sun Endowment - Supports the church's mission.

First United Presbyterian Church of Wapello Endowment - Provides operating support for the Keck Memorial Library and the Southeast Louisa County Food Pantry.

Frank H. Jolly Memorial Endowment - Support for the ongoing maintenance, improvement, and eventual replacement of the Frank H. Jolly Memorial Shelter located in Shadle Park in Pleasantville, Iowa.

Friends of the Columbus Junction Public Library Endowment - Promotes lifelong learning, including supporting the overall mission and strategic plan of the library and providing equitable access to needed resources.

Friends of Community Foundation of Louisa County - Supports the programs and operations of the Community Foundation as directed by the local Advisory Board.

Hal Cross Wapello Music Endowment - Supports the Wapello School music program in honor of Harold Cross, a beloved music instructor from 1952 to 1983.

Irv Meier Memorial Scholarship Endowment - A scholarship award in memory of Irv Meier.

Letts Public Library Endowment - Supports the mission of the Letts Public Library for the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community.

Lisa Ostrem Memorial Endowment Fund - Ardith Ostrem established the Lisa Ostrem Memorial Endowment Fund to support the Friends of the Columbus Junction Public Library in memory of Lisa Ostrem.

Lisle "Doc" & Jeanette Luithly Memorial Scholarship Endowment - Scholarship given in memory of Lisle (Doc) Luithly, a long-time Columbus Wildcat Fan and Southeast Iowa Conference Secretary, for a Columbus Community High School graduating senior pursuing full-time post-secondary education at an accredited institution.

Louisa County 4-H Foundation Endowment - Supports Louisa County 4H youth and 4H programs.

Lori A Bashore Memorial Scholarship Fund - Lori A. Bashore Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund supports scholarships for Louisa-Muscatine High School graduates.

Louisa County Emergency Disaster Relief Fund - Provides services and assistance during an emergency or disaster.

Louisa County Endowment Granting Charitable - Support of charitable programs or projects in Louisa County through the Endow Iowa Granting Program.

Louisa County Impact Endowment - Provides granting support for qualified charitable organizations or charitable causes in Louisa County.

Louisa County Fair Endowment - Supports Louisa County Fair programs.

Louisa County Historical Society Endowment - Supports the maintenance and preservation of the Littleton Memorial in Toolsboro.

Louisa County Trails Association Endowment - Supports the development and maintenance of trails in Louisa County.

Louisa-Muscatine Community School District Foundation Designated Charitable Fund - Supports the mission and betterment of the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District.

Louisa-Muscatine FFA Alumni Association Future of Agriculture Endowment - Provides the Robert and Marillyn Schlutz Future of Agriculture Scholarship to L-M graduating seniors and supports the future of agriculture with grants in support of FFA student development in leadership and career preparedness.

Michael Milder Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund - A scholarship award given in honor of Michael Milder for a Louisa-Muscatine High School graduating senior.

Morning Sun Community Center Endowment - Supports the community center's maintenance and operations.

Morning Sun Community Endowment Fund - Provides long-term funding for area organizations and charitable programs for the community of Morning Sun, Iowa.

Oetken RFD Postal Museum Endowment - Assists in the continued operation and maintenance of the R.F.D. Postal Museum in Morning Sun, Iowa.

Partners in Community for Mental Health - Provides support for mental health initiatives in Louisa County.

Partners in Philanthropy - Supports the operations of the Community Foundation of Louisa County and provides the immediate flexibility to impact current community priorities.

Presbyterian Church USA of Columbus Junction Endowment - Supports the church's mission.

Ray & Evelyn Werner Scholarship Endowment - Scholarship given in honor of Ray and Evelyn Werner for a Wapello High School graduating senior pursuing full-time post-secondary education at a 2- or 4-year college or university in the state of Iowa with preference given to a student who intends to pursue a career in education, human services, or agriculture.

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Endowment - Supports initiatives that promote the preservation and enjoyment of the area's natural resources.

Wapello Alumni Association Endowment - Scholarship awarded to a graduating Wapello High School student, as well as providing support for school improvements as designated by the WAA Board.

William Paris Conservation Scholarship Endowment - Scholarship awarded to a graduating Louisa County student pursuing a career in a conservation related field. This fund was established by family members in memory of William J. Paris.

Support Louisa County
www.growinglouisacounty.org

Donate:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board Members and Affiliate Director of the Community Foundation, thank you for your continued generosity and belief in the power of local philanthropy. Your support makes a lasting difference in the lives of individuals, families, and organizations throughout our community.

This past year marked an important milestone as the Community Foundation surpassed $3 million in total assets. This achievement reflects the trust you place in us and your shared commitment to strengthening our community now and for generations to come.

Because of your generosity, we are able to support vital programs, respond to emerging needs, and invest in the future through permanent endowment funds. To further encourage this legacy of giving, the Board of Directors remains committed to matching new endowment funds. For each new fund established, the Community Foundation will provide a 10% match, up to $2,000, helping donors grow their impact and build long-term resources for our community.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, volunteers, and community members who make this work possible. Together, we are creating opportunity, stability, and hope; today and for the future.

With sincere appreciation,

Sherry Humphreys, Board Chair
Community Foundation of Louisa County

Community Foundation of Louisa County

An affiliate of

Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine

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