



HISTORY OF "LAUNDRY LOVE"

In 2019, Nancy Carlson had the idea of providing ten dollar rolls of quarters to the underserved patrons of the White Spot Laundry. She partnered with The Riverside Normal City Neighborhood Association, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thrivent Financial and of course The White Spot Laundry. This event was held near Valentine's Day and Nancy entitled it, "Laundry Love", and that is exactly what it is.

Over the years the program has evolved. The first several years a Thrivent Action Team Grant was used to purchase the rolls of quarters. During Covid, a small box of laundry soap and a White Spot Laundry gift card was issued to recipients of the Open Hands Feeding Ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The last several years the RNCNA has taken over the program. In 2025 there were rolls of quarters left after the Laundry Love event so Beth Messner, Treasurer of RNCNA, had the idea of Lucky Laundry and rolls of quarters were given out to the patrons of The White Spot Laundry near St. Patrick's Day. It is very heartwarming to see the faces of the recipients when they are gifted a roll of quarters to clean their clothes.

Deena's Coffee Shop opened, next to The White Spot Laundry, in January of 2025. During the Laundry Love event, the recipients of the rolls of quarters are given a voucher to get a warm drink next door at Deena's. This is a way for RNCNA to give back to a business in The Neighborhood.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING MAP SPONSORED EVENTS



NEW!
Porch Parties
July 11

S2 Tour of the Village
August 29

Muncie Bridge Dinner
September 17

NEIGHBORHOOD SPRING EVENTS

Gatewood Neighborhood

Board Meeting

March 19th, 2026 | On Zoom

GNA Member Meeting

April 19th, 2026 | The Kitselman Center

Thomas Park/Avondale

Spring Egg Hunt

March 4th, 2026, 2–3 PM | Ross Center

Ice Cream Social

June 5th, 2026, 5–7 PM | Ross Center

Southside Neighborhood

Basketball Tournament with Gus Macker

July 18th, 2026 | Register your team by June 29th

Whitely Community

Neighborhood Association Meeting

March 9th, 2026, 5–7 PM

Union Missionary Baptist Church

Find more event information at muncineighborhoods.org

MUNCIE WAYPOINT

Care about Muncie but feel overwhelmed by where to start and how to make a difference?

Muncie Waypoint turns local engagement into a tangible, rewarding challenge, helping you shift from passive news consumption to active leadership by shaping the issues that matter most—such as public safety and the quality of our local schools and neighborhoods.

Don't stay on the sidelines.

Sign up at <https://munciewaypoint.substack.com/> and start your ascent today!



CenterPoint Scholars (2024–2025)

CenterPoint Scholars (2025–2026)

CENTERPOINT SCHOLARS: MEET THE LEADERS SHAPING MUNCIE'S FUTURE

Heather Williams | MAP Task Force 3 Chair

The CenterPoint Scholars Program is a year-long leadership academy designed to train resident leaders in grassroots advocacy and community development. Launched by the Muncie Action Plan in 2023 with support from CenterPoint Energy and the City of Muncie, it helps participants build skills in project management, conflict resolution, and local government to improve their neighborhoods.

The first cohort of CenterPoint Scholars (2024-2025) focused their efforts on addressing local food insecurity, which they determined was Muncie's most pressing need. Two teams worked to develop projects that would make a difference in our city's neighborhoods.

A project of team Magic Muncie, The Helping House was created to combat food insecurity and stigma. These vibrant, honor-system structures provide non-perishable goods and hygiene items. The first location is now open at Maring-Hunt

Library, offering a dignified, judgment-free way for neighbors to support one another.

The Free Food Fridge at the Common Market was created by Team 5:50 Alliance. It combats food insecurity by providing fresh produce and proteins without barriers. Supported by volunteers and partners like the YMCA, the initiative has distributed over 31,000 pounds of food. It fosters community through dignified access—simply take what you need.

MAP welcomed its second cohort of CenterPoint Scholars in March 2025. These seven scholars identified Communication and Connection as key issues to address and worked throughout the year on several projects including a WMUN radio show, play library, printed newsletters, Porch Party event, and an informal town hall. We're excited to share information about these projects in our next newsletter!



THE 5:50 ALLIANCE FOOD FRIDGE: BRIDGING THE GAP IN FOOD INSECURITY

Napoleon Price Jr. | Centerpoint Scholar Alumnus

The 5:50 Alliance Free Food Fridge aims to bridge the gap in food insecurity by providing essential ingredients such as meats, proteins, and fresh produce. We believe that sharing a meal fosters the communication and sense of belonging necessary to sustain a community. The concept is simple: we stock the fridge, and it remains available to anyone in need. By eliminating most barriers to access, we only require a household count and zip code. This allows us to track our impact, which currently exceeds 31,000 pounds of food provided to residents from various areas.



Our mission is powered entirely by volunteers whose dedication turns this concept into a daily lifeline. Their efforts have transformed the Common Market into a hub of mutual support where neighbors look out for one another. We would like to extend a special thanks to the YMCA for supporting our first non-perishable food drive this January. While many individuals have contributed to this project's success, please know that your influence is deeply appreciated.

For those interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact me at napoleonprice7@gmail.com or follow the Common Market Muncie IN on Facebook. Monetary donations can be made directly to curehunger.org by mentioning the 5:50 Alliance at the Common Market.

CenterPoint Scholars is a program of the Muncie Action Plan, funded through generous support from the CenterPoint Energy Foundation and the City of Muncie. 5:50 Alliance is one of the 2 groups of the Inaugural Center Point Scholars program

THE HELPING HOUSE: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMPASSION

Alexis Dishman | Centerpoint Scholar 2024–2025 Cohort

When I was selected to be part of the inaugural CenterPoint Scholars 2024-2025 cohort, I expected a meaningful learning experience, but I didn't anticipate how deeply it would impact both me and our community.

As part of the program, our group was challenged to identify a pressing local need. Through open conversations and shared experiences, we found common ground around food insecurity—not only the lack of food, but the stigma that often comes with asking for help. The need for a compassionate, accessible solution was clear.

From those conversations, The Helping House was born.

The Helping House is a standalone structure that provides non-perishable food and hygiene items through a simple,

dignified, and judgment-free process. Each structure is uniquely painted with vibrant scenes designed to spark warmth and connection, helping make the experience of giving and receiving feel uplifting and community-centered.

Inspired by the concept of a Little Free Library, The Helping House operates on an honor system.

Our first Helping House is now open at Muncie Public Library–Maring-Hunt Branch (2005 S. High St.). We are committed to maintaining and expanding these structures to ensure quiet, consistent support for those who need it most.

Learn more and follow our journey on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHelpingHouseMuncie

INVESTING IN MUNCIE, \$20 AT A TIME

Kate Elliot



I was seven and a half months pregnant when I moved to Muncie in August 2011. I had never been to Indiana and didn't know a single Hoosier. That winter, I bundled up my newborn to walk along the White River as I called friends and family. It was a lonely time.

I had moved here from Valdosta, Georgia, where I had spent too many nights complaining about its lack of this or that. Maybe it was easier to complain than to commit, knowing I wanted to move closer to my home state of Missouri. I kept one foot out the door. And when you do that, you never really belong.

When I moved to Muncie, I promised myself I would never again treat a city as temporary. I wasn't sure how long I'd stay, but I was determined to make Muncie my home.

As I entered the workforce, colleagues warned me not to buy a house in Muncie. Realtors suggested we consider schools outside the city. Neighbors complained about potholes or politics and a lack of culture and nightlife.

Oh, no. Not again.

No city is perfect, but I refused to join in the chorus of criticism. That wasn't blind loyalty; it was a decision. A choice to participate rather than detach. To ask not, "What's wrong here?" but "What can we build here, and who will join us?" Cities rarely change because of a grand gesture. They evolve because ordinary people show up—to volunteer, to support local businesses, to mentor children and to talk with neighbors.

So, I showed up.

I joined boards and came up with a simple, slightly quirky way to meet my neighbors and invest in the city. Whenever I'd meet an interesting person, I'd give them \$20 to donate to a local person or organization. I then wrote about their modest but meaningful investments in each other and our community. My first interview was with a gardener who gave her \$20 to a neighbor who used it to buy seeds for a school garden.

Twenty dollars won't fix potholes or solve politics, but it can spark connection. It can tell a story. It can remind us that communities are built through small, steady acts of faith in one another.

The Muncie Action Plan and CenterPoint Scholars have partnered to support this project. Together, we look forward to sharing the stories of your neighbors and their passions—celebrating not just what Muncie lacks, but what it already holds, and what we can grow together.