

## Follow Your Passion and Provide Great Volunteer Leadership!

By Janet Haley

Nonprofit organizations all across Hendricks County depend on volunteers to help keep their organizations running smoothly. In the case of Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF), we rely on over 35 volunteer board of advisors, board of trustees and committee members to help accomplish our mission of connecting caring people with causes that matter.



By following your passion and volunteering for projects and organizations that truly interest you and your family, you can provide wonderful community service. It's funny how things turn out sometimes. Several years ago, two Hendricks County mothers found themselves learning about the Community Foundation after their children received scholarships from one of our many scholarship funds. Now, these two women are both on our Board of Directors.

Alice McColgin's son, Scott from Avon High School, was a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship finalist in 2000. Soon after, Alice joined the board and currently serves as vice-president on the board of directors. Alice said, "When Scott received that award from the Community Foundation he was so excited that people other than his parents recognized his academic success and leadership abilities. It allowed him to believe in himself making college and career development positive opportunities. There was no question I had to give back."

In 2005, Spencer McCoy a senior at Danville was a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship finalist and received an additional scholarship award from the Community Foundation. These two scholarships helped him graduate from college debt free. Spencer's mother, Terri Whitmore McCoy, a Danville High School Alumni was reconnected with Alice McColgin who had been Terri's government teacher at Danville many years before.

Soon after, Terri joined Alice on the Community Foundation's Board of Directors. Terri commented "My husband, Jody, and I were both so impressed with what we saw and heard at that annual dinner about the local nonprofit groups being helped in our community through grants, plus the scholarships administered by the Hendricks County Community Foundation. Then a few weeks later, when Spencer received the renewable Dollens Scholarship award, I knew I had to find out how to get involved and give back to the organization that impacts so many lives in the county."

While Scott McColgin and Spencer McCoy, both born and raised in Hendricks County, have never met, the ripple effect of the scholarships they received from the Community Foundation reconnected their mothers and has developed two committed volunteer leaders for the Community Foundation.

The stories of Alice and Terri are just two great examples of the wonderful community-minded citizens here in Hendricks County. My hope is that their stories inspire you to step up and give back to your community as they have. Volunteering for the organizations and projects that your children and family are interested in is a great way to give back to your community and also teaches your children the wonderful habits of philanthropy and giving back that they can pass on to their children, grandchildren, and future generations of citizens in our hometowns.

I encourage you to take a look around your neighborhood, school and town today for something that you really care about and volunteer your time to make a difference and give back. Then take it to the next level and get members of your family and other like-minded people you know to also get involved

Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”