



FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTING BOOKS: G.A. BALL COLLECTION DETAILS

Books were extremely important to the G.A. Ball family. The family had one of the finest children's literature collections ever to be compiled.

George collected rare books for years, but he made 2 big purchases of children's literature in the 1930s that formed the bulk of the family's collection. George would often go to second-hand book dealers to find what he was looking for, & eventually those dealers began sending him lists of titles & books to consider for his collection.

Eventually, Elisabeth "Betty" Ball took over the collection. Betty was known to make phone calls to book dealers in London during the middle of the night to make sure she would be on the phone with them right when their shop opened in the morning.

The book shelves in the Oakhurst home were packed



with books 2 rows deep. When space ran out, books were stacked on the floor, piled on closet shelves, or placed in any other space they could find.

Betty took pride in sharing her collection with others, & the books were regularly consulted by scholars. Their collection is now in the care of public institutions, & George & Betty's collection continues to be shared with many individuals. Replicas of their book collection are now on display to read at their home by visiting the Oakhurst Experience at Minnetrista.

Historic information and photo provided by Karen Vincent at Minnetrista

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Photo Source: United Way of Delaware, Henry, & Randolph Counties

QUARTERLY SPOT-LIGHT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE, HENRY, & RANDOLPH COUNTIES

United Way of Delaware, Henry, & Randolph Counties has adopted a bold goal to have all 3rd grade students reading at grade level by 2024. United Way has identified grade level reading as a major focus of their campaign, because reading is a skill in which all other learning takes place.

Reading ability by the 3rd grade is one of the single greatest predictors of a child's success in school. Shortly after this time, students will be asked to start critically reflecting on what they have read, rather than to simply read.

This can seem like a daunting challenge to children that can barely sound out the words in front of them. It is also during this time that low-performing students experience incredible

difficulty keeping up, & it is not uncommon for those students to fall further behind. Without these skills, it is harder for students to stay in school & graduate.

United Way is leading the Third Grade Reading Collaborative Action Network (CAN), & they will be bringing their initiatives such as Reading Club, Summer Book Give-Away, & Take Off & Read to the CAN to develop an Ecosystem Map that works collectively to increase the IREAD and ILEARN scores within Delaware County. This type of collaborative work is unprecedented in Delaware County, & these CANs have the opportunity to make significant impact & potentially change the trajectory of many individuals' lives.

PRIVATE FOUNDATION: 6 QUESTIONS TO ASK PROGRAM STAFF, NPQ

A strong, durable relationship between a funder & a grantee are built on open, back & forth partnership & dialogue during (& many times beyond) the lifetime of a grant. This relationship can start in the earliest conversations as prospective grantees ask key questions. Because of natural inhibitions that grantseekers often have about asking questions & the limited time available for discussion, Nonprofit Quarterly has developed 6 Easy Questions to Ask Your Foundation Program Officer.

The questions below are easy for grantseekers to ask of program officers, & likely to lead to open dialogue for both parties.

- "How many grants/grantee relationships are you responsible for?"
- "What other funders do you work closely with?"
- "What other nonprofit organizations or projects like mine do you fund?"
- "What are the steps in grant review and approval within the foundation, & how will the grant be monitored?"
- "Would it be helpful to develop a "modular" (line item) budget?"
- "When was the current strategy last updated?"

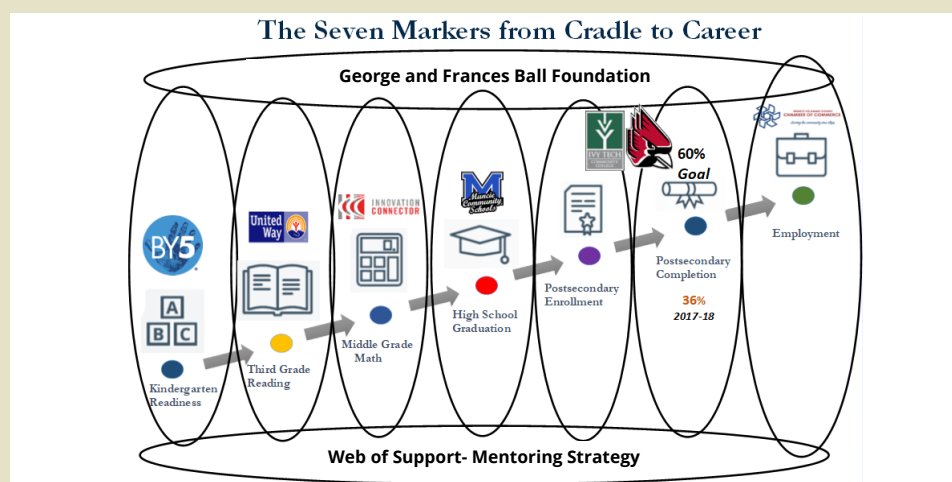


Photo provided by Classroom Connections of ECI

CRADLE TO CAREER INITIATIVE: GFBF TO SERVE IN BACKBONE ROLE, ADOPT RESULTS-BASED PHILANTHROPY LENS

Despite the challenges in 2020, the George & Frances Ball Foundation continued to focus on our proactive grantmaking strategy, the Cradle to Career Initiative. Moving forward, GFBF will continue leading in the Backbone role. This role helps to align the important work of each Collaborative Action Network (CAN), by working with each CAN leader to aid in moving the work forward. This is across all 7 CANs from Kindergarten Readiness to Career Employment.

The Cradle to Career Initiative uses the model of Collective Impact to coordinate critical work focused on driving greater impact in the community. If you or your organization are interested in getting involved with the Cradle to Career Initiative, reach out to any CAN leader or to the GFBF staff. Our staff openly welcomes questions & inquiries of involvement.

Another major focus for the

Foundation is Results-Based Philanthropy. The entire George & Frances Ball Foundation team is participating in a 3-month Clear Impact professional certification program. Results Based Philanthropy is a framework used by neighborhoods, communities, and other organizations, focused on outcomes & results in order to create positive change. It is designed around 5 questions:

1. How are we doing?
2. What is the story behind the curve?
3. Who are the partners who have a role to play in turning the curve?
4. What works to turn the curve?
5. What is our action plan to turn the curve?

These questions help neighborhoods, communities, & organizations walk through a process to best help "turn the curve" & help improve the lives of children, youth, & families. As the Backbone, GFBF plans to bring this way of thinking to the work of the Cradle to Career Initiative.

IMPORTANT GFBF 2021 DATES

BOARD MEETINGS:

May 3, 2021
Grant Deadline: April 5

August 19, 2021
Grant Deadline: July 19

December 2, 2021
Grant Deadline: November 2

**Grant requests are reviewed the month between the deadline & corresponding Board Meeting. The Board makes final funding decisions at the meeting. Grant seekers should anticipate communication from GFBF within a month following the Board Meeting date.*

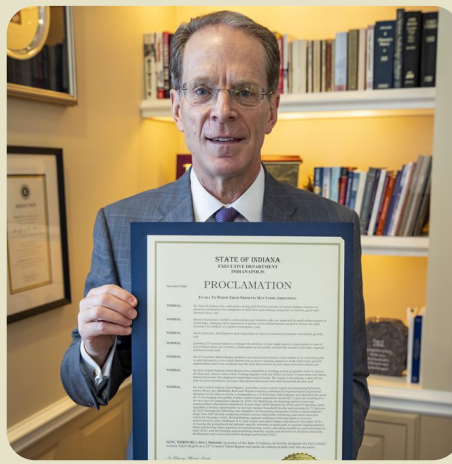
COFFEE & CONVERSATION MEETINGS:

March 26, 2021

July 9, 2021

October 22, 2021

**GFBF program staff hosts a quarterly meet and greet session that discusses upcoming grant deadlines and information, introduces types of data that grantees can access, and ways in which to use this data to demonstrate progress and impact for their organization.*



Photos provided by Ball State University

EAST CENTRAL INDIANA DESIGNATED AS A 21ST CENTURY TALENT REGION

For 18 months, GFBF has worked with representatives from Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, & Wayne Counties to collaboratively develop regional strategies to attract, develop, & connect talent. This hard work & collaboration earned East Central Indiana designation of 21st Century Talent Region by Secretary of Indiana Office of Career Connections & Talent, Blair Milo & her team.

The event took place virtually on January 22nd with 115 people in attendance. At this time, the backbone leadership role transitioned from GFBF to the Office of Community Engagement at Ball State University. Moving forward, the region has committed to developing a comprehensive plan for achieving population goals, educational attainment, & median household income objectives by December 2022.

CONTINUED: 6 QUESTIONS TO ASK PROGRAM STAFF, NPQ

In general, foundations typically prioritize & value when organizations are proactive. This is often characterized by partnership with other organizations, leveraged funds from numerous sources, & equitable work in areas that of most impact.

Many times, local nonprofits have questions about foundations & these questions are a great way to begin a conversation. At GFBF, it is highly encouraged to connect with the program staff to build relationships & ask questions. The program staff serves as the liaison between the Board & the community, & they are here to help nonprofits be as successful as they can.

To learn more about GFBF, review the 2020 Annual Report.



Information Provided by:
Six Easy Questions to Ask Your Foundation
Program Officer - Non Profit News
Nonprofit Quarterly

For more information, please contact us at admin@gfballdn.org or visit us at www.gfballdn.org.

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