

# NEWSLETTER



## A Season of Growth for Henry County



Spring is a time of regeneration. Days become longer, flowers burst from the ground, and hope is awakened. As we welcome this new season, we are filled with gratitude and optimism for what lies ahead for our community.

At the heart of our Foundation is a simple but powerful purpose, bringing together generous donors and dedicated nonprofit partners to meet the needs of today while investing in hope for tomorrow. This year, more than ever, we are seeing how collaboration, compassion, and shared vision can create meaningful and lasting change.

Our donors continue to inspire us with their commitment to making a difference close to home. Through thoughtful giving, they address immediate needs while also strengthening the future of our community. At the same time, our nonprofit partners are doing extraordinary work. While carrying a heavy load, they are responding to evolving needs, serving our most vulnerable, and helping our community grow and thrive.

Just like spring's first blooms, these are signs of progress and possibility. Together, we are expanding opportunity, strengthening connections, and ensuring our community remains a place where everyone can flourish.

Thank you for being part of this important work. Your support, partnership, and belief in our shared mission make all the difference. As we move into this new season, we look forward to building an even stronger, more vibrant community with you.

With gratitude and hope,

President and Executive Director



### HCCF Annual Meeting

**June 23, 2026**

First Baptist Church

12:00 PM

### Women's Circle of Friends Grantmaking Gala

**September 8, 2026**

The Crossing on 38

Cocktail Hour - 5:00

# What is the Choose Henry Flex Fund?

The Choose Henry Flex Fund brings together donor gifts to support projects that make Henry County stronger. From big, transformative initiatives to smaller efforts, these combined dollars create real impact where it's needed most. It matters because it allows us to respond to changing needs and invest in the ideas and organizations that help our community thrive.



## Choose Henry Grants April 2025 - March 2026

**Academy Place Apartments** - Christmas at the Academy  
**Ambassadors for God's Creatures** - Henry County animal assistance  
**Art Association of Henry County** - Technology upgrades  
**Beautify Knightstown, Inc.** - Landscaping for the new Memorial Circle at Glen Cove  
**City of New Castle** - Lifeguard certification  
**Eastern Indiana Works** - Tables and chairs for HC career day  
**First Christian Church** - Bell tower renovation  
**God's Grain Bin** - Update food storage, 2025 summer intern, Audit  
**Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department** - Generator  
**Healthy Communities of Henry County** - 2025 summer intern  
**Heart of Indiana United Way** - Dolly Parton Imagination Library  
**Ivy Tech Foundation** - Natural play space for Head Start classroom  
**Kennard VFD** - Turnout gear  
**Kennard Crusaders** - Holiday Uplift  
**Little Red Door Cancer Agency** - Supplements for Henry County clients  
**Memorial Wesleyan Church** - Castle Kids Daycare - Group games and cafeteria tables  
**Middletown/Fall Creek Township Park Department** - 2025 Summer intern  
**Muncie Area Disc Golf Club** - Memorial Park course  
**New Castle Little League Baseball** - Completion of batting cages



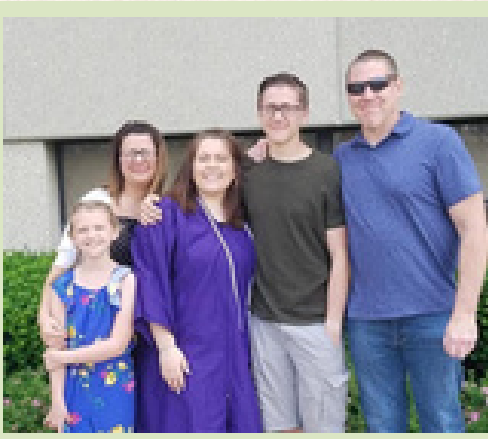
## Choose Henry Grants April 2025 - March 2026

**New Castle Main Street Inc.** - Preserving Main Street Revolving Loan Fund  
**New Castle Police Department** - Digital forensic tool  
**New Castle School Corporation** - Enclosed trailer for the choir, NCHS pantry nonperishables and hygiene items, Tiny Trojan expansion, Camp Better Futures  
**New Castle Kiwanis Service Club** - Shoes for kids program  
**Raintree Habitat for Humanity** - Building materials, 2025 summer intern  
**Safe At Home** - 2025 summer intern  
**Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana** - The Big Idea  
**Servants at Work, Inc. (SAWs)** - Materials for Henry County projects  
**The Henry County Friends of Memorial Park** - Lighting project around Shively Lake  
**Town of Spiceland** - Concrete for fire department bay  
**Victory Lane Camp** - Teens in Mission expansion, 2025 summer intern  
**American Red Cross** - Henry County disaster relief  
**Hope Initiative, Inc.** - Back to school festival  
**Secret Families of Henry County, Inc.** - 2025 Christmas season  
**Shenandoah School Corporation** - FFA Operation Christmas, FFA Legacy Prom

## Keep Reaching the Kids: Choose Henry Flex Fund Grant Helps Renovate the Travis Banta Gymnasium at Agape Learning Center

With a heart for his community and a passion for making a difference in the youth of Henry County, Travis Banta poured his energy into volunteering and spending time with kids and teens.

While a chronic illness had hindered Travis's ability to maintain a full-time job, it did not deter him from investing in the lives of Henry County's youth.



Travis Banta with his family

Travis worked as the part-time maintenance director at Agape Learning Center, often taking time out of his day to get to know the kids who walked through the halls.

When he was not working on the school grounds, Travis could be found playing basketball with kids, spending time with middle school students at Wyld Life Ministries, volunteering in DIVE after-school programs, counseling at church camps, and showing kids in the community the love of God.

Tragically, Travis passed away suddenly at the age of 45.

"Travis was involved in everything, especially when it involved the next generation," shared Agape Learning Center board member Jim Becker. "Travis had a way of making every person feel seen and cared about."

When it came time for some needed renovations to the Agape gym, those involved in the planning knew the right name and right legacy to inspire the project, the Travis Banta Gymnasium.

Looking to create a space for the next generation of Henry County kids, they wanted it to be clean, fun, and engaging. Beyond school activities, they wanted it to be a space the community could use for family nights, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and more.

While they were able to raise funding on their own from generous donors and community members for the first phase of the project, they were concerned about securing funding for the second phase. They decided to participate in a grant cycle at the Henry County Community Foundation.

Through a Choose Henry Flex Fund grant, they completed phase two, which allowed them to purchase two new lunch tables, preschool basketball hoops, a floor scrubber, pickleball nets, a volleyball set, and acoustic panels to help dampen sound. They also installed a rock wall, a slide, and new carpet in the loft space.

Those sound-dampening panels, in particular, have made a noticeable difference in how the space is used every day.

...Story continued

"The grant money used to purchase the sound-dampening panels has greatly helped Agape," shared Megan Watters, Director of Agape Learning Center. "We have students who would struggle in the gym just because it was so loud. Now, we can have several groups of kids in the gym at the same time without it being overwhelmingly loud."

That impact extends beyond the school day.

"Agape recently held a Family Night," Megan said. "We had three inflatables going at the same time with 60 to 70 people in the gym, and you could still hear and talk with the person next to you perfectly. It made communicating with kids and parents very easy. We are very grateful for the grant that helped make the gym a better place for our students."

In addition to serving kids from infancy through kindergarten at Agape Learning Center, they are making great use of the space for the community. Local nonprofit Victory Lane, committed to building a community of people from diverse backgrounds and abilities, has been able to meet for its monthly family night in the gym.

Pleased with the updates and thankful for the help from the Foundation, Jim expressed, "Travis would have loved it! Two months before he passed, he pulled me aside and said, 'Don't ever stop reaching the kids.' We've held on to that and want this to be a place that speaks to the value that youth and kids bring to our community. We hope everyone can use this space, and we're grateful to the Foundation for helping Agape make this possible. We couldn't have done it without the grant."



## CONNECT WITH US

Talk with someone at the office about giving back to your community



[www.henrycountycf.org](http://www.henrycountycf.org)



[info@henrycountycf.org](mailto:info@henrycountycf.org)



765-529-2235



700 S. Memorial Dr. New Castle, IN 47362