

# Member Matter\$



## The Class of 2024 – Pursuing excellence, serving the greater good

It is our annual privilege to recognize seventeen graduating senior student Members of Hoosier Hills Credit Union with a \$1000 Pay It Forward Scholarship – recipients selected by educators and counsellors to recognize effort and achievement. The talented graduates also have this in common: in their pursuit of excellence, none shirked service to the greater good. That aligns with our decades-old mission: make a positive difference in the lives of our Members and in the Communities we serve. Well done, class of 2024!

### Art and design future for tennis standout Rebecca

**Rebecca Epping**, one of two 2024 Pay It Forward Scholarship winners from Bedford North Lawrence High School, will attend Alfred University in Alfred, NY, and study design and art with her scholarship. She is the daughter of Melissa Epping and a member of the Marching Band, History Club, Euchre Club, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Community Band, and the Indiana University Junior Travel Tennis Team.

Rebecca is employed at the Indiana University Tennis Center and played on the BNL varsity team, which means she can hit a backhand topspin rocket down the alley, too!



### Honor Society member, record-setter: Adam Kunkel

Athlete and scholar, **Adam Kunkel** set school records as the quarterback for South Dearborn High School, was a National Honor Society member and will attend the University of Cincinnati to become an educator. It's a career that stems from volunteering at youth sports camps: "I have been able to instruct, develop their skills and play the sports that I loved."

A member of the varsity football, baseball, and basketball teams, Adam excelled at football with a school record, 5,297 career passing yards. His favorite play? "The Clemson – a mesh concept where people would run across the field," Adam said. Nobody sets records without help. Adam praised receivers Austin Ballart, Hudson Shackleford, and Oliver Babcock, "and my left tackle Blake Pruss."



The son of Paul and Sue Kunkel, Adam loves competition: "My happiest, most memorable moments came while playing sports with my friends. I hope these youngsters have very similar experiences."

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## We work for our communities

Your credit union, and the HHCU associates who work here, take immense pride in serving the greater good – whether that's volunteering at food banks, picking up litter, ringing bells for the Salvation Army or committing their time to dozens of other volunteer activities throughout Southern and Central Indiana.



It's a responsibility we take very seriously because it's one of the reasons that credit unions were born: a passion for people helping people.



This year our \$35,000 donation to county-led community foundations across Southern and Central Indiana was front-loaded into February to take advantage of a terrific opportunity from the charitable arm of one of Indiana's premier companies: Eli Lilly & Co.

The Lilly Endowment GIFT VIII Initiative contributed a matching grant of \$30,000 to support our efforts to county foundations to help charities and non-profits across Southern and Central Indiana.

But your credit union's charitable initiatives did not end there.

In 2021 we became the first credit union in history to join the Pledge 1% program with an annual commitment to donate 1% of hours worked by our HHCU associates to local non-profits or charities. That's like having one full-time employee work at a charity every single day of the year.

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# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## Soccer talent leads Grant to an exercise science career

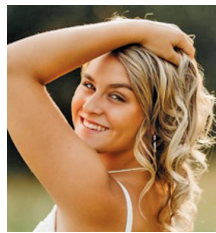
**Grant Beyers**, one of our two HHCU Pay It Forward Scholarship winners for 2024 for Bedford North Lawrence High School, will attend Indiana Tech University in Ft. Wayne, and major in Exercise Science Pre-Physical Therapy.



Soccer is his passion. He was a local referee at Oolitic Bidy Ball and the Orbit Futball Club. Grant, son of L.J. and Jama Beyers, was a member of Beta Club, Santa's Stars, NFHS Ambassador Athlete Association, and Student Athlete Leadership Team.

## Nursing: The next big goal for Emilie

**Emilie Roll**, the 2024 HHCU Scholarship recipient from Tell City, will pursue nursing when she attends Indiana University Southeast. "I aim to make a difference," Emilie said. The daughter of Keith and Amanda Zellers, Emilie blended physical fitness with athletic ability in cheerleading, diving, volleyball, track-and-field and cross-country.



Her time as a hospital volunteer reflects her willingness to help others, as did mentorship for Tell City elementary students.

## A broken lawnmower ignites Blake's passion for the auto industry

Three years ago, Jasper Senior **Blake Broeker**, son of Neil Broeker, tore apart his broken grandparents' lawnmower. The intricacies of the engine entranced him...how parts worked together - the sheer beauty of the thing.



"I knew I was going into the automotive industry," he detailed in his application for a \$1,000 Pay It Forward Scholarship - one of two gifted annually to Jasper seniors. "Going to Ivy Tech is going to help me on my journey through the automotive industry." Blake credits Automotive Technology classes during high school and a job at Bob Luegers Motors: "I plan to stay with Luegers for quite a long time."

## Education will be a mission - and career - for Ellie

Helping fourth graders wrestle math problems launched a career choice for Jasper High School Senior **Ellie Knies**: "Teaching is my passion...and I could not be more thrilled to study education."



While good grades are important, Ellie knows drive and having goals are equally vital. "I will continue to work hard toward my goals," she wrote. "I believe I have worked very diligently

these past four years and I know I will continue in the next four years!"

Ellie, daughter of Jenny Sermersheim and Chris Knies and one of two Jasper High recipients, plans to attend Indiana State in Terre Haute and study elementary and special education.

## An outstanding scholar & athlete: Bella Nottger

Like many who have grown up on farms in Orange County and joined 4-H, **Bella Nottger** had a career in mind for as long as she can remember: "I want to be a veterinarian," Bella said. "Whether an animal is a pet or part of a bigger business plan, it is a privilege to be their advocate."



The 2024 winner of the scholarship for Springs Valley High School, Bella has expertise in lamb and swine care. Treasurer of the Swine Barn, she was also secretary of student council, volunteered at multiple support groups for veterans, and was on the honor roll for three years.

Bella, daughter of Jason and Jamias Nottger, captained basketball, track and field, and volleyball teams, achieved All-Conference and All-State honors in volleyball and placed third in academics. Jobs at the Apron Strings Diner and Goose Creek Farms offered lessons, too: "A positive impact in the lives of others and improving the community - that's what's important to me." She will attend Lincoln Trail Community College.

## "You never know the impact you might have on someone's life"

**Jenna May**, the 2024 Pay It Forward Scholarship winner from Lawrenceburg, learned about gratitude on Saturday mornings while serving meals to homeless people who had had a turn of bad luck.



"While folks ate, I would have conversations and listen to their stories," said Jenna, also National and Spanish Honor Society member. After hearing the stories, she could not help but be grateful for what she had in her life:

"I gave them someone to talk to, since most no longer have family...you never know the impact you may have on someone's life," she said. The daughter of Carleen and Kevin May, Jenna plans to attend IUPUI and build on lessons learned as: President of the Spanish Club, member of the Key Club, varsity member of the tennis team and journalist at the student newspaper, The Tiger Tribune.

## Entrepreneurship is Stella's life goal

You may recognize **Stella Windhorst** as a Paoli barista or restaurant host and server. She was active in her town: from helping at construction of Paoli's Play Oli Park to events at the United Methodist Church. An Academic All-State, Stella excelled at volleyball and track, was

editor-in-chief of the high school yearbook, and a member of student council and the Booster Club.

Stella, the daughter of William Windhorst, is the Paoli High School scholarship recipient and plans to study marketing at the Kelley School of Business on the IU campus, where she received a Provost Scholarship. Her big goal? "Open my own business. Being self-employed is what I foresee. And IU will provide me with the best education and opportunities for success."



## Engineering has its grip on Austin DeSchamp

**Austin DeSchamp**, the Pay it Forward Scholarship winner from Forest Park High School, has long enjoyed problem-solving and critical thinking challenges and intends to pursue a career in engineering at the University of Evansville.



"As an engineer, I will solve problems and improve the machines and infrastructure that society uses. The ways I could improve the world as an engineer are limitless," he said.

The son of HHCU members Beth and Matthew DeSchamp, Austin has already achieved many life milestones: Boy Scouts of America Troop 189 Eagle Scout; National Honor Society/National Beta Club; and Member of his Redemption Christian Church Leadership group. He also volunteers in the church nursery.

"A career in engineering will allow me to challenge myself while bettering the lives of those around me," he said. Being involved has taught Austin about gratitude. "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to win this scholarship," Austin said. "It sure will help me along the way."

## Anna's goal: Be a compassionate healthcare provider

Finishing atop her class academically, **Anna Deckard** will study nursing at Indiana University Bloomington. This Orleans High School graduate expects the HHCU scholarship to help her reach a noble objective: make the world better for everybody. "I put a great amount of work and dedication into my academic excellence and am fully committed to becoming a compassionate healthcare professional," she wrote.



"This scholarship will not only help contribute to my education - it will boost my ability to provide quality care in a positive way."

From varsity cheer captain to captain of the golf team, secretary of the National Honor Society to editor of the yearbook and qualifier for Business Professionals of America...from jobs at Tammy Noble Photography and HD Graphix to babysitting, this is certain: Orleans is a better place thanks to Anna.

## Theatre offered life lessons for Jessica

**Jessica Hollin**, our scholarship winner for Switzerland County High School, knows about balancing the demands of a job and school. She worked at a Shell Service Station her freshman year and at a grocery her sophomore year. Her senior year, she was a host at Belterra Casino's Stadium restaurant.



A sharp and engaged student, Jessica, daughter of Hannah and Ben Shelton, was captain of the school academic team for two years, a member of the knitting club and during her senior year joined the Drama Club and National Honor Society, receiving a Hoosier Girls State Staff Award. In the school play Murder by Ten, Jessica had a lead as a preppy character named Peppy Sparks.

"It was my first play. I got to meet new people, had a lot of fun and, well, I learned to memorize things a whole lot better." Jessica plans to attend Ball State University to study wildlife conservation and rehabilitation.

## Classmates pick leadership roles for Andrea

The Mitchell High School winner of the \$1,000 HHCU Pay It Forward Scholarship is the dynamic **Andrea Williams**, who will attend Butler University to major in speech pathology.



Classmates repeatedly chose Andrea, daughter of Autume Williams, for leadership roles. A Fellowship of Christian Athlete member, she also was a Jobs for American Graduates member and president of the club her senior year. A member of The Amnesty Club, Andrea was also active in the organization Students Against Destructive Decisions and voted onto student council all four years.

As a Dance Team member, she performed at athletic events and competed at national competitions. Her motto? "Ummmm...follow your dreams," from a favorite musician and rapper, the late Mac Miller.

## Boiler up - Hammer down for Landon Reuber

Landon Reuber, the Northeast Dubois High School scholarship winner, will study chemical engineering at Purdue. A standout swimmer and captain of the team, signature events were the 500-yard freestyle and 200 Individual Medley.

Senior class secretary and treasurer of student council, Landon's volunteerism included blanket-making for hospitalized children, volunteering at Vacation Bible School, serving communion and being the treasurer of the Fellowship of Local Christian Athletes. Captain of the soccer team, Landon engaged in the Beta Club, was Most Valuable Swimmer, and was Outstanding Composition & Literature student.



While literature-award-winning Landon cannot quote you any Dickens, Shelley or Keats, he can roll word-for-word through several songs by The Weeknd. "And that's on top of the rest of his bops," Landon said. The son of Eric and Ashley Reuber, his work paid off: a \$4,000 Presidential Scholarship from Purdue!

## Earn to live – live to serve for Olivia

The Perry Central High School winner, **Olivia Berger**, was born with public service in her DNA. The daughter of Daryl and Bridgett Berger, Olivia made her guiding light the pillars of Future Farmers of America.

“Learning to Do, Learning to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve – One of the best ways to help improve a community is to teach the young members of that community the right way to live,” she detailed in her application.

Olivia was in the marching, pep, and concert bands. Songs learned? On Top of the World by Imagine Dragons; Firework by Katy Perry; and A Sky Full of Stars by Coldplay. The chaplain and secretary of her Future Farmers of America chapter, she taught at St. Marks Catholic Church, and was in the National Honor Society. Anna will attend Murray State University to major in agriculture technology.



## Harlie achieves athletic, academic & Spanish accolades

With a grade point average of 4.225, **Harlie Robbins**, the Edgewood High School recipient of the HHCU Scholarship, blended academics with athletics.

Harlie, daughter of Scott and Debbie Robbins, was a member of the track-and-field and gymnastic teams and captain of the gymnastic squad her junior and senior years. A Key Club officer, she also achieved National Honor Society status her Junior and Senior years and was a member of the Spanish Honor Society her junior and senior years.

Volunteer efforts included Food Pantry 279, Adopt-a-Road, Kiwanis Balloon Fest, Edgewood Community Showcase, Dollars for Scholars and making treats for shelter animals. Harlie plans to attend Purdue University to study kinesiology and physical therapy.



## Leah's talents include singing, dancing & performance

**Leah Lahee** sings, dances and is a cheerleader and Academic Scholar Athlete – just a few of her achievements at Heritage Hills High School that brought her the \$1,000 Pay it Forward Scholarship from HHCU.

Leah, the daughter of David and Sheila Lahee, will attend the University of Southern Indiana to major in health services. Besides three years of cheerleading and performing in the Patriot Vibe Show, Leah was part of the choir group that won first place in the Music in the Parks competition.

She picked up trash at the Dale Fall Fest, volunteered on Senior Services Day and taught a cheer clinic for young girls. You may have seen Leah at the cash register at Holiday Foods. Why the University of Southern Indiana? “It has a great medical program. They have many club opportunities,” Leah said. “And it’s close to home.”



*\*Continued from front cover page 1\**

Wear to Care is another one of our voluntary donation programs. Employees select a charity and donate through automated contributions from their pay in exchange for being able to wear jeans on Fridays. Through Wear to Care, employees raised \$12,000 last year, and HHCU matched it dollar for dollar, for a company wide contribution of \$24,000.

In all, last year we directed more than \$110,000 to causes, non-profits or local scholars – like those profiled in this edition of Member Matters – and to character-building athletic programs across Indiana.

HHCU is committed to the communities and towns that you and we call home. We are your neighbor. We are your partner. We are invested in making our communities better places to live. Maybe our example will inspire others to join Pledge 1% or embark upon their own initiative for the greater good.

And if you lead a non-profit and need support, use this QR code to let us know how we can help.



# Local Service Centers

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## TELL CITY

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