

BRYAN AREA FOUNDATION

INSIDE THE FOUNDATION

BRYANAREAFOUNDATION.ORG
419-633-1156

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YELL MAKES ITSELF HEARD

Taking a walk through Bryan High School generates a sense of school spirit as one notices the freshly painted purple and gold stripes above lockers. Those stripes are physical proof of the Bryan Area Foundation's youth philanthropy program at work.

Fifteen YELL (Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning) students spent four days this summer adding a splash of color to BHS corridors. Completely youth-driven from start to finish, YELL service projects provide tangible evidence of its mission.

Donating time and talent is merely a small slice of the YELL program, however. Since its inception in January 2009, students have written bylaws, developed a mission statement, elected officers, formed committees -- all this in addition to tackling service projects such as the BHS painting venture.

"In essence, YELL students are well on their way to running their own non-profit organization," states Rhonda Owens, YELL Program Advisor. "And they are learning invaluable leadership and philanthropy skills along the way."

For example, YELL's Grant Making Committee is currently drafting grant making criteria, a grant making process and a grant application; the Development Committee is brainstorming a plan to raise money through individual and corporate donors as well as through special events; and the Membership Committee is in the throes of recruiting new students and developing an orientation process for incoming YELL members.

YELL truly is Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 30% of the Foundation's assets are unrestricted for the community at-large
- There are over 275 funds administered by the Foundation.
- Funds in the Foundation benefit our kids, parks, pets, churches, schools and a whole lot more.
- **Anyone** can contribute any amount to the community fund. Contact the office at 419-633-1156 and find out how!

GIVING WISELY

First, and most importantly, most charities are honest and accountable to their donors. Unfortunately, a few are not. As we move into the holiday season, we encourage you to use the guidelines below as you make your giving decisions.

Know Your Charity

Charities have an obligation to provide detailed information to donors. If a charity does not provide the information you request, you may want to think twice about giving. Honest charities encourage your interest and respond to your questions.

Know Where Your Money Goes

Ask how much of your donation goes for general administration and fund-raising

expenses and how much is left for the program services you want to support. American Institute on Philanthropy's *Charity Rating Guide* recommends that in most cases 60% or more of your charitable donation should go to program services. Less than 40% should be spent on general administration and fund-raising costs.

Keep Records of Your Donations

Do not give cash. Also, do not give your

(continued on back page)

2020 CLUB MEMBERSHIP!

How would you like to have a say in how to spend \$250,000?

Find out how you can purchase shares and vote on the next community project for just \$50 per month by calling the Foundation at 419-633-1156.



P.O. Box 651

Phone: 419-633-1156

E-mail: foundation@bryanareafoundation.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

BRYANAREAFUNDATION.ORG

**COMMUNITY FOCUSED.
COMMUNITY DRIVEN.**



New Funds Established

Bryan Area Foundation

Howard and Alice Vreeland Scholarship Fund
Williams County Fair Foundation Endowment Fund

Fund Definitions

Community - Created by an individual for the perpetual benefit of the community

Designated - Created by an individual for the perpetual benefit of a specific, qualified charitable organization

Field of Interest - Created by an individual for the perpetual benefit of an organization serving the needs in a particular area (e.g. animals, parks, youth, women)

Scholarship - Created by an individual for the perpetual benefit of students pursuing a college education

Agency Endowment - Created by a qualified charitable agency for the operational benefit of that organization

Donor Advised - Created by an individual to maintain advisory privileges over distributions with approval of Trustees

Acorn - Created to give individuals, families, and organizations a simple and flexible way to build an endowment fund with the Foundation

Administrative - Created to provide support for the ongoing operations of the Bryan Area Foundation

GIVING WISELY (CONT'D)

credit card number to a telephone solicitor you do not know. Give your gift by check so you will have a record for tax purposes.

The IRS requires that you obtain a receipt from the charity for all tax-deductible contributions of \$250 or more. Get an independent appraiser if you plan to give appreciable property worth more than \$5,000. The IRS does not accept appraisals by the charity or the donor.

Do Not Be Enticed by Emotional Appeals

Beware of the "sob story." The hard-luck appeal is a favorite of some organizations. Question phone solicitors or direct mail appeals that tell you nothing of the charity or offer vague explanations for spending your charitable dollars.

Beware of Charities Offering Gifts

Some charities include free greeting cards, address stickers, calendars, key rings or other "gifts" in their direct mail solicitations. They

send these items to increase donations, but this can mean higher fund-raising costs. You are not bound to make a contribution to keep a "gift." It is against the law for a charity to demand payment for any unordered merchandise.

If this all seems a bit too complicated to sort out, I might suggest a different checklist:

Give locally

Generally, the nonprofit groups you know best are your local charities. Not only do you see the results of the organization's work but also you know the people who govern them.

Give Generously

Give as generously as you can. There are many good charities that need your help to operate valuable programs and provide needed services in our community. When you give wisely, you will be giving more effectively.

TYPES OF GIFTS ACCEPTED BY THE FOUNDATION

- Cash
- Real estate, including business, residential or farmland
- Life insurance
- Securities traded on major exchanges
- Closely held stock
- Oil and gas leases
- Annuities
- Remainder and Lead Trusts
- Retained Life Estate