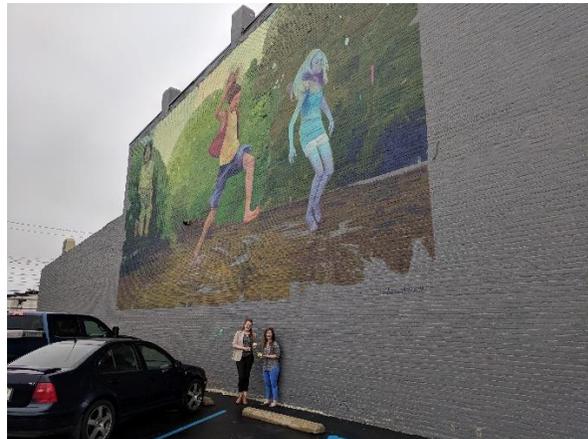


HCCF Partners with Fellow Funders to Bring Newest Mural to Greenfield

The Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) recently established the Hancock County Mural Fund as a vehicle to receive gifts to support murals and art projects throughout the community. HCCF's \$5,000 grant combined with gifts from fellow funders supported the first benefactor of the fund, Greenfield's newest hand-painted mural. The mural captures the elements of the James Whitcomb Riley poem titled "A Barefoot Boy." The internationally acclaimed artist, Andrew Heim, did his homework to bring the boy and his friends to life.

"I gravitated towards barefoot boy out of the rest (of the poems) because it resonated with me. I could relate with the boy because I was always a kid who didn't have a care in the world, always the first to jump out of my Dad's car, shoeless, to the park and beach. I loved jumping into the water and trying to swim for hours, getting lost and having my parents look frantically for me. I guess every boy could relate to this poem in some shape or form."



While the mural committee asked that Heim incorporate more children into the mural to emphasize a sense of community, he shared, "I wanted the mural to showcase the boy. I wanted him to have the spotlight. I knew adding two other figures could take away from that spotlight, so the solution for me was to lower the lighting and change the hue so they weren't fighting for attention. I wanted the first read of the mural to be strictly on the boy because he is the star of the poem. The other figures are just there to support the main character, not to distract from him. The background is inspired by the creek at Pennsy Trail. I wanted to stay true to the colors of the water and the color of the trees, but I wanted to push the stylization of the shapes and make them more playful."

The mural, completed on September 19, is located on the west wall of 20 W. Main St., adjacent to the North Street Living Alley. HCCF awarded a \$1,000 "Connecting Communities" grant to the City of Greenfield to support a pop-up event called "Rock Party" on September 21. People of all ages decorated and painted the creek bed rocks to adorn the base of the mural. Face painting, selfies, and refreshments complimented the fun. Mural visitors are invited to take a rock as a souvenir during Riley Days.

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 more than \$14 million since its inception in 1992.

###