Spreading Joy is the NOW WHAT.

Supporting Church.

Now is what we can measure. What is what changes lives: the passions of our donors, the unique ways people seek to spread joy, the grace, the hope, the love. It’s the root of what it means to live in Christian community with each other.

What is at the root of your story? A moving experience? A deep passion? A profound need to right a wrong? A singular place? A friend who showed compassion? A simple joy? We all have a now—the combination of who we are and the life we’ve experienced. The what is how these nows unfold to spread joy and change lives in powerful ways.
Ester remembers him vividly—the high school counselor who directed Latina girls into secretarial classes and Latino boys into shop. Higher math wasn’t an option, even if you had the mind for it. As a result, Ester was 42 before she ended her work as a secretary and earned her business degree.

Fast forward to 1999. Ester remembers being with her professional Latina friends and sharing their experiences; the women came to realize they had all faced similar discrimination. It was time to level the playing field.

This was the start of the Boulder County Latina League (BCLL), which provides college scholarships for Latino students. With initial support from Thrivent Financial and matching funds from the University of Colorado–Boulder and Front Range Community College, Ester and the Latina League board now work to counter entrenched biases around race and gender, and to affirm and empower the precious value of every person.

The BCLL has granted more than $400,000 in scholarships, changing the trajectory of hundreds of bright kids. The nonprofit also partners with the local Boulder Valley School Foundation’s “Impact on Education,” which introduces and funds pilot programs for at-risk children, starting in kindergarten. Ester’s charitable remainder trust at InFaith ensures that the Latina League’s work will continue for generations to come.
Maryann Lund’s husband, Rev. C. I. “Jerry” Lund, was a Lutheran pastor who made $3,400 a year in their first mission parish in California. As lifelong church workers, Maryann and Jerry never made much, but they somehow made ends meet and were able to put a little away for the future. This lifelong saving commitment paid off. Though Jerry has passed away, Maryann lives comfortably in retirement. Working with her Thrivent Financial representative, she also directs assets to charity in ways that reduce her taxes. Through *The Green Kitty Cat Fund*, named after the stories Jerry told their six children and ten grandchildren, Maryann gives to the causes and ideas they believed in, and to the ministries their children now serve. These gifts, given in memory of her husband, now touch many churches and Lutheran schools, as well as the outdoor ministries at Holden Village in the mountains of Washington state, a food pantry in Oregon and Koinonia Family Camp in New York.

Closer to home in Seattle, Maryann gives to her church’s community services center, where, among other ministries, they help homeless people with laundry and provide them with access to the church’s showers. Noticing that Sunday kitchen workers were missing out on worship, Maryann also helped purchase audio equipment for the kitchen, as well as for the sanctuary to help people who are hard-of-hearing. In her own words, Maryann is “having a ball” as a newly minted philanthropist in service to the church.
Through their donor advised fund at InFaith, David and Sandy have now given back many times the original request. In gratitude for the education of their children—and now grandchildren—David and Sandy’s fund allows them to give to the Lutheran High School Association, as well as their church, the day school, missionaries, Lutheran Braille Workers, Seminary Student Aid and other charities close to their hearts. The fund allows them to give more easily without having to write checks or maintain tax documents—and they are especially appreciative of InFaith’s personal touch.

At the core of David and Sandy’s giving is the belief that God has provided everything they need, and that these blessings are here to share with others. This joy of giving includes deeply personal moments, such as when their work as anonymous “tuition angels” is acknowledged with a heartfelt letter or a plate of cookies.

More than three decades ago, David and Sandy were asked to support their children’s Lutheran school in Michigan with meaningful financial gifts. With four children attending the school at the time, this type of giving was out of reach. However, the request spurred them to say, “When we can, we will!”
With a portion of her inheritance, Joyce created The Joyce Tsuchiyama Family Fund at InFaith. Joyce began by giving to a Christian motorbike ministry that had engaged her son, and then to other youth-focused efforts, such as youth rallies and church groups. Joyce has now made nearly 50 grants from her fund, and every one carries her infectious spirit and enthusiasm for making a difference in the lives of others. Her belief—and purpose in giving—is that it’s critical for youth to know Jesus.
Gaye arranged a surprise family picnic, bringing her own children together with all her nieces and nephews—a group that ranged in age from 10 to 27. At the gathering, the extended family created a donor advised fund at InFaith to honor her parents, naming it The Red Mailbox Fund. This fund name was inspired by the little mailbox that always held treats for visiting grandkids—a symbol of her parents’ lifelong generosity. Each grandchild wrote memories of the grandparents to honor the start of the new fund.

The cousins now gather every year to celebrate their grandparents and choose what The Red Mailbox Fund will support. This giving provides Gaye with a unique way to create memories with the family she loves; it also is a way for her to cherish and honor the lives and generosity of her parents.
Folk dance is a life passion of Gaelyn’s. While she fell in love with dance, she also fell for her dance partner (and future husband) in a Scandinavian performance dance group at Pacific Lutheran University. The two went on to teach and write about folk dance for 40 years, including time studying in Norway. So when her parents passed away, Gaelyn and her siblings created a donor advised fund that, in part, sustains Gaelyn’s love of folk arts and dance.

Gaelyn Ittner Beal

Folk dance facilities sometimes need help. Essential things like floor repairs and facility upgrades allow dance groups to do what folk dance does naturally: build community and share heritage.

The charitable interests of Gaelyn and her two siblings vary as widely as the places they call home: Minnesota, California and New Zealand. This family fund also gives to faith communities and ministries, as well as Woman for Woman International, animal rights and environmental concerns. Gaelyn and her siblings are grateful that their parents’ generosity has grown into a family legacy of giving.

Kristian Kielhofner

Inspired by his father’s example, Kristian used the proceeds from his father’s life insurance to start The Kielhofner Community Fund at InFaith, supporting the community he loves and honoring his father’s legacy. Kristian’s donor advised fund has provided two scholarships a year for six years—one for students going into healthcare and one for students with technological and entrepreneurial passions. The once nerdy kid is changing the lives of people in his hometown, and his father would be proud.

Kristian describes himself as a nerdy kid from Burlington, a small, cornfield-ringed town in Wisconsin. He was on his family computer at five, and had a technology consulting business once he could drive. At age 26, Kristian was running his own tech business in Florida when his father passed away.

Kristian’s father had taught occupational therapy and was a dean at a local college. Everything his father did improved another’s ability to live and work, which profoundly influenced Kristian.
At the core of The Mike & Kerry Darrington Legacy Fund is a belief in abundance, fostered by lifetime examples of generosity by their families. The fund enables Mike and Kerry to consider the needs of the charities and communities they love, and make more thoughtful and strategic decisions, rather than following the scattershot approach of the past.

While the fund is only a few months old, Mike and Kerry’s legacy will be lasting. They can make additional gifts to the fund as their new business grows, and proceeds from their life insurance will flow into the fund upon their passing. Mike and Kerry’s desire is to develop their vision for this fund over time, and they’ll name their favorite charities to receive support in perpetuity.
Comm1 matches gifts to Iowa Network Services’ Charity Grants to support a variety of community needs—everything from the local high school and the sheriff’s department to the Purple Heart Tour for veterans and a local prayer-shawl group. Comm1 even pays for the last-day-of-school cookout, which one middle-schooler called, “The best meal all year!”

As Randy Yeakel, Comm1’s COO says, it’s about making connections with the community in a way that goes beyond mere day-to-day business. “We’re only here for a short time, so if we can do little things to help each other out, we should.”

As a child, Ashley saw her father’s generous giving, and allocated some of her own allowance to share with others. She was also moved by stories of faithful leaders who gave away much of their income as they dedicated their lives to a dependence on God’s grace and abundance. These examples always stayed with her—and when she began to receive income from a family farm a few years ago, Ashley was able to work with a Thrivent Financial representative to create a donor advised fund that will enable her to align her faith and her finances with her passion for mission work. It’s like saving some of her allowance—but on a much larger scale.

As a young ministry worker in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (ICF), Ashley is inspired by sustainable ways to fund and grow Christian communities. Her support for ICF is just the start, as she’s looking to support other organizations and places where the need is most unmet. But Ashley is thinking further about the future, too, by asking her nieces and nephews—all currently under the age of seven—to continue the legacy. Her hope? That she can inspire in the younger generation the same spirit of giving that inspired her as a child.
Now is the beginning point: who we are today, right now, as people of faith. We each have a story unlike any other.

What is not an ending point—it’s a launch. What is how the world is transformed and made better for each of us in it. What is our passion lived out in profound ways. What is at the core of our mission at InFaith to spread joy and change lives.

There are now thousands of *Now What?* stories at InFaith Community Foundation, a number that is growing by hundreds every year. As we mark our 20th anniversary, we are proud to serve as stewards of these *Now What?* stories, and look forward to a world where we are, together, helping to make new.

**THE STORY CONTINUES.**
VISION
Throughout our community and by God’s grace, we will achieve effective, positive and lasting change.

MISSION
To serve our donors with integrity as together we change lives and spread joy by sharing our blessings with the world.

VALUES
As a Christian organization, our work reflects our service, stewardship, collaboration, possibilities and results.