

10/23

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION from page 1

grand total of just over \$1.1 million for the initiative.

"GIFT VII invited us to envision a stronger community. This opportunity pushed the Community Foundation into the realm of community leadership," she explained.

They then conducted a listening tour to focus their aspirations to the needs of the community. Residents stated that they wanted a community that is thriving and growing, welcoming and open-minded, safe and drug-free and lead by forward thinking leaders. Leadership was chosen as the focus by the board of directors and The Forward Thinking

Leadership (FTL) Initiative was then created.

Over the next few years, the local community saw an increase in opportunities for forward thinking leadership such as trainings for elected officials and those considering running for office as well as a Leadership Pulaski County program, to just name a couple.

"The Forward Thinking Leadership Initiative, the Aspirations in Action task forces and all that GIFT VII brought to Pulaski County was truly a county wide collaboration," Wright said.

In addition, she explained that this past year's Giving Tuesday was a record breaker for the Foundation. Nearly \$105,000 was raised to support existing funds as well as their general operating endowment.

Other highlights included an upgrade to their accounting software, the re-accreditation of the Foundation and the collaboration between the Pulaski County Drug Free Council and the Foundation.

As for what's to come,



Each guest was given a copy of the Community Foundation of Pulaski County's 2022 Annual Report which reviewed the Foundation's financial and organizational highlights.

Wright said they will be continuing current programming and addressing substance misuse in the community.

She also expressed how excited they are to be moving into their new office in Winamac on Oct. 2. The office will be located at 221 N. Monticello Street.

The Community Foundation's first office was established in 2001 on Main Street in Winamac and moved to its next location on Pearl Street in 2006. The Foundation then announced their plan to move to the Monticello Street location in July 2021.

Wright said they are planning a proper open house for the new office in the spring.

Lastly, she unveiled the Community Foundation's new mission statement: "We build resources, engage people, and inspire generosity to enrich lives in Pulaski County, Indiana."

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed food and collaboration with other officials and members of the community. The event was held at Meadow Springs in Francesville from 5 to 8 p.m.



Community Foundation of Pulaski County Executive Director Leeann Wright shares that the Community Foundation will continue to address county wide substance misuse in the coming year.



The Community Foundation of Pulaski County is looking forward to officially moving into their new office on 221 N. Monticello Street this month. They plan to have an open house in the spring.

— Pulaski County's Newspaper Since 1838

Pulaski County JOURNAL

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Community Foundation of Pulaski County reflects on past, looks to future



State and local elected officials, organization leaders and community donors had plenty of time to mingle during the Community Foundation's Annual Celebration on Thursday, Sept. 21.

Megan Galbreath

It was a night for state and local elected officials and representatives, donors and community leaders to gather together to both connect with one another and celebrate 26 years of the Community Foundation of Pulaski County.

Executive Director Leeann Wright said that the event was to help celebrate the impact of the philanthropy from the local

community.

"Thanks to our community's generous gifts of time, talent and treasure, the Community Foundation has been able to affect positive change in the county," Wright said.

During her presentation, she reviewed highlights from the past year along with previewing some of the exciting things to come for the Community Foundation of Pulaski County.

One of the items that the Foundation has been working on over the last few years has been the GIFT (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) VII Initiative from Lilly Endowment, which concluded in August.

Wright said that Pulaski County was granted GIFT VII funding, in which county residents gave over \$380,000 and Lilly Endowment provided an additional \$750,000, coming to a

see COMMUNITY FOUNDATION on page 6

Prevent pricks: be smart with your sharps!

Pulaski County residents now have a safe – and smart – way to dispose of used needles, thanks to a new initiative of the Pulaski County Drug-Free Council, the Local Coordinating Council (LCC) for the county. The LCC partnered with the Health Department, Community Foundation of Pulaski County and several local elected officials, health care providers and others to install the county's first drop-off kiosks designed to safely dispose of hypodermic needles.

The "Prevent Pricks" program was designed with community safety in mind. The sharps collection kiosks, often referred to as "sharps kiosks," are a sustainable means to protect the public health of all residents in the county. With the new kiosks installed, town and county workers run less of a risk of being stuck by syringes – workers can now simply unlock the kiosk, pull out the plastic bin, seal it with a locking top, and take it in for proper disposal.

Debbie Mix, Coordinator for the LCC, noted, "I'm so happy that Pulaski County has the safety of its residents and county employees in mind – very forward-thinking."

By properly disposing of used syringes, Pulaski County will decrease residential exposure to Hepatitis A, B, C, HIV/AIDS and MRSA, as well as protect town and county workers from accidental needle pricks. The kiosks also serve diabetics who use syringes and need a place to safely dispose of them. All of which directly impact residents.

"This is so exciting! Pulaski County is making strides in the areas of public health and recovery," remarked Kate DeRolf, a member of the LCC and a CAPRC-I certified addiction recovery coach.

The sharps kiosks will be accessible 24/7, as they are placed outdoors at the following locations:

- Medaryville: National Street entrance at the White Post Volunteer Fire Department (422 E Main Street)
- Monterey: Front entrance to the Health Clinic (6194 E Main Street)
- Winamac: Front entrance to Pulaski Memorial Hospital (616 E 13th Street)

The public is invited to the installation of the Medaryville kiosk, at the White Post Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, Oct. 14, 12 p.m. (Eastern). Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held on Sept. 26 and 30 for the Pulaski Memorial Hospital and Monterey Health Clinic kiosks, respectively.

The "Prevent Pricks" program is designed to be inclusive of all syringe using residents, specifically those with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, and others who use sharps to treat various medical conditions, including people who utilize illicit drugs.

The LCC has partnered with the Community Foundation, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, the Pulaski County Health Department, White Post Township Trustee, Town of Medaryville, Town of Monterey, Pulaski Memorial Hospital and numerous town and county officials to develop the program. The program will be funded by the national opioid settlement funds, as approved by the joint council session on Feb. 13.

The LCC's mission is "To keep our community free of substance misuse and additions, to enhance the quality of life in Pulaski County." The group invites the community to combat substance misuse and look beyond stigma.

The LCC meets the second Wednesday of every month, 4 p.m. (Eastern) at the Pulaski County Public Library in Winamac. All are welcome – including by video call.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/pulaskidrugfree.



A ribbon cutting for Winamac's sharps box was held at the front entrance of Pulaski Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Sharps box successfully installed in Monterey



A ribbon cutting was held on Saturday, Sept. 30 for the new sharps box that was installed outside of the clinic in Monterey, located at 6194 E. Main Street. Pictured from left to right: Community Foundation of Pulaski County Executive Director Leeann Wright, Charlotte Rymph, Debbie Mix, Doug Denton, Josh Stacy, Andrea Keller and Sheriff Chris Schramm.



Charlotte Rymph was the first client to utilize the new kiosk.

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Prevent Pricks: Be Smart with your Sharps!

INFORMATION PROVIDED

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10/23

Community Foundation announces Pulaski County Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship finalists



Alexa Schultz



Lily Bennett



Bianca Huizar



Maggie Smith

Five students from two area high schools have been named finalists in the Community Foundation of Pulaski County Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship process. The finalists are Alexa Schultz from West Central High School and Lily Bennett, Bianca Huizar, Maggie Smith and Kelsey Wegner from Winamac Community High School. Each student is to be commended for earning distinction as a finalist for the prestigious scholarship. The scholarship provides four years of full tuition and required fees and up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment.

The Community Foundation will submit nominations to a committee appointed by Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) for final selection of the recipient in accordance with the criteria and procedures consistent with applicable law and the overall goals of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program. The recipient selected by the ICI committee will be notified by mid-December of this year.

The scholarship is fully funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment and administered locally through Community

Foundation of Pulaski County and statewide by Independent Colleges of Indiana. Lilly Endowment Inc. formed the Community Scholarship program in 1998 to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.



Kelsey Wegner

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finalists named



**Kelsey
Wegner**



**Lily
Bennett**



**Maggie
Smith**

Pulaski County Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Finalists

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Alexa
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2nd & 4th Wednesday Eve. of the
Randy Gudeman (219) 204-05

Congratulations Pulaski Community

INFORMATION PROVIDED

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for earning distinction for the prestigious scholarship provided full tuition and to \$900 per year and equipment. The Community Foundation of Indiana (CFI) appointed by the recipient criteria and with application

Final sharps box installed in Medaryville

The Community Foundation of Pulaski County hosted the final sharps box ribbon cutting in Medaryville on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Medaryville-White Post Township Volunteer Fire Department, located at 422 E. Main Street. Township trustee Jasmine Bolen took a few minutes during the ceremony to explain the program. Members from the township trustee board, the drug-free council and Medaryville Town Council Vice President Ashlee Salyer were also present.

Sharps boxes are now located in three locations across the county – Pulaski Memorial Hospital in Winamac, the Monterey Health Clinic in Monterey and the Medaryville-White Post Township Volunteer Fire Department in Medaryville. Community Foundation of Pulaski County Executive Director Leeann Wright advised that the Winamac kiosk has already been emptied once since it opened on the last week of September. Wright said that this shows that the program is a community need.

RIGHT: Jeremy Hauptli was the first Medaryville resident to utilize the kiosk.

BELOW: The Community Foundation of Pulaski County hosted a sharps box ribbon cutting in Medaryville on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Medaryville-White Post Township Volunteer Fire Department.



Safety

From Page 1

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