



MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

WHS Class of 1971 Builds Lasting Legacy for Washington Community Schools

WASHINGTON, Ind. — Our Community Foundation recently awarded a grant to Washington Community Schools through the WHS Class of 1971 Legacy Fund, continuing the class's commitment to giving back to its alma mater.

The grant was presented just prior to the Class of 1971's 55th reunion, celebrated this past weekend in Washington.

As part of the reunion weekend, classmates gathered at the Daviess County Museum to celebrate the fund's progress and the impact their generosity is making at Washington Community Schools.

Washington Community Schools Superintendent Kevin Frank spoke with the group about projects and initiatives supported by grants from the Class of 1971 Legacy Fund. He thanked class members for their support of the school's playground project and four other efforts that help provide opportunities for students throughout the district.

The following afternoon, Tori Peterson led class members on a tour of the high school, giving them an opportunity not only to look back and reminisce about their own school years, but also to see firsthand the difference their support is making for today's students.

"What makes me most proud isn't just how much the fund has grown, but that our classmates built it together. Fifty-five years after we graduated, we're still connected to Washington and still finding ways to give something back," said Doug Lemmon, a member of the WHS Class of 1971 and an advisor to the Legacy Fund. The WHS Class of 1971 Legacy Fund is funded entirely through classmate donations. It was the first legacy fund established by a Washington High School graduating class.

"When you gather for a reunion like this, it's natural to look back—to remember teachers who influenced you, classmates who became lifelong friends, and experiences that helped shape who you are today," said Chris Jarrett, Executive Director of Our Community Foundation. "But what impresses me most about this class is that they haven't stopped looking forward. Through the Class of 1971 Legacy Fund at Our Community Foundation, they have chosen to make sure future generations of students benefit from the same school and community that meant so much to them."

The Class of 1971's example is also inspiring other Washington High School alumni to consider how they can create a lasting impact. The Class of 1991 recently established the WHS Class of '91 Hatchet Legacy Fund, with hopes of building on the spirit of generosity demonstrated by the Class of 1971.

"The wonderful thing about an endowed legacy fund is that it isn't just about today," Jarrett added. "Every gift strengthens a permanent resource that can continue supporting the school for generations. Long after this reunion is over—and long after future reunions are held—the Class of 1971 will still be making an impact."

For more information about Our Community Foundation, including how to establish a fund, contact Chris Jarrett, Executive Director, at 812-698-5413 or chris@localforever.org.

About Our Community Foundation

Established in 2021, Our Community Foundation's mission is to meet the changing needs of Daviess County by fostering a culture of local philanthropy. The Foundation administers 45 funds and reported assets of more than \$10 million at the end of 2025. Guided by a Board of 24 community leaders—all Daviess County residents with deep local roots and a shared commitment to the community, the Foundation is uniquely positioned to understand local needs and opportunities. Through strategic grantmaking, stewardship, and partnerships, Our Community Foundation works to create lasting impact where it counts: right here in Daviess County.

PHOTO CAPTION

Our Community Foundation recently presented a grant to Washington Community Schools through the WHS Class of 1971 Legacy Fund. Pictured are supporters of the Class of 1971 Legacy Fund, representatives of Washington Community Schools, and representatives of Our Community Foundation.