

GoodNews



From the President

Standing on the Threshold of an Extraordinary Opportunity

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Every so often, an opportunity arrives that invites us to pause and imagine what is truly possible for our community. Recently, The Dayton Foundation partnered with Philanthropy Ohio and several other community foundations across the state in a research effort that offers a powerful glimpse into the future of generosity in Greater Dayton. The findings are nothing short of extraordinary.

Across our six-county service area of Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Warren counties, \$75.6 billion is expected to transfer from one generation to the next by 2035. Looking further ahead, that number grows to more than \$215 billion by 2050. These aren't simply economic projections. They are a reminder of the deep roots people have planted here, the lives they've built and the legacies they will one day leave behind. And within those legacies lies an incredible opportunity.

Picture for a moment what our community could look like if each of us committed to leaving 5 percent of our estate to the local organizations

that have helped shape our lives... more resources to help students thrive in school; expanded employment opportunities for individuals; increased financial assistance to keep families and individuals housed; stronger safety nets for individuals seeking mental health or addiction services; healthier resources for rural and underserved neighborhoods; increased support for a vibrant arts and cultural scene; and so much more.

If just 5 percent of the projected transfer of wealth was directed to charitable endowments – invested in perpetuity – our region could generate millions of dollars every year, permanently, to strengthen our nonprofits and the vital services they provide. It would mean a more resilient and thriving Greater Dayton for generations to come.

Let me share a few stories of Dayton Foundation fund holders whose generosity and legacies are shaping our community in meaningful ways.

Centerville resident and longtime Dayton Foundation fund holder Kay George has furthered her charitable gifts through her Foundation funds while also carrying forward the legacy of her

mother, Theresa, who passed in 2003. Theresa embodied a spirit of giving – from making bandages for soldiers during World War II to preparing meals



Michael M. Parks, CFRE

for friends or family who were ill. “She was the go-to person when someone needed something,” said Kay in an article for The Dayton Foundation’s 2010-11 Report to the Community.

In addition to honoring both her mother and her father through grants awarded from her Dayton Foundation

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CARE House

Grant Provides Children with “Warmth, Compassion and Hope”

CARE House, whose mission is to provide a coordinated team response to child abuse through prevention, intervention and advocacy, has served over 11,500 child victims in our region since opening its doors in 1999. More than a child advocacy center, it provides children and families with a safe, child-centered space designed to help ensure they are not further traumatized as they navigate the social service system.

“Before CARE House existed, children had to retell painful stories multiple times,” said Amy Ferguson, director of CARE House. “We proudly provide an environment for individuals to feel a sense of safety and support, be it in the forensic interview room, when meeting with a medical provider for an exam or spending time processing with a mental health clinician. We choose not to focus



Dick and Patty Glennon’s \$1 million grant to CARE House will support expanded spaces for trauma-aware care for victims of child abuse and their families.

on what brings a child to us, rather on what tools we can give them to use when they leave.”

National statistics show that 1 in 4 children experience some form of abuse

in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 are sexually assaulted before age 18. Locally, the region has seen a surge in child abuse cases, with the number of children served by CARE House each year nearly doubling for more than a decade. In 2024 alone, 1,117 children were assisted – a strong indicator of the urgent need to expand its facility and trauma-informed services.

To meet these needs, CARE House, which falls under the fiscal umbrella of Dayton Children’s Hospital, has announced a \$5.3 million expansion project. Plans include adding 1,900 square feet to its current facility, as well as renovating its existing 5,000 square feet to improve access, privacy and care coordination.

To jumpstart the project, longtime

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From the President

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Imagine all the good our community could achieve if just 5 percent of the coming \$75.6 billion wealth transfer went to charity.

Charitable Checking Account,SM Kay also advises the Theresa M. George Fund, which her mother established before her passing. That fund has awarded more than \$1.5 million to the charitable causes most meaningful to her family.

The late Edythe Lewis, a former Dayton city commissioner and widow of Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr., saw many children suffering from acute health problems during her career as a public health nurse and school nurse during the 1950s and 1960s. “Many came to school so hungry that they couldn’t concentrate on their lessons,” she said in a 2003 Dayton Foundation article.



Edythe and Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr.

In 1989, the Lewises established the Lloyd and Edythe Lewis Fund for Black Children’s Health Care as part of the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation. While Edythe and Lloyd are no longer with us, their memory lives on through their endowed fund that has awarded grants totaling more than \$97,000 to date. Their vision continues to meet the health needs of



Kay George

homeless and underserved children in our region – a promise they made to uphold in perpetuity 37 years ago.

Growing up as an only child, Jane Scharrer felt that her pet dogs were an extension of her family. To celebrate her parents, who supported her lifelong devotion to animals, Jane established an endowed fund in 1997 that directs grants to the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and SICSA. “I hope that my gifts will help these organizations to continue their good work for animals in need for years to come,” Jane said in the Foundation’s 2003-04 Report to the Community.

Jane’s memory, along with those of her parents, endures today through the Albert H. and Helen N. Scharrer Fund, which has awarded more than \$71,000 in grants to support animals in need.

These are just a few of the stories of individuals who have entrusted us to carry forward their charitable wishes and to share their stories for generations to come.

I encourage you to consider how you might weave your story into the

fabric of Greater Dayton’s tomorrow. Whether through a fund at The Dayton Foundation or a bequest to an organization close to your heart, a planned gift, either large or small, has the power to reach far beyond a single lifetime. Michelle Lovely, senior vice president of



Jane Scharrer

Development and Donor Services, shares a few ideas on how you can accomplish this in our “Tips on Charitable Giving” column on page 10.

When the time is right, we are here to explore the Foundation’s charitable options with you and your advisors and help you shape a legacy that reflects your values and vision for the community you love. Together, we can ensure that the future you pass on is even brighter than the one you inherited. 🌱

Michael M. Parks, CFRE
President

CARE House

continued

“Thanks to the inspiring generosity of [Patty and Dick Glennon], we are taking meaningful steps toward a brighter future for the children we serve.”

– Amy Ferguson,
director of CARE
House

CARE House supporters Patty and Dick Glennon have granted \$1 million through The Patricia and Richard Glennon Family Foundation of The Dayton Foundation.

“Our deep commitment to children’s well-being has guided the majority of our philanthropic gifts. No child should go without – whether it’s basic needs like food and clothing or the love, support and justice they deserve in their most vulnerable moments,” said Patty and Dick Glennon, Dayton Foundation fund holders since 2013. “When we walked through CARE House, we saw warmth, compassion and hope. This expansion isn’t just necessary, it’s urgent.”

Expansion plans include additional space for therapy and medical suites to increase access to specialized care for more children; a soundproof interview room and redesigned team areas to enhance privacy and collaboration among providers; and a calming outdoor courtyard to support restorative healing for children, families and staff.

“Thanks to the inspiring generosity of the Glennons, we are taking meaningful steps toward a brighter future for the children we serve,” Amy said. “Their support is helping to create spaces designed for healing and dignity – including expanded mental health therapy and medical areas, enhanced privacy for families and calming environments that strengthen coordinated, trauma-informed care.”



CARE House offers support and hope for children and families affected by abuse in the community, serving as a role model for best practices for children’s advocacy centers nationwide.

Support like the Glennons’ grant also will assist CARE House in reducing barriers to healing, shortening wait times for services and expanding prevention and education efforts across the community. Additional donations for the project will help children feel heard, protected and supported as they begin their path toward healing, as well as give more families the resources and stability they need to move forward, break cycles of abuse and build a safer, healthier future for their children.

“Philanthropic support plays a vital role in the daily operations at CARE House, from forensic interviews and medical exams to therapy sessions and family advocacy,” said Jena Pado, FAHP, CFRE, vice president and chief development officer for Dayton Children’s Hospital Foundation. “As CARE House

expands to meet the growing demand for trauma-informed services, it’s the generosity of our community that ensures every child receives the care, safety and healing they deserve, not just today but every day.” 🌱

To support CARE House and its expansion project, you may make a grant through your Dayton Foundation donor-advised fund or Charitable Checking AccountSM through Donor Express, or visit thecarehouse.org to donate directly.

Foundation Donors Help Keep Their Favorite Programs on the Air

Whether you grew up watching *Sesame Street*, are a lover of classical music or stay informed by listening to *All Things Considered*, public media has impacted your life. When the United States Congress voted in July 2025 to rescind two years of federal funding, which led to the dissolution of the Corporation of Public Broadcasting in January 2026, the future of this and other programming was in jeopardy as public media organizations around the country were left scrambling to cover a \$1.1 billion deficit.

Locally, the impact was substantial, with Dayton Public Radio, ThinkTV and WYSO-FM projected to lose a combined \$3 million annually. This deficit brought to light the critical need for outside support and the uncertainty many non-profits face when relying on government funding.

“We learned the hard way that the federal government cannot be relied upon to subsidize public service journalism. The only way a public radio station can survive and thrive in today’s environment is to have extremely robust local support,” said Luke Dennis, general manager of WYSO and president of Miami Valley Public Media, who saw his organization’s annual budget cut by a projected \$300,000. “Because our local community has stepped up in such a big way this year, I’m proud to say we have not had to cut programs or lay off staff.”

In the months following the announcement, many Dayton Foundation fund holders responded by collectively making nearly \$150,000 in regular and additive grants – an almost 350 percent jump over the prior year’s period – from their charitable funds to Dayton Public Radio, ThinkTV and WYSO.

Gifts like these help public media organizations allocate funding where it’s most needed and enable them to provide informative and educational programming to connect individuals in the community.



ThinkTV, which carries local PBS children’s programming, provides free, high-quality educational programming that helps millions of children develop literacy and STEM skills.

This is particularly important for those who wouldn’t otherwise have access to local news and programming because of paywalls that restrict content unless a user pays or subscribes.

“WYSO’s news is different. It aims to produce mission-driven, fact-based journalism that strives to improve lives and build community. We aren’t chasing clicks or sensational headlines,” Luke

said. “Our reporters cover stories no one else does. They seek solutions to the thorniest problems, dig into investigations and hold the powerful accountable. They also help you get to know your neighbors better and bring you moments of joy.”

Kitty Lensman, CEO of ThinkTV, echoes that sentiment, emphasizing her organization’s mission is to strengthen the communities they serve through educational and diverse programs and services that “inspire and inform, educate and engage, and foster citizenship and culture.”

Carrying out this mission became significantly more challenging last fall, when it lost more than \$2.6 million in federal funding and \$500,000 in state funding – or 20 percent of its annual budget.

“The absence of federal funding is and will be crippling to many nonprofits,” Kitty said. “Therefore, donations from local foundations and the community become even more critical. The best way to help make up for this loss is by making a financial contribution.”

ThinkTV’s programming is particularly important, Kitty points out, because

“The absence of federal funding is and will be crippling to many non-profits.... The best way to help make up for this loss is by making a financial contribution.”

– Kitty Lensman, CEO of ThinkTV



An estimated 70,000 individuals in Southwest Ohio and around the world listen to WYSO each week on the radio and through its digital stream.

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Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees Fund

Donor's Gratitude Inspires Beauty Throughout Greater Dayton



This spring, while visiting Carillon Historical Park or the Dayton Art Institute, you may notice an abundance of colorful blossoms on the grounds of these popular local attractions. Thanks in part to a generous undertaking by Dayton Foundation donor Alex Hara, who was inspired to give back to the region after its generous response to a devastating tsunami that hit his native homeland in 2011, Japanese flowering cherry trees are now beautifying Greater Dayton.

"Thousands of miles away here in Dayton, I watched the videos of the aftermath of the tsunami and wondered what I could do and should do to help," said Alex, a retired executive director for JPMorgan Chase who has lived in the area since 1979. "Three days after the tragedy, I initiated Japan Earthquake Relief Funds, and *Dayton Daily News* published a small article about the effort. The article led to receiving check after check. In just three months, I collected \$33,000 in donations. I was so moved by the generosity of the citizens of Dayton



For a donation, Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees will plant a cherry tree and install a memorial plaque to commemorate a loved one or to recognize your support.

One of the most significant efforts carried out by Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees was planting 150 cherry trees at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

that I wanted to do something to say, 'thank you.'"

Alex came up with the idea to plant 1,000 cherry trees, which commonly are seen in Japan as symbols of unity and social harmony, to demonstrate his gratitude for his American neighbors' kindness.

"Cherry blossoms are something very special to the Japanese. I thought there was nothing better than cherry blossoms that represent the very heart of gratitude of Japanese people for what the citizens of this community had done for them," Alex said.

To help make accepting donations easier, Alex created the Operation 1,000 Cherry Trees Fund, a Charitable Checking AccountSM in 2012 through The Dayton Foundation.

"My CCA allows people to make tax-exempt donations," Alex said. "Our association with The Dayton Foundation gave the project credibility and helped encourage people to give."

In the 15 years since Alex embarked on this project, he has more than met his goal to bring 1,000 cherry trees to the region, prompting him in 2017 to change the project name to Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees. Including the trees planted at Carillon Park and DAI, more than 1,700 trees have been planted throughout the region, in places such as Bellbrook Middle School, Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, GE Aerospace EPISCenter, John Wolfe Park, National Museum of the United States Air Force, Stubbs Park and many other locations.

Sadly, one of these locations – Sinclair Park in Harrison Township – saw almost all of its trees wiped out because of the 2019 tornadoes. Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees not only planted 47 trees to replace

those lost, but it also developed a new program to encourage even more planting at the park.

"When Michelle Lovely at The Dayton Foundation connected me with a woman who wanted to plant a tree to celebrate her father's 100th birthday, I suggested that she plant a cherry tree in his honor at Sinclair Park," Alex said. "I thought this would be a great way to honor loved ones and rebuild the park in the process."

Thanks to this new effort, individuals who wish to memorialize or honor loved ones can donate a cherry tree and mark the occasion with a commemorative plaque.

"By donating \$500 to Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees, we will plant a cherry tree to commemorate a special loved one in your life or recognize your own support. Your tree will have its own personalized plaque placed by its side for generations," Alex said.

This legacy of giving back is rooted in Alex's upbringing in Japan, where

"I was so moved by the generosity of the citizens of Dayton that I wanted to do something to say, 'thank you.'"

– Alex Hara, Dayton Foundation donor and founder of Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees



Consul General of Japan Hajime Kishimori (left) poses with Alex Hara at Carillon Historical Park in April 2025. During his visit, Consul General Kishimori expressed appreciation for how the cherry trees strengthen the cultural bonds between Japan and the United States while beautifying the Dayton Region.

memories of World War II ending as a young child still haunt him and serve as his inspiration to help others.

"The city I lived in was devastated by the heavy bombing, and food was very scarce. My parents took whatever they found at home and went to the remote countryside and looked for farmers to exchange those items for food," Alex recalled. "At this point in my life, it is my privilege to be able to help others in need. You never know when you may be in their position. Helping others makes me feel like I'm just doing my part." 🌿

To support Operation 2,000 Cherry Trees or learn how you can honor a loved one by donating a cherry tree, visit operation2000cherrytrees.com.

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.

Fletcher Austin Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the life of Fletcher Austin, who was known for his positive spirit, quick intellect and witty sense of humor. The fund awards scholarships to a graduating senior from the Dayton Region who plans to major in an arts-related field.

Camm Family Scholarship Fund is awarded to a Miami Valley School senior who embodies the traits set forth by the school's

Dave Christie Oak Harbor High School Athletic Scholarship Fund honors Coach Dave Christie's legacy of leadership, sportsmanship and dedication to developing young athletes on and off the court. The fund provides financial assistance to one male and one female student-athlete who are graduating seniors from Oak Harbor High School in Northwest Ohio, have earned a varsity letter in a sport for at least two years and have maintained a 3.0 grade point average.

Civitan Club of Dayton Fund benefits organizations that provide programs or services for individuals with disabilities or at-risk youth. Established in 1921, the Civitan Club of Dayton is dedicated to improving the community through service fellowship.



Willie Doris Dunson

50 years of age. Like the students this scholarship aims to support, Willie Doris Dunson had a passion for music and used her talents to make a positive impact on others throughout her life.

Tina Gillespie Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to provide students from Versailles High School with the support they need to fully pursue their academic dreams and opportunities. The fund memorializes Tina Marie Gillespie, a 1986 graduate of VHS and longtime supply chain analyst. Tina was a dedicated volunteer for several organizations, including Mad River Local Schools and St. Peter Catholic Church and School, where she took on various leadership roles in her children's activities.

Kettering Police Foundation Fund serves as a vehicle to accept donations made in honor of the work performed by Kettering Police Department employees and uses them to provide support to local police officers, assist individuals in extraordinary situations and grant college scholarships to students committed to serving their community.

through volunteer work and as an employee and partner of LWC Inc. for 28 years. He made a significant impact on numerous nonprofit organizations, including serving as a past board chair of the Dayton Art Institute and Sinclair Foundation, as a board member of Kettering Health Foundation and as a commissioner of Five Rivers MetroParks.



Amy and Mike Parks with seven of their grandchildren

The Michael M. and Amy S. Parks Designated Fund provides unrestricted operating income to The



Drive Electric Dayton

mission, which challenges students to become self-sustaining learners and compassionate global citizens. Peter Camm, an MVS French teacher and theater director from 1982 to 2018, and his spouse, Anne, have children Matthew ('99) and Emily ('02), who thrived at the school thanks to close teacher relationships, challenging academics, immersion programs and lasting friendships.

Drive Electric Dayton Investment Fund provides support for the Ohio chapter of the Electric Vehicle Association, North America's leading volunteer-driven organization advancing the adoption of electric mobility.

Willie Doris Dunson Memorial Music Scholarship Fund supports a female student who is either returning to college or starting college later in life, preferably over



Tina Gillespie (right) and her family

MLK Dayton Foundation Fund awards grants to help promote and advance the mission of MLK-Dayton Incorporated through activities, such as community dialogues, workshops, dinner celebrations, concerts and marches, aimed to inspire citizens to act on the vision of social justice created by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bear Monita Memorial Scholarship Fund provides annual income to the Sinclair Community College Foundation to support student scholarships. A longtime area resident, Bear believed in serving his community

Dayton Foundation and the YMCA of Greater Dayton. The fund was created by current Dayton Foundation President Mike Parks and his wife of 43 years, Amy. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2002, Mike served the YMCA for 22 years, most recently as the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Dayton.

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Bear Monita

Donors Help

continued

of its educational reach to more than 100 school districts, serving 20,000 teachers and over 400,000 students.

“Fifty percent of American families cannot afford a formal preschool program for their children, so they often rely on local PBS children’s programming to help their children learn their shapes, colors and numbers to prepare for kindergarten,” she said.

Like WYSO and ThinkTV, Dayton Public Radio also provides irreplaceable services for the community. When it went on the air in the early 1980s, Dayton was the largest city in America without its own classical music station. Today, Dayton is home to one of the few remaining full-time, non-commercial classical music stations in the country. With a \$140,000 reduction in its annual budget because of the rescission package, President and CEO Shaun Yu and his staff had to look for ways to restore that funding.

“Ongoing, annual support is difficult to replace. While we’ve been able to weather that storm without cutting staff or services, it does mean we have to make up that deficit every year through other sources,” Shaun said. “Grants, events and corporate funding are part of our overall revenue stream, but it’s the listeners who make up 60 to 70 percent of our total revenue.”

For nearly 35,000 weekly listeners, Discover Classical 88.1/89.1/89.9 FM provides local performances, arts information and companionship. From re-broadcasting concerts to encouraging aspiring classical musicians through its Young Talent Search and annual



Programs like the one hosted by Discover Classical’s afternoon host, Adam Alonzo (pictured above), aim to enhance the lives of its listeners by guiding them to greater knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of classical music and the fine arts.

instrument drives, Dayton Public Radio strives to promote a timeless art form rooted in the belief that music has the power to change lives and should be accessible to all.

“I have adored Discover Classical for so long and, with each passing year, I understand more and more how much of a valuable contributor to the local culture this station is!” wrote one supporter.

Strong local support from listeners and viewers ensures Dayton Public Radio, ThinkTV and WYSO can continue to provide the invaluable programming that so many individuals have come to love and rely on to enrich their lives.

“I just wanted to share with you how much you mean to me in my daily life,”

said Amy Boland, a Dayton Foundation fund holder and longtime WYSO supporter. “Because of the way you deliver [the news], you give me hope. You don’t sensationalize it. I feel that WYSO is a tremendous member of our community, and anything I can do to support them as active members of the community I would do so.”

To learn more or to support these local public media organizations, visit discoverclassical.org (Dayton Public Radio), wyso.org (WYSO) and thinktv.org (ThinkTV).

New Endowments

continued



The Play4Payne Scholarship Fund

The Play4Payne Scholarship Fund helps graduating Bellbrook High School seniors, specifically one football player and one soccer player, who demonstrate leadership and meet other criteria to further their education. Payne Sigman, a 2015

graduate of BHS who was a soccer team captain and kicker on the football team, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury after a single-car accident on his way to church. His successful recovery has been an inspiration to others.

Prather Family College Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to a

graduating high school senior or current college student majoring in education or nursing. Donna Prather, a nurse for more than 50 years, and her late husband, Phil, an administrator for Dayton Public Schools for 33 years, dedicated their lives to serving and educating others.

Dr. Patrick Reynolds Music Scholarship Fund honors the 27-year tenure of Dr. Patrick Reynolds, associate conductor of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, and his 25



Dr. Patrick Reynolds

years of leadership with the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. The fund awards scholarships to help current or former members of the Youth Orchestra continue their musical involvement in orchestra or band at the college or university level.



Donna and Phil Prather

Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

Grants

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded \$469,667 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation's Governing Board to assist Greater Dayton charities. Additionally, grants totaling \$48,839 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.



Abundant Life Christ Centered Ministries

Abundant Life Christ Centered Ministries (\$10,000) to expand its kitchen capacity

The Bottom Line, Inc. (\$50,000) to help launch its college Success program in Dayton

Clothes That Work (\$25,000) to purchase clothing fixtures for its new Kettering location



County Corp

County Corp (\$50,000) to help construct five homes for the Pathway to Homeownership Program

Daybreak (\$25,000) to help replace the facility's aging heat pump systems

Dayton Live (\$15,000) to fund teaching artists, program supplies and marketing support for the Q Theater

Five Rivers Health Centers (\$35,000) to purchase a refurbished pharmacy robot

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley (\$25,935) to purchase adaptive equipment

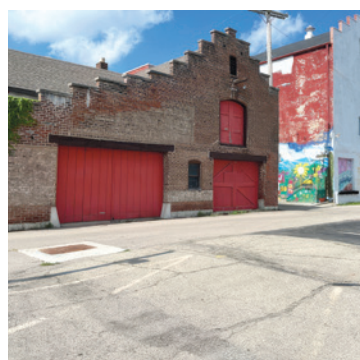
Greater Dayton Union Cooperative (\$25,000) to strengthen Gem City Market's Long-Term Sustainability Strategy and community engagement



Greater Edgemont Community Coalition

Greater Edgemont Community Coalition (\$25,000) to launch a youth training program for workforce development and neighborhood care

Junior Achievement of O.K.I. Partners (\$8,000) to enhance the JA Take Stock in Your Future program



K12 Gallery & TEJAS

K12 Gallery & TEJAS (\$20,000) to renovate the newly acquired barn and upgrade the adjacent lot

Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio (\$20,000) to hire two new staff members for expanded capacity needs

Ronald McDonald House Charities Dayton (\$10,000) to create a sensory garden and natural play area

Spectrum New Beginnings (\$20,000) to strengthen coordinated support for maternal and infant health in under-resourced communities



TCN Behavioral Health Services

TCN Behavioral Health Services (\$40,732) to fund The Farmhouse's renovations for expanded behavioral health services

Teach For America, Inc. (\$20,000) to deliver personalized student tutoring through trained fellows at Dayton Early Leadership Academies

YMCA of Greater Dayton (\$45,000) to construct a modern, inclusive bathhouse at Camp Kern

Greenlight Grant Awards



Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence

Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence (\$5,599) to purchase a donor and constituent relationship management system



Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, Inc. (\$5,000) to build an interactive mapping software program



Five Rivers Flow Arts

Five Rivers Flow Arts (\$1,000) to purchase props for artists and performers

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio (\$5,000) to improve ADA accessibility at the Little House in Greenville

Good Shepherd Ministries (\$7,500) to equip its garage with electrical infrastructure for workforce development programs

HUES Women's Health Advocacy Institute (\$7,500) to facilitate the Summer Youth Health Ambassador Program

Impact Garage (\$7,500) to purchase a new vehicle lift

The Learning Tree Farm, Inc. (\$4,740) to install a comprehensive security camera system



Little Art Theatre Association

Little Art Theatre Association, Inc. (\$5,000) to hire a consultant to guide the board's transition from a working board to a governing board

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HUES Women's Health Advocacy Institute

Robert E. and Gwen W. Kline Scholarship Fund

From Orchestrating Life's Milestones to Helping Students Reach Their Own



Robert Kline played the organ at National Cash Register, where he served as music educator for 42 years.

For many Daytonians who grew up during the 1920s through the 1970s, Dayton Foundation donor Robert “Bob” Kline provided the background music for some of their most memorable life moments. Whether they attended an Easter or Christmas service at Carillon Historical Park while he was chief carillonneur or were one of the estimated 400,000 area students who marched to his rendition of “Pomp and Circumstance” at their high school graduations, Bob Kline made an impact on many individuals through his music.

Beyond his professional career, music also profoundly impacted his own life. According to a 1988 *Dayton Daily News* article announcing his death from Alzheimer’s disease, it’s how he met his wife, Gwen. She attended a concert at the NCR schoolhouse in 1923, at the beginning of his 42-year tenure as the music educator for National Cash Register.

“I don’t know whether it was me or my music that she fell in love with,” Bob was quoted as saying in the article.

Throughout their 54-year marriage, the Klimes orchestrated hundreds of weddings, with Gwen as the coordinator and Bob playing musical accompaniment.

“We were quite a team,” he said of his relationship with Gwen, who passed away in 1983 at age 80.

The Klimes’ legacy of fostering community also was evident through Bob’s longtime service on the Dayton school board and as a Montgomery County commissioner, as well as through Gwen’s 21 years as chairwoman for the

“I am a completely different person than the college freshman who received this scholarship.... Thank you for investing in me and my education!”

— Kylie Sauer, scholarship recipient

Montgomery County Republican Party. She won a highly contested battle to design the county’s flag in 1973 during her tenure as chair, and, in the years following, Bob proudly wore a small version of the flag on the left lapel of his suit jackets.

Arguably their most noteworthy impact, however, came to fruition after their lifetimes through the Robert E. and Gwen W. Kline Scholarship Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Since 1994, more than \$386,000 has been awarded in scholarships for Montgomery County high school seniors in need.

One of these students – Kylie Sauer, a 2020 graduate of Dayton Regional STEM School – missed out on hearing “Pomp and Circumstance” at her own high school graduation due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. However, thanks to the Klimes’ scholarship fund, she didn’t miss out on an even more important opportunity – the chance to hear it at her college graduation.

“For me, a traditional college experience was never promised. Initially, I had planned to complete my degree at Sinclair Community College for financial reasons,” said Kylie, a 2024 graduate of Ohio University. “This scholarship meant I was able to go away to college and pursue the degree I truly wanted. My years in Athens, Ohio, were spent growing personally and professionally with others who have similar interests and aspirations.”

During a conversation with Madi Brown, one of Kylie’s Athens connections, Kylie discovered a deeper tie. Because the Klimes’ scholarship is renewable, she had been regularly communicating with Madi’s mother, Michelle Brown, who is the director of scholarship services for The Dayton Foundation, to submit her yearly progress reports and arrange disbursement of the annual scholarship. Kylie and Madi met while working at an outdoor recreation facility, which helped fuel Kylie’s desire to pursue a degree in outdoor recreation and education. After college, she returned to Dayton and currently works as a museum educator for the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.

“This support has truly allowed me to become the young professional I am today. I am a completely different person than the college freshman who received this scholarship – a confident, strong collaborator and passionate educator,” Kylie said. “There are so many experiences from my years going to school and working in Athens that I will carry throughout my life. Because of the opportunities I was given through this scholarship, I have not only found my passions but myself. Thank you for investing in me and my education!”



In her role as museum educator, Kylie Sauer supports curriculum development and leads onsite and outreach programs. She also trains and works with ambassador animals, like the armadillo pictured above, for use in educational programming.

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 “Lift” Families Through Challenging Times

Among the many hurdles low-income families face is access to reliable transportation. For those who own vehicles, a mechanical failure can mean missing appointments, school or work – potentially creating a chain of events such as falling behind on rent, utilities and other essential expenses if they cannot afford costly repairs.

To help relieve this financial burden, Impact Garage provides low-cost car repairs and free pre-purchase inspections

“The Basic Human Needs Grant successfully expanded our ability to support clients, ensuring their pets didn’t go hungry.”

- Jessie Sullivan, director of Shelter Operations for SICSA

a Greenlight GrantSM to purchase and install a new vehicle lift.

“We are deeply grateful for the \$7,500 grant from The Dayton Foundation,” said Terri Fleck, founder and president of Impact Garage. “With the additional lift in our shop, we hired another full-time technician, enabling us to increase the number of vehicles we repair each week and reduce wait times for working individuals who depend on reliable transportation.”

Impact Garage was inspired by Terri’s family garage, where she grew up spending countless evenings and weekends holding a flashlight or handing her dad tools as he repaired vehicles. As an adult, she found out that he wasn’t doing it for financial gain but rather to help people in need.

“Impact Garage is not just about fixing cars; it’s about restoring dignity, independence and hope,” Terri said. “Support like this can help prevent job losses, protect household income and keep families on solid footing during challenging times.”

“I can’t thank the staff at Impact Garage enough for fixing my car!” said one client. “They got my car in their shop and fixed it within 72 hours, all in the same week of starting my new job. My car is now running smoothly, and the entire process, from application to repair, was smoother than I expected it to be. Thank you, Impact Garage!”

Grant Assists Pet Owners Experiencing Hardships

SICSA’s mission is to promote the welfare and adoption of companion animals and nurture loving, lifelong relationships between animals and people. In 2025, when the nonprofit organization saw a 10 percent rise in the number of families served through its Pet Food Assistance Program, staff realized that the demand for its pet food was quickly outpacing available resources.

Thanks to The Dayton Foundation’s Basic Human Needs Grants program, SICSA received a \$5,649 grant to assist



SICSA

with providing dog and cat food for owners who are experiencing temporary hardships.

“The Basic Human Needs Grant successfully expanded our ability to support clients, ensuring their pets didn’t go hungry,” said Jessie Sullivan, director of Shelter Operations for SICSA. “We consistently hear how much families appreciate having support for their four-legged family members, especially when budgets are tight.”

The grant also made it possible for SICSA to host its first-ever, drive-through pet food pantry events at its Washington Township location. After a successful mini event in September, SICSA hosted a second drive-through distribution in December, with more than 7,700 pounds of pet food distributed to nearly 100 families in just two hours.

“Thanks to The Dayton Foundation’s support, we were able to show up for families in a meaningful and practical way. Grants like these are more than just a monetary contribution – they represent a shared commitment to serving others and advancing our mission,” Jessie said. “Most of all, providing access to pet food helps relieve stress and ensures pets can stay safely at home with the people who love them.”



Impact Garage

for local families in need. Since it opened in 2023, Impact Garage has invested over 2,100 labor hours repairing 445 vehicles, saving clients more than \$350,000 in repair costs.

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded the nonprofit organization

Recent Grants

continued

The Discretionary and Greenlight GrantsSM on page 7 were made possible thanks to the following Unrestricted or Field-of-Interest funds of The Dayton Foundation.

- The Helen and Charles Abramovitz Emerging Community Needs Fund
- Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Charitable Fund
- Lee and Judith Amundson Charitable Fund for Children
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- The Joan F. and William H. Eicher Fund
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- The Michael M. and Amy S. Parks Fund
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- The Mark C. Thompson Legacy Fund
- Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund
- Tri-River Employers Healthcare Coalition Endowment
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- Richard E. Wilson Memorial Fund
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Tips on Charitable Giving

Talking to Your Family About Leaving a Charitable Legacy



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

As President Mike Parks shared in his column on page 1, we are amid the largest shift of wealth in history. With an estimated \$75.6 billion projected to transfer to the next generation in the coming decade, and \$215 billion over the next 25 years, we are on the brink of transformative community resources we've never experienced before.

Think for a moment if just a small percentage of this transferred wealth was donated to charity – let's say 5 percent – and how this funding could address some of Greater Dayton's most urgent needs. In my role at The Dayton Foundation, I am having more and more conversations with fund holders who want to impact our region after they are gone. They often ask, "What is the best way to ensure our charitable wishes are carried out?"

We are on the brink of transformative community resources we've never experienced before.

A good place to start is by talking to your family. Kickstart the conversation by asking what they'd like their legacy to look like. This can lead you to share your own giving goals, including any financial information they need to know about your estate plans. Then, as a family, you can make sure those wishes are

communicated to your financial advisor and/or estate-planning attorney.

Another way to continue the conversation is by involving your loved ones in your current giving. I'll share a few examples.

One family who has a Donor-Advised Fund through The Dayton Foundation asks each of their children and grandchildren to research a charity and share why they chose it at Thanksgiving. The parents then make a donation from their fund to the chosen charities.

Another family opened free Charitable Checking AccountsSM through the Foundation for each of their children. During the holidays, the parents contribute to the accounts, and the children award grants to their favorite nonprofits.

For other families, our Family Foundation *Plus*SM fund option enables family members to serve as a board and decide together which charities they will fund. Many of these family foundations are strategic about what they hope to achieve each year through the grants they award and the charities they select.

And for others, establishing a deferred fund through the Foundation is an excellent option for preserving their charitable intent. Maybe it's:

- a Scholarship Fund to help youth pursue education,

- a Designated Fund that supports a favorite charity in perpetuity, or

- a Field-of-Interest Fund that supports a specific area, such as animals or the arts, that leaves the Foundation's volunteer Grants Committee to determine where grants from the fund will be best directed.

The Dayton Foundation can work with you and your professional advisor to create your charitable legacy through a deferred fund that outlines your charitable intentions. If you'd like to leave a 5 percent gift to the community but want the Foundation to use grants from your fund to address a broad range of local needs, including future needs that cannot be anticipated, you can create a Community Impact Endowment Fund. With thoughtful planning, you can reflect your values clearly and provide a roadmap for the Foundation and your family to carry out your philanthropic legacy.

Most of all, we can help ensure the story, values and impact that you and your family want to leave behind lives on for future generations. For more information, contact me, Nakia Lipscomb or Marianne Requarth at (937) 222-0410 or visit www.daytonfoundation.org/leave-a-legacy.