Everyday Experiences Inspire Funds, Motivate Donors to Make a Difference

Whether it’s to right an injustice or fulfill an innate desire to help our fellow man, the motivation to make a difference in others’ lives often is triggered by our personal experiences.

Educator Peter Titlebaum introduced this philosophy to his University of Dayton (UD) students when he created the exercise, “Legacy: Finding Your Emotional Trigger.” The project had a deep effect on him. It inspired a journey last June that took him, two friends and a support team from UD on a 625-mile, week-long bike ride from The National Underground Railroad Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, to The Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

“For me the bike ride, which I named the ‘Ride 4 Freedom Legacy Tour,’ was an extension of an exercise I was asking my students to do,” said Peter, a fellow for UD’s Institute of Applied Creativity for Transformation (IACT). “Part of the lesson was to make them vulnerable and uncomfortable while still moving forward and being willing to take a risk.”

Peter Titlebaum (middle) and fellow riders Daniel Iroh and Moshe Bar-gil rode 625 miles to raise awareness about civil rights during the Ride 4 Freedom Legacy Tour.

The Hundred Club of Dayton

Fund Supports First Responders Who “Put Their Lives on the Line for Us Every Day”

From clearing and navigating debris to assist tornado victims, to racing into the line of fire amidst the chaos of the Oregon District mass shooting, Greater Dayton first responders risk their lives every day to protect and serve our community. The Hundred Club of Dayton, a supporting organization of The Dayton Foundation that has been dedicated to supporting police officers, firefighters and their families since 1968, recognizes the sacrifices these individuals make each time they put on their uniforms.

“Events like the Oregon District tragedy bring to light the bravery of these individuals, but the day-to-day acts of courage often go unnoticed, unrecognized and underappreciated,” said Pete Luongo, chairman of The Hundred Club of Dayton. “Given the challenges of the unsettled world we live in, supporting first responders and their families is more important than ever.”

“Events like the Oregon District tragedy bring to light the bravery of these individuals, but the day-to-day acts of courage often go unnoticed, unrecognized and underappreciated,” said Pete Luongo, chairman of The Hundred Club of Dayton.

“The [Dayton] Foundation provides backroom support, fiscal oversight and management of the fund, this allows [us] to focus on what’s most important – our mission and programs.”

– Pete Luongo, chairman of The Hundred Club of Dayton

The Hundred Club of Dayton established a fund through The Dayton Foundation in 2003 to maintain its independence while maximizing its financial stability and growth, according to Pete.

“It’s a great partnership. The Foundation provides backroom support, fiscal oversight and management of the fund,” Pete said. “This allows Hundred Club trustees to focus on what’s most important – our mission and programs. Annual membership dues and invested revenue from its endowed fund provide funding for Hundred Club programs, which include supporting local police and fire personnel and their families through scholarships and recognition awards, as well as financially assisting the families if their loved one is killed in the line of duty.

Last fall, when Dayton Police Detective Jorge Del Rio succumbed to injuries sustained while serving a search warrant on a suspected drug house, the Greater Dayton community rallied around his family. The Hundred Club was among the first to reach out, awarding a $10,000 grant to help cover funeral costs and travel expenses for Detective Del Rio’s family from Mexico to attend the services. Since inception, The Hundred Club of Dayton has been around since 1921, so I knew I was in great hands and they would take good care of me.” Last fall, $5,000 in grants were awarded from his CCA to support the museums they continued on page 2 »
Everyday continued

“[The Dayton Foundation has] been around since 1921, so I knew I was in great hands and they would take good care of me.”
— Peter Titlebaum, Dayton Foundation donor

“The Dayton Foundation helps me do this!”
— Terri Baldasare, Dayton Foundation donor

Hundred Club of Dayton has awarded more than $300,000 to 23 families of deceased or injured firefighters and police officers in Greater Dayton.

“Detective Del Rio did so much for the Dayton community over the years. I’ve known the family personally for many years, so this particular tragedy was especially difficult,” said Craig Voss, first vice president for The Hundred Club. “It’s an honor and a privilege to help the Del Rio family in their time of need.”

In addition to supporting family members of fallen officers, The Hundred Club of Dayton also offers scholarship and award of merit programs. The programs are named for brothers Robert and Richard Jacob, who cofounded the local chapter after being members of the first Hundred Club in Detroit, Michigan in the 1960s. The Hundred Club of Dayton scholarships have helped 423 children of local police and fire personnel receive nearly $1.2 million in scholarship assistance since 1991. The Robert B. Jacob Award of Merit, which is presented at the The Hundred Club’s biennial gala, recognizes local police and fire personnel who have performed acts of unusual bravery or gone above and beyond the call of duty in life-saving efforts.

“Our community’s safety and well-being depends on the commitment and dedication of our first responders,” Pete said. “We encourage others to get involved by joining The Hundred Club of Dayton. The membership fee is a small price to pay to support these first responders who stand ready to put their lives on the line for us every day.”

Femme Aid Collaborative founders (left to right) Ryann Mescher, Zoe Waller and Dana Clark

Hundred Club continued

percent of donations made through the CCA are used to purchase menstrual hygiene products monthly.”

Thanks to fundraising events like the Change the Cycle breakfast and car washes, Femme Aid has collected and distributed 500,000 period products to individuals in need since March 2019. They also have lobbied for change by supporting the passage of House Bill 19 to eliminate Ohio sales tax on feminine hygiene products and created an awareness that has inspired several area schools to stock these products free of charge in their restrooms.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Femme Aid cofounders Ryann, Dana and Zoe recently were honored with the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award and featured on WHO-TV’s Making a Difference. But it isn’t accolades and awards that motivate these young women to continue their mission of helping to end period poverty.

“If you can give, you should. It doesn’t have to be monetary, it can be your time or even just your support. Anything helps when it comes to problems that affect the whole community,” Zoe said. “We all have to do our part in improving Greater Dayton.”

In addition, Ryann, Dana and Zoe have worked with local leaders to advocate for state legislation that would ban Ohio sales tax on feminine hygiene products, with the ultimate goal of making these products free for all Ohioans.

Terri Baldasare, founder of Living with Lymphedema

“My CCA allows me to receive multiple charitable donations without having to establish my own 501(c)(3) organization,” Terri said.

Thanks to grants from her CCA and relationships she has developed with Premier Health Partners, Kettering Health Network, The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health and local physical therapists and physicians, more than 250 individuals living with lymphedema have received treatment since 2010.

“This has brought meaning to my battle with cancer. I not only have fought and won the battle, but I am helping others—in a small way—to defeat this condition,” Terri said. “I often wondered what mark I will leave on the world to let people know I was here. Aside from my wonderful children and grandchildren, this is my lasting mark. The Dayton Foundation helps me do this!”

The emotional trigger that inspired Femme Aid Collaborative happened during a routine errand. Ryann Mescher and her mother, April, were in line at the grocery store behind a woman who couldn’t afford to buy menstrual products. They purchased the items for her on the spot, and it moved them, along with Ryann’s Oakwood High School classmates, Dana Clark and Zoe Waller, to work to end period poverty in Greater Dayton.

“We had no idea this was an issue in our community. It was shocking to witness firsthand a person who had to choose between eating and purchasing menstrual hygiene products,” Ryann said. “We knew we had to do something about it.”

They opened a CCA through The Dayton Foundation to “give donors the confidence that we were an established entity, the money would be managed properly and they would receive a tax deduction,” April said. “One hundred

- Events
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Surendra and Sushila Singhvi Family Foundation

Man’s Charitable Journey Is Rooted in Faith and Family

Original from Jaipur, India, Dr. Surendra Singhvi came to the United States in 1962 with only eight dollars in his pocket. Four years prior to his arrival, he received a certificate in homoeopathy, a pseudoscientific system of alternative medicine. He worked in a free clinic after graduation to treat patients naturally, an experience that fueled his desire to give back.

“I encouraged people to come to the clinic. People would come get great medical service, get well and go home,” said Surendra, former vice president of financial management at Edison Brothers Stores, Inc. “It was a great experience and a great feeling. I made a lot of friends during my time there.”

Surendra, a faithful man, started his journey of giving back in India and has been devoted to this philosophy since. He serves the community as a member of the Dayton Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary International Foundation. He credits these ideals to his religion, Jainism, which encourages followers to give to those who may not be as fortunate.

“Jainism emphasizes not to collect things or money for oneself, but to donate to those who are in need,” he said. “This has inspired me to share my blessings with others.”

Once in the U.S., Surendra worked as a graduate assistant while earning his MBA at Atlanta University, now known as Clark Atlanta University. He earned the Fulbright Scholarship to attend Columbia University, where he earned his PhD. He taught at several universities and later worked at Armco Steel Company. While employed at Armco, Surendra felt inspired to give back to the communities that gave him his new beginnings. He established several endowment funds through local universities because he wanted to provide scholarships to deserving individuals.

After moving to Dayton, Surendra learned about The Dayton Foundation through this newsletter. He and his wife, Sushila, were inspired by friends, who also are Foundation donors, to establish the Surendra and Sushila Singhvi Family Foundation in 1999.

“I feel I have achieved a lot in the U.S., so now it is my turn to give back,” he said. “There is no better charitable giving institution than The Dayton Foundation. Although the fund is fairly new, Surendra and Sushila hope to help others achieve an education, as well as benefit humanity at large. They’ve passed this mindset onto their children and grandchildren. Their son and daughter-in-law work tirelessly to raise money for various causes, and their daughter has established her own foundation in Chicago that provides financial aid to immigrant youth. Their granddaughter also is following in the family tradition and currently is doing social work in Africa.

“My religion encourages followers to share wealth with others since it is not going with you when you leave this world. I hope to do this along with the rest of my family,” Surendra said. “If we are to be remembered for anything at all, it is that we are a compassionate and caring family who gets joy and peace from helping the communities in which we live. Whether in India or America, we want to give back for mankind.”

Tips on Charitable Giving

Leaving a Legacy for Good for Greater Dayton

It has never been more evident that Greater Dayton is a philanthropic community than when we stood #DaytonStrong in the face of several catastrophic events in 2019. Throughout these trying times, our community showed how it pulls together when the going gets tough.

These tragic events also highlighted the important role that community foundations can play during challenging times. A community foundation like The Dayton Foundation provides charitable individuals with a vehicle for collective community good. Many donors have created legacy funds that benefit Greater Dayton in perpetuity, with some of them dating back to the Foundation’s establishment nearly 100 years ago.

Throughout 2019 is to think that a donor, who created an endowed fund years ago and has long passed on, will help the victims of the Memorial Day tornadoes simply by having the foresight to leave an unrestricted fund to The Dayton Foundation? By making this important decision, these donors allow community leaders who serve on the Foundation’s Grants Committee to decide how best to use those charitable dollars, based on future community needs.

When you establish a Community Impact Endowment Fund, or an unrestricted fund, you can create an endowment fund for our community and ask The Dayton Foundation’s grants committee to award grants in your name. These funds give The Dayton Foundation the greatest possible flexibility to address pressing community needs. You also may establish a Field-of-Interest Discretionary Fund, which allows grants to be awarded in certain areas of interest, such as feeding the hungry, supporting veterans, educating youth and more.

While nonprofit organizations, their leadership and mission statements may change, your intentions are honored through the rest of time. Jesse Phillips, a former Dayton Foundation Governing Board chair, said it best. “By using The Dayton Foundation, donors can be assured that the funds they donate today are not directed to obsolete or unimportant needs in the future. Donors can give discretionary judgement to people who are on the scene long after we are gone.”

We believe that our job is to listen to our donors and help them give to charities they care about in the most tax wise, efficient manner possible. However, when you look at the astounding amount of money that was awarded last year by funds at The Dayton Foundation – nearly $52 million – only $1.2 million of that was awarded through the Foundation’s discretionary and Greenlight Grants processes. Why? Most of the grants awarded from the Foundation come from Donor-Advised or Donor-Designated Funds. While some donors may not feel they need assistance in determining which charities or causes to support today, it is difficult to know future community needs. Community Impact Endowment Funds and Field-of-Interest Discretionary Funds give donors the reassurance that the Foundation’s staff and Grants Committee – who have a finger on the pulse of the nonprofit community and their needs – can address situations like those we faced in 2019.

To learn how you can establish a fund to help Greater Dayton now and in the future, contact me, Joe Baldasarre or Jill Koorndyk at (937) 222-0410.
Establishing a strong foundation for our community’s future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. The following funds are some of the new endowments established by donors in recent months to support their special charitable causes and our region, now and in the future.

**Endowments**

**Annamarie Baig Memorial Fund** awards grants to nonprofit organizations in memory of this beloved wife and mother.

**Tom and Ann Becker Family Foundation** supports charitable causes that promote the well-being of the Dayton Region. Tom Becker is a longtime member of The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board.

**JoAnn Brown Legacy Endowment Fund for VTA** provides annual income for Victoria Theatre Association (VTA) to support the advancement of women in arts administration and venue management. This fund honors the legacy of JoAnn Brown, who began her VTA career as a part-time custodian and advanced to vice president of Facilities.

**Dayton Montgomery County Census Advised Fund**

**Dayton Montgomery County Census Advised Fund** contributes to local efforts that support the accurate and complete count of residents in Dayton and Montgomery County for the upcoming 2020 Census.

**The Dayton Varsity Club Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship** awards scholarships to students selected as an Athlete of the Month by the Dayton Varsity Club to help further their education.

**The Final Salute Society Monument Maintenance Fund** generates income to clean, repair and restore the World War I and World War II monuments in Dayton, Ohio.

**Graybill Family Foundation** was established to fulfill the charitable giving wishes of Matthew and Sharon Graybill and their family.

**Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Ireland Family Funds** honors the charitable giving legacy of Daytowners Don and Beth Ireland by supporting various charitable endeavors.

**Kumar Family Foundation** was established by Suresh and Deepak Kumar, MD, to support civic and charitable endeavors.

**The David W. James Charitable Fund** garners revenue to support nonprofit organizations important to the donor, including 4 Paws for Ability. 4 Paws for Ability believes in providing the highest level of care and quality for their dogs as well as those who utilize their services.

**The Malezewski Family**

**Peter H. and Marjorie C. Kurtz Designated Fund** honors Peter H. Kurtz and his contributions to the Kurtz Foundation for more than 50 years. This fund awards grants to support qualifying students attending Alter, Carroll and Chaminade-Julienne high schools.

**Maleszewski Family Charitable Fund** garners revenue and support for charities in the Dayton Region, as designated by Jesse Maleszewski, cofounder of Evolutionary Health Solutions, LLC, and Sand Hill, Inc., and his wife, Heather.

**Mary Lou McKay Charitable Fund** was established to meet human needs and assist in improving the quality of life in Greater Dayton, as determined by The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board.

**Bill and Jackie Lockwood Fund to Support Opera** was established to support opera and opera education in Greater Dayton. Jackie Lockwood, a former president of the Dayton Opera Guild, created the fund from a bequest from her estate.

**Bill and Jackie Lockwood**

**Marty and Dottie Miller Family Fund** provides support to charitable organizations, as decided by the Miller family. Helping individuals with special needs, a cause that was inspired by their granddaughter, Kelly, is particularly important to the Miller family.

**William A. Lumpkin**

**Endowed Scholarship** helps an African-American student, who has demonstrated leadership and academic success and is graduating from Dayton Public or Trotwood-Madison schools, attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university.

**Dottie Miller**

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*continued >*
From the President

Your Community Foundation’s Response to 2019 Tragedies

Michael M. Parks

Any of us unfortunately will remember 2019 as a year that rocked our world and broke our hearts. In the days and months that followed both the Memorial Day tornadoes and the Oregon District mass shooting, our community responded with compassion and a genuine desire to help. It also was a time that those of us at The Dayton Foundation discovered our true resiliency and capacity to fulfill our mission—to help you help others.

Philanthropy Ohio, a statewide membership association, recently asked me to write an article for its publication about The Dayton Foundation’s response to those tragic events. With their permission, I’d like to share this article, and again express my deepest appreciation to all of you who stepped forward to help during these challenging times.

Called in a Time of Need: Dayton’s 2019 Tornadoes and Shootings

Late Memorial Day night in 2019, disaster hit close to home when 15 tornadoes struck the Dayton Region. Over the years, as similar tragedies have impacted other communities in the United States and around the world, The Dayton Foundation has provided information about vetted organizations to our donors so they could safely give if they wanted to help. So, when tornadoes hit our hometown, we knew we needed to do more.

Our staff huddled the next morning and established the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund to accept charitable donations from individuals, families and organizations who wanted to help their neighbors here at home. Over the following months, the Foundation processed thousands of gifts to the fund, fulfilled numerous media interview requests, and partnered on dozens and dozens of fundraising events. As a result of the outpouring of support, resources from this fund are assisting Greater Dayton nonprofits in the relief efforts. The Foundation also has provided significant staff time to aid in the development of a coordinated recovery structure.

Then, in the early hours of Sunday, August 4, 2019, tragedy struck again as a shooter took the lives of nine individuals and injured dozens of others in Dayton’s historic Oregon District. Foundation staff huddled once again to determine the best way to respond. Dayton’s City Manager asked if we could set up a fund like the one for the tornado relief efforts. We knew we should help, but we didn’t know how to help. With the Disaster Relief Fund, the funding is going to nonprofits. With the mass shooting, we had no idea how we could legally and responsibly get charitable money to individuals. Within minutes, other community foundations around the country that unfortunately have experienced tragic shootings and the Council on Foundations in Washington, D.C., reached out and offered their assistance. This support was a godsend, and we couldn’t have done it without them.

We quickly opened the Dayton Oregon District Tragedy Fund once we learned that there was a pathway to legally get assistance directly to individuals. Gifts from Dayton, across Ohio and around the world began to flow into the fund that afternoon.

We also connected with Washington, D.C., attorneys Ken Feinberg and Camille Biro, who have assisted with over 30 high-profile victim-compensation funds—all of which as volunteers. Their insights were a tremendous gift and blessing. They guided us through a process that ultimately allowed us to direct charitable dollars to individuals in a transparent, fair, quick and responsible manner. A key element was the establishment of a diverse community-wide Oversight Committee to determine and oversee the distribution process. Leading this group of 15 volunteers was Brother Raymond Fitz, SM, PhD, former president of the University of Dayton; and Gary LeRoy, MD, FAAFP, former chair of The Dayton Foundation. Their compassionate leadership was outstanding.

By late November, nearly $4 million was distributed to the families whose loved ones were taken in the Oregon District shooting and to individuals who suffered serious physical injuries. No one involved with the administration of the fund took a penny—not the legal work, auditing, accounting, banking, victim assistance or credit card processing. One hundred percent of the donations went to the victims and families. It was absolutely amazing.

Between the two funds, more than 100 fundraising events have been held and over 8,000 gifts totaling more than $7 million have been donated to assist with these tragic events. It’s an unbelievably kind and generous outpouring of care and compassion.

As I think back on the last 10 months, I wish to share a few reflections:

❖ The resiliency, love and compassion shown by Daytonians and others around the world to those hurt, killed or impacted simply was amazing.
❖ The act of giving to both funds was a very important part of our community’s healing process. I really didn’t anticipate this early on.
❖ The workload this put on the Foundation’s staff was overwhelming. No one complained; everyone dug deeper and folks from around the community stepped forward to help. I was so proud of our staff, doing whatever was needed to help those impacted.

Unfortunately, the work is not over. Individual recovery from the tornadoes, including rebuilding and repairing homes, accepting donations and providing crisis intervention, likely will last another 18 months. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that long-term community recovery, including economic, infrastructure and social service recovery, could take 6 to 10 years. We will continue to work and stand with the 30-plus nonprofit agencies and organizations that have stepped forward to lead and assist these efforts.

The Dayton Foundation is proud to play a small role in the healing and recovery. I believe The Dayton Foundation was “built” to aid in these types of situations. As one of many charitable foundations located in Ohio, we all are blessed to have the trust of our communities and to be in a position to help when the need arises.

Michael M. Parks, CFRE
President

Winfred R. Riley Endowment for Mary Scott Nursing Center

provides annual income for Mary Scott Nursing Center, Inc., a longtime care and rehabilitation facility.

James W. Simovart Charitable Fund

meets human needs and improves the quality of life in Greater Dayton, as determined by...
Recent discretionary grants help build a better community

In the second half of 2019, The Dayton Foundation awarded $48.2 million in grants from donor funds to charitable organizations in Greater Dayton and beyond. Of this amount, $560,000 was awarded through the Foundation’s discretionary grants program, made possible by donors who have provided unrestricted or lightly restricted funds. These funds enable the Foundation to act on opportunities in the Greater Dayton community and address pressing needs throughout the region.

Additionally, grants totaling $20,500 were awarded through the Foundation’s Greenlight Grants program to benefit area nonprofits.

Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County, Inc. ($25,000) to aid in building a new facility to provide emergency shelter and support services for families in need.

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

Greenlight Grant Awards

Ronald McDonald House Charities Dayton ($4,000) to purchase new kitchen equipment to better serve clients.

Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund

Dayton Crayons to Classrooms ($10,000) to assist in hiring a Director of Development and Marketing to expand the organization’s donor base and explore additional funding opportunities.

Dayton Oregon District Tragedy Fund ($100,000) to support the victims and families of the August 4, 2019, mass shooting.

Dayton Crayons to Classrooms

CityWide Neighborhood Development Corporation

CityWide Neighborhood Development Corporation ($5,000) to hire a coordinator for out-of-school youth programs at two public housing communities.

CityWide Neighborhood Development Corporation

Victoria Theatre Association ($25,000) to help create a new brand incorporating all aspects of the Theatre Association’s venues and operations.

Victoria Theatre Association

Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund ($400,000) to aid organizations that are helping to rebuild the most impacted areas following the Memorial Day tornadoes.

Dayton International Peace Museum

Greater Dayton Peace Museum ($4,000) to make repairs to the museum’s current facility, the historic 1865 Isaac Pollack House.

Dayton International Peace Museum

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association ($2,500) to distribute free trees to area residents and educate them on care and maintenance.

Learning Tree Farm

Learning Tree Farm

These grants were made possible thanks to the following unrestricted or field-of-interest funds of The Dayton Foundation:

- Soma S. and Veni Avva Endowment Fund
- Dr. William G. and JoeAnna Cassel Fund
- Children’s Charitable and Educational Trust Fund
- W. A. Chryost Fund
- David H. and Edith W. Clark Family Fund
- Francis Crosthwaite Fund
- Patrick J. Fannon Discretionary Unrestricted Fund
- Robert H. and Enis N. Kissinger Fund
- Lucia Lee and J. Ramsey McGregor Fund
- Ray Loughnan Fund
- Warren E. Miltenberger Fund
- John E. and Elizabeth Purdy Fund
- Harry A. Toulmin, Jr., and Virginia B. Toulmin Fund
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 Revitalizes Neighborhoods, Helps Residents Enjoy Home Sweet Home

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton

There’s no place like home. But for many low-income individuals and older adults who live on fixed incomes, keeping up with the ongoing expenses of home maintenance can be challenging. The problem escalates when catastrophes strike, such as the 2019 tornadoes, as many low-income homeowners cannot afford the costs of major repairs necessary to safely stay in their homes.

To help alleviate this issue, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton created the Critical Home Repair Program to help low-income older adults and individuals in need receive the repairs necessary to stay in safe and well-maintained homes. The Dayton Foundation supported this project, which also revitalizes neighborhoods and helps preserve an affordable housing inventory, with a $40,000 grant in 2018.

“The Dayton Foundation grant helped us to leverage substantial grant funding from other sources to sustain this critical repair program,” said Kevin Tucker, grants officer for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton. “Without grants like these, we could not achieve our mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.”

With the help of the Foundation’s grant, 11 structures received major repairs, allowing 40 local residents to stay in their homes. Repairs ranged from roof and siding fixes to air conditioning and furnace installation. Habitat for Humanity plans to expand its program in the future to assist a greater number of homeowners.

“Thanks to The Dayton Foundation’s support, many community residents received assistance from Habitat for Humanity and will be able to remain in their homes,” Kevin said. “They are touched that people like you – who may not know them personally – are making it possible for them to live their dreams.”

Library Offers Immigrants a Taste of Home

When an individual uproots his or her life and moves to another country, the adjustment process can be a difficult one. To highlight this experience and educate the community on the struggles that immigrants face, the Dayton Metro Library created the Trace Your Roots exhibit. This interactive experience helps visitors relate to the challenges of moving to America and provides resources for individuals adjusting to their new life.

With the help of a $7,500 discretionary grant from The Dayton Foundation, Dayton Metro Library built the traveling exhibit to showcase Dayton's rich cultural diversity and connect their visitors with the community's immigration stories. The display includes stations where visitors can experience what it's like to say goodbye to their homeland and prepare for a long journey, experiment with language translation, explore ethnic foods and more.

“It’s been so great to share the immigration experience with the public and help our patrons. People love the food station and are so appreciative of the ethnic dining guide,” said Shaun Wright, information services manager for Dayton Metro Library. “They are surprised to find so many hidden gems right here in our region.”

Trace Your Roots premiered in the new Southeast Branch Library, which is located in a neighborhood that is home to many individuals who recently have come to America. The exhibit will continue to rotate through the library system in 2020 and beyond.

“This exhibit showcases some of the library services, spaces and materials to help new citizens integrate into the community. More importantly, we are sharing information that connects diverse neighbors and, hopefully, supports greater empathy and understanding,” said Rachel Gut, deputy director for the Dayton Metro Library. “Thanks to Trace Your Roots, we believe we are helping to build a stronger, more diverse community for all of us.”

Remembering Irv Bieser

For over 40 years, this well-known attorney, dedicated philanthropist and committed environmentalist helped The Dayton Foundation as its lead attorney, work in which he took great pride. As Irv said in a 2009 article for the Foundation, “I’ve seen the Foundation grow and help more and more people make philanthropy a part of their lives,” he said. “They make a huge difference by providing knowledge and guidance for more and more people who desire to support their community financially. The Foundation sees things from a broad perspective and is adept at building collaborations and minimizing duplication of efforts.”

In addition to his legal work, Irv had a desire to serve his community as a philanthropist and volunteer. These traits were imprinted by the examples of his grandparents, as well as by his parents, both of whom established funds through the Foundation.

Irv was at the forefront of helping to protect miles of local river corridors and supporting numerous other regional conservation efforts. He also was especially proud of his work in helping to develop the Oregon District, deliver the Ponderosa Collection to the Dayton Art Institute and assist a number of conservation organizations, including Five Rivers MetroParks and Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm.

Irv was at the forefront of helping to protect miles of local river corridors and supporting numerous other regional conservation efforts. He also was especially proud of his work in helping to develop the Oregon District, deliver the Ponderosa Collection to the Dayton Art Institute and assist a number of conservation organizations, including Five Rivers MetroParks and Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm.

Said Mike Parks, president of The Dayton Foundation, “Irv Bieser believed in the Foundation and gifted all of us with his knowledge, friendship and compassion for his community. He was a true public servant and will be missed by so many in our community. We proudly will carry on his and the Bieser family’s legacy of giving through their endowed Foundation funds.”
Good News

Endowment Funds continued

The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board.

Craig and Cindy Steffen

Craig A. Steffen Paraclete Scholarship Fund awards scholarships for adopted or foster children with a financial need, and who are high school seniors or current college students in Greater Dayton, to continue their studies at a two- or four-year accredited institution.

Straughen Charitable Fund generates revenue for Normandy United Methodist Church in Dayton and Ranch Hope in New Jersey. The fund memorializes Dr. William Straughen, a long-time pathologist for Miami Valley Hospital.

Thomas Neal

The Unitary Accounting Services Scholarship in Honor of Thomas Neal provides aid to an African-American student who is seeking a Bachelor’s degree in accounting, finance, management, management information systems or marketing.

Valley View Athletic Booster Scholarship recognizes one outstanding female and one outstanding male from the graduating class at Valley View High School by awarding scholarships.

Vandalia-Butler Foundation Term Fund supports the operation of the Vandalia-Butler Foundation and its family of funds.

Allen York

Allen York Masonry Scholarship honors Allen York, a Northridge High School graduate and skilled tradesman, by providing scholarships for students to further their masonry studies for a skilled trade.

Save the Date! The Dayton Foundation’s Centennial Celebration – 100 Years of Helping You Help Others

Mark your calendars for 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, September 24, for the event of the century! The celebration will be held at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, and will include an original program produced specifically in honor of the Foundation’s 100th anniversary.

After the program in the Mead Theatre, you and your family and friends are invited to keep the celebration going with live music and a Wine and Light Supper Social. Watch for more details in the summer issue of Good News. It’s an event you won’t want to miss!

The Dayton Foundation’s year-long Centennial Celebration is presented by PNC Bank. Lead sponsorship provided by J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., with Partner Sponsors Buckingham Advisors and Fifth Third Bank.

Supporting Sponsors include Bieser, Giner & LANDIS; The Cornell/Nicholson Team of UBS Financial Services; Isabel Brady & Sutliff Asset Management; Flagel Huber Flagel; James Investment Research; Johnson Investment; KeyBank, Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC; and Morgan Stanley.