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About Lilly Endowment

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family—J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli—through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company.

Gifts of stock in Eli Lilly and Company remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment. We are, however, a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location.

In keeping with the wishes of the three founders, Lilly Endowment exists to support the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment affords special emphasis to projects that benefit young people and that promote the causes of philanthropy and volunteerism.

The Lilly family's foremost priority was to help the people of their city and state build a better life. Although the Endowment also supports efforts of national significance and an occasional international project, we remain primarily committed to our hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.