



March 2020

Dear Warren County Businesses & Residents,

Our Warren County Leadership Institute (WCLI) Class of 2020 is raising funds to provide Buddy Benches for each elementary school in the county that does not already have one. A Buddy Bench is a place of connection and inclusion for students. If a student does not have anyone to play with, they sit on the Buddy Bench. While sitting on the bench, the student looks around the playground for something they might like to do so they can ask to join. Additionally, if students see a classmate on the bench, they are encouraged to invite the classmate to play with them. There are several children's books that help students understand how to connect with and include others through the Buddy Bench.

We reached out to each elementary school in Warren County and identified eight schools that would like a bench. These schools include:

Emerson Elementary in Indianola  
Hartford Elementary  
Interstate 35 Elementary  
Martensdale-St Mary's Elementary

Norwalk Christian Academy  
Norwalk Orchard Hills  
Southeast Warren Elementary in Milo  
Victory Christian Academy in Indianola

Although the benches are available online, our commitment to buying local sent us looking for a Warren County artisan. William's Machine Shop of Lacona has agreed to build the benches and is generously donating the cost of one bench! Our goal is to raise approximately \$6,600 to cover the cost of the remaining seven benches as well as purchase a Buddy Bench Book for each school's library.

At this time we are seeking donations from businesses and/or residents to help this project come to fruition. Each bench will include recognition of donors of \$50 and above, with special placement for donors of \$300 and above.

Victory Christian Academy is serving as the fiscal agent for our project so donations will be tax deductible. **Please let us know at your earliest convenience if we can count on you to help us with a donation. Donation checks should be made payable to Victory Christian Academy (or VCA) and mailed to VCA at 805 North 1st Street - Indianola, IA 50125 by Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to ensure inclusion on the benches.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We are excited to provide Warren County students with this unique opportunity to connect and include each other for years to come.

Sincerely,

***The WCLI Class of 2020***

**Ben Batten** *Allen Lund*

**Mike Credidio** *Iowa Realty*

**Sandra Dop** *Victory Christian Academy*

**Thomas Dougherty** *City State Bank*

**Rick Graves** *Indianola Sewer Department*

**Drew Jackson** *Norwalk Police Department*

**Matt Koch** *Carlisle Police Department*

**Tim Little** *City of Indianola*

**Lexy Moran** *Simpson College*

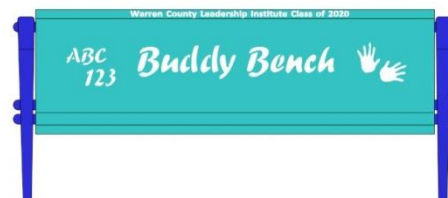
**Tony Rhinehart** *Carlisle Public Works*

**Avery Ruble** *Simpson College*

**Jake Schilling** *Peoples Bank*

**Trisha Trunnell-Brumer** *Peoples Bank*

**Thad White** *Indianola Fire Department*



**Want to donate or have questions about our project?**  
Contact WCLI class member: Sandra Dop at [sandraidop@gmail.com](mailto:sandraidop@gmail.com)