

## Putting her money where her heart is

**JCCF: Woman's contribution will benefit many**

Bryce Mayer

After seeing several nonprofit groups coming up empty handed last year, Laura Petri decided to put her money where her heart is.

The woman, who recently moved back to Jennings County from California, has given \$20,000 to the Jennings County Community Foundation that has been turned into \$60,000 with matching grants. That includes \$10,000 from her company, CareFusion, with the Lilly Endowment adding a full match of \$30,000.

"The compelling story for me is that last year many wonderful groups did not receive money that they desperately need," Petri said, referring to the **JCCF** community grants program in which \$10,000 is given out annually to nonprofit projects. "This contribution will enable the Foundation to help our community in an even greater way year after year. I am so excited."

The Laura Petri Fund is part of **JCCF's** Heritage Touch Tomorrow Today Fund.

"What a neat way to benefit the community forever and preserve your family name, plus get your contribution matched at 100 percent," marveled Barb Shaw, **JCCF** director. "Laura wants to give back to the community and this is a great way to do it. We hope it sparks more people to give."

Petri is the daughter of Clarence and Patty Wullenweber of Commiskey. She graduated from Jennings County High School in 1992 and Indiana University in 1996. She holds a bachelor's degree in Health Administration from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, with MBA studies at Indiana University Kelley School of Business and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She is vice president of medical management for CareFusion, a medical technology firm based in San Diego, Calif. She is responsible for the Midwest Area and delivering integrated healthcare solutions that make hospitals and patients safer.

Around 10 months ago, Petri purchased a home in Vernon Township that, ironically, was part of the estate of Stan Snider, one of the **JCCF's** largest donors.

The Heritage Touch Tomorrow Today Fund is an unrestricted fund that is used for the annual community grants and other payouts.

"The most difficult grant money to achieve is what the Community Foundation calls nondesignated or unrestricted funds," Petri said. "Almost all of the Foundation's donations are designated funds with the majority directed to scholarships.

"My goal is to get to the point that every (community) grant applicant receives the necessary funding and there is no more having to turn people in need down," she added.

The deadline for donations to the **JCCF** nondesignated funds to be matched by the Lilly Endowment is March or when funds are depleted, Shaw said.



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Laura Petri, left, with Jennings County Community Foundation director Barb Shaw, said she was compelled to create a fund to help groups that desperately need money for projects.—Submitted Photo

"We are at about 40 percent of the limit of our match for nondesignated funds," she said. "If anyone wants to donate, they had better hurry.

"We need to show Lilly that Jennings County appreciates what they are doing by providing these matches. There is no better way than donating to the Foundation," Shaw added.

To make a donation, contact the Foundation Center, 111 N. State St., North Vernon, telephone 812-346-5553, website [jenningsfoundation.net](http://jenningsfoundation.net).

Petri also recently signed on to be one of the keynote speakers for the **JCCF** Women's Giving Circle's annual Reach Conference to be held Nov. 6.

"I'm looking forward to being part of the mentor day for young women - giving back and giving hope," she said.

Moving back to Jennings County reminded her of that, Petri said.

"Upon returning to Jennings County is when I was reminded of the great need that exists here," Petri added. "That inspired me to help."