



GEORGE AND FRANCES BALL FOUNDATION

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

ELISABETH "BETTY" BALL'S IMAGINATION

Elisabeth "Betty" Ball had an extremely vivid and rich imagination, and like many turn-of-the-century children, she believed in fairies. As a small girl, fairies would nibble tasty treats alongside her, and as an adolescent, the dreamy sprites became the subject of her poetry.

As a child, Betty explored the gardens and grounds of her home at Oakhurst. The trees, flowers, and gardens provided endless opportunities for her imagination to grow. Because George, Frances, and Betty's home was surrounded by other family members' homes, Betty was able to share the wonder of Oakhurst with her cousins.

Her cousin Helen lived next door and was a regular playmate. The two rode bikes, played with dolls, and explored nature together. Whether it was playing with friends, cousins, or by herself, Oakhurst provided Betty an abundant landscape for exploration and the canvas for her imagination to flourish



The modern-day Minnetrista property is still full of colorful flowers, tall trees, and waterfront sounds that inspire young people to dream of such things as fairies. To honor Betty Ball, Minnetrista annually hosts the event: Faeries, Sprites, and Lights.

This celebration is an annual multi-day event, taking place in July. Oakhurst is transformed into the magical place that Betty experienced as a child for the young people in Muncie and East Central Indiana. To learn more, visit www.minnetrista.net.



Historic information and photos provided by Karen Vincent at Minnetrista

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Photo sourced from BY5

HOW TO TALK ABOUT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SO THAT PEOPLE LISTEN

Family engagement is a critical component to a child's success on their path from Cradle to Career.

According to Anne Henderson from the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE), "Just as engineers, mathematicians, mechanics, and ground crews work together to launch a rocket, so too are families, educators, support staff, administrators, and community organizations teaming up to launch children's success."

While many often think of parents or care givers when thinking of family engagement, NAFSCE believes it actually involves every adult in a child's life working together to help them reach their full potential.

To reframe the conversation on family engagement so that people will listen, NAFSCE has outlined ways for individuals and organizations to communicate this fresh idea of family engagement, as well as avoid falling into old habits when talking about the topic.

To learn these tips and tricks, visit: <https://nafsce.org/page/ReframingtheConversation>

QUARTERLY SPOT-LIGHT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BY5

According to their website, BY5 was formed with a mission to transform the community by connecting Kindergarten readiness to economic success. They are the leading group for early childhood awareness in Muncie and Delaware County. Through a variety of task force and volunteer efforts, BY5 improves opportunities for children aged 0-5 to reach their developmental potential."

The George and Frances Ball Foundation has been supporting BY5 as a grantee since its inception. Today, BY5 is the Collaborative Action Network (CAN) leader for the first marker of the Cradle to Career Initiative continuum, Kindergarten Readiness. As a CAN leader, BY5 will be working alongside numerous organizations in the community that are all contributing to a child being ready for Kindergarten. They are working with several organizations to develop goals and strategies with the

ultimate goal being to increase the number of students that are ready for school.

Because 90% of brain development happens by age 5, it is important that children ages 0-5 have multiple opportunities to reach their full developmental potential. Being kindergarten ready entails that a child is in good physical, social, personal, and intellectual health. Starting school on the right foot allows children to feel confident in their abilities and prepares them to start their school careers.

Investing in early childhood is a way to ensure future economic success of communities. According to First Five Years Fund, for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood education, \$7.30 in economic returns are gained over the long-term.



Photo provided by Muncie Community Schools



Identified Muncie Promise Neighborhood

CRADLE TO CAREER INITIATIVE UPDATE: MUNCIE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

Under the initial leadership of Muncie Community Schools Chief Executive Officer and Director of Public Education, Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, a team of local leaders including the GFBF staff were rallied together to form a grant team and apply for a U.S. Department of Education Cradle to Career grant program called Promise Neighborhoods.

A group of representatives from MCS, Ball State University, and GFBF, as well as a contracted grant writer, began gathering together and convening other partners around this opportunity in late January. In just 2 days time, more than 50 different community partners - focused on topics spanning academics, housing, food, health, and others - met virtually to learn of the opportunity.

Most of these partners then submitted worksheets that described the work they are currently dedicated to in the

defined Muncie Promise Neighborhood (areas surrounding East Washington Academy, Grissom, Longfellow, and South View Elementary). They then also submitted ideas they each had for expansion of current/new services, and the estimated cost.

The end result, after nearly 3 months of collaborative planning, was an application that proposed a 5-year, \$30 million request for a variety of solutions intended to move the needle on 12 community-level outcomes. These outcomes are directly aligned with Cradle to Career, including:

EDUCATION OUTCOMES:

- Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school
- Students read at grade level by third grade
- Students are proficient at math in middle school
- Students and residents complete a postsecondary degree, certification, or credential (cont. on pg. 4)

IMPORTANT GFBF 2021 DATES

BOARD MEETINGS:

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:

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.*

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: NORM BECK

Norm Beck came to Muncie, IN to attend Ball State University, where he later decided to stay and make a career. Norm had an extensive career at Ball State serving in multiple leadership roles over his 45-year profession. Norm holds a Ph. D in Social Science, and has been recognized for his outstanding accomplishments as represented by numerous accolades for his service in Higher Education.

Norm has been an invaluable member of the George and Frances Ball Foundation for the past 13 years and does an excellent job bringing historic insight into the work of the Foundation. Norm enjoys researching in the archives at Minnetrista, and is very well versed in the history of the G.A. Ball Family, which he has continuously provided the board and staff with new stories about the family and their accomplishments. He has always represented the values of the Foundation in the community, and he constantly gives back to Muncie and Delaware County.

Norm has also been an integral part of numerous local nonprofit organizations where he has served on boards of directors as well as led campaigns for organizations



such as, United Way, Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber of Commerce, Minnetrista Cultural Center, Ball State University, First Presbyterian Church, and Westminster Village.

During his time with the George and Frances Ball Foundation, Norm has served in many leadership positions, including Executive Director from 2009-2013, Director from 2013-2021, Interim Executive Director from January 2018-April 2018, and Secretary from 2019-2021. Norm's consistent, thoughtful, and detail oriented contributions to GFBBF have made both the Foundation and the community better.

GFBBF would like to thank Norm for his years of service and for the time that he has devoted to the Foundation.

MUNCIE PROMISE
NEIGHBORHOODS
CONTINUED

- Adults have living wage employment
- Students meet social/emotional benchmarks in K-12
- Students and residents have access to and the ability to use 21st-century learning tools

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
OUTCOMES:

- Students live in safe and stable communities
- Families and community members support learning and build caring, trusting relationships with students
- Students and residents are healthy
- Students and residents have equitable access to programs, services, and high quality education and culturally responsive practices are utilized by all partners

Forward movement on these outcomes will be accomplished by measuring 30 indicators and mobilizing 57 solutions. These solutions range from added health providers, expanded afterschool programming, capacity building for MCS, increased support for neighborhood-led activities, and more.

Funding decisions are likely to be made in the third or fourth quarter of 2021, and if funded, planning and implementation would begin in January 2022.

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

George A. Ball



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