A familiar quotation, usually attributed to Ben Franklin, says: "Tell me, and I forget; teach me, and I may remember; involve me, and I learn." In K-12 classrooms throughout Delaware County, educators are using creative methods and tools to involve students in hands-on activities that result in life-long learning. Ball Brothers Foundation’s role in this process is to partner with school districts and provide funds for the “extras” that move programs beyond the basics to achieve a margin of excellence.

In 2018 our total grant payout was a record-setting $7.69 million, and of that number, almost $1 million was allocated for projects within Delaware County’s public schools. Although grant amounts were modest, they launched, restarted, or expanded several student-centered initiatives. On the pages of this year’s annual report we offer a sampling of programs that are igniting innovation and promoting continuous improvement. You’ll read about:

• a leadership organization that links students to postsecondary opportunities and introduces them to potential careers
• an outdated library that has been transformed into a 21st century media center, complete with a newsroom and STEM lab
• classes that are helping elementary school students gain proficiency in two languages
• an underutilized storage space that has emerged as the creativity hub for its K-12 school population

In many ways 2018 was a year of celebration. Among the highlights: Ball State University marked its 100th anniversary, and BSU President Geoff Mearns honored Ball Brothers Foundation with a bronze likeness of Beneficence in recognition of our shared history. This long collaboration continues as the university received a $1 million foundation grant to identify and address areas of need within Muncie Community Schools. We agree with President Mearns’ assessment that “the future of Muncie is dependent on the quality of our public schools.”

In October we presented our Fisher Governance Award to Leigh Edwards for her leadership as president of the Muncie Civic Theatre’s board of directors. The award, now in its eighth year, includes a grant to the recipient’s organization.

The STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering, and math—were well represented in our annual Excellence in Teaching Award program. Kristy Thompson, a math teacher at Wapahani High School, earned top honors in a very competitive field. Finalists were Emily Shepherd, a math and computer science teacher at Burris Laboratory School, and Candace (Smithson) Neal, a science teacher at Cowan High School.

We successfully completed the first year of our new strategic plan that will guide us through 2022. Helping to implement the new plan will be Beth Bracken, a fourth generation Ball family member who participated in our three-year associate director orientation program and accepted our invitation to join the Board of Directors.

A special thank-you goes to Doug Foy, who retired at the end of December after 43 years as a Ball Brothers Foundation board member. Doug, who was our treasurer for 35 of those years, has the distinction of being the longest serving non-family board member in the foundation’s history. His tenure gave us continuity, and his leadership instilled respect for the past and enthusiasm for the future.
The good news arrived on July 11, when Delaware County learned its eight public school districts had received a $1.39 million grant to address the counseling needs of their more than 12,000 students. The funds were awarded by Lilly Endowment Inc. to implement a plan that emerged from a unique collaboration of area educators and residents. The group, working as the Delaware County Comprehensive Counseling Coalition, created a detailed system designed to give students the social-emotional, academic and career guidance they need to develop and achieve productive lives.

“It feels like we’re writing history,” says Tammy Pearson, executive director of Project Leadership, the organization that facilitated the coalition’s many sessions and submitted the joint grant application. “We came together, huddled in the board room of the Chamber of Commerce, and over the course of three months, built a plan.” The group continues to meet monthly and has earmarked funds for joint projects. “They’ve agreed to hire a professional evaluator who will work individually with each school corporation and also will present an aggregate picture of our comprehensive counseling efforts within the county,” explains Pearson. In September 2019 the coalition will sponsor an “industry expo”—a much expanded version of “career day”—that will introduce high school freshmen to a range of professions and the education that each requires.

Forming partnerships to benefit students has been a priority of Project Leadership since its launch 18 years ago. Supported by annual Ball Brothers Foundation grants totaling $1.14 million since 2012, Project Leadership has achieved exemplary success. Most notably, its collaboration with Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars program has resulted in more than 5,000 Delaware County students enrolling in the previously under-utilized state initiative that strives to make post-secondary education attainable for all. Whereas a decade ago only 28 percent of eligible seventh and eighth graders signed on as 21st Century Scholars, this year 79 percent are participating in the program.

Pearson credits Ball Brothers Foundation not only with providing consistent financial support—this year’s grant was for $150,000—but also for providing consistent encouragement. “The Foundation has been a measured risk taker,” she says. “It’s been willing to listen and consider unique ideas and programming that covers new ground. The number one reason for our success in Delaware County is that we’ve had a visionary partner who has walked alongside us—not in front of us—to help elevate what we’re doing.”
If you build it, they will come

The Timing was Perfect.

Daleville Junior/Senior High School was midway through renovating its library when budget restraints halted the project. The walls and shelves were freshly painted white and new black and gray carpet was in place, but other upgrades—furniture, circulation desk, broadcast studio, STEM equipment—were put on hold. Then came the opportunity to apply for a Ball Brothers Foundation grant for up to $50,000. The invitation, issued to six county school districts, stipulated that proposed improvements should directly benefit students and enhance the academic environment of the schools. “We said, ‘Let’s finish what we started,’” recalls Kristen Flowers, the school’s treasurer. “Let’s complete our vision for a media center where kids can gather, collaborate and learn.”

In June, all six districts received funds to address the needs outlined in their proposals. Liberty Perry Schools and Delaware Community School Corporation could purchase digital devices for their students; Cowan could rehab its playground and complete its security camera system; Yorktown could work with Columbia University to train elementary teachers in a highly effective reading intervention and design a new district website; and Wes-Del could establish a sixth grade academy to ease the transition from elementary to middle school.

The Daleville library project, which the school had dubbed “If You Build It, They Will Come,” regained momentum. By the beginning of the 2018-19 school year the space had morphed into a modern resource center designed to attract and engage students. New furniture was in place, STEM equipment was waiting in the refurbished makerspace/hackerspace lab, books were on order and the production studio was up and running. The grant also enabled faculty member Melissa Crist and two students to attend Ball State University’s summer journalism workshop. “It was a little overwhelming at first, but I learned so much,” says Crist. Through trial and error, her students quickly mastered the equipment in the new production studio and were writing, editing and anchoring news broadcasts. Their efforts not only strengthened their communication skills but also gave visibility to high performing classmates.

“My favorite parts of the broadcasts are the segments that recognize student achievements,” says Eric Douglas, principal. When an student earned a perfect score on the PSAT, Bronco Broadcasting aired an interview. When members of the school’s robotics team competed at Purdue University, the student body learned of their success. “The news goes out to everyone, including parents and people in the community who subscribe,” explains Douglas. “It lets people know what’s going on in their school.”

Ball Brothers Foundation grants have enabled county schools to purchase instructional tools that range from drones to e-tablets.
Two Ball Brothers Foundation grants are helping Delaware County’s largest school district—Muncie Community Schools—achieve a margin of excellence in the classroom and the boardroom. An early example of instructional innovation is unfolding at West View Elementary School where 24 kindergartners, enrolled in the county’s only dual language immersion program, are spending 80 percent of their class time communicating in Spanish and 20 percent in English. “There’s a lot of gesturing at first,” explains Eric Ambler, building principal. “Our teachers are very expressive and use pictures to build bridges and make connections.” Confidence grows as the students learn to move seamlessly from Spanish to English and back again. Now in its second year, the program has expanded to include a first grade cohort, and plans are in place to add one class level annually until all five grades offer a dual language opportunity. “The program is growing, and the entire school is benefiting,” says Ambler.

The focus of Muncie’s grant-supported programs is to prepare the district’s 5,000+ students for future success. In the case of the West View language immersion program, cohort participants who persist in their Spanish studies can follow a path that continues through middle school and high school and leads to college credits. “Regardless of their career plans, graduates who are fluent in two languages have an advantage in the job market,” says Ambler.

Since 2014, Ball Brothers Foundation has made grants totaling $1.4 million to MCS as the district has worked to consolidate buildings, update curriculum, recruit a diverse staff, and confront a range of financial challenges. Funds have helped add an instructional technology facilitator, secure a learning management system and initiate digitally rich courses.

This year the Foundation awarded $1 million to Ball State University to support a historic BSU-MCS partnership that gives the university the responsibility to appoint a school board to manage MCS. The three-year Ball Brothers Foundation grant will help fund the drafting of a plan that BSU President Geoffrey Mearns describes as a “strategic framework for the future of the public schools.” Also in the works are professional development opportunities for MCS faculty and an academic innovation summit set for September 2019.

The BSU-MCS agreement, approved by the Indiana Legislature, took effect in May and by the end of the year Mearns was expressing optimism: “We’ve already seen great progress in the areas of financial stability, strong governance practices and a better-than-projected enrollment trend.”
By 8:30 a.m., students in Becky Juday’s fifth grade class at Burris Laboratory School are preparing to launch rafts they’ve built from materials gathered in the woods of Delaware County. The “river” is a large vat of water placed in the middle of the school’s new Innovation Center. The assignment caps a lesson that has blended literature, history, geography and science. The students first read a story set in the wilds of Canada’s Northwest Territories and then were challenged to design rafts capable of navigating the Nahanni River and delivering the story’s characters to safety. As teams place their boats in the choppy water—churned by a student armed with a pine branch—classmates monitor, photograph and time each journey. Then they jot down their observations for later reflection.

“We sank in 20 seconds, but that’s okay because we can’t learn if we always succeed,” says a team captain. “Failure makes us think about other ways to solve a problem.”

Classmates, faculty and administrators echo his sentiment. “We’re trying to build resiliency, grit and intensity in our students,” explains Dawn Miller, principal. “Failure is part of what we do.” Funded by a Ball Brothers Foundation grant, the Innovation Center opened in September and quickly became the creativity hub of the school. Its colorful walls reinforce its hands-on approach to learning. Puffy white clouds contain key words: Imagination. Persistence. Curiosity. Collaboration. Focus. “We totally revamped the space from top to bottom,” says Miller. Researchers from Ball State University’s educational psychology department assisted in the effort to design an environment that encourages critical thinking among students at all grade levels from kindergarten through high school.

The Ball Brothers Foundation grant that enabled the Innovation Center to move from idea to implementation also expanded the duties of Abbie Comber, assistant principal and instructional coach. She works with new and veteran faculty members to brainstorm learning experiences that engage students in cross-curricular activities such as the Canadian raft adventure. “The failure-to-success mindset is present in our teachers as well as our students,” says Comber. “We’re always asking ourselves, ‘How can we do better?’ As a result, our teachers are constantly evaluating and fine-tuning their lessons as we learn what works best.”
Financial Information

Statement of receipts and disbursements
Year Ended December 31, 2018

Receipts
Interest and Dividends ........................................ $ 2,860,192
Net Realized Gains ........................................... 9,391,362
Other ............................................................... 325,098
Net Receipts ...................................................... $ 12,576,652

Disbursements
Grants Paid ....................................................... $ 7,689,175
Investment Management ........................................ 735,970
Administrative and Program Expense .................... 1,288,694
Federal Excise Tax .............................................. 183,301
Total Disbursements ........................................... $ 9,919,140

Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements .................. $ 2,657,512

Statement of financial position
Year Ended December 31, 2018

Assets
Cash .......................................................... $ 82,000
Investments ................................................... 166,109,000
Other Assets .................................................. 7,000
Total Assets .................................................... $ 166,198,000

Mission
The 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.

Grant Focus Areas
- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Services
- Public Affairs/Society Benefit

Board of Directors
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Jenna Wachtman
program officer
Donna Munchel
program officer & grants manager
Michelle Stephenson
executive assistant & communications coordinator

Information about the process for applying for grants and grant deadlines is available at ballfdn.org

Grants paid in 2018

American Red Cross ........................................... $ 75,000
Ball State University ........................................... 1,351,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware County .......... 10,000
Boys & Girls Club of Muncie ................................ 215,000
BYFs .............................................................. 45,000
Cardinal Greenway, Inc. ....................................... 475,000
Christian Ministries of Delaware County .............. 2,375
College Mentors for Kids ................................... 5,000
Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County ... 5,000
Cornerstone Center for the Arts .............................. 189,995
Cowan Community Schools .................................. 32,660
Crossroads of America Council ............................. (Roy Scouts of America) $ 5,000
Daleville Community Schools .............................. 50,000
Delaware Advancement Corporation ....................... 5,000
Delaware Community School Corporation ............... 50,000
Delaware County Historical Society ....................... 30,000
Delaware County Sheriff’s Office .......................... 2,500
Destiny Christian Academy-Yorktown, Inc. .......... 5,000
East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, Inc. .... 80,000
eceREHAB of Muncie, Inc. ................................ 47,500
Grant County Soil & Water Conservation District .... 25,000
Greater Muncie, IN Habitat for Humanity ............. 211,000
Hillcroft Services, Inc. ................................ ... 50,000
Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry ................................ 2,000
Huffer Memorial Children’s Center ....................... 27,500
Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. .................... 75,000
Indiana Humanities ......................................... 1,000
Indiana Philanthropy Alliance ............................. 10,670
Indiana University School of Medicine - Muncie .... 50,000
Indiana Youth Institute ...................................... 60,000
IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital Foundation ....... 75,000
Ivy Tech Foundation ........................................... 500,000
James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association .......... 100,000
Liberty Perry Community School Corporation ......... 65,000
Liberty Savings Foundation ................................. 85,000
LifeStream Services ......................................... 20,000
Meridian Health Services ................................... 26,000
Mid Indiana Trails ............................................. 40,000
Minnestrina ..................................................... 2,625,000
Motivate Our Minds, Inc. ................................... 40,000
Muncie Action Plan ........................................... 5,000
Muncie Arts & Culture Council .......................... 10,000
Muncie Civic Theatre ......................................... 25,000
Muncie Community Schools ................................. 143,723
Muncie Downtown Development Partnership ......... 5,000
Muncie Home Ownership & Revitalization .......... 5,000
Muncie Land Bank, Inc ...................................... 30,000
Muncie Public Library ......................................... 5,000
Muncie Sports Commission, Inc. ......................... 60,310
Muncie Symphony Orchestra ............................... 15,000
Music for All ................................................... 30,000
Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art) ............... 5,000
Project Leadership ............................................. 190,000
Purdue Polytechnic Institute ................................ 95,000
Red-tail Land Conservancy ................................ 50,000
Ross Community Center .................................... 151,460
Saint Lawrence Catholic School ............................ 4,912
Shaker Leadership Academy ............................... 35,000
Sustainable Muncie Corporation ......................... 25,000
TeenWorks ....................................................... 30,000
United Day Care Center of Delaware County, Inc. ... 15,250
United Way of Delaware County .......................... 75,000
Urban Light CDC ............................................. 4,000
Wes-Dei Community Schools .............................. 50,000
YMCA of Muncie .............................................. 5,000
Yorktown Community Schools ......................... 50,000
Youth Opportunity Center, Inc. ......................... 50,000
YWCA of Muncie ............................................. 20,000
Total Grant Payments in 2018 ............................... $ 7,689,175
Ball Brothers Foundation’s board, associate directors, and staff are pictured at the Walnut Street roundabout in front of “The Passing of the Buffalo” statue created by Cyrus E. Dallin in 1929.


Ball Brothers Foundation

THE LEGACY CONTINUES
1926 - TODAY

222 S. Mulberry Street, Muncie, IN 47305
Mailing: P.O. Box 1408, Muncie, IN 47308

(765) 741-5500 • Fax: (765) 741-5518
www.ballfdn.org