Region’s go-to history organization promises entertaining twists

Foundation Partners with Others in the Development of Dayton History

Now that Montgomery County Historical Society and Carillon Historical Park have merged into a new organization called Dayton History, the Miami Valley can expect more access to Dayton’s yet-unseen artifacts and more entertaining historical programming. Most significant is Dayton History’s ambitious plan to capitalize on the region’s compelling stories — many with national appeal — and transform local history into an engaging community asset that adds to economic development.

“No single location in the U.S. offers as much historical genius, creativity and entrepreneurship than Dayton,” declared Brady Kress, Dayton History’s president and CEO. “We want to create meaningful experiences that encourage visitors to do more of what’s been done here, to follow in the footsteps of the Wright brothers, the Charles Ketterings, the Marie Aulls, the Joseph Desches. These people had humble beginnings, but with Dayton’s help, changed the world. By telling these stories, Dayton History can inspire the future.”

As managers of the $6.5 million Carillon Trust, which subsidizes Carillon Park’s operations, The Dayton Foundation has long played a special role with Carillon. The Foundation’s Governing Board also served as the park’s board of trustees. Furthermore, the Foundation has long held endowment funds that support the work of Montgomery County Historical Society. It only seemed natural, then, for The Dayton Foundation to assist with financing and governance issues related to the merger that will have such a positive impact on the region.

“Through Dayton History, citizens and other nonprofits will have expanded historical resources that are so vital to the enhancement of our identity as a community,” Mr. Kress said.

Building for the Future

Anonymous donors dedicate time, money to expand young minds

Urban children are faced with tremendous challenges, according to Mike McCormick, superintendent of the Richard Allen Schools in Dayton.

Each morning students recite a 19-verse creed, based on the teachings of the school’s namesake, to help develop strong leadership skills and to build self-confidence.

“Often the environment in which they live is traumatized by violence, or they lack nurturing experiences, such as being read to regularly. Many children are raised by very young, single mothers, some of whom don’t have good parenting skills,” Mr. McCormick said. “All of these things can cause children to lose interest in their future success, as well as work against the creation of a secure, happy and thriving community.”

To counteract these challenges, Richard Allen Schools is opening WestPark Academy, a new preschool and kindergarten program, located on Salem Avenue.

At the center of this innovative endeavor is an anonymous donor affiliated with The Dayton Foundation. A man of fortitude and passion for children and for instilling the value of a good education, the donor and his family have donated more than $1.4 million towards the school from their fund.

Furthermore, the donor’s brother, Jim (a pseudonym to protect the family’s identity) has
Building continued

invested thousands of hours managing every detail of the school building's renovation. Determined to get this project off the ground, he garnered financial support and manpower from nearly two dozen corporations and enlisted numerous volunteers from churches, a local paint company and Miami Valley School students.

More than a year later, the family's devotion has paid off. “To be successful in life you must have an education,” declared Jim, a former educator himself. “No one can tell me that the kids in Oakwood or Centerville are smarter than the kids in Dayton. They just have had more opportunities.”

Designed specifically for children ages three to five years, the school provides a more rigorous academic environment than other preschool programs, according to Jim. A full day of study includes a curriculum of math, reading and science. The goal is to produce kindergarten students functioning at a traditional first-grade level.

“The research is very clear,” Mike McCormick said. “The sooner a child is engaged in the learning process, the greater probability of achieving success. By combining a wholesome and rigorous school environment with talented and dedicated teachers, we believe we can bridge the gap in these students’ lives and prevent a life difference in their futures.”

The program sets high expectations and encourages students to embrace responsibility and to develop self-respect, as well as to respect others’ differences.

“The No Child Left Behind Act was passed to improve educational opportunities for students, but are we doing enough to prepare younger children?” Jim asked. “Not learning basics, such as the alphabet, early enough sets them up for being ‘left behind.’” This program recognizes that children are capable and willing to learn more complex concepts at a much earlier age. Jim and his family’s commitment doesn’t end with the building’s completion. Pledging $300,000 over the next three years, the anonymous donor wants to prove the program works by supplementing its operations. This also will help the school increase the number of students served from 240 this year to as many as 400 over the next two years.

“Building continued

We have an obligation to protect our children’s well-being, which includes providing a solid education,” Jim said. “I hope that more people will see the value in this program and the benefits it offers our children and our community.”
History continued

Dayton History

The merger of Carillon Historical Park and Montgomery County Historical Society into Dayton History became official on August 15.

That’s precisely the role of a community foundation, said Judge Michael Merz, a Dayton History board member and a former Historical Society trustee. “Foundation professionals said, ‘Think about the possibilities of being together,’ and then they kept this merger right on track, straight down the line,” Hon. Merz said. “It always came down to this: ‘What’s best for the community?’”

A combined organization is more attractive to donors, who trust larger organizations to use funds wisely. “Donors are insisting that not-for-profit organizations with compatible missions get together, slim down, shape up and work better by working together,” Hon. Merz said.

But Dayton History is about far more than operating

“THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENJOYING THESE HISTORICAL ASSETS WILL INCREASE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, AND THE PARTNERSHIPS WE’RE ESTABLISHING WILL HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN.”

– Rob M. Connelly, chairman of the board of trustees for Dayton History

Dayton History

a community. The new organization will help focus attention on the enormous impact innovative Daytonians have had on the nation and the world. Through Dayton History, we will come to better understand what it means to be a Daytonian,” said Mike Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation. “The Dayton Foundation is pleased to have been one of a number of individuals and organizations that played a supportive role in the discussions that ultimately led to the merger into a larger, stronger organization.”

Getting Started with The Dayton Foundation

Foundation service makes budgeting for charity easy

By Joseph B. Baldasare, MS, CFRE, vice president, Development

T o make the most of their money, many individuals plan ahead. This often includes establishing a budget for their monthly or yearly expenses, such as a mortgage, automobiles, insurance, food and health care. Budgeting for charity also makes good financial sense.

While people make gifts to the organizations and causes they care about most, they frequently may be asked by friends or acquaintances to give a donation to a charity that is important to them or to contribute to a capital campaign. The Dayton Foundation’s Charitable Checking Account Service can make budgeting for these unexpected requests, as well as an individual’s annual charitable gifts, easier, more efficient and tax-wise.

A Charitable Checking Account functions like a personal checking account for an individual’s charitable giving needs. A person may deposit cash or appreciated assets, such as stocks, mutual funds or real estate, into an account, and then direct grants to any IRS-approved charity of his or her choice. Grants can be made at any time and in any amount. The Foundation does all the work, including sending the grant checks to charity and issuing quarterly and year-end account statements to simplify the individual’s tax reporting and record keeping.

Individuals who wish to make a recurring gift on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis also can do so through the Charitable Checking Account Service. The Foundation can send the check to the individual or to the designated charity, if he or she so chooses.

By segregating charitable dollars into an account, the individual knows exactly how much he or she has available to give when approached for a donation. There is no need to go through cumbersome calculations or to worry about dipping into cash flow that might be needed for other purposes.

An account can be opened with any sized gift, and no minimum deposit or balance is required. Furthermore, grants to charities can be made in the individual’s name or anonymously, if the person prefers.

Through Donor Express, the Foundation’s free, secure, password-protected service, individuals can review their account information, including their deposit and grant history, online 24/7. They can even make grant requests at any time.

This time-saving, convenient and free service can be opened in a matter of minutes by going online to the Foundation’s web site at www.daytonfoundation.org. A link to the Charitable Checking Account application appears on the home page. A brochure on the service and additional information is available online or by calling me, Joe Baldasare, at (937) 225-9954, or at jbaldasare@daytonfoundation.org.
Establishing a strong foundation for our community’s future is a vision shared by donors who have endowed funds at The Dayton Foundation. Donors recently have started 19 new endowment funds to support our region and their special charitable causes, now and in the future.

The Antioch School Expansion Fund aids in financing future building renovations, land acquisition or structural needs for this Yellow Springs school.

Thomas J. Danis
The Thomas and Mollie Danis Foundation Fund benefits charitable, educational, religious and community activities, as advised by the fund’s founders. Thomas J. Danis is the CEO of The Danis Companies.

The Dayton Rotary Foundation Community Fund was established by The Dayton Rotary Foundation to further its charitable activities.

The Family Garden Legacy Fund was established by Unified Health Solutions, Inc., and Family Services Association to “plant seeds for tomorrow’s families.” The two organizations will share the fund’s income for their collaborative efforts to benefit Miami Valley families.

The Yellow Springs School Endowment Fund fulfills the Rupp family’s broad charitable interests. Pat L. Rupp, CFP, has been a financial advisor since 1968 and currently is the senior financial advisor for Pat Rupp & Associates. A former professional hockey player, he was traded to the Dayton Gems in 1965, played for seven seasons and participated on the 1964 and 1968 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team. He and wife Kathy decided to make Dayton their home in 1968.

Louise R. Scheuerman Endowment Fund was established through a charitable gift annuity to support the operations of The Dayton Foundation and five other charitable organizations, as designated by the donor.

The Seedling Foundation Fund dedicates its income to supporting arts programs at Stivers School for the Arts, as established by The Seedling Foundation, a not-for-profit organization founded by parents, school alumni and community leaders. Funds will be used for specialized equipment and materials, guest artists, scholarships and other educational pursuits.

Jerry E. and Joan L. Trimbach
The Jerry Trimbach Scholarship Fund will assist students in furthering their education at Sinclair Community College. Jerry E. Trimbach, a founding owner of 2J Supply Co., created his education from Sinclair for his success later in life. His wife, Joan L. Trimbach, established this fund in his memory.

UTS Legacy for Tomorrow Fund was established by the United Theological Seminary to generate unrestricted operating revenue.

The Glen and Margery Webb Family Fund enhances the Webb family’s philanthropic wishes by awarding grants to charities, as advised by Margery H. Webb and her three children, Glen Carlton Webb, Elizabeth Webb Winget and Kathryn Webb Jordan.

The Yellow Springs Endowment for Education Fund furthers the Yellow Springs Endowment for Education’s mission to help finance educational projects for the local school system that would be difficult to fund with public money.
AIA Dayton Architectural Scholarship Fund

Architect Encourages Students to Change People’s Lives

College-bound students wondering if they can make a difference in the world by choosing a career in architecture should look no further than E. Lynn App, president of E. Lynn App Architects in Englewood and a Dayton Foundation donor. Mr. App, who has an unquenchable passion for architecture, has made a difference by starting a scholarship fund to encourage young people in the Miami Valley to study architecture, as well as by designing health care facilities at the firm he leads and as a volunteer architect in Third World countries.

“Isn’t it important to do something to promote growth and continuity in this profession, and to provide opportunities for students to study architecture,” Mr. App said.

Lynn App and his wife, Ruth, made the initial contribution establishing the scholarship fund through The Dayton Foundation in 1992. The fund assists local high school graduates who want to pursue an architectural degree at an accredited school in Ohio. “We discussed where our tithe should go besides our church,” Mrs. App said. “A good way was helping local students get to college.”

The Apps’ contributions inspired other architects involved in the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to donate to the fund, which was renamed the AIA Dayton Architectural Scholarship Fund in 2002. Now administered by AIA Dayton, the fund has awarded $5,000 in scholarships. Mr. App remains the funds champion, soliciting donations and serving as chair of the selection committee.

“One of the initial goals of the fund was to encourage minorities and students in urban areas, who are under-represented in our profession, to get involved in architecture,” he said. “We want to encourage these students to apply for scholarships, since equality of opportunity is important.”

Mr. App said his volunteer work as a health care architect with Engineering Ministries International, a not-for-profit Christian organization that helps individuals in need, can teach aspiring architects how a building’s design profoundly can change people’s lives. Over the past five years, Mr. App has completed project drawings on site for an infant orphanage in Haiti, a women’s developmental center in Cambodia, and hospitals in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and India. “The orphanage is saving lives, since many infants suffer from disease or malnutrition and must be nurtured back to health,” Mr. App explained. “At the women’s center, former prostitutes are overjoyed to be learning how to read, write and sew, giving them a new chance at life.”

“This kind of work makes you feel like you’ve done something important for societies that have much less than we have,” Mr. App said, “and it shows students how architecture really can make a difference in how people live and enjoy life.”

In addition to the scholarship fund, the Apps have established a deferred fund through The Dayton Foundation that will one day be funded with retirement-plan assets. “We want to provide for our retirement and for our children, but we also want to contribute to the community in other ways,” Mr. App said. “This is a good, safe, convenient vehicle for allowing us to fund future gifts to charity.”

Recent Discretionary Grants help build a better community

The Dayton Foundation Governing Board recently approved discretionary grants totaling $142,500 to 8 charitable organizations within the Miami Valley. These grants, made possible by donors who have placed no restrictions on their endowed funds, help the Foundation to address unmet needs in our community. Discretionary grants represent a small portion of the more than $15,000 grants ($30+ million) awarded to charities annually from Foundation funds, as directed or advised by donors.

Affecting Community Transformation (ACT)

To assist ACT in helping the residents of Parkside, a low-income, government housing community in Dayton, the Foundation awarded a $7,500 grant. ACT will offer residents classes and seminars to help them make sound financial decisions, manage money effectively and attain gainful employment.

Dayton Theatre Guild

The Dayton Foundation awarded a $25,000 grant to assist the Guild in their capital campaign to build a new theatre located in downtown Dayton. The building, which will include a 110-seat performance theatre, will be made available to other arts groups throughout the region.

Dayton Visual Arts Center

A $25,000 grant will aid the Center in renovating and moving into a larger facility in downtown Dayton that will enable them to offer more exhibits and programs to a larger, more diverse audience.

Dayton 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Children

The Center provides remedial services for children suffering with dyslexia, a neurological disorder that makes it extremely difficult for school-aged children to read, write and spell. To help the Learning Center provide tutoring services at no cost, the Foundation awarded a $15,000 grant.

The Human Race Theatre Company

The Dayton Foundation awarded a $10,000 grant to help The Human Race Theatre Company promote expanded classes offered this fall at the new Caryl D. Phillips Creativity Center of The Human Race located in downtown Dayton.

Oak Tree Corner, Inc.

A $5,000 Dayton Foundation grant will assist Oak Tree Corner in hiring mental health professionals, who will provide intake and orientation services for grieving children and their families.

Sinclair Community College Foundation

To update and expand a series of career-oriented videos for middle-school students, their parents and educators, the Foundation awarded a $5,000 grant. The videos will be distributed at no cost to school districts in Montgomery County.

St. Vincent Hotel, Inc.

The Foundation awarded a $50,000 grant over two years to help fund St. Vincent Hotel’s capital campaign to refurbish a former warehouse and relocate the Hotel. Now completed, the Hotel is able to provide better shelter, case management and other services to the community’s increasing numbers of homeless individuals.
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 the Greater Miami Valley community.

Words Are Music to Parents’ Ears, Thanks to Foundation Grant

One of the most exciting moments of being a parent is hearing your child’s first words. For some parents, however, that excitement can turn into anxiety as the child grows older and the words are few and far between.

Thanks to Project CHATTER (Children Having Access to Therapy Enhancing Readiness), a program of the Montgomery County Educational Service Center/Help Me Grow, parents with limited income and inadequate insurance coverage are getting help for their children diagnosed with developmental speech delays.

With the support of an $8,000 grant by The Dayton Foundation in 2003, 36 families have received scholarships from Project CHATTER to help pay for speech and language therapy for their young children.

Nathan has increased his vocabulary from less than five words to almost 40, and his behavioral problems caused by not being able to express himself have disappeared,” said a mother who received a scholarship after being denied insurance coverage for her two-year-old son’s speech therapy.

“Nathan’s pride shows in his smile. Project CHATTER is an extremely worthwhile scholarship and, hopefully, it will be available for families and children in need for years to come.”

The More Students Know, the More They Understand

For many children, middle school can be the most difficult. Many biases and prejudices come to light during these years, creating feelings of embarrassment, humiliation and anger for those targeted by cruel teasing and misunderstanding.

Thanks to a $5,000 grant from The Dayton Foundation in 2004, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) initiated Changing in the Middle, a pilot program at Kiser Middle School. A series of day-long sessions introduced students to the issues of diversity, discrimination and prejudices, as well as highlighted ways to promote an inclusive environment in their school.

“Nearly 200 students voluntarily joined the program to learn about respecting others and how to develop their own self-respect, as well as ways of resolving conflicts without violence,” said Patricia Meadows, executive director of NCCJ.

“Many of them are serving as ambassadors to help other students to understand and celebrate each others’ differences.”

“I learned a lot about life, myself, and other people and their feelings,” said one of the students. “It was helpful talking about conflict and how to solve problems without fighting. I love this program and would do it again.”

Changing in the Middle program at Kiser Middle School

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