from the President

A Time of Change and Progress

Community foundations have a number of ways of measuring landmarks, but $100 million markers indicate a certain coming of age.

Recently The Dayton Foundation for the first time surpassed $300 million in current assets, edging the Foundation close to the top 5 percent of the nation’s 750 community foundations in total assets under management. This is in a community that is 59th in market size nationally.

When you realize that just 20 years ago, the Foundation had roughly $5 million in assets, you can see how far the community foundation concept has traveled in Greater Dayton—and how community philanthropy has grown.

It demonstrates people’s commitment to community. It means that donors’ charitable gifts through the Foundation will continue to grow and work for generations to improve the quality of life in our region.

This is an important way that quality of life in our region will continue to grow and work for generations to improve the quality of life in our region.

As most of you know, the Foundation has been through a challenging time since the October 26 fire in the Kettering Tower forced our temporary relocation to Centerville. But the experience has taught us many things.

We saw that the disaster recovery plan we had instituted several years ago worked, putting the Foundation back in business within 24 hours. We watched our dedicated staff pull together in less than ideal circumstances and do what was necessary to keep the Foundation running and meeting the needs of those who depend upon us.

We felt the support of our Governing Board and many volunteers and, most especially, our donors. During our operating fund appeal, donors sent a record $90,000 in gifts, in addition to a $15,000 anonymous donation, vital to Foundation operations and to the additional expenses of our May return to the Kettering Tower. We couldn’t be more humbled by this outpouring of support.

And then, in an effort to create as many positives as we could from trying circumstances, we decided to relocate from the 23rd to the 5th floor of the Kettering Tower. Ultimately this will reduce operating costs and make more efficient use of space by reconfiguring our offices in a new environment. We hope you’ll come visit us in our new office space at Suite 500 in the Kettering Tower.

Through all this, the Foundation continued stronger than ever, with a record number of new Charitable Checking Accounts—and a growing number of new endowments and grants out to the community. And in the middle of these events, something occurred to warm the heart and give us even more hope for the future.

An eighth grader from Stivers School for the Arts, Trey Melvin, (please see his story on page 2) contacted the Foundation in December to let us know that based upon his Internet search of organizations that assist our community, he decided to raise funds for the Foundations work to help children and families—community, he decided to raise funds for the Foundations work to help children and families.

The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund

Preserving our natural treasures for future generations

The Greater Miami Valley region is blessed with many exceptional and celebrated amenities, including a rich and diverse landscape. Abundant waterways, lush vegetation, varied wildlife and extensive farmlands make the region an attractive place to live, add economic value and sustain the lives of millions of residents.

“The Greater Dayton area has tremendous natural assets,” said Bob Jurick, executive director of the B-W Greenway Community Land Trust Fund and member of the steering committee of The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund of The Dayton Foundation. “For example, the Greater Miami River aquifer is one of the largest underground sources of fresh water east of the Mississippi and serves as the sole or principal source of drinking water for 1.6 million people in Southwest Ohio.”

However, as Mr. Jurick is quick to note, development rapidly is changing the region’s landscape from agricultural to...
A Young Person’s Personal Crusade to reach out to people in need

Trey Melvin began a search of his computer and found the idea that he wanted to do something to help his community. He got up, logged on and continued to search for something to help his computer and community. He wanted to do something to help others. He planned out a series of ways he would raise money – sales of his newsletter, candy, T-shirts, baked goods made by a neighbor and his grandmother, and a Target gift-card raffle.

With all the school closings for bad weather, he extended his fundraiser from four to seven weeks, but also the size of his goal. In the end, he raised $1,100 and presented it to Foundation Governing Board Chair Fred C. Setzer, Jr., at the Board’s March meeting. The Board planned a surprise for Trey and his mother. They had a check for $2,900 as a match for his gift, personally contributed by Board members, making Trey’s total gift to charity $4,000.

Through his efforts, Trey hoped to make a difference. So what makes a difference? Trey grew up without a father. His mother, who is his most important role model, always told him it’s better to give than to receive. Trey came to our March Governing Board meeting, touched our hearts and left us with the happy feeling that the next generation is in good hands with young people like Trey Melvin.

In this issue of Good News, we also would like to share the significant progress being made on the Foundation’s leadership initiatives and with new endowed funds and projects. It’s an exciting time for The Dayton Foundation and for our community. Our donors and other community partners are breaking new ground and spreading the seeds of hope for our region and for all of its people.
Conservation Fund continued

residential and urban, even though the population has experienced only modest growth.

“Without proper land management, we will lose significant agricultural resources and wildlife habitats, while adding to our communities’ costs for infrastructures and creating competition for water resources,” Mr. Jurick said. “Our challenge is to get people in touch with the land and to educate them about what can and should be done now before our natural treasures are lost.”

And that’s exactly what Mr. Jurick and several other community leaders and environmentalists are doing. Through the support of The Dayton Foundation, they established The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund to help support conservation initiatives and programs.

“The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund has many funds under management that help protect the region’s natural environment through education, acquisition, restoration and scientific research; encourage collaborations and regional land conservation; and leverage cooperation and support of various efforts of like-minded organizations. The funds steering committee recently awarded its first grant to the University of Dayton’s Rivers Institute project. Through this student-led program, university students will work side by side with youth from the Dayton Early College Academy. Together, they will explore the wonders of the region’s waterways and, possibly, develop an interest in natural resource-related careers and fields of study.

“The real learning is not in the classroom, but on the river,” said Dusty Hall, manager of program development for the Miami Conservancy District and steering committee member for the Conservation Fund. “It doesn’t matter if you are 65 years old, examining aquatic life in our rivers captivates everyone. The Rivers Institute experience is something these students will be talking about and sharing for the rest of their lives.”

The timing of this fund is critical, according to Marvin Olinsky, former chief executive officer of Five Rivers MetroParks and Conservation Fund steering committee member. “Our natural areas are disappearing rapidly; and once they’re gone you seldom can reclaim them. It’s much more expensive to tear down structures and remove concrete than it is to preserve existing natural areas.”

Individuals interested in contributing to the cause are invited to join The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund’s Founders Society. Steering committee members also will host a special gathering this fall at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, where the public will be invited to learn more about the fund.

“This fund represents a unique opportunity to bring together agencies that are working to protect and preserve our natural resources and area residents who want to see these resources preserved for future generations,” said Irv Bieser. “Through the fund, we can help enhance and protect our backyard, so to speak. It’s a great vehicle for perpetuating the life of our community.”

The Greater Dayton landscape constantly is changing as pressures increase, affecting agricultural areas, wildlife habitats, open spaces, scenic vistas and river corridors.

The mission of The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund is to get people in touch with the land and to educate them about what can and should be done now before our natural treasures are lost.

“Our challenge is to get people in touch with the land and to educate them about what can and should be done now before our natural treasures are lost.”

– Bob Jurick, steering committee member for The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund

The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund of The Dayton Foundation

The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund of The Dayton Foundation is a permanent endowment to support environmental preservation in the Greater Miami Valley Region for today and for future generations. Through knowledge, awareness, integrity and generosity, local citizens can help the Fund become a defining force for protecting the beauty and quality of our region’s abundant natural resources.

By contributing to The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund, individuals join other dedicated citizens who believe in preserving the treasure of the natural environment with which our region is blessed. Contributions to the Fund make possible grants and other actions to preserve and protect our region’s environmental heritage.

To join the Funds supporters, contact Janice McLefresh at The Dayton Foundation at (937) 225-9971.

The Little Miami River, a designated State and National Scenic River, supports rich and abundant aquatic life.

The region’s water corridors are a haven for wildlife and plants and offer abundant recreational opportunities.
The Dayton Foundation’s Diversity Task Force enters a new phase
Diversity in Business

John E. Moore, Sr.
The Dayton Foundation’s Diversity Task Force is making strides in bringing the issues of diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the Greater Dayton region. To help communicate its work, John Moore, Sr., chair of the Diversity Task Force and Emeritus Governing Board member of The Dayton Found-
dation, is authoring a monthly column in the Dayton Business Journal that will conclude in January 2008. The column explores the individuals, orga-
nizations and efforts to improve diversity and inclusion in the community.

The following is an excerpt from Mr. Moore’s first column. Future Dayton Business Journal columns will include information about the recent formation of The Greater Dayton Area Commission for Minority Inclu-
sion and the Council on Minority Economic Inclusion. They also will feature interviews with business executives and other community leadership about the results of their efforts to cre-
ate a stronger and more diverse workforce and to work with minority-owned businesses.

As the face of America changes, regions excel or decline based upon many factors. One of the most important is how a locality values and utilizes all of its citizens. Time and again we see that the most desirable communities are those that embrace and celebrate their diversity.

It has been predicted that by 2050, half of our nation’s people will be individuals of color. Yet our region today has a high poverty level that mirrors a lack of minority economic success. We have numerous businesses that haven’t the resources to cre-
ate the diverse and inclusive workforce they may wish to have. Furthermore, minority-
owned businesses are seriously underrepresented in our local economy.

So why does this matter – why, beyond obvious humani-
tarian reasons?

It matters, because if we are to strengthen our commu-
nity’s overall economic health, it will be necessary to develop its minority capital and entre-
preneurial potential.

Since 1999, I have been chairing The Dayton Foun-
dation’s 33-person Diversity Task Force. Representing public, private and nonprofit organizations, the group was convened by the Foundation to study and develop a plan to make diversity and inclusion a regional strength.

Challenged with where it should focus its efforts within the vast range of concerns and gaps between the races, the Foundation’s Diversity Task Force chose “the workplace,” given the critical nature of local minority and business economic development. Spirited monthly meet-
ings and extensive local and national research resulted in an understanding of the seri-
ous gaps that exist and the economic barriers that have inhibited minority participa-
tion and success. The situa-
tion is magnified in Dayton’s inner city.

The Dayton area’s poverty rate is unacceptably high, unemployment of minorities is at least double the unem-
ployment for Caucasians, many businesses do not have a diverse or inclusive workforce, and minority entrepreneurs face special barriers. Further, apathy existed among some leaders, as did reluctance to make diversity a priority and

continued on page 6

new Endowment Funds

Establishing a strong found-
dation for our communi-
ty’s future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. Donors recently started the following new funds to support our region and their special charitable causes, now and in the future.

The AIA Dayton Construc-
tion Fund provides operating revenue for Construction, an annual event that enables high school and college students to collaborate with design and engineering professionals to create elaborate displays using canned foods. All cans used in the event are donated to the Dayton Food Bank.

The Sally and John Beals Foundation advances the charitable wishes of the donors. Sally Beals is a former City of Centerville mayor, and John Beals is a founder of the engineering firm Lockwood, Jones & Beals, Inc.

The Chris B. Center Base-
ball Scholarship honors the life of this devoted father and lifelong baseball player whose career spanned from Little League to AA Baseball and included several world championship titles. The fund awards scholarships to varsity baseball team members of Vandalia-Butler High School, where he also played.

The Greater Dayton Conservation Fund exists to preserve the treasure of the natural environment with which the Greater Miami Valley is blessed. The fund is a permanent fund to support environmental preservation for today and for future genera-
tions. Through knowledge, awareness, integrity and gener-
cosity, local citizens can help the fund become a defining

force for protecting the beauty and quality of our region’s abundant natural resources.

The Greater Dayton Youth Advisory Council Endow-
ment Fund develops the philanthropic spirit of Dayton area youth by giving them an active role in advising, fund-
raising and grantmaking for an endowment fund. The fund is directed by area high school students who comprise the Youth Advisory Council.

The Allen Hill Family Fund will serve to promote the char-
itable interests of the donors.

The Stanley J. and Susan L. Katz Family Foundation distributes income to the charities of the donors’ choos-
ing. Stanley Katz is one of the principals of First Alliance Asset Management. Susan Katz is very active in the com-

munity and was named one of Dayton’s Top Ten Women in 2001.

Vicki Pegg Safe Harbor Fund was established by the friends of Vicki Pegg in honor of her retirement as Montgomery County commissioner. The fund will benefit The Artemis House, which pro-

vides emergency assistance to domestic violence victims and their children.

The Chris B. Center

Sandra Lee Eisenach

PTSA J. Antonelli Briceno Scholarship Fund in

Memory of Sandra Lee Eisenach was presented as a gift to J. Antonelli Briceno by his grandparents, Robert and Wanda Eisenach, to honor the memory of his mother. The scholarship will be awarded to graduates of Oakton High

School. J. Antonelli Briceno’s alma mater.

The Remar Family and John and Cindy Edgar Endow-
dment Fund recognizes the importance of helping children cope with the loss or serious illness of a fam-
ily member by giving them a chance to participate in fun and healing activities. Cindy Edgar, a middle school teacher for more than 20 years, creat-
ed the fund in memory of her brother, Jamie, and for many of her students who have suf-
f ered the loss of loved ones.

The Jeffrey K. Whittle and Margaret A. Cotter Fund fulfills the charitable giving wishes of the donors.

The Ray Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund grants scholarships to students em-
ployed by McDonald’s restaur-
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The Remar Family and John and Cindy Edgar Endowment Fund
Donor Leaves Legacy of Hope for Children

A

though they lived less than five minutes apart in Centerville, Cindy Edgar met her future husband, John Edgar, through the Internet. After several weeks conversing online, they decided to meet.

“She was an amazing, strong and caring woman,” John Edgar said. “I knew immediately that I wanted to marry her.”

Following an intimate wedding in Colorado on Janu-

ary 3, 2004, Cindy and John Edgar celebrated with family and friends back home on Valentine’s Day. Life was wonder-

ful for this dedicated and accomplished math teacher, model, tennis coach and recent grandmother, until that May when she was diagnosed with cancer. Cindy Edgar passed away in November 2006, less than two months before her

wedding in Colorado on January 3, 2004. Cindy and John Edgar established with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra in 2003 to blend the music of George Gershwin with the classical tap-dancing style of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The result was a resounding success.

Most recently the Foun-

dation awarded a $7,500 grant “...TO CREATE THESE NEW WORKS OF ART IN DAYTON IS A BIG

DEAL. IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT DAYTON, THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THE ARTS

AND THE ARTISTS THEMSELVES.”
– Sharon Leahy, co-artistic director and choreographer, Rhythm in Shoes

And to create these new works of art in Dayton is a big deal. It says a lot about Dayton, the people who support the arts and the artists themselves.”

“Working with Rhythm in Shoes is a delight and a treat for us,” said Neal Gittleman, music director for the Day-

ton Philharmonic Orchestra. “They’re fabulous dancers and musicians, and they have a real sense of art as play. When a piece is serious in intent, they make it fun. When a piece is lighthearted in intent, they make it beyond fun.”

Not only do these original productions add to the company’s repertoire and create possibilities for collaborative efforts in other cities, accord-

ing to Ms. Leahy, but they also bring a new level of creative energy to the Dayton com-

munity.

“The caliber of talent we have in this region is out-

standing,” she said. “It’s nice to have national touring companies come to Dayton, but ours isn’t something that is bused into town with multiple trucks carrying sets, costumes and equipment. It’s real, down-to-earth entertainment that enriches the soul.”

Rhythm in Shoes is well known throughout the country for their high-energy, original and often comical performances.

When Sharon Leahy moved to Dayton in 1986, she was charged with transforming a fledgling dance and music company into something new and power-

W

ful. Now celebrating its 20th year, her company, Rhythm in Shoes, has become one of the Miami Valley’s most cele-

brated arts groups. They have attained national and interna-

tional acclaim for fusing traditional dance and music with original modern styles.

“Music and dance are an extension of our community,” said Sharon Leahy, co-artistic director and choreographer.

“It’s how we express ourselves and communicate with others.”

Along with her husband, composer, musician and co-

artistic director Rick Good, and at various times their children, Nate Cooper, Ben Cooper and Emma Leahy-Good, Sharon Leahy and the company’s 15 seasoned dancers and music-

ians have entertained audi-

ences in 48 states, as well as in Canada, Japan and Ireland. In addition to stage perfor-

mances, they offer workshops and residency activities for individuals of all ages, back-

grounds and abilities.

“One of the most satisfy-

Rhythm in Shoes
Foundation grant fosters collaboration, celebrates 20 years of toe-tapping good fun

During her final months, Cindy Edgar’s thoughts were not about her illness. Instead she was focused on helping others, including 12 Magsig Middle School students, many of whom were her pupils who were dealing with the recent loss of a parent. To give the students something to enjoy during their summer break last year, Cindy asked local mer-

chants and friends to donate items, such as Dayton Dragon tickets, sunglasses and books, which she used to fill gift baskets for them.

“She would go out of her way to touch others and to let them know that someone was thinking of them — that they weren’t forgotten,” John Edgar recalled.

Yearning to do something that would perpetuate her desire to help others, Cindy and John Edgar established The Remar Family and John and Cindy Edgar Endowment Fund through The Dayton Foundation in 2006. The fund will support fun and healing activities for children grieving the loss of a loved one or deal-

ing with the daily challenges and stresses of a serious illness in the family. The fund also honors the memory of Mrs. Edgar’s brother, Jamie Remar, who passed away from cancer in 2000.

“People often don’t know what to say to comfort grieving children,” said Vicki Braun, executive director of Oak Tree Corner, a grief support program where Cindy Edgar volunteered. “Cindy, however, could sense what her students were feeling. She was very honest and genuine with them, and they respected her for that.”

According to Flo Fitzmiller, a longtime friend and coun-

selor at Magsig Middle School, education was very important to Cindy Edgar. She would go out of her way to touch others and to let them know that someone was thinking of them — that they weren’t forgotten,” John Edgar recalled.

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Greater Dayton Youth Advisory Council Endowment Fund
Letting Youth Decide How to Improve the Lives of Other Young People

Centerville High School senior Baxter Stapleton jumped at the chance to help create a new youth committee to raise money and award grants to local charities.

“People often get left out of the conversation about how to improve the Dayton community,” he said. “If we have a voice in making the community stronger, we will want to continue living and working here as adults.”

Baxter Stapleton is one of seven area high school students on the Youth Advisory Council, which advises the Greater Dayton Youth Advisory Council Endowment Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Created in 2006, the fund is affiliated with both The Dayton Foundation and the YMCA of Greater Dayton.

Through a grant from the Ohio Grantmakers Forum and the Kellogg Foundation, some of these students and YMCA staff were able to attend the 2006 Youth Grantmakers Summer Youth Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Council of Michigan Foundations.

The conference enabled the students to interact with and learn from other youth advisory council members and to develop a plan for creating a youth council in Dayton.

“The students returned to Dayton excited about teaching their peers the importance of philanthropy and how their generation can make a profound difference in their community,” said Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation.

Jennifer Mueller, the YMCA's youth and teen development director who also attended the conference, oversees the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), which promotes youth voluntarism and leadership. Many YAC members are alumni of Junior Leadership Dayton, a leadership training program for high school juniors, which The Dayton Foundation helps sponsor.

“YAC members all make the decisions and do all the work,” said Robbin Kane, a Wright State University senior and YAC adviser. “Organizations with youth projects will be invited to apply for a grant, and the students will award their first grant this spring.”

Besides raising $6,000 to date for the endowment fund, YAC has surveyed area high school students to assess community needs. “These students know what the average teenager in Dayton is up against,” Ms. Kane said. “They know that some teens don’t feel safe leaving their house at night because of shootings and other acts of violence. They believe that more youth programs are needed in the community.”

Youth Advisory Council members recently set an aggressive goal to raise $40,000 for the fund by June 30, 2007. They’re planning fundraisers and preparing presentations, based on the needs assessment, to persuade area businesses and individuals to donate to the fund. To challenge and motivate the students, The Dayton Foundation, the YMCA, other local individuals and foundations will provide matching contributions for every contribution the students bring in – up to a total of $10,000.

“Knowing that these two highly reputable organizations were willing to back our efforts boosted our confidence and got us excited about raising the money,” Baxter Stapleton said. “Our affiliation with the Foundation and the YMCA will give us credibility and encourage more businesses and individuals to donate.”

Youth Advisory Council members also will carry out service projects benefiting grant recipients. “We don’t want to just write a check to these organizations. We also want to give our time,” he said.

The Dayton Foundation and the YMCA, through YAC, are inspiring another generation of philanthropists. “Sometimes young people want to make a difference, but they don’t know where to start,” Baxter Stapleton said. “The Youth Advisory Council is giving us hands-on experience in decision making, fundraising and grantmaking. We’re learning about endowment funds, community needs and the importance of helping not-for-profit organizations. And because The Dayton Foundation and the YMCA are supporting everything we do, we have an opportunity now to do something really great.”

IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREATER DAYTON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ENDOWMENT FUND, YOU MAY SEND YOUR GIFT FOR THE FUND TO THE DAYTON FOUNDATION, KETTERING TOWER, DAYTON, OHIO 45423. INDIVIDUALS WITH AN EXISTING FOUNDATION FUND ALSO MAY REQUEST A GIFT TRANSFER FROM THEIR FUND.
Neighborhood School Centers Initiative

Pilot project will benefit students, families, neighborhood redevelopment

By 2009, when the three-year Neighborhood School Centers pilot project wraps up at four Dayton Public Schools, the hope is that families and communities are reconnected to their neighborhood school.

"After years of busing, families don’t have a sense that these schools are their neighborhood schools," said Don Vermillion, director of public projects at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton, which was enlisted by The Dayton Foundation to forward the work of the Neighborhood School Centers project. "We want more community use of schools and more community support of students’ educational efforts."

All four school centers – Ruskin, which is under construction, as well as Kiser, Edison and Fairview – are in neighborhoods where redevelopment potential is strong. The pilot will demonstrate what is needed to make these schools the centers of their redeveloping neighborhoods. In 2005 The Dayton Foundation helped initiate the planning for the project, which is part of a national trend to establish public schools as centers for after-school academics, social services and programs and even medical care. Neighborhoods benefit through improved safety and stronger community pride and engagement, according to the national Coalition for Community Schools (CSS). Students who attend these schools tend to have improved grades and proficiency test scores, better attendance and reduced behavior and discipline problems, according to the CSS.

The pilot project here has captured the attention of 20 major funders and partners, including The Dayton Foundation, the City of Dayton, Dayton Public Schools, Montgomery County, United Way and the University of Dayton. Together they already have committed $972,000 for the project for the next three years. Five not-for-profit agencies recently agreed to partner with a school center: The Salvation Army of the Greater Dayton Area with Ruskin, The Dayton Urban League with Edison, Unified Health Solutions with Fairview, and East End Community Services and the YMCA of Greater Dayton with Ruskin.

"Because The Dayton Foundation has said that neighborhood schools are important to our future, these not-for-profit partners, trusted by their respective neighborhoods, have stepped up to help improve the lives of children and families," Don Vermillion said.

These partners employ the site coordinators, currently one each at Kiser, Edison and Fairview schools, who are central to the pilot effort. Since November 2006, site coordinators have been meeting with neighborhood groups to reestablish relationships and gain support for potential mentoring, tutoring, reading and other programs that will involve community members. Site coordinators also have been focusing on student achievement and planning after-school and intersession activities for children and families in coordination with the principals.

For example, Fairview now benefits from the after-school enrichment programs of Adventure Central, which fosters youth development through science, nature and environmental education. At Kiser, site coordinator Amber Rose helped form the school’s first cheerleading squad and served as interim coach. She also helped initiate a successful “play date” program for younger students, encouraging parents to come to Kiser during the school day to play educational games with their children. Families could even borrow these games to support learning at home.

"Parents who attended this program know better how to interact with their children at home in a positive, educational way," Amber Rose said. UD’s Fitz Center will monitor and measure progress of the pilot and report findings to the funders and program partners. Don Vermillion said the pilot will be successful if students continue to make academic progress; there is active parental involvement; each school center becomes the “school of choice” in the neighborhood; and each provides a supportive, convenient hub for positive educational and cultural experiences and community involvement.

"After the pilot, we hope that Dayton Public Schools, Montgomery County commissioners and others will have seen enough progress that they will want to continue and possibly expand this effort," said Dayton Foundation President Michael M. Parks.

"We are encouraged by the work that is under way to make these neighborhood schools the center of their individual communities," Mike Parks continued. "This is an exciting opportunity that will benefit thousands of children and families, could lead to significant revitalization efforts and, ultimately, will create a stronger region."

Recent Discretionary Grants help build a better community

In the second half of 2006, Dayton Foundation donors made $21.9 million in grants to charitable organizations in the Greater Miami Valley region and beyond. This amount included $179.4 million in discretionary grants approved by the Foundation’s Governing Board to the following Miami Valley charitable organizations. These grants, made possible by donors who have placed no restrictions on their endowed funds, help the Foundation to address needed opportunities in our community. Discretionary grants represent a small but vitally important portion of the approximately 15,000 grants awarded to charities annually from Foundation funds, as directed or advised by donors.

**Choices in Community Living ($10,000)** – to help purchase an accessible, wheelchair-lift van to transport clients who are disabled.

**Cityfolk ($8,000)** – to support a residency project for pianist Bill Mays, including a series of educational workshops and a public performance.

**Comprehensive Community Child Care ($5,000)** – to aid in opening a child care resource and referral agency to serve families and early childhood education professionals.

**Dayton Ballet Association ($10,000)** – to assist in marketing the U.S. premiere of a ballet based upon The Who’s Tommy, opening in April 2007.

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Amber Rose, site coordinator at Kiser Elementary School, makes fish hats with neighborhood youth during an after-school program.

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Bill Mays Trio, brought to Dayton by Cityfolk.

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Grants continued

Dayton Christian Center ($10,000) – to support the opening of a teen center that will provide a safe gathering place for Dayton-area youth.

Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity ($8,000) – to help purchase a truck to transport donated building and household materials.

Dayton Society of Natural History ($10,000) – to assist in expanding the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's interactive learning experiences for middle-school students.

Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley – Technology Resource Center ($20,000) – to help the Committee to Aid the Blind in its efforts to meet the needs of Greater Dayton-area residents with visual impairments.

Little Miami, Inc. ($15,000) – to assist in funding a full-time staff person to restore and protect a forested river corridor along the Little Miami River.

Miami Valley Council Boy Scouts of America ($25,000) – to aid in the construction of the Frederick C. Smith Council Service Center located at Cricket Holler.

Good News is made possible by six Dayton Foundation donors and families who have stepped forward to become the first “I Believe!” Partners of The Dayton Foundation. Their commitment underwrites a full year of Dayton Foundation publications, thereby freeing resources for the Foundation’s other community work.


Reach Out of Montgomery County ($15,000) – to provide medications to underserved and uninsured patients released from emergency rooms as an incentive for them to coordinate ongoing care at local clinics.

Rhythm in Shoes ($7,500) – to support a collaboration with Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra to create a new work that blends the music of Scott Joplin with the rhythms of classical tap dancing.

The Salvation Army ($75,000) – to help leverage additional funds for the construction of The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Core Community Center in Old North Dayton.

Workplace Reconnections, Inc. ($10,000) – to support services that assist in successfully transitioning ex-cons back into the community.

We’re Moving! (but not far...)

The Foundation will keep its phone number, but is moving its offices to 500 Kettering Tower, producing efficiencies and cost savings. We expect our offices to be ready sometime in May. Please check our web site at www.daytonfoundation.org for updates regarding our move-in date. We would love to have you visit us after we move!