Nearly $500,000 Del Mar Social Innovation Award Bridges the Gap in Senior Programming

Greater Dayton’s older adult population soon will benefit from new wellness and enrichment programs, thanks to the Del Mar Social Innovation Award for Older Adult Programming presented by the DMH-Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Five local not-for-profit organizations will receive a total of $486,472 to fund new and innovative programs that will help address health, social isolation and other issues faced by adults age 55 and older.

"INCREASING THE AWARD AMOUNT WAS AN INVESTMENT DEL MAR HEALTHCARE BELIEVED WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE IN DAYTON."

– Donald Ambrose, president, Del Mar Healthcare

“Our nation’s older population is expanding rapidly, and so are their needs,” said Donald Ambrose, president of Del Mar Healthcare, which established the DMH-Fund in 2010, and an advisor to the fund. “Within this generation are some very creative and resourceful people. It’s not only critical to plan for their increased needs, but also to involve them in the community and tap into their resources.”

According to Pew Research Center, approximately 10,000 Baby Boomers turn age 65 every day in the United States. In the Dayton Region, more than 200,000 adults age 55 and older currently account for 28 percent of the area’s population. And this number is expected to rise significantly over the next 40 years.

Participants at the news conference announcing the award recipients (from left) Jenny Warner, Widows Home of Dayton; Amy Luttrell, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley; Tim Kambitsch, Dayton Metro Library; Don Ambrose, Del Mar Healthcare; Mike Parks, The Dayton Foundation; Laurel Kerr, Alzheimer’s Association. (not pictured, Tim Helm, YMCA of Greater Dayton)

Barry R. and Joy A. James Fund Transforming Lives at Home and Abroad

Whether it’s helping runaway girls in Costa Rica, feeding hungry children living on the streets in the Philippines or giving the gift of a high school education to students in Honduras, longtime Dayton Foundation donors Joyanna and Barry James trek thousands of miles each year, providing support and friendship while sharing the love of Jesus with people around the world.

“My first mission trip to Costa Rica in 2001 with my daughter was life changing,” said Barry James, president and CEO of James Investment Research, Inc. “It’s hard to articulate the spiritual impact this experience had on me. I knew I wanted more.”

For Joyanna James, a third-generation missionary, this work is part of her DNA. She was born and raised in Hong Kong. Both her father and grandfather had served in China as doctors treating people suffering from tuberculosis and other infectious illnesses.

“The villages were very crowded, which made such illnesses extremely common,” she said. “Growing up in Hong Kong, attending boarding school in Great Britain where my father was raised, and traveling with my parents on their mission trips prepared me well for my future.”

Today, the Jameses travel as often as five times each year on missions through the Dayton Vineyard Church, where they worship. Heart to Honduras, a not-for-profit organization that helps meet the spiritual and

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Joyanna James prays for a baby in Chibuto in the Gaza Province, Mozambique. Located on the southeast coast of Africa, Mozambique is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world.

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Michael M. Parks, president, The Dayton Foundation. “The Dayton Foundation is so pleased to have helped facilitate its first-ever social innovation award. Thanks to Del Mar Healthcare, we’re adding nearly a half-million dollars into our region for new programming.”

Local nonprofits were invited last fall to apply for the award, which originally had a $100,000 maximum. According to Don Ambrose, all of the recipients were worthy of the award based on the quality of their programs and the opportunities they will provide to the community.

“Increasing the award amount was an investment Del Mar Healthcare believed was important to make in Dayton,” he added.

Del Mar Healthcare owns and operates facilities in several communities across the country, including Dayton, that provide housing and healthcare services for senior citizens. Through its charitable fund, Del Mar invests in programs that help seniors in the communities they serve. To date, the DMH-Fund has awarded more than $1.3 million in support of elder care and programming in Greater Dayton.

According to Tim Helm, president and CEO of YMCA of Greater Dayton, the timing of this award is critical since active older adults have been the YMCA’s fastest growing demographic over the past five years.

“It’s important to be able to help people live fuller lives through being healthy in spirit, mind and body.”

“This dynamic and collaborative programs will greatly contribute to the overall physical and emotional well-being of our region’s senior population,” said Michael M. Parks, president, The Dayton Foundation. “The Dayton Foundation is so pleased to have helped facilitate its first-ever social innovation award. Thanks to Del Mar Healthcare, we’re adding nearly a half-million dollars into our region for new programming.”

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“It’s important to be able to help people live fuller lives through being healthy in spirit, mind and body.”

“They bring to the Foundation a wealth of knowledge and experience.”

Kevin McDonald joined The Dayton Foundation recently named Kevin L. McDonald as senior development officer. He comes to the Foundation with more than 30 years of experience in the banking and financial industry, having recently retired as a senior vice president and trust officer for Keybank.

Among his many local nonprofit affiliations, Kevin McDonald serves on the Boards for Dayton Children’s Hospital Foundation, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and Partnership for Philanthropic Planning. He also is an emeritus director for Kettering Medical Center Foundation and was a longtime member of The Dayton Foundation’s Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Indiana University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Cincinnati, he brings to the Foundation a wealth of knowledge and in-depth charitable giving expertise.

New Ways to Stay in Touch with The Dayton Foundation

The Dayton Foundation recently launched its monthly e-newsletter, Good News Snapshot. It features the latest Foundation news, events, donor stories, significant fund anniversaries and other timely information to keep readers informed. Join the email list by contacting Gina Sandoval at gsandoval@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9974.

Also, The Dayton Foundation now is on LinkedIn. Connect directly with our staff members, get charitable giving advice and learn about programs and initiatives in our community that are working to build a greater Dayton. Simply go to The Dayton Foundation’s LinkedIn page and click the “follow” button to receive regular updates.

Foundation Wins Awards for Outstanding Public Relations Activities

The Dayton Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recently recognized The Dayton Foundation for excellence in public relations activities. The Foundation earned a Prism, PRSA's top award, for Futures, the Foundation's publication for financial and estate planning advisors, as well as two PRism Awards of Merit for the 2012-2013 Annual Report to the Community, “We believe... in possibilities,” and the Foundation’s 2013 Meeting Celebration, “Together we are Greater... Dayton.”
Five years ago, The Dayton Foundation adopted a new positioning message to better explain what we do and make it easier to spread the word about the Foundation. This message — We help you help others — represents the core of what we do for donors, non-profit organizations, financial and estate advisors, and community leadership. We have incorporated it into everything we do, including adding it on the Foundation’s logo.

Sharing stories of how we help people like you to help others has been at the forefront of our communications, including in our Good News newsletter and now in our recently introduced e-newsletter, Good News Snapshots. We’re so proud to share the stories of our donors, whose generosity and civic leadership provide inspiration. Our cover article in this issue is just such an example.

The Del Mar Social Innovation Award for Older Adult Programming, presented by the DMH-Fund of The Dayton Foundation, is the Foundation’s first social innovation award. It represents the coming together of a donor with a vision and financial resources, and five local nonprofits with the drive to expand programming and opportunities for the benefit of our region’s aging population.

We are so encouraged by the prospects that these new programs will mean for our community, as well as the willingness of these organizations to collaborate with other nonprofits to offer these programs. Many of these collaborations represent new relationships for these organizations, opening the doors to future efforts and stronger systems of working together to reach their goals.

The Dayton Foundation was honored to help provide a structure for the Del Mar Award, which will greatly improve the health and well-being of Dayton’s older adults and their caregivers. We couldn’t be more grateful for Don Ambrose, executive director of Del Mar Healthcare and an advisor to the DMH-Fund, and the Del Mar Healthcare Board of Directors for their generosity and for encouraging others to look deeper into how to better serve our region’s older adult population.

Partners in Giving Program

Another recent effort to help both our donors and local nonprofits has been the development of the Partners in Giving Program. Launched in 2012, this program invites our donor-advised fund holders to join with the Foundation in supporting local nonprofits seeking funding through our discretionary grantmaking process.

How this works is simple. Twice each year, local nonprofits have the opportunity to apply for a grant from our discretionary pool of funds made possible by donors who have entrusted The Dayton Foundation to award grants from unrestricted or highly restricted funds.

Because funding is limited, the process is highly competitive. Many worthy proposals often go unfunded or are funded at a much smaller amount than requested. To help fill the gap, the Partners may review the eligible grant requests, vetted by the Foundation’s volunteer Grants Committee, and choose to provide additional support through their individual funds if they so wish.

We sincerely thank these Partners, who have contributed to date more than $333,300 in grants. By leveraging their dollars with the Foundation’s discretionary grant dollars, we are making an even greater impact to help our region’s charitable organizations and our community.

The Partners have told us that they appreciate the opportunity to contribute to such worthwhile causes, many of which they wouldn’t have known about if not for The Dayton Foundation.

If you are interested in joining this special group of Foundation friends and want to learn more, I encourage you to contact Diane Timmons, vice president of Grants and Programs, at (937) 225-9066 or at dtimmons@daytonfoundation.org.

We so appreciate all of our donors’ continued support of The Dayton Foundation, Greater Dayton’s committed and diverse nonprofit organizations and the community that means so much to us all. It’s a privilege to help you help others.

Michael M. Parks
President
James continued

physical needs of people in Central America, and Globe International as part of the Educate Honduras initiative. They also provide charitable support through their named advised fund at The Dayton Foundation to help these and other organizations around the country.

“We’ve been very blessed in our lives, and we enjoy sharing these blessings with others. Our fund also allows us to perpetuate our giving through our children,” Barry James said. “The Dayton Foundation provides a fantastic service and enables us to have an impact in our community and around the globe.” As short-term missionaries, the Jameses have joined various teams to provide medical clinics, construct a church and homes for widows, and teach Bible studies, among other services. As Barry James explained, many of the homes in the remote village of El Quebracho, Honduras, are shacks created from sheets of metal, which the construction teams rebuild to provide safer shelters.

“It’s a holistic approach to supporting this community through mind, body and spirit,” he said. “We’re not telling them how to do things differently. We’re trying to help them grow on their own, using the resources available to them. Coming together as brothers and sisters has such an impact on their lives and ours.”

According to Elizabeth Wourms, ministry team coordinator for Heart to Honduras, the point of mission work is not to create or foster dependency, but to empower people to use their own resources and skills.

“The Dayton Foundation... enables us to have an impact in our community and around the globe.”

– Barry James, donor

“We’re helping impoverished communities become thriving communities with clean water, adequate housing, quality education, sustainable agriculture and vibrant churches,” said Dr. Wourms, who also cofounded Educate Honduras with the Dayton Vineyard Church and serves on its leadership team with Barry James.

Educate Honduras, now a project of Globe International, matches sponsors with students in El Quebracho to pay for their high school education, including textbooks, school supplies and uniforms. With the nearest high school located 12 miles away in the city of Comayagua, transportation is one of the biggest obstacles for students to attend school. Available funds, therefore, were used to purchase a bus and hire a bus driver. The first group of 69 students started high school in January 2013, thanks to the program and its sponsors. Plus, a university near the city will provide scholarships to qualifying students who graduate from the program.

“Tragically, most rural families cannot afford to educate their children past the sixth grade. As it is in the United States, without at least a high school education, these young people and their families are doomed to suffer generational poverty.” Dr. Wourms said.

“We’re so grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, including Barry and Joyanna, who put their hearts and skills into their missionary work. It truly represents the message of Christ.”

“The people in these villages and in the other countries we’ve served have very little and adapt to what is available, however it’s a daily struggle,” Joyanna James said. “It’s so rewarding to see how we can transform lives here and in Latin America. Mission work is what I love — it’s my passion. I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

“MISSION WORK IS WHAT I LOVE – IT’S MY PASSION.”

– Joyanna James, donor

Barry and Joyanna James (left) visit a church in Mozambique with fellow missionaries in 2013. Plans include developing a self-supporting orphanage, technical school, bible school and farm, with electricity produced from biogas.

Tips on Charitable Giving

Using The Dayton Foundation as a charitable giving resource

By Kevin L. McDonald, Senior Development Officer

In my more than 30 years as a trust officer and financial advisor, I frequently used The Dayton Foundation as a resource when helping my clients to determine their charitable giving plans. From verifying a charity’s IRS status, to helping donors support the community broadly, The Dayton Foundation offers a wide variety of unparalleled services.

Here are just a few ways you can use The Dayton Foundation as a resource for your charitable giving.

» Current or Deferred Gift Planning. Our Development staff are happy to meet with you, or with your financial or estate advisor, to discuss your charitable wishes and to review our many charitable giving options. Whether you are looking to include a gift for your favorite organization in your estate plan or want to establish a fund to support your current giving, we can help you formulate a charitable giving plan that is right for you.

» Gift transfers. You may be aware of the ability to gift cash and appreciated stock, but did you also know The Dayton Foundation can facilitate other gifts, such as real estate and life insurance? Our knowledgeable staff can guide you through even the most complex forms of giving to help you receive the maximum charitable benefit.

» Partners in Giving Program. Partners in Giving is a new outreach program that gives donors the opportunity to join with The Dayton Foundation to support local projects and initiatives. Twice a year, donors participating in this program receive information about area nonprofits selected to receive discretionary grants through the Foundation’s Community Responsive Grantmaking Process. The Partners may choose to contribute to these efforts through their funds, helping to leverage additional resources to make a greater community impact. For more information, contact Diane Timmons at (937) 225-9066 or email her at dtimmons@daytonfoundation.org.

» Give locally and beyond. Whether you would like to support nonprofits in Greater Dayton, nationwide or even internationally — The Dayton Foundation does the work for you, including verifying an organization’s IRS charitable status, giving you peace of mind that your charitable dollars are being put to good use.

» Give unconditionally. Not sure how you’d like to designate your charitable dollars? If you’d like to support the community broadly, you can join the Foundation in making a greater impact, now and in the future, by establishing a Community Impact Endowment Fund. These unrestricted or lightly restricted funds allow the Foundation to respond to pressing community needs and help find proactive long-term solutions — making a real change in Greater Dayton.

To learn more about how The Dayton Foundation can help you help others, contact me, Kevin McDonald, senior development officer, Whitney Briggs, development officer or Joseph Balsalare, vice president of Development, at (937) 222-0410.
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 our region and their special charitable causes, now and in the future.

Donors and organizations establish funds to help others

Boario Charitable Foundation furthers the charitable interests of Gussie Boario and honors the memory of her late husband, William Boario, by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations. The Boarios, both retired Wright-Patterson Air Force Base employees, were married for 40 years.

The Bach Society of Dayton

The Bach Society of Dayton Endowment Fund awards grants to the Society, a choral ensemble of 60-singers dedicated to bringing the art of choral singing, both sacred and secular, to the community and to nurturing the next generation of singers. Contributors to the fund become members of the John Neely Encore Society that honors the group’s musical director since its inception in 2002.

Calvary Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery Funds help to uphold a longstanding tradition of preserving the beauty and grounds of this 200-acre Catholic cemetery established in 1872. Grants from these funds also help the cemetery acquire and maintain religious monuments, statues and works of art.

Fred Conway, Jr., and Anita R. Conway Endowment Fund* advances charitable causes important to Anita Conway, a retired Dayton Public Schools teacher and her husband, Fred Conway, a retired United States Air Force civilian employee.

Gussie Boario (front)

Boario Charitable Foundation

Lucille and Charles Gebhardt

Charles and Lucille Gebhardt Fund memorializes this longtime couple by awarding grants to six designated charities, including Hospice of Dayton and the Salvation Army. Charles Gebhardt was a World War II veteran and former vice president for Mead Corporation, and Lucille Gebhardt was a secretary and homemaker.

Patricia and Richard Glennon, Jr., Charitable Fund awards grants to nonprofit organizations, as selected by the donors. As lifelong area residents, the Glenmons care about their community and established the fund to support Greater Dayton.

The Ireland Mission Fund

The United Methodist Church of Dayton

The Ireland Mission Fund awards grants to Southminster Presbyterian Church for ministry programs to reduce poverty, improve education, expand Christian outreach, end inequality and promote diversity. Dayton Foundation Governing Board Chair Ellen Ireland and her husband, D. Jeffrey Ireland, Esq., established the fund.

Kacie Hausfeld Living the Legacy Fund serves to remember Kacie Hausfeld by awarding grants to Bishop Leibold School in her name. Grants may support field trips, guest lecturers and professional development for staff, among other activities.

Robert and Beverly Jurick Charitable Fund awards grants to support Mary Help of Christians Church in Fairborn where the Juricks are active members.

Robin Melnick Senior Scholarship Fund honors the memory of Robin Melnick, a passionate, energetic and spirited teacher, by awarding scholarships to select Greater Dayton students. Eligible students must, among other things, demonstrate financial need and produce evidence of unconventional excellence.

MLPC Advised Funds support the charitable interests of Mound Laser & Photonics Center, Inc., (MLPC) by awarding grants to Dayton-area nonprofit organizations. MLPC, which specializes in laser processing services, promotes community involvement to help grow the Dayton Region.

Muse Machine Fund in Memory of Lester Eidemiller provides annual income to this nonprofit organization. The fund was established through a bequest by Lester Eidemiller, a longtime supporter of the arts.

Muse Machine Unrestricted Board Designated Fund provides unrestricted annual operating income to help area youth learn about and participate in the performing arts.

NAAJA JL Tillman Endowed Scholarship Fund* awards scholarships to help African-American students further their education in insurance, risk management, business, IT, actuarial science, finance or marketing and communications. The fund was established by the National African-American Insurance Association (NAAJA) in honor of its founder, Gerald L. Tillman, a longtime Dayton and Cincinnati insurance professional.

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Bishop George and Carolyn Bashore Scholarship Fund financially assists students attending UTS, with preference given to students who wish to pursue a career in pastoral ministry.

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Bob Coleman Scholarship Fund awards grants to UTS to provide scholarship assistance to students who are members of The Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) and are preparing for the ministry in UMC, preferably in the Indiana conference parish ministry.

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Chaplain Bernard H. Liieving, Jr., Scholarship Fund helps UTS students who are members of The United Methodist Church (UMC), are preparing for the ordained ministry and intend to serve as full members and elders of UMC.

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Reverend Dr. Sir Walter Mack Scholarship Fund awards funds to UTS to assist students enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry Program.

* African-American Community Fund

Boario Charitable Foundation

The Ireland Mission Fund

The United Methodist Church of Dayton

The Ireland Mission Fund

Muse Machine Fund in Memory of Lester Eidemiller

Muse Machine Unrestricted Board Designated Fund

NAAJA JL Tillman Endowed Scholarship Fund*

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Bishop George and Carolyn Bashore Scholarship Fund

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Bob Coleman Scholarship Fund

United Theological Seminary (UTS) - Chaplain Bernard H. Liieving, Jr., Scholarship Fund
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) established its roots in Dayton in 1968. And much like the community in which it originated, DCDC has set out in recent years on a mission of revitalization. To honor the Company’s 45th anniversary season, rejuvenate its repertoire and challenge one of its most outstanding ensembles of dancers to date, the nationally acclaimed dance company introduced in 2013 Revisioning 45, an initiative to commission established and emerging choreographers to create 10 new works for DCDC’s world-renowned repertoire.

“...DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY IS OUR COMMUNITY’S AMBASSADOR... THEY PUT DAYTON ON THE MAP.”
— Burt Saidel, donor

The Dayton Foundation recently awarded DCDC a $40,000 discretionary grant to help with production costs for three of these new masterworks, which came to fruition as part of Revisioning 45. New Works Unveiled.

“Our goal for the 45th anniversary was to create new choreography, initiate new dance art and provide a complete production experience for our seasoned audiences while also engaging new audiences,” said Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, executive director of DCDC. “Thanks to The Dayton Foundation grant, we were able to attain costumes, staging, lighting and final production design to showcase the masterworks just as the choreographers envisioned them.”

Under the direction of Debbie Blunden-Diggs, DCDC’s artistic director, Revisioning 45: New Works Unveiled premiered last February to near sold-out audiences at Victoria Theatre and included those new masterworks supported by The Dayton Foundation grant. “The Geography of the Cotton Fields,” choreographed by Tony Award-nominated Donald Byrd, explores the historical implications of cotton fields through evocative and ominous dance. “Tossed Around,” pays homage to “Vespers,” a DCDC classic produced in 1986 that used chairs to express emotion through dance. Emerging choreographer and Broadway dancer Ray Mercer said he created the piece “to express how we as individuals go through life, being tossed around... and how these disruptions affect our psyche.” “Exit 7” was produced by international choreographer Ronen Koresh, who is known for his unique dance infusion of ballet, modern and jazz. The dance strives to go beyond technique to use open movement in expressing humanity’s beauty.

The new masterworks will be added to the company’s permanent repertoire and help DCDC achieve two of its most important goals – to continually recruit, produce and retain talent for the company’s artistic vision and build new audiences through the development of new dance works and the restaging of classics. The dance pieces also promote the culturally diverse company’s mission, which is to present the African-American experience to a broad audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education.

Since the works’ premiere, DCDC has seen engagement increase with both new and loyal audiences. Soulstice, a fundraiser held in May, also was a huge success – a feat that Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders credits to the popularity of Revisioning 45.

“Arts and culture are such an important part of the community,” she said. “It represents the heart and soul of a place and reflects a historical perspective in which individuals can see themselves. Dance, especially, can do this.”

Burt Saidel, a supporter and fan of DCDC since its inception and a longtime Dayton Foundation donor, knows well the effect that a dance troupe like DCDC can have on a community. He was introduced to DCDC founder Jeraldyn Blunden by his good friend and Dayton Ballet founder Josephine Schwarz, and he has watched the company grow from a fledgling dance troupe into a world-renowned dance company. He attributes DCDC’s success to its enduring commitment to seek out the best choreographers and dancers.

“DCDC embodies dance in the extreme. When they dance, they approach the limit of energy, movement and creativity.” Burt Saidel said. “Dayton has been so fortunate to have a modern dance company of this caliber as part of our community for more than four decades. “But just as important, DCDC is our community’s ambassador,” he continued. “They tour all over the country and the world and can attract the best talent because of their reputation. They put Dayton on the map.”

WANT TO LEARN MORE?: WATCH THE DAYTON FOUNDATION’S VIDEO ABOUT THE REVISIONING 45 INITIATIVE AT DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/VIDEOS.HTM.

Recent Discretionary Grants help build a better community

In the second half of 2014, The Dayton Foundation awarded more than $21 million in grants from donor funds to a wide variety of charitable organizations in Greater Dayton and beyond. A portion of this amount was made through the Foundation’s discretionary grants program, made possible by donors who have provided unrestricted or lightly restricted funds to The Dayton Foundation. These funds enable the Foundation to act on opportunities for the community and address pressing needs throughout the region.

In June, the Foundation awarded $528,125 in discretionary grants that were approved by the Foundation’s Governing Board to assist the following charitable organizations in helping Greater Dayton. This amount included a grant that will be announced at a later date.

**4-H Camp Clifton** ($15,000) to assist in renovating the dining hall that serves more than 3,000 youth from seven counties each year.

**AIDS Resource Center Ohio** ($75,000) to help equip and promote the new ARC Ohio Dayton Medical Center and Pharmacy that provides coordinated healthcare to patients.

**Dayton Crayons to Classrooms** ($50,000) to assist in relocating its operations into a larger facility, with increased warehouse and retail space, to better serve more teachers with students in need.

**Engineers Club of Dayton Foundation** ($25,000) to support renovations to the Club’s historic building located in downtown Dayton.

**The First Tee of the Greater Miami Valley** ($10,000) to promote healthy choices for at-risk Montgomery County youth by teaching them the game of golf, including etiquette, interpersonal communications and self-management skills.
Ensuring a Dayton Tradition Lasts

When Elder-Beerman Stores Corp. founder Arthur Beerman suffered a heart attack in 1969, hundreds of cards, visitors and well-wishes flooded the hospital. He was so grateful for the outpouring of support that he and his wife organized a free community Thanksgiving Day dinner while he was in the hospital. Though he was too ill to attend the inaugural event and died before Thanksgiving 1970, his family, through the Beerman Foundation, decided to continue the tradition, perpetuating his desire to give back to the community that had been so good to him.

Nearly 40 years later, the Beerman Foundation made the difficult decision to end its community dinner, which had grown to become one of the largest of its kind in the nation, in order to focus on other charity work. The announcement came only six weeks before Thanksgiving, Thanks to a group of area organizers, including Stephen Levitt, M.D., Thomas Olsen, M.D., Ben Weprin, and executives at ABC22/FOX45, the Feast of Giving dinner was created in the spirit of Mr. Beerman’s original intent to ensure that no area citizen suffers Thanksgiving alone.

Organizers also established the Feast of Giving Fund, an endowed fund through The Dayton Foundation, to accept the generous donations from individuals in the region who wanted to continue the Beermans’ beloved tradition. To date, more than $616,000 has been raised to keep the event alive for years to come. “This is a community activity to bring people together. Everyone is welcome,” said Stephen Levitt, a Beerman family friend. “Our Dayton Foundation fund helps ensure that the money will be there after we are gone to continue this longtime Dayton holiday tradition. And, the Foundation staff is very helpful, making it easy to send donations and invest and grow our fund. They are a vital part of the financial process.”

From people cooking and serving food, to entertainment groups donating their services, more than 500 individuals volunteer each year to host the event. Cooper Farms supplies the turkeys, and Walmart Foundation donates the pies. The University of Dayton basketball team has been on hand in years past to serve dinners, and this year, the Carroll High School football team will cut the donated pies into serving sizes. Corporate sponsors, such as Dermatologists of Southwest Ohio, STRATA-CACHE and Lastar, Inc., also support the event both financially and logistically. In addition, RTA provides free rides to and from the Dayton Convention Center and from all area homeless shelters, and local law enforcement provides Ident-a-Kid services in the kids’ entertainment area.

Michael Shane, immediate past chairman and CEO of Lastar, Inc., and acting chairman of Feast of Giving, acknowledges the collaborative efforts of individuals and community partners who make the event a success. “It’s a community affair,” he said. “We could not do this without the help of so many volunteers and donations from local sponsors and organizations.”

“OUR DAYTON FOUNDATION FUND HELPS ENSURE THAT THE MONEY WILL BE THERE AFTER WE ARE GONE TO CONTINUE THIS LONG-TIME DAYTON HOLIDAY TRADITION.” – Stephen Levitt, M.D., member, Feast of Giving steering committee

Approximately 31,000 meals have been served since organizers took over the event in 2009, with last year’s Feast of Giving attracting 7,000 guests. Although turnout has fluctuated over the years because of the economy, weather and other factors, this doesn’t deter organizers.

“Our goal is to make sure that everyone has food and companionship on Thanksgiving,” Dr. Levitt said. “It doesn’t matter whether guests come to our event or are spending the holiday with family and friends. As long as they have somewhere to go and people to be with, then we’ve achieved our goal.”

More than 500 individuals volunteer at the Feast of Giving, helping to serve thousands of meals each Thanksgiving. The event is one of the largest of its kind in the nation.

The Human Race Theatre Company
The Mary and Richard Pryor Fund
Hampden W. and Emra R. Catterton Fund
Francis Crosthwaite Fund
Catterton Fund
Monarch/Geneius Fund
Robert Patterson Memorial Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Juan A. Paulet Fund
The Robert and Jean Penny Endowment Fund
Jesse Philips Fund
The Mary and Richard Pryor Fund
Frederick C. Smith Fund
Donald M. and Dorothy Hunt Spender Endowment Fund
Lenore B. Talbot Thomas Memorial Fund
Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund
Woodhull Family Fund

These discretionary grants were made possible thanks to the following unrestricted or field-of-interest funds of The Dayton Foundation:
- Homefull ($25,000) to aid in upgrading technology and software systems to provide more efficient and effective client care.
- The Human Race Theatre Company ($12,500) to help expand educational programming and performance opportunities by updating the Caryl D. Philips Creativity Center.
- Good Neighbor House ($12,500) to better serve an increasing number of patients with chronic health issues and their families by expanding the Special Dietary Needs Program.

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio ($28,125) to support a high-quality, hands-on program for girls to explore real-life careers in engineering and other STEM-related fields.

Good Neighbor House

The Woodhull Family Fund

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More than 500 individuals volunteer at the Feast of Giving, helping to serve thousands of meals each Thanksgiving. The event is one of the largest of its kind in the nation.
**Livin’ the Dream Fund**

Longtime friends turn blessings into brotherhood of giving

While many people are aware that the Boy Scouts of America’s motto is “Be Prepared,” perhaps not as well-known is the organization’s slogan, which is “Do a Good Turn Daily.”

For the creators of the Livin’ the Dream Fund of The Dayton Foundation, this slogan is the sentiment on which their fund was born. This group of friends, who were brought together more than 20 years ago through their and their son’s involvement with the Boy Scouts, decided that they wanted to “Do a Good Turn” by paying forward their blessings.

Jeff Borland, a member of the group and president of The Borland Group, a wealth management company, suggested that they establish a Charitable Checking Account (CCA) through The Dayton Foundation, which they did in 2008.

“It was brought up by Dr. John Duby at one of our golf trips that we all had been blessed in life, and with our family obligations winding down, wouldn’t it be nice to give to others,” said Mike “Ace” Eckley, one of the Livin’ the Dream Fund founders, and vice president of Shook Construction. “His point was that we were all generous with charitable donations individually, but if we combined our donations, we really could make a difference.”

The group held its first golf outing in 1996 at Calloway Gardens in Georgia. Every year since, they have gathered for a weekend of golf concluding with an annual dinner that all members have a hand in preparing. Since establishing the CCA, two or three individual names are drawn at the dinner, with the winners each choosing a charity to receive a $2,500 donation. Since 2010, $27,500 has been awarded from the fund.

“Our annual meeting is a time to educate ourselves on the lives, interests and passions of our fellow members. That information, from these different perspectives, helps us focus our giving,” said Ray “Woozy” Oakes, another founding member of the group. “Our Charitable Checking Account makes it easy to access our resources so that they can be distributed to our designated charities.”

Organizations supported by the fund include the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer’s Association, Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., and more. “The beauty of our Livin’ the Dream Fund is that we get to help numerous causes each year,” Mike Eckley said. “Allowing members to choose causes that are near and dear to them draws us closer together as a ‘brotherhood’ and helps us realize what is really important to each of our members.”

Jeff Borland agrees. “This has been a great device for the group to learn more about each other. Each individual must explain to the group why he is making the distribution to a particular charity. It’s very personal,” he said. “Our donations are tangible proof we were here, and we’re individually and collectively thankful.”

Mike Eckley said, “I’m proud to be part of a group of men who enjoy each other’s camaraderie and also want to make a difference. Livin’ the Dream has turned an enjoyable golf trip into a meaningful event—despite our lack of golf skills.”