Over the past 100 years, thousands of charitable individuals have joined The Dayton Foundation to help it become one of the oldest and most respected community foundations in the country. As Greater Dayton’s leading grant-awarding foundation, The Dayton Foundation has distributed nearly $1.1 billion in grants since 1921 and manages nearly 4,000 charitable funds with assets totaling $653 million as of June 30, 2020. “The Foundation is second among the nation’s community foundations for the number of charitable funds under management, more than community foundations in some of our nation’s largest cities. This disproportionate giving from a community our size says so much about the generosity of our region’s people,” said Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation.

“...that will keep the Foundation thriving for the next 100 years.”

— Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation

One of the earliest examples on record of how even modest giving can make a difference is Nathan Myer Stanley, who, during the depths of the Great Depression, contributed the Foundation’s fourth donation—a $10 gift. A native of England and resident of Dayton for more than 30 years, Nathan was an inventor. According to a 1939 Dayton Journal article, “Out of his interests as a citizen and as a patron of music, Stanley has helped create significant civic movements which endure.” Gifts like Nathan’s have helped the Foundation endure for the last century and will carry it into the next 100 years.

Another storied Foundation gift came 60 years later from a retired railroad worker. Francis (Frank) Crosthwaite was often described as someone who dressed and lived like a street person but had a heart as big as Dayton. While he chose to live a simple life with few possessions, he did amass a large investment portfolio thanks to his investment advisors. When Frank passed away in 1998, he left nearly $2 million to establish a discretionary endowment fund to help people from all walks of life in perpetuity. Thanks to the sound investment policies of The Dayton Foundation, his fund’s balance has grown to more than $2.5 million, despite awarding more than $1.4 million to area nonprofit organizations since 2000.

“...he Frank chose to live his life proved that you can make an important contribution and bring sunshine into people’s lives without being in the rat race, provided you’re willing to live simply enough,” said Fred Bartenstein, a Governing Board member.

The Dayton Foundation has helped create significant civic movements which endure. Gifts like Nathan’s have helped the Foundation endure for the last century and will carry it into the next 100 years.

A lifetime of community service expanded support that provided new employment opportunities to tens of thousands of local residents, and celebrated diversity by working to build a more diverse, skilled workforce.

“...not only helping young people out, but for doing everything in his power to make sure that the disadvantaged and the people of color are given a fair shake...”

— William Gillespie, Dayton Foundation Governing Board member

The Dayton Foundation has helped young people out, but for doing everything in his power to make sure that the disadvantaged and the people of color are given a fair shake.

continued on page 2 »
former Dayton Foundation president, in 1999. “The important story about Frank is that if someone like him can be so hugely generous, then those of us who live less simply can be too.”

More than $1.4 million in grants has been awarded from the Francis Crosthwaite Fund to area nonprofit organizations, such as Daybreak. The emergency shelter and service provider for homeless and runaway youth has received more than $213,000 from the fund, including a $5,000 grant to support Lindy’s Bakery, where Daybreak youth develop the skills of commercial-scale food preparation.

Foundation donors come from all walks of life, but a common thread between them often is a desire to give back for the blessings they’ve received in their own lives. Longtime Dayton Public Schools educators Orlando and Leonora Brown believed that giving was a part of practicing their faith. They felt it was their responsibility to help others become successful, contributing members of society. They also wished to support their place of worship. The Browns established a designated fund through the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation in 2000. Though they have since passed away, The Orlando V. and Leanora D. Brown Endowment Fund continues to provide financial assistance to The Piney Woods School in Mississippi for students in need and to Central Chapel AME Church, where the Browns were tithing members for more than 50 years.

“Mr. and Mrs. Brown instilled excellence in all of their students. They taught us self-respect and the importance of pursuing higher education,” said Regina Dixon, receptionist for The Dayton Foundation for the past 34 years and a former student of the Browns. “The Dayton Foundation fund carries on their legacy of helping youth for future generations.”

Perhaps the true value of a community foundation is its ability to join individuals, families and organizations together in times of greatest community need. In the past two years, the Foundation, for the first time in its 100-year history, established charitable funds to help people help others affected by a natural disaster, a mass shooting and a pandemic. The Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund, the Dayton Oregon District Tragedy Fund and the COVID-19 Response Fund for Greater Dayton, which was created in collaboration with the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area and other community partners, collectively received more than 10,000 gifts totaling nearly $9 million. Thanks to these funds, victims of these life-changing events are receiving the assistance they need to begin rebuilding their lives.

“It’s hard to imagine what Greater Dayton’s landscape might look like today if D. Frank Garland and the Patterson family had not had the foresight 100 years ago to create The Dayton Foundation. Community foundations, like The Dayton Foundation, are a powerful resource to spread good, particularly in times of critical need,” Mike Parks said. “The initial $230,000 investment from the Pattersons laid the groundwork for our region’s first community foundation, but it is the impact of the thousands of Foundation funds – both large and small – that will keep the Foundation thriving for the next 100 years.”

Longtime Dayton Public Schools educators Orlando and Leonora Brown

had the unflailing commitment to break down barriers of race and class in our community,” said Michael M. Parks, CFRE, president of The Dayton Foundation. “He couldn’t have been a more devoted community leader, blazing trails to advocate for others. Whatever was needed, John was there to help in any way possible. He will always have our great gratitude and deepest respect.”

His vision to increase minorities’ role as grantmakers became a reality during his chairmanship of the Board in 1991. John, along with then fellow Governing Board Member Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr., launched the nationally recognized and groundbreaking African-American Community Fund (AACF) under the umbrella of The Dayton Foundation to empower the African-American community philanthropically. Today, AACF’s 190 funds collectively total more than $7 million in assets.

Other notable achievements of John Moore included serving as a founding supporter of the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program; chairing the Dayton Sell Sufficiency Program, a five-year effort launched in 1987 to help Montgomery County young adults overcome obstacles to economic independence; aiding in the creation of Montgomery County’s Human Services Levy; founding Parity’s Black Leadership Development Program, serving a leadership role in the creation of the Montgomery County Job Center, and chairing the Foundation’s Diversity Task Force established in 1999 to focus community leaders to see that everyone, regardless of race, had equal access to opportunity.

Like his board and committee affiliations, his list of awards is long and includes Montgomery County 1997 Citizen of the Year, 50th Citizen Legion of Honor Award by the Presidents Club, and 2016 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inductee, to name a few. Prestigious titles and accolades aside, what mattered most to John was using his seemingly endless energy and resources to make a difference in his community.

Community leader, retired Deputy City Manager for the City of Dayton and member of The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board William Gillispie said, “Mr. Moore created some institutions for this community that are still going on and that will live long after none of us are here. I knew Mr. Moore for not only helping young people out, but for doing everything in his power to make sure that the disadvantaged and the people of color are given a fair shake for all the things that they deserve in this community. He will be sorely missed but not forgotten.”

A member of the Foundation’s Governing Board starting in 1993, Bob Neff served as chair from 2000 to 2003.
In 1991, when the Dayton Foundation Governing Board Chair John E. Moore Sr., along with fellow Governing Board Member Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr., launched the African-American Community Fund (AACF) under the umbrella of The Dayton Foundation, their goal was simple: to empower the African-American community by offering individuals an opportunity to create a permanent financial resource for generations to come.

Historically, AACF donors have included trailblazers whose legacies are carrying on through their funds. One example is Dayton’s first African-American attorney, Moses Jones, who dreamed of a brighter future for African-Americans in Dayton. The fund was established through his 1926 bequest and later transferred to The Dayton Foundation, becoming AACF’s first endowed fund. To date, more than $30,000 has been awarded from the Moses H. Jones Fund to aid YMCAs in Dayton’s primarily black communities.

Following are a few more examples of donors who have made their mark on Greater Dayton through their AACF funds.

**Henry Garcia**

As the first black man to graduate from an Ohio music conservatory, Henry Garcia paved the way for future African-American musicians. Born in 1917 as a minstrel singer, Garcia paved the way for future African-Americans in Dayton. The fund was established through his 1926 bequest and later transferred to The Dayton Foundation, becoming AACF’s first endowed fund. To date, more than $30,000 has been awarded from the Moses H. Jones Fund to aid YMCAs in Dayton’s primarily black communities.

Following are a few more examples of donors who have made their mark on Greater Dayton through their AACF funds.

**Edythe Lewis**

During the 1950s, a time when few black people were in the broadcasting industry, Edythe Lewis became the first African-American female disc jockey in Dayton. Years later, she would become known as a pioneer in the local broadcasting industry and in 2003 was inducted into the Dayton Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Remembered for her kindness, Edythe Lewis career as a public health nurse ran concurrently with her broadcasting career. This experience also aided her in her work as a Dayton City Commissioner, a role she took over for

**“Everyone has the right to an education. I’m happy to do what I can through The Dayton Foundation to preserve this right.”**

– Henry Garcia, Dayton Foundation donor

**“We are blessed to have called [Bob Neff] a friend, donor and dedicated volunteer, who helped to forward Greater Dayton into the future.”**

– Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation

During Bob’s tenure, the Foundation nearly quadrupled in its size of assets—from $61 million to $235 million—and moved from a role as “passive monetary conduit to active facilitator for important community efforts,” he said in 2003. Significant accomplishments under his chairmanship included assistance in launching The Job Center, Schuster Performing Arts Center, Out-of-School Youth Task Force, Teacher Leadership Academy, Five Rivers MetroParks’ Riverscape and the Foundation’s Diversity Initiative, among others.

Bob Neff and the Neff family’s legacy can be summed up in their belief in community service. As stated in a 2004 Dayton Foundation Good News article, his “father and mother, Robert C. and Edythe Lewis, were in the broadcasting industry, and so many more. Bob was one of The Dayton Foundation’s biggest cheerleaders and supporters,” Mike Parks said. “He always was willing to do whatever was needed to help the Foundation in any way possible. We are blessed to have called him a friend, donor and dedicated volunteer, who helped to forward Greater Dayton into the future.”

In 1986, Bob Neff established the Neff Family Fund advised by him and his children to focus the community philanthropic commitments of three generations of Neffs.

Said current Dayton Foundation Governing Board Chair Marva Cosby, “I was a member of the Sinclair Board of Trustees when Bob served as Board Chair. Chair Neff ran the most efficient meetings – always starting and ending on time. We all respected his disciplined approach to meetings. Bob’s support of initiatives such as the Out of School Youth Program, designed to reengage high school dropouts, adds richness to his legacy of community service. His presence will be sorely missed in Greater Dayton.”
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.

Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Charitable Fund honors the request of the late Dr. Ahmad’s estate by meeting human needs and improving the quality of life in the Greater Dayton area.

Clarence E. Bowman, Jr. Endowment honors the legacy of Daytonian Clarence E. Bowman, Jr., by meeting human needs and improving the quality of life in the Greater Dayton area, as determined by the African-American Community Fund Advisory Board.

The Ken Broo Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the 96-year life of Ken Broo by awarding scholarships to individuals who wish to further their studies at an accredited two- or four-year college or university and are planning to major in business or accounting.

Donors and organizations establish funds to help others

Endowments

Pete Brown Memorial Fund* helps high school students further their education by awarding scholarships. The fund was established in memory of Pete Brown, a professional golfer who was best known as the first African-American to win a PGA Tour event.

Dellah B. and Lester W. Buechler Memorial Fund allocates funds to assist organizations in improving the quality of life for individuals in the Dayton area.

The Dayton Digital Equity Initiative is a collaboration to bridge the digital equity gaps for individuals and families living in Dayton’s affordable housing communities and beyond.

Leigh Ann and Joseph Fulford Foundation further the charitable interests of these longtime community volunteers by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations important to them.

The Clark J. Haines Musical Scholarship Fund remembers this musician by awarding scholarships to help Greater Dayton K-12 students enhance their music education.

David C. Imber Endowment For Teaching Excellence Fund promotes excellence in teaching by awarding grants to improve the quality of education.

Bernadette Volpe Mitsch Bernadette Volpe Mitsch Scholarship Fund awards scholarships for seniors attending Dayton Early College Academy who wish to pursue a college degree at an accredited two- or four-year university.

Bradford J. and Tricia S. Murphy Charitable Fund honors the charitable interests of the Murphy family by generating funds to support nonprofit organizations.

Parity Non-Endowed Operations Fund* established by Edmond Moore in honor of The Dayton Foundation’s Centennial anniversary, generates revenue for the sustainability of Parity operations to benefit the community.

The RubiGirls Scholarship Fund awards scholarships for local students who demonstrate integrity and honesty. Applicants who are a member or an ally of the LGTBQ+ community are encouraged to apply.

Sales Education Foundation Barbara Giamanco Memorial Scholarship awards scholarships to female university students who are studying sales. This scholarship honors the legacy of Barbara Giamanco, a successful sales professional.

Charles and Ann Simms Fund II promotes the charitable interests of the donors by contributing regularly to organizations in the Dayton Region.

Trotwood Future Leaders Scholarship Fund awards graduating seniors of Trotwood-Madison High School with scholarship funds to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school who demonstrate academic excellence and service to their community.

United Grinding Gearing Up for the Future Scholarship awards scholarships for students in the Miami Valley who wish to continue their studies at any accredited Miami Valley-based trade or vocational program, or two- or four-year degree programs focused on manufacturing and/or engineering.

Valley View Foundation Fund generates annual revenue to enhance the educational offerings and facilities of the Valley View Local School District.

Vandalia Arts Fund provides revenue to support artistic and cultural activities, programs, performances and organizations in the City of Vandalia.

Safe Haven Farm

Susan B. Wilson Charitable Fund honors the charitable interests of the donor by providing annual income to Safe Haven Farm, a community for those living with autism and developmental disabilities.

* African-American Community Fund

The following funds recently were established by individuals who took advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover, which allows individuals age 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 from their IRA to a qualified public charity, tax free.

The Eckstein Family Charitable Fund

Eddington Family Charitable Fund

Flynn Family Charitable Fund

Donald and Susan Harker IRA Charitable Fund

Earl and Linda Moyer Charitable Fund

Arthur and Babby Marlin Charitable Fund

Lamberger Charitable Fund

Paul H. and Carol G. Walbroehl Charitable Fund

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Earl and Linda Moyer Charitable Fund

Arthur and Babby Marlin Charitable Fund

Lamberger Charitable Fund

Paul H. and Carol G. Walbroehl Charitable Fund

Brendan Wheeler Fund

Thomas O. Williams Charitable IRA

Dennis Wolters Charitable Fund

Please note that IRA transfers may not be made to a supporting organization, private foundation, Donor-Advised Fund or Charitable Checking Account. To find out if this charitable-giving option may work for you, contact a member of our Development staff at (937) 222-0410.
From the President

Equity and Inclusion Work Carries On, Thanks to Innovative Leadership

Last fall, when I first introduced in my column a series of conversations focused on equity, I had no idea that just a few months later we would say goodbye to our dear friend and featured expert John E. Moore, Sr. A co-founder of the African-American Community Fund and the first African-American to serve on the Foundation’s Governing Board and as its chair, John was involved in countless community efforts to bridge the gap on racial equity for more than 50 years. It was a cause he remained committed to until his passing in January, just four days shy of his 98th birthday.

Many of the community efforts the Foundation has been involved with over the last half-century came to fruition because of John’s encouragement. His leadership paved the way for initiatives such as the Diversity Task Force, the Commission on Minority Inclusion and the African-American Community Fund of The Dayton Foundation, which has grown to include nearly 200 funds and awarded more than $3 million to nonprofit organizations since 1992. I am grateful to John for his leadership and counsel that has laid the framework for this work that will help to level the playing field for minorities and the underrepresented in our community. Read more about John’s work to enhance Greater Dayton for all of our region’s citizens on page 1.

For my second column focused on equity and inclusion, I talked with William Gillispie, a Dayton Foundation Governing Board member and retired Deputy City Manager for the City of Dayton. William was a close colleague of John Moore and worked with him on countless community efforts, including the Commission on Minority Inclusion, which took root thanks in part to John’s tireless work to advance equity.

You Initially co-chaired the Commission with Brother Ray Fitz. Why have you remained involved in its work?

William: Because of the importance and challenges of the work of the Commission on Minority Inclusion, it is necessary to stay committed for the long-term to bring about systemic changes and ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion become a reality in our community.

What is the Commission’s mission and/or the primary focus areas?

William: Its mission is to be a catalyst to strengthening the inclusion of minorities in all facets of life in Greater Dayton. The Commission accomplishes this through convening constructive community conversations and forums between members of the minority and majority community to:

- identify and address community barriers that inhibit the inclusion of minorities, as well as community assets that can be used for greater inclusion of minorities, and
- engage community partners in developing self-sustaining programs that enhance the inclusion of minorities in the Dayton Region.

How has the work of the Commission on Minority Inclusion evolved since its establishment in 2007?

William: The original name of this body was the Diversity Task Force and focused on conversations surrounding diversity in government, employment, public and nonprofit boards, and businesses. The Diversity Task Force evolved and was renamed the Commission of Minority Inclusion. It kept the same basic mission but refocused on creating initiatives that would bring about systemic change. Included among these efforts are:

- The Minority Business Partnership, which is an economic development initiative, housed with the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, to help grow Dayton’s economy and strengthen area businesses by leveraging Dayton’s minority assets and businesses,
- Miami Valley Works, housed with Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley, which provides employment opportunities and offers services to address barriers for individuals who have been out of the workforce, and
- The Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities, an effort supported by The Dayton Foundation and developed in partnership with the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and other community partners, to create programs and systems for a community where everyone is valued, regardless of race, age, income or abilities.

Recent conversations have been about initiatives surrounding generational poverty in our community and how a two-generation approach can bring about a major reduction of poverty in Dayton.

What do you see as the community’s greatest challenges regarding equity and inclusion? How can others become involved to help level the playing field for all?

William: The greatest challenges are getting businesses and institutions to recognize that they have the major role to play in bringing about equity and inclusion. Just saying you want equity and inclusion or having a diversity statement in a business mission is not enough. The challenge is to acknowledge that nothing will change unless things are done differently, and deliberate plans and systems are put into place to change the current equity and inclusion landscape.

Every entity in the community must look onto itself and ask what it is doing to bring about change. Is my workforce diverse? Does my product or service reach out to diverse populations? Is my management team committed to equity? What are we doing as an organization to change and improve the diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization?

What are the biggest challenges to implementing diversity and inclusion in the workforce?

William: Institutional inertia! Organizations, by their nature, tend to always do what they have always done. We are seeing more businesses and institutions recognize the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion. However, converting this recognition into actions and changes to remove barriers, improve outreach and outcomes, and to conduct an honest self-assessment are the biggest challenges that must be met in order to create change.

Michael M. Parks, CFRE

President

Michael M. Parks

The challenge is to acknowledge that nothing will change unless things are done differently, and deliberate plans and systems are put into place to change the current equity and inclusion landscape.

— William Gillispie
Grant Helps Families and First Responders Through Pandemic

The world was forced to adapt when the coronavirus pandemic hit early last year. While many nonprofits temporarily shut their doors, others adjusted their services to align with the new normal. One organization that did this is Ronald McDonald House Charities Dayton (RMHC Dayton) which provides temporary housing for families of seriously ill children.

It was not until the Ronald McDonald House headquarters, located in Chicago, announced a temporary global shutdown of facilities and suspension of new families, that the branch in Dayton decided to act and uniquely open their doors to another population in need. “Our House program was suspended in March 2020, so no new families could enter,” said Alexandra Randolph, development manager for RMHC Dayton. “Families already were paying expensive medical bills. Asking them to incur additional fees for a hotel stay in the midst of COVID-19 to frontline medical professionals’ families, however, did not end with accommodating families in need of their services. We wanted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to frontline medical workers a safe place to rest, regroup and recharge for a cumulative total of 134 nights for their ongoing battle inside the hospital walls.”

The Dayton Foundation News

Foundation’s Governing Board Welcomes New Members

The Dayton Foundation welcomes Rakesh Arora and L. Tony Ortiz to its Governing Board, which provides stewardship for the Foundation and its charitable activities.

Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Rakesh Arora has lived in Beavercreek, Ohio, with his wife, Avni, since 2006. He is the co-founder and CEO of CIC AMERICA, a multi-therapeutic medical practice and home health agency, and its group of subsidiary companies.

Rakesh is an active community volunteer, including serving as an Executive Committee member and former president of the India Club of Greater Dayton. He received the Club’s Community Service Award in 2017. He also is a member of the Hindu Temple of Dayton. The Aroras became involved with The Dayton Foundation in 2017, including serving as “I Believe!” Partners of The Dayton Foundation after establishing a Charitable Checking Account through the Foundation’s Asian-Indian Community Fund.

A native of Lorain, Ohio, Tony Ortiz retired as the associate vice president of Latino Affairs at Wright State University in 2016 after 32 years and granted senior faculty lecturer emeritus status in 2017. During his tenure, he established the University’s Sports Medicine practice with graduates now employed worldwide.

Following his retirement, he served as the diversity liaison in the Ohio Department of Administrative Services: Office of Talent Management-Human Resources Division and, from 2016 to 2018, was the diversity liaison to Attorney General Mike DeWine and the Office of the Attorney General. He split his time at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and in community outreach. Also, from 2010 until 2018, he was a member of the Ohio Governors Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. In 2007, he established El Puente Educational Center where he serves as president.

100 Gifts to the Community Campaign Surpasses Halfway Mark

The Dayton Foundation’s 100 Gifts to the Community campaign surpassed the halfway mark in May with the awarding of gift #50 on May 19. The campaign, which features 100 Dayton Foundation fund holders who are awarding special, one-time grants in honor of the Foundation’s milestone anniversary, will conclude the end of September when gift #100 is awarded. Follow along as each donor gift is announced on alternating weekdays during WHIO News Center 7 at Noon.

The 100 Gifts to the Community showcase a variety of nonprofit organizations and the work they are doing to help the Greater Dayton region. Gift amounts range from $1,000 to more than $100,000. The Dayton Foundation’s year-long Centennial Celebration – 100 Years of Helping You Help Others – is sponsored by Presenting Sponsor PNC, with Lead Sponsor J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Partner sponsors Buckingham Advisors and Fifth Third Bank. Additional support provided by Bieser Greer; The Cornell/Nicholson Team of UBS Financial Services; Eubel Brady & Suttman Investment + Wealth Management; Flagel Huber Flagel; The Hale Group at Morgan Stanley; James Investment, Johnson Investment Counsel; and Marsh & McLennan Agency, Inc. Media support provided by Dayton Daily News and Cox Media, with outdoor advertising provided by Key-Ads, Inc.

For more information about the 100 Gifts to the Community visit www.daytonfoundation.org or follow the Foundation on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.
**Grants in Action**

Grants in Action recognizes the results of notable grant awards, whether large or small, and the significant impact they have on strengthening Greater Dayton and beyond.

**Grant Gives Trees Downed by the Tornadoes a New Life**

When devastating tornadoes struck the Trotwood area two years ago, as many as 1,000 trees were lost in the destruction. Thanks to a unique project by the Dayton Metro Library, some of those trees were put to good use at the library’s Trotwood branch with the creation of a Nature Play Area for young patrons.

The play area was supported with a generous $8,000 grant from the Mark Andrew Kreusch Fund of The Dayton Foundation.

“The Mark Andrew Kreusch Fund grant was vital for the success of this project, as it provided the necessary funds to take the Nature Play Area above and beyond what we otherwise would have envisioned,” said Megan Cooper, development manager for Dayton Metro Library. “The initial project called for climbing structures made from the timber of trees downed by the Memorial Day tornadoes, but it wasn’t until the partnership with the fund that the project became even more meaningful, with whimsical climbing structures made from the timber of trees downed by the Memorial Day tornadoes.

**Debbie Carter**

As the current president of AACF, Debbie Carter is a woman passionate about two things: education and “having a good heart.” A graduate of Spelman College, Debbie enjoyed a career as a public relations director for many years until a colleague suggested she become an educator. She went on to earn her master’s degree from the University of Dayton and in 2003, began teaching at Dayton Early College Academy. She moved on to the Miami Valley Career Technology Center, where she has been guiding future leaders for the past 15 years.

Though she has enjoyed a long and successful career, the accomplishment she is most proud of is her family. She and her husband, Michael, established the Carter Family Fund in 2013 to help future generations achieve their goals.

This is a philosophy she learned from her family growing up in Tuskegee, Alabama, and has tried to instill in her own four children.

“I saw my parents and grandmother faithfully give their tithes and offerings at church and sow seeds in our little town. I would often hear my grandmother say, ‘To whom much is given, much is required.’ She meant if we have been blessed with talents, health, time, etc., we should use those gifts to help others,” Debbie said. “That memory and my love for what she poured into me is what still motivates me to give back to the community I now call home.”

**The Future of AACF**

These are just a few examples of nearly 200 fund holders who have made an impact on our region over the last 30 years through AACF. Today, AACF’s 190 funds collectively total more than $7 million in assets and serve as a national model for the promotion of philanthropy in the African-American community.

From educators to healthcare workers, AACF donors are making a difference and lifting up Greater Dayton now, and for future generations.

**Gary LeRoy**

**Gary LeRoy, MD**

For longtime Daytonian and former Dayton Foundation Governing Board Chair Gary LeRoy, giving back has been a part of his life since he was a child. Gary’s family was the second African-American family to move into a predominately Jewish, German and/or Appalachian neighborhood, forcing Gary to realize at an early age the importance of diversity and inclusion. He also was taught the power of community.

“When I was in elementary school, I vividly remember bringing nickels, dimes and pennies to school to contribute to the United Way – Red Feather campaign or to the annual Barney Children’s Hospital fundraisers. While I did not know the full extent of my tiny gift, I knew that it was the right thing to do for my community,” Gary said. “That philanthropic sense of responsibility still resonates with me as a professional and as a concerned member of the society that made me who I am today.”

Now a practicing physician and Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions for Wright State University’s Boonshoft School of Medicine, Gary’s passion for helping others and his community is reflected through his Dayton Foundation funds. In addition, Gary has volunteered his time for dozens of organizations over the last 30 years, including serving as board chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians and co-chair of the Oregon District Tragedy Fund LLC.

In his recently published book, *Quotes From the Edge of Nowhere – The Art of Noticing Unnoticed Wisdom*, Gary enlightens readers with “wisdom that came to me through little quotes or thoughts that spontaneously dropped into my consciousness over the span of 40-plus years.”

Though he has achieved great success and accolades throughout his life, Gary hopes above all that he will be most remembered as a solid citizen of Greater Dayton.

“In the spirit of The Dayton Foundation’s tagline, *We Help You Help Others*, I have always wanted to be that guy who helped people help others – so that collectively we could create a better world in which to live,” Gary said.

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As the current president of AACF, Debbie Carter is a woman passionate about two things: education and “having a good heart.” A graduate of Spelman College, Debbie enjoyed a career as a public relations director for many years until a colleague suggested she become an educator. She went on to earn her master’s degree from the University of Dayton and in 2003, began teaching at Dayton Early College Academy. She moved on to the Miami Valley Career Technology Center, where she has been guiding future leaders for the past 15 years.

**In the spirit of the The Dayton Foundation’s tagline, *We Help You Help Others*, I have always wanted to be that guy who helped people help others – so that collectively we could create a better world in which to live.”**

– Gary LeRoy, MD, Dayton Foundation donor

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**Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars for The Dayton Foundation’s Centennial Celebration on Thursday, September 30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Carillon Historical Park! Check your mailbox and email for more details in the coming months. We hope you will join us in person as we wrap-up our 100 Years of Helping You Help Others milestone year. It’ll be an event you won’t want to miss!

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**Grants in Action continued**

“**The grant from the Allegro Fund of The Dayton Foundation helped Caesar’s Ford Theatre thrive during what was probably the worst time for Ohio theaters.**”

– Timothy Haney, president/executive producer for Caesar’s Ford Theatre, Inc.

The Regional Community Foundation

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Mammal studies revealed many animals, such as mammals, birds and reptiles. It’s that extra something special, only possible with the grant, which makes the location a true destination for imaginative learning and play.

The project was particularly timely during the pandemic, as many families sought safe outdoor play for their children. Studies have shown the many benefits of outdoor play, especially as a counterpoint to the often-excessive indoor screen time children experience today.

“Children who play in nature enjoy physical, emotional and social benefits ranging from improved coordination and muscle development to increased levels of kindness and empathy, supporting their overall development,” Megan said.

The response from library patrons has been overwhelmingly positive. As restrictions ease, Trotwood Children’s Librarian Dani Gustavich plans to host many events and programs in the space, including story times and STEM experiments.

Said one young child as he eagerly explored the wooded area while his older sister sat reading on a bench with carved books and an owl, “It’s like a mini-playground. I gave the bear a high five!”

**Outdoor Theatre Brings the History of Ohio to Virtual Audiences, Thanks to Grant**

Like most entertainment venues over the last 18 months, Caesar’s Ford Theatre, Inc., adapted its performing arts and educational programs to continue its mission of educating the public about the history of Ohio. Early on in the pandemic, the theatre transitioned from its traditional outdoor theatre offerings to film.

To support its efforts, the Allegro Fund of The Dayton Foundation awarded Caesar’s Ford Theatre with a $4,300 grant in 2020 for its Virtual Performances Project, which consists of three short films that tell the stories of famous Ohioans. “Theaters in Ohio were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Income from programming was eroded and the need to secure contributed income was paramount to ensure their existence for the future,” said Timothy Haney, president/executive producer for Caesar’s Ford Theatre, Inc. “The grant from the Allegro Fund of The Dayton Foundation helped Caesar’s Ford Theatre thrive during what was probably the worst time for Ohio theaters.”

The first virtual performance, *Caesar: An American Maroon*, has been released and already viewed by several thousand individuals. Members of the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma worked with Theatre staff to make the film, which led to a strong friendship and potential collaboration for developing an outdoor drama. A second short film, *Paul Laurence Dunbar: An American Poet*, will be featured in a local celebration of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s life on what would be his 150th birthday in June 2022. And finally, *Col. Charles Young: An American Patriot* will be filmed at the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce, Ohio.

“Greene County, Ohio, has a long and wonderful history of outdoor theatre, and Caesar’s Ford Theatre, Inc., is dedicated to bringing that tradition back,” Timothy said. “Thanks to the grant provided by the Allegro Fund of The Dayton Foundation, the project has led to new relationships that will help us in our journey to restore historical outdoor drama to our community.”

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