

We are
MADISON COUNTY
INDIANA

"We Are Madison County" is a celebration of meaningful, impactful groups and individuals who make up Madison County's unique and cherished culture.

We celebrate community partnerships.

We are human-focused.

We unite, not divide.

We promote, not advertise.

We advocate, not politicize.



Scan the code to sign up for our email list!



CELEBRATING MADISON COUNTY



Mark Thacker
Executive Director

Starting a new year provides the opportunity to look back at recent accomplishments and successes. 2023 had a lot going on for the tourist visiting Madison County as well as for the the resident to enjoy. We promoted over 1,000 events, festivals, and fairs last year. A few of those events stood out and were recognized by receiving our annual awards.

The President's Award is designated for a milestone event, develops a new event, or an event that goes above and beyond. We had two President's Award recipients from last year's efforts.

The Gaslight Festival was resurrected after many years of hiatus to welcome their 50th annual event. Anderson's Historical 8th Street was abuzz with entertainment, vendors, history lessons, art sessions, a car show, carriage rides and historical home tours. Thousands of people attended this event to soak up part of Anderson's history.

Anderson Speedway celebrated their 75th running of The Little 500. The Speedway is busy the entire week of the Little 500 with campers arriving from states away, and with welcoming locals to experience the heart pounding action on Madison County's fastest quarter-mile track. With 10,000 spectators in attendance, a good time is had by all.

The Mark P. Lamey Outstanding Volunteer Award is designated to a volunteer that supports Madison County tourism above themselves.

Tim Lanane was called into action to be Madison County's Bicentennial Chairman. Tim spent nearly two years creating committees and pulling people together to plan and activate our bicentennial. Madison County hosted 85 events during this celebration and every part of the county was engaged.

The common thread to these award recipients is they are driven by quality people that are extremely passionate about Madison County. Congratulations to these organizations, the talented people working on these events, and the volunteers making things happen!



RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN MADISON COUNTY

The anticipation is palpable as Madison County gears up for the Annual Awards celebration hosted by the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, an event that has become a cornerstone in recognizing and celebrating the longevity of businesses in our local community. As the event approaches, the excitement is not only about the awards themselves but also the opportunity to come together and honor the resilience and dedication of businesses that have stood the test of time. The Madison County Chamber Annual Awards have become a symbol of the enduring spirit of entrepreneurship, showcasing the strength and vitality of our local business community.

One of the key elements adding to the buzz is the recognition of businesses that have contributed significantly to the economic growth and development of Madison County over the years. The awards ceremony serves as a platform to acknowledge the enduring commitment of these businesses to their employees, customers, and the community at large. It is a moment to reflect on the journey of these enterprises, their challenges, triumphs, and the positive impact they have had on the local economy. The excitement surrounding the event is not just about the glitz and glamour of the awards but also the sense of pride and unity it instills in the community.

Beyond the individual achievements, the Annual Awards celebration fosters a sense of camaraderie among local businesses. It is a time for networking, collaboration, and shared celebrations of success. The event brings together entrepreneurs, community leaders, and stakeholders to strengthen the bonds that form the foundation of a robust and interconnected business community. As the date approaches, the enthusiasm continues to build, creating an atmosphere of anticipation and eagerness to honor and celebrate the enduring businesses that have played a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape of Madison County.



Clayton Whitson
President & CEO



STUDYING ATTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Ben Davis
President

As many families can attest – locally, regionally, and nationally – the attainability of quality, affordable housing is near crisis level. There is no simple solve, since the issues that underlie housing access are deep, broad, and diverse.

To that end, Madison County Community Foundation and South Madison Community Foundation have engaged Thomas P. Miller & Associates (TPMA) of Indianapolis to conduct a robust study of housing in Madison County. Specifically, to develop a deeper understanding of the local housing climate and the deeper issues at play, then determine approaches to address housing concerns while maximizing our distinct lifestyle advantages. This work is funded by a planning grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative.

Following TPMA's comprehensive analysis of housing stock, condition, and market gaps, utilizing previously gathered data and

engaging with local stakeholders, the Foundations will have the opportunity to formulate an application through a competitive statewide process to potentially access a large scale grant which could help fund remedies.

Neither of the Foundations purport to be a subject-area expert in housing related fields of work, and we realize that many local entities are already engaged in addressing the varied complex issues around attainable housing. We also know there is no “one-size-fits-all” project or initiative that is applicable county-wide, as the housing issues faced by Pendleton residents are not the same as those faced in Alexandria, or Anderson, or Chesterfield, or elsewhere.

Because the scope of the issue extends beyond jurisdiction and manifests differently in each location, if you have data and/or expertise in this area, the Foundations seek your help in accessing content and connections to help create a broad knowledge base and community of support around this issue. Your input will help Madison County wrap its arms and minds around strategies to serve a broader community cause of supplying safe, attainable housing for all.

For more information, email bdavis@madisonccf.org or tammy@southmadisonfoundation.org.



MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

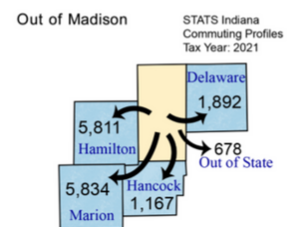
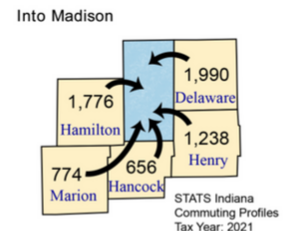
AS THE GRASS STARTS GROWING, SO DOES THE DEVELOPMENT IN MADISON COUNTY...

Winter has appeared to be fairly mild and short, and we head into Spring with exciting economic development announcements. We have four projects gearing up to open facilities in Madison County this year, with over \$150 Million dollars in investment and more than 300 new jobs! These projects, and the jobs that come with them, will have a tremendously positive impact on our local economy.

Many of our local workers currently travel outside of Madison County to find well-paying jobs, but thanks to these developments we will be able to keep our people, and dollars, within our County. The most recent Commuting Profile states Madison County loses 15,382 workers to neighboring counties, and receives 6,434 workers, top 5 of both shown to the right. We would like to retain all of the 15,000 currently leaving our County.

With about 200 project leads per year, our MCED office sees an array of industry types and sizes. Over the last 15 years Madison County has added more than 9,500 new jobs and \$3.5 Billion in new investment. This is due to our strategy of attracting a diversity of industries, and companies within them. Not to mention our diversity of Foreign Direct Investment, with 19 international companies from 9 different countries, and another one on the way. We will continue to seek out these types of projects as we attempt to keep our employees in Madison County, continue to grow the local small business economy alongside them, and expand our quality-of-life opportunities for everyone.

Written by: Rob Sparks, Tonia Simpson, and Monique Flores



*STATS Indiana
Commuting Profiles
Tax Year: 2021*



THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP



Friends Brittany and Zayda sign the Fund Agreement to begin the Buddies Forever Fund

Artists. Fund Founders. Friends.

The Pendleton Chapter of Best Buddies Citizens was Best Buddies International's pilot program for a community-based program pairing adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities in one-to-one friendships. Whether going to a concert, dining at a favorite restaurant, sharing good times and bad, or just doing crafts on a rainy day, friendship is the focus.

In "The Art of Friendship," buddy pairs collaborated with Pendleton Artists Society to create artwork for auction at PAS' ArtFest. The collaboration was successful in bringing awareness to the community of the potential within everyone to create beauty.

The auction was also successful in raising enough money for Best Buddies Citizens to triple their opening donation with

matching funds from Lilly Endowment and open the Buddies Forever Fund at South Madison Community Foundation.

As fund founders, these friends have created a proud accomplishment and lasting legacy of community grants - together.

Written by: Tammy Bowman, Executive Director



**SOUTH MADISON COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
Positive change. Lasting impact.

