



Celebrating
10 Years

Empowering Dreams &
Transforming Futures



**African
American
Foundation**
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

aafbc.org   aafbc

Letter from Board of Directors

In 2013, six African American families responded to a Heritage Fund challenge to establish a new endowment fund. The African American Fund was created with this vision for the future:

"We see a future where African Americans who make their home in Columbus do so as part of a vibrant community that is welcoming and nourishing. We expect to have equitable access to educational and work opportunities that support both personal development and the ability to live fully and contribute back to our community. Our intent is to support processes to encourage a true exchange of knowledge, understanding, and an ongoing collaboration and inclusion of all people regardless of ethnicity or gender."

As we reflect on our 10 years, it is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the steadfast support of our valued partners. Your unwavering commitment has been instrumental in driving our success over the past decade, and this report stands as a testament to the collective efforts we've undertaken.

Originally conceived as a Field of Interest Fund, the African American Fund has evolved in depth, scope, and capacity, allowing the fund to function as a full-fledged foundation with the essential technical support of Heritage Fund. It is the strength of this partnership that has encouraged us to establish a new identity as the African American Foundation of Bartholomew County.

Many of us have been fortunate to have mentors and sponsors in our lives. They were pivotal, allowing us to raise healthy families, contribute more, invest, and build a better community. We believe that investing in the next generation builds a stronger community. It provides opportunities for more engagement among all Bartholomew County community members and allows us to celebrate the richness of our collective and individual heritage. We accomplish this through collaborative work to support our five key initiatives; education, leadership development, health awareness, arts and culture, economic and career development. We believe these collaborations create a better understanding of the richness of our diversity and a stronger appreciation for all that binds us together as we work, play, and love where we live.

As we stand at the cusp of a new decade, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead. With your continued support, we look forward to achieving even more, and creating enduring change and opportunities in Bartholomew County. Together, we will continue to build a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous community that we can all be proud of.

With profound gratitude and unwavering dedication,

African American Foundation of Bartholomew County
Board Members

Our 10 Years by the Numbers

Raised over
\$400,000



Created a **\$220,000** endowment

Provided over **\$128,000** in financial support for our five primary initiatives

EDUCATION

\$53,000

Total amount of scholarships awarded to 33 students since 2019

80 students attended STEM CAMP

70 youth attended college fairs

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Sponsored

54 youth

to attend Center for Leadership Development

Co-sponsored

42 youth

at Youth Empowerment Summit 2020-2023 hosted by Council for Youth Development

Sponsored

6 adults

to attend Leadership of Bartholomew County and Dale Carnegie Training

Supporting personal growth and fostering inclusive community leadership

Among the six adults recommended for participation in the United Way Board Member Bootcamp, four are presently serving on local community boards, alongside other established Black community leaders



HEALTH AWARENESS

Co-hosted **over 12 events** over the past decade

Examples of topics include healthy eating & cooking, heart health, water safety



ARTS & CULTURE

Co-sponsored **over 30 African American movies, speakers, and performances**

Collaborated with over **20 community organizations**



ECONOMIC & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Helped **over 30 African American and Latino businesses** through the TIME (Targeted Investment in Minority Entrepreneurs) Program



2023 MLK Community Scholarship Recipients

Education

We believe education is a cornerstone of individual growth, community prosperity, and overall societal development. We strive to close the achievement gap and promote high educational attainment through a variety of targeted programs and resources.

\$53,000

Total amount of scholarships awarded to 33 students

Dr. Martin Luther King Community Scholastic Award \$26,000

IUPUC Scholarships \$12,000

IUPUC Education Endowment \$10,000

Ivy Tech Community College Scholarships \$5,000

🌟 Visit aafbc.org to learn more about our scholarships

Scholarships

Recognizing the vital role education plays in the success of our young individuals, we have introduced four scholarship programs over the past five years, three of which have been locally implemented. To date, we have proudly awarded scholarships to 33 exceptional students.

We aspire to increase the level of scholarship awards in the coming years to ensure a brighter future for even more deserving recipients.

Grants

In addition to scholastic scholarships, the AAFBC also awards grants to special education opportunities.

Co-sponsored two African American Columbus East students to a leadership conference in San Diego in 2016.

Co-sponsored a student from Indiana University to attend a nursing exchange program in London 2023.



Columbus Enrichment Program

The Columbus Enrichment Program provides free tutoring and diverse programming to support students. With dedicated educators and volunteers, it empowers academic excellence while fostering personal growth through engaging activities, enriching the lives of local youth and building a sense of community.



LEGO Robotics STEM Camp Hosted by Paths to Success

AAFBC has been the primary sponsor of the LEGO Robotics program since its inception, providing crucial resources and instruction through the Purdue Polytechnic Advanced Manufacturing Center. In the past three years, we had the privilege of hosting 80 African American students, and we are proud to report that our attendance is steadily increasing, including a 15% return rate among students. In 2023, we expanded our offerings by introducing an advanced Robotics class, catering to the aspirations of emerging engineers within our program.



Historical Black Colleges and Universities Fair

Every year, 44 Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) convene at Indianapolis' Crispus Attucks High School, attracting over 500 attendees dedicated to enhancing the prospects of African American students. Students from Columbus North, East, and Signature Academy explore scholarships and engage with on-site representatives, expanding their higher education options. This year three of the 16 students who attended received scholarships on-the-spot.

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight



"Receiving the AAFBC scholarship meant my community supported me. They saw my potential and wanted to help me excel!"

Emily Herndon
Indiana University



"The AAFBC helped me achieve my academic goals by pushing me to not only work hard for myself, but also for those on the AAFBC board."

Quincy Collins
IUPUC

Arts & Culture

The Arts and Culture Initiative focuses on supporting Afrocentric entertainment, providing access to local, regional, national, and international forums, speakers, and issues, as well as promoting educational opportunities that broaden youth cultural awareness activities.



Black History Month Columbus 2023

Black History Month Columbus was established in 2023 to celebrate Black culture, share authentic history, and honor the legacy of our local Black community. Over 50 events in February included a historical exhibit and tour spotlighting the resilience of Black Bartholomew County residents. The mayor officially declared February “Black History Month Columbus” during the opening of “*And Still We Rise*,” an exhibit at The Commons detailing the community’s history. Moreover, the Black History Month Columbus won the Jurgemeyer Community Leadership Project of the Year Award, securing a \$15,000 grant for its remarkable contributions.

🌟 Learn more at blackhistorycolumbus.com

“**This Black historical tour changed me; it left a mark on my heart.** - BHMC 2023 participant



The Soul of Philanthropy 2019

The African American Fund of Bartholomew County celebrated local African American philanthropy in “The Soul of Philanthropy” exhibit, honoring around 60 individuals, from early residents to present-day activists. The mayor of Columbus proclaimed August as “Black Soul of Philanthropy Month” during the event, acknowledging the African American community’s remarkable contributions and generosity in Bartholomew County.

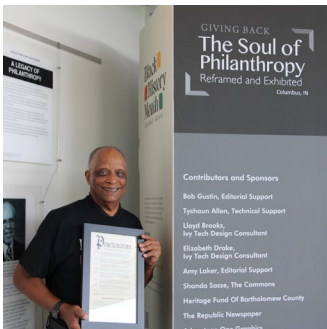


Exhibit locations included Bartholomew County Public Library, Central Middle School, Columbus East High School, Columbus North High School, CSA Lincoln Elementary School, Columbus Learning Center, Fair Oaks Mall, and The Commons.



Columbus Community Film Festival

The Amplify Film Festival at YES Cinema showcased 8 films exploring ethnicity, faith, race, age, and gender. "CROSSROAD STORIES" highlighted the experiences of people of color in small Midwest communities. This festival encouraged ongoing dialogues and enjoyed support from various organizations, including CAMEO, Council for Youth Development, First Presbyterian Church, and more community partners.



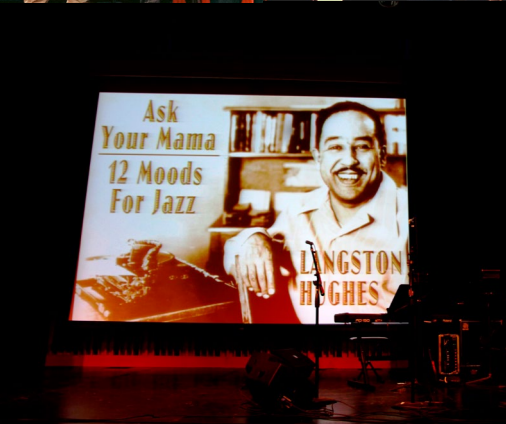
Juneteenth

The Black Lives Matter movement pushed Juneteenth into the national spotlight, leading to its designation as a federal holiday in 2021. The local annual downtown Juneteenth celebration attracted over 300 attendees and featured music, dance performances, and local Black-owned business booths.



Black History Month Jazz Performance

"Feel the Vibe," a captivating jazz concert headlined by renowned pianist Christopher Pitts from Indianapolis, was a highlight of Black History Month Columbus 2023. This event celebrated Black culture and the Black community's accomplishments, encouraging neighbors from all backgrounds to join in a meaningful, educational experience promoting community healing.



The Langston Hughes Project

We collaborated with the Granny Connection to receive a Heritage Fund grant in support of "The Langston Hughes Project - Ask your Mama - 12 Moods for Jazz." In 2016, Ron McCurdy, along with his jazz quartet from the University of Southern California and our own Marja Harmon, shared with us a night to remember in celebration of Black History month. In the spirit of elevating community inclusivity, this was an opportunity to broaden awareness, educate, and foster an appreciation of Black heritage through visual illumination, poetry, and music.



Center for Leadership Development College Prep Conference & College Fair 2022

Leadership Development

Talent development is critical both to our vision and the long-term viability of our foundation. As such, we have sponsored many young adult's participation in programs such as Leadership Bartholomew County (LBC), United Way's Board Boot Camp, and Dale Carnegie's Leadership Training. Additionally, we have mentored and provided opportunities for budding leaders to flourish.

For our youth, Paths to Success partners with the Center for Leadership Development (CLD) in Indianapolis to provide experiences that encourage personal development, educational attainment and leadership. In the past year, more than 50 students have broadened their horizons through participating in CLD programs.

Youth Leadership Spotlight

Participant of Center for Leadership Development Self Discovery Project

"I initially resisted joining the program, doubting its suitability for me despite recognizing its merits. However, I was mistaken. The instructor's discipline for my forgetfulness and poor handwriting felt like bullying at first, but it actually helped me grow. The program assisted in my personal development, fostering accountability for my shortcomings. I became more dedicated to my studies, chose a career path, and gained confidence in becoming a successful college student. This program surpassed my expectations."



Jabari Collins
Ball State University

Economic & Career Development

Our Economic and Career Development initiative enhances opportunities, provides career guidance, and supports business startups for community growth and success.

TIME Program



Our instrumental role in co-establishing the TIME (Targeted Investment in Minority Entrepreneurs) Program with Cummins has advanced over 30 Black and Latino businesses in Bartholomew County, contributing more than \$500,000 in support, including grants, microloans, legal, accounting, marketing, and administrative assistance.



Cummins Black Network

In partnership with Cummins Inc., we have organized multiple networking events to facilitate over 150 people to attend and make connections among African and African American professionals residing and working in the region.

🌟 Visit aafbc.org to learn more about the economic and career development.

Health Awareness

Our Health Awareness initiative focuses on offering information and accessibility to encourage community members to participate in health and wellness programs while also promoting connections with health coaches.



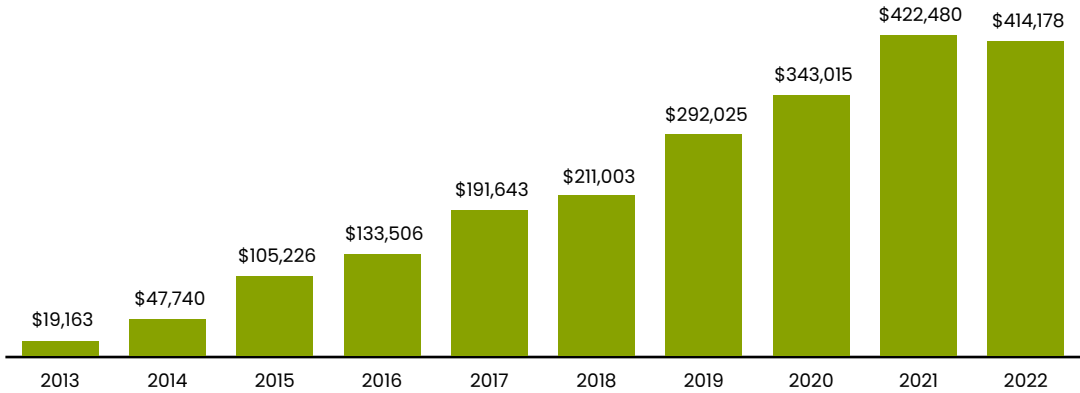
Black History Month: Water Safety Class

Water Safety Class is vital for Black youth, combatting historical disparities in swimming access and proficiency. In celebration of Black History Month 2023, a free water safety class was offered to empower Black youth to enjoy water activities safely, fostering inclusivity and equity while bridging the gap of high drowning rates in Black communities.

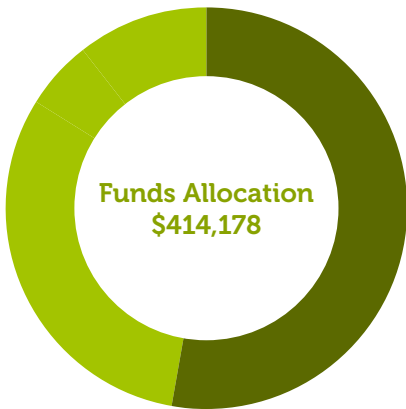
🌟 Visit aafbc.org to learn more about the health awareness.

Financials

Fund Growth 10-Year Lookback



10 Year Income Allocation & Disbursement by Initiative



 Restricted	53%
 Unrestricted	47%



 Education	45%
 Arts & Culture	40%
 Leadership Development	5%
 Economic & Career Development	7%
 Health Awareness	3%



Our Future Needs Us –

Help Us Double Our Efforts and Impact

Our initiatives address the pressing need to develop future leaders in our community and overcome academic disparities among Black and biracial children in Bartholomew County. The positive results we've witnessed have strengthened our resolve to do even more.

A decade of dedication, progress, and community impact has brought us to a pivotal moment. With your unwavering support, we've achieved remarkable results in education, arts, culture, leadership development, and more – yet our work is far from over. **We're taking our next step with ambitious plans to grow our funding raised from over \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 so that we may continue to champion our initiatives over the next decade.**

Welcoming support from all in Bartholomew County, we ask that you consider a pledge to support our vision. We wish to engage the wisdom and support of all ages, professions, and perspectives. As we transfer knowledge and life learning, we develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other and make a lasting impact individually and as a community.

Join us in this bold mission, and let's continue to build a legacy of empowerment, progress, and unity in Bartholomew County. Together, we can achieve our goals and ensure that every member of our community realizes their limitless potential.

Thank you for your consideration, support, and belief in our mission.



Visit aafbc.org/donate to learn more about ways to give.



"When you learn, teach, when you get, give."

- Dr. Maya Angelou

Founders & Board of Directors

Tom & Mary Harmon

Charles and Lorraine Smith

Aida Ramirez

Gil & Dawn Palmer

Ben Downing & Lori Thompson

Fernando Herndon

Dennis & Paulette Roberts

Donald & Shirley Trapp

Dr. Kevin Jones

Partnerships with Community Organizations

African American Pastors Alliance

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Bartholomew County Public Library

Center for Leadership Development

Centra Credit Union

Columbus Area Arts Council

Columbus Area Multi-Ethnic Organization (CAMEO)

Columbus Enrichment Program

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic

Columbus Regional Health

Community Education Coalition

Council for Youth Development Bartholomew County

Cummins Inc

First Presbyterian Church

Foundation For Youth

Heritage Fund-The Community Foundation
of Bartholomew County

Human Rights Commission-City of Columbus
IUPUC

Ivy Tech Community College

Landmark Columbus

Laws Foundation

Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Center

Paths to Success

Peace Fellowship

NAACP Columbus/Bartholomew

The Granny Connection

Su Casa

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus

United Way Bartholomew County

Viewpoint Books

YES Cinema



**African
American
Foundation**
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

Fiscal sponsor:

Heritage Fund