



50 years

1969-2019

BRYAN AREA
Foundation

First, A Story

Dear Friends:

Picture this: It's 1969, and a group of friends and civic leaders have been gathering on a regular basis to discuss establishing a community foundation.



Wouldn't it have been fascinating to be in the room when Grant Brown stood up, threw \$50 on the table, and said "It's time to stop talking about this and just do it!" We could have seen firsthand what motivated these men. Were some of them reluctant because they had yet to make that month's mortgage payment? Were some of them concerned if the community would support the idea? Were some of them bound and determined to make this work -- at least for a year or two?

Regardless of their motivation, would any of them have had the foresight that they were planting a seed that would ultimately grow into a foundation worth \$27 million over the next 50 years? I know one of those in that room, my grandfather, would be astonished, pleased and proud if he were here today. It's exciting to imagine the great things that will happen in the next 50 years with the seeds we continue to plant today.

We hope you enjoy this special 50th anniversary review of the wonderful things the Bryan Area Foundation has accomplished. It's a great tribute to those who invested their time and treasure to make Bryan what it is today. Let's use their inspiration as a springboard to see what great things we can accomplish over the next 50 years. In this case, I hope history does repeat itself.

Pam Bard Steel

Pam Bard Steel, Chairman



The mission of the Bryan Area Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of our area now and for generations to come by building community endowment, addressing needs through grant making, and serving as a leader, catalyst and resource for charitable giving.

The Dream Begins...1969

The groundwork for establishing the Bryan Area Foundation began in early 1969. Lemuel Hawk, an Aro Corporation executive, and attorney John Dwyer asked Bryan's Chamber of Commerce Board to appoint a committee to determine the feasibility of a community foundation. This group of enthusiastic leaders met regularly to conduct national research and interviews with other Ohio foundations. Lem Hawk, described by others as the driving force, and John Dwyer, who prepared the legal documents, effectively guided the organizational process. The Bryan Area Foundation's Articles of Incorporation were filed on December 12, 1969. Selected members representing a broad range of occupations and community service soon held their first meeting and election of officers. Thanks to their volunteer spirit, commitment and vision, the wheels were set in motion for five decades of growing donor endowment, making possible a multitude of community projects. The following pages outline the foundation's journey and continued dedication to honor the mission of its founders, "For the good of Bryan...forever." **This publication is dedicated to them, the original "Big Dreamers."**



The first four presidents of the Bryan Area Foundation pictured L to R are Bruce Benedict, Lem Hawk, Dick Reed, and Ted Spangler. They were honored at the 20th anniversary of the foundation in 1989. All were founding members, and each committed to a five-year term to ensure continuity and community trust in the foundation's formative years.

This publication is dedicated to the original "Big Dreamers."

Founders →

Randolph O. Bard
Bruce O. Benedict
G. Grant Brown
Ford Cullis
John B. Dwyer
Henry E. Ford

John A. Hall
Lemuel L. Hawk
George Isaac
P. Thomas Johnston
William C. Killgallon, Jr.
James A. Lockhart

Robert D. Lowe
Dr. Harold Mayberry
C.B. Melton
Frederick R. Parker
Richard L. Reed
Wayne Shaffer

Theodore Spangler
John Tomlinson
William W. Weaver
Forest E. Witzerman
A.W. Yahraus

1970's

The Right Stuff

1974 Officers: Pictured L to R are Juanita Myers, Richard Reed, Ted Spangler, John Dwyer and Lem Hawk



In the 1970s, author Tom Wolfe wrote his famous novel about U.S. astronauts who had pioneered the exploration of space culminating with the moon landing of 1969. It was titled *The Right Stuff*. 1969 was a stellar year for the country and the Bryan community with the founding of the Bryan Area Foundation. Surely the founders and early members of the BAF could be described as possessing “the right stuff” to firmly establish, nurture and grow the foundation. Their successful launch could also be attributed to Bryan’s prosperous agricultural, commercial and industrial base and community support for exceptional schools, parks, library and the arts.

The 23 founders got to work in earnest. President Lem Hawk and secretary John Dwyer created a code of regulations to guide members in the governance process. Mr. Hawk was insistent that the foundation have no administrative expense and always said, “We must be as pure as motherhood and apple pie.” The Aro Corporation produced printed materials for the foundation, and officers maintained records in their own offices.

First National Bank
 Account No. 32-480
 By Bryan Area Foundation
 Bryan, Ohio, 12/24 1969

PLEASE LIST EACH CHECK SEPARATELY

CURRENCY	DOLLARS	CENTS
SILVER		
CHECKS AS FOLLOWS		
<u>CITIZENS</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>00</u>
<u>J. Dwyer</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>00</u>
<u>G. BROWN</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>00</u>
<u>J. Tomlinson</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>00</u>
<u>S. Lockhart</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>00</u>
<u>Ed Emp. Welfare</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>00</u>
TOTAL \$	<u>500</u>	<u>00</u>

See That All Checks and Drafts Are Endorsed
 NOT NEGOTIABLE

First Deposit - \$500

1970 Assets
\$17,221
1979 Assets
\$407,678



Right stuff, right community, right time.

First Fund 1970
 Hugh A. Lindsey Memorial
 Scholarship Fund

1970-1979



Marvin Blanchard receives \$200 for Outreach from the Bryan Area Foundation. Also pictured are Forest Witzerman (L), BAF treasurer, and Lem Hawk (R), BAF President.

Within the first year, the initial deposit of \$500 grew to over \$17,000 from 206 donations. A campaign to encourage the community to make "founding donations" of \$25 was a big success. *The Bryan Times* published the names of donors, and Ford Cullis, its publisher and founding member, assured the public that "*The Bryan Times* is squarely behind the Bryan Area Foundation as I hope you will be." The foundation presented its first grant of \$200 to Outreach, a local emergency assistance organization.

A *Toledo Blade* writer soon came to interview founders, noting in his feature article how Bryan was one of only 26 community foundations in Ohio. Assets grew, and the BAF awarded scholarships and grants, including \$15,000 to the Bryan Community Hospital building fund and \$10,000 for the beautification of the courthouse square. In December 1979, Ted Spangler, the Bryan Area Foundation's second president, welcomed members to the 10th anniversary celebration honoring donors of numerous funds.

The Bryan Area Foundation was off and running...**Right stuff, right community, right time.**

"Years from now there will be a foundation ready and able to meet the real needs of the area as they arise. I can't think of a better way to benefit the region indefinitely than to remember BAF with a gift or bequest."

- Lemuel Hawk



Total Grants & Scholarships
1979
\$64,528



1960's

1980's

Blazing the Trail

The 1980s were fraught with record highs including interest rates, unemployment percentages and stock market losses. Despite financial challenges, BAF assets grew along with community awareness. Foundation members quietly blazed the trail in support of their mission by demonstrating the benefits of donor endowment. **"Your gift will be good for Bryan, for good."** By 1989 bequests and memorials grew from 14 to 73.



First Good Citizen Award - 1980

John Dwyer, BAF founder and secretary until his untimely death earlier in the year, was the first recipient.



"Your gift will be good for Bryan, for good."



In 1986 Tom Herman (L), Williams County YWCA building fund chair, receives \$100,000 from Grant Brown, BAF.

"A memorial gift goes into action the instant it enters the foundation and outlasts the finest monument."

- Bruce Benedict

Bruce Benedict became the third president in 1981 and agreed to serve until the foundation reached \$1 million in assets. By 1986, assets reached well over the million dollar mark and Richard Reed began his term as president. The foundation presented the largest grant

to date of \$100,000 to the building committee of the YWCA. Grants for the new school track and field, library, and courthouse made headlines. An ever-growing number of high school graduates received memorial scholarships reaching \$27,000 in 1989.



1980-1989



The BAF awarded a grant of \$8,000 for outdoor lighting of the Williams County Courthouse in 1989. The grant also honored the centennial celebration of this historic landmark.



The publicity committee reviews the first edition of the Bryan Area Foundation Memorial Book. Pictured L to R are Mary Thaman, Tom Voigt, Irma Fitzenrider, and John Milliken.



Total Grants & Scholarships
1989
\$791,927



The BAF granted \$20,000 to the Bryan High School track and field in 1988.

1970's

1990's



1995 25th Anniversary of BAF

- Assets accumulated: over \$4.4 million
- Grants awarded: over \$1.5 million
- Scholarships given: over \$455,000 to 634 students from 37 scholarship funds
- Funds established: 111
- Members of the BAF: 41



The dream of a playground in Recreation Park attracted over 2500 volunteers in 1994. The BAF awarded \$45,000 to help the community come together to build the Imagination Station.

The Dream Continues

"If you build it, they will come."

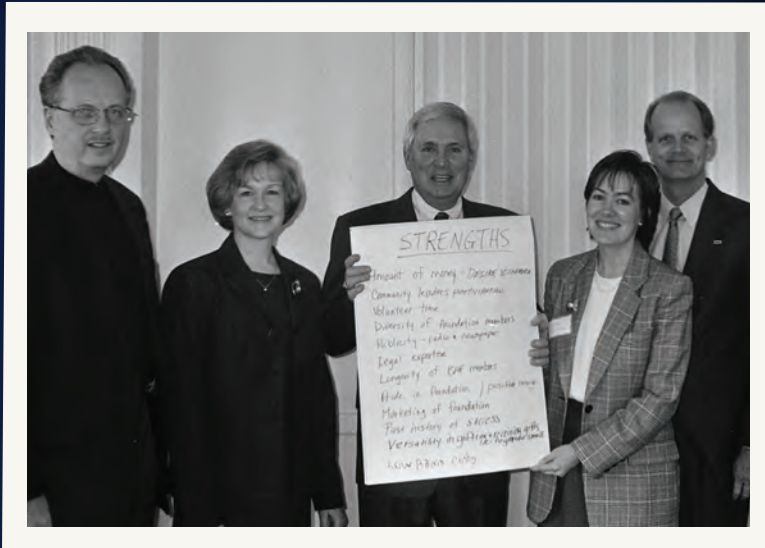
In 1990 BAF President Richard Reed announced that donor endowment had reached \$2 million. The explosion of technology brought higher productivity and personal income, impacting the Bryan area's capacity for philanthropy. At the 25th anniversary celebration, BAF President Wayne Shaffer praised the asset growth without any fund raising or solicitation. He likened it to a quote from a popular baseball movie, Field of Dreams, **"If you build it, they will come."** Assets were over \$4 million. Mr. Shaffer was the fifth president to lead a doubling of the BAF endowment.



The BAF celebrates its 25th anniversary in 1995 and honors charter members. Seated L to R are Dr. H.R. Mayberry, Richard Reed and Grant Brown; standing, Bill Weaver, Randolph Bard, Wayne Shaffer, George Isaac, Bruce Benedict, Ford Cullis and Ted Spangler.

1990-1999

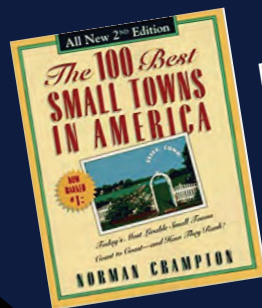
In 1999, with an endowment approaching \$8 million, the BAF operated in a small rent free office with volunteer members. Recognizing the need for professional growth and advice, President Tom Herman and a facilitator from The Donors Forum led members in a day long retreat. They identified concepts of a successful foundation including a permanent office and professional staff.



A member seminar in 1999 was a turning point for the BAF. Pictured L to R are Dean Blaser, Connie Tipton, Tom Herman, Lori Kuhn, Donors Forum director, and Dean Spangler.



In 1991 a foundation grant of \$60,000 helped renovate an old building into a new community center on Buffalo Road.



Bryan named 30th best small town in America

"The Bryan Area Foundation is the greatest thing that has come down the pike for Bryan, Ohio." - Al Horn, Treasurer

Total Grants & Scholarships
1999
\$2.8 million



The Arts and Education Center received a total of \$250,000 in grants over several years.



1980's

2000's



First Executive Director - 2000
Mike Wolfe was hired after a six-month search and led BAF members in strategic planning and advocacy training emphasizing, "People give to people."



Native Son Returns - 2005
Mitchell Owens, a BHS graduate, returned with nonprofit leadership experience as the second BAF executive director. His creative ideas expanded BAF community outreach.

**Total Grants & Scholarships
2009
\$7.5 million**



A Firm Foundation

The national tragedy of 9/11 and a catastrophic recession marred the beginning and end of the decade, but the Bryan Area Foundation held firm. Many large BAF grants laid the foundations for facilities rising to fulfill big dreams and enrich thousands of lives. The BAF hired its first and second directors, and three area foundations became affiliates. Members established an office at 516 East High Street. Community leaders met in focus groups in 2007 to provide the BAF with prioritized needs. The BAF protected donor funds by suspending grants throughout the 2008 recession.

2000-2009

Building foundations,

2003
BAF receives
largest gift of
\$1.5 million
from the estate
of Dr. John
Riesen



enriching lives for generations to come — — —



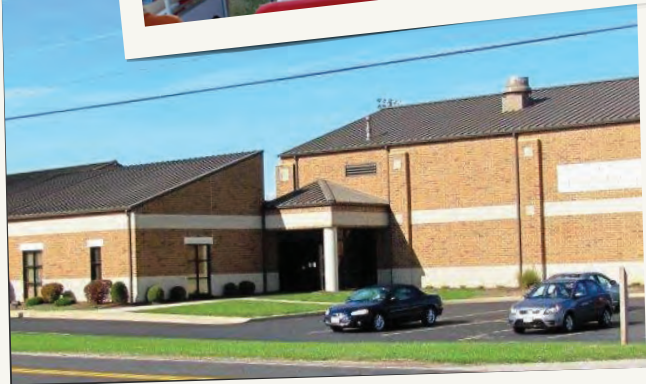
Northwest State Community College
Plastics Center \$250,000 grant - 2001



Williams County
Courthouse Bandstand
\$60,000 grant - 2000



Williams County Library Annex
\$250,000 grant - 2005



Mose Isaac Field House
\$200,000 grant - 2000



Bryan Senior Center
\$220,000 grant - 2003



1990's

2010's

Building Community

With the rebounding of the U.S. financial markets, the BAF resumed awarding grants in 2011, including the largest to date for expansion of the YMCA. Board members also focused on another part of their mission, "serving as a leader, catalyst and resource for charitable giving." The William Isaac Event and the Community Expo strengthened ties with a broader community. The BAF established two affiliate groups: Power in the Purse, a women's giving circle, and the 2020 Club, a group of monthly investors with a project goal. Jack Brace became CEO in 2013. A new downtown office opened in 2014 at 110 S. Walnut Street, providing visibility and convenience.


**Total Assets
2019
\$27.3 million**

**Total Grants &
Scholarships
2019
\$12.3 million**



The YMCA received a \$500,000 grant, the largest awarded to date, for expansion in 2016.



Press box at Golden Bear Stadium \$75,000 - 2013



Stadium lights at BHS soccer field \$75,000 - 2017

2010-2019

"We are more than just a charitable ATM. We are a philanthropic leader and convener. We provide a hub for donors, grant seekers, nonprofit organizations and even government to come together to share ideas and advance projects that will move our community forward."

- Mitchell Owens



Awarding Student Achievement - 2018 The BAF granted scholarships totaling \$196,550 to area high schools from 96 scholarship funds. Pictured are Bryan High School recipients at the 2018 awards ceremony.



Jack Brace, a Bryan native, brought a wealth of banking and financial management experience to the Bryan Area Foundation when he became CEO in 2013.

— "We are a philanthropic leader and convener." - Mitchell Owens



Community Expo - 2014 The BAF held a Community Expo to celebrate its 45th anniversary. Participants showcased their nonprofit organizations and answered questions for the public. Attendees voted for their favorite exhibits, and the BAF awarded a total of \$15,000 to the BAF endowment funds of the five winning organizations.

William Isaac Event - 2011 Bill Isaac signs copies of his book, *Senseless Panic: How Washington Failed America*. Isaac, former chair of the FDIC and Bryan native, spoke to over 600 people from across northwest Ohio at the Arts and Education Center.



2000's

Future



Dream Big

50 years
BRYAN AREA
Foundation

"We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future." This year as we celebrate the foundation's 50th anniversary, we have taken these words of Franklin D. Roosevelt to heart and have shared the message of the Bryan Area Foundation in our local schools. Through the "Expressions of Gratitude" and "Classroom to Community" programs, including 150 seventh graders and many high school students interviewing our members, students learned about philanthropy and how the foundation has made a difference in our community. The potential of the foundation is unlimited as we share and cultivate this message with our future leaders of tomorrow.

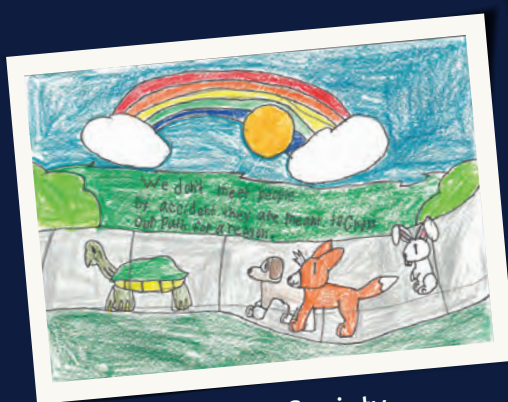
Project 2020 and Power in the Purse are great examples of what can be accomplished with the power of collective giving. Project 2020 will have accumulated over \$260,000

to fund their project, and Power in the Purse continues to support our community with over \$22,000 given annually.

Our founding fathers would be proud of how successful their dream of a community foundation has become. Fifty years later our community has benefited from over \$12 million given back for projects and scholarships that make the Bryan area a better place to live, work and play. As we move forward, the challenge is not only to keep their dream alive but also to pursue innovative and creative ways to further our mission and inspire our community to **DREAM BIG!**

Jack E. Brace
President/CEO

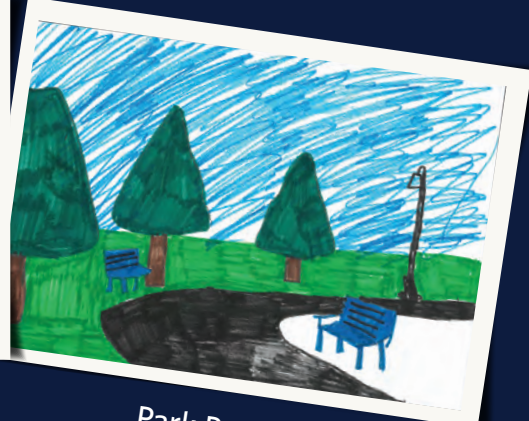
Expressions of Gratitude: I am thankful for...



Humane Society



Lighted Soccer Field



Park Pathway

The Bryan Area Foundation joins area students in expressing gratitude to our donors who have made these and hundreds of other community projects possible.





Dream Launcher Grants - In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the BAF awarded more than \$50,000 to 25 area nonprofits including a grant for new instruments for the Bryan City Band.

Commitment to the Community - Northwest State Community College Foundation honored the Bryan Area Foundation with the "Making a Difference Award" in 2019.



Nonprofit Workshops - The BAF collaborated with United Way of Williams County and Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center to sponsor four nonprofit workshops.

Classroom to Community - The BAF shared concepts of philanthropy with students from kindergarten through high school.



Power in the Purse (PIP) - A women's giving circle was established in 2016. Annually PIP gives over \$22,000 to local nonprofits.



Inspiring the community to dream big

Good Citizen Award

The Bryan Area Foundation annually presents the Good Citizen Award to one of Bryan's outstanding citizens. The Hawk family endowed this prestigious award in memory of their parents, Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk.

1980	John Dwyer (Posthumously)	2000	Laura Kesler
1981	Forest Witzerman	2001	Bruce Benedict
1982	Rosa Isaac	2002	Richard Buchsteiner
1983	Howard Rogge	2003	Rusty O. Brunicardi
1984	Lemuel Hawk	2004	Albert Horn
1985	Grant Brown	2005	Wayne Shaffer
1986	Ernestine Spangler	2006	Feroen Betts
1987	Arthur Spletzer, Jr.	2007	David Newcomer
1988	Neva Ringer	2008	C. Gregory Spangler
1989	John & Virginia Hartman	2009	James & Richard Bard
1990	Mildred Mayberry (Posthumously)	2010	Dr. Robert Woodgeard
1991	Luke & Mary Thaman	2011	Dr. George & Julie Brown
1992	Tom Voigt	2012	Lou Mollett
1993	Tom Herman	2013	Dr. Richard L. & Charlene S. Hess
1994	Tony Gretick	2014	Richard L. Reed
1995	Bill Pepple	2015	Angelike Schreder
1996	George Isaac	2016	David & LeeAnne Perkins
1997	Markey & Anderson Families	2017	Dr. John Moats
1998	Paul & June Webster	2018	George H. Gardner
1999	Ted Spangler	2019	Dean L. Spangler



1987 recipient Art Spletzer, standing, congratulates the two most recent Good Citizen Award recipients, L to R, George Gardner and Dean Spangler.



BAF member Glen Newcomer presented the award to Lou Mollet in 2012.



Past Good Citizen Award Recipients



"Being a good citizen is the willingness to give of yourself so others might enjoy life more. It's lighting the way for your friends, neighbors and fellow citizens for a better life while on this earth."

- G. Grant Brown

Meet the Foundation



BAF Presidents/Chairmen

1969 - 1975	Lemuel Hawk
1975 - 1981	Theodore Spangler
1981 - 1986	Bruce O. Benedict
1986 - 1991	Richard L. Reed
1991 - 1996	Wayne Shaffer
1996 - 2001	Thomas M. Herman
2001 - 2004	C. Gregory Spangler
2004 - 2006	Kay G. Jackson
2006 - 2008	James R. Bard
2008 - 2010	Julie A. Brown
2010 - 2012	Dean L. Spangler
2012 - 2014	Ralph W. Gallagher
2014 - 2016	J. Chip Wood
2016 - 2018	William G. Martin
2018 - 2020	Pamela Bard Steel

Officers

Pamela Bard Steel, Chairman
Michael Shaffer, Vice Chairman
George Gardner, Treasurer
Christopher Walker, Secretary

Trustees

Jason A. Beals
George G. Brown
Diana Moore Eschhofen
Karen K. Gallagher
Stephen Hess
Jason Kunsman
Mark Miller
E. Clifford Oberlin, III
Diana L. Savage

Members

James R. Bard
Bruce O. Benedict
Scott G. Benedict
Julie A. Brown
Wayne Carlin
Michael Culler
Christopher Cullis
Emily Ebaugh
Laura Eckhardt
Philip L. Ennen
Betty B. Franks
Ralph W. Gallagher
Larry Harsila
Thomas M. Herman
Albert H. Horn, Jr.
Kimberly Imm
Michael Johnson
Martin Killgallon, III
Bruce Manett
William G. Martin
Nancy K. Merillat

Ambassadors

Dean Blaser
V. Norman Carrico
Henry E. Ford
Beth Hollabaugh
William Martens
John C. Milliken
Thomas Noneman
William Pepple
Richard L. Reed
Craig Roth
Steve Smith
Arthur Spletzer, Jr.
Thomas Voigt
Ann E. Vreeland

Staff

Jack Brace, President/CEO
Jody Freeman, Development Director
Pam Lanius, Data Manager
Kelly Voigt, Administrative Assistant



Kelly Voigt, Jody Freeman,
Pam Lanius and Jack Brace





To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the Bryan Area Foundation donated bike racks and benches for the downtown square, the library and the parks. May they be a useful reminder of the contributions made by many foundation donors to enrich community lives.



Into the Future



Bryan Area Foundation

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PO Box 651

Bryan, OH 43506

419-633-1156

www.bryanareafoundation.org