

Twenty years ago, Grissom Air Force Base in Miami County, Indiana began preserving its rich history by creating Grissom Air Museum. From naval base to air force base and then to a reserve air force base and museum, Grissom definitely has an opulent history. In 2002, Grissom began an endowment fund with the Community Foundation helping ensure that they keep making history.

The endowment fund not only allows donors to contribute easily toward the museum, but is also a fund that is matched dollar for dollar through Lily Endowment, Inc. This means that any time money is given, Lily Endowment matches that amount and provides the Community Foundation and museum with more funding.

"This was a huge deal," says the museum's executive director Jim Price. He made this statement about the signs that a grant enabled the museum to purchase. The signs were placed in front of the displayed planes with various types of information about the particular planes. Though signs may seem like a small addition to the facility, they attract all different types of people. They have information about the plane's history, politics, mechanics, and more; making the planes more appealing for people of all interest.

In 2004, the Community Foundation was able to assist the museum in getting an F-14 which is a powerful, two seated fighter jet. The jet is one of two on display in all of the Midwest, which made it an exciting addition to attract visitors. As the former museum director John Marsh said, "This is a wonderful, one-shot opportunity for the museum and the community."

"We will do what we have to do and continue writing grants in order to continue educating people and to keep the museum going," says Jim. The Northern Indiana Community Foundation supports the preservation of the past and is excited about working with the Grissom Air Museum in the future.

