



HENDRICKS COUNTY HOMEMAKER HAPPENINGS

Nov.
2025

Mission Statement: To strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development and volunteer community support.

2025-2026 Officers

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ✦ President: Ellen Looney | ✦ Teacher Grants: Lynn Lillard |
| ✦ Vice President: Open | ✦ 1st Member at Large: Melissa Mikesell |
| ✦ Secretary: Rachel McKenney | ✦ 2nd Member at Large: Deb Culler |
| ✦ Treasurer: Joanna Sell | ✦ 3rd Member at Large: Karla Janning |
| ✦ Asst. Treasurer: Kim Webber | ✦ 4th Member at Large: Sandra Kelley |
| ✦ HHS Educator: Amanda Marciano-Feutz | ✦ Volunteer Community Support: Charlotte Lloyd |
| ✦ Education: Theresa Hatfield | ✦ News Chair: Melissa Phillips |
| ✦ Home & Family Arts Show: Kim Weber | |

2025 Calendar

Nov 27-28: Office Closed
Dec 2: Christmas Brunch

Dec 5: Holiday Fest
Dec 24-26: Office Closed

IEHA Families Home Page — www.ieha-families.org

(Check out the new website for information about our State Officers, safety lessons that you can share with your club, State-wide events and more!)

Purdue Extension Hendricks County Website

(<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/hendricks/hhs/ehmhendrickscounty.html>)



Facebook Page (<http://bit.ly/HCEH-FB>)

Please take a moment to “follow” our Facebook page.

Smile! Say Cheese!

Ladies, when you attend a club meeting, a county-wide event, a class, an activity day, **STOP** and take a picture. Then, when you have a chance, send it to Melissa Phillips via text (317-410-6892) or email (PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com). Don't forget to include a brief description for the pictures. These pictures will help us **PROMOTE** the Hendricks County Extension Homemakers. It doesn't have to be a perfect picture, either. The best pictures are in focus and shows what the general theme of the day/activity/event. It's also nice if the photo has visible faces of Extension Homemakers. Melissa will then include pictures in our Homemakers' newsletter, the Republican, or post on Facebook.

It would be **EXTREMELY** helpful if she gets pictures from this year's Holiday Fest. So, take a picture of your club's booth; pictures of the ladies in your club serving or getting things ready; take a selfie(!); pictures of the Vendor booths; pictures of Mrs. Claus, etc. Use your imagination. Be creative! The more, the merrier!



from the President's Pen

Yesterday my mom and I participated in a class “*how to make a porch pot*”. We really didn’t know what to expect. It was fantastic!! The class was held at the Blanton House (just north of downtown Danville, proper). We met other participants (they all happened to be ladies) and created an outside, potted display that can remain until Spring. The instructor prepared the pot with fresh compost and helped us arrange fresh greenery, so we can enjoy now and re-use the same pot in the new year. In Spring I plan on planting in the pot right away.



Maybe this is how I need to be thinking about transitioning into the new year. Preparing a foundation which will be wonderful and full of fragrance and life in the present, sustaining me through Winter helping me move into Spring with the thought that things have been prepared in advance for me to have a successful planting season.

Please review the newsletter for information on Homemaker Brunch-December 2nd, Holiday Fest-December 5th, Club activities, and MORE!!

Wishing all a joyful season!
Ellen Looney, President

IN SEARCH OF.....

Our organization is on the lookout for someone amazing to step up as an **Assistant for the Home and Family Arts Open Class Show!**

If you’re the type who loves organizing things (or at least pretending to), enjoys teamwork, and isn’t afraid to lend a hand when things get busy, this might be your moment to shine.



As Assistant, you’ll help with planning and execution of the open Class Show, back up the Director when needed (i.e. locate her sanity), and bring your own ideas to the table (bonus points if snacks are involved). It’s a great way to get more involved in the Homemakers without wearing the BIG HAT *and* have some fun along the way. If you are someone who needs all the details before making a decision, a complete overview of Open Class planning is available. Just contact me and I will send it to you. Remember, you are **HELPING**, not doing ALL of this yourself.



If you’re interested—or if you know someone who’d be perfect for it—please reach out to me, Kim Weber at kimweber36@yahoo.com or 317-745-7247.

Let’s make this year one to remember!
Thanks,
Kim Weber
Director of Home and Family Arts
kimweber36@yahoo.com / 317-745-7247



Holiday Fest

Can you believe that Holiday Fest is ONLY a couple weeks away? In addition to providing 6 dozen cookies, we need help both preparing as well as working throughout that day. Remember, anyone can actually sign-up to help. So, feel free to invite a friend, a husband, a sibling, or a responsible child to work along side of you. Make it a fun day!

Here are the areas that we need help:

#1: Decorate Santa Cookies for our Hot Cocoa Booth on Wednesday, December 3 from 10-11:30 am at the Hazelwood Christian Church. (We will be sitting; no standing required.)



#2: Parking Attendants to help make sure vendors do not park in the "Loading & Unloading Zone" for more than 15 minutes at a time. This will involve standing and walking.

#3: Greeters to stand or sit by the front doors the day of Holiday Fest to direct people where to go.

#4: Hot Cocoa Booth Elves to help sell the Hot Cocoa and Santa Cookies the day of Holiday Fest.

#5: HCEH Booth Attendants to help man the HCEH Booth and talk to people about the benefits and joys of being a Homemaker.



Take a moment to look them over, and then go online to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/HolidayFest25>. If you are uncomfortable signing-up online, simply contact Melissa Phillips (317-410-6892 or PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com) and she will add your name.

The weather outside is frightful, but cookies are so delightful!!!



Just a reminder, we would like all homemakers to make 6 dozen cookies to donate to the cookie walk portion of the Holiday Fest. This year we will **ONLY** be accepting **COOKIES** for the Cookie Walk! This is because some of our Homemaker's Clubs as well as possibly our vendor booths sell food items such as 'puppy chow', fudge, 'snack mix', etc.. So, we do not want to compete with them. Therefore, **PLEASE** bring **ONLY** cookies (6 dozen) for the Homemakers' Cookie Walk.

Please bring them to the Fairgrounds on **Thursday, December 4, from 3-7**. We should be in classroom A. If you need to arrive earlier the office will accept them. (You might bring them a sample.)

Pam Pizzato. (317-753-8408 / ppizzato916@gmail.com).

Holiday Fest Reminder



Holiday fest is coming up soon. Clubs please go over your responsibilities within your club. If you have any questions please contact Karla Janning (317-727-0767).

Committee Reports

Volunteer Community Support

We just finished 2025 with a **Bang!!!** We had 21 ladies come to Bartlett Chapel and they made 25 angels, filled 21 bags for Cypress Manor, put decorations on 24 pairs of gloves, fringe 12 scarves, and still managed to turn 40 blankets for Riley Children's Hospital. Thank you so much for all your help.

We will have a break until February, but that doesn't mean we won't be able to do things to help get ready for 2026. Michael's is carrying more fleece and if you watch for the sales they sometimes are 30% off per yard. We will need to start restocking. In September, October, and November we completed **200** blankets for Riley! We are now running low on our fleece inventory. Please wash the 2 yard lengths of anti pill fleece in Free and Clear detergent and no fabric softener.

February 12th is our next Make A Difference Day. That means we will share a meal together. So bring your favorite dish to share and be prepared to have fun. We will be doing several different projects to be announced later.

Don't forget
Make A Difference Day February, 12, 2026
10am-2pm
See you at the Holiday Fest!

Charlotte Lloyd



Teacher Grant Updates

We are off to a great start with several really deserving and qualified applications. This has been a tough job for the Grant Committee to pick just one winner per month. However, we have picked our recipients for September and October.

The September Grant has been awarded to Abby McAfee at Danville North Elementary. Abby is a kindergarten and first grade Behavior/Support teacher. She has taught kindergarten for 10 years and has just transitioned into her new role this year. Her grant will be used to purchase many necessary items needed for her new classroom. She will be purchasing sensory items such as fidgets, calming tools, and equipment that helps students manage their emotions and energy levels throughout the day. This will allow students to engage in learning more successfully.

The October Grant has been awarded to Scotty Stepp at Cascade High School. Scotty teaches the new 11 & 12 grade Construction Trades class. This is the first year for this class. The students learn carpentry skills and then can pursue a career pathway in Carpentry after graduation. The grant will be used to purchase needed supplies such as wood glue, paint brushes, impact drill driver bits, brad nails, screws, and pencils. Scotty said this grant will go a long way in providing the students with much needed supplies.

Submitted by Lynn Lillard



Hats, Mittens, Gloves and Socks

As the temperatures drop, many members of our community are in need of warm clothing. We're collecting **new hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, and socks of all sizes** to help keep everyone warm this winter.

Your donation—big or small—can make a real difference for someone facing the cold season without adequate winter gear.

- **Collection Dates:** Now through November 21st
- **Drop-Off Location:** You may drop off your donations at the Hendricks County Extension Office from 8am – 4pm Monday through Friday or reach out to Pam Pizzato with Modern Homemakers to arrange a pick-up.

Your generosity will be on display on the Christmas Tree in the North/South Hall of the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex November 25th through December 29th. After that all donated items will be distributed to various organizations to share with those in need.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness—together, we can spread warmth and care throughout our community!

Pam Pizzato (317-753-8408 / ppizzato916@gmail.com)



Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!

We will be decorating the giant Christmas tree on Tuesday, November 25, at 10.00 am. Come join the fun as we put up ALL the hats, scarfs, gloves and socks that we've collected. Don't forget, there is a box in the extension office for hats, scarfs, gloves and socks. Give generously!

Pam Pizzato (317-753- 8408 / ppizzato916@gmail.com)

Club News

Young Moderns:

The Young Moderns had our October Meeting at the Mayberry Cafe. We had 9 members answer roll call (What is your favorite fall festival.) The majority answered with the Covered Bridge festival. We discussed the Holiday Fest, Make a Difference Day and the upcoming Leader lessons. We talked about the Fall District Meeting, in Shelby Co. We had a nice group that went. Our next meeting will be on Nov 6, at Melissa Mikesell's home.



Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for either the "Happenings" or the "Happenings Minute" are due the 15th of each month. We'd LOVE to include your club news or news from your committee. Submissions should be emailed to both Melissa Phillips, News Chair, (PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com) **and** Lisa Pitts (pitts15@purdue.edu). Handwritten copies may be given or mailed to Melissa Phillips (9388 S. County Road 100 W.,



Activities & Lessons

Christmas Brunch Tuesday, December 2

This year the Hendricks County Council has decided to open our Christmas Brunch to all our members. We are excited about this change and hope that you have signed up to join us on Tuesday, December 2. We are busy getting prepared for the Christmas Brunch.

It will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and will start at 9:30 am and end around 11:30 am.

During our time together, we will have a wonderful "pitch-in" brunch. In addition, some other things that are on the agenda are possibly a holiday game, a craft, and some fun entertainment. Can't wait to taste all that delicious food!!!!



CULTURAL ARTS TOUR SPONSORED BY HENDRICKS COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026, 3:00 P.M. AT HENDRICKS LIVE IN PLAINFIELD HENDRICKS COUNTY SYMPHONY CONCERT STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

The program for this concert has not been determined, but last June the program included the 1812 Overture, the Stars and Stripes Forever, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, and America the Beautiful. It is anticipated that the 2026 concert will include most of this music and other patriotic pieces. The Hendricks County Chorus will also perform.

The concert is two hours in length with an additional 20-minute intermission. Concessions are available, but only credit card purchases are accepted. Free parking is available at the Plainfield Downtown Parking Structure at 125 N Center St, Plainfield, IN 46168. ADA parking is available in the parking lot directly behind the Town of Plainfield Government Center at 206 W Main St Plainfield..

All tickets are the same price regardless of where you sit. Ticket prices for the June concert have yet to be determined and tickets will not be available to purchase until April 1. The price will be set the first part of February. More information with a payment/reservation form will be e-mailed to each member, including mailbox members, in February and will be in the Homemakers' Happenings in February. If a club member does not have e-mail, please see they get this information. Once you receive the information you will have approximately one month to return the payment/reservation form.

There are only two performances of this concert, and they sell out very quickly. Therefore, tickets will be purchased on April 1. The theater will have a list of those who have purchased tickets. You will go to the Will Call

Window at the theater just before the concert to pick-up your ticket.

The building opens one hour before the concert. Theater doors opens 30 minutes before the concert.



Fall Harvest Snack Mix

Ingredients:

- 3 cups Peanut Butter Chex Cereal
- 2 cups Wheat Chex Cereal
- 2 cups "Itty Bitty" pretzels
- 2 cups Goldfish crackers (Cheddar)
- 2 cups Honey Nut Cheerios
- 2 cups peanuts
- 2/3 cup unsalted butter melted
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar packed
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup candy corn
- 1 cup Reese's Pieces
- 2 cups Marshmallows (optional)

Directions . . .

- Begin by preheating your oven to 275 degrees F. Line a large baking pan (15x11) with parchment paper or two cookie sheets. Set aside.
- In a large bowl toss together the first 6 ingredients.
- In a small bowl whisk together the melted butter, brown sugar, maple syrup, salt, and cinnamon. Pour this mixture over the first 6 ingredients and stir evenly to coat.
- Spread this mixture onto the prepared baking sheets. Bake for about 45 minutes or until things start to turn a golden brown. Stir every 10 minutes. (If you use two cookie sheets, cook for 30 minutes.) Remove from the oven and cool completely.
- Stir in the final three ingredients. (Since the marshmallows dry out quickly, I'd only add them as you eat the snack mix. You could put in a little into your bowl instead of mixing them all together.)
- Enjoy immediately or store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.



AVON (IN)
BEECHWOOD CENTRE (IN)

COMMUNITY CARE FUNDRAISER

To support

Hendricks County Extension Homemakers

DATE: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

TIME: ALL DAY!

Show this flyer on your phone or verbally indicate your support to our Community Care Event (Dine to Donate)

when placing an order!

(20% of your purchase will go towards our organization!)

Fundraiser available through:

DINE-IN / DRIVE THRU /

or MOBILE APP

For mobile app:

use code **HCE1216** at checkout

(Catering orders and DoorDash orders do not apply)

Visit either of our Chick-fil-A Avon locations:

10791 E US Highway 36, Avon, IN 46123

OR 7606 E US Highway 36, Avon, IN 46123



Thanksgiving By James Whitcomb Riley

Let us be thankful—not only because
Since last our universal thanks were told
We have grown greater in the world's applause,
And fortune's newer smiles surpass the old—
But thankful for all things that come as alms
From out the open hand of Providence:—
The winter clouds and storms—the summer calms—
The sleepless dread—the drowse of indolence.
Let us be thankful—thankful for the prayers
Whose gracious answers were long, long delayed,
That they might fall upon us unawares,
And bless us, as in greater need we prayed.
Let us be thankful for the loyal hand
That love held out in welcome to our own,
When love and *only* love could understand
The need of touches we had never known.
Let us be thankful for the longing eyes
That gave their secret to us as they wept,
Yet in return found, with a sweet surprise,
Love's touch upon their lids, and, smiling, slept.
And let us, too, be thankful that the tears
Of sorrow have not all been drained away,
That through them still, for all the coming years,
We may look on the dead face of To-day.

