

## The SCCF's 20th Anniversary Series

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### Field of Interest Funds and Special Funds

Some of our most unique funds are our field of interest funds. These funds have specific criteria and support areas of need which the donor is passionate about. During our yearly grant cycle, charitable organizations can apply for our community grants, which are unrestricted, but if they meet the criteria, they may also apply for a grant from one of our field of interest funds.

One of our field of interest funds is the Robert 'Boom Boom' Baker Fund. This fund was established in 2013 by Jeffrey B. Shane to provide support for programs specializing in alternative agriculture or livestock production. This fund has provided grants in the past for the Starke County Youth Club's Planting a Healthier Starke County program.

This program was designed to teach students about the science and math of gardening, the joys of growing their own food, and the importance of using natural and organic methods to create a beautiful, productive garden space.

The Maude Brown and Henry F. Schricker Endowment Fund also awards grants for special projects. This fund was established in 1998 by Margaret Robbins in memory of Maude and Governor Henry Schricker to provide support to Starke County history projects or tours for students in fourth grade and above.

This fund has awarded grants to North Judson-San Pierre Schools, Knox Community Schools, and Oregon-Davis Schools. The grants have provided students the opportunity to experience the way the pioneers lived by practicing soap carving, candle dipping, spinning wool, square dancing, cooking, and watching presentations about the Native Americans.

Other groups of students have traveled to Indianapolis to President Harrison's home, the Civil War Museum, the Indiana State Museum, and the Historical Museum. Students have also studied local history by traveling to the Tippecanoe Battlefield and Prophetstown and by journeying on the Arrowhead Country River Rafting Expedition.

Field of Interest Funds are certainly unique. Another distinctive portion of SCCF funds are our special funds. The Preschool Project, for example, was the result of the SCCF taking initiative to meet a need in the community. When the SCCF researched how they could make the biggest impact on Starke County, they found that early childhood education is severely



*Maude Brown and Henry F. Schricker*

underfunded, though it is projected to yield the highest benefits for the individual students and the entire community.

The SCCF allocated unrestricted dollars to provide scholarships to 4 and 5-year-olds who couldn't otherwise afford a preschool education. Peggy Shidaker, Director of Curriculum/Instruction for Knox Community Schools, joined the effort and established the Starke County Preschool Education Fund in 2013. Since 2013, the SCCF has awarded \$47,864 and provided 78 scholarships for Starke County children to attend preschool.

The next special fund with the community foundation is one that involves a close partnership between Starke United Fund and the SCCF. In 2012, Starke United decided to become a fund under the SCCF in order to operate more efficiently and cost effectively. The SCCF then became a member of Indiana Association of United Ways and began administering contributions of the Starke United Fund.

This alliance has allowed the Starke United Fund to continue to serve Starke County as it always has. Dollars donated to the Starke United Fund stay in Starke County and benefit non-profit agencies that support the community. Starke United has both a permanent and a non-permanent fund with the SCCF that provides grant dollars each spring. The local Starke United Fund Committee reviews and approves grant applications. Just since 2013, the Starke United Fund has awarded nearly 140 grants, touching so many areas of need in Starke County!

Field of Interest Funds and Special Funds are unique aspects of the SCCF. We at the SCCF are happy to be able to provide the opportunity for donors to contribute to causes that are important to them and also to provide opportunities for special projects and partnerships.

Join us next week as we get ready for a very special day of the year—Giving Tuesday!