

**News Release**  
**Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana**

Leading The Education About Pigs Inc also known as the LEAP Foundation has received a grant of \$150,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help develop growth in our live virtual field trip “There’s a Pig in My Classroom”.

The program is being funded through Lilly Endowment’s initiative, Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana. The aim of the competitive initiative is to help youth-serving organizations working throughout Indiana improve their abilities to promote the academic, physical and social well-being of young people, ages five through 18.

Leading the Education About Pigs (LEAP) Foundation provides an interactive and virtual field trip, “There’s a Pig in my Classroom,” to elementary students who want to learn how food gets from farm to table. With this grant, we plan to extend the reach of our live virtual field trip to students across Indiana. We will place a focus on connecting with more students in metropolitan areas who may not have access to farming/nutritional education. Other future goals involve the development of a middle/high school virtual field trip and an educational video that can be utilized by teachers at any time no matter the time zone.

The LEAP Foundation is one of 187 organizations receiving grants through Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana.

“Indiana’s youth-serving organizations are crucial to the healthy development of children and youth across the state,” said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for education. “The challenges these organizations have faced in meeting the needs of young people in recent years have made their work increasingly difficult. Lilly Endowment is pleased to support their efforts to strengthen programs and serve more youth more effectively.”

Lilly Endowment launched Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana Initiative in 2022 with an invitational round of grants to nine national youth-serving organizations to help them expand and enhance the work of their Indiana affiliates or chapters.

**About Lilly Endowment Inc.**

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. Although the Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.