When it was created in 1916, The Indianapolis Foundation became one of the earliest community foundations in the United States. Unlike private foundations, this new “public charity” received contributions from a wide variety of visionary donors which were then granted out in order to address a broad range of community needs left unaddressed by local, state or federal government.

The Indianapolis Foundation was made possible by men and women who cared as much about others in the community as they cared about the community itself. They made and combined charitable gifts to the Foundation as an endowment that would become the cornerstone to our community’s philanthropy — and in many ways, to Central Indiana.

Yet the people who created The Indianapolis Foundation shared more than money or assets: they shared common values and beliefs about what would make Indianapolis, and later, Central Indiana, a better community for everyone.

These values led to the strategic partnership between The Indianapolis Foundation and Legacy Fund, Hamilton County’s community foundation, in 1997, the partnership that became Central Indiana Community Foundation. CICF also includes special interest funds including: Women’s Fund of Central Indiana; The Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund; Summer Youth Program Fund; and Central Indiana Senior Fund.

Much has changed since The Indianapolis Foundation was created nearly 100 years ago with charitable gifts of $2 million. Today CICF has more than $720 million of charitable assets under management, and now spearheads important community initiatives that transcend grant-making and will transform and shape Central Indiana for generations to come.

Yet the core values that made The Indianapolis Foundation possible remain unchanged: CICF and its affiliates are made possible by donors who are committed to a vision of the community’s future, and their care and compassion for the men, women and children who live here. This was their vision — this was your vision — in 2014.
I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

— Mother Teresa
In critical ways, our families are both the nature and nurture in our lives. In 2014, CICF and its affiliates supported many not-for-profits whose focus is on strengthening what may be our single most valuable institution, and a common denominator that binds us all.

This support included grants that helped improve early childhood development, innovations in learning and education, access to job training and assistance for adults, and public spaces and greenways designed to allow children and parents alike to enjoy the simple pleasures we all share.

A VALUE ON FAMILIES

In 2009 CICF—along with the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) — helped create, launch and incubate the Centers for Working Families program. Many of these “wrap-around” support and integrated services are located in Indianapolis community centers and combine social services with financial literacy and financial capability building as part of CICF’s Family Success Initiative.

By 2014, eight Centers for Working Families served more than 5,700 families in Marion County. Nearly one-third of participants (1,626) found new employment and of those, 1,324 people increased their net income. Almost 1,000 people increased their net worth by $8,333 (on average). In September 2014, CICF chose United Way of Central Indiana to spearhead efforts to expand and sustain the Center for Working Families program in order to help more families in our community succeed.

SMALL LOANS, BIG PAYOFF

Grameen America Indianapolis helps low-income borrowers invest in their small business ideas by supplementing a microloan with financial training and support. In 2011, CICF helped raise $6 million to bring Grameen America to Indianapolis. Since then, it has grown to serve nearly 2,200 members. Through 2014, the organization reported distributing a total of $5.5 million via more than 4,200 loans. The organization is funded in part by The Indianapolis Foundation, Women’s Fund of Central Indiana, a CICF affiliate, as well as The Glick Fund and Efroymson Family Fund, both funds of CICF.

THE FAMILY IS ONE OF NATURE’S MASTERPIECES.
— GEORGE SANTAYANA
In 1909, George Edward Kessler, one of the preeminent landscape architects in the United States, presented his Park and Boulevard Plan to the City of Indianapolis. Founded in part upon the City Beautiful movement, Kessler’s was an urban-planning concept that believed a city’s design, social issues and civic pride and engagement were forever intertwined. Kessler’s plan combined parks and scenic boulevards hugging the city’s waterways, and ultimately included more than 3,700 acres of parks and greenways. That the Plan included major regional parks around the city — Garfield, Ellenberger, Riverside and University among them — helped ensure its ratification and acceptance because it featured community-wide benefits that everyone could enjoy.

In 2014, CICF and its affiliates supported not-for-profits imbued in the same belief: our natural and built environments create a strong fabric that can bond and inspire us when it benefits everyone. From Noblesville’s Shakespeare in the Park to free concerts from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at Garfield Park, Carmel’s Coxhall Gardens and so many others, CICF and its donors were committed to sharing the wealth of the many spaces that give Central Indiana its true sense of place.

CICF'S INSPIRING PLACES INITIATIVE
Created in 2005, CICF's Inspiring Places Initiative has spearheaded community-wide transformation through The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick, which was officially completed in 2013. After CICF developed the concept and raised more than $1 million in private funding, Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. unveiled the Indiana Pacers Bikeshare program in April, 2014. With 25 stations hosting 250 bikes, in less than six months, the program had been used more than 74,000 times.

In important ways, Reconnecting Our Waterways (ROW), co-founded by CICF, carries Kessler’s philosophy of using our natural amenities and attributes forward. ROW is a grassroots initiative designed to reclaim the benefits of Indianapolis’ waterways — to make opportunities for physical, human and economic development that focuses on Fall Creek, Pleasant Run, the Central Canal, Little Eagle Creek, Pogue’s Run and the White River waterways.

In December 2013, CICF received a $1.4 million grant from the Kresge Foundation in support of ROW. In May 2014, two communities — Fall Creek and Pleasant Run — received $210,000 for three creative place-making projects using Kresge and CICF funding. These projects include shade shelters, a railing at Prospect Falls, new public art sculptures, and graduated stone seating for performances and children’s play.
Educational attainment is a critical asset for everyone in Central Indiana. A good education brings those who earn it a chance to explore, identify and realize their dreams. It also nurtures the curiosity and analytical skills needed to help us recognize, understand and address the complex issues and challenges we all face individually and as a community. And a well-educated populace is the cornerstone for success in today’s knowledge-based economy.

CICF’s donors believe in the power of education; of the more than $38 million grants awarded in 2014, $9 million+ was awarded to not-for-profits focused on educational attainment. These awards were made to bolster capacity and services provided by schools, libraries, colleges and universities and other innovative institutions that make it possible for us to dream . . . and succeed.

COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS INITIATIVE
CICF’s College Readiness and Success Initiative has traditionally focused on ensuring that students from at-risk populations completed high school curricula that qualified them for entry into a college or vocational school. Additional focus in 2014 was directed to the framework — counselors, mentors and parents — that surrounds these students.

With CICF’s support, in 2014 Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township added a Director of College and Career Readiness to focus on postsecondary education. A similar pilot program was implemented at the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township.

Decatur Township also increased its percentage of seniors filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by 10 percent as part of a countywide FAFSA Completion Challenge initiated by CICF and the competition’s success was featured on the U.S. Department of Education blog in September 2014.

But getting students into college or vocational school is only part of the equation, especially for first-generation students who don’t have a family member with postsecondary degree experience. In 2014, CICF began implementing a framework these students can call on after they begin their postsecondary academic careers in an effort to ensure that they don’t just start on a degree . . . they complete it.
Legacy Fund of Hamilton County was established in 1991 to allow Hamilton County residents to create a living legacy through philanthropy. Previously, the Carmel-Clay Community Foundation and Hamilton County Parks Foundation had received donations primarily in the form of bequests, but with the establishment of Legacy Fund, local philanthropists had a greater opportunity to make an impact during their lifetimes.

In 1997, Legacy Fund partnered with The Indianapolis Foundation to create the Central Indiana Community Foundation. Today all three organizations work to provide a broader level of charitable giving services, support and community leadership to Central Indiana.

Legacy Fund’s impact on Hamilton County has been profound. By 2014, Legacy Fund had played a role in distributing more than $12 million to support higher education and awarded or distributed funds that made more than 1,500 scholarships possible. It had also made more than $45 million in grants — $3 million in 2014 alone — to Hamilton County not-for-profits providing health and human services, education, arts and culture and other fields of interest.

The outcome of this support includes an array of community-wide services and programs such as Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission, Meals on Wheels of Hamilton County, Prevail, Habitat for Humanity, Riley Children’s Foundation, the LINK Advisory Council, a youth-based philanthropic council created by Legacy Fund, and Hamilton County’s Youth Assistance Program, among others.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Once a child enters the criminal justice system it often becomes very difficult to leave it. Developed in 2009, the Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program combines school-based intervention with mentoring support and other services to help children who face challenging life-circumstances avoid that first interaction with the criminal justice system.

Legacy Fund has played an instrumental role in providing support to the Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program and has helped launch the program in six county high schools. Last year, two communities, Westfield and Noblesville, became self-sustaining from Legacy Fund financial support. Over a five year period, interactions with the juvenile criminal justice system dropped from 1,616 to 935. These results allow Legacy Fund to continue development of the program in other Hamilton County communities including a recent expansion to Hamilton Heights.
The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

— Alan Watts
A COMMUNITY IS LIKE A SHIP; EVERYONE OUGHT TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE HELM.

— HENRIK IBSEN

CICF has the honor and privilege of working with donors who passionately believe in their mission. This provides us for us to support effective not-for-profits in a broad field of interests for both individuals and organizations, providing successful, satisfying, and sustainable places to live or visit in the United States.
DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS’ WESTERN SKYLINE AT SUNSET.

ASSETS $713,335,654
Combined assets of more than 800+ funds

CONTRIBUTIONS $27,923,395
Total contributions into funds at CICF

GRANTS BY FIELD OF INTEREST $38,741,441
More than 1,500 grants in field of interest areas by individual funds

A. CICF 57% $407,406,104
INCLUDES INDIANAPOLIS PARKS - $10,096,569; MCCA FW - $1,059,358

B. The Indianapolis Foundation 36% $253,245,997
INCLUDES WM ENGLISH FOUNDATION - $6,569,755; CULTURAL TRAIL - $204,939

C. Legacy Fund 7% $52,683,553
INCLUDES SHEEHAN FF - $6,332,306

A. CICF 50% $13,898,690

B. The Indianapolis Foundation 39% $10,827,882

C. Legacy Fund 11% $3,196,823

A. Arts & Culture 16% $6,231,141

B. Civic & Community Improvement 17% $6,592,366

C. Education 26% $9,933,703

D. Environment 9% $3,341,336

E. Health & Human Services 33% $12,642,894
Community building — and transformation — is indeed a process that requires vision, patience, empathy, commitment, collaborative support, leadership . . . and perhaps most importantly, time. Today we stand on the shoulders of generations of donors and leaders who were committed to these principles. With the passage of time, we can assess their impact upon our community and it is truly breathtaking.

The list of not-for-profit organizations that would not be possible without support from CICF or its affiliates is staggering. More so is the volume of services that could not be offered to people in our community who need a hand as they climb out of generational poverty, work to become the first person in their family to earn a college degree, or enjoy access to art, nature and beauty every day.

We’re proud to say that we are the singular foundation for that support, we are extraordinarily focused on a vision, and are ever approaching our goal of transforming Central Indiana into the very best community it can be for everyone who lives here.

CICF is extraordinarily focused on a vision, and we are close to achieving our goal of transforming Central Indiana into a Top 10 region of choice for highly educated, creative, entrepreneurial and community-minded people. This simply wouldn’t be possible without our donors, and it was our incredible honor to support your charitable intentions in 2014. We are here for good, and we are here because of you.

Sincerely,

Brian Payne

President and CEO

Central Indiana Community Foundation / The Indianapolis Foundation

We’re proud to say that we have been the philanthropic partner of choice for generations of passionate and devoted donors in Central Indiana. Those donors made our community foundation — your community foundation — possible. In important ways, you are their successors, and are now shaping the Central Indiana we will become.

IN BUSINESS, WE SAY THAT PEOPLE OVERESTIMATE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN A YEAR AND UNDERESTIMATE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN A DECADE. THIS IS TRUE IN PHILANTHROPY AS WELL.

— MARC BENIOFF
Central Indiana’s charitably-minded citizens have long turned to CICF and its affiliates to help make their philanthropy its most powerful. We’re proud to have played this trusted and valuable role in transforming our community alongside each of our donors. We thank you so much, and do hope you will let us know how we can help.