



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Gibble, President

Y-GIVE Youth Philanthropy Board provides service to the community

GREENFIELD, Ind (April 2, 2020)—The Hancock County Community Foundation’s (HCCF) youth philanthropy board, known as Y-GIVE, had a busy year serving the Hancock County community through a variety of service projects and grantmaking. The Y-GIVE board consists of four students from each of the county’s public high schools. Members are recommended by their high school guidance office and can serve all four years. The board meets monthly during the school year, and they learn about local nonprofits and take a hands-on roll in service and grantmaking. From wrapping gifts to reading to preschoolers, they have engaged in charitable works all school year.

The first project of this year was to wrap books for Bentley’s Buddies to distribute to their student reading buddies at Christmas. Bentley’s Buddies provided the books and the wrapping paper and the students provided the labor, with a little help from Mikey, one of the dogs who works with Bentley’s Buddies.

The second project was choosing which books to order and give to the preschool children at the Greenfield Head Start. They also prepared a craft involving the children painting small pumpkins. They took the books and crafts to the preschool and spent one-on-one time there reading to the children and participating in their learning activities. They also served lunch and provided catered lunch to the teachers. In conjunction with the service project, they also provided a \$500 grant to Greenfield Head Start for the purchase of educational supplies. Y-GIVE students then ate lunch at the Boys and Girls Club of Hancock County and learned how that nonprofit operated.

The Y-GIVE students also helped distribute supplies to the teachers and staff at each of their school systems to help celebrate Hancock County. The supplies consisted of hand sanitizer pump bottles for each teacher and staff as well as coloring sheets and curriculum for teaching about Hancock County. There were also boxes of crayons provided as prizes for coloring contests for elementary students and giant Smarties candy rolls for Hancock County trivia contest winners for older students. The Y-GIVE students were responsible for getting the trivia questions announced throughout the older grades.

In January, the students applied for a mini grant from HCCF to support the new Shares, Inc. cooking classes that are designed to help make clients more self-sufficient. The grant was approved in March, and due to COVID-19, the check was mailed to Shares, Inc. on April 2. A tour of Shares, Inc. and a live presentation of the check were cancelled.

On March 9, students evaluated applications and interviewed four high school juniors who were the finalists for the Martha Beckenholdt Youth Philanthropy Award. They used rubrics to score the applications and the interviews, and their scores were used to determine the recipient of the award who was given the honor of granting \$1,000 from the Beckenholdt account to the Hancock County nonprofit organization of their choice.

Y-GIVE members:

Eastern Hancock High School: Kelli Brown, Advisor; Victor Olivo, Gracie Beaudry, Emma Marden, Ryan Burris

Greenfield-Central High School: Brent Oliver, Advisor; Haley Arthur, Brayden Herrell, Tyler Murphy, Allison Bowman

Mt. Vernon High School: Brooke Tharp, Advisor; Lexi Shelton, Kayden Bensheimer, Tess Freeman, Alaina Nugent

New Palestine High School: Mitch Burk, Advisor; Ethen Hobbs, Anna Ackerman, Grace Hobbs, Addilyn Jones

HCCF provides philanthropic leadership by encouraging giving, learning, community pride and civic engagement. Working with caring individuals, families, and organizations to create or grow existing permanent endowment funds is critical to the organization's mission. These funds generate income that is distributed in the form of grants and scholarships to enrich and enhance life in Hancock County, as well as support the donor's favorite charitable causes, both at home and afar forever. HCCF has granted millions of dollars since its inception in 1992.

