



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **KHCPL RECEIVES GRANT FROM DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION**

The community is one step closer to having a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom, thanks to a Local Community Development Grant from the Duke Energy Foundation.

The Kokomo-Howard County Public Library just received word from the Duke Energy Foundation that it awarded the library \$9,544 to help fund this important project.

“Duke Energy is committed to sustainability in all its operations,” said Kevin Johnston, government and community relations manager for Howard County. “Young children who learn important lessons about environmental responsibility and stewardship are more likely to carry those positive messages into adulthood to help maintain and improve the quality of life for the entire community.”

A patron bequeathed nearly \$13,000 to KHCPL with a stipulation it be used at KHCPL Russiaville. One of the approved uses for the money was a new service for children.

“We were grateful for the donation, and the patron’s vision for the gift ties in with our long-term strategy of making each of our locations a destination spot and providing more outdoor programming,” said KHCPL Director Faith Brautigam. “Because of KHCPL Russiaville’s location being so close to Clinton, Tipton, and Carroll counties, we foresee it drawing in and benefitting not only those from Kokomo and Howard County, but also those communities. With its focus on outdoor education, we believe it will offer new opportunities to partner with others and will be enjoyed by groups from schools and early childhood centers as well as families. It will also allow us to host more library events on-site at KHCPL Russiaville rather than using other Russiaville locations, as we’ve done in the past.”

“We know that the Duke Energy Foundation receives an overwhelming number of funding requests each year and are thrilled that they recognized this project’s potential. Their support will also provide momentum for us as we seek additional funding for the project.”

Just as its name suggests, an outdoor classroom is a place where children learn.

Child development research shows that children need and benefit from more time outdoors.

Think about all the skills you learned with outdoor play: problem-solving when building a fort, understanding the importance of preserving natural habitats when studying shells at the beach, and social skills when interacting with other kids in the neighborhood.

“The retention rate for learning by doing is 75 percent compared with just 5 percent for lecture-based learning,” according to a Bethel Learning Institute study. “When students are learning outdoors, they are using all of their senses and their abilities to absorb and take in information. They are also learning an appreciation for nature and developing active stewardship for the natural areas in their communities.”

KHCPL is seeking grants and donations to fund the balance of the cost of the Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom.

“Your donation, big or small, gives you an active role in bringing about positive change. The total cost of this project will be approximately \$65,000. We will be combining the bequeathed amount, the Duke Energy Foundation grant, and other grants, as well as utilizing volunteer labor and in-kind donations.”

To make a donation, go to [www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/russiaville-outdoor-classroom](http://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/russiaville-outdoor-classroom).

### **About Duke Energy Foundation**

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where its customers live and work. In 2015, the foundation provided more than \$2 million in charitable gifts to Indiana not-for-profit organizations. The foundation’s education focus spans kindergarten to career, particularly science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), early childhood literacy, and workforce development. It also supports the environment and community impact initiatives, including arts and culture. For more information, visit [www.duke-energy.com/foundation](http://www.duke-energy.com/foundation).

### **About KHCPL**

The library is a vital component in an engaged and thriving community. We create opportunities for our community to become its best. Explore Your Opportunities. For more information, visit [KHCPL.org](http://KHCPL.org).

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*Explore Your Opportunities!*