A path called knowledge
Blazing a Trail to Opportunity

O pportunity. It's the ground on which America was built.

But the path to opportunity is not always an equal one.

Just 38 percent of Montgomery County kindergartners are fully ready to learn when they begin kindergarten, and less than 21 percent of Dayton's kindergartners are, according to Ohio's kindergarten readiness test.

Just 36 percent of Montgomery County residents between the ages of 25 and 64 have some type of college degree. The education-focused Lumina Foundation estimates that in just 12 years – by 2025 – economically competitive regions will need a workforce where 60 percent of adults ages 25 to 64 have a college degree or other post-high school credential.

“The key to equal opportunity and to our community’s future strength is cradle-to-career education for all children,” said The Dayton Foundation President Michael M. Parks.

Learn to Earn Dayton
Learn to Earn Dayton (L2ED), a community initiative of The Dayton Foundation, is at the heart of a community-wide, collective-impact endeavor. The goal is to ensure that our region’s children are ready to learn when they start school and are on a path to gainful employment through the attainment of a marketable, post-high school credential.

The effort draws upon the collective efforts of education and business leaders, foundations and citizens to collaborate to assure the region has sufficient intellectual capital. It is estimated that just six years from now, two of every three jobs will require a college degree or some other post high-school credential.

Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Lori Ward said of L2ED’s work, “It has created momentum and mindset in the region of a college-going culture. Young people will perform at a higher rate when they feel the community cares about them and their success. My colleagues and I are well aware of the economic impact that a workforce with requisite skills will have to spur economic development and, more importantly, allow our young people to have hope.”

Says L2ED’s literature, “We have to start now to...keep Dayton a great place to work and live. We must create a culture where all our children grow up knowing that high school graduation is not the end of their formal educational journey... Strong communities depend on well-educated citizens. And strong companies depend on well-educated education, inspiring others through their teaching.

It was her parents’ influence on her, instilling in her a passion for education, that inspired Pearl Dale to establish a deferred scholarship fund inspired Pearl Dale to establish a deferred scholarship fund through the African-American Community Fund (AACF) of The Dayton Foundation. She wanted to help Greater Dayton African-American youth pursue their educational dreams, free of the difficulties she had faced as a single African-American woman trying to make her own way.

The Pearl A. Dale and Audrey Parker Scholarship Fund
Education Aids Sisters in Overcoming Odds

P earl A. Dale was no stranger to the barriers African-Americans faced growing up in the early 20th century.

“There were movies I had to miss, because I would not allow myself to be segregated in the balcony,” she wrote in a letter to The Dayton Foundation in 1980. “I often felt like a fish swimming against the tide.”

Born in 1915 to William Thomas and Anna Dale, Pearl Dale and her siblings were raised on their parents’ farm in Kentucky. The Dales emphasized to their children – Walter, Audrey and Pearl – the importance of getting an education.

They managed to send all three to Kentucky State College (now operating as Kentucky State University), quite an accomplishment in that era.

When Pearl Dale and Audrey (Dale) Parker moved to Dayton in the 1940s, they began teaching in Dayton Public Schools and later earned their master’s degrees from Miami University in 1957.

They enjoyed long careers in education, inspiring others through their teaching.

“This could be the most significant community-wide initiative that we take on in the next decade.”

– Phil Parker, president and CEO, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

continued on page 4
Governing Board adopted it as a Foundation community initiative and awarded significant support in the form of a $300,000 grant over three years, in addition to providing office space and backroom support. Most recently, The Dayton Foundation further supported L2ED by launching a new access portal for scholarships and college readiness tools, called ScholarshipCONNECT, on the Foundation’s website (see story below).

The Urgency of the Effort Executive Director of L2ED is Dr. Thomas J. Lasley II, former dean of the University of Dayton’s School of Education and Allied Professions. Deep into the work of L2ED, Lasley is mindful of the urgency of L2ED’s mission. “The region’s future,” he said recently in a Dayton Daily News interview, “depends on getting it right with our kids. They have only one childhood, and if we don’t give them what they need, there are no do-overs.”

Today’s new and growing companies that are generating the best jobs locate and remain where they can find a trained and educated workforce. Areas able to supply and retain qualified workers enjoy the greatest benefits of economic growth. L2ED’s goal of having 60 percent of our region’s workforce age 25 to 64 with a marketable post-secondary credential by 2025 is a huge undertaking with a long horizon.

Already Lasley has enlisted the cooperation and buy-in of 16 area school districts, as well as Catholic and public charter schools in Montgomery County, to track required statistics to make the results of the effort they share measurable. Furthermore, the schools have agreed to widen their focus to encourage young people to think beyond finishing high school and to what post-secondary credentials can provide them skills and work opportunities.

Lasley has garnered critical support from multiple organizations and foundations, put together a top-level 30-member Leadership Council and gained the attention of the business community and the media. Recently, Lumina Foundation, the nation’s largest foundation committed to increasing the number of individuals holding post-secondary credentials, devoted an entire issue of their nationally distributed FOCUS magazine to Dayton’s work in this area. You may read the issue by going to http://focus.luminafoundation.org/luminafocus/2012/.

“The Key to Equal Opportunity and to Our Community’s Future Strength is Cradle-to-Career Education for All Children.”

— Michael M. Parks, president, The Dayton Foundation

Students now can search and apply online for scholarships through ScholarshipCONNECT, a new scholarship and college readiness resource provided by The Dayton Foundation, in cooperation with Learn to Earn Dayton.

By completing a detailed questionnaire, students can be matched with more than 130 scholarships available through The Dayton Foundation and educational foundations that are part of the Foundation. “ScholarshipCONNECT makes it quicker and easier for students to match their educational interests with available scholarships and apply online for multiple scholarships at once,” said Michael M. Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation. “It’s an incredible resource, providing tools and information to help Greater Dayton students and their families.”

College-bound students and their parents can help plan and pay for college by accessing ScholarshipCONNECT links to online financial aid, loan resources and tools, such as a college debt calculator and the Ohio Board of Regents’ new Ohio Means Success website. There are also links to other local scholarship programs, including the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program, as a college debt calculator and the Ohio Board of Regents’ new Ohio Means Success website. There are also links to other local scholarship programs, including the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program, a component fund of The Dayton Foundation.

“Affordability is a big part of ensuring that young people successfully complete a college degree,” said Dr. Thomas J. Lasley II, executive director of Learn to Earn Dayton and the former dean of the University of Dayton School of Education and Allied Professions.

“ScholarshipCONNECT is a wonderful resource for students who are trying to identify appropriate scholarship and loan options that will help them successfully complete a college degree without needless debt.”

— Dr. Thomas J. Lasley II, executive director, Learn to Earn Dayton

At learntoearndayton.org we list 40 ways people can help.

“Everyone can do something to help. Businesses can educate employees about preschool programs. Houses of worship can emphasize reading in religious education classes. Parents can make sure they have books in the home.

“The region’s future depends on getting it right with our kids. They have only one childhood, and we can’t give them what they need, there are no do-overs.”

— Dr. Thomas J. Lasley II, executive director, Learn to Earn Dayton

Support for Learn to Earn Dayton

Individuals wishing to support Learn to Earn Dayton (L2ED) philanthropically may send a gift to the Learn to Earn Dayton Fund of The Dayton Foundation, 500 Kettering Tower, Dayton, OH 45423. For more information about L2ED, go to learntoearndayton.org.
Michael M. Parks

You will notice that we have focused this issue of Good News on education. Many of our donors have geared their grantmaking largely to education. This past fiscal year, $7.3 million, or nearly 20 percent, of the Foundation’s total grant dollars went to support education, including scholarships.

It has been said that education is the great equalizer. Those who follow trends and statistics know this to be true. Tom Lasley, in the lead article in this issue, talks eloquently of the Foundation’s total grantmaking largely to education. Many of its partners’ effort to create a system that ties together our community will not have the support in the future that they so richly deserve if we don’t get this right.

For a while, we thought that the factories and the corporations that fueled Greater Dayton for decades may not come back. But it is in recent years that we have come to understand that this rebuilding of our economic infrastructure that we have worked to successfully recast, may lie among roots far deeper than we may have understood. Ultimately, to sustain economic vitality, we need to address equality of opportunity – education and training – for our community’s children, not just our own. I have to believe that we have both the ability and the will to make this happen. Already, Tom has enlisted many allies in an effort that I believe to be no less than a social imperative.

If we fail our children in this effort, we also fail our community in ensuring our region’s ongoing economic vitality. We cannot assure a continuing supply of the skilled workforce that modern companies require to locate and remain in Greater Dayton if more of our children don’t obtain marketable, work-skill certification after high school. Without this economic engine, nothing else works. It’s really that simple...and that complex. And all the other things we care deeply about in this community will not have the support in the future that they so richly deserve if we don’t get this right.

But it is in recent years that we have come to understand that this rebuilding of our economic infrastructure that we have worked to successfully recast, may lie among roots far deeper than we may have understood. Ultimately, to sustain economic vitality, we need to address equality of opportunity – education and training – for our community’s children, not just our own. I have to believe that we have both the ability and the will to make this happen. Already, Tom has enlisted many allies in an effort that I believe to be no less than a social imperative.

I always had a thirst for knowledge and was driven to make something of my life, but now I was a single mother. I didn’t want this to become an excuse not to succeed,” she said. “I was motivated to complete what I had begun.”

A gaping hole in this web of forward movement is the statistics in the lead article on the work of Learn to Earn Dayton and its partners. Think for a minute about the opportunity gap of a poor child, only 1 in 10 of whom is educated to some type of skill certification beyond high school.

A POOr ChiLD, ONLy MiNUTe ABOuT ThE SCHOOL....

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Mathile College Completion Scholarship
New Scholarship Opens Doors for Students

Locally and throughout the nation there is a growing emphasis on the need for education beyond high school and what it means to a healthy economy.

“For many students seeking a college education, this means incurring a significant debt. In Ohio, the average student loan debt after college is $28,000,” said Dr. Ned Sifferlen, former Sinclair Community College president and chair of the Board of Trustees of the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program (DMCSP), a fund of The Dayton Foundation since 2006.

For students from lower income families in particular, completing college can be not only difficult, but often impossible.

Greg Edwards, executive director of the Mathile Family Foundation agrees. “The Mathile family believes that education is the greatest social and economic equalizer, but affordability is just one of the barriers to academic success. The reality is that life experiences often cause educational gaps for students, particularly students from low-income families,” he said.

To help address some of these issues, the Mathile Family Foundation has partnered with DMCSP and Sinclair Community College to create the Mathile College Completion Scholarship.

Through this new scholarship, students who receive a DMCSP scholarship towards their first year at Sinclair will be awarded a Mathile scholarship for their second year, with the potential for additional funding towards a bachelor’s degree at an affiliated college or university of DMCSP.

The first Mathile College Completion Scholarships will be awarded this fall to the approximately 80 eligible DMCSP scholarship recipients currently attending their first year at Sinclair. If a student meets DMCSP and Mathile’s eligibility requirements, they have the potential to earn between $5,000 and $13,000 towards the cost of their four-year degree, according to Dr. Don Thompson, executive director of DMCSP.

“This is life changing for students who would be faced with mounting debts and not be able to complete their education,” Ned Sifferlen said. The motivation to succeed, however, is just as important as filling a financial need. That’s why scholarship recipients will work closely with a Coordinator for College Success, funded by the Mathile Family Foundation. The coordinator will assist students while they attend Sinclair, then follow the students’ progress through their junior and senior years at another institution. “It’s not uncommon for students to face challenges in their everyday lives that impede or restrict their focus on education,” Greg Edwards said. “The coordinator will help identify the students’ academic and out-of-school barriers that hinder college completion and work with them to find appropriate solutions.”

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“This scholarship is an example of how we can leverage community assets and connect to resources and partners that ultimately will work to improve our future workforce,” Don Thompson said.

“We need to strengthen the pipeline, as Learn to Earn Dayton has identified, which includes helping those students who are graduating today,” Ned Sifferlen said. “Thanks to the Mathile Family Foundation and this new scholarship, we can do just that.”

“THIS IS LIFE CHANGING FOR STUDENTS WHO WOULD BE FACED WITH MOUNTING DEBTS AND NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION.”

— Dr. Ned Sifferlen, former president, Sinclair Community College, and chair, Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program Board of Trustees

“We’re very excited about this scholarship and our partnership with Sinclair and the Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Program,” said Greg Edwards, who also is a graduate of Sinclair Community College. “The Mathile family believes very strongly in the Greater Dayton region. Through this joint effort, we can begin to nurture the leaders of tomorrow by transforming their lives today.”

“I hope my contribution to the Foundation on behalf of black girls and boys will help in a small way to alleviate these problems,” Pearl Dale wrote in 1990. Upon her passing in 2011, she bequeathed $650,000 — the largest single gift to AACF to date — to The Pearl A. Dale and Audrey Parker Scholarship Fund. Scholarships from the fund have been awarded to eight students to date, including Terrell Dorsey, a 2012 graduate of Kettering Fairmont High School.

“Not many people are born into families with money, including me,” said Terrell Dorsey, who is a student at Otterbein University majoring in psychology with a minor in sports management. “Thanks to this scholarship, I am achieving my goal of going to college. I know I will become a successful adult.”

“I HOPE MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE [DAYTON] FOUNDATION ON BEHALF OF BLACK GIRLS AND BOYS WILL HELP IN A SMALL WAY TO ALLEVIATE [INEQUALITY].”

— Pearl A. Dale, African-American Community Fund donor, in 1990

Set Up New African-American Community Fund Today, Receive Matching Gift

In celebration of the African-American Community Fund’s (AACF) 20th anniversary, The Dayton Foundation awarded a $110,000 matching grant in 2012 to help continue AACF’s growth and encourage the establishment of new funds.

Now through December 31, if you open a new endowment fund or a Charitable Checking Account (CCA) through AACF, you will be eligible for a matching gift. Gifts for all new endowed funds will be matched up to 50 cents on the dollar, up to a certain dollar amount — and some restrictions will apply. Also, grant amounts awarded from new CCA’s established through AACF will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to $1,000, and awarded to the AACF discretionary fund in the donor’s name.

For specific details or to open a fund, please contact Whitney Briggs, development officer for The Dayton Foundation, at (937) 225-9948 or at wbriggs@daytonfoundation.org.
Maureen Demers didn't stay in one place very long. As the wife of a U.S. Army soldier, she lived in 18 different communities throughout the United States and Europe from 1956 to 1978. But she managed to leave an impact wherever she went.

"No matter where we were stationed, she always found a way to locate and serve those in need of a helping hand," said Gerald Demers, Maureen Demers's husband. "This served as a training ground for a life dedicated to helping and serving others." It's also what inspired her to create a fund through The Dayton Foundation shortly before she passed away in 2004.

Following Gerald Demers's retirement, the Demers planted roots in Petersberg, VA, where Maureen Demers became very active in their church's social ministry and community outreach programs. Whether she was tending to the sick or lending a listening ear, Maureen Demers poured herself into identifying clients' needs and finding the resources to meet them.

Maureen had a great gift for relating to and connecting with people. Clients always felt at ease in her hands," Gerald Demers said. "She spent numerous hours planning fundraisers to bring in new resources for her beloved outreach program.

In 2000, the Demers moved again, this time to Tipp City to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Within the first week, they started volunteering for the Needy Basket of Southern Miami County. Soon after, she was volunteering for Tipp-Monroe Community Services' Community Relief Program, The Clothesline and several arts organizations.

"Every week Maureen Demers would come to the office to volunteer, sitting patiently while people would tell her their struggles," said Kathy Taylor, executive director of Tipp-Monroe Community Services. "She never judged. She just wanted to help individuals and families get back on their feet."

Sadly, her service to the Dayton community would be cut short after being diagnosed in 2002 with incurable pancreatic cancer. Despite her grim prognosis, her giving spirit prevailed. In the weeks before her passing, Maureen Demers asked her husband to establish an endowment fund with The Dayton Foundation using funds she had in an IRA account. She designated The Tipp-Monroe Community Services' Community Relief Program and St. Joseph Catholic Church Social Ministries Community Outreach Program in Virginia to share the fund's income.

"More than $17,000 has been awarded to date from The Maureen Demers Memorial Fund for the Needy," said David Smith, M.D., CEO for CBC/CTS. "It's an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with someone's final gift of life through a tissue donation and help create a new legacy for so many people in need."

Since its opening in 2011, the Center has provided more than 430,000 life-saving and life-enhancing grafts — over 800 grafts per day — to help individuals in Greater Dayton, across the nation and around the globe.

"The Center enables us to be on the forefront of research and development in tissue bank biotechnology, as well as to focus on creating specialized human tissue grafts and developing new technologies for the recovery, processing, and distribution of these grafts," said David Smith, M.D., CEO for CBC/CTS. "It's an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with someone's final gift of life through a tissue donation and help create a new legacy for so many people in need."

In 2010, the Center's capital campaign to build its new, 90,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Center for Tissue, Innovation and Research began. Located at the Miami Valley Research Park in Kettering, the Center serves as the flagship facility for Community Tissue Services, with 10 branch facilities across the country that recover and distribute tissue grafts. The Center's 14 tissue processing rooms has its own dedicated air recirculation unit. "Our clean rooms are class 100, which refers to the number of particles permitted per volume of air," Julie Belden said. "To put this into perspective, hospital surgical rooms typically operate at class 10,000, making our rooms among the highest sterility levels in the industry."

The Center also allowed expansion of CBC/CTS's ability to engineer machined grafts. "Often surgeons alter the size of a bone or tissue graft by hand to match a patient's specific need. Machined grafts using Computer Numeric Controlled machinery ensures precise sizing," Julie Belden said. "This is cutting-edge technology happening in Dayton."

"Our work will continue to expand in the years ahead. Thanks to The Dayton Foundation and our other funders, we were able to build upon our first-rate team to provide quality tissue grafts to help save and enhance more lives. This is our mission and our passion."
Donors and organizations establish funds to help others

E tablishing 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.

Coffman Family YMCA Endowment Fund provides unrestricted operating revenue for this YMCA of Greater Dayton branch serving Southern Montgomery and Northern Warren counties. The YMCA is a cause-driven organization that supports youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Dayton Public Schools Superintendent’s Student Senate Scholarship Fund grants college scholarships annually to two graduating seniors from each of Dayton’s public schools. These students must display leadership qualities.

The Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors (DSPS) Term Endowment Fund furthered the work of this nonprofit arts organization. Founded in 1938, DSPS offers local artists a venue in which to display and develop their art through exhibits, events, workshops and discussion groups.

Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc., Fund helps fund Fisher House. Fisher/Nightingale Houses Inc. House provides military families with a temporary place to stay, while receiving treatment at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center.

Tom and Kacie Hausfeld Junior Olympic Volleyball Fund awards grants to support Junior Olympic Volleyball. Kacie Hausfeld was a talented volleyball player at Alter High School and the University of Dayton, and her father, Tom, was one of her biggest supporters.

Barry R. and Joy A. James Fund supports the charitable interests of its donors, Barry James, president and CEO of James Investment Research, Inc., and his wife, Joyanna.

Fred and Pat Lange Fund provides support to nonprofit organizations, as selected by the donors. Fred Lange, an attorney, and his wife, Pat, a fitness specialist, created the fund to help nonprofit organizations that assist the under-served in our community.

Pamela Furr Morton

Pamela Furr Morton Memorial Fund for Kids in Need was established by the family and friends of Pamela Morton to honor her lifelong commitment to giving back to others, especially children. Pamela Furr Morton was a dedicated caregiver to many children throughout her life.

Muse Machine Nancy M. Breene Fund provides annual operating revenue for this nationally recognized arts organization. Nancy Breene, who was introduced to Muse Machine through her dear friends, Mary and Bill Koch, and their son, Adam, established the fund through a bequest.

Joseph John Nealon-Saint Joseph Legacy Fund furthers the legacy of Joseph Nealon by awarding grants to Catholic organizations and other charities, as advised by the donors. Inspired by their late son’s charitable spirit, Carol and John Nealon chose to honor his memory by establishing this fund.

Neumeister Family Charitable Fund awards grants to support nonprofit organizations as chosen by Jean and Bob Neumeister and their three children.

Mary Beth Repasy Fund for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Research, created from the estate of Mary Beth Repasy, distributes funds to two nonprofit organizations that support PSP research.

The Robert P. Ross, Sr., Foundation* honors the founder of the Bob Ross Auto Dealerships by awarding grants to the Sinclair Community College Foundation and the American Heart Association. Among his many career accomplishments, Robert Ross was the first African-American Mercedes-Benz dealer in the world.

The Norma J. Ross Youth Foundation* benefits deserving youth in the Greater Dayton community.

Norma J. Ross

Ross was a long-time educator, who received numerous professional recognitions and community service awards. She assumed command of the Bob Ross Dealerships in 1997, upon the untimely death of her husband, Robert P. Ross, Sr.

Moira E. Vilardo

Moira E. Vilardo Scholarship Fund designates funds to assist students with tuition costs at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School in Liberty Township. The fund was created by Louis Vilardo in memory of his wife, Moira.

*American-American Community Fund

*Endowment

The Dayton Foundation News

Dayton Children’s CFO Joins Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board

The Dayton Foundation welcomes David T. Miller, vice president of Finance and chief financial officer for Dayton Children’s, to its Governing Board.

David Miller has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of finance and health care. Since joining Dayton Children’s in 1983, he has been responsible for all financial transactions and policies for the hospital and for The Children’s Medical Center Foundation.

David T. Miller

In addition to serving on The Dayton Foundation’s Finance Committee since 2004, he is a member of the boards of CareSource and the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association. He previously served as a board member and chair for Kids Voting. In 2010, he was named CFO of the Year in the nonprofit health care category by Dayton Business Journal.

New Mobile Service Helps You Make Gifts on the Go

Making online gifts to charity just got easier! With The Dayton Foundation’s new credit card gift page for mobile phones. You now can use your smart phone to make a gift with your VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit card to any Foundation fund or Charitable Checking Account.”

You may designate your gift in honor or memory of someone, and you can request to remain anonymous, if you so choose. It’s fast, easy and secure. Plus, your gift is fully tax deductible. Simply visit www.daytonfoundation.org, on your smart phone, click “Give” then click “Donate Now.”

Save the Date! The Dayton Foundation’s Biggest Event!

Mark your calendars for 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2013, for the best party in Dayton and the Foundation’s largest event – the 2013 Triennial Meeting Celebration of The Dayton Foundation. To be held at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, the event will include an exciting program in the Mead Theatre, fol-

owed by live music and a Wine and Light Supper Social in the Wintergarden.

Watch for more details in the summer issue of Good News. You won’t want to miss this one!
College Promise Helps “Diamonds in the Rough” Excel

Launched in 2010, the Montgomery County Ohio College Promise has enrolled 130 students and is nearly a third of the way to its 10-year goal of selecting and supporting up to 500 Montgomery County eighth-grade students from low-income families through college.

“Our first-year students, as a group, currently have a 3.46 grade point average,” said Gary Smiga, executive director of College Promise. “This is a significant achievement for these students, as well as a compliment to the work of our mentors. These students truly are diamonds in the rough.”

With the support of their volunteer mentors, these students have their eyes focused on their education and are forming long-term friendships.

“Visiting Shaniah is the highlight of my week,” said Jeri Fox, a retired school counselor and mentor to Shaniah, a sophomore at Northridge High School. “As a mentor, I'm gaining as much as my mentee... perhaps even more!”

“I like how Ms. Fox helps me to stay focused every week and is preparing me for my future,” said Shaniah, who will be the first in her family to go to college. “I am proud of myself and what Ms. Fox is helping me to accomplish. It's challenging me, but I like it.”

College Promise has raised just over $5 million towards the program's goal of $6.2 million in private money that will help leverage a total of nearly $23 million in tuition and services during the next decade. Among significant gifts to date include a $1 million gift from John N. Taylor, Jr., the program's founder, a longtime Dayton Foundation donor and former Governing Board member; a $600,000 discretionary grant awarded over three years, plus backroom assistance and office space, from The Dayton Foundation; and most recently, a three-year, $750,000 challenge grant from the Mathile Family Foundation.

College Promise also has confirmed Central State University as its fifth college partner, providing financial support for up to 10 students per year, and an agreement with Miami University is being finalized. Other college partners currently include Denison University, Kettering College, Sinclair Community College and Wright State University. College Promise will continue to add additional partners to meet the diverse needs of their students.

“These partnerships are extremely important to our students’ success,” Gary Smiga said. “Each of our College Promise college/university partners has contributed significant scholarship dollars and aid. They are financially invested in this program and demonstrating their strong dedication to encouraging these young people's educational success.”

Jeri Fox recently had an opportunity to ask the three other Northridge students enrolled in College Promise what they thought about the program.

“Their response in unison and without hesitation was, ‘Oh, I love my mentor!’” she said. “They are committed to their schoolwork and to staying drug- and crime-free. Two of the students broke friendships, because they didn’t want to be associated with peers who were making unhealthy choices.

“Thanks to College Promise, they recognize that they have too much to lose. They are working hard and making great choices. College Promise is a life-changing opportunity for all of the students and their families.”

“It’s all about being the most successful people they can be,” Gary Smiga said. “With the help of their mentors, these students are dreaming beyond College Promise. And we’re encouraging them to dream as big as they want.”

Mentors Needed
College Promise is recruiting mentors for its third year of students. More information can be found at www.mcocp.org or by contacting Gary Smiga, executive director, at (937) 225-9922.

Recent Discretionary Grants
support worthy community causes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>support worthy community causes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dayton Crayons to Classrooms ($10,000)</td>
<td>to help expand their services in the region to four additional schools by providing basic school supplies for students in need.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospice of Dayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospice of Dayton Foundation ($10,000)</td>
<td>to help create a new garden with alcove patios and seating to further enhance the organization's 14-acre campus for patients and their families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FilmDayton ($10,000)</td>
<td>to assist in promoting the Dayton Region as a destination for film and television production companies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Neighbor House ($25,000)</td>
<td>to expand dental and nutrition services for underserved individuals and families by renovating the organization's new facility.</td>
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<td>House of Bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>House of Bread ($15,000)</td>
<td>to assist in providing nutritious lunches to individuals in need by expanding and renovating the kitchen and dining room.</td>
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<td>Human Race Theatre Company ($30,000)</td>
<td>to help attract and engage new and existing audiences through new marketing strategies.</td>
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<td>Kettering Parks Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kettering Parks Foundation ($10,000)</td>
<td>to assist in the construction of the Charles Kettering History Walk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>YMCA of Greater Dayton ($25,000)</td>
<td>to help improve children's health and nutrition habits by creating a free, after-school childhood obesity prevention program through Soccer for Success.</td>
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These discretionary grants were made possible by the following unrestricted or field-of-interest funds of The Dayton Foundation: Soma S. and Veni Avva Endowment Fund, Hampden W. and Emra R. Catterton Fund, Children's Charitable and Educational Trust Fund, Francis Crenshaw Fund, James M. Hewitt Child Welfare Fund, Mary L. Marshall Fund, Lenore B. Talbot Thomas Memorial Fund, Willard E. Talbot Memorial Fund, Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund. The Dayton Foundation. These discretionary grants were made possible by the following unrestricted or field-of-interest funds of The Dayton Foundation: Soma S. and Veni Avva Endowment Fund, Hampden W. and Emra R. Catterton Fund, Children's Charitable and Educational Trust Fund, Francis Crenshaw Fund, James M. Hewitt Child Welfare Fund, Mary L. Marshall Fund, Lenore B. Talbot Thomas Memorial Fund, Willard E. Talbot Memorial Fund, Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund.
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 Makes Plan for Outdoor Amphitheater Come to Life

Picture the setting. Hundreds of people perched on lime- stone seating along a grassy hillside. Stone pathways lead to an outdoor amphitheater, while wetlands and forest serve as a dramatic backdrop. The stage is equipped with a sound system, but nature provides the best acoustics for an evening’s festivities.

After more than a decade of planning, Preble County Historical Society (PCHS) was able to do more than picture this setting—they raised funds to construct an environmentally friendly, outdoor amphitheater. The amphitheater, which accommodates more than 1,000 visitors, provides a new venue to draw residents and visitors to community events, outdoor educational opportunities and private functions. In 2012, the Dayton Foundation supported the project with a $25,000 discretionary grant towards the building of the stage and roof.

“We are so thankful for The Dayton Foundation’s grant,” said Jane Lightner, executive director of PCHS. “Not only did it help cover construction costs, but we were able to use it as leverage to obtain additional funding from prospective donors.”

Former Ohio Governors Bob Taft and Ted Strickland were among the supporters who attended the amphitheater’s dedication ceremony last summer, which included a spectacular fireworks display. PCHS is currently planning a 2013 season that will include theater productions and country music concerts, among other events.

“Opportunities the new amphitheater presents will improve the quality of life in Preble County,” Jane Lightner said. “It would not have been possible without the support of The Dayton Foundation.”

Foundation Donors’ Grants Make Children in Developing Countries Smile

It is estimated that more than one million children in developing countries are in need of cleft palate or cleft lip surgery. Not only does an unrepaired cleft impact a child’s ability to speak and eat, but also it can cause social issues. Children in some parts of the world are shunned by their community or abandoned by their family. They often are not allowed to attend school or to get a job.

Smile Train, a nonprofit organization that provides cleft treatment programs in developing countries, works with medical facilities in these countries to provide free cleft repair surgery and follow-up services to children. By partnering with area hospitals to provide equipment and empowering local medical teams through training and education, Smile Train has managed to keep the cost of these treatments to a minimum.

Based in New York, Smile Trains’ work is supported by donors in communities throughout the country, including those in the Dayton Region. Dayton Foundation donors alone have awarded more than $114,000 in grants to support its mission in the last decade. With cleft surgery costing as low as $250 in some areas, an estimated 450 children have received this life-altering, and sometimes lifesaving, cleft surgery due to Foundation donor gifts.

“Generous supporters, such as donors from The Dayton Foundation, truly are Smile Trains’ lifeblood,” said Priscilla Ma, executive director of Smile Train. “With the help of this surgery, these children can go on to lead full and productive lives.”