

**JASPER  
NEWTON  
FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**24**

## CREDITS

### FOUNDATION STAFF

Brienne Hooker,  
Executive Director

Cheryl Hillan,  
Executive Administrator

Ashley Williamson,  
Program Director

Jana Drone,  
Finance Director

Emily Walsh,  
Intern

Elizabeth Parrish  
Intern

### GOVERNING BOARD

Candace Armstrong,  
Chairman

Dr. Lana Zimmer,  
Vice Chairman

Matt Walsh,  
Secretary

Dave Schrum,  
Treasurer

Mitchell Mullen  
Kristina Mitten Sanders

### DESIGN

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“THANK YOU” CAN NEVER FULLY CAPTURE OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE IMPACT OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITIES BOTH DIRECTLY AND WITH SUPPORT OF THE JASPER NEWTON FOUNDATION.

Countless individual actions have a positive impact on our communities – from small to large contributions of time, knowledge, resources, information and engagement – you have made a difference. [Thank you.](#)

“Love Where You Live” is more than a slogan, it is a call to action for so many serving in our communities that they live out regularly. Fortunately, many who reside outside the area still have a part of their heart that “lives” here. We appreciate your contributions. [Thank you.](#)

This report highlights just a portion of the organizations making a difference in our communities. These projects have a broader impact than we can truly quantify. None of this would be possible without these organizations, their leaders and volunteers. [Thank you.](#)

JNF is fortunate to have a skilled team with their hearts and energy dedicated to our communities. They go above and beyond any “job” and are making a real difference in countless ways. [Thank you.](#)

I am grateful for my time with JNF from a volunteer to Board officer. I have been inspired, encouraged and challenged. I have seen the impact of thoughtful intentional actions, and what a small seed planted can grow to. JNF gives me hope for an amazing continued future for our communities. [Thank you.](#)

If you want to learn more about ways to get involved, big or small, my door is always open. [Thank you](#) for making a difference in our communities!

In Gratitude,

Candace D. Armstrong

# GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

## JASPER & NEWTON COUNTY

### COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER FOR JASPER & NEWTON COUNTIES

FRANCISCAN HEALTH FOUNDATION, INC.

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Women's Fund, Newton County Women's Fund

**Grant amount:** \$2,500, \$2,500 (JC Women's, NC Women's)

**Grant purpose:** New and expecting parents across Jasper and Newton Counties were supported and empowered by the gifts of education and connections to local services—both of which will ensure they have assistance in starting their own families. Through this Franciscan Health project, vulnerable parents were gifted generously with essential supplies such as diapers and baby wipes. Additionally, the organization's baby shower event offered resources aimed at educating parents on prenatal and postnatal care, infant care, and parenting. Event leaders were able to successfully collaborate with several co-sponsors to ensure that parents and families across our counties have the tools and knowledge necessary to support the health and well-being of their children.





## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

### JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund, Helen Putman Literacy Fund

**Grant amount:** \$4,500, \$500 (JC Community, Putman)

**Grant purpose:** Young children across the county now have unprecedented access to age-appropriate books, thanks to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative. Prior to this grant, only children with Rensselaer addresses were able to apply for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library through United Way of White County; residents in the northern half of the county were unable to participate. Through partnership and funding with the Jasper Newton Foundation, the Jasper County Public Library is now able to offer all Jasper County children the opportunity to receive a free book each month until the age of 5.

## CHALLENGER LEARNING LABS

### LAKE VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRIP

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Community Foundation Fund, Newton County Board Members Fund

**Grant amount:** \$612.50, \$250  
(NC Community, NC Board Members)

### LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRIP

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Community Foundation Fund, Newton County Board Members Fund

**Grant amount:** \$1,325, \$400  
(NC Community, NC Board Members)

### MOROCCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRIP

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Community Foundation Fund, Newton County Board Members Fund

**Grant amount:** \$672.50, \$190  
(NC Community, NC Board Members)

**Grant Purpose:** With support from the Jasper Newton Foundation, fifth-grade students from Lake Village, Lincoln, and Morocco Elementary Schools participated in immersive, STEM-based field trips to the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana. Across these visits, students engaged in shuttle mission simulations, hands-on space and STEM labs, and team-based problem-solving activities. They took on the roles of astronauts and Mission Control, and tackled real-time challenges that fostered communication, leadership, and collaboration skills. The experiences aligned with classroom lessons in science, math, and literacy and helped to spark excitement for space exploration while strengthening social-emotional learning. Thanks to community support and grant funding, all students—regardless of household income—were able to access these transformative educational opportunities.



## UPDATED ENTRYWAY SYSTEM FOR CHILD CARE CENTER

### RIGHT STEPS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Community Foundation Fund

**Grant amount:** \$3,612

**Grant purpose:** The Goodland Community thrives with the presence and operation of Right Steps - Goodland, which offers accessible and affordable early childhood care and education. The center, which serves 28 children ages birth to five years old, now features an enhanced security system. The secured entry to the center improves the experience of all involved, especially during pick-up and drop-off. As the result of a grant through the Jasper Newton Foundation, families can now rest assured knowing their children are in an even safer, more nurturing learning environment.



## CPR IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION

### RENSSELAER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** October 3, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund

**Grant amount:** \$3,988

**Grant purpose:** Rensselaer Central High School received funding from the Jasper Newton Foundation to launch the CPR In School program, providing students with the tools and training to become CPR instructors within their school and the broader community. Through this initiative, students not only gained life-saving CPR and first aid skills but also learned how to effectively teach peers, staff, and local residents CPR procedures. All of this has helped—and will continue to help—build a stronger, better-prepared community. With local emergency services often taking 12–21 minutes to arrive, this program equips community members with critical, time-sensitive skills that can prevent brain damage and save lives. Thanks to the Foundation's support, Rensselaer Central High School is cultivating a generation of confident responders and creating a local network of lifesavers.



## ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR RAMPS

### SERVANTS AT WORK, INC.

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund, Egan Family Undesignated Fund

**Grant amount:** \$1,750, \$1,750 (JC Community, Egan Family)

**Grant purpose:** In 2024, Servants at Work, Inc. received \$3,500 from the Jasper Newton Foundation to construct two ADA-compliant wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income Jasper County residents who require mobility assistance. These ramps improve access to homes, medical care, and social opportunities while helping members of our community live independently and with dignity. Thanks to the support of local volunteers and partners, the builds were completed within weeks of funding and have already made life significantly easier for these local residents and their families.

## FCCLA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### NORTH NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Community Foundation Fund

**Grant amount:** \$5,000

**Grant purpose:** In 2024, North Newton Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) was awarded funding to send seven students to the National FCCLA Conference in Seattle, Washington. At this prestigious event, students competed with the projects they developed throughout the school year and represented Newton County on a national stage. The conference promoted leadership, career readiness, and service by emphasizing the importance of putting others first—values reflected in the group's ongoing community service. Thanks to this grant and supplemental student-led fundraising, the experience helped shape students into more confident, empathetic leaders prepared to make a difference.



## BACKPACK PROGRAM

### BROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Newton County Board Members Fund

**Grant amount:** \$2,500

**Grant purpose:** Brook United Methodist Church's Backpack Program provides weekly bags of food to students at South Newton Elementary School, ensuring they have access to essential meals beyond the school day. Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, the program packed an impressive 1,600+ food bags, thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers and the generosity of local donors. Support from the Jasper Newton Foundation helps sustain this impactful effort, which reduces food insecurity and supports the health of countless Newton County students.



## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY EQUIPMENT

### GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY OF RENSSELAER

**Date approved:** February 21, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund

**Grant amount:** \$5,000

**Grant purpose:** After relocating to the former Union Electrical Building (beside Pizza King), the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of Rensselaer was granted \$5,000 in Jasper County Community Grants to purchase mobile storage racks, solid-top pallets, and an industrial pallet truck for its new location. In 2024, after the installation of the new equipment, the pantry served over 6,000 individuals from 1,615 households compared to 2023's 4,640 individuals from 1,321 households. The pantry, which endeavors to bridge the gap between America's food supply and those who cannot provide for themselves, now contains 2,240 square feet post-move and houses stronger, more sustainable equipment that will continue to serve both its customers and loyal volunteers for decades to come.

## LOCAL PROTEIN FOR FOOD PANTRIES

### LEADING THE EDUCATION ABOUT PIGS - L.E.A.P. FOUNDATION INC.

**Date approved:** August 23, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund, Newton County Community Foundation Fund

**Grant amount:** \$1,250, \$1,250 (JC Community, NC Community)

**Grant purpose:** The L.E.A.P. Foundation received \$2,500 in 2024 Community Grant funds to offset the cost of processing pigs donated from Belstra Group Farms into 1,400 pounds of ground pork. This protein was packaged and distributed to food pantries serving residents of Jasper and Newton Counties, including Bridge, Good Samaritan, Good Neighbor, Sorrowful Mother, Lake Village, and Newton County food pantries. The grant helps sustain a longstanding tradition of donating approximately eight pigs per week to combat food insecurity and ensure that local pantries can continue offering nutrient-dense meat to families in need.



## NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR LOCAL SENIORS

### MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA, INC.

**Date approved:** August 23, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund, Newton County Community Foundation Fund

**Grant amount:** \$5,000, \$5,000 (JC Community, NC Community)

**Grant purpose:** Seniors across both Jasper and Newton counties were provided weeks' worth of frozen meal packs as a result of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana's 2024 grant cycle \$10,000 award. The funds to support the Providing Nutritious Meals to Seniors program enabled 48 eligible seniors—24 in each county—to receive four weeks of frozen meal packs at a subsidized rate, helping to combat food insecurity for older adults living in rural and underserved areas. Alongside meal delivery, the program also provided wellness checks and social contact, empowering seniors to live confidently in their homes with improved health and independence.

## FOOD AND PROTEIN FOR SORROWFUL MOTHER PANTRY

### SORROWFUL MOTHER CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

**Date approved:** August 23, 2024

**Funded by:** Jasper County Community Fund

**Grant amount:** \$5,000

**Grant purpose:** The Sorrowful Mother Food Pantry in Wheatfield was awarded \$5,000 to help meet the growing demand for protein among clients in need. The funds are being used to purchase additional ground beef from Save A Lot at \$100 per week for 50 weeks—supplementing the pantry's existing supply of pork and hot dogs. With a recent rise in first-time and senior clients, this grant ensures the pantry can continue providing nutritious meat options to families across Jasper County, thereby helping to reduce food insecurity and support the health of vulnerable residents.





## 2024 GRANT SPOTLIGHT GRACE PAMPEL EDUCATIONAL IMPACT GRANT

### AUTONOMOUS TRACTORS AND SPRAYERS

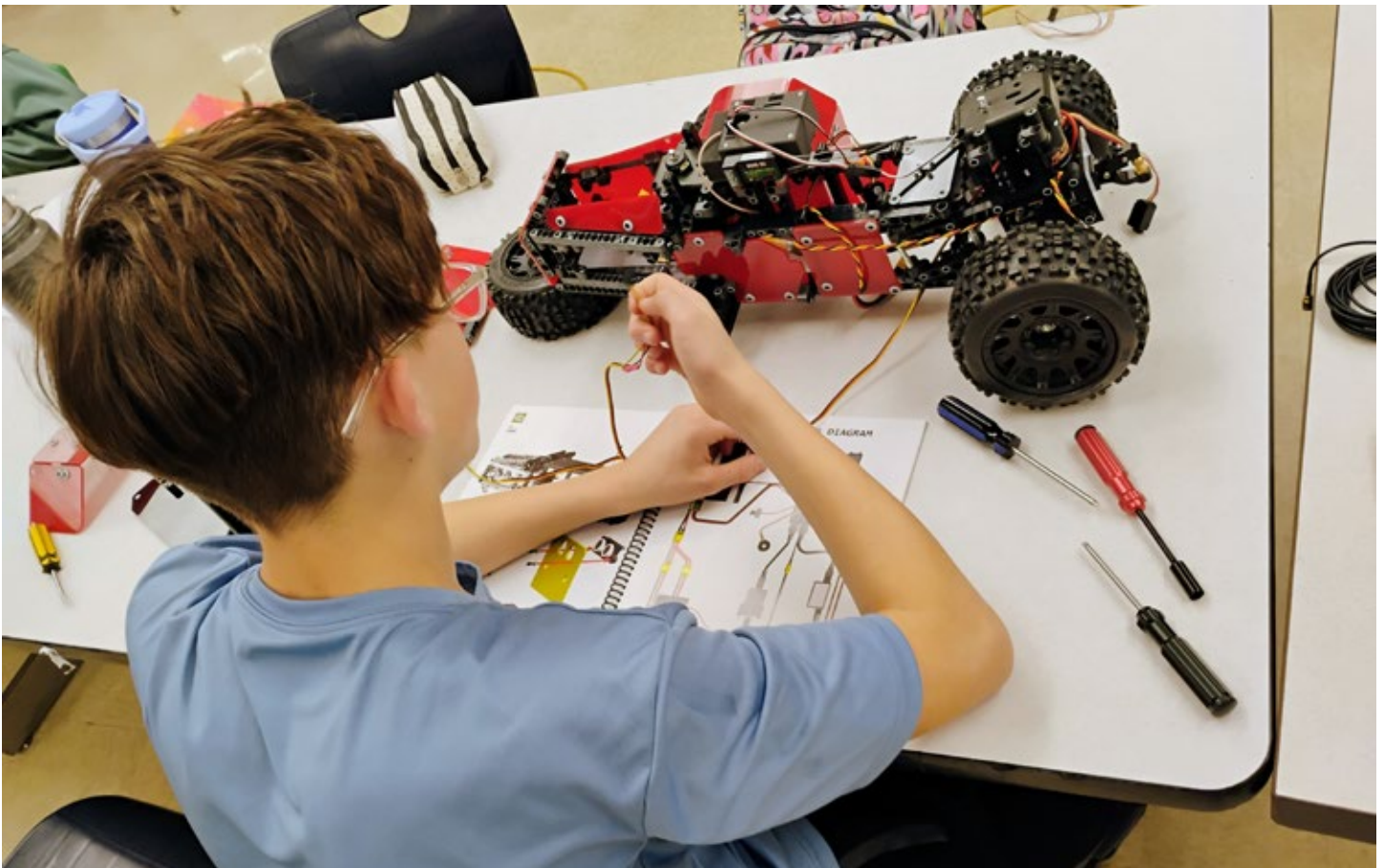
#### TRI-COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Grace Pampel Educational Impact

**Grant amount:** \$5,300

Grant purpose: With support from the Grace Pampel Educational Impact Grant, the Tri County High School Agriculture Department introduced an innovative curriculum in 2024, focused on autonomous agricultural technology. Thirteen students in the Precision Agriculture class explored real-world applications of tractor design, wiring, GPS systems, A-B line navigation, coding, and variable rate spraying. Students not only assembled a fully functional model tractor and sprayer, but also engaged in complex problem-solving through the identification of wiring issues and operational troubleshooting. The project sparked unprecedented community interest in agricultural education, with local farmers voicing strong support. In partnership with the Indian Trails Career Cooperative and Tri-County Education Foundation, the school was able to purchase a total of four autonomous tractors and sprayers—preparing the next generation of ag-tech leaders right here in our region.



# STATE-RECOGNIZED & INDUSTRY-REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS FOR CTE STUDENTS

## SOUTH NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Grace Pampel Educational Impact

**Grant amount:** \$7,500

**Grant purpose:** In 2024, South Newton High School received a Grace Pampel Educational Impact Grant to expand certification opportunities for students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. Due to changes in state funding, the cost of industry-recognized certification tests had become a burden for students and schools alike. This grant allowed South Newton to cover those testing fees, ensuring students could earn credentials that support graduation requirements and, more importantly, enhance career readiness. The initiative directly supports student achievement, workforce preparation, and the school's commitment to providing equitable access to meaningful postsecondary pathways.



# CLINICAL SIMULATION LAB

## TRI COUNTY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Grace Pampel Educational Impact

**Grant amount:** \$13,205.47

**Grant purpose:** With more help from the Grace Pampel Educational Impact Grant, Tri-County School Corporation was able to establish a Clinical Simulation Lab to serve students in grades 8–12 who plan to pursue careers in healthcare. The lab offers students invaluable hands-on practice in taking vital signs, administering first aid, and performing CPR—skills that boost both confidence and career readiness. In its first year, the lab engaged nearly 100 students across a range of healthcare-focused courses and will soon be introduced to all 8th grade students through a new semester-long course. The lab is especially vital as students advance to the third year of the program, during which they work toward medical-assisting certification. Remaining grant funds will be used to purchase further essential equipment to ensure continued success.

# GREENHOUSE REVITALIZATION FOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

## TRI COUNTY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

**Date approved:** May 16, 2024

**Funded by:** Grace Pampel Educational Impact

**Grant amount:** \$7,323.30

**Grant purpose:** Also in 2024, the Tri-County High School Agriculture Department brought new life to its greenhouse facility, transforming it into a hub for hands-on, STEM-focused learning. The revitalization supported 114 students across five agriculture courses—three of which offer dual credit through Ivy Tech Community College—and introduced students to hydroponics, aquaculture, fertilizer trials, and automated plant care via FarmBot. Horticulture students grew plants and learned hydroponic techniques, landscape students explored turf and herb cultivation, and crop management students tracked corn and tomato development. The greenhouse now contributes lettuce to the school lunch program and plans to supply plants for the Wolcott Farmer's Market in the summer of 2025.

2024  
LILLY SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS



ELLA CULP  
JASPER COUNTY

Ella Culp, daughter of Patrick and Lisa Culp of Remington, IN, graduated Spring 2025 from Tri-County High School as one of the top students in her class. She's headed to Indiana Wesleyan University to pursue her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. Ella's heart for service shines through in everything she does—from packing boxes at her local food pantry and helping with Operation Christmas Child to volunteering with her church and lending a hand at the Tri Kappa stand during the summer Chautauqua festivals. At school, she was a force both in and out of the classroom—earning Academic All-Conference honors in sports, competing in Business Professionals of America (BPA), and staying active in National Honor Society and FFA. She competed on the varsity Track Team as a Captain, as well as the Basketball and Volleyball teams, while somehow still finding time to work at a local greenhouse. Ella's energy, compassion, and commitment to making a difference are sure to lead her toward a bright and meaningful future in education and within her community.



LUCAS BOGUCKI  
NEWTON COUNTY

Lucas Bogucki, son of Rebecca Ramon and Chris Bogucki of Goodland, IN, graduated as a member of the South Newton High School Class of 2025 and will be attending Purdue University to study Business. Known for his leadership and community spirit, Lucas has given back to his community in countless ways—from coaching youth flag football and officiating basketball tournaments to volunteering at local holiday events. A standout student and well-rounded leader, Lucas has been deeply involved in the school community. He competed on the Cyber Patriot team, held multiple student government positions, and was a key member of South Newton's academic teams. His four-year involvement with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)—including holding officer roles locally and statewide—speaks to his passion for business and leadership. He also devoted four years to the Drama Department, and balanced it all while participating in three sports and serving on the Student Advisory Committee for an impressive nine years. With his drive and dedication, Lucas is ready to thrive at Purdue and make an impact wherever each of his future endeavors leads him.

# THE NUMBERS

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## ENDING DECEMBER 2024

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 12/31/24

#### ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents.....	\$3,730,177
Investments.....	\$24,427,181
Estate Receivable.....	-
Deferred Gifts .....	\$98,437
Fixed Assets, net .....	\$395,215
Prepaid Expense .....	-
Other Assets .....	\$326
Accrued Interest.....	\$27,674
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$28,679,010</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities.....	\$344,100
<b>Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$28,334,910</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$28,679,010</b>

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AS OF 12/31/24

#### REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions .....	\$1,744,974
Grants Received .....	\$1,500,000
Investment Return .....	\$2,626,641
Other Revenue.....	\$19,216
<b>Total Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support .....</b>	<b>\$5,890,831</b>

#### EXPENSES

Grants, Distributions & Scholarships.....	\$1,710,827
Management and General .....	\$312,939
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$2,217,516</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$3,867,065</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year .....</b>	<b>\$24,467,845</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year .....</b>	<b>\$28,334,910</b>

Annual audit information is available at the JNF office.

# JASPER NEWTON FOUNDATION ALL GRANTS & GIVING 2024

In 2024, your investments at the Jasper Newton Foundation enabled us to distribute more than one and a half million of your dollars throughout our community. Your generosity impacts thousands of people at every walk of life: youth through senior citizens.

# \$1,637,459.79

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

**\$13,564.79 (1%)**

ARTS & CULTURE

**\$19,347.38 (1%)**

EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$294,595.73 (18%)**

HEALTH & WELLNESS

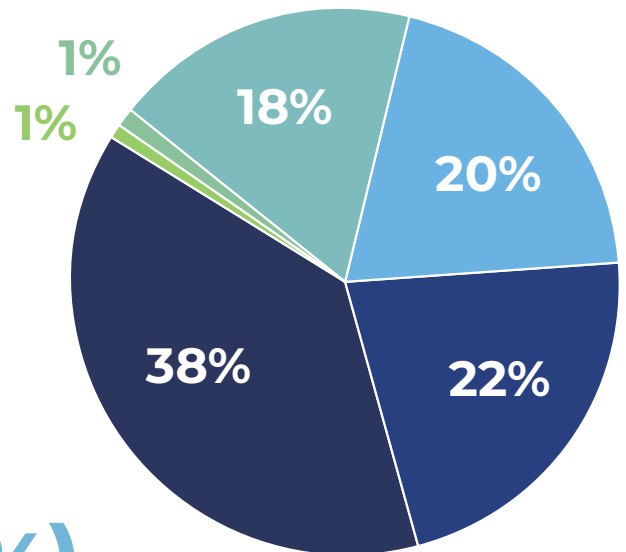
**\$333,397.28 (20%)**

EDUCATION: GRANTS

**\$360,547.26 (22%)**

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**\$616,007.35 (38%)**



# JASPER NEWTON FOUNDATION ALL GRANTS & GIVING 2024

## HISTORICAL PRESERVATION \$13,564.79 (1%)

<b>Demotte Women's Giving Circle</b> American Legion Auxiliary Post 440, Wreaths Across America .....	\$1,000.00
<b>Ed &amp; Elizabeth Ramey Independence Church Preservation Fund</b> Independence Property Mgmt, Inc.....	\$762.59
<b>Fairchild House Preservation Fund</b> Fairchild House .....	\$1,542.09
<b>Jasper County Historical Society Endowment Fund</b> Indiana State Library, Charles Halleck marker .....	\$3,300.00
Jasper County Historical Society.....	\$970.13
<b>Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund</b> American Legion Auxillary Post 440, DAR Wreaths Across America DeMotte..	\$500.00
DAR Wreaths Across America .....	\$510.00
Fairchild House Preservation.....	\$500.00
Jasper County Historical Society, Memories Alive.....	\$300.00
<b>Paul &amp; Mable Laird Welsh Cemetery Fund</b> Welsh Cemetery Association.....	\$2,612.86
<b>Ralph W. Fendig Fund</b> Jasper County Historical Society.....	\$1,567.12

## ARTS & CULTURE \$19,347.38 (1%)

<b>Carnegie Players Fund</b> The Carnegie Players, Inc.....	\$2,508.00
<b>Demotte Women's Giving Circle</b> DeMotte Chamber Of Commerce, Touch of Dutch .....	\$1,000.00
Valley Community Players, Inc.....	\$1,000.00
<b>Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund</b> DeMotte Chamber Of Commerce, Sponsor Touch of Dutch .....	\$250.00
Fountain Park Chautauqua, Sponsor ....	\$250.00
<b>Leopold Fund for Fountain Park Chautauqua</b> Fountain Park Chautauqua .....	\$3,347.04

<b>Lewis Family Undesignated Fund</b> Prairie Arts Council, Art Teacher Workshop .....	\$2,300.00
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<b>Prairie Arts Council Fund</b> Prairie Arts Council .....	\$1,967.58
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<b>Ralph &amp; Lilian Fendig Summer Theatre Fund</b> Fendig Theatre for Children .....	\$3,377.63
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<b>Remington Women's Giving Circle</b> Fountain Park Chautauqua, Children's Programs .....	\$250.00
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<b>Rensselaer Women's Giving Circle</b> Fendig Theatre for Children .....	\$594.00
Prairie Arts Council .....	\$550.00

<b>Roger Beehler RCHS Art Fund</b> Rensselaer Central High School.....	\$200.00
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<b>William W. Leopold-Prairie Lodge</b> Prairie Lodge 125 F & A M .....	\$1,753.13
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## EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS \$294,595.73 (18%)

<b>Belstra Milling Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$4,000.00
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<b>Bill &amp; Beth Stockton Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$400.00
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<b>Blake Burriss Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,500.00
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<b>Brian Berg Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$425.00
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<b>Carol Long Hathaway Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Chuck &amp; Larry Whaley Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,500.00
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<b>Cindy McKinney Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Clifford &amp; Carrie Clark Family Educational Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$300.00
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<b>Craig A. Blann Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Dale Stath Memorial Agricultural Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$3,250.00
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<b>Dr. Cecil E. &amp; Mrs. Gladys Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$45,521.00
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<b>Earl H. Passwaters Agricultural Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$750.00
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<b>Evelyn &amp; Marilyn Erb Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
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<b>George D. Holley Sr. &amp; Bertha B. Holley Memorials Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$18,500.00
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<b>Gerald &amp; Barbara Gerbracht Family Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Grace Pampel Education Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$58,124.79
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<b>Harry &amp; Roxanna Hanford Family Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Helen Pennington Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,625.00
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<b>Henry &amp; Mary Lou Coussens Family Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
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<b>IBEC Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
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<b>Ida Owsley Endowed Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
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<b>Jackson Township Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$3,750.00
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<b>Jamie Carlson Memorial 4-H/FFA Scholarship</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
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<b>Jared Valentine Memorial Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
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<b>Joe Burvan Memorial Fund</b> Plaque for 23-24 recipient .....	\$65.00
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<b>John &amp; Violet Wuethrich Agricultural Scholarship Fund</b> Student Scholarship .....	\$3,475.00
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<b>Julia K. Angle &amp; Richard A. Angle Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,500.00
<b>Justin Holbrook Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,650.00
<b>Kappa Kappa Kappa/LaRue Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$3,000.00
<b>Kent E. Mahnesmith Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,175.00
<b>Kevin J. Childs Memorial Art Award</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$150.00
<b>Kinsell Family Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$6,500.00
<b>Leap Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$816.35
<b>Lois Hensel Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
<b>Makeover Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,650.00
<b>Margaret Kindig Stonecipher Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
<b>Marion J Eller/Newton County Historical Society Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$6,000.00
<b>Marvin E. &amp; Mary Lois Luers Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,000.00
<b>Michael Nesius Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$500.00
<b>Monty G. Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$525.00
<b>Morocco High School Alumni Scholarship Fund/Ruth Corbin</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,500.00
<b>NC Student Opportunities Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
<b>Phyllis &amp; Ross McKee Advised Achievement Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$9,133.52
<b>Rensselaer Alumni Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$500.00
<b>Reverend Thomas E. Fox Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
<b>Rex Blacker Golf Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$500.00
<b>RHS Class of 1950 Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$675.00
<b>RHS Class of 1971</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$500.00
<b>Rob Hays Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$5,000.00
<b>Robert &amp; Marcia Johnston Endowment Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,500.00

<b>Robert R. &amp; M. Jeannette Batton Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$11,300.00
<b>Robert J “Puma Bob” Hayes Memorial Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,378.92
<b>Scott Madison Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
<b>South Newton First Generation Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$2,042.00
<b>Ted Filson Memorial Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$9,225.00
<b>Tom, Danis &amp; Margie Wilson Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$14,016.00
<b>Travis Morrow Endowment</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$825.00
<b>Tri Kappa Scholarships</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$3,000.00
<b>Vision Ag, Inc. Educational Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$5,223.15
<b>Wally Laird Youth Citizenship Award Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,500.00
<b>Wilbert A. Hamstra Scholarship</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$750.00
<b>William Moriarty Theatre Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$1,000.00
<b>William W. Leopold Scholarship Fund</b>	Student Scholarship .....	\$31,375.00
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</b> <b>\$333,397.28 (20%)</b>		
<b>CDC Resources Fund-Jasper County</b>	Lirio Resources, Inc.....	\$1,619.38
	Lirio Resources, Inc., Strategic Planning Consultant .....	\$13,700.00
<b>Chief Industries Pass-Thru Fund</b>	Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. ....	\$200.00
	GracePoint Resource Center, LLC .....	\$364.00
	Jasper House Incorporated.....	\$624.00
	Lirio Resources, Inc.....	\$72.00
	March of Dimes.....	\$260.00
	North Central Indiana Rural Crisis Center.....	\$156.00
<b>Community Support Fund - Jasper</b>	House of Grace.....	\$600.00
<b>Demotte Women’s Giving Circle</b>	Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, Trailer .....	\$500.00
<b>Edward R. “Buddy” Pullins Youth Fund</b>	Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana .....	\$1,500.00
<b>Edward R. “Buddy” Pullins Youth Fund</b>	Iroquois Archery & Conservation.....	\$604.27
<b>Egan Family Undesignated Fund</b>	Servants at Work, Inc., wheelchair ramp construction .....	\$1,750.00
<b>Jasper Co. 4-H Program Fund</b>	Jasper County 4-H Council.....	\$830.37

<b>Jasper County Community Fund</b>	American Heart Association, CPR in Schools .....	\$3,988.00
	Family Focus, Inc., safety/baby supplies.....	\$1,250.00
	Good Samaritan Food Pantry .....	\$5,000.00
	LEAP Foundation Inc .....	\$1,250.00
	Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana .....	\$5,000.00
	Rensselaer Youth Football.....	\$1,500.00
	Servants at Work, Inc., wheelchair ramp construction .....	\$1,750.00
	Sorrowful Mother Church Food Pantry.....	\$5,000.00
<b>Jasper County Scouting</b>	Boy Scouts, Rensselaer Troop 152.....	\$521.07
<b>Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund</b>	Belstra Milling Company, Blessing Boxes.....	\$500.00
<b>Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund</b>	Birthright of Rensselaer .....	\$250.00
	First Things First Porter County Inc....	\$2,500.00
	Good Samaritan Food Pantry, Way to Go Grant .....	\$500.00
	Ivy Tech Foundation .....	\$250.00
	LEAP Foundation Inc .....	\$2,500.00
	Remington First Christian Church, Miracle Tree .....	\$500.00
	Rensselaer Central HS, Community Service Lunch .....	\$100.00
	Valley Oaks, Summer Camps.....	\$1,000.00
<b>John &amp; Patricia Fredrickson Fund</b>	Mobility Ministries Inc. ....	\$2,000.00
<b>Karen J Collins Fund</b>	Faith Harvest Food Pantry .....	\$1,000.00
	Newton County Community Services ...	\$500.00
<b>Lucile Patton Advised Fund</b>	Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana .....	\$2,500.00
<b>NC Student Opportunities Fund</b>	B & Company Designs Inc., Suicide Walk T-Shirts .....	\$764.10
<b>Newton County 4-H Council</b>	Newton County 4-H Council, Inc.....	\$600.00
<b>Newton County Board Members Fund</b>	Brook United Methodist Church, Backpack Program.....	\$2,500.00
	Faith Harvest Food Pantry .....	\$1,000.00
	Ivy Tech Foundation .....	\$250.00
	LEAP Foundation Inc .....	\$2,500.00
	North Newton FCCLA, Thanksgiving Meals .....	\$1,000.00
	Purdue Extension. Newton Co., Leadership Academy .....	\$600.00
	Family Focus, Inc., safety/baby supplies.....	\$1,250.00
	LEAP Foundation Inc .....	\$1,250.00

**Newton County Community Foundation Fund**

Meals on Wheels of  
Northwest Indiana ..... \$5,000.00  
NC Soil & Water Conservation  
Internship Program..... \$21,000.00

**Newton County Covid-19 Relief Fund**

Healthline Inc.,  
Morocco Health Clinic..... \$50,000.00

**Opportunities for Kids Fund**

Stonebelt Arc, Inc..... \$270.53

**Ralph W. Fendig Fund**

Prairie Arts Council .....\$1,567.13

Remington Women’s Giving Circle  
Tri-County Junior-Senior High School,  
Clothes Closet ..... \$400.00  
Good Samaritan Food Pantry,  
Milk Voucher..... \$1,000.00  
Teen Mission Jasper County..... \$800.00

**Rensselaer Bomber Youth Basketball**

Programming Expenses - 2024..... \$2,720.48

**Rex Blacker Community Fund**

Good Samaritan Food Pantry,  
walk-in refrigeration unit .....\$17,880.40

**Ronald & Virginia Humphrey Advised Fund**

Goodland Athletic Association,  
pitching mound for U12..... \$3,000.00

**Seeds of Promise Fund**

GracePoint Resource Center, LLC ..... \$3,500.00

**Terry D. Elijah Endowment Fund**

Jasper County Fair Board.....\$10,287.63  
Shriners Hospitals for Children -  
Chicago.....\$10,287.62

**The Second Chance Fund**

United Way Northwest Indiana.  
Level Up ..... \$125,000.00

**Why Not Me**

PINK for Sam ..... \$30.30  
St. Augustine Catholic School..... \$800.00

**Women’s Fund of Jasper County**

Franciscan Health Foundation,  
Baby Shower ..... \$5,000.00  
Girl Scouts of Greater  
Chicago and Northwest Indiana ..... \$1,000.00

**EDUCATION GRANTS**  
**\$360,547.26 (22%)**

**Appleseed Childhood Education, Inc.**

Appleseed Childhood Education  
Incorporated ..... \$55,193.98

**Bombers for Academic Excellence Endowment**

Bombers for Academic Excellence ..... \$2,495.12

**Carol Hale Entrepreneurship Fund**

Kankakee Valley High School..... \$1,000.00

**Carol Hale Entrepreneurship Fund**

Rensselaer Central High School..... \$1,000.00

**Community Support Fund - Newton**

Brook Iroquois Washington  
Public Library ..... \$8,000.00

**Demotte Women’s Giving Circle**

DeMotte Elementary School PTO ..... \$1,000.00  
DeMotte Christian Schools..... \$100.00

**Egan Family Undesignated Fund**

Tri-County Intermediate School,  
Leadership Retreat ..... \$1,265.99

**Grace Pampel Education Fund**

Tri-County Jr-Sr HS,  
Autonomous Tractor/Sprayer ..... \$5,300.00

**Grace Pampel Education Fund**

South Newton HS,  
Certifications CTE Classes..... \$7,500.00  
Tri-County Jr-Sr HS,  
Clinical Simulation Lab..... \$13,205.47  
Tri-County Jr-Sr HS,  
Greenhouse Revitalization ..... \$7,323.30

**Hyper Center Parks Programming**

Event Programming ..... \$95.00

**J. C. Stepping Stone Fund**

Tri-County Jr-Sr. HS, Band Program ... \$1,000.00

**Jasper County Community Fund**

Tri-County Intermediate School,  
Leadership Retreat ..... \$1,549.80  
Tri-County Jr-Sr HS,  
Classroom Novels ..... \$2,308.14

**Jasper County Reads Fund**

Dollywood Foundation..... \$4,500.00

**Jasper County Retired Teachers**

Rensselaer Central HS,  
Business Professionals ..... \$66.29  
Rensselaer Central MS,  
Stereomicroscope..... \$302.35  
Rensselaer Central HS,  
Teddy Bear Clinic .....\$297.00

**Jasper County Youth Center Fund**

Growing Patch Learning Center .....\$102,475.15

**Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund**

Appleseed Childhood Education Inc. .... \$250.00  
Back to School Fair Sponsor ..... \$250.00  
Rensselaer Central Band Boosters,  
Podium .....\$351.72  
Rensselaer Central HS,  
Business Professionals ..... \$34.36  
Newton Co. Purdue Extension,  
Master Gardner Class..... \$680.00

Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund .....  
West Central HS, Scholarship Night..... \$150.00  
Rensselaer Central HS,  
After-Prom Sponsor ..... \$250.00  
Tri-County Jr-Sr HS,  
Teacher & Staff Appreciation..... \$500.00

**John & Connie Nichols Undesignated Fund**

Rensselaer Central Band Boosters, Podium .. \$1,148.28

**Kankakee Valley Educational Endowment Fund**

Kankakee Valley School Corp.,  
Programming ..... \$8,000.00

**Kankakee Valley Job Training**

Center of Workforce Innovations..... \$981.38

**KNM Charitable Endowment Fund**

North Newton FCCLA..... \$1,500.00

**Louisa A. Monfort Visual and Performing Arts Fund**

St. Augustine Catholic School,  
Art Programming ..... \$508.95

**Mary Ethel Arnott Fund**

St. Augustine Catholic School..... \$4,100.00  
Rensselaer Central MS..... \$2,460.00

**NC Early Childhood Education**

Zoom Meetings ..... \$750.00  
Preschool Programming..... \$4,598.00  
Zoo-Phonics ..... \$489.99  
Childcare Training Supplies .....\$2,067.40  
Right Steps Child  
Development Centers ..... \$44,199.84

**Newton County Board Members Fund**

Morocco Elementary,  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$190.00  
Lake Village Elementary School,  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$250.00  
Lincoln Elementary School  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$400.00  
South Newton HS, FBLA ..... \$2,500.00  
LEAP Foundation Inc ..... \$250.00  
Purdue Extension. Newton Co.,  
Master Gardener Class..... \$680.00  
North Newton Jr-Sr HS ..... \$500.00

**Newton County Community Foundation Fund**

Right Steps Child Development Centers,  
Entryway System ..... \$3,612.00  
Lake Village Elementary School,  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$612.50  
Morocco Elementary,  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$672.50  
Lincoln Elementary School,  
Challenger Learning Center..... \$1,325.00  
North Newton HS, FCCLA ..... \$5,000.00  
Newton County Auditor, Soil & Water  
Conservation Internship..... \$21,000.00

**Newton County Reads Fund**

Dollywood Foundation..... \$4,000.00

**Newton County Step Ahead**

Newton County Step Ahead ..... \$3,000.00

**Ralph W. Fendig Fund**

Bombers for Academic Excellence .....\$1,567.13

**Remington Giving Circle**

Growing Patch Learning Center ..... \$400.00

**Rensselaer Women’s Giving Circle**

Rensselaer Central MS,  
Life Skills Program ..... \$1,000.00

**Robert & Jennette Nagel Endowment Fund**

St. Augustine Catholic School..... \$1,600.00

**Scott & Inez Hilliard Memorial Fund**

Tri-County Intermediate School.....\$26.71

**Seeds of Promise Fund**

Growing Patch Learning Center .....\$9,415.09

**South Newton 21st Century Education Fund**

South Newton Middle School ..... \$2,460.00

South Newton Elementary School ..... \$3,412.50

South Newton Athletic Department... \$1,000.00

**Tri-County Educational Fund**

White County

Community Foundation ..... \$6,426.32

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**  
**\$616,007.35 (38%)****Aaron Jackson Memorial Fund**

Brookside Park

Pickleball Court Paving ..... \$20,000.00

**Batton Park Revitalization Fund**

Town of Kentland ..... \$8,338.82

**Brook Christian Church Fund**

Christian Church of Brook ..... \$3,855.07

**Brook United Methodist Church Fund**

Brook United Methodist Church ..... \$293.52

**Chief Industries Pass-Thru Fund**

Jasper County

Animal Control and Shelter ..... \$1,040.00

Jasper County Veterans Council ..... \$1,040.00

**Community Support Fund - Newton**

The Nature Conservancy,

Bison viewing scopes &amp; signage..... \$40,000.00

**Demotte Women's Giving Circle**

Keener Township Volunteer

Fire Department.....\$708.72

**Domestic Arts Building Renewal Fund**

Newton County Fair Board ..... \$97,317.62

**Friends of the DeMotte Parks**

Town of DeMotte ..... \$2,049.73

**Friends of the Jasper County Animal Shelter**

Tomahawk Live Trap for dogs ..... \$793.88

**Friends of the Lake Village Memorial Twp Library**

Newton County Public Library

Lake Village..... \$5,000.00

**Gallagher Charitable Society**

St. Augustine Catholic Church,

Coat Drive .....\$1,101.64

**Grace Padgett Presbyterian Fund**

First Presbyterian Church .....\$847.86

**Hulda & Lancy Sorenson Fund**

Lake Village Public Library ..... \$938.64

**Hyper Center Parks Programming**

Maintenance Building &amp; Grounds ..... \$1,868.86

Programming Supplies..... \$8,058.77

**Janice Sage Murray Memorial Fund**

First Presbyterian Church .....\$436.75

**Jasper County Community Fund**

Knights of Columbus, blue light project ....\$500.00

Remington Parks Department,

bathroom update..... \$1,000.00

**Jasper County Gift 8 1:1 Community Projects**

HWC Engineering, Wheatfield Splash Pad

design concepts ..... \$9,500.00

**Jasper County Public Library Fund**

Jasper County Public Library .....\$265.47

**Jasper County Recovery House Fund**

Indiana Teen Challenge ..... \$14,606.09

**Jasper County Sherriff's Department Fund**

JCSD Christmas Party.....\$2,170.16

**Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund**

Greater Rensselaer

Chamber of Commerce..... \$250.00

**Jasper Foundation Unrestricted Board Fund**

Jasper County Fair Association,

Sponsor ..... \$250.00

Little Cousin Jasper Festival,

Movie in the Park..... \$425.00

United Way Northwest Indiana,

Sponsorship ..... \$250.00

**John & Patricia Fredrickson Fund**

Kentland Covenant Federated Church \$22,000.00

**John & Patricia Fredrickson Fund**

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary

International ..... \$2,000.00

**Lewis Family Undesignated Fund**

Jasper County Economic Development,

Water Tower Painting..... \$1,000.00

**NC Student Opportunities Fund**

Green Tree Plastics LLC,

contemplation benches ..... \$4,045.00

**Newton County Board Members Fund**

Newton County Community Services ... \$250.00

Town of Kentland, Meeting Owl ..... \$500.00

United Way Northwest Indiana,

Sponsorship ..... \$250.00

**Newton County Community Foundation Fund**

Knights of Columbus. blue light project ....\$500.00

Newton County Public Library..... \$3,658.80

The Nature Conservancy,

Welcome Area Pavilion ..... \$100,000.00

**Paul & Mable Laird Fund for the Trinity United Methodist Church**

Trinity United Methodist Church..... \$2,996.44

**Ralph W. Fendig Fund**

First Presbyterian Church .....\$1,567.13

Jasper County Public Library.....\$1,567.13

Rensselaer Com. Rec. Dev. ....\$1,567.13

**Remington Women's Giving Circle**

Remington Parks Department,

Flag pole softball Field..... \$250.00

Remington/Carpenter Township

Public Library ..... \$250.00

**Rensselaer Recreational Corp Fund**

Rensselaer Com. Rec. Dev. ....\$2,017.50

**Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council Fund**

Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council .... \$1,353.30

**Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department Fund**

JC Marion Township,

Fire Training Center ..... \$746.25

**Roy & Fern Tobias Community Center Fund**

Remington/Carpenter Township

Public Library ..... \$5,480.85

**Scott & Inez Hilliard Memorial Fund**

Jasper County Economic Development,

Water Tower Painting..... \$4,000.00

**Terry D. Elijah Endowment Fund**

Trinity United Methodist Church.....\$10,287.62

**Town of Morocco Chris LaCosse Park**

Greenfields Outdoor Fitness,

Fitness Equipment ..... \$46,990.00

Town of Morocco,

Chris LaCosse Park ..... \$144,823.60

Town of Morocco,

Lilly Gift 8 Matching Funds..... \$35,000.00

# 2024 COMMUNITY GRANT SPOTLIGHT

## DRIVING HOME COMMUNITY GRANT

### KANKAKEE SANDS NATURE PRESERVE WELCOME PAVILION



IN 2024, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY UNVEILED A NEW WELCOME PAVILION AT KANKAKEE SANDS NATURE PRESERVE, MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A \$100,000 DRIVING HOME GRANT THROUGH THE JASPER NEWTON FOUNDATION.

This beautifully designed, fully accessible space now serves as a central gathering point where visitors can begin their journey into the preserve's historic natural landscapes.



As part of a broader effort to enhance the Kankakee Sands visitor experience, the pavilion provides shelter, orientation, and educational signage to help guests learn about the vast number of species that call the area home—including 270 species of birds and 70 species of butterflies. It also offers a welcoming space for families, school groups, and community members to gather, rest, and connect with nature. Whether it's visited during a middle school field trip to explore the wetlands or on a quiet Sunday afternoon walk through the prairies, this spot is sure to leave a lasting impression.



Located in Newton County and drawing guests from across the region, the pavilion boosts accessibility and visibility for one of Indiana's most ecologically significant places. The project is already supporting expanded public programming and school participation while reinforcing the role of conservation lands as spaces for learning, recreation, and community benefit.

# 2024 COMMUNITY GRANT SPOTLIGHT

## DRIVING HOME COMMUNITY GRANT

### CHRIS LACOSSE PARK



## IN THE SPRING OF 2025, MOROCCO, INDIANA, CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF THE CHRIS LACOSSE PARK.

The new multigenerational community space was brought to life in part by a \$77,000 Driving Home grant through the Jasper Newton Foundation. Once an abandoned railroad corridor, the area has been thoughtfully transformed into a half-mile walking path, senior fitness zone, outdoor classroom, storybook walk, and native gardens.

Located in the heart of Newton County, where only 28% of residents previously had access to recreational facilities, the park now offers inclusive opportunities for wellness, learning, and connection. Whether children

are exploring literacy through nature, older adults are improving their health with the park's accessible fitness equipment, or families are simply walking together at sunset, the Chris LaCrosse Park meets a wide range of community needs.

The space was named in honor of Chris LaCrosse, a beloved local educator, advocate, and mother whose compassion, resilience, and commitment to her community left a lasting mark on Newton County. Her legacy now lives on in a park that reflects her enduring belief in connection, learning, and a better quality of life for all.

# 2024 NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT JASPER COUNTY TRAILS CLUB



THE JASPER COUNTY TRAILS CLUB IS A GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY EFFORT WITH A CLEAR MISSION: TO DEVELOP A CONNECTED TRAIL SYSTEM THAT SAFELY LINKS OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS FOR WALKING, CYCLING, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND PADDLING.

Right now, Jasper County residents who want to walk, run, or ride outside are largely limited to small park loops, neighborhood sidewalks, or—more dangerously—high-speed county roads. This lack of pedestrian infrastructure isn't just an inconvenience but a major safety concern, an accessibility issue, and a missed opportunity for community connection, health, and recreation. The Jasper County Trails Club was created to change that.

The organization has already begun laying the groundwork for a county-wide system of multi-use trails—but the vision is bigger than one walking path or one town. With the support of volunteers, community leaders, and generous local partnerships, the Trails Club aims to unite the entire county by connecting DeMotte, Wheatfield, Rensselaer, and Remington with safe, scenic routes. These proposed trails also aim to branch outward to regional destinations such as Fair Oaks Farms, Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, and eventually, the Great American Rail-Trail network. A recent survey of over 580 Jasper County residents revealed strong public support for the initiative, with over 90% of respondents living in the county and 80% having lived here for more than a decade. The majority expressed a clear desire for safe, continuous pathways connecting towns, parks, and local destinations—especially in and around DeMotte.

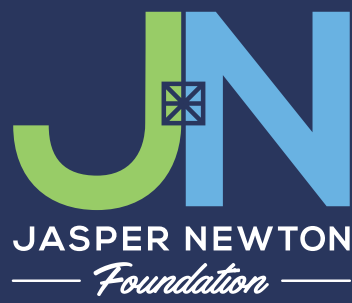
Thanks in part to 2024 financial support in the form of a planning grant through the Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) Phase VIII, the Trails Club has been able to advance its vision through strategic planning, public engagement, and design groundwork. This plan is ambitious, but timely. Community members frequently cite high-speed traffic, poor sidewalk conditions, and a lack of connected pathways as key reasons why they don't walk or bike more often. These concerns reinforce the need for a county-wide system that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and connectivity.

With rapid development already underway in parts of the county—especially DeMotte and Wheatfield—the window to incorporate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure into future growth is narrowing. The longer we wait, the more difficult and costly it becomes to construct the kind of safe, accessible trail systems that are proven to increase property values, improve public health, and reduce vehicle traffic.

To move forward, the trail plan must be officially adopted into Jasper County's comprehensive plan and then integrated into each municipality's park plan. Land must also be secured for the proposed routes, and the Trails Club will need to obtain at least 20% in local community matching funds in order to leverage state and federal grants for construction.

The proposed system includes paved pedestrian paths, legal access for Class 1 & 2 e-bikes and ADA-compliant mobility devices, and dedicated horse trails in rural areas. The Trails Club also hopes to improve blueway access to the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers, tapping into Indiana's growing interest in paddling and ecotourism. For those without access to a car—especially students and senior citizens—this work is crucial. The trails would allow residents to reach schools, parks, neighborhoods, and businesses safely and affordably while supporting active lifestyles and a more connected county culture. As the plan moves forward, the Trails Club will continue site investigations, identify key trail segments, and finalize preliminary routing.

At the Jasper Newton Foundation, we believe that visionary projects like this one deserve both recognition and support. The Jasper County Trails Club has created real momentum, and now it's up to the broader community—residents, landowners, local governments, and businesses—to help bring this vision to life. To learn more about the Jasper County Trails Club or get involved in this important work, visit <https://www.jctrails.club>. Together, we can build something lasting that connects us all.



[jaspernewtonfoundation.org](http://jaspernewtonfoundation.org)