

# \$1M surprise for Indianapolis nonprofits



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(Photo: Goodwill Industries)

What better way to celebrate 100 years of service than to give out a whopping \$1 million in surprise grants?

On Saturday night, [The Indianapolis Foundation](https://www.cicf.org/about-cicf/funds-and-foundations/the-indianapolis-foundation/) awarded gifts of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to 37 Indianapolis-based organizations and individuals as part of its centennial celebration at Scottish Rite Cathedral.

One of the first community trusts in the country, The Indianapolis Foundation is a public charity and an affiliate of [Central Indiana Community Foundation](https://www.cicf.org/), which was established in 1997 as a partnership between the Indianapolis Foundation and Legacy Fund in Hamilton County.

Six organizations received \$100,000 Visionary Awards: Nurse-Family Partnership at Goodwill Industries, Edna Martin Christian Center, Asante Children's Theatre, Trusted Mentors, IMPD Cadet Program and Center for Leadership Development.

[The Nurse-Family Partnership](http://www.goodwillindy.org/health/) pairs first-time pregnant women with a registered nurse for ongoing home visits through the child's second birthday. The Indianapolis Foundation's first grant, in 1924, also was for a visiting nurse program.

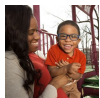
The program, administered locally through Goodwill Industries, is focused on empowering young moms to be strong, healthy, self-sufficient women so they can raise strong, healthy children. Olivia Bell, 25, went through the program and credits her nurse/mentor Cindy Hunt for keeping her focused on her goals and helping her be the best mom she can be to 2-year-old Landon.

"Cindy was full throttle," Bell said in an earlier interview with IndyStar. "You knew she was concerned. She was real proactive with Landon." Hunt, who describes her job as part nurse, part therapist and part social worker, said she feels nothing but pride for the woman Bell has become.

"Olivia has decided to pay it forward to other young women," Hunt said. "She is empowering women (through an organization called Lassie Empowerment), which is a cornerstone of what NFP is all about."

[Asante Children's Theatre](http://www.asantechildrenstheatre.org/) introduces acting, singing, dancing and storytelling to young artists. Founded in 1990, it offers four programs for youths and alumni. Executive director Keshia Dixon said the grant will allow them to offer more scholarships, hire more staff and give free tickets to allow more families to see their programs. "Even if it's just for one year, we can touch many more lives."

"God is great ... he can surprise you like no other," Dixon said Saturday night.



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[Single mom works to help next generation of women](http://www.indystar.com/story/life/2016/06/25/giving-back/86264032/)

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The [Edna Martin Christian Center](http://ednamartincc.ning.com/) opened in 1941 in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. The social services organization is designed to strengthen families, offering child care, youth programs, a center for working families and senior services.

[Trusted Mentors](http://trustedmentors.org/) provides volunteer mentors to adults at risk of homelessness and those coming out of prison.

[Center for Leadership Development](https://www.facebook.com/CLDinc) focuses on the advancement of minority youths as future leaders.

IMPD Chief Troy Riggs accepted the grant for the [IMPD Cadet Program](http://www.indypsf.org/programs.php), a pilot program designed to educate, mentor and employ inner-city high school graduates who are interested in public safety.

Riggs said he hopes the program will launch in January.

"We believe as a result of this major grant we'll have the most diverse, most talented and most educated workforce within three years," he said Saturday.

In addition to these \$100,000 grants, the foundation unveiled a new Fellows program, awarding \$10,000 each to 10 young leaders who will take seats on the boards of Goodwill Industries, Indiana Sports Corp., Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Visit Indy, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Second Helpings, Indy Chamber and CICF.

The new board members are Sherron Rogers, Adrienne Slash, Lily Smith, Marshawn Wolley, Terina Perry, Kiamesha-Sylvia G. Colom, Doran Moreland, Rebecca King, Duane Ingram and Emily Masengale.

The foundation also awarded \$10,000 each to select local theater professionals "whose work contributes to the vibrancy of the cultural community and the strength of our city."

Finally, 10 organizations whose charitable endowments are managed by CICF were randomly chosen to receive a \$10,000 gift for their endowments, and 10 randomly selected audience members will get the chance to work with the foundation to give \$10,000 each to a Marion County nonprofit of their choosing.

"There are hundreds of worthy organizations in Indianapolis working hard to address our city's most pressing needs and to add to the quality of life in our community," said Brian Payne, president and CEO of The Indianapolis Foundation and CICF.

Winners were chosen based on their contributions to the foundation's community leadership priorities and/or their focus on innovation, he said. In addition to the \$1 million anniversary awards, the foundation allocates more than \$6.5 million in grants throughout the year. The next grant round takes place in September. Visit [www.cicf.org](http://www.cicf.org) (<https://www.cicf.org/>) for more information.

To mark its 100th anniversary, The Indianapolis Foundation also has established two Ben Franklin Funds that are projected to provide \$200 million for the city's non-for-profits 100 years from now. Anyone can contribute to the Ben Franklin Funds with a donation of \$100 or \$1,000 at [www.bein2016.org/bff](http://www.bein2016.org/bff) (<http://www.bein2016.org/bff>).

"It's an act of awe and wonder," Payne said. "In a hundred years, people in Indianapolis — maybe your grandchildren or great-grandchildren — will be realizing the impact of a \$200 million gift. You are quite literally sending a gift into the future, trusting that it will be well-spent."

Call *IndyStar* reporter Maureen Gilmer at (317) 444-6879. Follow her on Twitter: @MaureenCGilmer.



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