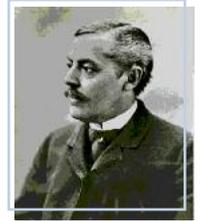


“Take what you find here and make it better and better.” – Colonel Eli Lilly

J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons J.K. Lilly Jr. and Eli Lilly were intently focused

on future generations when they established Lilly Endowment in 1937 in the midst of the Great Depression. Their extraordinary generosity in creating a charitable institution that would carry on their philanthropy long after they were gone demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life of their contemporaries and successive generations. This commitment derived from Colonel Eli Lilly, the founder of Eli Lilly and Company. In advising his son, J.K. Lilly Sr., about their company in 1882, he said: “Take what you find here and make it better and better.”



The Endowment’s founders embedded in the culture of both their company and the Endowment this value of continually striving to make things better for the future. They sought the continued improvement of the human condition both through the life-changing pharmaceutical products made by their company and the grants approved by the Endowment in community development, education and religion – the causes they chose for the Endowment to support.

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The Indianapolis Museum of Art is expanding offerings for children and families.

This annual report features stories about Endowment grants made for the sake of the future. Although it’s axiomatic that all grants work prospectively, the grants depicted here will have impact far into the future because they are intently focused on improving the lives of generations to come and strengthening the institutions that will serve them.

The report tells how the Endowment is helping campus ministries support college students across the nation as they imagine lives of purpose and meaning. We also are encouraging young professionals in Indianapolis to explore civic engagement through the charitable and educational programs of the vibrant IndyHub network. And we are helping high school students prepare to become the next generation of skilled workers in advanced manufacturing so they can build prosperous futures here in Indiana.

The Endowment also is concerned about the youngest learners. Through the initiatives of Early Learning Indiana and United Way of Central Indiana, preschool children’s lives will be transformed when early learning programs become stronger and more available across the state. Through the Summer Youth Program Fund, low-income elementary students will learn that college is a realistic goal for them.



For younger generations to flourish in the future, the communities in which they live will need vital, effective and relevant institutions. To that end, we are helping the Indianapolis Museum of Art invigorate its exhibits, workshops and other offerings to build new and younger audiences. Furthermore, we are pleased to watch communities across Indiana respond enthusiastically to Phase VI of the Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative for Indiana community foundations. When GIFT began nearly 25 years ago, there were fewer than 12 community foundations in Indiana. Now there is at least one community foundation serving each of Indiana's 92 counties. Largely through the generosity of Indiana residents, the total assets of the community foundations that have regularly participated in GIFT have grown from about \$30 million in 1990 to approximately \$2 billion at the end of 2014. Donors' generosity has established hundreds of endowed funds at Indiana community foundations that will strengthen neighborhoods, towns and cities far into the future.

The Endowment also is concerned about the future vibrancy of congregations around the nation. Through the New Media Project at Christian Theological Seminary and the National Study of Youth and Religion based at the University of Notre Dame, we are helping denominational and congregational leaders understand better the religious beliefs and practices of millennials and the new ways in which they communicate so outreach can be more effective and faith communities more vibrant.

We are grateful for the foresight of our grantees and their conviction that a brighter future is possible for those they serve. We share this conviction and feel privileged to support their strategic and imaginative efforts to foster a better quality of life for future generations.

We also are continually inspired by the commitment of the Endowment's founders to the future well-being of others. Their philanthropic vision in establishing the Endowment has resulted in the disbursement during the past 77 years of more than \$8.5 billion in grants. We take seriously the faith and responsibility that the Endowment's founders placed in its future leadership and are resolute to do all we can to perpetuate their values and ideals for generations to come.



Thomas M. Lofton
Chairman



N. Clay Robbins
President & Chief Executive Officer