20 years of inspired giving

For a community foundation run entirely by volunteers, the Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF) has exceeded its own expectations. In 20 years, 22 funds were created and over 2.25 million dollars has been given back to the community through community grants, scholarships, and distributions from donor-directed funds.

A nine-member board representing various factions and geographical areas of the county met for the first time on January 25, 2001. Officers elected were: Jim Deer, President; Bryan Miller, Vice President, and Sara Lou Binau, who has served as Secretary/Treasurer from the beginning and continues to serve in that capacity today.

“Binau provided stability to the organization,” says Jean Gottfried, current Board President. “The countless volunteer hours she has given allowed the foundation to flourish.”

“Volunteering with WCCF has allowed me to learn about the services provided to the citizens of Wyandot County,” Binau said. “As I followed grant projects to their conclusion, I gained an understanding as well appreciation of the outstanding work agencies and nonprofits do for the betterment of our community.”

“While serving on several scholarship committees, I have had the opportunity to read many scholarship applications. I realize how our youth have impacted our county community already and, that in the future, they will continue to serve wherever they land, taking with them the values of our community which is rural America at its best! I don’t count the hours given. Rather I value the benefits I have reaped from being part of an endeavor to give back to our County and those that call this home.”

Sara Lou Binau
Secretary/Treasurer
The Wyandot County Community Foundation is a public charitable organization created to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families of Wyandot County, Ohio.

The Foundation’s purposes are to:

- Develop a permanent endowment for Wyandot County citizens.
- Assess and respond to changing community needs.
- Serve as a mechanism for donors at all levels of charitable giving.
- Provide financial assistance to groups that most significantly will meet the educational, cultural, health, social service, and recreational needs of the people of Wyandot County and provide leadership on vital issues affecting Wyandot County.
On February 25, 1999, the late Joy Roth, who had already been instrumental in establishing a Foundation in Ottawa County and Fred Reid brought together individuals representing all factions of the County for a presentation on what a foundation is, what it does, and the benefits of having such an organization within Wyandot County. A Foundation, once established, is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that allows individuals, groups, even businesses to establish funds for charitable causes consistent with their interests. Also determined was that the new nonprofit would be called the Wyandot County Community Foundation (WCCF).

With those present agreeing that this could have a huge impact on the County, all agreed to be part of the steering committee to establish a foundation. The steering committee was divided into four sub-groups to determine how a newly formed foundation for the County would function. Sub-committees were:

**Investment and Oversight** to explore the possibilities of already established foundations that might serve as an 'umbrella' organization. The foundation chosen would serve as an oversight organization giving guidance and doing the investing of local funds. Their recommendation was the Toledo Community Foundation.

**Public Information** would be responsible for raising awareness of the work being done to establish a county foundation and the resources that would be available for establishing funds for charitable purposes.

**Grantmaking Practices** looked at what grant procedures might be followed once funds were established for this purpose and how they might be acquired.

**Community Endowment Bylaw Committee** looked at by-laws of already established foundations in the smaller population communities to establish the guidelines for board membership, terms, and general board procedures.

An ad-hoc Board of Trustees was established in October 1999 with John Hunter as the presiding chairperson. The first order of business was the filing for the incorporation of the new organization. The ad-hoc board's work continued through 2000 as committees finished their work and presented their findings and suggestions. This Board approved the association with the Toledo Community Foundation (TCF) as our 'umbrella' organization. They were also able to secure funds to support the local organization operations and establish a small account with TCF towards establishing a fund in the future for grant awards.

December 2000 - Community members gathered at St Peter Catholic School to hear an announcement of the establishment of the Charles H. and Sharon F. McCarthy Family Fund. Pictured (Front row from left) are Roy Johnson, Sara Lou Brown, Judge John Hunter, Joy Roth, Fred Reid, Ray Funk and Dave Wolfe. Second row (from left) are Jim Deer, Sister Cecile, Sharon McCarthy, Kathryn (McCarthy) Collins and Father Jim Holmer. Back row (from left) are Pam Howell-Beach, David Kuenzli, Charles McCarthy, Jim Barnes and Bill Aubry, Jr.
2020 Grant Dollars at Work

Community grants valued at $16,628.00 were awarded to 11 recipients in the fall of 2020. Grants were supported by distributions from the Charles and Sharon McCarthy Family Fund, The Charles and Jean Gottfried Community Fund and the WCCF Community Fund.

**HOSPICE** A $500 grant was used by Health Services of Wyandot County to purchase bereavement support materials for their Hospice Grief Recovery Programs. 18 Grief Recovery Books were purchased for adult grief programs while the Bobby’s Books Program received 24 children’s books and 12 pillows that will help young ones understand loss and grief.

**DORCUS CAREY PUBLIC LIBRARY** A technology grant helped to complete a Network Equipment Upgrade project for the Dorcus Carey Public Library. The new equipment provides faster and more reliable access to Wi-Fi both inside the building and in the parking lot as well as increased security for both patrons and library staff.

**STEPS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL** A COVID Response grant was awarded to Steps Preschool. The grant provided masks, cleaning supplies, thermometers, nap mats, bedding cleaning products, classroom dividers and other supplies necessary to provide a safe and sanitary preschool environment for over 45 students who attend the preschool.

Accepting Dennis Mitchell's $1000 donation to the Angeline Endowment Fund were Sara Lou Brown and Dan Reid of the Wyandot County Community Foundation; Dennis Mitchell, of Mitchell and Associates; Bryan Miller, Angeline’s Superintendent; David Wolfe of Wyandot County Community Foundation and Pam Howell-Beach of the Toledo Community Foundation.

The WCCF Community Needs Fund was created through a Plant the Seed Campaign. The first grant awards totaling $2,600 were presented to 5 nonprofits in 2013. Since that time, the Wyandot County Community Fund has grown to $86,187. The photo is of recipients and Foundation Board Member present at the first grant awards program.

(L to R )Mayor Scott Washburn and Linda Geary

Angeline Endowment Fund
April 2, 2002
The Wyandot County Imagination Library is a free book gifting program open to any child 5 years old and under. 517 Wyandot County children are currently enrolled and 53 children have graduated. With generous funding support from the Ohio Legislature and local giving, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program mails a new book to each enrolled child every month at no cost to their family. The state provides a dollar-for-dollar match with local funds. The Wyandot County Community Foundation serves as the fiscal agent for the program.

Thank you to local donors who have made the program possible:

First National Bank of Sycamore
Friends of the Carey Library Inc.
Friends of the Library (USCL)
Kiwanis Club of Carey
Kiwanis Club of Upper Sandusky
Premier Bank Upper Sandusky
Quest Federal Credit Union
Rotary Club of Upper Sandusky

Beverly A. Smith
Tri Sigma Sorority, Beta Chapter
United Way of North Central Ohio
Upper Winter Fantasy of Lights
Vaughn Industries
Wellness Counseling Solutions
Wyandot Board of DD
Wyandot County Young Professionals
Become part of the hand that assists grant applicants with projects that are out of the scope of their normal budgeted money and provide for the Foundation’s day-to-day operations. Please consider supporting the Mission of the Wyandot County Community Foundation. Contribute to the WCCF - Grant Fund and/or WCCF - Operations.  

Return this form with check(s) payable to: WCCF - Grant Fund or WCCF - Operations  
PO Box 364, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Enclosed is my/our gift:  _______$50  _______$500  _______$1000  _______Other$______

Name______________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________

City__________________________ State______ Zip____________ Phone ________________

_______ I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

_______ I would like information on including the WCCF in my estate plans.

_______ I would like additional information on establishing a fund.