

GoodNews



Strengthening Support for Dayton’s Arts and Culture

Miriam Rosenthal Foundation Joins The Dayton Foundation

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Miriam Rosenthal

As the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation for the Arts concluded its 60th anniversary year, the organization began a new chapter to ensure its mission endures for generations to come. The foundation’s advisory committee recently announced a strategic partnership with The Dayton Foundation, positioning MRF to continue its support for Greater Dayton’s vibrant arts community. Now a fund of The Dayton Foundation, MRF ranks among the Foundation’s larger charitable funds.

“This partnership represents both a celebration of our past and an investment in our future,” said Richard (Dick) McCauley, who has served as MRF’s volunteer leader for nearly four decades. “By joining The Dayton Foundation, we are strengthening our ability to support Dayton’s arts and cultural scene, while honoring Miriam Rosenthal’s extraordinary legacy.”

“By bringing the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation under The Dayton Foundation umbrella, we’re helping ensure her legacy remains visible, vibrant and sustainable for future generations.”

— Mike Parks, CFRE,
president of The
Dayton Foundation

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Welcome New Governing Board Chair, Cassie Barlow

When Dr. Cassie B. Barlow reflects on the influences that shaped her life, two themes stand out – education and service.

Raised by parents who were both educators, she grew up in a household where learning was expected.

“It wasn’t a matter of if we were going to college, but where,” recalls Cassie, president of SOCHE (Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education) and The Dayton Foundation’s new Governing Board chair.

Her mother, who earned a master’s degree at a time when few women pursued graduate education, and her father, a World War II veteran who survived the Battle of the Bulge and later became a teacher, instilled in their children a deep respect for knowledge. Service, too, was a constant presence. Whether through their church, coaching sports or volunteering, her parents demonstrated what it meant to give back.



New Governing Board Chair Cassie Barlow with her husband, Timothy, in Alaska

“We grew up with the mindset of ‘To whom much is given, much is required,’” she said. “I still believe in that principle today.”

Those values carried Cassie into a 26-year military career that began with an ROTC scholarship and ended

with her retirement in 2014 as the commander of the 88th Air Base Wing and Installation of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the largest air base wing in the United States Air Force. Throughout her career, she honed her leadership skills in listening, trusting and supporting others.

“At age 22, I was leading a team of 22 people,” she said. “I knew I had to learn everything I could to support them. When people know you’re there for them, they’re there for you.”

Today, Cassie draws on those lifelong lessons in her role as chair.

“My upbringing shaped me and what I believe in for others,” said Cassie, who has served on the Foundation’s Board since 2019. “Family, faith and taking care of others align with the Foundation’s mission: ‘We help you help others through philanthropy and community leadership.’”

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Rosenthal continued

Established in 1965 by prominent community leaders, including former Dayton Foundation Governing Board members Robert Oelman and David Rike, and funded by hundreds of friends and neighbors, MRF honors the extraordinary life of Miriam Rosenthal. Miriam was one of Dayton's most influential civic and fundraising leaders.

The daughter of Jewish immigrants, Miriam rose from humble beginnings to become a journalist, public relations professional and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra's first manager. Miriam was a driving force in shaping Dayton, supporting fundraising efforts for Good Samaritan Hospital, Memorial Hall and the University of Dayton, as well as the establishment of Sinclair Community

“By joining The Dayton Foundation, we are strengthening our ability to support Dayton’s arts and cultural scene, while honoring Miriam Rosenthal’s extraordinary legacy.”

— Richard (Dick) McCauley, volunteer leader for the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation

College and Wright State University. Her leadership benefited longstanding institutions, such as the Dayton Metro Library, YMCA of Greater Dayton and YWCA Dayton. Miriam also championed efforts to bring the National



Thanks to a grant awarded from the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation for the Arts, K12 Gallery & TEJAS is beautifying downtown Dayton with a fabric art installation.

Museum of the United States Air Force to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and served as a trusted advisor to notable political leaders, including the late James M. Cox, former *Dayton Daily News* publisher and Ohio governor.

Today, her name remains visible on buildings located on the campuses of



From Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Josh Ohms photographer

In celebration of its 60th anniversary, the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation for the Arts awarded a special grant to the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra for its 2025-2026 season-opening concert featuring Keitaro Harada, the orchestra's new music and artistic director.

Sinclair, UD and WSU, as well as on a memorial in Dayton's Wright-Dunbar neighborhood, celebrating her recognition on the city's Walk of Fame.

“Miriam left a significant void in the community,” Dick said. “Because of her influence in the arts, education and so many other areas of civic life, local leaders carried on her passion for the arts through this foundation.”

Under the new partnership, MRF will continue to operate with its existing identity, mission, leadership and grantmaking procedures. The Dayton Foundation will provide administrative services, including accounting, auditing, fund administration and legal support. This arrangement will enable the advisory committee to focus on awarding grants and expanding access to rich arts offerings.

“By bringing the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation under The Dayton Foundation umbrella, we’re helping to ensure her legacy remains visible, vibrant and sustainable for future generations,” said Mike Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation.

Recent MRF grants are supporting upcoming performances by the Bach Society of Dayton and the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, as well as summer arts education programs with The Human Race Theatre Company and K12 Gallery & TEJAS. Both programs center on engaging young people in creative expression through visual arts and theatre production.

“Young people need opportunities to explore creativity, learn about collaboration and develop critical thinking skills,” Dick said. “What students gain from exploring the arts extends far beyond developing their artistic ability. They’re learning how to solve problems,

communicate ideas and see the world in new ways.”

As MRF enters its seventh decade, the advisory committee encourages donations from individuals who share Miriam's vision and dedication for the arts.

“The Miriam Rosenthal Foundation was created by the citizens of Dayton to be a lasting source of support for the arts,” Dick said. “The founders believed future generations would continue to invest in the fund so that the arts could thrive despite growing challenges and expenses. We hope others who value the arts will join us in continuing that mission.”

Added retired Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Neal Gittleman, “Having been a longtime beneficiary of support from the Rosenthal Foundation during my three decades on the orchestra's podium, and now as a member of the foundation's advisory committee, I have an even deeper understanding of its key role in keeping Dayton's arts scene busy and vibrant. I'm sure Miriam is smiling down on us for all that goes on arts-wise in our community, and she's probably saying, ‘Good! But let's do even more!’ To which I say, ‘Yes, ma'am!’”

To learn more about or contribute to the Miriam Rosenthal Foundation for the Arts, visit miriamrosenthalfoundation.org.

Nanda Family Fund

“Small Town” Upbringing Inspires a Life of Service

Dr. Arvin Nanda is proud of his Midwestern roots. Born and raised in a rural Indiana town with a population of fewer than 1,000 people, the self-proclaimed John Mellencamp fan credits his parents and his “Small Town” upbringing as inspirations for giving back.



Dr. Arvin Nanda and his wife of 30 years, Dr. Josette D’Amato

“My parents, Dave and Connie Nanda, immigrated to the United States from New Delhi, India, in the 1960s. They are the foundation of my education, inspiration and work in charity,” said Arvin, who has practiced medicine locally for 30 years. “Growing up in small-town, rural America, we did not have much. But we had enough.”

Despite these humble beginnings, Arvin’s family has thrived in their adopted country. His father earned his PhD in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin and enjoyed a 50-year career helping farmers grow corn and soybeans. His brother, Paul, worked for The Ohio State University’s global healthcare program and has traveled to many countries to provide free care to thousands of underserved people. Arvin attained a psychology degree from the University of Iowa in 1991 and attended medical school at Des Moines University, where he earned a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in 1995.

DMU also is where he met his wife of 30 years, Dr. Josette D’Amato, an obstetrician and gynecologist for Dayton Children’s Hospital, who, he says, “works harder than I do!” They came to the area for Arvin’s residency in 1996 and later

settled in Beavercreek to raise their son, Drew, and daughter, Brittany.

The Nandas’ service to the community involves all aspects of their lives, whether helping patients, volunteering their time or supporting charitable organizations through their Dayton Foundation Charitable Checking Account,SM which they created and funded last fall with appreciated stock.

“By donating the stock, I saved on taxes and can award grants to benefit our church, the Grandview Foundation, The Physicians’ Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley and many other organizations,” Arvin said. “There are more than 4,000 nonprofits in our community and so many amazing people who are working to take care of our community. But the needs are great.”

One of the ways Arvin works to meet these needs is through his work on PCF’s board. After previously serving as a board member and as its president, he is returning to the board this fall.

“Dr. John Sefton and Gerri Sheehan, PCF’s former executive director, helped me to understand philanthropy and opened the door for me to meet amazing

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“Life can be a very humbling experience, but together we can accomplish so much.”

— Dr. Arvin Nanda, Dayton Foundation donor

Thanks to Janice Culver

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Janice L. Culver, CPA, for her exceptional leadership during her two-year term as chair of The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board, which concluded in June.

During her tenure, Jan guided the Foundation through a period of remarkable growth, helping to advance its mission to help individuals and organizations help others through philanthropy and community leadership. This included the awarding of nearly 55,000 grants totaling more than \$241 million from all Foundation funds to nonprofit organizations. More than \$2 million of this amount was distributed through Board-directed discretionary grants and Greenlight GrantsSM that helped local arts groups complete facility renovations; prepare preschoolers for kindergarten; construct a new law enforcement memorial; and transform vacant lots into vibrant green spaces, among other efforts.

Under Jan’s leadership, the Foundation assisted individuals, families and organizations in furthering their charitable goals through the creation of 679 new endowed and non-endowed funds and Charitable Checking Accounts.SM



Janice L. Culver

Included in this total are 37 unrestricted and lightly restricted funds that help the Foundation address critical local needs and opportunities today and for generations to come. Read more about some of these innovative and collaborative projects on page 6.

In addition, new contributions combined with sound investment management added \$275 million in charitable assets, bringing the Foundation’s community resources to a record high of \$1.4 billion.

Thanks to Jan’s thoughtful guidance, the Foundation’s community initiatives are driving impactful solutions for the region’s benefit. Current efforts include the Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative, which employs highly skilled older

During her tenure, Jan guided the Foundation through a period of remarkable growth, helping to advance its mission to help individuals and organizations help others through philanthropy and community leadership.

adults to address pressing local needs; the Nonprofit Capacity-Building Partnership, a collaboration with the Mathile Family Foundation to strengthen Montgomery County nonprofits by providing them with access to high-quality resources and development opportunities; and the Employers’ Workforce Coalition, a partnership of community-based organizations and employers working to strengthen Greater Dayton’s talent pipeline by addressing critical workforce gaps across all sectors.

We sincerely appreciate Jan’s insightful and dedicated leadership during her time as Governing Board chair. She led the Foundation through many notable accomplishments on behalf of the community and generously has devoted her time and talent since joining the Foundation’s Governing Board in 2017, later chairing its Marketing and Public Relations Committee and serving on its Executive Committee. We are grateful that Jan will continue to serve as a member of the Board, and we deeply value her ongoing commitment to the Foundation and Greater Dayton.

Thank you, Jan! 🌿

Donors and organizations establish funds to help others

Endowments

Establishing a strong foundation for our community's future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. The following funds are some of the new endowments established by donors in recent months to support their special charitable causes and our region, now and in the future.

Breast Wishes Foundation Fund provides annual income to this nonprofit organization whose mission is to grant wishes that bring joy to individuals with breast cancer.

Andy Carlisle Memorial Fund awards grants to pre-K through sixth grade teachers at Northmont City Schools to support needs such as field trips and classroom enhancements.

Dan Carlisle Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to select graduating seniors from Northmont High School who have participated on its football team for four years and have been recommended by the coaching staff, among other criteria. The fund memorializes Dan Carlisle, a member of the 1995 NHS football team, whose dedication to and love for academics, football and his friends helped him live life to the fullest before he passed away from cancer at age 16.



Chantel Lawrence
Chantel's Legacy Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to

graduating Dayton Public Schools seniors who have participated in high school sports or extracurricular activities and meet additional criteria. Chantel Lawrence, a Central State University graduate and 2024 Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, and her husband, David, raised five children who graduated from DPS, four of whom went on to earn their college degrees debt-free and one who chose a different path and serves as a City of Dayton firefighter.

Nancy and Lawrence Curk Family Fund distributes grants across a broad range of charitable areas.



Dayton Dream Center
Dayton Dream Center Fund supports this nonprofit organization dedicated to serving individuals and families in the Dayton Region who are affected

Dayton Police History Foundation supports efforts to fulfill its mission to recount and preserve its remarkable local law enforcement past, with the goal of establishing the Dayton Metropolitan Police Museum.

Nila Faulkner Community Fund supports local nonprofits addressing critical needs in Greater Dayton, as determined by The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board. Nila Faulkner worked as a job setter for General Motors for 25 years and was known for her resilient spirit, strong work ethic

and warm connections within her community.
Phillip and Mary Hubbell Community Fund awards grants across a broad range of charitable interests, as chosen by the donors.

Lilli Johnson Family Foundation honors the charitable wishes of the donor, who was the owner and president of Johnson Welded Products, Inc., for 44 years before her passing in 2025. Lilli was an active philanthropist and served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Champaign County Library.



Dayton Police History Foundation

Kevin C. Jones Foundation aids charitable organizations important to this active community leader and alumnus of Oakwood High School. Kevin joined the Robert K. Jones Insurance Agency, LTD., in 1986 after graduating from The Ohio State University and currently serves as its president and CEO.



Kevin C. Jones
Jamie and Robert King Fund for Financial Literacy provides income for the Cummings-Feola

Family Foundation, Inc., in New York to distribute financial literacy materials produced by Ramsey Education to middle and high schools in the United States. Jamie King is a past member of The Dayton Foundation's Governing Board and was named one of *Dayton Daily News*' 2001 Ten Top Women in recog-

nition of her leadership and community involvement. Her late husband, Robert, retired as a financial director for The Reynolds and Reynolds Company and was a United States Air Force veteran.

Shawn Magee Foundation for Educational Success supports students in grades K through 12 at Bradford Exempted Village School and seniors enrolled in Upper Valley Career



Jamie King

continued »

From the President

Growing Our Collective Impact, One Fund at a Time



Michael M. Parks, CFRE

Every day, we see the collective difference our fund holders and their grantmaking are making in our region and around the world.

As we close out fiscal year 2026 and begin tallying the numbers, I am amazed yet again by how extraordinarily giving our fund holders and this community truly are.

Preliminary figures show that \$120 million in grants and distributions were awarded from nearly 4,400 Dayton Foundation charitable funds. This is more than double the grantmaking carried out in fiscal year 2021, just five short years ago. In addition, the Foundation achieved a record this year with 367 new funds and Charitable Checking AccountsSM established – a nearly 18 percent increase over our previous fiscal year.

These figures represent so much more than numbers. They are a prime example of the ongoing generous spirit ingrained in our fund holders. These caring individuals assist their neighbors in need in good times and bad. While helping others through a crisis is a noble and caring deed, the deliberate act of everyday giving is at the heart of what The Dayton Foundation and its fund holders represent.

You can read about some of these new donors and their funds, beginning on page 4 and continuing below. You also can find a complete listing of endowment funds on our website at daytonfoundation.org/find-inspiration-our-funds-and-stories. We are honored to be entrusted with stewarding the funds of these individuals, families and organizations, who come from all walks of life and support causes ranging from education, health and human services, the arts, the environment and more.

Every day, we see the collective difference our fund holders and their grantmaking are making in our region and around the world. As we welcome more charitable individuals into The Dayton Foundation family, more youth can afford to go to college, thanks to a growing number of scholarship funds. Our nonprofits are able to address more critical local needs, thanks to an increase in donors who have established unrestricted or lightly restricted funds. More legacy gifts and bequests are coming to fruition, thanks to the thoughtful planning of charitable individuals who want

to help others even after they are gone. And the list goes on.

Our donors' generosity, coupled with a historic transfer-of-wealth opportunity in the coming decade that could result in an estimated \$75.6 billion passing from one generation to the next, makes me excited for the future. If only a portion of this wealth goes to local charities – just five percent – it will provide transformative resources to elevate Greater Dayton and all our region's citizens.

The opportunities before our community are tremendous. When the time is right, The Dayton Foundation can help you help others. Contact us at (937) 222-0410. By investing today, we are changing lives and building a brighter future for our region. 🌱

Michael M. Parks, CFRE
President

New Endowments continued



Center trade programs by addressing financial obstacles that can impact learning and career readiness. Assistance may include school fees, supplies, tools, certifications, licenses and other educational expenses that help students succeed beyond graduation.

Moving Forward Fund distributes grants over a 20-year period to the Clinton County Homeless Shelter, Sugartree Ministries and the Wilmington Hope House, Inc., A Safe Place for Women and Children.

The Pulos Family Foundation Fund supports charities selected by the Pulos family. Debra and Chris Pulos, along with their families, choose to support causes in their communities and beyond. They hope their fund will remain in perpetuity to ensure long-term giving to the people and places important to all of them.

Jeanette W. Schultz Legacy Fund* provides annual income to the Foundation for Centerville-Washington Parks, Humane Society of Greater Dayton, NumbersUSA



Chris and Debra Pulos

Education and Research Foundation, and ThinkTV.

The Skerl Family Fund contributes to the charities of the Skerl family's choosing.

Sunshine Scholarship Fund assists students from Montgomery or Greene counties who demonstrate financial need, volunteerism and wish to pursue degrees in STEM or medical-related fields, among other criteria.

You Turn Ministries Designated Fund provides general operating support for this Lebanon, Ohio, organization dedicated to meeting tangible needs in Southeast Africa, such as building and repairing water wells and caring for orphaned children. 🌱

*Centerville-Washington Foundation



Steven and Janel Skerl

Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

Grants

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded \$329,438 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation’s Governing Board to assist Greater Dayton charities. Additionally, grants totaling \$101,161 were awarded through the Foundation’s Greenlight GrantsSM program to benefit area nonprofits.

The Foundation’s discretionary and Greenlight Grants programs are made possible by donors who have provided unrestricted or lightly restricted funds. These funds enable the Foundation to act on opportunities for the community and address pressing needs throughout the region.

Athletes in Action Sports Complex & Retreat Center (\$9,552) to replace mattresses and mattress covers to maintain a high-quality and comfortable environment for overnight guests

Dayton Dream Center (\$25,000) to transition the Adopt-A-Block program, which addresses addiction, homelessness and more in East Dayton, into a permanent initiative that creates lasting community impact



Learn to Earn Dayton

Learn to Earn Dayton (\$70,000) to expand the Access to Counsel program citywide to address housing instability and the impact it has on student attendance and success

Mission of Mary Cooperative (\$60,000) to purchase and renovate a home in Dayton’s Twin Towers neighborhood to provide affordable, high-quality housing for interns and seasonal staff

Northeast Churches Emergency Center (\$13,986) to assist with building improvements, including exterior enhancements and restroom renovations



OH Taste Foundation

OH Taste Foundation (\$60,000) to support Phase 2 of the 6888 Kitchen Incubator that helps food industry entrepreneurs grow their businesses

Pink Ribbon Good, Inc. (\$50,000) to purchase a renovated office building in Troy, which will serve as the organization’s national headquarters



We Care Arts, Inc.

We Care Arts, Inc. (\$40,900) to enhance the organization’s capacity to meet the rising demand for trauma-informed arts programming for adults with developmental disabilities, mental health conditions and substance use disorders

Greenlight Grant Awards

Darke County Historical Society, Inc. (\$4,300) to repair a handicap-accessible ramp and safety railings at the museum

Dayton Society of Artists (\$7,500) to replace windows and upgrade the air conditioning system

Dignity Exchange (\$1,500) to purchase shelving units and office equipment

Eastmont United Methodist Church (\$3,197) to design and implement a new website that will assist with fundraising for the

construction of three new duplexes for women, children and pets

Eastway Corporation (\$7,500) to assist with a commercial kitchen renovation

Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative (\$7,400) to equip the Automotive Service Technician Program on the Emerge campus to prepare up to 24 students annually for automotive careers



Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative

Flourishing Under Distress Given Encouragement, Inc. (\$7,500) to create a full-service resource center that supports programming and technology for the community

4 Paws for Ability, Inc. (\$5,000) to resurface and upgrade the parking lot to ensure safe, accessible and equitable access

Greater Dayton Union Cooperative Initiative DBA Co-op Dayton (\$5,000) to support The Co-op Games, an interactive training model that teaches cooperative governance, democratic decision-making and business financial literacy

Kids Read Now (\$5,500) to develop, translate and pilot four financial literacy training modules for bilingual families



Muse Machine

Muse Machine (\$7,500) to support the 2026 Summer Institute, a free professional development

program for educators focused on integrating documentary filmmaking into the classroom



Piqua Arts Council

Piqua Arts Council (\$4,000) to engage experienced consultants to help the organization through a period of growth and transition, supporting the expansion of programming and increasing access to the arts for Miami County residents

Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development (\$896) to purchase an innovative, light-based reaction training system that enhances neurodevelopmental therapy and educational interventions for individuals with neurological conditions

St. Vincent de Paul Society (\$7,500) to improve the accessibility and efficiency of the kitchens at the DePaul Center supportive housing facility

A Special Wish Foundation of Southwest Ohio (\$6,000) to create a professional, user-friendly website

StoryChain (\$4,000) to launch a new literacy program that allows children to record stories for their incarcerated parents, adapting the successful model long used to connect incarcerated mothers and fathers with their children



United Missionary Baptist Church

United Missionary Baptist Church (\$6,368) to purchase, deliver and install two commercial-grade deep freezers

Valor Therapeutics, Inc. (\$3,000) to implement Soul Recovery, an innovative, trauma-informed therapeutic program for justice-involved veterans participating in veterans treatment courts

Violence Free Futures (\$5,000) to replace the existing residential-grade toilets in its domestic violence shelter with commercial-grade, high-pressure flushing toilets

With God’s Grace Mobile Food Pantry (\$2,500) to purchase refrigerators and shelving units for the pantry

These grants were made possible thanks to the following Unrestricted or Field-of-Interest funds of The Dayton Foundation.

- Fred and Joy Bartenstein Fund
- Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski Fund
- Coen Family Fund for the Arts
- Martha J. DeBold Legacy Fund
- The Eckstein Community Fund
- Dr. Sylvan Eller Legacy Fund
- Gretchen W. “Jinx” Fensel Fund
- Mr. and Mrs. John B. Greene Fund
- James P. Hudson Legacy Fund
- Edward L. and Esther B. Kohnle Fund
- Ray Loughman Fund
- The Robert and Jean Penny Endowment Fund
- The Mary and Richard Pryor Fund

- Nancy and Neal Reichelt Community Endowment
- Hyde E. Ruble and Eleanor F. Ruble Fund
- Delphin T. and Marilyn K. Shannon Fund
- Caroline Patterson Shaw Memorial Fund
- James W. Simovart Charitable Fund
- Marianna F. Slanker Family Fund
- Edith Slutzker Fund
- Donald M. and Dorothea Hunt Spindler Endowment Fund
- The Mark C. Thompson Legacy Fund
- Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund
- Werner C. and Juliet V. Trifthouse Fund
- Woodhull Family Fund

Barlow
continued

“I’m surrounded by an incredible team of volunteers and staff, and I’m excited to listen, learn and continue building on the strong foundation that has been built over the past 105 years.”

— Cassie Barlow,
chair, Governing
Board

Cassie describes The Dayton Foundation as an organization that not only supports the community but also brings it together, especially during times of need. Whether responding to unexpected crises, such as the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes and Oregon District tragedy, or addressing long-term challenges, the Foundation plays a critical role in connecting people and resources to drive meaningful solutions.

“It’s powerful to see an organization step into those moments and say, ‘Let’s come together and figure this out,’” Cassie said. “That takes leadership and integrity.”

Looking ahead, Cassie is focused on strengthening the region’s workforce and helping the next generation understand their role in shaping Greater Dayton’s future.

“We need young people to know they have a place here and they’re needed,” she said. “If we can help them see the opportunities available and get set up for success, it makes a huge difference for our entire community.”

Cassie’s passion extends to ensuring that opportunity is accessible to

everyone. Most recently, she was one of the founding leaders of The Dayton Foundation’s Employers’ Workforce Coalition initiative and currently serves on its Executive Leadership Group. Cassie, along with SOCHE, is helping advance solutions that support both employers and job seekers.

“Through EWC and its partners, we’re making great progress in workforce development, but much work remains,” she said. “Its new Manufacturing Skills Sprint, in partnership with Sinclair Community College, is providing participants with real work experience through internships and other work-based learning opportunities that can accelerate job readiness.”

Beyond the work itself, Cassie credits the Dayton community as a defining factor in why she and her husband, Timothy, decided to remain here. Originally expecting a short stay during her military career, she quickly found something more lasting. With her daughter, Emma, and son-in-law, Andrew, living nearby, Dayton has become not just the place where she continues to serve, but a place she calls home.



Col. Cassie Barlow assumed command of the 88th Air Base Wing and Installation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 2012, retiring in 2014.

“The way people connect, support each other and genuinely want the best for you means a lot. It’s an incredible community, and everyone has embraced us,” she said.

As she steps into her role as Board chair, Cassie has a strong sense of gratitude and purpose.

“I’ve learned so much from my fellow Board members and the chairs who came before me,” she said. “I’m surrounded by an incredible team of volunteers and staff, and I’m excited to listen, learn and continue building on the strong foundation that has been built over the past 105 years.

“Every community needs a place where people come together to tackle big challenges,” Cassie continued. “The Dayton Foundation does this, and I look forward to working with the Board and staff to do what is in the best interests of the community and to fulfill our fund holders’ charitable goals.”



“Small
Town”
continued

physicians who are trying to elevate their communities, including Dr. Robert Barker, Dr. Cleanne Cass, Dr. Micah Davis, Dr. Warren Muth, Dr. Alonzo Patterson and many more,” Arvin said of PCF, which now is led by Bonnie Baker-Tattershall. “These physicians empathize with patients and want to help improve their lives beyond healthcare, distributing more than \$600,000 in grants a year to local charities.”

Dr. Nanda also serves on the board of trustees for the Grandview Foundation and as a volunteer on The Dayton Foundation’s Finance Committee, a position that has given him insight into the historic transfer of wealth that currently is underway.

“The next 15 years will see the great Baby Boomer generation transfer wealth to the next generation, to charity and to the community. My parents and others have an opportunity to have a tremendous impact on improving the lives of all people and to benefit education, art, dance, music, food insecurity, healthcare and more,” he said. “It is an exciting time



Arvin with his parents, Connie Nanda (left) and Dave Nanda, PhD (right)

to see the culmination of an extremely hardworking and dedicated generation of people do so much good for the community.”

For Arvin, it’s the sentiment behind the act of giving that takes on the most meaning.

“Mother Teresa said, ‘It’s not how

much we give but how much love we put into giving.’ I want to be remembered as a person who cared and lived his life with honesty, integrity and love,” he said. “Helping others makes me feel connected with humanity. Life can be a very humbling experience, but together we can accomplish so much.”

Grants in Action

Grants in Action recognizes the results of notable grant awards, whether large or small, and the significant impact they have on strengthening Greater Dayton and beyond.

Grant Supports a Safe Space for Healing Through Art



We Care Arts, Inc.

Established in 1983 as a place for blending art and community to promote healing for individuals with developmental disabilities, substance use disorders and mental health diagnoses, We Care Arts, Inc., serves hundreds of artist-clients each year. After experiencing ongoing leaks at its Wilmington Pike facility, the nonprofit organization launched a fundraising campaign to replace its more than 20-year-old roof. The Dayton Foundation supported the project in 2024 with a \$15,000 discretionary grant. “The generous grant from The Dayton Foundation has been instrumental in helping replace our facility’s roof, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for our artist-clients,” said Katie Neubert, executive director of We Care Arts.

“The new roof has prevented leaks that could damage artwork, supplies and program space, allowing participants to focus on creativity, connection and healing without disruption.” We Care Arts participants are referred by medical professionals, social workers or services, and support administrators who recognize the value of creative expression as part of a person’s journey toward wellness and independence. One referred client, Lana, is a gifted artist who nearly lost her creative passion after an abusive relationship resulted in her artwork being destroyed. For years, the emotional impact of that experience prevented her from returning to art. Today, she not only creates art again but also shares it proudly through exhibits across the Dayton Region. “Art is medicine. Being creative is healing. It has a physical impact on the body and the mind,” Lana said. “I can’t thank you enough for putting this place here for me.” “Our studios are filled with creative artists whose stories reflect both remarkable resilience and the transformative power of art. Grants like the one from the Foundation mean stability, opportunity and hope for our organization and the individuals we serve,” Katie said. “This support allows us to focus our resources where they matter most – empowering healing through art and community.”

West Dayton Youth Turn Popcorn into Profits, Thanks to Grant

The Greater Edgemont Community Coalition in West Dayton works to make its neighborhoods and the broader community better for all. Through efforts such as the revitalization of the Edgemont Solar Garden, Dayton’s first community garden formed in 1978, the nonprofit organization has blossomed

to include several innovative initiatives designed to help Edgemont residents feed, teach and care for one another. One of these efforts, the Popcorn to Profits initiative, was awarded a \$5,000 Greenlight GrantSM from The Dayton Foundation in 2024. Thanks to the grant, GECC purchased equipment that streamlined popcorn planting, harvesting and processing, creating a true farm-to-business learning experience for West Dayton youth. “The Foundation’s investment is a wonderful example of GECC’s approach in action,” said Chataun Denis, volunteer co-director of GECC. “Over the past two years, more than 70 youth have participated in the program, learning every step of the journey from seed to sale.” The journey includes students planting popcorn in the community garden, tending and harvesting the crop, then preparing and packaging the popcorn kernels to sell throughout the community. These efforts generated more than \$2,000 in earned income and allowed participating youth to receive stipends for their work. Some participants also started selling popcorn independently, giving them their first experience in creating income through entrepreneurship. “What makes this program successful is not simply the popcorn – it’s the relationships. Youth learn from gardeners, volunteers, teachers, mentors and neighbors who share their knowledge and encouragement. As confidence grows, individuals begin teaching others, creating a cycle of learning and leadership that continues beyond the program,” Chataun said. “The Dayton Foundation’s grant is helping cultivate young entrepreneurs today while strengthening the community infrastructure that will sustain West Dayton for years to come.”



Greater Edgemont Community Coalition

“The Dayton Foundation’s grant is helping cultivate young entrepreneurs today while strengthening the community infrastructure that will sustain West Dayton for years to come.”

– Chataun Denis, volunteer co-director of GECC

The Dayton Foundation News



James M. Vaughn



Lisa D. Coker



Joseph A. Zehenny

Foundation’s Governing Board Welcomes New Members, Appoints Vice Chair

The Dayton Foundation recently appointed community leaders Lisa D. Coker and Joseph A. Zehenny as its newest Governing Board members and named current member James M. Vaughn, CPA, as vice chair. **Jim Vaughn** joined the Foundation’s Board in 2019 and has chaired both the Finance and Development committees. Jim is the vice president of Accounting for Taylor Communications, Inc. (formerly Standard Register), where he has worked for the past 43 years in a variety of senior financial and operational roles. He also serves as the treasurer of Citizens for Good Libraries (in support of Dayton Metro Library); a development committee member for Five Rivers Health Centers; finance chair of the Oakwood Schools Foundation, a component fund of The Dayton Foundation; a finance committee member of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church; and a volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Lisa Coker is the chief executive officer of Infinite Management Solutions, a woman- and veteran-owned firm serving middle-market and large organizations across the public and private sectors. A United States Air Force veteran and certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, she partners with C-suite leaders to shape strategy, optimize operations and lead complex initiatives with measurable impact. She currently serves on the Dayton Art Institute Board of Trustees and previously served as the vice president of the Miami Valley Chapter of Women in Defense Board of Directors. **Joe Zehenny** formerly served as the managing partner of Arthur Andersen’s Dayton office, the leader of KeyBank’s Dayton commercial banking team and the chief financial officer of DRT Holdings, Inc. Today, he works as an independent consultant, advising business owners on complex financial, operational and strategic matters. His background also includes mentoring executive teams through transitions, mergers and acquisitions, and business financing arrangements. Joe currently

serves as chair of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance Board of Trustees and is a former board chair of the Dayton Art Institute, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Goodwill Easterseals of the Miami Valley. He also served as a board member of Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School, the Dayton Development Coalition and other organizations. **Fund Statements to Go Paperless in 2027** In an effort to go green and streamline processes, year-end fund statements no longer will be mailed beginning in 2027. Instead, statements will be available electronically through Donor Express, our online fund and grantmaking portal. If you are a fund holder or an advisor of a Dayton Foundation fund and are not yet registered for Donor Express, visit daytonfoundation.org and click “Access Your Fund” to sign up. More details will be available in the coming months.

Grant Helps Carry Local Youth “From Here, Forward”

For nearly 100 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Dayton has worked to inspire and develop area youth through innovative, out-of-school programming designed to help them reach their full potential. In 2023, conversations began about the club’s nearly 60-year-old facility on West Stewart Street and how its aging infrastructure was limiting its ability to deliver high-quality experiences for youth.

When a feasibility study in 2024 showed overwhelming community support for the construction of a larger, modernized facility, BGCD launched From Here, Forward, an \$18 million fundraising campaign to construct a new building and ensure the nonprofit organization’s impact for generations to come.

“The From Here, Forward campaign is about creating a place where every young person feels safe, supported, challenged and inspired. It’s about ensuring that the next generation has access to the opportunities, relationships and resources they need,” said Crystal Allen, president and CEO of BGCD. “Most importantly, it’s about strengthening our community by investing in the young people who one day will lead it forward.”

Demolition was completed on the former facility last fall, and construction on the new 37,000-square-foot facility began in April. The new building will feature amenities such as modern learning environments, a full-sized gymnasium, arts and dance spaces, an esports arena and a teaching kitchen. It also has the potential to more than double BGCD’s daily capacity, increasing average daily attendance from 100 youth to more than 250 and its annual reach from 500 youth to 2,500.



Boys & Girls Club of Dayton’s new facility will feature innovative learning environments and other amenities to support area youth in academic achievement, personal growth and career readiness.

will gain the skills, experiences and professional networks necessary to graduate future-ready,” Crystal said.

Sensory-rich spaces and a dedicated social-emotional wellness room also are in the plans, with a licensed social worker on site to help address the growing mental health and wellness needs of youth and families.

To date, BGCD has received \$15.5 million toward its \$18 million campaign goal, with \$2.5 million remaining to be raised. The Dayton Foundation supported the project with a \$75,000 discretionary grant in 2025.

“The From Here, Forward campaign is about creating a place where every young person feels safe, supported, challenged and inspired.”

— Crystal Allen, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Dayton

donor has committed a \$250,000 match for gifts that support the organization’s long-term sustainability to ensure BGCD can impact youth far into the future.

In addition to achieving the fundraising goal, Crystal hopes the From Here, Forward campaign creates awareness for the organization and the important work it does for youth.

“Too many people in our community are unfamiliar with what happens behind our blue doors each day,” she said. “As we move forward, we are seeking more champions who will share our story, advocate for our mission and help others understand the transformational impact the Boys & Girls Club of Dayton has on young people, families and the broader community.”

One of these champions is James, the 2026 Boys & Girls Club of Dayton Youth of the Year, who recently made two donations to the campaign to ensure other young people have access to the experiences that have helped shape his life.

“I chose to donate because I witnessed the club’s impact firsthand. It provided me with a safe place to grow, caring adults who believed in me and opportunities I may not have had otherwise,” James said. “Giving to this campaign is my way of ensuring the next generation has the same chance I had to dream big, discover their potential and build a bright future.”

To contribute to the Boys & Girls Club of Dayton’s From Here, Forward campaign and receive a matching gift, visit bgcd Dayton.org.



The new 37,000-square-foot building will help Boys & Girls Club of Dayton serve up to 2,500 youth annually.

The cornerstone of the project is a Life & Workforce Readiness Center, a first-of-its-kind local resource designed to introduce career exploration as early as kindergarten and continue through high school graduation. The goal of the center is to provide industry-recognized certifications, mentorship opportunities, apprenticeships and hands-on career experiences.

“Through partnerships with industry leaders, educational institutions and community organizations, young people

“We are incredibly grateful for The Dayton Foundation’s grant, its ongoing partnership and the confidence it has placed in our organization,” Crystal said. “This investment, along with the generosity of its fund holders who also supported the campaign, is helping ensure that future generations of young people will have access to the safe spaces, caring mentors, educational opportunities and workforce pathways they need to succeed.”

To encourage donations from the public, the Mathile Family Foundation has provided a \$500,000 match for construction gifts, while an anonymous



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Tips on Charitable Giving

Making the Most of Your Donor-Advised Fund: Five Smart Strategies



By **Jill Koorndyk**,
Vice President,
Donor Services

Are you making the most of your donor-advised fund? Whether you have a Dayton Foundation Charitable Checking Account,SM an Invested Donor-Advised Fund or a Family Foundation *Plus*SM fund, a DAF can be one of the most flexible and tax-efficient ways to carry out your charitable giving. Read the following five tips to help you use your DAF to maximize both your philanthropic impact and financial benefits.

1. Define Your Charitable Goals First

Before you make contributions or recommend grants, take time to clarify what you want your giving to achieve. Are you focused on local community needs, global humanitarian work, environmental causes, education or something else? Having a charitable plan will help you stay consistent, measure your impact and avoid making gifts without a clear purpose. Once you have a plan, you can focus your donations on charities that align with it.

2. Contribute Appreciated Assets

Instead of donating cash, consider contributing appreciated securities you've held for more than a year. You avoid paying capital gains tax on the

appreciation while still receiving a charitable deduction for the full fair market value. This allows you to give more without increasing your out-of-pocket costs.

3. Use “Bunching” to Maximize Deductions

If your itemized deductions fall short of the standard deduction threshold, which for 2026 is \$16,100 for individuals and married couples filing separately and \$32,200 for married couples filing jointly, you can “bunch” multiple years' worth of charitable contributions into a single year by making a larger DAF contribution. This can push your deductions over the threshold in that year, allowing you to itemize and potentially reduce your tax bill while still distributing grants to charities in future years. This strategy can be particularly beneficial in a high-income year, such as when you sell a business, receive a bonus or experience another significant taxable event.

4. Research Before You Recommend Grants

A DAF gives you time to be thoughtful about where your money goes. Use this flexibility to research organizations thoroughly – review their missions, financial health and track records of impact. The

A DAF is more than just a tax tool. It's a platform for intentional, impactful philanthropy.

Dayton Foundation's donor services staff are happy to help you with this research or answer questions anytime.

5. Involve Your Family in Giving Decisions

Your DAF can be a powerful tool for teaching children, grandchildren or others close to you about generosity and values. Invite them to help choose causes, review potential nonprofits or even set aside a portion of the fund for their own grant recommendations. This builds a legacy of giving.

A DAF is more than just a tax tool. It's a platform for intentional, impactful philanthropy. For more information on DAFs and how they can help you support the causes you care about most, contact a member of our Development and Donor Services department at (937) 222-0410. 🌿