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### **Lilly Endowment issues 2004 annual report**

Asking the right questions is fundamental to successful grantmaking, claims the 2004 annual report of Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. Throughout the report, whose theme is “posing the questions,” are accounts of exemplary programs the Endowment’s grantees have designed and conducted in response to critical questions the Endowment has asked in its three major areas of grantmaking: community development, education and religion.

“Creative approaches to critical challenges often emerge when we pose the essential questions ... and then ask a range of stakeholders to think deeply about how they would use Endowment funding to address them,” says the report’s executive message. “We believe it is important for a foundation to be open to new insights and perspectives derived from others’ experiences and reflections. We also have discovered that there is a greater chance for sustained impact when the Endowment gives a grantee the flexibility to craft strategies that respond to important questions in ways that align with its own institutional mission, interests and resources.”

The community development story focuses on how Indiana’s community foundations have evolved over the 14-year history of the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) initiative. It reports on how the community foundations have

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considered questions dealing with their communities' most important priorities and the importance of board engagement in a foundation's mission, programs and resource development.

In the spotlight are four such foundations: Whitley County Community Foundation, Noble County Community Foundation, Hancock County Community Foundation and the Wabash Valley Community Foundation (Vigo County with affiliates in Clay and Sullivan counties.)

The education story covers the responses of 37 Indiana colleges and universities to the Endowment's question of how they could help retain Indiana's top talent in the state through the Endowment's Initiative to Promote Opportunity Through Educational Collaborations.

Grace College (Orthopaedic Scholar Initiative), Ball State University (Business Fellows program), University of Indianapolis (Emerging Careers Institute) and Ivy Tech State College (Biotechnology Initiative) are featured.

The religion story highlights the programs of three colleges that are furthering in their own ways the Endowment's objective to interest young people in the ministry: Dillard University in New Orleans, Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., and Gordon College in Wenham, Mass. They are among the 88 private, church-related colleges throughout the country that are participating in the Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation initiative.

Other, shorter stories spotlight Dinosphere, the groundbreaking exhibit at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis; the Community Alliances to Promote Education (CAPE) initiative in Indiana; and the national Making Connections initiative that looks to enhance the quality of pastoral leadership needed for churches to thrive.

The Indianapolis-based Endowment reported assets of \$8.6 billion as of Dec. 31, 2004. During that year it paid grants totaling \$421.9 million – \$285.3 million or

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68 percent of which went to Indiana organizations. Grants in education accounted for more than half of the grants paid -- \$234.9 million or 56 percent. \$108.4 million or 26 percent of the grants paid were for religion, and \$78.6 million or 18 percent of them were for community development.

In 2004 the Endowment approved grants adding up to \$396.9 million. \$255.2 million or 64 percent of the total went to Indiana grantees. Most grants approved were in the education category: \$207.5 million or 52 percent, followed by \$113.4 or 29 percent for religion, and \$76 million or 19 percent for community development.

Since its founding in 1937, the Endowment has paid \$5.6 billion in grants to 6,549 grantees.

The 2004 annual report can be seen at the Endowment's Web site, [lillyendowment.org](http://lillyendowment.org).