



South Madison Community Foundation
2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CREATORS of COMMUNITY

www.SouthMadisonFoundation.org

You were born to create.

Do you consider yourself a creative person?

Don't count yourself out! You may not be gifted with a pen or paintbrush. Your talents may be neither musical nor theatrical. However, as an active member of your community, you are a natural-born creator.

If you've volunteered for a community event, you're a creator. If you've contributed your thoughts about how to improve the status quo, started or expanded a business, or found a way to inspire others, you're our favorite kind of creative person-- *a creator of community!*

Like all fine arts, the art of community is perfected through rehearsal. This year, the Foundation embarked on a plan to inspire and equip creators of community, then give them the space and support they need to rehearse. No doubt, a masterpiece will result.

Our mission is to produce positive and sustainable change in the communities we serve. For 31 years, we have done this primarily through attracting financial gifts. Foundation grants are still the fuel that help projects take flight- but they can only accomplish so much without the vast treasure of time and talent of committed community members, who work together to create a brighter future.

Imagine what we can create together!



What do you want to make?



The year 2020-21 brought such upheaval on both a personal and a community level. We knew deep down we needed to take time, face to face, to talk with our fellow community members to find out how they were emerging from the pandemic. What parts of community life should be re-imagined for a new era? Which parts felt like they needed to be shored up before they slipped away?

Over many hours of conversation, neighbors from every corner of South Madison County (and beyond) told us what was on their minds and hearts.

From age 8 to 88, South Madison participants told us their top priorities:

- 1. Keep our small towns strong, even as they grow,***
- 2. Get more people involved in community life, and***
- 3. Improve physical connection and inclusive use of public places.***

We shared these priorities with community leaders and hosted action-oriented project training for 60 go-getters with a passion to create community. Participants formed five subgroups, all receiving ongoing coaching as their small projects take shape and grow. The project model calls for groups to constantly form and expand by bringing in *new voices*, so if you want to be a creator, too-- we're your connection!

Creator Call-Out: Join the ranks of groups working in these five areas ***Engaging New & Diverse Voices, Food Justice, Redevelopment, Community of Art, Highlighting Success***

Building a Bright Future, Together

When a new fund is born at the Community Foundation, our staff works with the founding donor to serve the needs of a future version of our community we can only imagine. Generosity and creativity make a winning combination that serves the needs of today, and tomorrow.

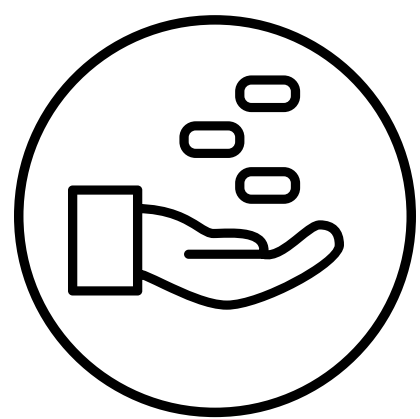
Our solid investment and prudent stewardship practices ensure Foundation funds are closely monitored by professional staff and dedicated Board members, then audited annually to adhere to the highest standards.

The 2021-22 fiscal year was tough on investors. Foundation assets were down for the year, to **\$11,113,850**, but the Foundation's conservative investment policy coupled with a spending policy calculated over twelve quarters ensure the **continuity of giving** our donors and community partners rely on. Despite a loss in net assets, the Foundation is poised to invest **\$437,000** in community causes in the upcoming fiscal year.

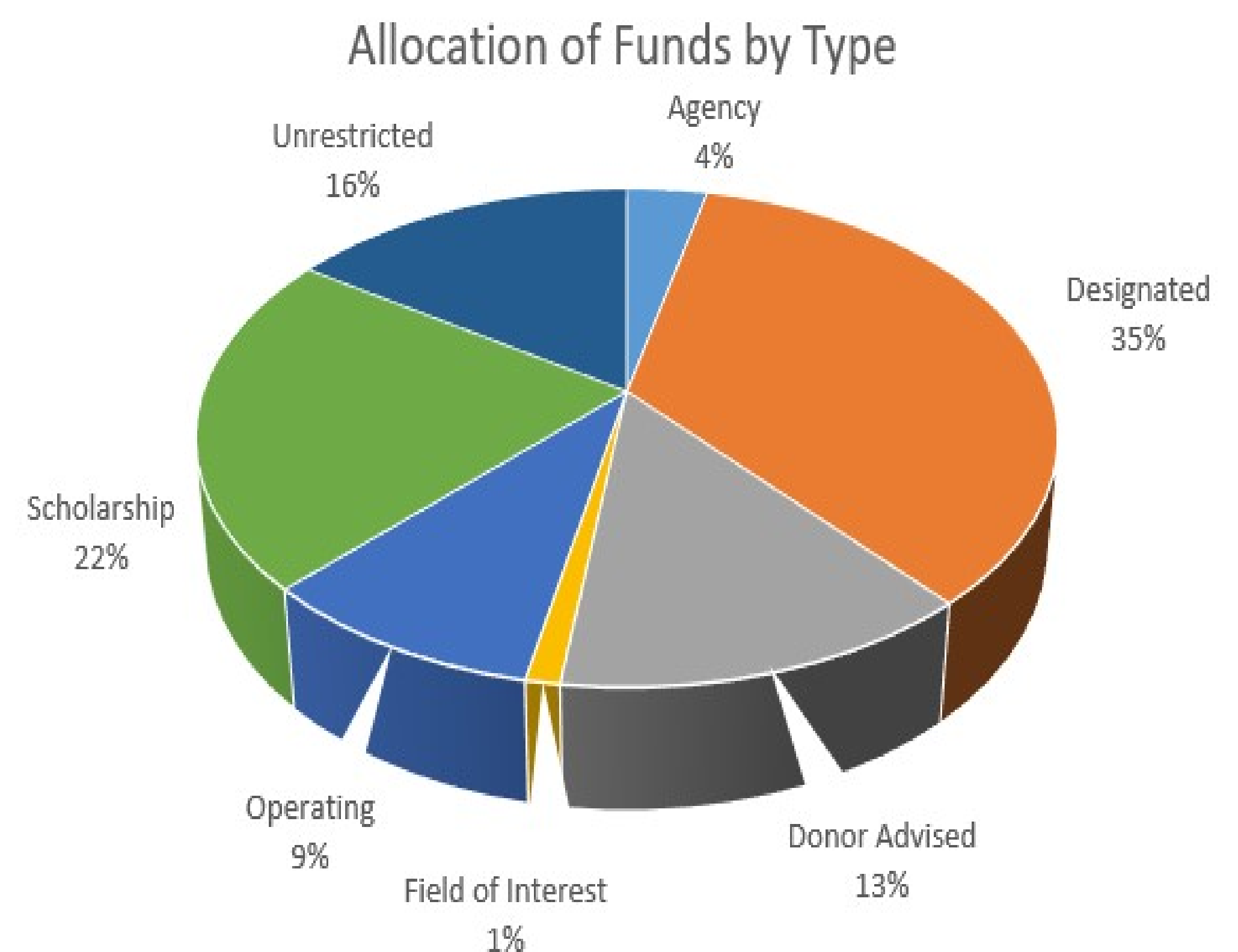
We invest in students, in community projects, and in organizations.



111 students were awarded \$91,400 to offset the cost of higher education. At the lower end of the age spectrum, two **book vending machines** creatively incentivize younger students to read!



Organizational **coaching grants** were awarded to Leadership Academy of Madison County, More Than Conquerors, and Main Street Pendleton. Stronger, more sustainable organizations will result!

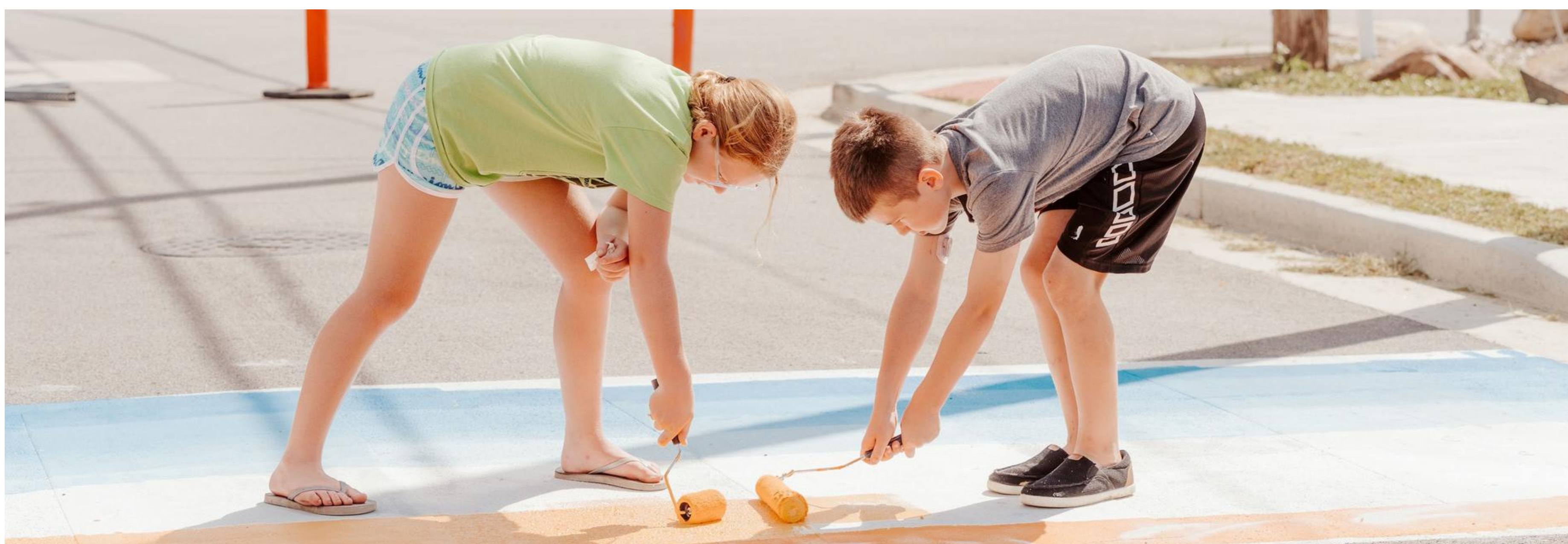


Imagine the possibilities...

Community Foundation donors are the best neighbors *ever*. They're thoughtful, generous, and put others before themselves. They're social when they pool funds to support great causes or roll up their sleeves to build something for everyone to enjoy. They're a key reason our neighborhood (all of South Madison County) is such a great place to live!

Many of our neighbors were here for a time and moved on. They're still impacting us, because the place they left for us to inherit is going strong. Today, we stand in the shade of the trees they planted, and we are grateful. Now, it's our turn to create a brighter future for today's residents, and tomorrow's.

What will the future bring? That's for us to decide as we *create our community's future, together*.





233 S. Main Sreet | Pendleton, IN 46064

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CREATE COMMUNITY WITH US:



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