

# GoodNews



## Inside



**Pg. 3**  
“Dayton Originals”  
Have Deep Dayton  
Foundation Roots



**Pg. 5**  
New Endowment  
Funds



**Pg. 6**  
Recent Discretionary  
Grants



**Pg. 7**  
Grant Creates Safe  
Spaces for Teens

## Memorial to Honor Fallen Officers for Generations to Come

*Ongoing Community Support Is Needed*

**O**n January 17, 1880, City of Dayton Patrolman Lee Lynam became the first local law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty, after a suspect he had previously arrested fatally shot him in a café on Third Street. Since then, 48 officers have joined Patrolman Lynam in making the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives while protecting and serving citizens in Montgomery County.

To honor these fallen heroes, The Montgomery County Law Enforcement Memorial Association launched a campaign to create a lasting memorial commemorating their bravery, dedication and service. With support from each of the 33 municipalities throughout the county, this project represents a long-held dream of active and retired law enforcement officers who understand the importance of remembering these selfless men and women by creating a place of reflection in their honor. It also will be a space where future generations can learn the true meaning of public service.

“Every day, law enforcement officers across our community risk their lives to protect and serve. Their commitment to safeguarding our safety often involves personal sacrifice, and tragically,



**The Montgomery County Law Enforcement Memorial will remember the brave men and women who laid down their lives to protect and serve our community.**

some make the ultimate sacrifice,” said John Porter, chief of police for Butler Township Police Department. “This Memorial will serve as a testament to the community’s appreciation and will stand as a symbol of our collective respect, support and gratitude for the officers who protect us.”

In addition to awarding the Memorial Association a \$37,500 grant in 2024, The Dayton Foundation has provided

counsel and advice throughout the campaign.

“We owe so much to The Dayton Foundation. The Memorial Committee had been working for years, but it wasn’t until one of our most generous donors introduced us to Mike Parks and the Foundation that the campaign took flight,” Chief Porter said. “The

*continued on page 2 »*

## Your Opinion Matters

*Thank You for Your Feedback on the Recent Donor Survey*

**T**o all our fund holders and fund advisors who participated in The Dayton Foundation’s survey this past May, thank you! Your overwhelming response has provided invaluable data that will help guide our planning activities to better serve our more than 4,100 donors and the Greater Dayton community.

Highlights of the results, which included responses from 424 fund holders/advisors, showed high marks for the Foundation in:

- overall customer satisfaction,
- the knowledge, courteousness, approachability, trustworthiness and responsiveness of its leadership and staff,
- its role in the community as a leader and convener to make an impact on specific issues,
- its cost effectiveness and investment strategies, and

the ease of use for its charitable giving services.

Additionally, 90 percent of respondents indicated that they are likely or very likely to recommend The Dayton Foundation to a friend or colleague. This speaks highly of the trust and value you place in our services.

**Your overwhelming response has provided invaluable data that will help guide our planning activities to better serve our more than 4,100 donors and the Greater Dayton community.**

While the majority of respondents had no recommendations for improvements, a few themes did emerge. Some respondents expressed a desire for more information about giving opportunities in the community so they can better direct their charitable dollars toward the greatest

needs; some would like more regular contact with Foundation staff; and others would like to see more promotion to help the broader community learn about our mission, services and impact.

These are just a few of the survey’s findings, which will help shape our marketing and public relations efforts, inform the work of our leadership and Development and Donor Services teams, and aid the Foundation in our ongoing efforts to more effectively serve donors and the community as a whole.

Your opinion matters to us! Please contact us at [info@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:info@daytonfoundation.org) if you have additional comments, and look for more opportunities to provide feedback on the Foundation’s communications next year. Thank you for using your voice and for joining with the Foundation to make Greater Dayton better today, and for future generations. 🌱



Memorial  
continued

“This memorial means a lot to us because it’s a lasting remembrance honoring the service and sacrifice Randy and the other officers have made to keep our communities safe.”

— Angela Osborne, a family member of Deputy Sheriff Randal K. Richter

Foundation offered helpful recommendations, allowed us to hold meetings at its facility and made connections for us, opening the doors that have given our dream the wings it needed to fly.”

Thanks to generous donors across the region, including several Dayton Foundation fund holders who made significant grants, the Memorial Association has raised approximately \$1.5 million toward its \$2 million goal. These donations, in addition to the Masons’ gift of a one-acre parcel of land next to the Dayton Masonic Center, helped work begin on the Memorial in 2024. The goal is to complete it later this year.

The Memorial Association is looking to the community to support future maintenance needs and has established a charitable fund that will be administered through The Dayton Foundation to ensure the Memorial’s sustainability. The goal is to raise \$500,000, and the Committee welcomes gifts of all levels. These gifts will be particularly impactful now that The R.C. Appenzeller Family Fund of The Dayton Foundation has stepped forward to match every dollar



Deputy Sheriff Randal K. Richter



Mounted officers salute a fallen colleague.

with two more. For example, a \$100 donation will generate an additional \$200 – tripling the impact to a total of \$300.

“We are proud to support the Memorial project for the officers who have been killed in the line of duty. It is fitting that this monument will be located at a prominent site near the Masonic Temple since several generations of Appenzellers have been Masons,” said Bob Appenzeller, Jr., advisor for The R.C. Appenzeller Family Fund. “We look forward to seeing the project completed and visible from I-75 in all its splendor, signifying the great loss Montgomery County has endured.”

No one feels this loss more than the fallen officers’ families, who now will have a place to visit and reflect on their loved ones’ heroic actions.

“This memorial means a lot to us because it’s a lasting remembrance honoring the service and sacrifice Randy and the other officers have made to keep our communities safe,” said Angela Osborne, a family member of Deputy Sheriff Randal K. Richter, a 23-year-old

who was shot and killed in 1975 while investigating a suspicious vehicle in Harrison Township. “Law enforcement is a dangerous and difficult profession that we should never take for granted. Our hope is that people will see this monument and reflect on the sacrifice these officers made and develop a deeper respect for the job law enforcement officers do every day.”

To support this memorial, you can send a check to The Dayton Foundation, c/o the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Memorial Association Fund #9096, 1401 S. Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton, Ohio 45409, or visit [mcmemorial.com](http://mcmemorial.com) to donate online. You also can scan the QR code to donate directly from your Dayton Foundation donor-advised fund.



The Dayton Foundation News

Foundation Announces Three Awards for Excellence in Community Leadership

Three exceptional community groups have been selected as this year’s recipients of the Award for Excellence in Community Leadership. The annual award recognizes community groups that have established Committee-Advised Funds through The Dayton Foundation and are making an impact in their communities by demonstrating best practices for community organizing, fundraising, collaboration and strategic planning.

The following recipients each received \$850.

**Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton**, a Dayton Foundation component fund group since 1995, is celebrating 30 years of investing in the community where STEM education has created opportunity. The foundation has played a significant role in helping organizations, such as Air Camp, the Dayton

“We are proud to recognize these groups that are doing meaningful and impactful work in the community and beyond.”

— Kate Spencer, donor relations officer, The Dayton Foundation.



Left: Kettering Education Foundation, Right: Engineering and Science Foundation (MercyPets not pictured)

Regional STEM Center and SOCHE, launch innovative STEM programming through crucial early-stage grant support.

**Kettering Education Foundation**, a Dayton Foundation fund since 1993, has made significant progress since implementing its strategic planning process in 2020. Core to this has been strengthening its Advisory Board, which has helped the fund expand its reach within the Kettering City Schools community.

**MercyPets**, a fund since 2003, has partnered with organizations to provide relief in countries across the globe, making a direct, grassroots impact in regions where child malnutrition is a major concern.

“We are proud to recognize these groups that are doing meaningful and impactful work in the community and beyond,” said Kate Spencer, donor relations officer for The Dayton Foundation. “Our sincere thanks to them for being great examples of leadership and serving as resources for other Dayton Foundation component funds.”

Nomination forms for the 2026 awards will be available in January 2026, or by special request to Kate Spencer at (937) 225-9952 or [kspencer@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:kspencer@daytonfoundation.org). Any advisor or member of a Dayton Foundation component fund may submit a nomination form by the May 15, 2026 deadline.



# “Dayton Originals” Have Deep Dayton Foundation Roots

Ask any Daytonian what their favorite local activities and restaurants are, and you’ll get a wide range of recommendations. But did you know that some of the most popular suggestions for go-to local experiences are inspired, founded or operated by Dayton Foundation fund holders?

Looking for a place to eat? Old Scratch Pizza, a fast-casual, wood-fired pizza eatery founded in 2016 by Dayton Foundation donors Stephanie and Eric Soller, is renowned for its house-made dough, creative pies and lively beer hall atmosphere. The pizza chain quickly has

already have funds with the Foundation, which makes awarding grants fast and easy. I’ve even set up automatic monthly transfers from our four restaurants. It’s seamless and allows me to stay focused on making an impact, not on paperwork.”

Another Dayton favorite – Skyline Chili – also is connected with The Dayton Foundation. Mark Keilholz, a United States Navy veteran, began his post-military career in 1973 as a Skyline employee. In 1984, he partnered with a friend to open their franchise in Miamisburg, which moved to its current

our grants quickly, the Foundation makes giving back so easy!” Mark said. “We want to be an asset to the community while doing business here, and we’re always ready to help. Our CCA makes it easier for us to do this.”

In the mood to be pampered? As one of Greater Dayton’s premier destinations for personal care, relaxation and rejuvenation, Square One Salon & Spa has deep ties with The Dayton Foundation. Two of its co-founders, Josh Stucky and Brent Johnson, are longtime fund holders, and Josh has served on the Foundation’s Governing Board since 2022. In addition to establishing several CCAs for their current giving and founding the RubiGirls Scholarship Fund to help area students attend college, Josh and Brent have created three deferred funds to carry out their charitable wishes after they are gone. A combined total of \$170,000 has been awarded from their funds since 2017.

A sense of gratitude and the inspiration of so many people in their lives are what drive them to do what they can, while they are able.

“When I was young, my father took us to a Thanksgiving dinner for children with developmental disabilities as part of his rotary service,” Josh said. “It made me realize how fortunate I am and what I can do to make others’ lives better.”

Josh believes that giving back benefits everyone involved, and that the key to success is helping individuals find their own success. Through his work with The Dayton Foundation, he has seen how working together can make a greater impact for all.

“Helping others is how communities find connection and foster happiness

“Our job is to help all boats rise by giving what we can to ensure a safe, healthy place to live and do business.”

– Josh Stucky, co-owner of Square One Salon & Spa and Dayton Foundation Governing Board member



Stephanie Soller (middle), co-founder of Old Scratch Pizza, poses with staff from The Foodbank, a recent grant recipient of Cones for a Cause.

become a Dayton staple, along with its popular charitable initiative, Cones for a Cause, which offers ice cream cones to customers in exchange for a charitable donation.

“Giving back is natural to us and has always been a meaningful part of our lives,” said Stephanie, co-owner of Old Scratch Pizza and administrator of Cones for Cause. “Today, the Cones for a Cause program generates around \$6,000 per month, which we reinvest directly into the region. It has evolved into a community-powered, micro-grant foundation dedicated to driving social change in Greater Dayton.”

To help manage the program, Stephanie established a Dayton Foundation Charitable Checking Account,<sup>SM</sup> which has granted more than \$202,000 to local nonprofit organizations since 2021.

“Initially, we managed donations through our business accounts, but as the program expanded, we needed a more efficient system. The Foundation provided us with structure, transparency and trusted support,” Stephanie said. “Most of the nonprofits we support

location in Miami Township in 2003. In 2016 they established the Dayton Mall Skyline Fund, which has granted more than \$30,000 to nonprofit organizations to address food insecurity and other local needs.

“From searching charitable organizations through the website to processing

continued on page 7 »



Mark Keilholz, co-owner of the Miami Township Skyline Chili, gives back to the community he serves through his Dayton Foundation Charitable Checking Account.<sup>SM</sup>



From the President

# “Education Is the Key to a Thriving and Vibrant Community”



Michael M. Parks, CFRE

“Strong schools are essential, but as a community, we must do more to support our students.”

— Stacy Schweikhart, CEO of Learn to Earn Dayton

With back-to-school season underway, I’d like to highlight a local educational initiative that is preparing our region – and its future workforce – for success. Learn to Earn Dayton, a supporting organization of The Dayton Foundation, has been working since 2010 to help 60 percent of local adults attain a postsecondary credential. This effort, launched as a 25-year commitment under the leadership of Dr. Tom Lasley and with the support of The Dayton Foundation, Mathile Family Foundation and other funders, has made significant headway in ensuring our children will be prepared for and have access to living wage jobs and opportunities in the future. Stacy Schweikhart, who has served as CEO of Learn to Earn Dayton since 2022 and has more than 20 years of experience in public service, discusses how making education a top priority in the coming decades is critical to our region’s long-term success.

## What is Learn to Earn Dayton’s mission?

Stacy: Education is the key to a thriving and vibrant community. At Learn to Earn Dayton, we work to ensure all learners in the Dayton Region have the resources and opportunities that foster lifelong success and economic mobility.

To do this, we use a data-driven approach, tracking crucial predictive educational milestones that pave the way for continuing student success, such as early grade reading, eighth-grade math and postsecondary enrollment. Tracking these milestones helps to ensure students are reaching academic benchmarks – and when they’re not, Learn to Earn Dayton gathers partners and designs new approaches to address the gaps and get students back on track for success.

To see the data for student outcomes in Montgomery County and for other schools in Ohio, please visit [learntoearn-dayton.org/data](http://learntoearn-dayton.org/data).

## What do you see as the community’s greatest challenges in education? How does Learn to Earn Dayton work to meet those challenges?

Stacy: Education is not up to schools alone. The reality is that students spend more than 75 percent of their time each year outside of the classroom. Strong schools are essential, but as a community, we must do more to support our students. Learn to Earn Dayton is working to build a robust, well-connected, cross-sector pipeline that supports students in and beyond the classroom, from early childhood into their chosen career.

As a region, we must invest public, private and philanthropic resources to provide high-quality, accessible and

affordable out-of-school-time programs and neighborhood-based, comprehensive, whole-family services. We must help all students realize from an early age what their natural interests and aptitudes are, and how they can participate in sequenced coursework and experiences in career pathways that lead them to high-demand, high-growth and high-wage jobs. We must ensure every classroom has a well-qualified teacher. This starts with respecting and valuing our teachers and encouraging young leaders to pursue careers in education as



Stacy Schweikhart, CEO of Learn to Earn Dayton



A student considers a data board at Learn to Earn Dayton’s kickoff for the Student Vision initiative.

much as we do for other fields. We must emphasize that attending school every day is critical for both academic progress and emotional wellbeing. We must address the compounding challenges of high eviction rates, lack of safe and affordable housing, elevated crime rates and limited access to life-essential services, such as transportation, healthcare and nutrition, that many Dayton-area families impacted by poverty experience.

While these are complex challenges, we also should focus our attention on our community’s amazing assets. We have dedicated school leadership; strong institutions of higher education; a network of community-based nonprofit organizations; engaged families and residents; committed out-of-school time providers; local philanthropic partners and supportive government

leaders. They all are committed to working together, through the coordinated approach led by Learn to Earn Dayton, to address these challenges and improve student outcomes.

## How is Learn to Earn Dayton inspiring change in Greater Dayton?

Stacy: As a backbone organization, we drive change by serving as a clearinghouse for data and accessing shared data systems that track cradle-to-career milestones and relevant contributing factors to better recognize the gaps and opportunities that exist for students. This allows us to bring together cross-sector partners to collaborate, explore the best national models and design new solutions for our community. Through these partnerships, we launch pilot programs to test and track results, share them with nonprofit and government partners, and collaborate with others to envision the new policies, practices and investments needed to genuinely improve outcomes for students and families.

Some recent efforts include the development of a framework for enhanced career exploration for middle school students and increased access to dual enrollment and college pathways for high school students. We also have been working on a new model for high-impact tutoring to increase early grade literacy, as well as exploring opportunities for family members and local residents to learn how to more effectively engage and advocate for stronger educational outcomes.

## What do you see on the horizon for education in Greater Dayton?

Stacy: Learn to Earn Dayton plans to engage students, families, school districts, industry partners, neighborhood-based community organizations and institutions of higher education to create and champion a shared vision. Collectively, we will set regional priorities and determine how we all must invest to ensure a bright future for all students by focusing on key areas, such as improved kindergarten readiness, early grade literacy, middle grade math, high school graduation and postsecondary success.

This community-wide plan will help set priorities as we work to smooth transitions across the cradle-to-career continuum and ensure all students have the resources and opportunity to succeed. 🌱

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.



**Padma and Gaurang Desai Padma and Gaurang Desai Foundation Fund** awards grants to promote community health and well-being, enhance education and protect environmental resources.

**Dr. Sylvan Eller Legacy Fund** enables The Dayton Foundation to award unrestricted grants to nonprofit organizations assisting with health services, with a preference for indigent care, and food distribution for individuals in need. Dr. Sylvan Eller graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1967 and spent many years working at Radiology Physicians, Inc., at Miami Valley Hospital.

**Margaret and Tim Erin Fund** supports nonprofit organizations of the donors' choosing.

**Fargey Family Memorial Scholarship** was established by Maryellen Fargey in memory of her husband, Chief Master Sergeant Peter D. Fargey, and their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Fargey. Pete, a longtime volunteer for the Fisher-Nightingale House at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, served 30 years in the United States Air Force and later drew on his experience as a

long-distance runner to become a high school track coach. Beth was an avid reader who loved sharing her knowledge and cared deeply for those in need.

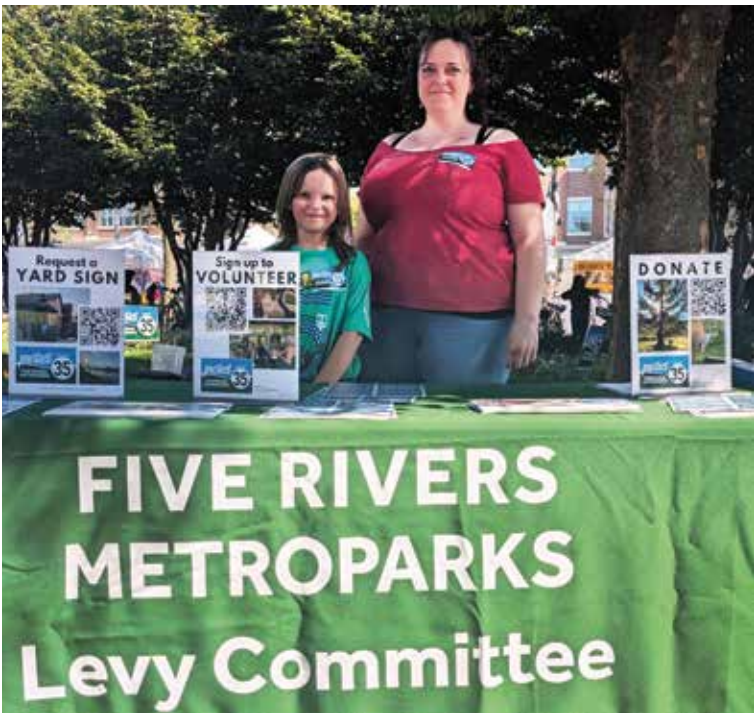
**Five Rivers MetroParks Research and Education Fund** supports activities for the Five Rivers MetroParks Levy Committee, including conducting community-wide polling and educational campaigns. The levy will support Five Rivers MetroParks, which has connected people with nature for more than 60 years and protected nearly 16,000 acres of open space and natural areas in Greater Dayton.

**The Friends of New Horizons Fund** supports the operations of the University of Dayton's New Horizons Music Program. Established in 2000, this successful adult music education program provides a unique experience that fosters growth, learning and performance opportunities in concert bands, jazz ensembles and the string orchestra.



**Ellenae Hart Henry-Fairhurst Legacy Fund** supports the needs of the community in the Dayton Region, as determined by the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Ellenae Hart Henry-Fairhurst achieved groundbreaking milestones in her career as a car dealer, becoming one of only four African-American women in the nation to own a dealership during her lifetime.

**Randale and Candice Honaker Family Fund** awards grants to support organizations important to the donors, including



Five Rivers MetroParks Research and Education Fund

Dayton Christian School, SouthBrook Christian Church and Young Life. Randy Honaker has more than 40 years of experience in financial industry portfolio management, while Candi Honaker has over 30 years of experience in interior design.



**Thomas and Jenny Mikos The Jenny E. and Thomas J. Mikos Charitable Fund** designates funds for five local charitable organizations that are important to the donors, all of which provide services for young people in need. Jenny, a longtime special education teacher, and Tom, a longtime certified

public accountant, believe in giving opportunities to youth who may not otherwise have them.



**Kevin and Joey Nels Kevin and Joey Nels Family Fund** furthers the philanthropic interests of the Nels family by awarding grants to select nonprofits.



Northwest Dayton Pathways to Home Ownership Fund

**Northwest Dayton Pathways to Home Ownership Fund** helps first-time, income-qualified buyers achieve the dream of owning a home. This initiative, launched with support from the WPCU Sunshine Community Fund and in partnership with Learn to Earn Dayton, Omega CDC

and County Corp, is building stronger families and a more vibrant community, with 19 homes already completed for first-time buyers in the region.

**The Alberta Warford Scholarship Fund** helps graduating seniors from Dayton Public Schools or Trotwood Madison High School in furthering their education. The fund honors this longtime educator, who dedicated more than 40 years to teaching and made a significant impact on the lives of countless students, colleagues and families through her commitment to learning and compassion. 🌿



Candice and Randale Honaker



Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

# Grants

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded \$197,773 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation’s Governing Board to assist Greater Dayton charities. Additionally, grants totaling \$132,843 were awarded through the Foundation’s Greenlight Grants<sup>SM</sup> 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.



**Brigid’s Path**  
**Brigid’s Path (\$20,000)** to expand the recovery center’s prenatal program  
**The Conscious Connect CDC (\$75,000)** to transform four vacant lots into a vibrant green space



**Miami Valley Public Media**  
**Miami Valley Public Media (WYSO) (\$81,900)** to purchase and install a generator  
**Nurturing Community Cultivating Justice (\$20,873)** to help sustain the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations

**Greenlight Grants Awards**  
**CityWide Neighborhood Development Corporation (\$7,200)** to support the revitalization of Fairview Gardens



**Dayton Children’s Hospital**  
**Dayton Children’s Hospital (\$5,000)** to purchase an additional freezer for its community food pantry

**Dayton Equity Center**  
**(\$1,000)** to acquire carts, tables and additional equipment for its Food Security Department

**The Dayton Fellowship Club, Inc. (\$6,600)** to upgrade its electrical system, interior lighting and kitchen equipment



**El Puente Educational Center**  
**El Puente Educational Center, Inc. (\$7,500)** to provide GED Support for students

**Families of Addicts Foundation (\$5,000)** to train staff to work with children with learning challenges



**4 Paws for Ability**  
**4 Paws for Ability (\$6,000)** to install an ADA-compliant automatic door opener



**Gala of Hope Foundation**  
**Gala of Hope Foundation (\$4,500)** to enlist the services of a strategic development and nonprofit consulting firm

**Girls on the Run Dayton (\$5,000)** to purchase updated curriculum materials



**Girls on the Run Dayton**  
**Hope Road Organization (\$7,500)** to help develop the Youth Arts and Nature Hub

**I Am Well Foundation (\$7,500)** to implement the Wellness Beyond Barriers program



**Joshua Recovery Ministries**  
**Joshua Recovery Ministries (\$3,000)** to support the Webster House renovations

**The Legal Kid Foundation (\$5,000)** to expand its Student Ambassador Program to include 60 underserved students

**Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra (\$7,500)** to purchase stringed instruments for the Youth Education Program



**Mosaic Institute of Greater Dayton**  
**Mosaic Institute of Greater Dayton (\$7,500)** to unify the East End’s Twin Towers neighborhood by creating nine mosaics

**Parkview United Methodist Church (\$1,775)** to purchase an AED unit for its community members and groups

**Preble County Art Association (\$7,500)** to establish a fully equipped stained-glass art studio

**Rachel & Friends (\$3,700)** to acquire kitchen equipment for meal preparation

**Victory Project (\$7,500)** to expand the middle school campus’s front entrance hallway

**Warren County Arts Council (ArtScape) (\$7,500)** to purchase materials for a glass camp and classes



**Wildflower Child & Family Center**

**Wildflower Child & Family Center (\$5,938)** to develop an outdoor, multi-purpose classroom  
**Women Walking West (\$4,000)** to implement a 24-unit ESL curriculum for women

**The Woodland Arboretum Foundation (\$6,000)** to purchase QR code signs for landmarks and a points-of-interest map



**World House Choir**  
**World House Choir, Inc. (\$3,130)** to purchase two additional choral risers



**Warren County Arts Council**

<b>These grants were made possible thanks to the following Unrestricted or Field-of-Interest funds of The Dayton Foundation.</b>		
Catharine French Bieser Fund	Isabel Herbst Fund	Phil Rizzo Fund for Young People with Disabilities
Irvin Gruen Bieser Fund	Kenneth O. Huntingdon Charitable Trust Fund	Delphin T. and Marilyn K. Shannon Fund
Jack and Emily Blake Fund	William and Joanne Hussey Fund	Caroline Patterson Shaw Memorial Fund
Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski Fund	Eleanor and John Kautz Fund	Robert D. Shultz Memorial Fund
William T. Bryan Fund	Edward L. and Esther B. Kohnle Fund	Edith Slutzker Fund
Dr. William G. and JoeAnna Cassel Fund	The Kuntz Foundation Fund	Paul E. and Josephine H. Smiley Fund
Hampden W. and Erma R. Catterton Fund	Mary Lou McKay Charitable Fund	Wayne and Catherine Staley Fund
Coen Family Fund for the Arts	Geraldine L. Miller Family Fund	Wallace and Florence B. Stauffer Fund
The Eckstein Community Fund	Darrell L. Murphy Fund	Kenneth R. and Jean K. Stegemiller Foundation
Mary E. Gundersen Endowment Fund	For The Good of the Miami Valley	Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund
James H. Hensley Legacy Fund	Leon Norman and Mildred Miriam Nizny Memorial Fund	John E. Weiser Fund
	The Michael M. and Amy S. Parks Fund	Richard E. Wilson Memorial Fund
	Dr. and Mrs. Juan A. Paulet Fund	Woodhull Family Fund
	Jesse Philips Fund	



# Grant Creates Safe Spaces and “Everyday Joy” for Teens

In 2024, the City of Dayton experienced an alarming jump in youth-involved crimes, with juvenile homicides quadrupling and felonious assaults among youth victims increasing by 56 percent. This growing epidemic, coupled with a rising mental health crisis among this demographic, prompted religious and community leaders to intervene and come up with strategies to reduce violence and keep teens off the streets.

From this collaboration came Hope Zone RE-LITE NITE, a project that also was shaped through conversations with local youth who voiced their need for safe, judgment-free spaces. Spearheaded by Omega Community Development Corporation, with major funding from the Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood grant and the City of Dayton, the program provides a consistent space where teens can thrive, feel heard and participate in meaningful learning and enrichment opportunities in Northwest Dayton.

“Through ambassador roles, creative programming and access to mentorship, we aim to help youth build confidence, develop leadership skills and connect with resources that support their growth,” said Tracy Sibbing, managing director of Strategic Initiatives for Omega CDC.

The Dayton Foundation supported the project with a \$100,000 discretionary grant in 2025, which allowed Omega CDC to hire a safe-space site coordinator, provide participation incentives for youth ambassadors, and offer weekly engagement activities and supplies



**“We’re already seeing incredible growth, not just in leadership through our teen ambassadors but in the everyday joy of teens being able to show up as themselves.”**

— Tanae’ Waites, manager of Family Resource Coordination for Omega CDC

**Through engaging and enriching weekly activities, the RE-LITE NITE program strengthens connections between families, faith organizations and local agencies to create a stronger support network for youth in Greater Dayton.**

across multiple locations.

“The Dayton Foundation’s support has been instrumental in launching RE-LITE NITE,” Tracy said. “As Omega CDC and the broader community continue to explore ways to prioritize and expand opportunities for young people to live, learn and thrive in safe neighborhoods, the RE-LITE NITE pilot program stands out as a powerful example of what youth need – and want – to see in their communities. We are grateful for the Foundation’s commitment to being engaged and supporting our community’s young people.”

Since it began in May, the program has seen enthusiastic participation from teens across Northwest Dayton. Attendance has been strong for the weekly events held

on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which alternate locations between Bethesda Temple Apostolic Church and the Northwest Recreation Center. Attendees can choose from a wide variety of activities, including open gyms, creative labs, cooking classes, leadership development workshops and more.

“I’ve worked in the Northwest Dayton community for many years, much of that time alongside young people and their families. I haven’t been part of something as forward thinking and youth centered as RE-LITE NITE,” said Tanae’ Waites, manager of Family Resource Coordination for Omega CDC. “We’re already seeing incredible growth, not just in leadership through our teen ambassadors but in the everyday joy of teens being able to show up as themselves. That’s powerful. That’s the reason we do this work.”

This “everyday joy” has materialized for many participants, such as Ja’Niya Belcher, in the form of increased confidence, improved communication skills and a deeper sense of community.

“RE-LITE NITE has given me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and has provided me a new, safe space and an opportunity to put my faith in a teen program,” said Ja’Niya, a youth ambassador for the program. “I believe this is just the beginning, and the new generation is going to make a drastic change in our community. Our future will be bright, and RE-LITE NITE is just the first step.”

## Originals continued

and personal growth,” Josh said. “Since becoming involved with the Foundation, my whole perspective has changed. Our community’s needs are great, and, collectively, we’re finding ways to reach through the needs and fulfill people’s dreams of a better future.”

These examples are just a sample of the generous Dayton Foundation donors who created these and many other “Dayton Originals.”

Going on a picnic? Make sure to pick up some Mike-sell’s potato chips in honor of the company’s founder, whose daughter established a Designated Fund in her parents’ memory. The fund has awarded nearly \$465,000 to support vocal activities for youth since 1985.

Want to hear live music? Enjoy a concert at Frazee Pavilion, the popular venue named in honor of famed local inventor Eral Frazee. His family established a Donor-Advised Fund in his memory in 1989 that has granted more than \$230,000 to area charities.

These funds and thousands of others are the culmination of a shared desire by individuals, families and businesses to help the charitable causes locally and



**Longtime Dayton Foundation donors Josh Stucky (left) and Brent Johnson, co-founders of Square One Salon & Spa, believe that the key to success lies in helping others.**

nationally important to them and the community that has been so good to them.

“We have been blessed by the community, and we want to give back to the community,” Mark Keilholz said.

“We’re not just here to do business. We’re here to be part of the community.

That’s always been at the heart of what we do,” Stephanie Soller added.

“We are only as healthy as the community we serve,” Josh Stucky said. “Our job is to help all boats rise by giving what we can to ensure a safe, healthy place to live and do business.”





The Regional Community  
Foundation

1401 S. Main St., Suite 100  
Dayton, Ohio 45409  
**Phone** (937) 222-0410  
**Fax** (937) 222-0636  
**Web** [www.daytonfoundation.org](http://www.daytonfoundation.org)  
**Email** [info@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:info@daytonfoundation.org)

**President:** Michael M. Parks **Governing Board:**  
Janice L. Culver, *chair*, Cassie B. Barlow, *vice chair*,  
Rakesh Arora, Thomas J. Becker, George E. Forest,  
Art Harlan, Lori Kershner, Valerie Lemmie, Alice O.  
McCollum, David T. Miller, L. Tony Ortiz, Alonzo  
Patterson III, MD, Martha Shaker, Josh Stucky, James  
M. Vaughn **Financial Managers:** AEGON USA  
Investment Management, LLC; Ameriprise Financial  
Services, Inc.; Anderson Financial Strategies, LLC; Bahl  
& Gaynor Investment Counsel; Bartlett & Co.; Behnken  
Financial Services; Blake Schutter Thiel Wealth  
Advisors; Buckingham Financial Group; CAPTRUST  
Financial Advisors; ClientFirst Financial Strategies,  
Inc.; Cornerstone Financial Group; C.H. Dean and  
Associates; Douglas C. Lane & Associates; Dover  
Partners; Edward Jones; Eubel, Brady & Suttman Asset  
Management; Fifth Third Bank; GGM Financial, LLC;  
Hirtle, Callaghan & Co.; JP Morgan; James Investment  
Research, Inc.; Jessup Wealth Management; Johnson  
Investment Counsel; Journey Advisory Group;  
KeyBank, NA; LCNB National Bank; McKinley Carter  
Wealth Services; Merrill Lynch and Company; Morgan  
Stanley; 1919 Investment Counsel, LLC; Northwestern  
Mutual Fund Services; Oxford Financial Advisors Corp.;  
Parallel Advisors; PNC Bank, Ohio, NA; Raymond James  
Financial, Inc.; SS+D Financial, Inc.; Stifel Nicolaus;  
Stratos Wealth Partners; Truepoint Capital, LLC; UBS  
Financial Services, Inc.; US Bank; Wells Fargo Advisors;  
Wealthquest; White Blaze Wealth Management; Yellow  
Cardinal Advisory Group **Investment Consultant:**  
Fund Evaluation Group, LLC

♻️ Printed on recycled paper

**Go green! To start receiving  
Good News electronically, sign up at  
[daytonfoundation.org/mailling-list](http://daytonfoundation.org/mailling-list)  
or call (937) 222-0410.**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Permit No. 688

# GoodNews

## Inside

🌿 **“Dayton Originals” Have Deep Dayton  
Foundation Roots**

🌿 **From the President: “Education Is the Key to a  
Thriving and Vibrant Community”**

🌿 **Grant Creates Safe Spaces and “Everyday Joy”  
for Teens**

*We help you help others.™*

Confirmed in Compliance with National  
Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

**CFNS**  
ACCREDITED  
FOUNDATION



Find us on    

## Tips on Charitable Giving

*The Best Giving Strategies for a Fluctuating Market*



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

**S**ignificant fluctuations in the S&P 500 have many people keeping an eye on their stock portfolios, as well as their retirement accounts. But did you know there are charitable giving strategies you can employ that aren’t dependent on the stock market? Here are a few tips to consider that will help you make the most of your charitable dollars, no matter the market conditions.

🌿 If you invest in the stock market, a gift of appreciated stock is particularly impactful when the market is at its highest. However, you shouldn’t discount this giving strategy when the markets are down. Because you likely purchased the stock for less than its value today, it will have some appreciation. Oftentimes, if you want to rebalance your portfolio and trim back or eliminate this appreciated position from your portfolio, the tax implications could force you to either hold or sell the shares, thus resulting in a capital gains tax. The good news is you can avoid capital gains taxes by donating the appreciated stock to a free Charitable Checking Account<sup>SM</sup> or another charitable fund at The Dayton Foundation. For example, if you give an annual donation

of \$2,000 to your church, synagogue or temple, you should look to your stock portfolio for a position that has appreciation and donate that stock in kind to your fund or CCA. Then, you can use the \$2,000 balance in your account to make donations to your place of worship throughout the year. No donation is too small, and you can even set up a recurring donation to automatically send your monthly gifts. It saves you time and money, provides a tax deduction (if you

**If you are over age 70 ½, are charitable and have a traditional independent retirement account, your best source of current giving is your IRA.**

are able to itemize) and eliminates capital gain taxes, allowing the entire amount to go to charity.

🌿 If you are over age 70 ½, are charitable and have a traditional individual retirement account, your best source of current giving is your IRA. Remember, you do not have to wait until you are required to take a distribution from your IRA. When the laws increased the required minimum distribution age, the qualified

charitable distribution did not change. You can use your qualified charitable distribution at age 70 ½ regardless of when you must take your RMD. This is a great way to make sure your IRA money is not taxed, because a QCD helps you avoid both state and federal income taxes. If you are writing checks from your banking account to charity, you are using money that you already have paid income taxes on. A better strategy is to keep this money in your bank account for other needs and reach into your traditional IRA, which isn’t taxed and has grown tax deferred. With a QCD, 100 percent of what you donate goes to charity. Thus, more money goes to charity and you don’t have to pay taxes. If you don’t want to make a withdrawal from your IRA until you are required to take a distribution because you want to keep this money in the stock market, you always can take the money from your bank account and invest in a non-qualified stock portfolio.

For more information about how these strategies can help you maximize your charitable giving, contact me, Nakia Lipscomb or Marianne Requarth at (937) 222-0410. 🌿