

THE CHRYSALIS

THE RYAN'S PLACE NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2023

Serving Our Community

In 2022, Ryan's Place served a record number of children, teens, and adults throughout the Michiana Community. Over 1,400 grieving individuals received support through our Monday Night Program, School Program, Crisis Call-Outs, and Individual support services. 12 different school corporations hosted a total of 55 school-based grief support groups. Also, more than 500 individuals received crisis support following tragedies in their schools or places of work. Grieving the death of a loved one is lonely; through our programs we help children and teens feel less isolated and find connection with others who are grieving. One 11-year-old group member shared that coming to Ryan's Place, "helped me know that others feel the same way I do, and that it's okay to talk about your feelings."

Before taking a break for the summer, families from our Monday Night Program planted a tree together in honor of their loved ones who had died. Before planting the tree, everyone had the opportunity to place notes to their special person in the hole, where the tree was planted. This meaningful ritual reminds us that we are a community that has much in common and is here to support one-another.

During the summer we ran a two-day camp in Goshen and a three-day camp in Warsaw. With the help of 19 facilitators our Goshen Camp served 28 children, and with the help of 20 volunteers our Warsaw Camp provided grief support for 34 children. A special thanks to every volunteer, donor, and supporter that made our programs possible in 2022!

*Lindsay Diener-Locke
Program Director*



Servicios en español

Si ha experimentado la muerte de un ser querido, no tiene por qué estar en duelo solo. Actualmente tenemos servicios de apoyo al duelo en español. Ofrecemos un grupo de apoyo familiar en español.

Comuníquese con nosotros si necesita apoyo para su duelo.

Comuníquese con Chris Seminario si tiene alguna pregunta.

574-535-1000

cseminario@ryansplace.org





Meet Bertha!



Bertha and her family at Ryan's Place Annual Gala

Pictured from left to right;
Casey Diener, Lindsay Diener-Locke,
Eric Diener, Bertha Bontrager-
Rhodes, Terry Diener, Julie Diener

Bertha began supporting Ryan's Place many years ago as she firmly believes in the significance of providing a safe space for individuals to seek support and work through their grief.

The subject of grief hits particularly close to Mrs. Bontrager-Rhodes heart. Having experienced the death of her husband Lloyd and son Wendall, she continued to manage their family business while working diligently to adapt to the new journey of life. Throughout her journey, Bertha has consistently emphasized to her children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren, the importance of giving back to the community. She says that it is important for her to support others, as she knows that is what her late husband would have wanted.

Bertha's deep empathy for those navigating their journey of grief has led her to actively support Ryan's Place. Through her involvement, she aims to provide others with the vital resources and safe environment necessary to heal after the death of their loved one.

What do you do in your free time?

"When I am not in the company of my loved ones, I can be found cooking up one of my famous recipes. My current favorites are Raisin Cream Pie or my delightful Lemon Poppy Seed Cake"



Volunteer Spotlight

Paula began volunteering with Ryan's Place in January 2022. She began volunteering because she was newly retired and wanted to find an organization with a mission she believes in and that works with children. She heard about Ryan's Place and the opportunity to be a volunteer facilitator when her daughter, Courtney first interned and then became a part-time program coordinator with Ryan's Place.

Ten years ago, Paula's grandson Tommy sadly died, and volunteering at Ryan's Place has given her healing that she didn't know she needed. Paula has a givers heart and is always quick to jump in when help is needed and assist in providing the safe space

What do you do in your free time?

"When I'm not volunteering, you can find me reading, completing a DIY project, or enjoying being a grandmother to 3 wonderful grandchildren!"



Meet Paula!



It's a Family Passion

Paula pictured with her daughter, Courtney who previously worked at Ryan's Place.

Thank you to our servers & cooks:

♥ Genesis Products

♥ Pleasant Grove Church

♥ Sugar Grove Church

♥ Silverwood Mennonite Church Young Adult Group

♥ Prairie View Elementary School

♥ Maple Grove Church

Staff Spotlight

Chris Seminario holds the position of Outreach Coordinator at Ryan's Place. You might be familiar with her role in overseeing our school-based grief support programs or the Monday Night Program. Chris's journey with Ryan's Place began in January 2020 when she joined as an intern while pursuing her Masters Degree in Social Work. After successfully completing her internship, she was officially hired in 2021 upon graduation. Chris has always been deeply passionate about assisting children and families, drawing from her own life challenges as a source of motivation to offer them support and guidance.

Chris has actively contributed to numerous projects during her tenure at Ryan's Place, with one of her standout endeavors being the establishment of a strong presence within our Latinx community. Her involvement has included engaging in meaningful conversations with Latinx business owners at the Latino Business Expo and spearheading the formation of a Spanish-speaking adult group as part of our Monday Night Program.

When Chris is away from Ryan's Place, she enjoys quality time with her family and loved ones, or she can often be found practicing yoga, and of course, she's always with her beloved fur baby, Chichi.



Chris Seminario, Outreach Coordinator

What has been one unexpected takeaway from working at Ryan's Place?

When I started my career at Ryan's Place, it marked a transformation in my perspective on life. I was overwhelmed by the privilege of occupying a space where both children and adults openly discussed their person who died. This experience prompted me to reevaluate my own cultural attitudes toward grief. I recognized the pressing need for our society to offer genuine listening and support to those undergoing the grieving process.

Day in and day out, as I heard the stories of those affected by death, I found myself embracing a sense of gratitude. Immersed in the realm of grief, I gained a deep understanding of the importance of self-care. I came to the realization that I could not effectively assist others if I failed to extend the same level of care and compassion to myself.



Chris pictured with her fur baby, Chichi

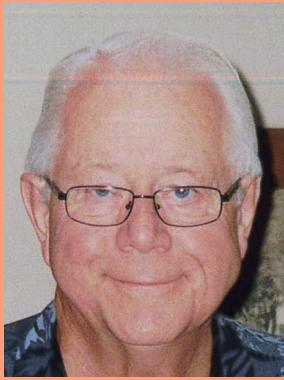
New Facilitator Training

Ryan's Place relies on compassionate volunteers to support our Monday Night Program. We invite you to our facilitator training on January 12, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM and January 13, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As the backbone of our organization, volunteers play a crucial role in shaping our community and making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Regardless of your background, you can find your place at Ryan's Place. Our training equips you with the knowledge and skills to facilitate our Monday Night Program effectively. Join us in creating a more compassionate community and providing essential support to those in need.

Your presence and dedication are invaluable. Contact Lindsay at llocke@ryansplace.org to sign up for the training. We look forward to welcoming you into the Ryan's Place family, working together for a better community.

In Loving Memory of Don Munn



One of our founders, Don Munn, died August 19th, 2023. Without Don and his wife Eunice, Ryan's Place may not have ever existed. After the tragic loss of their son Ryan at the age of 20, it was Don and Eunice who suggested to Rex and Nancy Gleim that they should consider opening a children's grief support center, as there was nothing in our community that catered to grieving children. After a tremendous amount of hard work, Ryan's Place opened its doors in 2002.

Rex and Nancy Gleim had this to say: "Don, our dear friend (and counselor to many), will long be remembered by us as the driving force behind the founding of Ryan's Place. His wisdom and recognition of the need to help grieving children and parents will always be remembered by us. Rest in peace, dear friend."

Building a Home for Healing Hearts

As many of you are aware, Ryan's Place has been diligently working towards establishing a permanent residence for our organization. A couple of years ago, we acquired a 9.7-acre piece of land known as our "Field of Dreams." Throughout the years, we've been fortunate to conduct our grief programs in various local churches and maintain our partnership with Silverwood Mennonite Church.

With the construction of our new facility, we will have the capability to host all of our programs, with the exception of school programs in the new building. This expansion will allow us to reach even more families and introduce new offerings, such as Spanish language groups, summer camps, anticipatory grief support, journaling sessions, daytime widower/widow support groups, a grief book club, art therapy, and more. Among our plans, we're including a dedicated "Tornado Room" designed for high-energy play to help children release pent-up emotions.

Furthermore, we're developing a comprehensive individual therapy program for those who prefer one-on-one support. We're also designing a memory garden/woods, where individuals can plant a tree in honor of their loved ones, along with a children's playscape and outdoor programming. A pavilion will be constructed to facilitate family programs and picnics, and an event lawn will serve as a venue for gatherings and events for our valued supporters.

If you'd like to learn more about our building project, please reach out to our President/CEO, Aileac Deegan, at adeegan@ryansplace.org or call (574) 202-1688



ANCON

MAIN ENTRANCE



ANCON

WELCOME CENTER + ATRIUM





Annual Report 2022

Between grief and hope there is Ryan's Place

1,487 clients served



1,076
children

411
adults



95 VOLUNTEERS



7,500 VOLUNTEER
HOURS OF SERVICE

55 school based grief support
programs in 12 different school
corporations



15 student interns



Our mission is to provide support in a safe environment where grieving children, teens and their families can share their experience as they move through the healing process.

514 individuals served in crisis
response call-outs to area schools
and businesses.



100% of families were gifted
with holiday presents.

Vision:

We believe that no child or
family should grieve alone.



1,867
Facebook
followers

Elkhart County

School Groups
36



Students Served
245

Kosciusko County

School Groups
13



Students Served
68

St. Joseph County

School Groups
5



Students Served
36

Marshall County

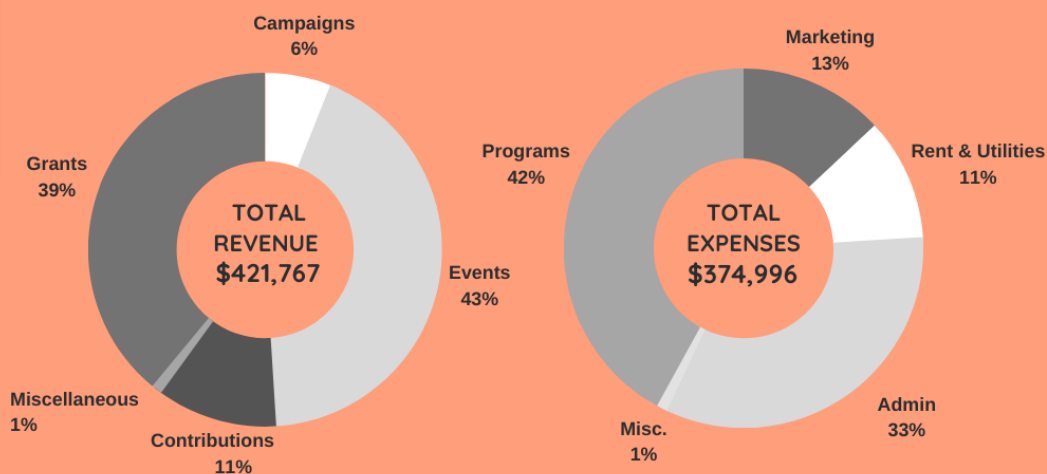
School Groups
1



Students Served
9



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Dear friends at Ryan's Place,

I hope this report finds you well. In looking back at 2022, it is with great pleasure that I present to you an overview of our annual report, detailing the incredible achievements and the profound impact we have made together in supporting children through their grief. Thanks to the generosity of our community and the unwavering support from individuals like you, we raised a total of \$421,767. These funds have been crucial in ensuring the continuity of our programs and expanding our reach to even more children and families in need. Turning our attention to expenses; as usual we have strived to optimize our resources, ensuring that every dollar spent contributes to the emotional healing, and well-being of the children we serve.

Speaking of our grief programs, we have witnessed extraordinary growth and impact this past year. Our team of dedicated professionals and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to express their grief, find solace, and learn essential coping skills. Through our individual counseling sessions, group support programs, school programs, and crisis response, we were able to serve a total of 1487 participants, which almost doubled the number served in 2021. The positive feedback we received from families and caregivers affirms the immeasurable value of our programs in guiding children through their unique grief journeys.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our community. Your donations, time, and dedication have been the cornerstone of our success. To all our incredible donors, volunteers, and partners, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your belief in our mission has allowed us to make a profound difference in the lives of countless children, giving them hope, understanding, and the tools to navigate their grief - all without any cost to our participants.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together. However, we also recognize that there is still much work to be done. With your continued support, we can expand our outreach, enhance our programs, and ensure that no child faces their grief alone. Thank you again for your steadfast support. Together, we are changing lives and providing healing to children when they need it most. We look forward to another year of growth, impact, and collective compassion.

With deep appreciation,

Aileac Deegan, MSW LSW
President/CEO
Ryan's Place

Board of Directors 2022

Board Officers

Board Chair: Doug VonGunten, Ancon Construction
Vice Board Chair: Glenn Peterson, Centier Bank
Secretary: Natalie Bickel, Elkhart Community Schools
Finance Chair: Paul Gardner, RSM

2022 Staff

Aileac Deegan, President/CEO
Lindsay Diener-Locke, Program Director
Courtney Rupp, Program Coordinator
Amanda Irvine, Program Coordinator
Chris Seminario, Outreach Coordinator
Erin Thompson, Development Coordinator
Kaitlin Ward, Events Coordinator

Board Members

Melissa Blosser, Lake City Bank
Michelle Blough, Goshen City Church of the Brethren
Ashley Bowen, LaCasa
Stephanie Everts, Lippert Components Inc.
Susan Corwin-Cripe, BPS & Associates
Brian Edwards, Lippert Components Inc.
Evan Estep, Excel Electronics
Ron Gardner, Retired - Edwards Jones
David O'Connor, partnerwithnp.com
Angelia Washington, Elkhart Housing Authority
Richard Warfield, St. Joseph County
Justin Whitaker, Genesis Products

Ryan's Place 2022 Donor List

Ryan's Place would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our 2022 donors..It was a difficult year and your generosity was critical to Ryan's Place being able to serve grieving children, teens, and their families in 2022. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Grants

City of Goshen
Community Foundation of Elkhart County
Crossroads United Way, Inc
Elkhart Community Schools
Elkhart Rotary Club
Indiana Youth Institute
Kosciusko Community Foundation
Monogram Loves Kids Foundation
New York Life Foundation
TCC Gives, Inc
Tri Kappa Alpha Rho of Elkhart
United Way of Whitley & Kosciusko Counties
Well Foundation
Winnebago Industries Foundation

Businesses, Churches, Foundations & Service Clubs

1st Source Bank
4 Paws Aviation Products
Ancon Construction Company
Assembly Mennonite Church
Bashor Children's Home
Beacon Medical Group
Bethany Church of the Brethren
Bethza Makeup Artist Studio LLC
Bill Deputy Foundation
Buffalo Wild Wings of Elkhart
Center for Hospice Care
Centier Bank
Circle of Friends Stamping Ministry
Comcast
Community Foundation of Elkhart County
Crystal Valley Exchange Club
Dart Sales & Marketing, LLC
Elkhart Luncheon Optimist Club
Everence
Excel Electronics, Inc
Exchange Club of Elkhart County
Fabric Services
Faith United Methodist Church
First State Bank
First United Methodist Church of Middlebury
Genesis Products
Goshen College
Goshen Health Foundation
Goshen Kiwanis Foundation
Greenfield Landscape Services
Interra Credit Union
Irions Foundation
Jimbo & Company Investments
Kelly Appraisals
Kroger

Lake City Bank
Lippert Components
Meadowood Gardens
Meijer
Michiana Rotational Moulding LLC
Monteith's Best One
Network for Good
New Paris Elementary School
Nuway Construction Corporation
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc
Pilot Insurance Agency
Smoker Craft
Ron & Lisa Fenech Foundation
Team Construction
The Imagination Spot
Tighe Family Foundation
TK Steel, Inc
Tri Kappa of Nappanee & Wakarusa Zeta Nu
VFW Post 88 Auxiliary
Waypoint Community Church
Welch Packaging Group, Inc
Wellfield Botanic Gardens
Wrangler Real Estate

Donors

Neil Amstutz
Anonymous
Barbara Lockwood & Robert Appleby
Michael Arthur
Walter Bachman
Brad Bartha
Nate Nussbaum & Mara Beck
Nick Becker
Chaz Bellman
Rose E. Benjamin
Jeanne Berger
Philip & Barbara Berkey
Drew Billings
Michelle Blough
Scott Bontrager
Wilbur & Sarah Bontrager
Bertha Bontrager-Rhodes
Lorraine & Levi Borntreger
Barbara Boss
Ashley Bowen
Cory & Juliana Bowman
Randall & Christy Brewers
Charles E. Brownnewell Jr
Harold & Leslie Buck
Phillip & Shannon Bushong
Julie & Mike Caffrey
Robert Canter

Christine Cesak
Barbara & Jim Chandler
David & Sara Chupp
Kara Clarke
Corinne Coppotelli
Susan Corwin-Cripe
Margaret Crabtree
Denis Cregan
Jack Cregan Kelly
Scott & Sheree Crist
Sherry Croyle
Janice Dean
Cliona Deegan
Daragh & Sarah Deegan
William & Aileac Deegan
Rossa & Georgette Deegan
Cian Deegan
Randy Deetz
Mandi Deputy Legacy
Mike, Max & Sam Deputy
Terry & Julie Diener
Joe & Lindsay Diener-Locke
Amber Diller
Julie Driggers
Timothy Dugle
Mary Duncan
Carl & Diane Eash
Brian & Jessica Edwards
Darin Elswick
Marcia Eppers
Frank & Esther Espitia
Eric Essig
Lee & Cindy Evers
Beverly Fiandt
Arick & Janet Fiandt
Michael & Dawn Fisher
Don & Peggy Flager
Kris & William Flora
Connie Fulmer
Ron & Rosemary Gardner
Paul Gardner
Elinor Gerig
Richard Gerig
David Gerig
Kevin & Susan Gipson
Rex & Nancy Gleim
Damon & Beth Gleim
Jeff Gordy
Adeline Graber
Jay Graber
Samuel Graber
Abe Graber Memorial Fund

Ryan's Place 2022 Donor List

Alvin & Dolores Graber, MD
Carol Grieser
Rae Griffin
Dean Hainey
Laurenne & Travis Hamlin
Paul & Darlene Hammons
Greg & Pat Hart
Timothy & Cheryl Hartigan
Dave & Cindy Hawkins
Robert & Nancy Hawkins
Sharon Henderson
Helen Herdejurgen
Greg & Charlotte Hoogenboom
Brad & Lisa Hooley
Kermit & Cheryl Hoover
Brandon Houston
Rena & Gerald Humerickhouse
Kimi & John Jackson
Brian & Amanda Jamison
Naomi Jantzi
Heather Jenks
John & Myrna Kaufman
Gary & Judi Keaffaber
Mary & Timothy Keenoy
Neil & Patricia Klocknow
Bruce & Jane Klonowski
Diane Klopp
Danielle Kolean
Laurel Krone
Omer & Susan Kropf
Sara Lee & Kermit Kropf
Kelly Krugman
Sara Kupke
Betty & David Kurtz
Kyle Kwasny
Sara Kyle
Bob & Sally Kyle
Samantha Lambert
Geoffrey Landis
Carol Larson
Michael Leedy
Ashley Lehman
Nicole Lengerich
Daniel & Mary Liechty
Linda & Joseph Liechty
Kelli & Aaron Liechty
Marjorie Liechty
David & Kathryn Lipp
Rosealene Long
Ralph & Maria Lucchese
Sarah Mangan
Garon & Ann Mann
Caleb Mast
Mark Mattes
Barb Mayall
Ruth Anne & William McCormick

Judith McDowell
John & Lynda McKee
Daryl & Laurie Meyer
Alfred & Laura Miller
Dr. R Mitchell Miller
Tony Miller
Jeff & Tracey Miller
Kirk Miller
Thomas & Sonya Miller
Kenda Miller
Gene & Jenny Miller
Evan Miller
Julie Moore
Timothy & Sandra Morgan
Linda Mosser
Richard Mountsier
Donald & Eunice Munn
Elaine Myers
Roger & Laurie Nafziger
James & Kelly Neff
Andy Nesbitt
Paul & Penelope Nielson
Verlyn Nofziger
David & Christine O'Connor
Bryan Olund
Mary Owens
Joshua Peek
Glenn & Becki Peterson
Susan Petitt
George & Kaye Pietrzak
James & Valerie Pinarski
Rodney & Marianne Pletcher
Brad Priest
Larry & Jeanette Reed
Kevin Rhude
Terri Rickel
Cody & Jaycee Riewe
J. Douglas Risser
Sharon & Doug Risser
Terry & Stacey Rodino
Marilyn Ronk
Doug Saner
Floyed & Eileen Saner
Aurthur & Kathleen Sawyer
Karl Schedwitz
Larry & Kay Schrock
Elizabeth Shrock
Tim Skibbe
Lawrence & Beverly Slaughter
James & Marilyn Smith
Christopher & Jodi Spataro
JoAnn Brant & Joseph Springer
Allison & Kyle Stiffney
Carol & Stephen Suth
James & Carol Suth
Marshall King & Bethany Swope

Michael & Sheila Terlep
Marcia Thompson
Tom & Carol Thompson
Curtis & Kathleen Toyer
Joshua Tripp
Dawn, Carl, & Jon Trubow
Lawrence & Crystal Underwood
Josh & Miranda Vallejo
Cindy Vance
Douglas & Jane Vendrely
Mark & Michelle Vilmure
Doug & Jolene VonGunten
Jasmine & Ryan Wall
Robert & Kathleen Wall
Gertrude Warkentin
Angelia M. Washington
Christine & Dale Way
Duane Grady & Beverly Weaver
Keith & Leslie Weirich
Susan Wenz
Robin Wesaw
Karen Wesdorp
Susan Weybright
Justin Whitaker
Beth Whitman
Marilynn J. Wilson
Jacqueline & Leonard Wilson
Jason Wogoman
Angela Woodcock
Todd & Diane Woodworth
Nicolas Wyse
Glen & Doris Yoder
Max & Jesse Yoder
Kimberly J Yoder
Jan & Patricia Yoder
Ray & Ada Yoder
Barbara Yoder
Victor & Joanna Zurek

Honorariums

Rae Griffin

Sherry Croyle
Susan Wenz

***2023 Memorials & Donations
will be acknowledged in
Spring 2024 Newsletter**



In Loving Memory of:

John Butler

Gertrude Warkentin

Keith & Jackie Dougherty

Michael Arthur
Barbara Boss
Kara Clarke
Janice Dean
Tighe Family Foundation
Timothy & Cheryl Hartigan
Neil & Patricia Klocknow
Bruce & Jane Klonowski
Susan Petitt
Marilyn Ronk
Lawrence & Beverly Slaughter
Marilyn Wilson

Joy Fiandt

Scott & Sheree Crist
Randy Deetz
Beverly Fiandt
Kevin & Susan Gipson
Rex & Nancy Gleim
Greg & Pat Hart
Bob & Sally Kyle
Marcia Thompson
Jan & Patrica Yoder

Jay Flood

William & Aileac Deegan
Laurenne Hamlin
Marjorie Liechty
Kirk Miller
Jon & Dawn Trubow
Kimberly Yoder

Rory Fuller

William & Aileac Deegan

Rick Herdejergen

Helen Herdejergen

Adam Hooley

Brad & Lisa Hooley
Sara Lee & Kermit Kropf

Stan Hoover

Arick & Janet Fiandt

Bette Keim

Arick & Janet Fiandt

Ava Kilmer

Jacqueline & Leonard Wilson

Jim & Carmen Noffsinger

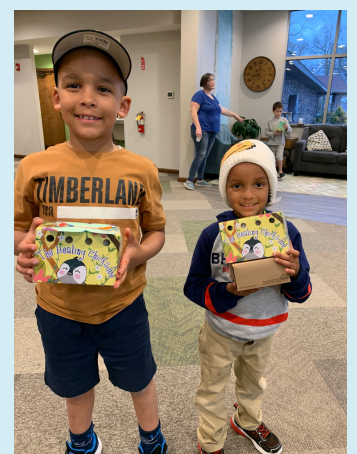
Randall & Christy Brewers
Chuck Brownell Jr
Robert Canter
Marcia Eppers
Don & Peggy Flager
Paul & Darlene Hammons
Ralph & Maria Lucchese
Terry & Stacy Rodino
James & Carol Suth
Robin Wesaw

Berneita Smucker

Arick & Janet Fiandt

Nancy Tooker

Arick & Janet Fiandt





Ryan's Place
P.O. Box 73
Goshen, IN 46527

www.ryansplace.org
574.535.1000



2023 Staff Members

CEO/President: Aileac Deegan
Program Director: Lindsay Deiner-Locke

Outreach Coordinator: Chris Seminaro
Development Coordinator: Jessica Layman

Board Members

Officers:

Past Board Chair: Doug VonGunten, *President, Ancon Construction*
Board Chair: Glenn Peterson, *Branch Manager, Centier Bank*
Vice Board Chair: Ashley Bowen, *Director of Financial Empowerment, LaCasa*
Finance Chair: Paul Gardner, *Tax Advisor, RSM*
Board Secretary: Michelle Blough, *Retired Educator*

Members at Large:

Melissa Blosser, *Vice President, Retail Banking Regional Manager, Lake City Bank*
Susan Corwin-Cripe, *Attorney, Corwin-Cripe Law, LLC*
Brian Edwards, *General Manager, Lippert Components Inc.*
Stephanie Everts, *Corporate HR Leader, Lippert Components Inc.*
Ron Gardner, *Financial Consultant, Retired*
Justin Whitaker, *Commodities Manager, Genesis Products.*
Richard Warfield, *IT Director, St. Joseph County*
Program Committee Chair: Natalie Bickel, *Supervisor of Student Services/Attendance Office, Elkhart Community Schools*

Main Office
118 S. Main St.
Goshen, IN 46526

Programming Space
1745 W. Lincoln Ave
Goshen, IN 46526

Art Space
912 Middlebury St.
Goshen, IN 46526

574.535.1000
ryansplace.org