

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### ROBERT "BOB" AND JUDY DECKER WARGEL FUNDS



In 2012, Robert "Bob" Wargel and Judy Decker Wargel, both natives of Evansville, returned to their hometown after careers in the science field and property development. They immersed themselves in the community — building connections and making new friends while giving their time, talent, and treasure to charitable causes that aligned with their passion for helping the community.

To further their support, they established an endowment fund

with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation for additional giving to their favorite charitable causes. With Bob's sudden passing in 2017, Judy and her estate lawyer, Wilfred C. "Bill" Bussing III, worked with the Community Foundation to create a manageable endowment structure and make plans for an estate gift.

*"Bob and Judy's charitable interests were broad and often focused on organizations that struggled to raise money. The Wargels were not motivated by public accolades, but they did recognize the 'magic' of endowed gifts."*

- Wilfred C. "Bill" Bussing III

After Judy's unexpected passing in the spring of 2019, their wishes of supporting the community long after they were gone became reality. This planned gift from the Wargel estate is among the largest received by the Community Foundation and provides seven local nonprofits significant and sustainable support year after year.

The funds are Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Community Good Endowment Fund supporting the Vanderburgh Community Foundation's discretionary grant making; Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment Fund for Conservation supporting Sycamore Land Trust; Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment Fund for the Evansville Police Department Foundation; Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment Fund for the Evansville Zoological Society supporting Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Gardens; Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment Fund for the Homeless supporting Aurora, Inc.; Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment for Housing supporting ECHO Housing Corporation; and the Robert J. and Judy Decker Wargel Endowment Fund for the Reitz Home Preservation Society.

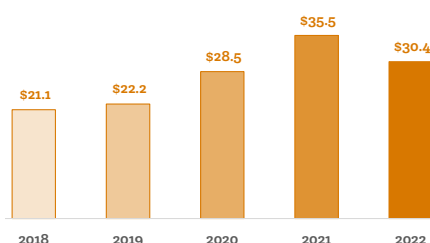
The Wargels will remain a part of the Vanderburgh County philanthropic community **For Good. Forever.**

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## ENDOWED ASSET GROWTH

(In Millions)



## GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA

Arts & Culture	12%
Community Development	4%
Education	7%
Environment	8%
Health	14%
<b>Human Services</b>	<b>47%</b>
Recreation	1%
Religion	1%
Youth Development	6%

## GRANT IN ACTION

### PAVING ACCESS TO HOPE AND SUCCESS

An extensive community needs assessment was conducted in 2019, alongside multiple community stakeholders, which led the Vanderburgh Community Foundation to identify family self-sufficiency as a primary challenge facing the county. The Community Foundation's objective was to identify an area in which philanthropy could play a role by leveraging support from Lilly Endowment's GIFT Initiative and community partners.



Nonprofit partners working to improve family self-sufficiency were brought together to help prioritize needs and identify emerging trends. The concept of wrap-around case management surfaced as a way to provide greater guidance to families striving to improve their financial security. This convening led to the creation of the Paving Access to Hope and Success (PATHS) program providing services like individualized goal planning, identification of resources, and referrals to other supportive services.

Financial support has been developed for the planning and implementation phases of the PATHS program through 2024. To date, the Vanderburgh Community Foundation has dedicated \$302,234 in grant funding and helped secure an

additional \$240,000 from the COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund of the Greater Evansville Region.

*"Local data consistently indicates the importance of addressing challenges related to intergenerational poverty in our community."*

*- Sidney Hardgrave,  
Vanderburgh Community Foundation*

The PATHS program is free for anyone seeking to make positive changes in their life and willing to commit to participating in the program. Support is available for job training, locating employment, and financial management skills, as well as finding solutions to overcome other barriers or challenges. Participating organizations are the Dream Center of Evansville, Memorial Community Development Corporation, and Potter's Wheel.

Initial data indicates the average household income for program participants is \$16,000 per year. The most common needs identified are stable income source (79%), employment assistance (59%), childcare (47%), housing (44%), and transportation (44%).

Through PATHS, people are able to establish their own financial goals and benefit from access to expertise that will help them to identify and navigate the various services available to them to achieve family self-sufficiency.



FUNDS

**180**

endowed



GIFTS

**\$1.5**

million



ASSETS

**\$31.5M**

96% endowed



GRANTS

**\$1.6**

million



SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$604K**

88% LECSP