



# MUNCIE ACTION PLAN

## August 2018 Newsletter

"I love Muncie because I found home here." - Kelly Shrock, Community Member

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### Celebrating Neighborhood Volunteers and Reaching New Neighborhoods

On July 17th, over 27 neighborhoods were represented as Muncie community members came together for a night of celebration at Tuhey Pool. Muncie Action Plan, Shafer Leadership

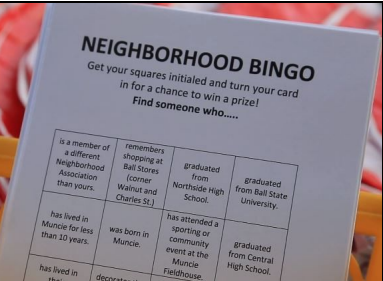
The mission of Task Force 2 is to help foster collaboration and grow strong neighborhood associations across Muncie. Aimee Fant, MAP's Neighborhood Coordinator, points out, "This pool party was a celebration of the work of all the volunteer leaders within our neighborhoods." Most people working at the neighborhood level are volunteering their time. According to Fant, an evening of celebration allows MAP to acknowledge and thank neighborhood volunteers.



Academy, and Ball State University's Office of Community Engagement teamed up to make the free pool party a success.

During the evening, "Neighborhood Bingo" cards were passed around to help people learn more about each other. These bingo cards contained blank spaces prompting, "was born in Muncie," "is a member of a different Neighborhood

Several of the attendees represented neighborhoods which have had little or no registered engagement with MAP prior to this event. Engaging new groups and individuals is an important part of MAP's vision to strengthen the Muncie community.



Association than yours," and "graduated from Central High School."

Prior to the event, Neighborhood Associations were invited to apply for funding for neighborhood improvement projects, and winning applications were announced during the pool party. Stay tuned to see these projects carried out in local neighborhoods!



Completed bingo cards could be redeemed for raffle tickets. The raffle prizes included gift certificates from Vera Mae's Bistro, Murray's Jewelers, and Kirk's Bike Shop, a Hayloft handmade purse, and various articles of clothing from the Fickle Peach.



## Community Members Turn Passion Into Partnership

Members of Muncie CrossFit’s Arsenal community and other local businesses teamed up to raise over \$10,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Muncie (BGCM), to install a weight room in their newly remodeled



South Madison Street location. The project was fully funded within a month.

Jason Newman, CEO of BGCM, wanted to create

a more engaging learning environment for the community’s youth. Newman found that after a long day in the classroom, the kids were not responding because they were tired of sitting. He began to realize that BGCM programming was more beneficial during physical activity. Newman says not everyone learns best in a traditional classroom setting and believes that the weight room is a place where mentors can do some of the best teaching.

BJ McKay, BGCM Board Member and member of Muncie CrossFit at The Arsenal, knew a weight room could impact club members. “I’ve seen the life-changing things CrossFit does to people. Why can’t we bring this kind of experience to [Boys & Girls Club members]?” As part of this community partnership, the Arsenal Community will join BGCM staff in providing coaching, training, and mentorship to the kids who use the weight room. Those who donated towards this project will spend a Saturday

at the BGCM to see the current state of the old, used workout equipment. Once the new weight room is completed, another open house will occur and BGCM club members can come to receive training on the new equipment. McKay anticipates that the contrast will have a significant impact on both the students and Arsenal Community members.

Newman understands that upgrading the Club’s equipment will attract more people into the Club and allow the staff to use working out to teach life lessons about success and failure. “Too often people throw on too much weight and then fail,” Newman said in a promotional video created to introduce this weight room partnership. Part of the Club’s program is to help members identify goals and how to work towards them, overcoming the tendency to quit when circumstances feel difficult.



McKay also spearheaded “Muncie Check-In For Charity,” where every “check-in” at the Arsenal on Facebook sends a donation to local charities, including the Boys & Girls Club. “The richness of what we do gets isolated to geographic places of the community. We unintentionally isolate parts of

“Why can’t we bring this kind of experience to Boys & Girls Club Members?”

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the community by where we place [events and groups],” McKay said. He wants to collaborate with Newman to continually open up the flow of resources and relationships through the Muncie community.

Ten years ago, Muncie Action Plan began asking Muncie community members, “What should be done to make Muncie the best it can be in the coming years?” The answer to that question is exactly what everyday Muncie community members are doing

through the Muncie CrossFit Arsenal community and the Boys & Girls Club of Muncie staff.

McKay is passionate about great people staying in the Muncie community. “Jason is a collaborator. I want Jason to win. He is the real deal, and he’s proved it.”

As Muncie continues to unify its community identity, partnerships like this need to continue. How can you follow your passions to make a difference?

# Board Member Spotlight

## Kelly Shrock

President, The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County



**When did you join the MAP board?** 2014

**Why are you on the MAP board?** The Community Foundation has been involved in MAP since MAP’s inception. The Community Foundation’s mission encompasses MAP’s mission to improve the quality of life for residents of Muncie. The Community Foundation wants to be a valuable partner in work that enriches the way the work, live and play in Muncie.

**Favorite Ice Cream Flavor:** Mint chocolate chip!

*“I love Muncie because I found home here. My neighbors look out for each other, I feel welcomed and accepted here and people want to make a difference here..”*

# Discover Muncie!

In celebration of Garfield's 25th birthday back in 2003, local organizations around Muncie teamed up to create Garfield statues that are still on display around the city.

The famous cat cartoon figure is linked to Muncie's identity since the cat's creator, Jim Davis, has both studied and worked in Muncie and spent much of his life in neighboring Grant County. Davis studied art and business at Ball State University and joined BSU's School of Art faculty in 2016.

Be on the lookout for these statues! Go to [visitmuncie.org/garfield-statues-of-muncie](http://visitmuncie.org/garfield-statues-of-muncie) for a list of Garfield statues. Click on the purple link at the bottom of the page for the address of the statues.

The Garfield on display in Jack's Camera shop was built with a Polaroid camera inside of it. Although the required film type has been discontinued, you can still stop into Jack's Camera Shop and learn how the process works.

Visit Garfield at the Muncie Visitors Bureau, City Hall, and other locations!



Come find this Garfield statue titled, "Learn Not To Burn...the Lasagna!" in the basement just outside of the Muncie Children's Museum!



Come find this Garfield statue titled, "Feline Exposed" inside of Jack's Camera Shop at the corner of Jefferson and Main!

*Thanks for reading! #LOVElyMuncie*