



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lizette Downey | 260.278.8478

Don Wood Foundation announces its 2023 Q4 grant recipients

Area community foundations awarded training scholarship funds through Ignite Your Future

FORT WAYNE, IND. (Jan. 25, 2024) – The Don Wood Foundation has awarded a total of \$2,444,999 in the fourth quarter of 2023. The grantee list is comprised of nine organizations spanning eight counties. Most of the grant recipients are community foundations that agreed to participate in this two-year pilot program the DWF began in November. All but one of the grants for last quarter is a multi-year award.

“We started the Ignite Your Future Program with the intention of encouraging skilled trades training and educational opportunities for students to advance their professional skills,” said Susan Mendenhall, vice president of Programs, Don Wood Foundation. “Oftentimes, financial burden prevents people from professional development. However, it is our hope that the IYF individual scholarships will motivate more people to take a chance on upskilling themselves.”

Specific areas of study that are eligible for Ignite Your Future Program scholarships include: smart manufacturing, industrial automation and robotics, industrial maintenance, precision machining, welding technology, cybersecurity, information technology operations, networking, software development, computer science, design technology, electronics and computer technology, and engineering.

We invited community foundations in northeast Indiana to present the Ignite Your Future Program grants and scholarships to students in the communities they serve. Mendenhall said that the DWF team was excited about how many foundations took advantage of the grants.

Two of the nine grantees are unrelated to the new IYF program. Below the organization name is the specific program name and the target audience for the program.

Blue Jacket, Inc., Fort Wayne

- Strengthening Blue Jacket's Workforce
- Adult (23+) (Primary)

Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County

- Career Prep Center: Entrepreneurship and Workforce Readiness
- High School (Primary); Young Adult (18-22)

Community Foundation DeKalb County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)



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Community Foundation of Huntington County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc.

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Noble County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Wabash County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

LaGrange County Community Foundation

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Wells County Foundation, Inc.

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

DWF offers grant workshops to the public to help align interests with potential investment opportunities. Learn more about our granting process and our grant workshops on our website at donwoodfoundation.org, under the grants tab.

The Don Wood Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to advancing manufacturing and entrepreneurship, today released its grant recipients from the fourth quarter 2023. The DWF launched the Ignite Your Future Program in November 2023 with the intention of encouraging skilled trades training and educational opportunities for students to advance their professional skills.

Specific areas of study that are eligible for Ignite Your Future Program scholarships are smart manufacturing, industrial automation and robotics, industrial maintenance, precision machining, welding technology, cybersecurity, information technology operations, networking, software development, computer science, design technology, electronics and computer technology, and engineering.



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The Don Wood Foundation invited community foundations in northeast Indiana to present the Ignite Your Future Program grants and scholarships to students in the communities they serve as a two-year pilot program.

The Q4 grantee list is comprised of 10 organizations spanning eight counties. Below the organization name is the specific program name and the target audience for the program.

Believe In A Dream, Inc., Fort Wayne

- Youth Entrepreneurship Re-Imagined
- High School (Primary)

Blue Jacket, Inc., Fort Wayne

- Strengthening Blue Jacket's Workforce
- Adult (23+) (Primary)

Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County

- Career Prep Center: Entrepreneurship and Workforce Readiness
- High School (Primary); Young Adult (18-22)

Community Foundation DeKalb County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Huntington County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc.

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Noble County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Community Foundation of Wabash County

- Ignite Your Future Program
- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

LaGrange County Community Foundation

- Ignite Your Future Program



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- Young Adult (18-22) (Primary); Adult (23+)

Wells County Foundation, Inc.

- Ignite Your Future Program
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Learn more about DWF's granting process online at donwoodfoundation.org.

About the Don Wood Foundation

The Don Wood Foundation is a private foundation, established in 2018 by Don Wood, founder of 80/20, Inc., that serves and supports innovators, leaders, collaborators, and skilled workers with the potential to create and sustain opportunities in manufacturing. The Foundation partners with nonprofits and educational institutions to provide sustained investment that supports the development of a diverse workforce through exposure, education, and training to create strong communities rooted in the advancement of manufacturing. Follow Don Wood Foundation on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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