



Gather. Grow. Give.

For Good

Winter 2021

Welcoming

PORTER COUNTY BABIES HOME

Inspired by compelling evidence that supports the broad value of significant investment in **early childhood development and learning**, the Porter County Community Foundation has leveraged funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. to **catalyze community partners** and to create a **healthy system of care, support and services** to ensure that every baby born in Porter County is prepared for a **strong start to life**, resulting in the establishment of First Things First Porter County.



In June of 2021, **Dr. Mary Jane Eisenhauer** was named Executive Director of First Things First Porter County. Mary Jane has served young children & families for **over 25 years** as a kindergarten teacher, researcher, policy consultant and teacher educator. Eisenhauer was Interim Associate Director for the School of Education and Counseling at Purdue University Northwest and continues to work with national, state and local leaders to promote high quality early childhood development.



Dr. Mary Jane Eisenhauer

"We are fortunate to have Mary Jane heading up this exceedingly important endeavor," said Bill Higbie, President & CEO of the Porter County Community Foundation. **"With her expertise and drive, First Things First will become an integral part of how our community prioritizes caring for our infants and toddlers."**

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

Healthy mothers have access to prenatal and postpartum health and mental health care.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Families have access to a comprehensive system for developmental screenings, referrals & family supports.

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Early learning and child care providers are prioritized as an essential service in Porter County.

Every baby born in Porter County is surrounded by a healthy network of **care and support**, preparing that child for a **strong start to life**.

Wrapping

OUR ARMS AROUND THE 5 BABIES BORN IN PORTER COUNTY

Every day



our mission

A collaborative of community partners creating a rich system of **care, support and services** so that every Porter County baby born is **prepared for a strong start in life.**

our vision

Ensuring that each of the five babies born every day in Porter County has **equal opportunity to grow and thrive.**

our approach

Together, we are stronger. First Things First Porter County is the backbone organization **convening the community** around a common agenda, shared metrics, mutually reinforcing activities and continuous communication.



5 numbers to remember

+1,000,000 new neural connections every second during the first 3 years of life

18 months age when disparities in vocabulary appear

90-100% chance of developmental delays when a child experiences 6 or more risk factors

3:1 odds of heart disease with early exposure to trauma

\$4-\$9 in return for every dollar invested in high quality early learning

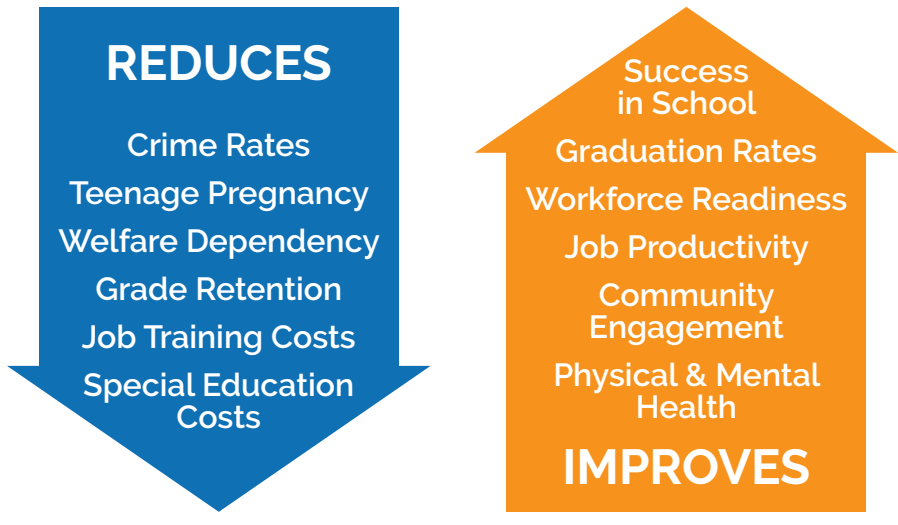
Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child

our advisory board

- Dr. Matthew Burden** | President & CEO, Porter-Starke Services
- Mark Chamberlain** | Principal Financial Advisor, CAPTrust
- Tim Coleman** | Senior Vice President, Centier Bank
- Stephanie Didion** | Director of the OB and Neonatal Services, Northwest Health
- Dr. Arjun Gupta** | Retired Physician
- Sue Hord** | Coordinator, Promise Porter County
- Mike Jessen** | Councilman, Porter County Government
- Cpl. Benjamin McFalls** | Public Information Officer, Porter County Sheriff's Department
- Amy Parker** | Exports Liaison, bNuttly
- Dr. Stacey Schmidt** | Superintendent, Porter Township School Corporation
- Dr. Amanda Zelechowski** | Professor of Psychology, Purdue Northwest

our 'why'

Investing in the early years...



our community partners

- Artemis for Women
- Early Childhood Connections
- Dunebrook
- Duneland School Corporation
- Duneland Family YMCA
- Family & Youth Services Bureau
- Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
- Geminus Head Start
- HealthLinc
- Hilltop Neighborhood House
- Housing Opportunities
- Jacob's Ladder
- Kidworks
- Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana
- NorthShore Health Centers

- Northwest Health
- Our Greater Good
- Parents as Teachers of Porter County
- Portage Township YMCA
- Porter County Public Library System
- Porter County Sheriff's Department
- Promise Porter County
- Purdue Extension
- Purdue University Northwest
- St. Mary Medical Center
- United Way of Northwest Indiana
- Valparaiso University
- Valparaiso Family YMCA



- For questions, contact
- Dr. Mary Jane Eisenhauer at maryjane@firstthingspc.org
- or call 219.510.0383.

For more info visit us online!
www.firstthingspc.org



GOLD



SILVER

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- Hodges and Davis, P.C.
- M.E. Simpson Company, Inc.
- Mechanical Concepts, Inc.
- Shive-Hattery
- Thorgren Tool & Molding
- Vidimos Inc.

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- Horizon Bank
- McColly Real Estate
- Precision Control Systems, Inc.
- UFS Corporation

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

- John W. Anderson Foundation
- Peter G. Horton Charitable Remainder Trust





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Celebrating 25 YEARS

The year 2021 marks the **Foundation's 25th Anniversary**. That is 25 years of helping you **maximize the impact of your generosity**.

On our "Journey with Generosity" this year, we have taken a look back at the moments, grants and partnerships that have shaped who we are and the role we play in Porter County. In our current stage, as you'll read in this issue, we are helping to "**wrap our arms around the 5 babies born in Porter County every day**" by establishing First Things First Porter County.

As we look ahead at the next 25 years, and beyond, we might not know exactly what lies ahead or the challenges our community will face, but we do know one thing...we will be here to help **you do more for the causes you care about**, to lend a hand to **nonprofits serving those in need**, and to **make a difference in Porter County, forever**.

Thanks for coming along on this journey with us, **what a ride it will be!**



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