



Inside the Foundation

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Bryan Area Foundation invites all to "Live the Sweet Life"!

In August of 2021, the Bryan Area Foundation Community Impact Committee gathered a group of community leaders and stakeholders to participate in a half-day strategy session for the development of a destination brand and marketing campaign to support downtown Bryan revitalization efforts. Facilitated by consultants from Small Nation, stakeholders were encouraged to share not only their experiences of living and working in Northwest Ohio, but also what they aspire others to experience when they visit our community.

Fast forward to today, and a website, social media campaign, and branding assets are in development to launch later this year. The winning tagline? "Live the Sweet Life."

What does this message mean? **We want everyone to know that life is just a bit sweeter in Bryan, Ohio. Like the artesian wells below the Fountain City, our sweetness flows from a place deep inside. It's a part of us. It's the inherent nature of our community. We are warm, engaging, and just plain sweet!** Bryan is a great place to visit, and an even better place to live. It is our intent that the messaging and branding will encourage outsiders to come "Live the Sweet Life" with us.



Additionally, our Community Impact Committee has partnered with local non-profit, the Bryan Development Foundation, whose mission is to support economic growth and restoration of historic buildings. The Forgivable Loan Program was established with the primary goal to increase occupancy of the city's downtown business district. Secondary goals include the following: address safety issues, improve aesthetics and building facades, and extend the life of existing buildings.

The Forgivable Loan Program launched in May, and to date, three buildings are being renovated as a result. Funding for the program was made possible through the estate of Richard C. Anderson. If you are interested in learning more about the Bryan Area Foundation / Bryan Development Foundation Forgivable Loan Program, you are invited and encouraged to call the Bryan Area Foundation office.

Bryan Ohio

Live the sweet life.



Chair Remarks

Message from our Outgoing Chair

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Bryan Area Foundation Chair for the past two years. When my term commenced in July of 2020, we were just three months into the pandemic.

Bryan Area Foundation members adapted to the new environment and carried on "business as usual." We clearly demonstrated that philanthropy and charity are essential services. The office remained open, committees continued to process grants, meetings were held, new donations were received, and we continued to implement the Strategic Plan.

We set a goal to become more intentional, and to take a more active role in identifying needs and finding ways to use the Foundation to meet those needs. I remember thinking that it is time to be bold. It is time to make stuff happen and get stuff done. We have certainly gained traction and I am confident that Diana Moore Eschhofen, Amy, and the rest of the leadership team will continue this forward momentum.



Michael A. Shaffer
Chair of Board
2020-2022

Message from our Incoming Chair



Diana Moore Eschhofen
Chair of Board
2022-2024

The 50-plus members of the Bryan Area Foundation are among the most forward-thinking, motivated, and dedicated citizens of our community. Our members live what I'll call the Yoda philosophy: There is no try, only DO.

If you haven't looked at the downtown square lately, I encourage you to do so. There are a LOT of exciting things to see now. We have a beautiful new Airbnb loft. Parlor 1861 has a busy schedule of meetings and events. Kora is expanding. The sign is up announcing the coming Spangler Candy World. There is an ice cream shop in the works. Entrepreneurial young people – many born and raised in Williams County – have returned to the community to introduce unique retail and destination outlets to attract people to our community. That's all in addition to the existing restaurants and retail businesses that continue to bring forward ideas to make Bryan better. There is action happening on every side and every arm of the downtown square. Improved buildings, parklets, a refurbished parking lot, more venues, new events... It's getting pretty exciting in Bryan, Ohio, and the Bryan Area Foundation is in the middle of it.

The Foundation is stepping up to build communication bridges between business and building owners; local and state government; and city, county, and state agencies, so that we can work TOGETHER to form a VISION for our community that can allow us to Dream Big AND makes those dreams come true. At the same time, the Foundation continues to successfully navigate the turbulent waters of an economy that defies planning. I am grateful for the intelligence of our members and advisors who know how and what to do to keep us sound to continue our mission.

It's overwhelming to think about leading this organization, to be able to share space in the books with the likes of Lem Hawk, Ted Spangler, Bruce Benedict, Dick Reed, Wayne Shaffer, Ralph Gallagher, and so many others. But in an organization full of great minds like yours, insecurities succumb to motivation. I'm delighted to be able to lead the Bryan Area Foundation as chair, and I can't wait to see what's ahead!

Fountain City Amphitheater



The INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN is dedicated!

After a long wait due to Covid and challenging weather, the Interactive Fountains at the Fountain City Amphitheater are ready for display beginning June 2022.

Foundation grants FCA a Marquee Sign

The grant-making committee approved a grant for \$50,000 to the Fountain City Amphitheater for a marquee sign and lighting project. The electronic sign will be located at the entrance to the park by Center Street and will advertise upcoming events. The lighting in the trees will create an environment to assist patrons in leaving the amphitheater. Join us for an upcoming event and watch for the new sign and lights!



B2wins are identical twins from the slums of Brazil chasing their dreams to become pop stars while making the world a better place. Accomplished electric violin and ukulele artists, their mission is to make the world smile through the music they play which combines jazz, reggae, classical, and hip hop with their own spin on each song. Guaranteed to make concertgoers of all ages sing-along or dance at their Fountain City Amphitheater performance on Friday, July 8.



Marquee Sign Grant

June 25, 2022

9:00 AM - [Yoga with Clarissa Votaw](#)

June 26, 2022

11:00 AM - [Community Worship co-sponsored by Bryan Area Ministerial Association](#)

July 1, 2022

8:00 PM - [Comedy Under the Stars](#)

July 8, 2022

7:00 PM - [B2wins Concert](#)

July 9, 2022

9:00 AM - [Yoga with Clarissa Votaw](#)

July 16, 2022

11:00 AM - [Storytime ft. The TAINE Club](#)
4:00 PM - [BHS Alumni Family and Friends Concert co-sponsored by the BHS Alumni](#)

July 23, 2022

9:00 AM - [Yoga with Clarissa Votaw](#)

July 24, 2022

7:00 PM - [Community Worship co-sponsored by Bryan Area Ministerial Association](#)

Scan the QR code for more information!





96 Scholarships
Awarded in 2022

Did you know?

The Bryan Area Foundation and its affiliates award scholarships to the following high schools:

Bryan

Edon

Edgerton

Fairview

Four County

Hilltop

Montpelier

Morgan County, GA

North Central



Scholarships

Bryan High School

\$107,700 to 47 students



2022 Bryan High School Bryan Area Foundation Scholarship winners

Montpelier High School

\$32,750 to 12 students



Front row: Kaden Cummins, Jack Fifer, Landon Brigle, Andre Aguirre, Alyssa Custer, Cadence Hillard, Krista Phongphiou, and Riley Birkhold.

Back row: David Bowman (Williams County Pork Producers Scholarship winner), Olivia Custer, Chelsea McCord, Ariel Page, Riley Rockey, Madison Streeter, and Shawn Clark, representing Cooper Clark.

Edon High School

\$39,500 to 20 students

Front Row: Carlie Kiess, Kerrin Towers, Olivia Mitchell, Ashley Kaylor, Nikkie Collins, Natalie Spackman, and Allison Kaylor. Back row: Henley Dye, Hayden Dye, Gage Winebernnner, Ethan Steinke, Jayden Craven, Cassius Hulbert, Jackson Berry, Drew Gallehue, and Gannon Ripke.



Scholarships

Fairview High School

\$2,750 to 3 students



Jenny Horn, Director of Communications and Programs, presents BAF scholarships to the following Fairview High School students: top left, Marissa Sims, receiving the Clarice Moats Scholarship; top right, Blake Zeedyk, receiving the Ford Family Scholarship; and bottom left, Andrea Macsay, receiving the Wayne and Beulah Hulbert Memorial Scholarship.

Hilltop High School

\$10,000 to 10 students



Front row: Jozlyn Jones, Kacy Connolly, Ella Calvin, Ericka Dennison, Bryce Buehrer, Jamie Chester, and Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation member and presenter, Denise Dean.

Back row: Ian Hoffman, Alexandra Horton, Kiera Wiley, Julia Schuurman, Gabriel Matthews, and Carmen Merillat.



**\$227,200
Scholarships
Awarded**

This year, a total of
\$227,200 in
scholarships were
awarded to 96
individual recipients.

Do you know someone
that would like to further
their education but
needs a little financial
help? The Bryan Area
Foundation has three
adult continuing
education scholarships.

- Flightner Law Enforcement Scholarship
- Harlan and Ernestine Spangler Continuing Education Scholarship
- Chris and Mary Thaman Scholarship

Please help spread the word
as the deadline to apply is
Friday, July 15, 2022!



Recent Grants Awarded

Grants that Benefit our Community

Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation Trustee, Bart Westfall, presents Brady Township Fire Department Chief Randy Borton a \$5,000 check to help the department purchase battery-powered rescue and assorted hand tools. These tools will replace older ones and be used on the new rescue truck coming in July 2022.



The Bryan Soccer Association received a \$30,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to help improve the soccer goals and fields on Townline Road.



The Bryan Area Foundation awarded Community Advocates for Healthy Families (CAHF) a grant of \$15,500 to purchase 6 new signs with 12 different character traits to replace the old, broken, weathered signs. These signs promote positive character traits in the family and community.

Pictured left to right are Whitney Renard, Juliet Stockman, Lana Newcomer, and Steve Alsbaugh, representing CAHF, Mark Miller representing the BAF, Karen Meister CAHF, and Steve Voigt BAF.



The Millcreek-West Unity and Montpelier Area Foundations awarded the Williams County Sheriff's Department \$6,600 for the purchase of forensic training equipment and supplies. These items will enable the officers to solve crimes, resulting in more arrests, and a safer community.

Pictured left to right are Susie Rockey, Jim Thompson, and Rachael Sostoi, representing Montpelier Area Foundation, Sheriff Tom Kochert, Lew Hilkert, representing Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation, and Andy Farnham, representing Edgerton Area Foundation, which also contributed \$3,500.



What's New?



New Funds Created

Establishing a fund creates a legacy. Endowed Funds are permanent, self-sustaining, and provide a source of funding forever. The Foundation's role is to align the goals of donors with community needs to champion initiatives and projects that make our community a better place to live.

Many thanks to our current and new donors for investing in our community!

New Community Funds

Ted and Pat Maneval Family Community Fund; Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation

New Scholarship Funds

Ali Held Herman Memorial Scholarship Fund; Bryan Area Foundation



Project Next

In 2009, community members in collaboration with the Bryan Area Foundation, established Project 2020, a community giving circle. Each member made small contributions over several years with a vision of creating a substantial long-term community asset. From this vision sprouted our beautiful Fountain City Amphitheater with Interactive Fountains.

To continue this model of grassroots giving in our community, Chad and Jodi Tinkel have stepped forward to lead Project Next alongside the Bryan Area Foundation. Modeled in the same style as Project 2020, Project Next already has twenty-six donors that have volunteered to be part of this initiative. Our goal is to have at least thirty donors before the July 15 deadline. Will you consider joining us and help determine how we can "plant new seeds of growth" in our community? Let us know by contacting the Bryan Area Foundation today!

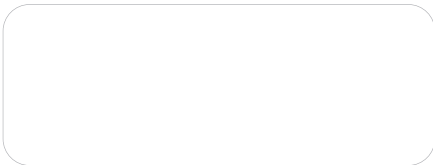
We look forward to working alongside you to improve our community!

Please express your interest by calling the Foundation office at 419-633-1156.



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Benedict Family Outstanding Educator

Chad Savage



Pictured with Savage from left to right are Scott Benedict, representing the Benedict Family; Therese Seaman, Academic Booster Club President; Savage; and Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools Superintendent.

Inspirational, energetic, dedicated, and passionate are some of the characteristics this year's Benedict Family Outstanding Educator, Chad Savage, possesses. As a teacher, coach, role model, and mentor to students and athletes at Bryan High School, Savage has been with the district for 30 years and currently serves as the athletic director. He previously worked as a physical education and health teacher while coaching softball and girls' tennis.

Described by his peers as a true professional and an ambassador for Bryan City Schools and its students, Savage implemented a Bryan leadership development program for student athletes to improve their physical, mental, and emotional health. This is just one of the many ways Savage has impacted the students in our community.

This prestigious award, endowed through the Foundation by the Benedict family, in memory of Greg Benedict, is presented annually to one of Bryan's outstanding educators.