

Clearly Kosciusko Podcast Series

A PODCAST THAT CELEBRATES WHAT IS UNIQUE, WHAT IS SPECIAL, WHAT IS...CLEARLY KOSCIUSKO

Powered and produced by KEDCO in partnership with J.C. Innovations LLC

Episode 25: Ben Higgins—Generous Coffee, a hometown with open arms, and building connection in a world that can feel isolating

- [Generous Coffee Co.](#) began when Kosciusko County native Ben Higgins and long-time friends, Drew Scholl and Riley Fuller followed their passions to bring change to the world. Generous Coffee Co. is a “for purpose” company that sells *life-changing* coffee because 100% of the profits go to nonprofit organizations.
- Three-year-old startup, Generous Coffee Co. has locations in both Denver—where Ben currently lives—and [Lightrail Café and Roaster](#) in Winona Lake. Kosciusko County Native, Tyler Silveus serves as CEO of the company.
- Although Ben resides in Denver now, he has a special place in his heart for Kosciusko County, and still returns home to visit. “It’s wild how no matter where I move to, this area continues to pull me back in, in the best of ways,” Ben said.
- When comparing and contrasting Denver and the Warsaw-area Ben said, “Life moves slower here, and I say that in the best of ways. You feel like you have time to go to coffee with somebody. You have time to go get drinks with somebody, to sit down for a dinner, or to watch the sunset or sunrise.”
- Rooted in the northeast Indiana region and Midwest, Generous Coffee is roasted and shipped locally from Fort Wayne.
- When asked what the best way is to support Generous Coffee, Ben encourages people to switch their usual morning cup(s) of coffee to drinking Generous Coffee. And you can easily order it online at generouscoffee.com.
- Along with Generous Coffee, Ben is also an author and podcaster. His book [Alone in Plain Sight](#), released in February 2021, was written to help people find authentic connection. After playing a role on a popular television show several years ago, Ben at first experienced an “infatuation” with the idea of fame, but to his surprise, it eventually led him to feel completely isolated. “I wrote this book because I wanted people to feel less alone,” Ben said.
- Ben also serves as co-host on iHeart Radio’s [“Almost Famous”](#) podcast. With a pop culture focus, Ben admittedly shared that his co-host Ashley is one who is more well-versed in pop culture. Ben also hosts the [“Hope Still Wins”](#) podcast which has a theme of *hope*. The podcast offers insights from thought-leaders on topics such as faith, music, mental health, and racial injustice.

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Episode 26: Lucas Fonseca Arriagada & Elise Young – Supporting entrepreneurs and building community through language & communication

- Lucas Fonseca Arriagada, originally from a large city in the country of Chile, came to Kosciusko County with a scholarship to attend [Grace College](#) in Winona Lake.
- After studying several different languages in school while living in Chile, Lucas came to Grace to pursue business, and his passion and support from mentors, helped unfold new opportunities. Lucas founded local small business, [Language Matters LLC](#) which offers language services including Spanish, English and French. The company is in the process of offering additional languages, so stay tuned.
- Language Matters partners with individuals, businesses and schools to teach and equip people with language services to remove communication barriers, and increase connection within the community.
- Elise Young, Director, gBETA Main Street Bloomington – Columbus for the nationally recognized [gener8tor program](#), shared insight about gener8tor and how she connected with Lucas and Language Matters. KEDCO connected Lucas and Elise after hearing of opportunities for a small business accelerator program and partnership between gener8tor and the [Indiana Small Business Development Center](#). Lucas was one of just five chosen for the program, from more than 50 applicants in Indiana.
- Lucas said, “Being able to be in a community where people are willing to receive your ideas and take them to the next level, is really something I value. And I see it as an opportunity for young entrepreneurs in communities like ours to develop their idea, their business, because there is a support system that exists...”
- Language Matters is a program that builds connection, bolsters the community, and increases quality of life for individuals. When people are challenged with language barriers, they’re not able to experience the amazing Kosciusko County we’re all able to experience *together*.

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Episode 27: Lyle Schrock – Creating Smiles, connecting with others, and experiencing K-County to its fullest

- Lyle Schrock, local business owner of [The Lab](#) in Downtown Warsaw, is originally from neighboring Elkhart County, Indiana. Although rooted in the Hoosier State, Lyle also lived in Wisconsin for a while, but chose to come back to the area.
- Lyle shared that he grew up in the Amish community, so he’s self-taught in many areas. This sparked some of his curiosity to learn new things, while experiences in other jobs and industries also had him searching for a way to make a meaningful impact in the community.
- [The Lab](#) was born from Lyle’s natural knack for fixing things, and his desire to serve the community. The Lab is a local electronic repair shop for anything from phones, computers and tablets, to drones and other devices.
- With the unique tagline for an electronic repair shop, “Creating Smiles,” Lyle and his team create inviting and memorable experiences for each and every customer.
- Outside of work, Lyle enjoys spending time outdoors running on the trails and at the many local lakes (Kosciusko County has [100+ lakes and 600+ miles of streams](#)). Here are some [trails to experience](#) in Kosciusko County.
- “Kosciusko is always going to be my home base because it’s really just incredible here,” said Lyle.

Are you new to the area? Get plugged into the area and connect with new people, by joining KEDCO and other local residents at our [“Outside the Fishbowl”](#) meetups.