Commander J.A. Barr, lead flight director, wears bright blue astronaut-like coveralls, complete with official-looking patches and insignias. They make her look nothing like a sixth-grade science teacher. She’s ready to take kids on an extraordinary journey into space without going any further than the modest brick building next door to Dayton’s Kiser Middle School.

She runs the Challenger Learning Center of Greater Dayton, which is one of several Centers nationwide created by the families of the astronauts lost during the last flight of the space shuttle Challenger.

Last summer, the Friends of the Challenger Learning Center of Greater Dayton established the Challenger Learning Center of Greater Dayton Fund at The Dayton Foundation to help support the Center’s programs and operations. J.A. Barr says they are excited about working with The Dayton Foundation, because of its “strong community ties and terrific reputation. Revenue generated from the fund will help us provide training and resources that should benefit not just Dayton Public Schools, but the entire community.”

Dedicated to the educational spirit of the last Challenger mission, the Center uses all the excitement of space exploration to create positive learning experiences for students. The Dayton Center, built in 1990, has delivered a high-quality educational experience to more than 100,000 students from throughout western and central Ohio and from as far away as Indiana and Kentucky.

Upon arrival at the Center, Commander Barr meets students in the briefing room, where they are divided into two groups: those who will remain “on earth” at “Mission Control” and those who will “travel” into space. The “space capsule” houses duty stations, where students have specific instructions to follow. At the “medical station,” students check their visual acuity and response time using a computer program, and then transmit results back to their teammates at “Mission Control.” At another station, students take a sample from a “comet,” measuring its volume and mass. Fifteen-year-old student Amanda Steele from Huber

continued on page 2

OUT OF A FAMILY HERITAGE OF GIVING BACK, BOB NEFF BECAME CHAIR OF THE FOUNDATION GOVERNING BOARD AND SOUGHT TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY.
From the President
Michael M. Parks

Bob Neff ended his term as chair of the Governing Board of The Dayton Foundation at the start of the new year, and Judy McCormick, longtime community leader and valued Governing Board member, assumed the chair position. We welcome Judy and look forward to the warm and wise leadership we know she will bring to the work of the Foundation. We'll feature an interview with Judy in our next issue of Good News.

As Bob leaves the Board, we would like to acknowledge how deeply grateful we are for all he has done for the Foundation during his three years as chair and his eleven years on the Board. Bob Neff has not only steered us well throughout his tenure, but he and his family also have set a wonderful personal example of the meaning of community philanthropy. The article on Bob in this issue tells the story of how, for generations, the Neffs have believed in the central importance of giving back to their community. They have given tirelessly of their time, talent and money.

The Foundation and the community are the grateful recipients of that commitment, and we thank Bob and his family from the bottom of our hearts.

"BOB NEFF HAS... SET A WONDERFUL PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF THE MEANING OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY." – Mike Parks

We'd also like to acknowledge the many contributions of Doug Hawthorne and John Taylor, Jr., who have given so much as chairs of the Board Audit and Finance Committees and who have both served on the Executive Committee. Their good counsel has served the Foundation and our donors well over the years. We always will be grateful for their knowledge, experience and dedication and the sound course they helped the Foundation to chart through the turbulent economy of the last few years.

As I look back at our blessings of the past year, I know we have much to be thankful for. The Foundation rose in the rankings last year among the nation's 650 community foundations, to become 13th in the nation in grants paid out and to 9th in new gifts received in 2002. The Foundation remains the 36th largest in the U.S. This says a great deal about the strength of philanthropy in the Greater Miami Valley, when charitable giving through The Dayton Foundation can stay strong in a challenging economic environment.

We give thanks to our donors, the professional advisors who help bring them to us, our nonprofit partners who do such worthwhile work throughout our community, and to the many volunteers who help the Foundation do its work. These volunteers serve on our Board and on Foundation standing committees and help us daily in our office. They share their talents and help us to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by your donors. I would like to recognize and thank them.

The Legacy Partnership Program continues to grow. Established as a partnership between local nonprofits and The Dayton Foundation, the program works to foster the long-term stability of local charitable organizations by helping them to develop strong legacy gift programs. Twenty-six not-for-profit organizations are currently active in the program. Another twenty are expected to begin the program over the next few months.

Family Foundation Plus, the Foundation's new, better alternative to a private foundation, likewise is off to a strong start. In the six months since the new donor service was made available, 11 donors and families have opened Family Foundation Plus funds, with several others in the discussion phase with the Foundation. This bodes well for philanthropy in the Greater Dayton region in the years ahead.

I want to express a special thanks to each of you for the part you play in the charitable work and mission of The Dayton Foundation. Ultimately, our region is stronger when The Dayton Foundation is strong. The generosity of the people of the Greater Miami Valley is the reason for this strength. Thank you.

"...SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR THE PART YOU PLAY IN THE CHARITABLE WORK AND MISSION OF THE DAYTON FOUNDATION." – Mike Parks

At the end of last year, we had a wonderful Biennial Meeting Celebration at the Schuster Center that broke our previous attendance record for the Foundation's largest and most important event. We also saw the advent of Donor Express, our new online, password-protected service, whereby donors can access their account information and make grant requests online.

Donors who use Donor Express tell us they love it. We're so glad to be able to offer this timely service.

Special congratulations go to the American-African Community Fund and its able Advisory Committee for their fine work, which has resulted in the largest single gift – nearly $600,000 – in their 13-year history. Thanks to the dedication, enthusiasm and giving nature of Henry Garcia, young African-Americans who study music at Wilberforce University will have an easier time of it than Mr. Garcia did in the 1940s. I hope you will read his inspiring story in this issue.

So, as we start a new year, I'd like to give a special thanks to each of you for the part you play in the charitable work and mission of The Dayton Foundation. Ultimately, our region is stronger when The Dayton Foundation is strong. The generosity of the people of the Greater Miami Valley is the reason for this strength. Thank you.

"REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE FUND WILL HELP US PROVIDE TRAINING AND RESOURCES THAT SHOULD BENEFIT NOT JUST DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY." – J.A. Barr, lead flight director, Challenger Learning Center of Greater Dayton

The Center helps students see themselves in successful roles as researchers, scientists and engineers.
Dreams Take Flight! A celebration to remember

The Dayton Foundation’s Biennial Meeting Celebration was truly a celebration! Six hundred donors and other friends of The Dayton Foundation gathered at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center in mid-November. Robert S. Neff, then chair of The Dayton Foundation Governing Board, and Steven C. Mason, chairman of Second and Main Limited, welcomed guests to the special event and to the Schuster Center. Guests heard President Michael M. Parks give the Report of The Dayton Foundation and tell how the Foundation’s family is sharing a dream for the future of our community.

Dazzling performances by local arts groups Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, The Machine and Rhythm in Shoes, rounded out the program in the Schuster Center’s Mead Theatre. Afterwards Judy McCormick, then incoming Governing Board chair, invited guests to enjoy a wine and light supper social in the Wintergarden, featuring the jazz melodies of The Eddie Brookshire Trio and a new multimedia exhibit, “Flights of Fantasy,” by the artists of K12 Gallery for Young People. It was an event to remember!

“I FULLY EXPECT THAT THE DAYTON FOUNDATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.” – Robert S. Neff

Bob Neff’s commitment to the Foundation extends beyond his family’s funds. He has donated countless hours over 11 years of service on the Foundation Governing Board, the last three of which as chair. He stepped down from that post at the end of December, with a track record of accomplishment and continuing growth. In that time, the Foundation nearly quadrupled both in size and in its assistance to the community and moved from a role as “passive monetary conduit,” he said, to “active facilitator for important community efforts.”

These efforts have included recently The Job Center, the Schuster Performing Arts Center, the Out-of-School Youth Task Force, the Teacher Leadership Academy, Riverscape and the Diversity Initiative, among others.

Bob Neff counts among the Board’s top accomplishments the hiring of Michael M. Parks as president. “He has done an outstanding job of restructuring at the Foundation to meet changing organizational demands,” he said, “and instigating creativity in operations and services for which the Foundation has been historically known. He leads outstanding staff who are all dedicated to donor service, to the Foundation’s philanthropic mission and its creative growth, and to the success of our community.”

Bob Neff is especially proud of the development under Mike Parks of a unique donor service, Family Foundation Plus (a private foundation alternative) and the Legacy Partnership Program, an endowment-building program for local nonprofits that teaches and supports them in a structured planned giving program to benefit their organizations.

He also is proud of the strong Governing Board and Board committee structure he leaves behind. “We have a lot of very talented people, with a wide variety of skills and leadership capabilities on our Board,” he said. “And I’m so pleased that Judy McCormick has assumed the chair position. She is a highly dedicated, talented and seasoned community leader with a wealth of background about the Foundation. She will be a marvelous chair.”

Neff plans to continue his active volunteer engagement in the community, including as an advocate for the Foundation. He said he hopes that more people will learn about the great services provided to donors, professional advisors and nonprofits by the Foundation and that the Foundation will continue to grow and to increase its community leadership role.

“I fully expect,” he said, “that The Dayton Foundation will continue to be one of the most innovative and successful community foundations in the country.”

An interview with new Board Chair Judy McCormick will appear in the next issue of Good News.

“The Biennial Meeting was a gorgeous, all-stops-pulled-out event. Thank you for going to the trouble for the Dayton Community.” – Gail Cumming, Widows Home Foundation

“THIS IS A GREAT EVENT. IT’S THE KIND OF THING THAT DAYTON NEEDS MORE OF. IT BRINGS SO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE TOGETHER.” – Richard Lapedes, donor of The Dayton Foundation

“WHAT A SPECTACULAR EVENT!... WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A FIRST-CLASS ORGANIZATION AND A FIRST-CLASS EVENT.” – Michael Fisher, vice president and regional manager, National City Corporation

GO ONLINE AT WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/BIENNIAL.HTML FOR MORE EVENT PHOTOS.
Establishing a strong foundation for our community’s future is a vision shared by donors who have endowment funds at The Dayton Foundation. Donors have started 17 new endowment funds recently to support our region and their special charitable causes, now and in the future.

The Countryside Foundation was established by Thomas Owen Stole, a former nursery owner who envisioned a North American express passenger and freight railroad system. The Dayton Urban League Legacy Endowment Fund will generate unrestricted funds to help the organization fulfill its mission to improve the social and economic well-being of Dayton-area residents through education and training. The George J. Graham Scholarship Fund honors the memory of this former Xenia High School principal and Xenia Public Schools superintendent (1912 - 1916) by awarding scholarships to Xenia High School graduates. The fund was established through a bequest by George J. Graham’s daughter, Mabel Graham Stevens.

The Greater Dayton Pro-Life Endowment Fund will promote life through education and action by aiding the Greater Dayton Pro-Life Education Foundation’s operations. Green Downtown Dayton Fund will support the activities of Green Downtown Dayton and further environmental or conservation activities in Montgomery County. Russell F. and Edith Oyer Jerd Fund directs income to The Engineers Club of Dayton, Dayton Opera Association and The Dayton Art Institute, as designated by the funds founders, Dr. Russell F. Jerd, retired dean of Sinclair Community College engineering technology department, and his wife, Edith Dyer Jerd.

Garrison R. Kneisley Fund was established with a bequest to benefit Alcoholics Anonymous. Garrison R. Kneisley was employed at his family’s company, The Kneisley Electric Company, which has been manufacturing motion picture projection and lighting equipment in Toledo since the 1930s. Lima Family YMCA Endowment Fund will generate unrestricted operating revenue to support the mission of the Young Men’s Christian Association of Lima to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirits, minds and bodies. The Muse Machine Permanente Endowment Fund will promote culture by providing unrestricted annual unrestricted income for the benefit of Lima’s arts education organization for the children of Lima.

The Tatar family (Lorelei Jerd Tatar and her husband, Jerome F. Tatar) recently established the Tatar Family Endowment Fund to benefit Alcoholics Anonymous. Tatar Family Endowment Fund will generate unrestricted income for the benefit of Lima’s arts education organization for the children of Lima. The Tatar Family Scholarship Fund supports Lima students by generating operational funds for summer camps and programs. The Lima Family YMCA Endowment Fund will support the activities of Green Downtown Dayton and further environmental or conservation activities in Montgomery County.

The Muse Machine enriches the lives of area youth by providing opportunities for students to experience and value the arts. The Saint Mary’s Foundation of Greater Dayton Endowment Fund will serve the mission of Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center. The Saint Mary’s Hospital Foundation, formed in 1964, promotes the advancement of the medical center. The Saint Mary’s Hospital Foundation Endowment Fund will enhance the programs and operations of the hospital by providing unrestricted income. The Lima Community Foundation Funds will assist The Lima Community Foundation Funds in its charitable operations by generating annual unrestricted revenue. The YWCA of Dayton Endowment Fund will enhance the programs and operations of the Young Women’s Christian Association of Dayton, which has been serving needs of women, children and families in the Miami Valley since 1870.
Henry A. Garcia, a retired professor of music at Wilberforce and Central State Universities, had a passion for music and for learning. “You should never stop learning. That’s what keeps you young,” he said in a 1999 Dayton Foundation interview.

Although he passed away in 2001, his beliefs and his legacy will live on through the Henry A. Garcia Fund in the African-American Community Fund (AACF), a permanent fund group of The Dayton Foundation. His estate was recently realized, leaving a nearly $600,000 bequest to benefit his fund.

Henry Garcia endured great obstacles in his pursuit of an education in music that were not uncommon to men of his race in the 1940s. His gift will help assure that other African-American students will achieve their dreams. “When you go through what I did to get an education,” he said in 1999, “you don’t want to see it happen again to another young person. Everyone has the right to an education. I’m happy to do what I can to preserve this right.”

His love of music developed early in life, after he learned to play the organ at the church where his father preached. Determined to pursue an education in music, he applied to an Ohio music conservatory in the mid-1940s.

According to Henry Garcia, in an interview a year after he established his fund, “They wouldn’t accept me, because I was black. In those days some universities, including this conservatory, wouldn’t allow black students. I fought long and hard. I appealed to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League and even the Office of the Attorney General of Ohio for support.”

After four years of making appeals, he was accepted into the conservatory. In 1953 he became the school’s first black graduate, graduating with a master of music literature and organ degree.

He came to The Dayton Foundation to establish an endowed music scholarship fund as a way to help future generations of African-American students pursue their dreams. “When you go through what I did to get an education,” he said in 1999, “you don’t want to see it happen again to another young person. Everyone has the right to an education. I’m happy to do what I can to preserve this right.”

Said Charles Jones, “As a young man, Henry Garcia had a vision for his future. His fortitude stood strong, and his dream was realized. Thanks to his profound generosity, many other young African-American students will achieve their dreams.”

Inspired by Henry Garcia’s passion for the purpose of his fund and for the AACF, Waverly Glover, a retired certified public accountant and Henry Garcia’s executor and longtime friend, also has established an endowment fund in AACF. His fund will benefit students majoring in accounting or business administration at Central State or Wilberforce Universities.

Established in 1991 at The Dayton Foundation, the African-American Community Fund serves as an umbrella to more than 50 individual funds earmarked to address specific needs within the Miami Valley’s African-American community.

The Fund was established at The Dayton Foundation by African-Americans to offer a unique opportunity for African-Americans to create a permanent financial resource for generations to come.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HENRY GARCIA ONLINE AT WWW.DAYTONFOUNDATION.ORG/DSTORIES.HTML

Funds Perpetuate Donors’ Lifelong Love of Music

Tempelhof fund benefits organ students

“IT TOOK UP THE ORGAN AND FELL IN LOVE WITH IT,” she said. “I studied off and on with him for about five years, he could really make an organ talk! Sometimes he’d send me to churches to substitute for other organists in the summertime. He taught me how to make the organ fun.”

Janet Tempelhof, who worked at NCR, said organ lessons were expensive. “About a quarter of my paycheck went for lessons,” she said. “It was that important to me, that important to my parents. Often my brother would play his violin, I’d play on my Hamlin organ, and we’d give my parents a little concert at home. I played for both my own and my family’s enjoyment.”

“THROUGH THE DAYTON FOUNDATION, MY FAMILY’S FUND DRAWS INTEREST NOW AND DOES SOMETHING FOR PEOPLE EVEN AFTER I’M GONE. KNOWING THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.” – Janet R. Tempelhof

Now 83 years old and legally blind, she sold her organ in 1979. She never forgot, however, her struggle to afford organ lessons. So in 2002, in memory of her brother and parents, she established the Tempelhof Family Fund through The Dayton Foundation to award grants to the Cedarville University music department for the benefit of students studying organ.

“There are many young people at Cedarville who love music but can’t afford organ lessons,” she said. “A pat on the back is nice, but getting a grant is something these young people will remember. At some point in their life, they will look back and say, ‘I got some assistance. Maybe I should be doing the same thing.’ Then maybe they will help another student. I hope it becomes a perpetual thing. If you love music, you want to share it with somebody else, if you can.”

Upon her death, the fund also will assist students studying organ at Wittenberg University and fullfill wishes for young people with life-threatening illnesses. Janet Tempelhof, who was born prematurely, often sat on the sidelines as a child due to poor health. She understands how a child’s heart aches when he or she cannot do what other children can do. “Children who are ill should have a little something to enjoy in life,” she said.

She chose to establish her family fund with The Dayton Foundation after a trust officer told her it would be a wise decision.

“IT THINKS IT’S ONE OF THE best investments I’ve ever made,” she said. “What better thing can you do but give to charity? Through The Dayton Foundation, my family fund draws interest now and does something for people even after I’m gone. Knowing that makes me happy.”

“I took up the organ and fell in love with it,” she said. “I studied off and on with him for about five years, he could really make an organ talk! Sometimes he’d send me to churches to substitute for other organists in the summertime. He taught me how to make the organ fun.”

Janet R. Tempelhof was 24 years old in 1942, when she got up the nerve to ask Robert Klene, the organist who played in NCR’s auditorium, if he’d give her lessons. She agreed.
I n just the last several months, our meetings with donors have helped us to identify 15 individuals who have included us in their wills, including one donor with a seven-figure bequest,” said John Arnold, president of Junior Achievement of O.K.I. Partners. “If not for the Legacy Partnership Program, we likely never would have known about most of these gifts and likely would have lost some of them.”

The Dayton Foundation established this first-in-the-nation program in 2003 to help local not-for-profit organizations to establish or build endowment programs through the Foundation that will help ensure the long-term stability of services and programs in the community. Currently 26 organizations in the Miami Valley are participating in the program, with another 20 scheduled to begin over the next few months.

“The net result is that more money will be going to these organizations for the benefit of our community.” — Joe Baldasare, vice president of Development, The Dayton Foundation

Clements, one of the Foundation’s two Legacy Partnership development officers. “The Legacy Partnership Program is providing them with the discipline, structure and consistency they need to stay focused and motivated.”

According to Angela Clements, one of the real benefits of the program is that it’s inspiring the organizations to think “out of the box” when cultivating donors and enhancing these relationships. “It’s not just the CEOs who are getting involved in the process. Many organizations are challenging their volunteers to come up with new and creative ideas for promoting their legacy programs,” she said.

For example, when The Human Race Theatre Company was producing The Spitfire Grill at the Loft Theatre last fall, volunteers for their endowment fund committee hosted a special Spitfire Grill luncheon for prospective legacy donors. “Lunch was served on the stage, with the set in place. The volunteers planned the entire event, from designing diner-style menus to preparing and serving the food. Everyone really enjoyed it, and plans are under way for how they will top this event,” she said.

Similarly, David Fogarty, president of ThinkTV, has taken the next step in building their relationships with donors. “As a way to promote ThinkTV’s Visionary [legacy] Society, we’ve been inviting long-time members to visit the station for personal tours and to meet with us to discuss ThinkTV’s future,” he said. “The response has been overwhelmingly positive.”

According to Joe Baldasare, vice president of Development for the Foundation, “The net result is that more money will be going to these organizations for the benefit of our community. The Dayton Foundation is proud to be able to help fill this gap for local not-for-profits.”

“We are very pleased to be a part of this innovative initiative.” — David Fogarty, president, ThinkTV

According to Angela Clements, the real benefits of the program are that it’s inspiring the organizations to think “out of the box” when cultivating donors and enhancing these relationships. “It’s not just the CEOs who are getting involved in the process. Many organizations are challenging their volunteers to come up with new and creative ideas for promoting their legacy programs,” she said.

For example, when The Human Race Theatre Company was producing The Spitfire Grill at the Loft Theatre last fall, volunteers for their endowment fund committee hosted a special Spitfire Grill luncheon for prospective legacy donors. “Lunch was served on the stage, with the set in place. The volunteers planned the entire event, from designing diner-style menus to preparing and serving the food. Everyone really enjoyed it, and plans are under way for how they will top this event,” she said.

Similarly, David Fogarty, president of ThinkTV, has taken the next step in building their relationships with donors. “As a way to promote ThinkTV’s Visionary [legacy] Society, we’ve been inviting long-time members to visit the station for personal tours and to meet with us to discuss ThinkTV’s future,” he said. “The response has been overwhelmingly positive.”

According to Joe Baldasare, vice president of Development for the Foundation, “The net result is that more money will be going to these organizations for the benefit of our community. The Dayton Foundation is proud to be able to help fill this gap for local not-for-profits.”

“We are very pleased to be a part of this innovative initiative.” — David Fogarty, president, ThinkTV

Jennie Webster and her future husband, C. William Irie, also one of the original members of 4-H, could not have guessed how this organization would impact the lives of so many children. Today 4-H is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with more than 6.8 million participants and more than 4.5 million program alumni.

Because of her lifelong interest and involvement in 4-H, she decided to leave a legacy for the benefit of young people participating in 4-H today and in the future. On the eve of her 101st birthday in 1993, she established the Jennie A. Irie Scholarship Fund to help award college scholarships to students actively involved with 4-H in Clark, Champaign and Miami Counties. Today her legacy lives on through her fund, which thus far has awarded over $29,000 in scholarships.

Foundation Welcomes Beth Hutter
New Legacy Partnership development officer

The Dayton Foundation is pleased to welcome Beth B. Hutter as its second Legacy Partnership development officer.

She brings over 14 years of experience in the corporate and not-for-profit environments, including over 10 years with the Kettering Foundation, managing its internal communications. Most recently, she was employed as a project manager for RadianExpress and was recognized for her achievements by being awarded the company’s Way to Go Team Award and the Going the Extra Mile Award.

“Many organizations simply don’t have the time or staff expertise to create a successful legacy gift program. That’s where the Foundation can help,” she said. “I’m excited to be a part of The Dayton Foundation’s family and to be working for the benefit of Miami Valley’s not-for-profit community.”

With a dual bachelor of arts degree in communications and Hispanic language/culture from the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s degree in management from Antioch University, Beth Hutter brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation.

The Dayton Foundation’s Legacy Partnership Program is helping us to build stronger relationships with our members and viewers, and to build long-term financial resources for the stations,” David Fogarty said. “The Foundation’s efforts, help and guidance are timely and important for our community’s not-for-profit organizations. We are very pleased to be a part of this innovative initiative.”

The Donor

Jennie Webster Irie was one of 103 boys and girls who met in the basement of the Clark County Courthouse in 1902 to lay the groundwork for the Boys and Girls Agricul-
Foundation Grant Gives Hopeful Future to Children

One little boy protested after learning that a dental hygienist was coming to teach him and his friends about brushing their teeth.

“But I don’t have any teeth!” he insisted.

“You must learn to take care of your gums,” explained a staff member from Kids in New Directions (KIND), “so you don’t lose your big teeth when they come in.”

“That’s okay if they fall out,” the boy replied. “I’ll just get fake teeth.”

That attitude is exactly what KIND is attempting to change through its Health and Hygiene Project, according to Phil Powers, KIND’s director. “These children have been taught that if a part of their body breaks, it doesn’t matter,” he said. “If your teeth fall out, so what?”

Thanks to a $12,000 grant in 2003 from The Dayton Foundation, KIND stepped up its ongoing Health and Hygiene Project, which teaches disadvantaged children good habits for a healthier lifestyle. A community outreach program, sponsored by Memorial United Church of Christ in East Dayton, KIND serves children ages 4 to 17 by providing tutoring, guidance, mentoring and life skills to 45 children through its after-school program and 115 children in the summer.

According to Phil Powers, most of KIND’s children are victims of dysfunctional lifestyles, and many girls have been molested or raped. Many boys have anger problems, he noted, because they’ve grown up with domestic violence. Often the children have little structure and supervision at home and frequently move from one condemned house to another. They know little about the importance of healthy eating, exercise or personal grooming.

“You can’t blame the kids. They’re doing what their parents do,” he said. “We can’t change the adults, but we can change the children. By teaching them good health habits now, they’ll be more likely to practice healthy habits when they’re adults.”

Keith Valiquette, KIND’s board chairman, said the Foundation grant came at a crucial time for the project. “It let dentists, hygienists and other professionals give the children health education and much-needed professional attention,” he said.

The children benefited from programs on dental care, bathing, hand washing, sexual health, drug use and abuse, manners and respect, exercise and good nutrition. Children with serious dental problems had their teeth cleaned and evaluated by a dentist.

“Because we have helped the children understand the importance of washing and combing their hair, and have given haircuts to some children, we’ve seen a drastic drop in our lice problem,” Phil Powers said. “We used to see children with lice at least once a day. Now we’re only seeing it once a week.”

“Because of The Dayton Foundation’s support, we’re laying the groundwork for a healthy lifestyle and a hopeful future for these children,” Valiquette said. “We want to build from here.”

The project parallels a Dayton Foundation leadership initiative to support educational programs for our region’s youth.

Over the last five years, the Foundation has granted more than $1.5 million to a number of organizations, including East End Community Services, Dayton Boys and Girls Club, the Children’s Hunger Alliance and KIND for after-school and summer youth educational programs, as well as to the Out-of-School Youth Program and the Teacher Leadership Academy, among others.

According to Powers, the Health and Hygiene Project is working. “Girls are cleaning up and wearing dresses to church on Sunday,” he said. “They want to look decent and smell pretty. The children are learning that although they were born into a certain situation, they can choose to make themselves better.”

Recently the children have started beating Phil Powers to the punch. “Now if I get busy, the kids will remind me to wash up before we eat together,” he said. “That tells me we’re starting to make a difference.”

A haircut, for a healthier child...
Grants
continued from page 7

to relieve the suffering of the homeless by providing them with blankets, shoes and food. Today the Center serves as a recovery facility for individuals who are suffering from substance abuse. A $12,500 grant will enable the Center to offer two inpatient beds for individuals who currently are unemployed and unable to pay for their treatment.

Lutheran Social Services of Mid-America, Inc.

Lutheran Social Services is creating a technology training program for clients of the Learn to Earn welfare-to-work program. The Foundation awarded an $8,700 grant to help provide Internet access and training to help individuals search for and complete job applications online.

Montgomery County Children Services

A $7,350 Foundation grant was awarded to support Project Quick Access. The project provides caseworkers with immediate access to client information through laptop computers, as they are investigating emergency abuse and neglect of children calling. Having access to this information in a crisis situation is critical to the safety of the children served by Montgomery County Children Services.

Montgomery County Help Me Grow Consortium

An $8,000 Foundation grant will aid Project CHATTER (Children Having Access to Therapy Enhancing Readiness), which provides financial assistance for uninsured children in need of speech and language therapy.

Planned Parenthood of the Greater Miami Valley

The Dayton Foundation awarded a $7,500 grant to support the SEEK (Sexuality Education Empowers Kids) Program, which provides age-appropriate sexuality education for at-risk youth. The Program teaches children about personal values and teen pregnancy, as well as how to make informed, healthy decisions regarding sex.

Project READ

Founded in 1988, Project READ is dedicated to improving the literacy levels of adults and families in the Dayton area. A $25,000 Foundation grant will assist in creating a comprehensive database of literacy and tutoring services available in the area, as well as draft a plan to increase the literacy rate in the Dayton area.

Rebuilding Together Dayton

Rebuilding Together Dayton provides minor home repairs or modifications, such as wheelchair ramps or handrails, for low-income elderly or disabled individuals. The repairs are provided at no cost to the homeowner. To enable the organization to fulfill additional requests, a $10,000 grant was awarded.

Shelter Policy Board

A $15,000 Foundation grant will assist the Shelter Policy Board to continue its mission to improve the lives of our community’s homeless individuals. The Board also works to strengthen the variety of services available to support these individuals in their move to permanent housing.

United Way of Greater Dayton Area

The Foundation awarded a $10,000 grant to help stimulate new and increased gifts to the United Way Campaign through a challenge grant program. Challenge grants will fund programs and projects that address new and emerging community needs.

We Care Arts

To assist in renovating the organization’s facility to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Foundation awarded a $10,000 grant to We Care Arts. The renovated facility will provide a larger, safer environment for individuals with acquired brain injuries, severe mental illness or learning disabilities to build life, job and communications skills through arts programs.

Wegerzyn Children’s Garden

Wegerzyn Horticultural Association, Inc.

A $5,000 grant will help educate urban children about the wonders of gardens, our natural resources and urban stewardship, by expanding Wegerzyn’s Children’s Garden to include a hands-on gardening exhibit, a plant life in Ohio area and interactive fountains and waterfalls.