

**Ball Brothers Foundation**

# **SUPPORTING OUR Community**

**OUR COMMITMENT TO PLACE-BASED GRANTMAKING**





OUR COMMITMENT TO

# Place-Based Grantmaking



When the Ball brothers chose to move their glass manufacturing business to Muncie, they made the lasting decision to invest in their new community. For nearly a century, Ball Brothers Foundation has been a witness to the powerful impact that philanthropy can have. In that time, we realized the importance of our continued commitment to serving our own community with place-based grantmaking.

Place-based grantmaking is fundamental to Ball Brothers Foundation's mission, as it allows us to focus our funding in meaningful ways that honor the Ball family legacy. Focusing our giving in Muncie, Delaware County, and East Central Indiana—the areas where the Ball family lived and worked—**creates long-term transformational impact that can be traced through the years.**

By concentrating our grantmaking on a specific geographic area, **we can work closely with our community to identify its most pressing needs and facilitate solutions that will make the most impact.** Because this is our home, we are deeply attuned to our area's most important issues, and we can get to know the organizations that are working to help locally.

Long-term transformational change takes time and determination from the entire community. Every day, **we continue to be impressed by those people and organizations around us who keep working to make our community stronger and more resilient.**

That history, familiarity, and depth of experience allows our staff and board to provide support to the community in ways that go beyond funding. We convene and connect grantees, local residents, community leaders, and state officials. We support nonprofit leaders who are sustaining key programs and developing new initiatives to respond to changing community needs. We believe that collaboration and patient persistence are the keys to creating a strong and desirable community where people love to live, work, and visit.

As we move into our second century of grantmaking, we will continue to put our dollars—and our voice—behind local and regional efforts that bolster our arts and culture scene, expand educational opportunities, support vital human services, protect the environment, improve health, and create vibrant public spaces.



**Ball Brothers Foundation**

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jud Fisher'.

**Jud Fisher**  
President & CEO

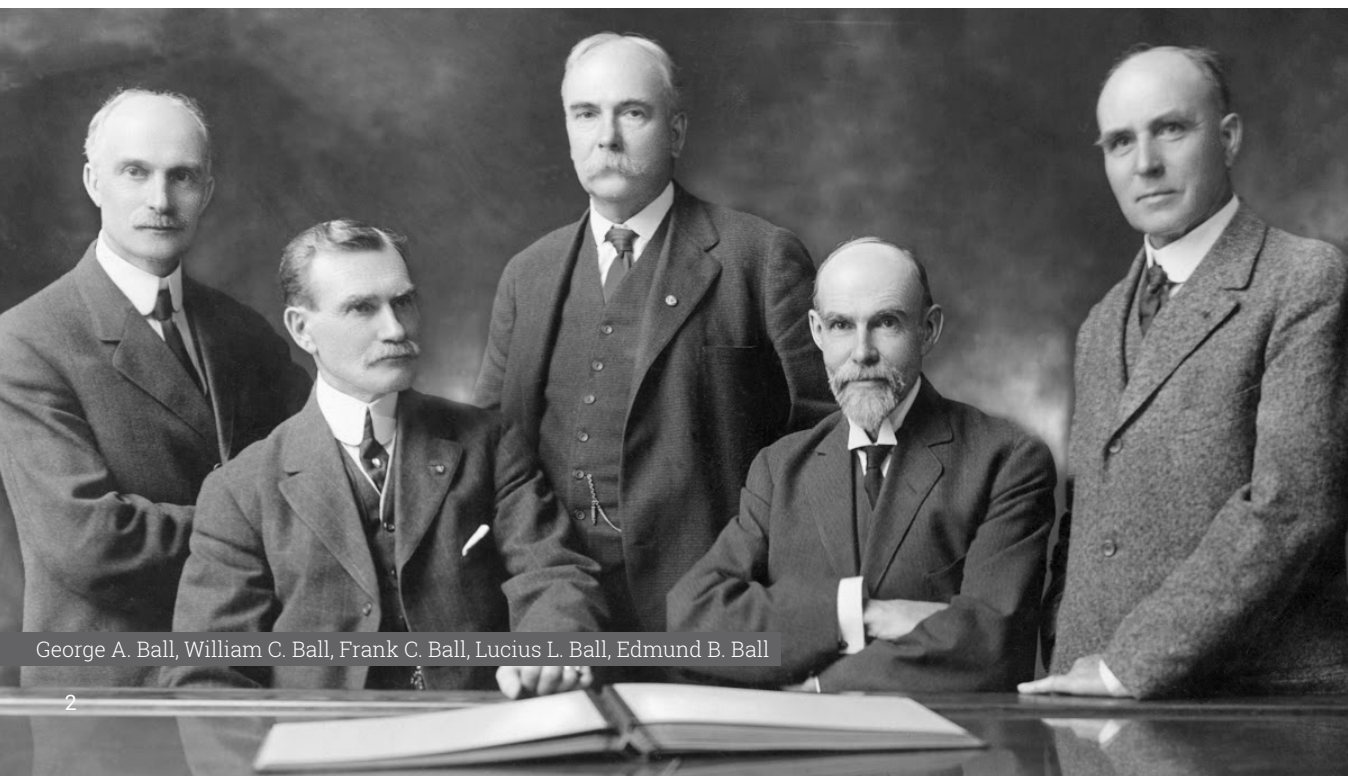






Ball Brothers Foundation is dedicated to the **stewardship legacy of the Ball brothers** and to the **pursuit of improving the quality of life** in Muncie, Delaware County, East Central Indiana, and Indiana through **philanthropy and leadership**.

—OUR MISSION



## THE LEGACY CONTINUES



# Five Brothers. One Mission.

In 1926, our founders wisely set an ambitious goal—to help improve the quality of life in Muncie, Delaware County, East Central Indiana, and Indiana through philanthropy and leadership. Today, nearly 100 years later, the mission they set is more relevant than ever, and their work lives on.

Throughout their lifetimes, the Ball brothers and their families took very seriously their commitment to the city, region, and state where they established their successful glassmaking business. They were deeply engaged in community initiatives and helped bring countless projects and improvements to life. **They genuinely cared for and loved Muncie.**

Upon Edmund B. Ball's death, Ball Brothers Foundation was created to continue this legacy of support. We are now one of Indiana's oldest philanthropies run by the family whose name it bears. That's a distinction we're proud to claim and plan to keep.

As a place-based funder, we focus our giving broadly across arts and culture, human services, health, education, environment, and public society benefit organizations. Our funding supports the ongoing operations of key organizations, helps nonprofits start new programs that meet evolving community needs, supports professional development for local leaders, addresses facility and capital needs, and more. **Inspired by the enduring philanthropic legacy of the Ball family, over 90% of our grant dollars stay in Muncie and Delaware County.**

At Ball Brothers Foundation, we remain steadfast in our commitment to stewarding the legacy of those who came before us and to playing our part in championing a vibrant, thriving community.



OUR COMMITMENT TO

## Arts, Culture, and Humanities

Muncie and East Central Indiana have an incredible history of innovation and entrepreneurship. From glass manufacturing to the automotive industry, our city and region have been home to generations of creative, hard-working innovators. We are a city and a region of “makers.” While changes in the global economy have undoubtedly impacted our community over the past several decades, our history and this identity remain core to who we are.

**As we look to the future, we believe that the arts are at the heart of our community's future.** The arts inspire. They build creativity. They challenge us to think in new and different ways. They bring us together to create shared experiences and to build a deep sense of community.

This is why, over the past several decades, Ball Brothers Foundation has dedicated a substantial portion of our annual grantmaking towards arts and cultural institutions. **Funding for museums, theatres, art classes for children and adults, concert series, public art installations, and more is helping to foster a growing arts and culture network** in the heart of Muncie, Delaware County, and East Central Indiana.

One of the most evident examples of our commitment is our strong support of **Minnetrista Museum and Gardens**. Spanning 40 acres along the banks of the White River in the heart of Muncie, Minnetrista features **gallery spaces**, a popular **farmers market**, **exhibits**, and **classes** that engage and inspire. Moreover, Minnetrista's beloved **community events** like Faeries, Sprites, and Lights and Enchanted Luminaria captivate children's imaginations and instill a sense of wonder.

The future of our region is bright. And we remain committed to supporting an array of vibrant and distinctive arts and cultural organizations that will benefit our community for generations to come.







## OUR COMMITMENT TO

# Education

In 1918, when members of the Ball family deeded the land and buildings that would eventually become **Ball State University** to the state of Indiana, it was their sincere hope that the fledgling university would serve as an anchor institution in East Central Indiana. They believed that the university would play a crucial role in the vitality of the city of Muncie, in the larger region, and in the state. The university's growth and success over the past century has certainly met—and exceeded—those early expectations.

Today, that commitment to Ball State University lives on through funding for capital projects and university programs that foster rich community engagement. Meanwhile, Ball Brothers Foundation's commitment to funding for education at all levels has been significantly expanded.

Through our focus on **early childhood education**, our youngest citizens increasingly have access to hands-on, high-quality learning and play experiences.

**Over the past decade, we have also dramatically increased support for public schools in the heart of Muncie's Central City.** These grants come at a critical time. They are helping to bolster professional development for teachers and administrators, create niche programs to attract and retain students, increase college and career pathways, enhance extra-curriculars and athletic programs that engage students, and provide the “margins of excellence” that help local schools provide a best-in-class **K-12 education**.

Our funding also extends outside the classroom, both literally and figuratively. **We continue to increase support for outdoor learning and after-school/summer programs.** These programs provide formative experiences to help children become problem-solvers, to develop critical thinking and teamwork skills, to creatively address challenges, and to establish a life-long love of learning.

Finally, **we're committed to strengthening the workforce through career, technical, and continuing education programs** that meet the needs of local employers and that aid individuals in securing employment that will help their families thrive.



OUR COMMITMENT TO

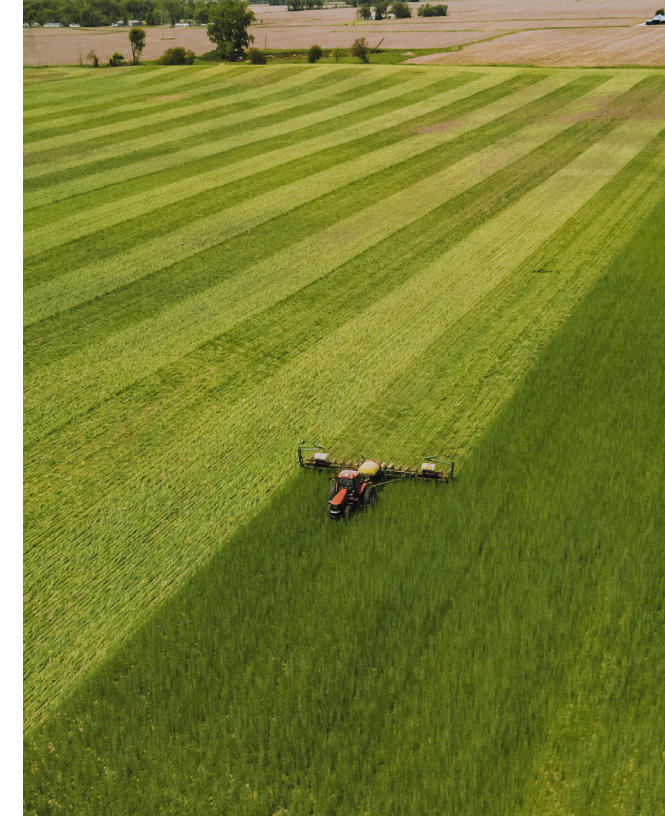
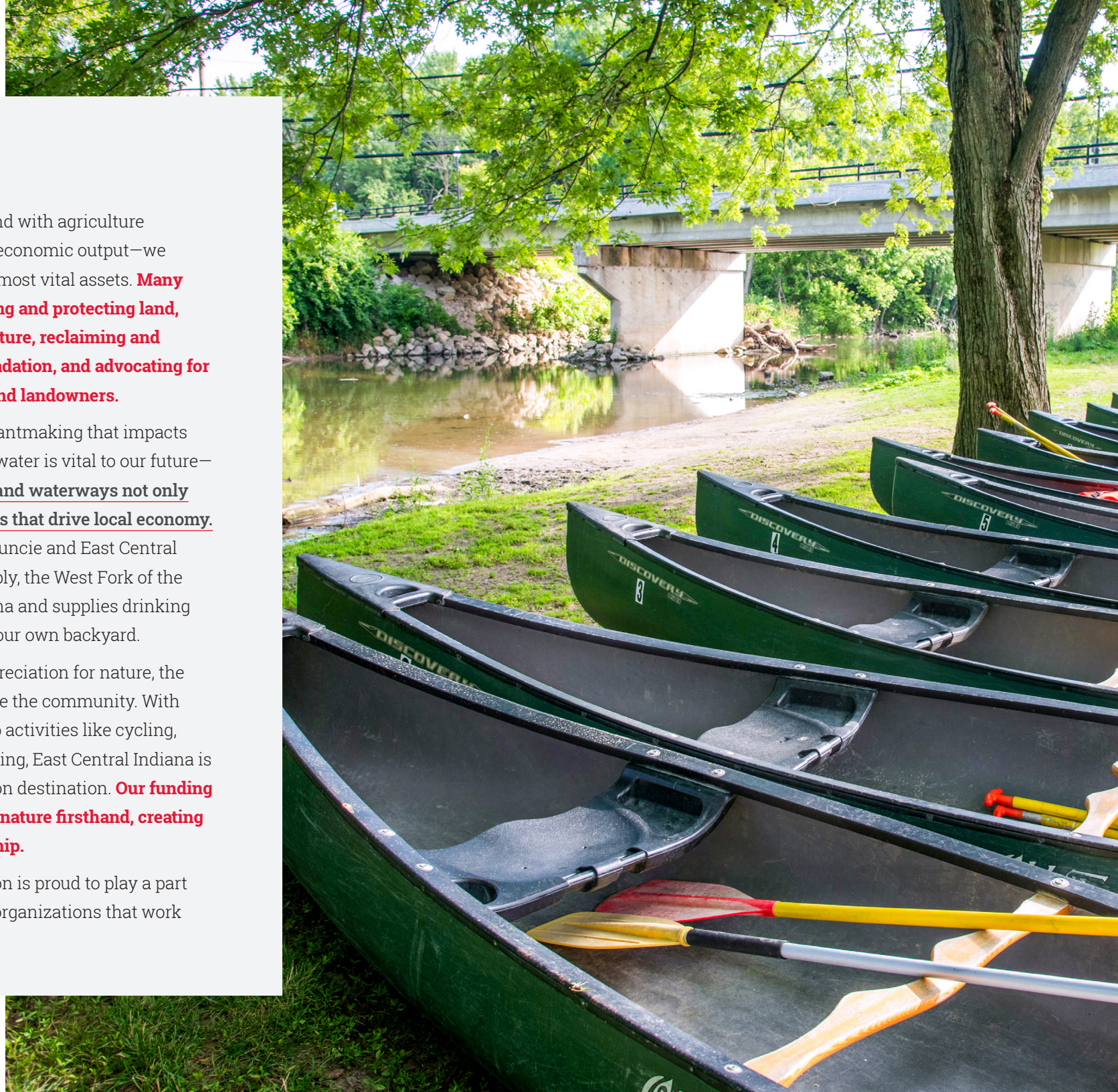
## Environment

With 64% of Indiana's land dedicated to farming—and with agriculture comprising a significant portion of our own county's economic output—we recognize that land and water are one of our region's most vital assets. **Many of the foundation's grantees share values of preserving and protecting land, creating opportunities for children to engage with nature, reclaiming and restoring our rivers after years of pollution and degradation, and advocating for conservation practices among our region's farmers and landowners.**

In recent years, we have intensified our focus on grantmaking that impacts East Central Indiana's waterways. We recognize that water is vital to our future—even in a "water-rich" state like Indiana. **Local rivers and waterways not only provide drinking water but also sustain the industries that drive local economy.** And the way that we care for our land and water in Muncie and East Central Indiana has a tremendous impact downstream. Notably, the West Fork of the White River, which flows through north central Indiana and supplies drinking water to over 2 million Hoosiers, begins right here in our own backyard.

To promote access to water and foster a deeper appreciation for nature, the foundation actively seeks ways to educate and engage the community. With ongoing support for initiatives that promote access to activities like cycling, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and fishing, East Central Indiana is quickly transforming into a thriving outdoor recreation destination. **Our funding is designed to help community members experience nature firsthand, creating lasting memories and nurturing a sense of stewardship.**

Together with our grantees, Ball Brothers Foundation is proud to play a part in safeguarding our natural resources by supporting organizations that work relentlessly to improve our environment.







## OUR COMMITMENT TO

# Health

Funding for health and wellness has been at the heart of our grantmaking for nearly 100 years. In fact, one of the foundation's earliest grants supported the establishment of **Ball Memorial Hospital**, which opened its doors as a teaching hospital in 1929. We continue to build on this legacy through our support of efforts to build a strong pipeline of future physicians, nurses, CNAs, and other medical professionals.

**Today, Muncie boasts one of the state's largest medical education programs, along with highly-respected nursing and allied health professions training programs at Ivy Tech and Ball State University.** Through close partnerships with local healthcare facilities and community-based organizations, students gain hands-on experience providing patient-centered care at the neighborhood level. A strong focus on **healthy lifestyles and disease prevention** has emerged over the past several years as a distinctive aspect of local medical training.

Through this concentrated focus, East Central Indiana is solidifying its reputation as a **statewide leader in training future healthcare workers**. Our work in this area is critically important given shortages of healthcare workers both statewide and across the nation—a shortage that is only projected to grow. We are proud to be part of the solution.

In addition to targeting funding toward building the healthcare workforce pipeline, **Ball Brothers Foundation has long supported additional efforts that prioritize community wellness, including initiatives that target underserved populations, expand access to healthy meals, and encourage physical activity.** We know that our region's future is dependent on healthy families, healthy kids, and healthy communities. It is an honor to partner with so many across the region who are working to build this healthier future.



OUR COMMITMENT TO

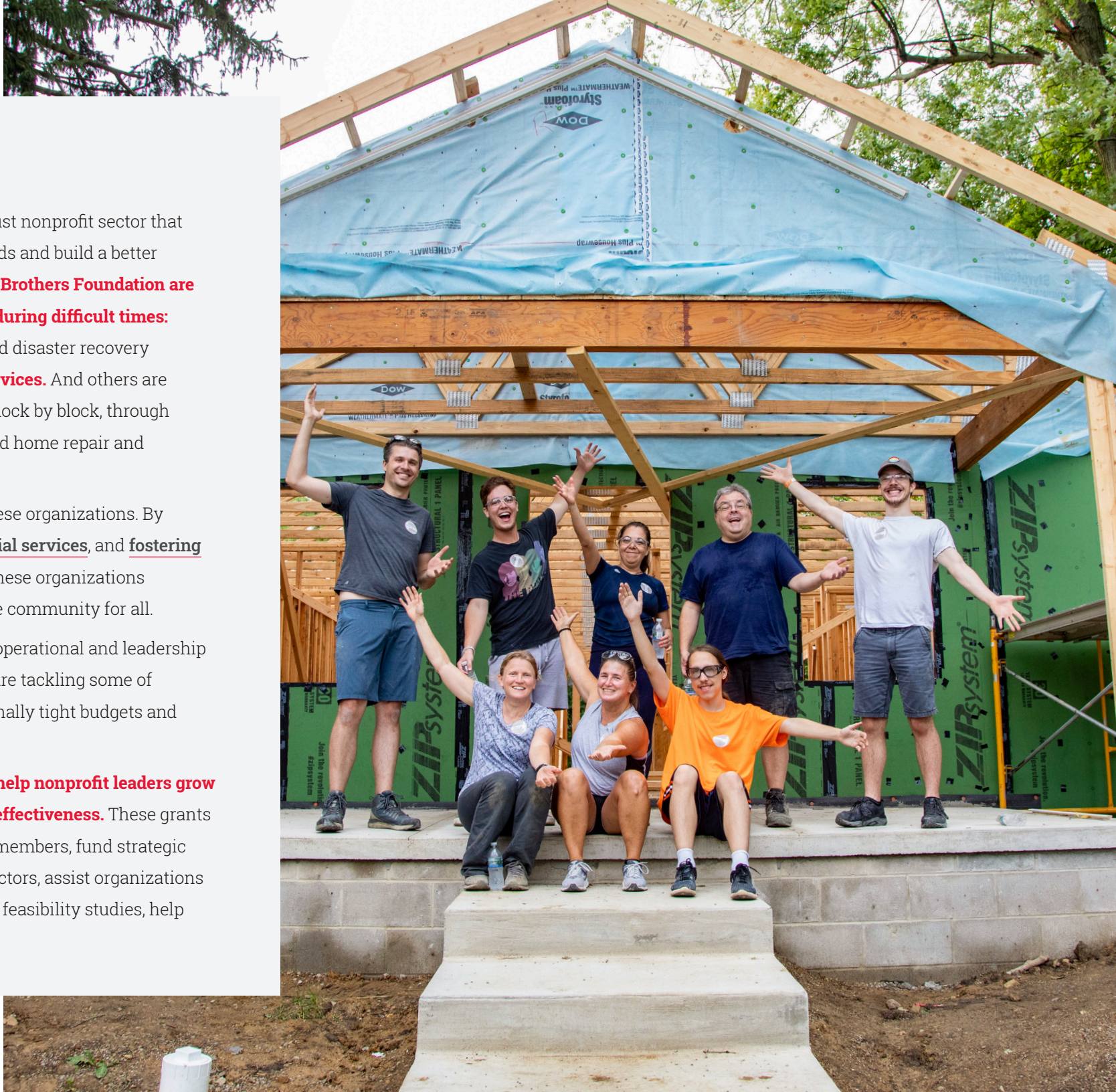
# Human Services

Muncie and East Central Indiana are home to a robust nonprofit sector that helps children, families, and seniors meet today's needs and build a better tomorrow. **Organizations receiving funding from Ball Brothers Foundation are often on the front-lines of providing critical support during difficult times:** access to emergency food and shelter, job training, and disaster recovery and response. Others offer **addiction and recovery services**. And others are **helping rebuild neighborhoods** one house at a time, block by block, through neighborhood revitalization, resident engagement, and home repair and construction.

We firmly believe in the transformative power of these organizations. By addressing urgent needs, expanding access to essential services, and fostering opportunities for individuals and families to thrive, these organizations contribute to building a stronger, more compassionate community for all.

We also take seriously our role in helping build the operational and leadership capacity of nonprofits. Nonprofits in our community are tackling some of society's most complex challenges, often on exceptionally tight budgets and with lean staffing.

That's why **we're proud to provide grants that both help nonprofit leaders grow in their own roles and that help build organizational effectiveness**. These grants support professional development for nonprofit staff members, fund strategic planning processes, help build stronger boards of directors, assist organizations in conducting fundraising assessment and campaign feasibility studies, help nonprofits with financial consulting, and more.







## OUR COMMITMENT TO

# Public Society Benefit

Like many Midwestern communities, Muncie and East Central Indiana have experienced ups and downs. But there is no question that the entrepreneurial spirit that built the region as we know it today lives on.

**Understanding that people are drawn to vibrant, thriving places, we're committed to funding organizations and projects that cultivate vitality at all levels of community.** Our grants include support for makerspaces, training and services for entrepreneurs and small business owners, improving local parks, developing new recreational opportunities for youth, expanding trail systems, developing long-range plans for neighborhood and community development, and more. Through these grants, we hope to instill a sense of pride and community among the residents of Muncie and East Central Indiana.

**Recognizing the importance of a thriving city center, the foundation also focuses on supporting projects that contribute to the economic, cultural, and social well-being of these areas.** By bolstering the revitalization efforts of downtown Muncie and surrounding neighborhoods, our grantees are helping to create an inclusive, diverse, and attractive hub for residents and visitors alike.

We also know that public safety is vital for any community to thrive. Because of this, **we provide support to local emergency responders, including limited support for specialized equipment and training.** In addition, we've begun funding forward-thinking and proactive initiatives that help to address ever-increasing threats in the realm of cybersecurity and cybercrime.

We are steadfast believers in the potential of Muncie and East Central Indiana. By supporting public safety, fostering vibrant and beautiful public spaces, and contributing to the revitalization of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, we're proud to help build a stronger, more prosperous community.





## How to Apply for Funding

We provide funding to organizations operating in Indiana, with a specific emphasis on Muncie, Delaware County, and East Central Indiana.

**We offer two types of grants throughout the year:**

### GENERAL GRANTS

**Typically range from \$5,000 to \$100,000**

- Usually cover specific program/project requests or operating support (or a combination of the two)
- **Awarded every spring and fall** (awardees are typically notified by the third week of May/October)

**ROUND 1:** Preliminary Applications due February 15;  
full proposals due April 1

**ROUND 2:** Preliminary Applications due July 15;  
full proposals due September 1

### RAPID GRANTS

**Up to \$5,000**

- Provided for immediate funding needs which may include funds to provide professional development, to assist with travel or equipment needs for a new project or initiative, to act as seed money for a new project, or other related needs
- **Awarded between February 1 and November 30** annually (awardees are typically notified within one week of submission)

Before applying for a grant, we highly encourage organizations to speak with a Ball Brothers Foundation staff member to discuss the potential funding request and determine if it is a good fit. To schedule a time to talk to a staff person, call **765-741-5500** or email **[info@ballfdn.org](mailto:info@ballfdn.org)**.

**To learn more about our grants and funding initiatives, to view past grants, or to apply, visit [ballfdn.org](http://ballfdn.org).**

Photos courtesy of Cardinal Greenways, Dale Pickett Photography, Delaware County Emergency Management Agency, Chris Flook, IU Health, Kyle Johnson, Minnetrista Museum & Gardens, Muncie Downtown Development Partnership, The Nature Conservancy/Flatland Films, Nonprofit Support Network, and Urban Light Community Development.





# Ball Brothers Foundation

**THE LEGACY CONTINUES**  
1926–TODAY

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