

Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau

MCA MADISON COUNTY ALLIANCE
CHAMBER + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MCED
Madison County · Indiana Economic Development

South Madison Community Foundation

"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

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LEAD COMMUNITY RECOVERY EFFORTS



Mark Thacker
Executive Director

The August 2026 flooding is labeled a thousand-year flood. The type of flood that our grandparents might've shared memories of dating back to 1913. Even then, the recent flood levels surpassed what their memories shared and what dated structural improvements would've imagined. Even the best intentions and efforts need improvement as time continues.

Each of us knows someone directly impacted with this flood. We've seen the destruction, felt their emotion and many have assisted with cleanup and recovery. All of that will take continued resources and time. Many local municipalities, county, state and federal agencies have been involved with supporting our residents.

Along with the much-needed governmental support, there are four major nonprofits that stepped up and continue to support those in our impacted communities: Heart of Indiana United Way, Madison County Community Foundation, South Madison Community Foundation, and the Anderson Gaslight Festival. Those organizations have sourced and contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars, countless volunteer hours, and shared coordinated resources to those in direct need. Their continued efforts have provided critical support to individuals and families as our communities work toward recovery and rebuilding.

With a community in need, so many organizations and individuals have stepped up to help. It truly takes a village. Even through the physical and emotional devastation, I know our communities will recover and bounce back. One step at a time. That's what we do. We Are Madison County!

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BUILDING THE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE TOGETHER

The Madison County Alliance's Future of Madison County luncheon will be held November 12, 2026, at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino. Panel discussions surrounding economic development, business growth, workforce development, quality of life, and talent attraction all point to one central truth: Madison County's future will be shaped by the partnerships we build now. More than a gathering, the event creates an opportunity to look beyond today's challenges and focus on the possibilities ahead.



Marissa Skaggs
Marketing & Membership Manager

The Alliance serves as a connector for employers, community organizations and local leaders, helping transform ideas into action. Through events like Future of Madison County, participants can hear timely updates, exchange perspectives and identify practical ways to support sustainable growth across our communities. The Alliance also hosts monthly Power Up networking mornings, bi-monthly Females Active in Business (FAB) luncheons, and quarterly Wake Up Breakfasts, in addition to the Future of Madison County luncheon.

A strong future requires more than individual success. It depends on collaboration among schools preparing the next generation of employees, employers creating meaningful work-based learning and long-term career opportunities, local governments investing in strong communities, and residents who are committed to helping Madison County thrive.

As Madison County looks forward, this event is a reminder that its greatest asset is its people—and that the future is strongest when the community works together to build it.



Sponsorship and ticket information is available at: www.madisoncountyalliance.org; or feel free to reach out to Patty Lovins, Director of Membership & Events at patty@madisoncountyalliance.org.

MEET OUR FALL STUDENT INTERNS



Ben Davis
Executive Director

Community Foundations in Indiana have the privilege of hiring college student interns, funded through generous support from the Lilly Endowment, to gain real-world experience and make a tangible impact on Foundation effectiveness. This fall, the Madison County Community Foundation is fortunate to have two interns working alongside our professional staff team.

Stella Leakey, hailing from Knightstown, is a Business Administration major at Ball State University. Stella brings a strong background in project management, organization, and leadership. At MCCF, she supports marketing and communications, assists with event planning, and provides key administrative support to foundation staff.

On campus, Stella's experience has included working as a Project Manager for a Ball State agency called the Digital Corps, where she was able to facilitate multiple projects, interact with cross-functional teams, and communicate with a variety of clients across campus. This position allowed her to contribute to her campus in a meaningful way by helping create student, faculty, and campus-wide resources.

Brady Petrie is our second intern, assisting with social media strategy, event planning, and Foundation operations. He is from Van Wert, Ohio. As a Business Communication major at Anderson University, Brady brings meaningful experience in marketing, social media campaigns, and communications to the Foundation.

On campus, Brady works with the Campus Activities Board, where he develops ideas, plans campus events, and supports social media marketing. He also serves as president of the National Communication Association chapter at Anderson University. In Brady's free time, he enjoys acting, singing, and watching the Cincinnati Reds.

Help us welcome these student interns to the Madison County Community Foundation, where we look forward to seeing the impact they make this fall!

MADISON COUNTY
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MAKERS OF THE WELL-MADE



Monique Flores

Project Manager & Community Relations

In August 2026, Madison County experienced one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent memory. Days of heavy rain led to 24 inches of water that caused widespread flooding across Anderson and surrounding communities, damaging homes, businesses, roads, and critical infrastructure. The disaster impacted thousands of residents and left many families facing significant challenges as they began the recovery process.

While the floodwaters caused tremendous damage, they also revealed the strength and resilience of the Madison County community. Almost immediately, neighbors stepped forward to help one another. Volunteers assisted with cleanup efforts, delivered supplies, prepared meals, and supported families who had lost personal belongings. Community organizations, churches, nonprofits, and local businesses worked together to help and connect residents with available resources.

Local agencies and charitable organizations quickly organized relief efforts to help meet both immediate and long-term needs. needs. Donations of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, and financial assistance helped families begin the difficult task of rebuilding. Throughout the county, residents and organizations demonstrated a shared commitment to supporting those affected by the flooding.

The recovery effort highlighted what makes Madison County special. People from all walks of life came together with a common goal of helping their neighbors. Volunteers spent countless hours removing debris, cleaning homes, and assisting families as they worked to recover from the disaster. Businesses contributed resources, community groups organized support efforts, and individuals offered whatever help they could provide.

Although the recovery process will continue for months, the response to the flooding demonstrated the compassion, generosity, and determination that define Madison County. The August 2026 flood will be remembered for the challenges it created, but it will also be remembered as a time when the community united in support of one another. In the face of adversity, Madison County proved that its greatest strength is its people, and that is a story that we continue to share.

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A LOVE LETTER TO THE HELPERS



Kerry Dodd
Associate Director

This August, an unusually rainy stretch in late summer quickly turned to alarm for our neighbors who live along the waterways in Madison County. On August 13th, water rose swiftly — too quickly to think — only act. School buses ferried stranded individuals and families, rescuers boated dogs from a swamped kennel to dry land, utility workers cut power, church shelters opened, and supply and support centers stocked clothing and goods.

South Madison Community Foundation collaborated with the Town of Pendleton to connect more than 350 ready volunteers with those who needed help. Residents and local organizations jumped to offer labor, equipment, and supplies, giving agencies serving larger disasters time to assess and mobilize. Lynn Hobbs, Director of Pendleton Community Library, summed up her appreciation in a love letter to those who helped save the library from incalculable damage.

As immediate needs like evacuation, sheltering, cleaning, and shelter supplies resolved, the time has come to address long-term needs of those affected. SMCF is offering financial and volunteer assistance through Heart of Indiana United Way Long Term Recovery groups, which will guide residents and their properties through the processes that will help with their unmet needs.

As part of a new funders' forum for Madison County, SMCF has helped direct $100,000 to our flood-affected neighbors, with more support forthcoming.

From initial response through resettlement and on to long-term recovery, SMCF walks alongside our neighbors and partners as a resource provider. We are right next door, and always will be.

SOUTH MADISON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Positive change. Lasting impact.