

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!

Compiled, and edited by: Brenna Sealy



MEALS WITH WHEELS

A couple of years ago, I wrote about breaking bread to bring friends, family and community together. If we've met, you know this kid likes to eat. I enjoy it most when those moments are shared with others and develop into good discussions and celebrations.

While many have their favorite diner or restaurant, it is hard to deny a trip to a roadside food truck. Saturday, October 3, between 3-7 p.m. at the Blue Bridge Park in downtown Anderson, the Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau is hosting the 2026 White River Food Truck Festival. Showcasing a diverse selection of culinary and adult beverage food truck talents that are owned and operated in Madison County. While we finalize that list, we anticipate approximately twenty offerings that will dazzle your taste buds and quench your thirst. Local artisans will have booths to present and sell their talents as well.

Breaking bread in silence isn't an option. We will kick-start the event with high-energy songs from DJ David Isabelle, before turning the feature stage over to the ever-popular Toy Factory.

Their upbeat live performance will get you out of your seat and in a dancing mood. As this is a family-friendly event, we will have community partners present with family-friendly activities.

All of this couldn't be possible without our partners. We are sending a big thanks to Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino, City of Anderson and Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr, KeyBank, and Shaw Fiber!

Put us on your calendar. Pack the camp chairs and bring your appetite. Join us for free entertainment while supporting many of Madison County's unique food and beverage experiences.



Mark Thacker
Executive Director

White River
**FOOD TRUCK
FESTIVAL**



**Anderson
Madison County**
Visitors Bureau

INTRODUCING JENETTE ROBBINS: MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Some of life's best connections begin with a simple handshake...and before you know it, that handshake turns into a hug.

That is exactly how I found my place in Madison County.

Long before I became Marketing & Membership Manager at the Madison County Alliance, Madison County had already welcomed me with open arms. Through Alliance events, I found more than networking. I found people who genuinely celebrate one another, believe in one another, and understand that when we lift each other up, our entire community shines.

Every event introduced me to a new face, but it never took long before that face became a friend. Every conversation sparked a new opportunity, and before long, Madison County no longer felt like just a place where I worked...it felt like home.

So, when the opportunity to join the Alliance came along, saying "yes" was easy.

I have never met a stranger...only friends I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet. There is nothing I enjoy more than bringing people together, celebrating successes together, and helping others shine. I believe every introduction has the potential to become a partnership, every conversation can spark an opportunity, and every connection makes our community stronger.

I feel fortunate to be part of an organization whose mission reflects my passion for building relationships and strengthening our community. I am excited to help shine a spotlight on the incredible businesses, organizations, and people who make Madison County such a special place.

I hope our paths cross soon. Whether it is at an event, a local business, over a cup of coffee, or simply out and about in our community, I hope we have the chance to connect...and maybe even turn a handshake into a hug.

Because I truly believe the best things happen when people connect.



Jenette Robbins
Marketing & Membership
Manager

GIVING REACHES RECORD HIGHS - AND MADISON COUNTY IS PART OF THE STORY



Ben Davis
Executive Director

Americans demonstrated remarkable generosity in 2025, giving a record \$617.2 billion to charity nationwide, according to the newly released *Giving USA 2026: The Annual Report on Philanthropy*. That represents a 5.7% increase over the previous year, or 3% when adjusted for inflation.

Perhaps most encouraging is that individuals continue to drive charitable giving. Individuals contributed \$394.2 billion – 64% of all charitable giving – while corporations accounted for 7%. Legacy giving also reached a historic high, increasing nearly 20% to \$62.2 billion.

While these national numbers are impressive, philanthropy's greatest impact is often felt close to home. The real story is local.

In Madison County, 533 unique donors contributed more than \$4.3 million to the Madison County Community Foundation in 2025. Now in its 34th year, the Foundation stewards more than \$38 million in charitable assets across 275 named funds, creating a permanent source of support for our community.

During 2025, MCCF awarded more than 130 grants and scholarships totaling over \$1.2 million to support local nonprofits, schools, community organizations, and students. The Foundation also awarded \$175,000 in scholarships, helping local students pursue higher education and invest in their futures.

Philanthropy is about more than donating. It is about investing in the people, organizations, and places we care about – and creating a legacy that can benefit our community for generations.

Whether through a gift during your lifetime, a donor-advised fund, a scholarship, or an estate plan, anyone can make a lasting difference in Madison County.



**MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

SUMMER DREAMS

As the summer rushes past us, our office has had a steady stream of project leads, community meetings, and site development efforts. This new Saica manufacturing building on Park Road in Anderson is nearing completion, and hiring has begun. They are a Spain-based cardboard manufacturing company that uses state-of-the-art processes to produce a very strong, environmentally friendly product that serves many sectors in the US market.

The Park Road reconstruction is also completed and looks great! This effort continues the long list of projects backfilling our county's economy, and each is a welcome addition.

Too often, we forget that many people still need a helping hand and opportunities to begin a career path that can lead them to achieving their American Dream. We remain committed to supporting those individuals and will work every day to fuel economic growth and expand opportunities throughout Madison County. We Are Madison County!



Rob Sparks
Executive Director



Saica Manufacturing Building



LIFELONG LEARNING BEGINS HERE



Emily Hall

Philanthropy Intern

I first learned about South Madison Community Foundation from a professor at my school. I wasn't sure how landscape architecture related to community foundations, and I thought I could end up spending my summer in a job completely unrelated to my field of study. However, from the very first day, I quickly realized I was mistaken.

Whether it's marking graves at the Friends Meeting House, leading project design with students from Lapel High School, marking trails through Markleville Community Park, or developing renderings for an amphitheater, I find myself immersed in local landscape architecture and historic preservation every day. The biggest difference between the work I do at school and the work I do here is the interaction I have with the community. Gathering input from locals and listening to their needs guides my decisions and insights for the organizations I work with.

Through my internship with South Madison Community Foundation, I have had the opportunity to improve my design skills and grow into a project leader. This summer has been an incredible learning experience as I attend meetings, take notes, and contribute to discussions. It has been rewarding to see the tangible impact of my efforts on local groups and to know that my advice is taken seriously.

As I prepare to return to my classes in the fall, the experience I have gained this summer working with Madison County communities will stay with me through future projects related to parks, trails, and even cemeteries.



**SOUTH MADISON COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Positive change. Lasting impact.

