

GoodNews



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Ellenae Hart Henry-Fairhurst Legacy Fund AACF Receives \$550,000 Unrestricted Gift

A quick Google search on Dayton native Ellenae Fairhurst reveals numerous articles detailing her remarkable life as a pioneer in the automobile industry. Behind the headlines about the woman who broke barriers to become the first African-American woman to own Infiniti and Lexus dealerships, however, was a generous spirit who strove to help others overcome the obstacles she faced during her lifetime.

"Ellenae was fearless and didn't take no for an answer. She was a quiet giant who was reserved and resilient," said Ellenae's colleague, Jenell Ross, who is the president of Bob Ross Auto Group and the first African-American woman owner of a Mercedes-Benz dealership. "Ellenae was a trailblazer. Her leadership, vision, philanthropy and dedication left an indelible mark."

After Ellenae's passing in 2024, The Dayton Foundation received word of an unexpected and extremely generous gift from her estate. More than \$550,000 has been received to bolster the African-American Community Fund's discretionary grantmaking process, making it AACF's largest single unrestricted gift to date.

"AACF is eternally grateful to the Fairhurst family for making this wonderful donation. Countless lives will be



After her passing in 2024, automobile industry trailblazer Ellenae Fairhurst gifted through her estate the largest single unrestricted gift to date to the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation.

impacted by this very generous act of benevolence," said Kevin Washington, president of AACF. "AACF exists to improve the lives of those in our community and this sacrificial act from Ellenae Fairhurst allows us to continue this service."

An accomplished businesswoman and entrepreneur, it's hard to believe that, as a child, Ellenae had no idea what career path she would follow. After graduating from Dunbar High School in Dayton in

1961, she attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and earned a business administration degree in 1965. In a 2016 interview with *Auto Trends with JeffCars.com*, she recalled picking that major because she might enjoy working in an office, like she had seen in television shows.

"I spent many years in great conflict and frustration because when people asked me, 'What do you want to do when you grow up,' I could never come up with an answer," Ellenae said in the interview. "It all evolved through many amazing processes."

These processes began in Detroit, Michigan, where she worked as a secretary first for Motown Records and then for a local law firm. She was accepted into the management training program at Ford Motor Company in 1968, but had the offer rescinded when she got married between her hired date and her start date.

"When I went back for my first day as a married woman, they were no longer willing to put me in the training program, thinking that I would leave soon, have a family and all of that training would not be beneficial for them," Ellenae recalled.

Instead, she took a job as a secretary, eventually working her way up to

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Stepping Forward for Children's Mental Health



Dayton Children's student resiliency coordinators provide mental health support and resources at area schools.

For many of us, childhood is a time filled with memories of carefree days developing friendships on the playground, celebrating a victory with teammates or testing the boundaries of our neighborhood. For others, life paints a different picture. Struggles with mental health can often feel overwhelming, crippling to the point of robbing our youth of a time that should be one of the happiest in their lives.

To help all children thrive, Dayton Children's embarked on a groundbreaking \$400 million investment in 2019 to elevate mental health through its *Do. More. so all kids can thrive* campaign. The hospital aims to provide more services and tools to manage mental health,

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Children's continued

“Investing in the mental well-being of our region’s youth is an investment in the future of our collective community.”

— Randy Gunlock, founder of RG Properties and Dayton Foundation donor

advance care through personalized treatments, carry out innovative clinical research and more. The campaign is working to raise \$75 million, with \$65 million secured to date.

In a bold step toward addressing the growing mental health crisis in the Greater Dayton region, local real estate developer Randy Gunlock and his family’s foundation, known as the Greener Pastures Foundation at The Dayton Foundation, announced last fall the awarding of a \$3 million unrestricted grant to Dayton Children’s in support of mental health and wellness.

“Investing in the mental well-being of our region’s youth is an investment in the future of our collective community,” said Randy, founder of RG Properties. This real estate development company has developed over 10 million square feet of retail space in the Midwest. “For decades, Americans have emphasized the importance of caring for our physical health, but our mental health is just as vital to our overall quality of life.”

According to Dayton Children’s, one out of five families in the region needs help in addressing a mental health problem with a child. Still, as many as 80 percent of these children will go untreated due to a shortage of services and the stigma associated with mental illness. In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, suicide was Ohio’s second leading cause of death among children aged 10 to 14.

“Many children and teenagers avoid seeking mental health support due to feelings of shame, fear of judgment and a deep sense of isolation. They often struggle in silence rather than risk stigma,” said Kelly Blankenship, MD, associate chief medical officer for Behavioral Health at Dayton Children’s. “It’s crucial



Randy Gunlock, representing his family’s foundation, Greener Pastures Foundation at The Dayton Foundation, announced their \$3 million investment to Dayton Children’s last November.

that we create an environment where they feel safe, supported and heard.”

Randy has long been concerned about the escalating mental health challenges facing children, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic. He decided to make his investment in Dayton Children’s after being inspired by the Mathile Family Foundation’s donation last September to support The Mathile Center for Mental Health and Wellness. This state-of-the-art mental health facility, located on Dayton Children’s Valley Street main campus, is a focal point of the campaign and is scheduled to open this July.

“We’ve been working for 13 years now, adding services, plugging holes. And still, there are gaps,” said Debbie Feldman, president and CEO of Dayton Children’s. “The services that we will be able to provide in this building, along with additional community-based

therapy services, will go a long way to help bridge those gaps.”

Support from the Gunlock family, as well as other private, foundation and corporate funders, will help Dayton Children’s provide a full continuum of mental health services. From preventive and early intervention programs to increased inpatient mental health beds, Dayton Children’s is working to ensure that children receive the care necessary for their well-being and success.

“The Gunlock family has been very fortunate in our lives and careers, and we believe giving back to help others is our responsibility for the blessings we’ve received,” Randy said. “Thanks to Debbie Feldman’s leadership, Dayton Children’s has flourished. We’ve gotten to know Debbie, not only through the hospital but also at the county level, and it’s thanks to her complete understanding of mental health issues and developing the steps to help address this regional issue that made the Greener Pastures Foundation want to invest in solutions.

“We’re so grateful to be able to make this financial investment for our region’s children and help promote understanding, compassion and access to care for individuals facing mental health challenges,” Randy continued. “We hope this will inspire others in our region to consider investing as well. Children are our future.”

To learn more about the *Do. More.* campaign or to donate, visit childrensdaytongive.org/do-more-campaign.

Fairhurst continued

management. In the mid-1980s, as Ford began downsizing, Ellenae explored other career options and heard about the company’s dealer training program. But after asking around, she learned it would not be a career path available to her as an African-American woman.

In 1986, after much persistence, Ellenae left Ford and joined a minority dealer training program at Chrysler. Upon completing her training in 1988, she was named president and general manager of a dealership in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Several years later, she sold her shares in the business and used her life savings to purchase a Dodge dealership in Huntsville, Alabama.

As quoted in her obituary, Ellenae once shared, “I was petrified the first time I met with all of the dealership employees, the most fear I had ever experienced in my life, but it worked out. When they realized I knew what I was doing and was willing to work harder and longer, even if it meant scrubbing the restrooms, I was accepted. I truly believed I had the ability to successfully operate a dealership.”

Believing in herself paid off. In 1999,

she became the first African-American female in North America to own both Infiniti and Lexus dealerships. Other highlights of her career included being ranked several times in *Black Enterprise* magazine’s Auto Dealer 100 list, receiving the Daimler-Chrysler Five Star Award and achieving Elite of Lexus Status for most of the years her franchises were in operation.

Despite these successes, Jenell Ross said, Ellenae always made time to advocate for women and help them to be successful as automobile dealers, values that Jenell incorporates into her work as well.

“Ellenae was always encouraging and proud of me for sharing this unique platform with her. She was much more than a mentor; she was a friend,” said Jenell, who also is an AACF donor. “But most of all, Ellenae was authentic, was always there to help others and wanted to see those who came behind her become even more successful than her. This generous gift from her estate to the AACF will help continue her legacy and pave the way for future generations.”



“This generous gift from [Ellenae Fairhurst’s] estate to the AACF will help continue her legacy and pave the way for future generations.”

— Jenell Ross, AACF donor and colleague of Ellenae Fairhurst

Captain Zach Hollingsworth Memorial Veterans Day Event Fund

Fund Honors Veteran’s Legacy of Supporting Military Charities

Captain Zach Hollingsworth never met a stranger. The Marine veteran and avid outdoorsman was described as a giant teddy bear who would lend a hand to anyone.

An active kid who excelled in sports, Zach earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Capital University in 2008 and was a three-time captain on its basketball team. After college, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This experience inspired him to establish his company, Have a Shot of Freedom Whiskey Co., which meant more to him than just making great whiskey.

“All the company’s profits were either reinvested into the company or given away to help veteran causes. Freedom Whiskey was created to pay homage to those who served, while honoring the individuals in all military branches who have toiled to make America great,” said Krista Hollingsworth, owner of Have a Shot of Freedom Whiskey Co. “In Zach’s 35 short years, he filled his life with an abundance of love, laughter, cherished memories and a selfless spirit of giving to others. He made an impact on so many people’s lives – whether it was on his students and players at Centerville High School, colleagues, or family and friends – or through the Marines.”

This desire to help others is most evident in the annual Freedom Whiskey Veterans Day event, which raises money for charities that support military veterans.

“Zach was a natural helper, leader, teacher and caregiver, so it didn’t surprise me when he said he wanted to start the event. After launching the company in July of 2017 and welcoming our son, Jaxton, in September, Zach decided to throw the fundraising event together in about a month,” Krista said. “Zach was ‘No diddle, no daddle,’ as he liked to say. When he left the Marine Corps in 2012, he remained committed to the camaraderie and always sought ways



Captain Zach Hollingsworth

“I know Zach [Hollingsworth] would be deeply moved by the way so many people have come together to support and uplift our veterans.”

– Krista Hollingsworth, Dayton Foundation donor

to help veterans and their families. This event is proof of that.”

After Zach’s passing in 2021, family and close friends rallied to keep his legacy alive, volunteering their time to run the company. Krista took over as the company’s owner and organizer of the event in 2024 and has a goal to pass those duties to Jax in the future. She reached out to The Dayton Foundation after Zach’s passing, when the event saw a significant increase in donations from \$8,000 to more than \$32,000.

“The planning committee and I felt it would be a great idea to set up a fund through The Dayton Foundation, which seemed like the perfect organization to partner with to potentially attract more sponsors and raise even more money,” Krista said. “Instead of having people write checks to us and then write one large check to the charity, we felt using the Foundation seemed like the better option. We are able to use the Foundation’s tax status to offer a charitable deduction to our donors, who also can donate to our fund online through the website, making it easier for everyone involved.”

Last year’s event raised a record-breaking \$65,000, and supported Hunters Helping Heroes, Inc., which coordinates recreational events and adventures for veterans, service members and first responders as a gesture of appreciation

for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding our freedom, and to Save A Warrior, which is dedicated to the prevention of veteran suicide and the preservation of life through groundbreaking programs.

“The \$20,000 granted to Save A Warrior pays for four veterans to experience our intensive 72-hour program,” said Suzette Heller, director of Development for Save A Warrior. “Veterans receive a 500-Day Plan, with a lifetime of support within our Community of Practice, where the Warrior never has to face anything alone.”

Krista is confident that Zach would be proud to see how they’ve honored his legacy through the event and the Capt. Zach Hollingsworth Memorial Veterans Day Event Fund.



Krista (second from right) and Jax (second from left) pose with Zach’s parents, Lisa (left) and David (right) Hollingsworth.

“With SAW’s high success rate, we will be saving the lives of four veterans or first responders, so that makes me feel like this event is truly making a difference in our veteran community and in our world,” she said. “I know Zach would be deeply moved by the way so many people have come together to support and uplift our veterans.”

For more information about the Freedom Whiskey Company and its annual Veterans Day Celebration, visit www.haveashotoffreedom.com.

We’re Almost Ready...2025 Meeting Celebration

Mark your calendars for the best party in Dayton and The Dayton Foundation’s largest event! Our 2025 Meeting Celebration – Celebrate CommUnity! – will be held on Thursday, September 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Carillon Historical Park. This will be our first gathering since the Foundation’s Centennial Celebration in 2021, and we promise it will be just as



exciting. Joining us will be the Stivers School for the Arts Jazz Combo, perform-

ing alongside student artists as they create a special surprise; renowned local funk music artist Heather Redman and her band, The Reputation; a program with Dayton Foundation Governing Board Chair Jan Culver and President Mike Parks; followed by a special performance to be announced.

Stay tuned for more details about this free event. You won’t want to miss it!

Thank you to our sponsors!
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From the President

Leveraging Our Resources for the Collective Good



Michael M. Parks, CFRE

“Our door is always open for conversation, as that’s where we learn about the community’s needs.”

— Barbra Stonerock, vice president of Community Engagement, The Dayton Foundation

Harnessing the power of philanthropic resources through collaborations and leadership initiatives is at the heart of The Dayton Foundation’s mission. In this column, I’d like to focus on how this work, made possible by funding from our generous donors and efforts from our Community Engagement staff and collaborative partners, is making a significant impact on some of our region’s most challenging issues and opportunities. Leading the charge is Barbra Stonerock, vice president of Community Engagement, along with her team, who work hand in hand with nonprofit and community organizations to make Greater Dayton better for all.

In addition to grantmaking, how does The Dayton Foundation help local nonprofits help others?

Barbra: Our nonprofit partners have boots on the ground, working with the underserved and making our community a great place to live. The Community Engagement department is here to help them help others. In addition to working with our nonprofit partners through our new, simplified grantmaking process, we also dedicate one-on-one time to understanding each nonprofit’s needs and how we can connect them to other tools and resources. This can be technical assistance, capacity building, advice or counsel.

As we deepen and center our relationships with nonprofits, we want to spend less time managing the grantmaking process and more time uncovering how we can partner to deliver impact. Our door is always open for conversation, as that’s where we learn about the community’s needs.

How does The Dayton Foundation foster partnerships and collaborations to make a greater impact on Greater Dayton?

Barbra: Our operating model for accelerating impact is through partnership and collaboration. Partners bring not only financial resources and in-kind services, but also intellectual and social capital. It starts with one meeting, then more meetings, and more and more partners hopping aboard asking, “How can we help?” It’s the power of compounding for the good of our community!

Our current initiatives are the Brain Health Collective, Del Mar Encore Fellows, Employers’ Workforce Coalition, Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities, Learn to Earn Dayton and the Nonprofit Capacity-Building Partnership. The Dayton Foundation’s total investment to date

for these initiatives is nearly \$4.2 million. Additionally, the leveraged partner investment is \$21.5 million. Numerous in-kind support includes loaned executives, technical assistance, data services, office space, interns and research. This is remarkable and shows the collective impact that pooling our resources can have on addressing critical community issues.



Barbra Stonerock (front left) with Learn to Earn Dayton staff at the StriveTogether Conference in 2024

How are these leadership initiatives inspiring change in Greater Dayton?

Barbra: Let’s discuss a few examples. Five years ago, only 12 communities were listed on the Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio map. Today, there are 36 communities, with 15 of those located in southwest Ohio. This represents about 42 percent of all Age-Friendly Communities in Ohio. Dayton Foundation partner Don Ambrose and his Del Mar Healthcare Fund support a grantmaking process to help local cities attain this designation. He also funds a Del Mar Encore Fellow, who supports the effort through the Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities. We are making incredible strides to create livable communities for people of all ages using an age-friendly lens.

Another longtime Dayton Foundation initiative driving change locally is Learn to Earn Dayton. In 2024, eight nonprofits, supported by the organization’s Northwest Dayton Community Investment Fund, offered innovative programming to serve more than 4,800 individuals, thanks to nearly \$640,000 in grants. These grants were made possible by the Community Investment Fund, supported in part by The Dayton Foundation. The Fund empowers Northwest Dayton residents, who have knowledge of their neighborhood’s needs and opportunities, to make funding decisions about which nonprofit organizations to support.

The impact from other initiatives includes developing ongoing events and resources for individuals and families impacted by traumatic brain injuries through the Brain Health Collective; bolstering the pipeline of skilled workers in our region through the Employers’ Workforce Coalition; and strengthening local nonprofit organizations that serve our region’s most vulnerable populations through the Nonprofit Capacity-Building Partnership, a collaboration with the Mathile Family Foundation.

What are some ways that individuals can get involved?

Barbra: There are several ways you can support this important work. One, you can contact a member of our development department to establish a Community Impact Endowment or Field-of-Interest Fund. These fund options provide little to no restrictions on how the income may be used in awarding grants to nonprofit organizations and enable the Foundation to lift up leadership initiatives and address pressing community needs and opportunities in Greater Dayton.

If you’re a Donor-Advised Fund holder through The Dayton Foundation, you can contact Jill Koorndyk, vice president of donor services, to become a Partner in Giving and join with the Foundation to bring local projects and initiatives to fruition.

And finally, if you are interested in serving as a Del Mar Encore Fellow or have a particular interest in one of our initiatives, we encourage you to reach out to a member of our Community Engagement department. Your assistance in helping us address Greater Dayton’s most emerging needs and opportunities will help make a better community for all our region’s citizens, not just for today, but for future generations as well. 🌱

Interested in supporting our impactful leadership initiatives or competitive grantmaking processes in one of the ways outlined in this column? Contact Barbra Stonerock at bstonerock@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9951.

Michael M. Parks, CFRE
President

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.



R.C. and Joan Appenzeller Appenzeller Completion Scholarship Fund was established by Robert Appenzeller, Jr., to provide financial assistance to students who need financial support to complete their college curriculum. His parents, R.C. and Joan Appenzeller, provided the funding through their Dayton Foundation fund and recognized the need to support students in the last phase of attaining a college degree.

Nate Darr Memorial Scholarship Fund memorializes this Centerville High School graduate and standout University of Dayton soccer player who believed in giving his best. This fund awards scholarship assistance to a graduating CHS senior and soccer team member.

Larry and Elaine Dosser Charitable Fund advances the charitable goals of the donors, who believe it's essential to continue the growth of STEM education in photonics applications in the Dayton Region. Grants from

the fund will support programs for students to learn how light, lasers and optics are used in manufacturing processes for medical, defense and sensing applications, with hopes of exposing them to a wide variety of career opportunities.

The Ebbers Family STEM Scholarship Fund helps a female West Carrollton High School graduating senior pursue a degree in a science, technology, engineering or math-related field. The fund honors West Carrollton High School alumnae Angi Ebbers Moots and Chantel Ebbers Lenard, both of whom earned engineering degrees which led to successful technical and business careers.

Gerry E. Griffith, Sr., Scholarship Fund honors Gerry Griffith and his 52 years of exceptional educational leadership, both in teaching and administrative roles. This fund will aid a graduating Stivers School for the Arts senior with a four-year scholarship designed to stimulate an interest in the field of education.



The Hale Family Fund generates annual income for charitable organizations, as recommended by the donors.



Bob and Cindy Hausmann Family Fund furthers the donors' charitable interests by supporting organizations important to them.



Carl Jackson, Jr., The Carl Jackson, Jr., Legacy Fund was established to provide annual income for the Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown, Ohio. The Club offers a safe

and caring club experience for children between the ages of 6 and 18 at little or no cost to their families.

Alleen O. McCoy Scholarship Fund remembers this longtime educator for her unwavering dedication to learning. Alleen inspired countless students and colleagues with her passion for teaching and commitment to fostering a love for reading and intellectual growth.



The fund awards scholarships to Dayton Public High School graduates who are committed to making a positive impact through education.

Minneman Family Fund allocates funds to help address issues and opportunities within charitable, educational, civic and religious organizations.

Play4Payne Foundation Fund provides continued support for sudden brain injury-related survivors and their families. The Foundation was created by Jenness and Mark Sigman to help traumatic and other sudden brain injury survivors after their son, Payne, suffered a TBI as the result of a car accident in 2014. Thanks in part to the care and sup-

port he received during his recovery, Payne earned a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from the University of Dayton in 2022.



The Ryan Family Foundation Fund supports underserved youth, veterans, international water wells and other causes that are important to the donors.

The Jerry and Diana Sanders Caring Foundation Fund awards grants to support charitable, educational, civic and community activities. Jerry Sanders served in fire and crash rescue response with the United States Air Force. His wife, Diana, has enjoyed a successful career for 35 years with PNC Financial Services. They have been married for more than 25 years.

Jerry and Diana Sanders Nursing Scholarship Fund provides financial aid to students in the Sinclair Community College or Kettering College nursing programs.



Jerry and Diana Sanders

Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

Grants

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded \$652,983 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation’s Governing Board to assist Greater Dayton charities. Additionally, grants totaling \$72,000 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.

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (\$30,000) to help local leaders address environmental issues

Bottom Line (\$25,000) to make trauma-trained advisors available to Dayton Public Schools seniors who are applying for college



Boys & Girls Club of Dayton (\$75,000) to construct a new, larger facility

Brokner Nature Center (\$20,000) to add concrete walkways to make outdoor areas easier to navigate



Caesar’s Ford Theatre, Inc. (\$10,000) to support a new film to reform the theatrical representation of American-Indian history

Choices in Community Living, Inc. (\$8,000) to purchase a new generator

County Corp (\$13,500) to develop a marketing plan to increase community engagement

Dayton Movies dba The Neon (\$10,000) to enhance The Neon’s patio

Dayton Theatre Guild (\$10,000) to reduce energy costs by installing solar panels



Downtown Dayton Partnership Corporation (\$25,000) to support the Courthouse Square Transformation Project Plan

Economic & Community Development Institute (\$20,000) to support the new Women’s Business Center at Central State University



Elizabeth’s New Life Center (\$20,000) to replace 12 HVAC units

The Foodbank, Inc. (\$75,000) to help construct a new Community Centered Building



Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley (\$25,183) to assist individuals who are blind or have low vision by providing assistive equipment and services

Greene County FISH (Friends In Service to Humanity) Pantry (\$20,000) to install a new freezer and cooler

The Learning Tree Farm, Inc. (\$10,800) to purchase a utility tractor

Little Art Theatre Association, Inc. (\$25,000) to support the theatre’s historic restorations

Montgomery County Law Enforcement (\$37,500) to construct a memorial to honor law enforcement officers



National Aviation Hall of Fame (\$25,000) to fund Phase II of the Discovery Flight Innovation Lab

NPower, Inc. (\$25,000) to provide IT training for underserved, military-connected individuals



Parity, Inc. (\$75,000) to build organizational capacity and expand programming

Preschool Promise (\$20,000) to help communicate the Be Ready by Five program resources to families

Rebuilding Together Dayton, Inc. (\$25,000) to expand its Fall Prevention program for older adults

We Care Arts, Inc. (\$15,000) to replace the organization’s 20-year-old roof



Xenia Adult Recreation & Services Center (\$8,000) to purchase a

Building Bridges, Inc. (\$4,450) to complete the organization’s website upgrade



Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley (\$3,000) to purchase new software for the Guardianship Program

Daybreak (\$2,500) to support upgrades to its facility and programming



Dayton Diaper Depot (\$1,000) to provide resources to set up the organization’s new location

Dayton Metro Chapter BHS (\$3,500) to help purchase modern choral risers

Dayton Public Radio – WDPR (\$5,000) to add an online donor portal and provide staff with remote access to the music system



Dayton Sewing Collaborative (\$5,950) to create a pilot Fashion Club at Belmont High School

Habitat for Humanity (\$3,500) to implement an updated software database

Mercy Manor, Inc. (\$4,000) to develop a strategic and fundraising plan



The Bach Society of Dayton

continued »

Tips on Charitable Giving

Donor-Advised Funds: Why Use a Community Foundation?



By Michelle Lovely, Senior Vice President, Development and Donor Services

In an age when many companies rely on automated or AI services, our fund holders, advisor partners and other constituents find our highly personalized service invaluable.

Looking across the charitable landscape, donor-advised funds continue to be a popular option among charitable individuals. Many national investment firms have their own charitable entity, and some have branched out to offer branded DAFs. However, there are distinct advantages to working with your local community foundation as opposed to a national firm. Here are five reasons why establishing a DAF through The Dayton Foundation can benefit you.

1. We help you realize your charitable dreams – your way. From DAFs that allow you to invest funds to support your favorite charities far into the future, to free DAF services that require no minimum balance and low minimum grants, we offer customizable charitable solutions that many national firms don’t provide for their fund holders. In addition to our multiple DAF offerings, you may establish Scholarship, Designated, Community Impact (unrestricted to address a broad range of local needs) or Field-of-Interest funds through The Dayton Foundation. These are just a few of the charitable giving services we provide that aren’t available through national competitors.

2. You communicate with a live, local person. You have access to dedicated Dayton Foundation experts, who are readily available via phone or email to answer your questions. In an age when many companies rely on automated or AI services, our fund holders, advisor partners and other constituents find our highly personalized service invaluable.

3. You are investing in the local community. Investing locally is one of the most significant reasons why donors, financial advisors and estate-planning attorneys (including some who may work for firms that offer their own DAFs) choose to establish funds through The Dayton Foundation. Our community investment fee stays local and supports Foundation leadership initiatives focused on improving the quality of life for Greater Dayton residents, unlike fees charged by national firms that fund the agenda of a publicly traded company or nonprofit. This benefit was most evident in 2019 and 2020, when we quickly convened regional partners to establish charitable funds that raised a combined total of \$9 million to assist victims and rebuild communities following Greater Dayton’s Memorial Day tornadoes, the Oregon District tragedy and the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. We connect you with causes important to you. Our team of experts lives and works within the region we serve and is deeply committed to helping Greater Dayton thrive. As the region’s oldest and largest grant-awarding foundation, we understand the critical work being done by our region’s nonprofits and can connect you with causes and nonprofit organizations that align with your charitable goals.

5. We keep your trusted advisor “in the loop.” Financial advisors and estate-planning attorneys regularly tell us that our development staff is an extension of their team. We are available to meet with you and your advisor at a time and location of your choosing. In addition, your advisor potentially may retain management of the assets in your charitable funds, if you so choose.

When you work with The Dayton Foundation, you can support the causes and organizations that matter to you in the most tax-effective, impactful manner. Learn how we can help you “be the change” in Greater Dayton and beyond at daytonfoundation.org/types-of-funds or contact me, Nakia Lipscomb or Marianne Requarth at (937) 222-0410. 🌱

Grants continued

- Miami Valley Leadership Foundation (\$2,500)** to implement the MVLFF Connect App
- Miami Valley Meals (\$2,000)** to update the organization’s basement facilities
- Mosaic Church (\$3,000)** to purchase commercial-grade kitchen appliances and accessories

937 Hoop Dreams (\$3,350) to acquire court-regulated basketballs and professional-grade basketball hoops



Miami Valley Meals



937 Hoop Dreams Ohio Historical Society/ d.b.a. Ohio History Connection (\$3,000) to provide free history education for Dayton-area schools

Sidewalk Soldiers (\$3,100) to enhance oper-

ations at its drop-in centers for women who have been or are at risk of being sex trafficked

A Special Wish Foundation of Southwest Ohio (\$5,000) to conduct board development training

StoryChain LLC (\$3,500) to expand this storytelling program that connects incarcerated parents with their children

We Love Birthday Parties (\$4,000) to conduct strategic planning that will



We Love Birthday Parties help the organization provide birthday celebrations for underserved children 🌱

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

Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Charitable Fund

Lee and Judith Amundson Charitable Fund for Children

Soma S. and Veni Avva Endowment Fund

Joe & Terri Baldasare Fund for Children

Berry Fund

Catharine French Bieser Fund

Irvin Gruen Bieser Fund

Ted and Irita Black Legacy Gift

Jack and Emily Blake Fund

Lena Cantor Family Fund

Dr. William G. and JoeAnna Cassel Fund

Hampden W. and Erma R. Catterton Fund

W. A. Chryst Fund

David H. and Edith W. Clark Family Fund

Francis Crosthwaite Fund

The Joan F. and William H. Eicher Fund

Gretchen W. “Jinx” Fensel Fund

Fresh Air Farm Society Trust Fund

Greater Dayton Jaycee Fund

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Greene Fund

Mary E. Gundersen Endowment Fund

Henrici Family Fund for Equality and Justice

Dorothy M. Herbst Fund

Isabel Herbst Fund

James M. Hewitt Fund for the Blind

James P. Hudson Legacy Fund

Mary J. & Frances P. Hussey Fund

Harry H. and Hilda M. Imboden Fund

Jahoda Family Fund

Mary Ann and Rich Johnson Fund for Aviation History and Heritage

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The Regional Community
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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 Helps Develop Emerging Dancers “Inside and Outside the Studio”

Pursuing a career in ballet after high school or college can be challenging for young dancers, many of whom need more training to advance their careers. To help bridge this gap, the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance recently established the Dayton Ballet Studio Company, with a goal of helping emerging dancers attain membership in a professional company.

The Dayton Foundation supported this project in 2024 with a \$30,000 discretionary grant from the Eleanor and John Kautz Fund, a field-of-interest endowment fund the donors established in 1990 before their passings. The Kautzes believed that the lives of all people are enriched by the arts and humanities.

“We are grateful for this grant, which helped us to launch the Dayton



Ballet Studio Company, led by Brandon Ragland, artistic director of the Ballet,” said Patrick J. Nugent, president and CEO of DPAA. Thanks in part to this generous support, seven dancers from across the country joined us to grow their careers!”

Dayton Ballet
Studio Company

The dancers are trained by choreographers and stage managers and have performed with the Dayton Ballet in its productions of *Coppelia*, *The Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*. They will finish the 2024-2025 season with a repertoire show titled *Pointes of View*. DPAA’s Studio Company is tuition-free and provides performance stipends and funds for pointe shoes,

“This experience is developing me into the best version of myself, both inside and outside the studio.”

— Amber Huggett, dancer for Dayton Ballet Studio Company

benefits that aren’t offered in most ballet apprentice companies.

“Everything, from the company environment to the performance opportunities, has exceeded my expectations and left me feeling proud to be part of this company. The program has helped me strengthen my performance quality, stamina and professionalism,” said Amber Huggett, a Studio Company member who previously trained with the Nashville Ballet. “This experience is developing me into the best version of myself, both inside and outside the studio.”