



**Hendricks County**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HABIT OF THE HEART WEEKEND RAISES AWARENESS AND DOLLARS!**

(AVON, IND.) – The Habit of the Heart Weekend proved to be a huge success, exceeding expectations and trumping last year’s goal with over \$70,000 raised, an increase of 14% from 2009. All proceeds from the event benefit the Habit of the Heart Fund, which helps women and children in need in Hendricks County, and the Hendricks County Community Foundation.

Kicking off the weekend on Friday, September 24, was a new V.I.P. event, Up Close & Personal With a Celebrity. Attendees enjoyed wine tasting and an intimate conversation about life in the NFL with Charlie Johnson, Colts offensive tackle and his wife, Nicole. Joe Staysniak, Colts Radio Network, served as moderator. The V.I.P.s were then swept into the next room to join other attendees at the Gala Dinner where everyone enjoyed live and silent auctions, a diamond/champagne raffle, games and a gourmet dinner. At the Ladies Luncheon, Saturday, September 25, women participated in Handbag Habit, Hendricks County’s original charity purse auction, connected over lunch and gourmet coffee, enjoyed a heart necklace raffle and laughed with keynote speaker, Dr. Suzanne Metzger.

“This year’s event was spectacular,” shares event chair Bonnie West. “The Habit of the Heart Committee is a passionate group of over 30 women who work passionately and diligently throughout the year to make this a wonderful, fun, enjoyable event for a cause right here in Hendricks County.”

Hendricks County students have only been in school for a couple months and guidance counselors and school nurses are already requesting grants from the Habit of the Heart Fund.

“We receive grant requests for the Habit of the Heart Fund daily,” says Janet Haley, executive director of the Hendricks County Community Foundation. “We are able to respond within 48 hours to most requests. The success of this year’s event will allow us to make even more grants in the coming year.”

The process is easy. When a classroom teacher, school nurse or guidance counselor identifies a child in need, they simply fax a grant application to the Community Foundation. Because the Habit of the Heart Advisory Committee has authorized the Community Foundation to award grants up to \$250, grants can be made within a week for those in need meeting necessary criteria. Other grants are taken under consideration by the Advisory Committee. Since its inception, the Habit of the Heart Fund has granted over \$72,000 to help meet emergency needs. The Habit of the Heart also has an endowed fund to ensure grant dollars will be available forever.

The Habit of the Heart Fund is held at the Hendricks County Community Foundation which manages a \$7 million collection of funds created by individuals, families, corporations, and organizations for charitable purposes. The Community Foundation provides an easy, effective way for donors to make a lasting impact on Hendricks County. For more information, contact the Hendricks County Community Foundation at 317.718.1200 or visit [www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org).

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