When referencing the infamous Ball Blue Book, Elisabeth Ball said, “Father wanted to be absolutely sure that everything in the book was correct.” While the Ball Blue Book is distributed globally, it had its beginnings in the kitchen of Oakhurst, the Muncie home of the George A. Ball family. Its creation was truly a family affair. Frances collected tried and true recipes from her own files as well as from friends and relatives. George wrote out the instructions that would be usable by a home cook. Then together, George and Frances tested the written instructions of the recipes to make sure they were accurate and that the product was of good quality.

It was in 1905 that George and his wife Frances personally put together the first edition of what would become the Ball Blue Book. The guide provided tips and tricks for canning, as well as recipes that they tested in their home kitchen.

Although only eight years old at the time, Elisabeth Ball said she was “quite proud and thrilled that Father and Mother were doing something very good.” What had started as an in-home recipe book eventually became the go-to volume for canners and homemakers around the country. During its more than 100 years of publications, the Ball Blue Book has been given or sold to millions of people, and may be one of the most widely printed English works in the world.

“Blue Book” story summary and related quotes that were provided by Minnetrista to RhodeWorks during the development of the Oakhurst Experience.

Additional information provided by Karen Vincent and Jessica Jenkins at Minnetrista.
Inside Out CDC is a local nonprofit committed to assisting vulnerable, food-insecure children, their families, and local care-giving agencies. Their mission is “empowering our community through food based initiatives.” With 31.2% of children in Delaware County living in poverty, Inside Out knew that a major role they could play was to provide strategic services to build-up individuals through empowerment. Their premier program is Fresh Directions: Hot Meals for Kids.

Since its inception, the program has served more than 130,000 hot meals and healthy snacks to young people in the community. This food is prepared in the Community Empowerment Kitchen and consists of quality proteins, fresh produce, and whole grains. Many developmental factors can be missed when families are living in poverty, including nutrition. When children are engaged with programs at Inside Out’s partner sites, such as TeenWorks, Muncie Public Library, and MP3, they are influenced in a positive way while receiving a hot meal and/or a healthy snack. When kids eat healthy food on a consistent basis, they are more likely to focus on their homework, get involved in healthy activities, and respond in a confident way to positive influences that help them to do the right thing. This ripple effect is beneficial for children, families and the community.

Fresh Directions is made possible through generous supporters and caring volunteers. Many volunteers from Ball State’s Student Voluntary Services, faith-based organizations, and other community groups help prepare food for 300 children each day in the community.

For more information about Inside Out Fresh Directions Healthy Meals for Kids, please visit their website: https://www.insideoutmuncie.com/
The Cradle to Career Initiative is making important collective impact strides in 2020. The seven markers along the Cradle to Career continuum have identified leaders for the Collaborative Action Networks (CANS) and they are in the process of developing their teams of partners that will work together to achieve the goals and objectives of their specific target.

Each CANS leader is developing an Ecosystem Map that coincides with their specific marker (example: third grade reading), which helps them to map-out local organizations and initiatives as they relate to in-school, after-school, or at-home strategies. The next meeting will include all of the CANS leaders, as well as 4-5 CANS members from each of the seven CANS. Once the initial meeting with the CANS leaders has taken place and the Ecosystem Maps have been created, each CANS leader will lead their collective impact group. The CANS leaders will meet with key organizations to identify gaps, set goals and objectives, and determine their CANS’s annual schedule of meetings.

Collaborative Action Networks provide similarly focused groups and individuals with the opportunity to collectively develop action plans, set goals (long-term and short-term strategies), and work towards county-wide collective impact. CANS also hold themselves accountable by using agreed upon data. The Cradle to Career CANS leaders are as follows:

- Kindergarten Readiness – By5
- Third Grade Reading – United Way
- Middle Grade Math- Innovation Connector
- High School Graduation – Muncie Community Schools
- Postsecondary Enrollment and Postsecondary Completion - Ivy Tech and Ball State University
- Employment – Chamber of Commerce and Delaware Advancement Corporation.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

- May 14, 2020
  Grant Deadline: April 14, 2020

- September 10, 2020
  Grant Deadline: August 10, 2020

- December 4, 2020
  Grant Deadline: November 4, 2020

*Grant requests are reviewed in the month between the deadline and 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.

**RECOMMENDED FOUNDATION CONFERENCES AND EVENTS:**

- Indiana Philanthropy Alliance Foundations on the Hill Conference
  JW Marriott, Washington, D.C.
  March 9th-11th

- Integrating Results-Based Accountability Deep Dive Day
  Indianapolis Symphony Centre
  March 19th 10am-3pm

- National Forum on K-12 Philanthropy
  Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX
  April 29th-30th

- Collective Impact Convening
  Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN
  May 6th-8th

- Indiana Philanthropy Alliance Philanthropy Leads Bi-Annual Conference
  Indianapolis Marriott North Hotel
  June 2nd-4th
Derek Peterson brought the first of many Web of Support trainings to Muncie from January 28th-31st. Web of Support is an evidence-based mentoring concept that focuses on the importance of each person having at least 5 trusted adult relationships. Derek spent 4 days (2, 2-day sessions) training a total of 50 community leaders and 50 Muncie Central High School students. He also presented to the general public at two evening events as part of Muncie Action Plan’s annual update. The 100 individuals that went through the training are now considered Web of Support Ambassadors. As Ambassadors, they will present on and share the Web of Support mentoring concept to many individuals and groups. One of the first presentations is going to take place at the I.D.E.A Conference on Saturday, March 7th. Web of Support will have a 50-minute breakout session that will introduce and engage the audience in the Web of Support message through impactful lessons and reflection. Once a person learns about the Web of Support, they will never look at the colors of the rainbow the same way again. By “webbing” up and seeing people in full color, we change lives of individuals and the future trajectory of the community.

On December 19, 2019, members of the community gathered to celebrate the future of Ivy Tech Muncie Campus with the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the George and Frances Ball Building. This building is now home to a one-stop-shop for admissions, bursar, registrar, testing, and administration offices. It also houses the new location of Chesterfield’s Cafe, a student-run restaurant where culinary students put their learning to the test. GFBF is eager to see the impact that the increased presence of Ivy Tech downtown will have on the community at-large. We are grateful for their partnership in the Cradle to Career Initiative.