MIAMI COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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Fund Story

Grissom Air Museum Endowment Fund

Preserving history isn't just about protecting artifacts, it's about ensuring future generations can experience them too. The Grissom Air Museum is a military aviation museum that sits on the Grissom Air Reserve Base located in Peru, Indiana. The museum uses the aircraft displays to tell stories about air combat but really emphasizes the individuals who served in the Air Force using various displays. As you walk around the museum, you are touched by the stories of our country's heroes.

The Grissom Air Museum created an endowment fund with the Miami County Community Foundation in 2021. Endowments help nonprofits remain strong for years to come. Since the start of their fund, they have grown their assets and put them to use for various projects around the museum. Some of the endowment money has been used to preserve planes, create internship opportunities, and keep the museum in good condition.

Rhiannon Cizon, Executive Director of Grissom Air Museum, explained, "An institution having an endowment is incredibly important. The money being monitored and maintained by a nonprofit like the Community Foundation means that we're going to have somebody who's going to have our best interests in mind."

"Every little dollar helps," Rhiannon continued. "When you know you have those funds available each year, you can plan ahead and take care of projects that might otherwise have to wait."

The museum also owns and maintains its facilities, making long-term financial planning especially important. An endowment provides flexibility to address unexpected building repairs, protect valuable collections, or respond to emergencies that insurance alone may not fully cover.

Every contribution to an endowment is more than a gift. It's an investment in preserving history, supporting education, and ensuring places like the Grissom Air Museum continue sharing inspiring stories about our past.