

Starke County Preschool Fund

In 2012, the NICF looked at ways to make a substantial current impact that would continue to reap benefits into the future of Starke, Fulton, and Miami Counties.

The importance of preschool education was national news, and the NICF began to research the impact of preschool in their own communities. It was found that eighty-five percent of a child's brain growth happens by the age of five. Quality preschool education is key, not only to healthy brain development and scholastic success, but to prosperous, healthy communities.

Preschool has a lasting impact on children and their community as well. Studies show that for every dollar invested in early childhood education programs for low-income children, between \$4 and \$9 is saved by and returned to the community in future years.

The program was established with the goal of making preschool affordable for every four-year-old in Fulton, Starke and Miami Counties. The generosity of many donors, and NICF dollars, made the first year of the Preschool Scholarship Program very successful.

The benefits for students and the entire community are immeasurable. The program shows the true meaning of a community foundation: making an impact on our communities not only today, but tomorrow and forever.