

WINTER 2011

The Power *of the Purse*

*Leader of Vera Bradley shares wisdom
at annual Women's Tea*



Purses are powerful things. Just ask Patricia Miller, co-founder of the Vera Bradley line of women's handbags. As the featured speaker for the Foundation's 11th annual Women's Tea, Miller shared how the company got its start 30 years ago with two women from Fort Wayne and an idea to create stylish handbags. Today Vera Bradley is an international phenomenon, publicly traded on the NASDAQ.

"What started out as a partnership of two women has expanded to nearly 1,800 employees - and 87 percent of them are women," said Miller. "We started as a cottage industry and an idea," she said. "We contributed just \$250 each." The company has also established its own foundation to support research for breast cancer.

Sharing from their purses

Miller's message hit home to the room of more than 300 attendees of the annual tea. For it was just five years ago that a similar group used the annual tea to launch Impact Porter County, a women's giving circle dedicated to helping Porter County women. By contributing from their own purses, they've been able to help women's causes in their own community. Supporters may contribute any amount, or choose to join the circle for an annual commitment of \$1,000 each, which entitles members to a voice in deciding where the money is directed each year.

Porter County women respond

This year the Impact Porter County Giving Circle grew to a record 70 members and raised more than \$100,000 this year. Since its inception in 2007, Impact Porter County has raised more than \$440,000 and awarded \$170,000 in grants to expand education options for women, improve their life skills, and support their families. So far Impact Porter County grants have gone to KV Works for scholarships to help women improve their job skills, PACT to support programming for female offenders, Hilltop Neighborhood House for renovation of Walt's Place, and Parents as Teachers for expanding services to low-income families. In addition to these grants, one half of the money raised each year is placed in an endowment to ensure that support for women's causes continues forever.

To get involved

For more information about Impact Porter County, call (219) 465-0294, or visit portercountyfoundation.org.



*A Gift is a
Click Away*



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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
**Look inside for
FAB FIFTEEN
FUN!**

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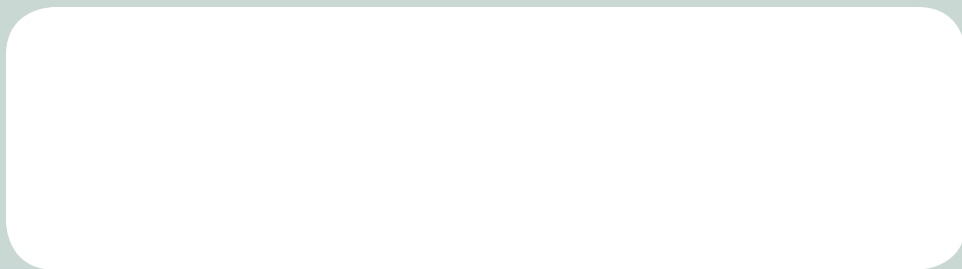
The Porter County Community Foundation celebrated its 15th year with a Fab Fifteen FUNdraiser focused on the future... our children's future! More than 300 attended the event at the Porter County Expo Center, dressed in their favorite college team gear, to show their support for higher education.

"Our goal was to raise \$10,000 for each inspiring year since our founding," said Barbara Young, Foundation President. "We're so grateful to all who participated – for their gifts and for the enthusiastic support of education," she said.



It's Never Too Late

If you weren't able to attend the event, but wish to contribute toward Foundation scholarships, contact us today at 219-465-0294 or contribute online at www.portercountyfoundation.org and indicate "Scholarships" with your gift.



3 EASY STEPS *for Year-End Giving*



***A Gift is a
Click Away***

There are many reasons to give at this time of year: Celebrating a sacred holiday. Sharing our gratitude. Preparing for tax time. Whatever your reasons, the Porter County Community Foundation can make it easy to decide where and how to give. Here are three easy steps to year-end giving:

- **What's in your heart?**

Consider causes that are special to you or your loved ones. The Foundation can make it simple: A single gift to the Porter County Community Foundation can be designated toward one or more of the 200+ funds established at the Foundation. A gift can also be used to support Foundation efforts in general, ensuring that the organization continues to help your community forever.

- **What would you like to share?**

There are so many ways to give. You can give cash, appreciated securities, life insurance policies, real estate, retirement plan assets or other assets. You may also be able to create an annuity, which allows you to continue to receive an income from your gift for the rest of your lifetime. Giving can be just a click away online at www.portercountyfoundation.org or we can sit down and walk you through options.

- **How can you make the biggest impact?**

Often we hear from people who feel they can't make a big difference but wish to support a number of worthy organizations. The Foundation empowers you to do the maximum good by combining your gifts - no matter the size - with those of others to make a difference in your own community. When you factor in the tax advantages, most people prefer to see their gifts at work in their own community rather than transferred from their hands in the form of taxes.

Give in your name or as a gift to others

Giving in the name of a loved one is a great way to honor an organization and an individual at the same time. And by planning ahead, you may choose the best gift and optimal timing so that you may be able to make a larger gift at the same after-tax cost to you.

Call on us. We'll help you wrap it up

The Porter County Community Foundation has 15 years of experience to help you learn your giving options for today, tomorrow or forever. Call on us today at 219-465-0294 or visit www.portercountyfoundation.org.

