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Largest Bequest in HCCF History Establishes Huron Family Fund to Benefit Hendricks County for Generations

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) is proud to announce a transformational \$1.74 million bequest from the estate of Joyce Huron Hutchens Trent—the largest bequest in the Community Foundation’s history.

This extraordinary gift establishes the Huron Family Fund, a permanent charitable resource that will support the evolving needs of Hendricks County while honoring Joyce’s deep roots in Washington Township and her lifelong commitment to education, community, and opportunity.

Joyce established a charitable remainder trust in 1997 in partnership with the Hendricks County Community Foundation. Through this thoughtful plan, she received income during her lifetime, with the remaining assets designated to benefit the community she loved. Following her passing in 2024 at the age of 98, that vision has now become a lasting legacy.

A lifelong resident of Avon and a descendant of Hendricks County pioneer families, Joyce carried a deep pride in her heritage. Her family’s roots in Washington Township date back generations, including land once farmed by her ancestors and contributions to early local schools. Despite early hardship—including losing her father as a toddler and being raised in part by extended family while her mother worked—Joyce built a remarkable life defined by perseverance and generosity.

Beginning with a newspaper route as a child, she went on to a 45-year career in banking, ultimately serving as a vice president and loan review officer. Along the way, she remained deeply connected to her community—supporting education, volunteering with young people, and preserving local history, including her significant support of the Huron Heritage Room at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library.

“This is a remarkable and deeply meaningful gift—not only because of its size, but because of the story and the trust behind it,” said William Rhodehamel, President & CEO of HCCF. “Joyce believed in this community and in the power of thoughtful planning to create lasting impact. Through the Huron Family Fund, her legacy will continue to strengthen Hendricks County for generations.”

The Huron Family Fund is structured as a flexible, quasi-endowed fund, allowing the Community Foundation’s Board of Directors to respond to changing community needs while remaining guided by Joyce’s charitable interests. Those interests included supporting education, preserving local history, and investing in the well-being of residents in Washington Township and beyond.

As an initial step in bringing Joyce’s vision to life, HCCF has approved a grantmaking strategy that includes:

- Establishing the Huron Family Scholarship, which will be awarded annually to a graduating student from Avon High School. The inaugural award will total \$40,000, providing \$10,000 per

year for up to four years of college. In recognition of Joyce's family experience—both of her parents were deaf and met at the Indiana School for the Deaf—preference will be given to students with a hearing impairment.

- Creating dedicated annual support for North Lawn Cemetery, located on U.S. 36 next to Avon Town Hall and Blue Heron Park, preserving a place of deep historical and personal significance to Joyce and her family.
- Providing flexible grant funding to address current and emerging community needs through HCCF's competitive grantmaking process.

In addition, a portion of the fund's annual distributions will be reserved to ensure long-term sustainability and the ability to respond to future opportunities.

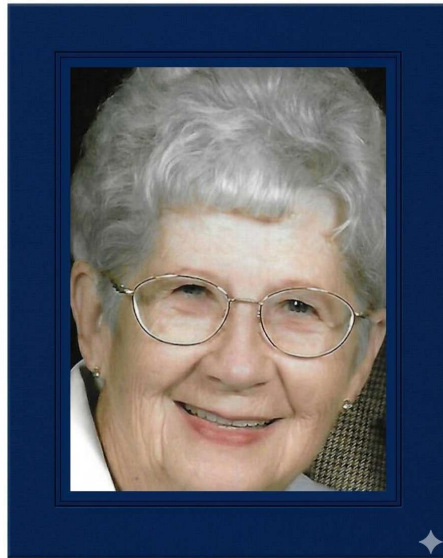
Deedee Daniel, HCCF's first Executive Director, worked with Joyce in the mid-1990s to establish the original charitable trust. Reflecting on that time, Daniel shared, "Joyce was such a wonderful person with a brilliant mind who cared deeply about this community. She thought carefully about how she could make a difference, and this gift is the result of that vision."

By combining immediate grantmaking with long-term investment, the Huron Family Fund will have a lasting and growing impact—particularly in Washington Township, where Joyce's family history began and where her legacy will continue to be felt.

"This is what community philanthropy makes possible," Rhodehamel added. "A gift like this allows us to listen, respond, and invest in what matters most—both today and far into the future."

The establishment of the Huron Family Fund marks a milestone moment for the Hendricks County Community Foundation and stands as a powerful example of how legacy giving can shape a community for generations.

For more information about the Huron Family Fund or ways to create your own charitable legacy, visit www.hendrickscountycf.org or call the HCCF office at 317-268-6240.



Joyce Huron Hutchens Trent

The Mission of the Hendricks County Community Foundation: To be a trusted community partner in understanding needs, aligning resources, and empowering people to address today's priorities and create lasting impact. Our vision is Hendricks County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together. The Community Foundation manages assets of over \$40 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2025 the Community Foundation gave over \$2.35M in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to local students. For more information, call 317-268-6240 or visit www.hendrickscountycf.org.

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