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# IBC NEWS

Indiana Bicentennial Commission  
Special Children's Initiative Edition

The lasting legacy of Indiana's bicentennial is children. To help them celebrate Indiana's 200th birthday and to give them a brighter future, the Commission endorsed several legacy projects that focus on youth and education. The Indiana Bicentennial Commission has made its mission to improve the health and well-being of Indiana's children. In this newsletter you can read about the ways this initiative is already making an impact across the state of Indiana.

## RESOLVED: THE MISSION IS CHILDREN

BY PERRY HAMMOCK



The Indiana Bicentennial Commission is working diligently to ensure that the lasting legacy of this special year is the health and well being of Indiana children. As we enter the third century of Indiana history, children are the bearers of Indiana's torch of liberty and prosperity.

The Commission prepared two resolutions encouraging Indiana businesses, agencies and individuals to join in this overarching Bicentennial initiative. They put these words into action by seeking out projects and programs across the state that can be highlighted as Endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects. To date, there are more than 220 youth and education projects submitted for endorsement, a few of them are highlighted in this newsletter.

You can use these projects as inspiration to develop, replicate or adapt new projects in your own community. Schools, youth-serving organizations, civic groups, museums and parks are all represented. You can find these projects, descriptions and contact persons on the Bicentennial website, [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org). Where we go from here is up to you.

The challenge is simple – double the number of projects for children before the end of the Bicentennial year. Will you be the torchbearer for children? Will you be the one to lead a project or find community partners who can provide a service or activity for youth?

Projects do not have to be expensive, time consuming or created from scratch. It is often as simple as looking at existing programs and crafting them to fit the guidelines for project endorsement. Those guidelines are available on the Bicentennial website. You can also contact the Bicentennial Commission for help and assistance. You can call at 317.234.8686 or send a message to [info@indiana2016.in.gov](mailto:info@indiana2016.in.gov).

Take the Bicentennial challenge. Make this special year for Indiana a very special year for Indiana children. Make memories, tell stories, leave a lasting legacy and be part of the resolution.

# "CELEBRATE HISTORY. IGNITE THE FUTURE."



This slogan of the Indiana Bicentennial captures the spirit of Indiana's 200th birthday. The "celebrating history" piece is self-explanatory. But how do we ignite the future of Indiana? How do we make the next 100 years the best Hoosier century ever?

We believe the real legacy of the Bicentennial starts with Indiana's children and working to ensure their lives are long and prosperous. This purpose forms the premise of a resolution adopted last summer by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

The resolution places special emphasis on "enhancing the well-being and health of children." It expresses the aim "that the Indiana Bicentennial babies born in 2016 will grow and thrive better than any generation before theirs." And it calls upon all Indiana citizens to join the cause.

As of April 2016, more than 200 projects in communities statewide are focused on children. Consider three examples:

In Wayne County, the Children of Indiana Nature Park is being created as a project of the Bicentennial Nature Trust. Cope Environmental Center and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are purchasing a 28-acre piece of land adjacent to 103 acres already owned by Cope. Children, families and schools will be encouraged to visit the park and participate in Cope's interactive learning activities. What makes this park so special is that The Nature Conservancy is developing a website providing every Indiana school-age child in grades K-12 the opportunity to claim an honorary deed to a piece of land in the park. Through this website, students will "virtually visit" their unique locations. The website will also feature educational content to assist teachers with nature-based education. In addition, the Cope Environmental Center has created a Bicentennial Nature Center Network that so far includes 16 nature centers statewide participating in environmental and child-focused bicentennial celebrations.

Greene County General Hospital is providing a "Sweet Dreams Baby Bundle" for every new mom who meets certain prenatal care criteria. The "bundles" are large, heavy-duty decorated boxes lined with waterproof mattresses, covers and sheets designed to promote safe sleep for new infants. Other items in the boxes include onesies, diapers, blankets and educational materials covering tobacco cessation and safe sleep practices. The program is intended to help promote higher survival rates and better health among infants.

Boone County Senior Services and their volunteers are knitting baby caps for all the approximately 500 babies projected to be born at the Witham Memorial Hospital in Lebanon in 2016. The senior-citizen agency has partnered with a local yarn shop to purchase the needed items to make the caps, including a badge emblazoned with the Bicentennial year. A grant from Witham covered the cost of supplies.

On Statehood Day 2015, Governor Mike Pence spoke to hundreds of fourth-graders gathered in the state capitol. He expressed his love of history and the opportunities to look back on two centuries of achievements. Then, looking out at the students, the Governor said, "This generation of Hoosiers will ensure that our third century will be greater still than the first two."

What is your community doing to help Indiana's next generation? Your employer? Your church or social organization? Now is the time to seek answers to these questions and to get involved to help create an enduring legacy of the Indiana Bicentennial.

Learn more about the Indiana Bicentennial at [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org).

*Sarah Evans Barker is a judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana. Ellen Rosenthal recently retired as president and CEO of Conner Prairie Interactive History Park. Both serve on the Indiana Bicentennial Commission.*



# BICENTENNIAL BABIES

## BICENTENNIAL BABIES PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTING CHILDREN

The most important legacy of the Bicentennial celebration is Indiana's children. Although it is important to look back on Indiana's 200 years of history, it is also important to look forward to the future. There is no better way to celebrate our state than by working to improve the lives of Indiana children.

Legacy projects will celebrate and emphasize the importance of children throughout the Bicentennial year. Indiana Bicentennial Commission Co-Chair Becky Skillman said the Commission is focusing on children as a way to leave a lasting legacy for every Hoosier in the state.

"The Bicentennial Commission desires to leave a legacy by encouraging all communities, institutions and organizations to focus their programs and

policies on the health and well-being of Indiana's children," Skillman said. "The quality of life among our citizens during the next 100 years will be enhanced by the effort to make our children the priority."

It is projected that there will be 500 Bicentennial Babies born at the Witham Health Services Maternity Department. Boone County's "Bicentennial Babies" project will provide hand-knit baby caps to all of these children. The project is a partnership between Boone County Bicentennial Committee, Boone County Senior Services and Witham Health Services. These caps will be a lasting moment for the babies and families of the bicentennial year.

Greene County's "Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles" project is another project that will make a difference in the lives of children this year.

The Baby Bundles project was developed at the Greene County General Hospital as a way to reduce infant mortality in Greene County. The hospital purchased baby boxes to give new mothers who have completed prenatal care and deliver at the hospital. The boxes are made of sturdy, flame-retardant material that is lined with a mattress, waterproof cover and cotton sheet. The boxes promote sleep safety and can be utilized as a bassinet. The boxes will be filled with a variety of items and educational materials.

Beyond the boxes themselves, the hospital will collect data to show county statistics before the program as well as track progression through patient surveys and monitor mortality rates.

Celebrating Bicentennial babies is the essence celebrating the future. It is important to instill in them the pride and values we have as Hoosiers. The Bicentennial is a perfect time to do this as we work collectively not only to celebrate the past 200 years but to better our state for Bicentennial babies and future generations.



Photos courtesy of Becky Skillman



# HOOSIER HOMECOMING



## HOOSIER HOMECOMING

Indiana is home to more than 6.5 million Hoosiers. Indiana feels like home to even more people than that. There is nothing better than the feeling of coming home. Seeing familiar places and faces. Eating a home-cooked meal and getting cozy.

The Indiana Bicentennial Commission is celebrating those feelings with Hoosier Homecoming. All Hoosiers are invited to enjoy this free, family event with us on Oct. 15.

The event will be held outside the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on the Bicentennial Plaza. Come out and learn more about your state at the Statehouse Education and Welcome Center. Prepare to meet lots of historic reenactors and interpreters from Indiana's history. Who knows who you will see, everyone from Abraham Lincoln to Michael Jackson may be around. Enjoy eats from themed vendors. Dance the afternoon away with music. Watch the time-capsule burial and look at public art. Get ready for the Torch Relay to finish its 92-county journey across the state.

This event is a great place to delight in Indiana's past, present and future with the people you love most. Make sure to mark it on your calendars and bring the kiddos along for lots of fun and learning. There won't be another celebration like it in all of history!



# FROM YOUR COMMISSION CO-CHAIRS



## Lee Hamilton

The members of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission applaud the impressive work currently being done by many Hoosiers to advance the health and wellbeing of all Hoosier children. We also believe much more needs to be done. Thus, we urge all Hoosiers to find ways to address and overcome the conditions which threaten to delay, obstruct or prevent our Hoosier children's capacity to thrive and to provide them with new opportunities for growth and advancement.



## Becky Skillman

"The Commission asks every public and private leader in the state to place a priority on programs and policies to enhance the well-being and health of our children. Indiana's children deserve the opportunity to thrive better than any generation of Hoosiers. If we focus our efforts statewide, the Bicentennial will leave a legacy that provides benefits throughout the next 100 years."

## HOOSIER HALF DOZEN CHILDREN'S LEGACY PROJECTS

- 1 Bison-Tennial**  
North Manchester Chamber of Commerce  
Wabash County  
  
The purpose of the bicentennial project is to engage youth in the upcoming bison-tennial. Eighth grade artists will help create this public art project.
- 2 Bringing Elementary Students Together**  
Greene '16 Committee and partner  
Greene County  
  
BEST brings history, storytelling and art together for students grades 1-5. Each classroom will receive a scratchblock to be cast into aluminum pieces.
- 3 Born Learning Trail**  
Indiana Association of United Ways  
Statewide  
  
This national campaign helps parents, grandparents and caregivers explore ways to turn every day moments into fun learning opportunities.

- 4 Reading Indiana**  
Pike County Historical Society  
Pike County  
  
Books by Indiana authors or about Indiana will make students familiar with the Hoosiers who made a difference in their world.
- 5 Dare to Dream**  
Weir Cook Memorial Project, Inc.  
Morgan County  
  
Young adults will build a historic full-scale aeroplane, to educate youth on Indiana's military history and honor the hundred year anniversary of World War I.
- 6 JA "Job Spark" K-12 Initiative**  
Junior Achievement of Central Indiana  
Marion County  
  
JA works to empower young people to own their future success by partnering with companies, organizations and school districts.



## STATEHOOD DAY 2015

Statehood Day, Dec. 11 2015, was the kick off for Indiana's Bicentennial. On that day, 400 fourth grade students gathered at the Statehouse to be part of the celebration. The students learned not only about the Bicentennial but about several aspects of Indiana history. They submitted names for the Commission's fiberglass bison, who we now call Abe. The students heard from Governor Mike Pence, First Lady Karen Pence, Indiana Senator Jim Merritt and others.

"Indiana has a remarkably rich history and an even brighter future," Governor Pence said. "Throughout our bicentennial year, Hoosiers across the state will celebrate Indiana with community-led projects that focus on history, natural conservation, community involvement, and most importantly, the education and well being of Indiana children."

Governor Pence read a resolution outlining the state's focus on children in the bicentennial year. The resolution called on Hoosier leaders to pursue policies and programs that will ensure Indiana children born in 2016 will have the best opportunities available to them throughout their lives.

First Lady Karen Pence represents the Bicentennial Commission as its official ambassador. She spoke on the importance of the Bicentennial celebration including legacy projects, children and Indiana's future.

"Our work over the next year is dedicated to building an Indiana that will make our children proud to call themselves Hoosiers," First Lady Karen Pence said.



# 1,000TH PROJECT

## COMMISSION APPROVES 1,000TH PROJECT



Prepared. For Life.®



Photo courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America

In February the Indiana Bicentennial Commission approved its 1,000th legacy project! When the commission was founded in 2012, the goal for legacy projects was 200. Now, with more than five times the original goal the projects have an impact on all Hoosiers across the state.

The four pillars of the Bicentennial are youth and education, nature preservation, historical celebration and community involvement. The 1,000th project celebrates youth and education, but also incorporates history, nature and community involvement.

The 1,000th project was submitted by Crossroads of America, Boy Scouts of America. The project, titled "Cardinal Nest Houses" will take place in seven counties: Marion, Madison, Fayette, Johnson, Delaware, Vigo and Montgomery.

All cub scouts, boys ages 6-10, who participate in the summer Day Camps will build a cardinal nest house with assistance from volunteers and camp staff.

"Scouts will be challenged to place more than 3,000 pre-made Cardinal nest houses in seven different counties across our council," said Patrick Sterrett, Scout Executive, Crossroads of America Council, Boy Scouts of America. "Continuing the legacy of the state bird and its habitat through nature conservation is an exciting way to celebrate the Bicentennial through education."

The scouts will learn about the state bird and its relevance to Indiana. They will also be taught about the sustainability and the importance of both their environment and their community.



Photo courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America



## CELEBRATING INDIANA'S LEGACY: TEACHERS

Jenny Berry,  
Director of College  
and Career  
Readiness for D.O.E.

Indiana teachers play a vital role in the celebration of the Bicentennial. Whether it is instilling the importance of history, cultivating community involvement or simply being an educator, teachers are able to make a difference in the lives of the children they teach.

The Indiana Department of Education is "Celebrating Indiana's Legacy Teachers" during the Bicentennial year. This statewide program aims to identify, recognize and honor Indiana teachers who come from teaching families. From self-reports and stories, we know there are many current teachers who are third, fourth or even fifth generation educators.

"As we celebrate the 200th year of our statehood, the IDOE would like to honor those teachers who have not only embraced the teaching profession themselves, but have encouraged others to do the same," said Jenny Berry, Director of DOE's College and Career Readiness. "We are excited to support this Bicentennial Legacy Project and look forward to sharing your stories of inspiration!"

This project will help identify legacy teachers and provide recognition for their dedication to Indiana's children and their profession. This project may also help encourage youth to follow family traditions and become Indiana teachers in the future.



## 150 (OR MORE) WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

- Have your business sponsor a project with a local school. Whether fourth grade field trip to the Statehouse this year, a school play on Indiana history, or a bison for the "bison-tennial" that local art students design and decorate, your company can be part of the excitement, and leave a lasting legacy for the youth you work with.
- Be part of a reading project. It might be reading Indiana stories to middle schoolers, donating a book by an Indiana author to a local library, or sharing stories of Clifford the Big Red Dog (he's from Kokomo, you know). Reading is fundamental to excelling in school, and it is fun and easy.
- Volunteer at a State Park. We are celebrating 100 years of our state park system with more than 100 Legacy Projects. You can be part of a real learning experience for children, and get some fresh air at the same time.
- Tell Stories. Share stories about your family history with a child, grandchild, niece or nephew. Talk about family foods, travels, service, occupations and activities. Whether they are funny, interesting, or serious, let the next generation be keepers of great family stories.
- Go All-IN. Participate in Indiana Humanities' great project to track your family's Indiana history and experience the many cultures and traditions that make Indiana the great state it is. Find All-IN at [www.indianahumanities.org/programs/all-in](http://www.indianahumanities.org/programs/all-in)
- Work with a Youth-Serving Agency. Easy to find, easy to do, very, very needed.
- Find a Bicentennial Legacy Project working with children and be part of it. Go to our website, [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org). Find the Legacy Projects page and search the pull-down menu for youth and education projects. There are more than 150 there. Find one close and participate. Or find one you love and replicate it locally.
- Create your own Legacy Project. The guidelines are simple, it costs nothing, and it can create the best memories you will have of 2016. After you see the great ideas on our website, make your own project a reality!

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, was created in 2011 to oversee the State's celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Indiana's Statehood; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to that charge, the Commission has energetically and enthusiastically supported and encouraged and helped to spawn an extraordinary and inspiring array of celebratory projects throughout the State consisting of more than a thousand separate activities and programs that are underway in every county and a myriad of cities and towns, and reflect the dedication of countless citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has embraced and championed within this vast array of impressive projects those which are dedicated to the advancement of the health and well-being of Indiana children by making that the culminating theme of this Bicentennial year and declaring it to be the 2016 Legacy Project of the Bicentennial; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission notes that Indiana's children represent our finest and most enduring legacy and our best hope for the future, thus making every citizen a stakeholder in ensuring their safety and well-being, their health and security, their education and their ongoing vitality on into our third century and beyond;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

- (1) Acknowledges with pride the extraordinary array of projects already underway as part of the Bicentennial celebration, including in particular those that focus on advancing the health and well-being of Indiana children; and
- (2) Commends the outstanding efforts by countless Hoosiers, as individuals and groups in the public and private sectors, who are engaged in the effort to improve the lives of our children; and
- (3) Declares this time in our history to be the propitious moment when all Hoosiers have the opportunity to imagine and create new and effective ways of addressing and overcoming the conditions which threaten to delay or obstruct or prevent our children's capacity to thrive, whether through poverty or violence or lack of access to proper and effective healthcare, through food insecurity and hunger, through a lack of quality education and childcare, through the deprivation of strong family support and effective parenting, or through the lack of pathways to full assimilation into society; and
- (4) Calls upon all our citizens, including all our public and private leaders, all our communities and institutions, and every person and family to embrace the goal of advancing the interests of our children during this Bicentennial Year, encouraging them to undertake projects and activities toward that end, to support initiatives that promise new avenues of progress on behalf of Indiana's children, and to redouble their efforts and renew their commitment toward the creation of a Third Century that is worthy of Indiana's magnificent past.

Adopted February 19, 2016 by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission