



IMPACT REPORT

2022

Partnership
Parke County

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INTRODUCTION

Partnership Parke County established its 501c3 organization in 2015. We began by serving Parke County as the economic development office for the county and also serving our incorporated towns. We needed full-time representation for development inquiries and to work along with the Parke County Redevelopment Commission. Strong relationships with our towns and county leadership is critical in formulating impactful projects.

Over the past eight years, the organization has grown to provide many more services, programs, and opportunities that impact our county. Recognition of the dedication and hard work of our staff has led to regional leadership and advisory roles in West Central Indiana.

We love our small and larger businesses. Our goals include programs that support them, provide no to low-cost educational training, and resources. We listen to their needs and are intentional in providing our support and expertise wherever possible. Partnership manages two loan programs that support business startups, expansions and the retention of jobs.

Our actions support economic growth and well-being through acquiring investments of over \$20 million into Parke County. These direct investments have come from planning, business, and brownfield grants; infrastructure grants and projects; housing development; and job retention programs. These actions bring forward impactful projects and programs that benefit all residents of Parke County.

We hold a wealth of grant writing, grant administration, and research experience that has led to significant improvements of roads, water, wastewater, broadband, business retention, and pandemic recovery across the county. Grants are extremely important in infrastructure projects to lessen the burden of utility rate increases to support improvements.

Direct investment from projects can be counted and tracked. The benefits from those projects are not as easily identified. For every job that was retained, it may have kept that family in Parke County, that salary contributed to county's income tax, those children are still attending our schools, that parent may be a volunteer leader for a youth 4-H club, and so on. Economic impact touches everyone and Partnership Parke County wants everyone well cared for.

Partnership Parke County values its relationships with many local, regional, and state agencies. Keeping that dialogue going gives us the opportunity to learn so much from so many.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank

OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

Our mission has been to investigate and bring forth resource and financial opportunities to promote the sustainability and growth of Parke County. As an economic development organization we focus on population, business retention and expansion, improving infrastructure, and support livable communities.

A few key 2022 projects:

- Housing Needs Assessment with future implementation strategies
- Early Care & Education Strategic Plan with implementation action steps
- Communicating broadband coverage expansions
- Championing discussions to expand sewer availability
- Managed development of new website for Parke County government
- Kicked off the development of a Regional Rural Economic Development Model

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Partnership Parke County is to enable Parke County, Indiana to improve their quality of life and provide direction for economic growth. As a non-profit organization, we perform vigorous investigations on how to best impact the community in which we live through improvements, projects, programs, planning, investments, marketing, relationships and most importantly - listening to you!

**More than 85% of
new jobs created in
Parke County come
from small
businesses with 1-5
employees.**

OUR 2022-2024 GOALS

Three specific planning activities began in 2022 and will carry through into 2023.

- How do we address the lack of quality housing inventory ?
- How do we address the limited spots available for young children in quality childcare programs?
- How do we help address the health and safety issues of unsewered communities?

1

Housing Inventory

In 2019, Parke County's vacant home rate is nearly double our neighboring 6 counties at 26%. A portion of the vacancy is due to seasonal residents. We must create initiatives that will turn these vacant homes into viable homes again. This goal not only increases inventory but will also have a positive impact on population growth.

Goal is to improve the vacancy rate to 18% over the next three years.

2

Quality childcare spots

Quick facts:

- 1,212 children under 6
- 590 children under 6 in need of care
- 321 known spots available in early care and education programs
- 84 spots available for young children in high-quality rated programs

Goal is to increase spots available to 110 in the next two years.

3

3 of our 6 towns have a public sewer system.

State requirements for a private septic system are evolving and many small lots in our rural towns do not have adequate space. This issue is impacting new construction, addressing failing septic systems, and positioning for growth.

Goal is to identify a reasonable, affordable public sewer project supported by various state and federal agencies.

SINCE 2015

GRANTS

- Master Wastewater Studies
- Brownfield grants to assess environmental concerns
- Parke County Strategic Economic Development Plan
- Authored implementation grant application for co-work space
- Managed COVID-19 Recovery Grant Applications

HOUSING

- New construction of 40 - 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhomes for affordable workforce housing

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Mecca Stormwater
- Montezuma water and sewer extension
- Sewer rehabilitation in Rockville
- Next Level Connections (broadband) expansions

JOBS RETAINED

- Business Retention Project
- Business Recovery Revolving Loan Program



A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING PARKE COUNTY INDIANA IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL-BEING

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 2015...

\$1.95M PLANNING, BUSINESS, AND BROWNFIELD GRANTS



Grants that have allowed us to identify needs and move forward



\$8.9M HOUSING

Affordable rental housing for our residents and families

\$9.7M

INFRASTRUCTURE



Over \$2M in grants made these projects possible

137

JOBS RETAINED



Implementing our Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E)

SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP PARKE COUNTY

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CYNDI TODD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

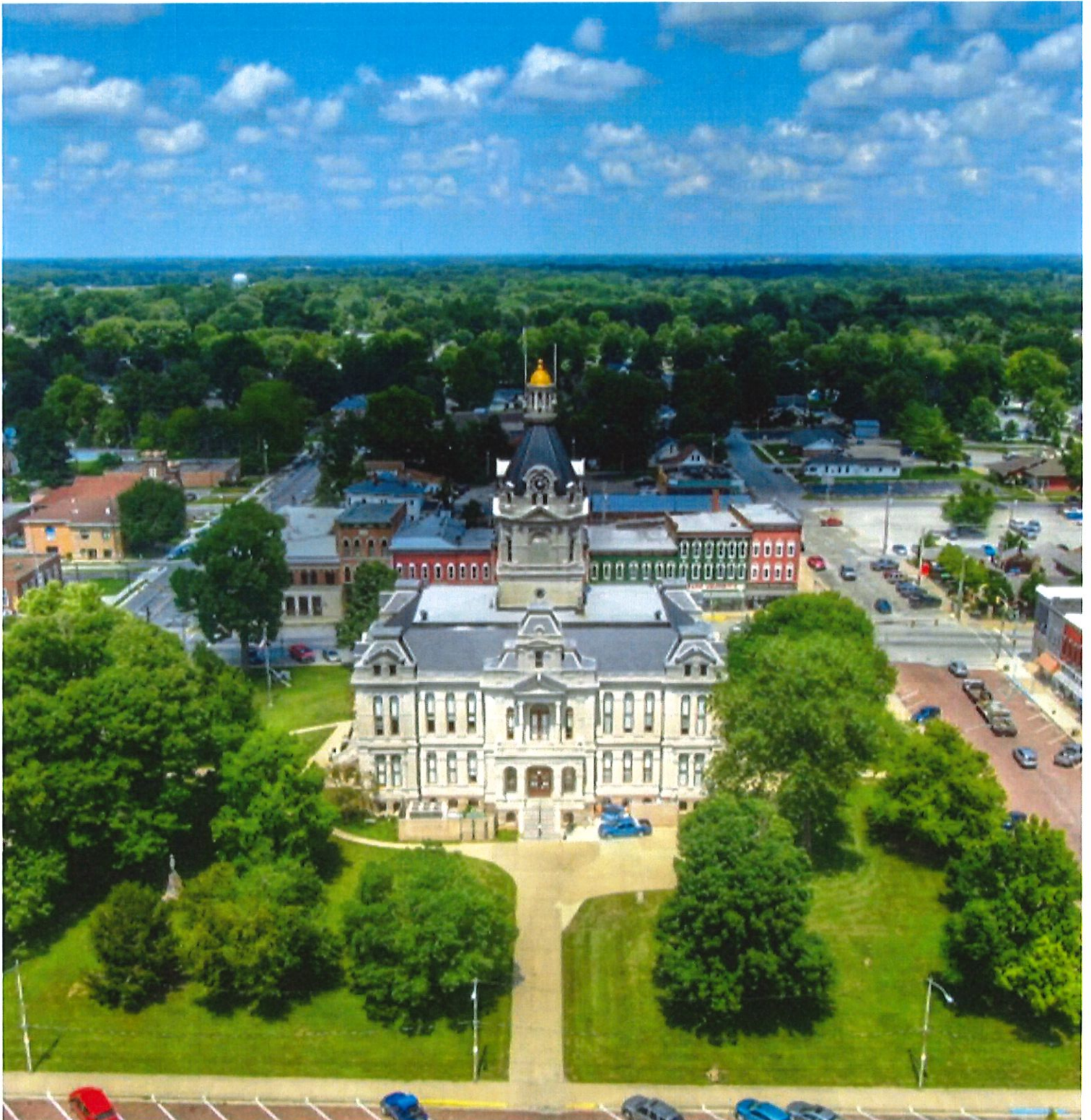
\$10,000

Annual goal for
additional
support

2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET = \$92,963

Staff = 1 full-time, 1 part-time

Serving 17,000 people, more than 350
small businesses, six towns and a county



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Blane Family
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Parke County Community Foundation
Parke County REMC
Rode Family
Russell & Durr CPAs
Scott Pet Products
Town of Montezuma
Town of Rockville
Wabash Valley Power Association



**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT.**



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