



## Q & A for Paying off the Indiana FFA Leadership Center

### 1. Exactly what is the Pay It Forward campaign?

At the 87th Indiana FFA State Convention the Indiana FFA Foundation launched a two year **Pay It Forward** campaign with the goal of raising enough money to secure the future of the center by paying off the \$180,000 mortgage on the Indiana FFA Leadership Center and adding \$320,000 to the Give Hope Annuity which is the fund created to help with future capital projects.

### 2. The FFA Center has carried debt for nearly 50 years. Why is it important to pay it off now?

Since the first camp was held in 1974, an estimated 100,000 FFA members have taken advantage of our unique FFA Leadership Center. On that hallowed ground, generations of leaders have been shaped and inspired. For nearly 50 years Indiana FFA members have been blessed to inherit such a remarkable place to call home and now it is time to **Pay It Forward**. Last year the Indiana FFA Foundation board completed a **five year strategic plan**. In that plan the board set a goal to retire the mortgage on the Leadership Center.

### 3. If debt is paid off, are there any guarantees it won't be mortgaged again?

Recognizing the challenges of the past history of the Leadership Center and how large expenditures could happen with a facility that houses a main lodge, conference center, state officer housing, 6 cabins with 2 bathhouses, the fellowship center, shelter house, 2 barns, staff offices, 5 ½ acre lake and 170 acres of beautiful grounds. This makes it even more important to build a rainy day fund that will be set aside and can only be tapped into with Foundation Board approval. The reason the center has been refinanced in years past was to accommodate upgrades to the facility or help maintain the integrity of the grounds. This fund is currently at **\$128,000** with a five year goal of reaching **\$300,000**. Additionally, the board established a line item in their budget for **\$50,000 to \$60,000** per year to help with operational or capitol expenses; this has been in place for the past five years and has helped tremendously to allow improvements or cash flow during slow income months at the center. These two measures should **position the Foundation Board in the future to never need to refinance the Leadership Center**. Not to mention the dollars invested in Give Hope. They feel the center is an integral part of the success of the Indiana FFA's total program and feels by protecting this investment, they are insuring that future generations will have the chance to enjoy their Leadership Center as a part of their heritage.

### 4. What has the Foundation done to invest in the Leadership Center?

In the past five years the Leadership Center has been in a place of growth and stability. With the Indiana FFA Foundation investing close to **\$500,000** in facility capital projects and improvements, including the most recent of the over **\$60,000** invested in the fiber optic line and the remodel of one of the bath houses, updates to the State Officer's house, the Indiana FFA Leadership Center is excited about their future, including a three year **\$400,000** commitment from the Lilly Endowment on our Learn-Lead –Succeed program which will help the Indiana FFA extend their expertise in building better leaders beyond FFA to surrounding communities and schools.

**5. With the Indiana FFA Foundation having two back to back exceptional years, why didn't they pay off the Leadership Center with the dollars left over in the budget?**

This year over **\$100,000** of our **\$900,000** gross income was contributed in in-kind donations, a majority of that being for the Indiana FFA Leadership Center and that did not count the additional **\$50,000** in-kind for the Fiber optic line. Those in-kind donations were picnic tables, benches, Mr. Park's special requested items, speaker at convention, Jarden and other products at State Fair, Farm Progress Show and Ft. Wayne Farm Show, fuel for the center just to name a few.

Much of the additional income we received was for grants, such as CBAT Coaching our Beginning Teachers program, National FFA Hunger grant, Farm Credit and the Lilly Endowment Planning Grant was money in addition to our budget and as you may know grants must be spent in a very particular way and it is more like money in and money out to meet the needs of the grant. We have been very successful in getting grants for teacher programs, the association and for the Leadership Center.

Additionally this year, Joe Park raised close to **\$30,000** of those dollars that were used for projects at the center and was above our budgeted dollars.

The Foundation did pay **\$20,000** on the mortgage of the Leadership Center two years ago due a successful year fundraising year.

Each year for the past 5, the Indiana FFA Foundation invested **\$12,000 per year** into The Give Hope Campaign in addition to what other contributions that were made by chapters, individuals and corporate sponsors.

**6. What is the difference between this and the Give Hope campaign?**

The Give Hope dollars are an additional source of income for the Leadership Center. This fund was created to help with capital projects or another source of income for the center. The money is currently in an annuity and has a guarantee value of just over **\$200,000**. Annually, the guaranteed interest of the fund can be used if needed, but the board has chosen to roll it back into the fund to build the guaranteed interest to a higher level. Spring of 2017 the fund will get an additional percentage added to the fund, making the value of the fund to grow. Upon the maturity of the fund, it will be at the pleasure of the current board to role it into an endowment or be invested in the center.

**7. Is Pay It Forward donations on top of regular foundation donations?**

Yes, we still need to maintain our support other programs of the Indiana FFA, however a majority of the dollars donated from local FFA chapters will go into the Pay It Forward Campaign. We feel it necessary for our local chapters to be invested in this campaign sense the Leadership Center is valuable part of their experience in Indiana FFA. Additionally, we will be asking for contributions through our year-end individual giving letter that will be sent later in the fall.

**8. Are they tax deductible?**

Yes, the Indiana FFA is a **501 c 3 non-for-profit** and all donations are tax deductible.

**9. What if more money is raised than needed to pay off the debt?**

It will go into the Give Hope Annuity.

**10. What if not enough is raised- will the debt be paid down by a certain time?**

Our goal for this campaign is for 2 years. Quarterly, as the dollars come in, it will be applied to the principle of the mortgage of the loan. We plan to be successful.

**11. How much has been collected so far?**

Close to **\$30,000** to date. At the official launch, a past state officer contributed the first \$1,000 and the 2015-16 State Officer Team funded an additional \$1,000 and **Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance and Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.** has donated \$25,000. Harrison County Farm Bureau has donated \$1,000 in honor of retired Ag Teacher Gary Geswein to mention a few. State Officers have collected change at all the District Kickoffs, numbers are still out on those donations

**12. How can people contribute? Go to Indiana FFA's website at [www.inffa.org](http://www.inffa.org) and under support click on **Give Today** and in the comments portion put **Pay It Forward** or send a check to Indiana FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 9, Trafalgar, IN 46181 and in the memo put **Pay It Forward**.**