

Inside the Foundation



Making a Dream a Reality

For twelve years, Paula Kline worked with children with various disabilities in the Bryan City Schools. In order for them to enjoy outdoor recess, she would take them to Fort Wayne, Indiana, the closest location to Bryan, with an inclusive playground.

During one of those drives to Indiana, Paula wondered why her hometown of Bryan couldn't have its own all-inclusive playground. As a twenty-five-year Bryan Parks and Recreation Board member, she inquired about the possibility. Even though the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department wanted to build such a playground, the timing, budget, and location were never quite right. In 2019, Paula encouraged her Bryan High School Class of 1967 to establish a project fund at the Bryan Area Foundation. By doing this, the fund would be an avenue to collect and save donations until the idea could be brought to fruition. Last year, Benjamin Dominique, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Bryan, agreed it was time to move forward with the project.

Fast forward to today, and the fundraising campaign to help build the inclusive playground on the former Lincoln Elementary School site is in full gear. Funding has come from the state, local service groups, corporate partners, individual donors, non-profit grants, and as a beneficiary of the 2023 Blizzard Auction. Sixty-eight percent of the \$731,000 needed to break ground and begin construction this fall has been raised. The grand opening of the playground will be in the spring of 2024.

Allowing children to play is not only fun but also an essential part of their development, as it is critical for the successful growth of their brain and body. An inclusive playground in Bryan will provide the type of environment where children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities can learn, play, and grow together. Using the seven principles of universal design and including equipment like ramp entries and a poured-in-place surface, the playground will also feature a zipline, monkey bars, swings, merry-go-round, and tower/slide.



If you want to learn more about the Bryan Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground, please contact our office. Donations toward the campaign can be mailed to the Bryan Area Foundation, or you can use the "Donate Now" button on the Foundation's website: www.bryanareafoundation.org.



TOGETHER, we can make Paula's dream a reality that will enhance the quality of life for many generations.

"Play gives children a way to practice what they are learning." -Fred Rogers

Message from our Chair



Diana Moore Eschhofen
Chair of the Board

As the second half of our fiscal year unfolds, we have a new challenge at the Bryan Area Foundation: Grant requests exceed our funds available, **by a lot**.

The good news is, this means we are accomplishing our strategic plan goal set in 2020 to enhance community awareness of the Foundation's impact in our community. People **are** realizing our impact, and therefore are aware of the opportunities to seek funding assistance for their own causes.

Now we need to help the community understand that investments into the Foundation are what makes this possible, and to show them how to join that process.

Showing them what we have accomplished is easy. There are new and improving businesses in downtown Bryan. (Have you seen the plans for the Williams County Community Theater? Wow!) Scholarship season is ramping up. Bryan has a new website: www.visitbryanohio.com that features our town. The Amphitheater schedule for this summer is incredible. The Foundation has played a huge role in all of these projects and so many more.

Author Simon Sinek says this: *People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe.*

When we share our work in the Foundation, let's be sure to tell people WHY we do this work, and invite them to come alongside and join us.

Diana Moore Eschhofen

Save the Date

- ◆ Friday, March 31 { Grant Application Deadline
- ◆ Friday, April 14 { Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Application Deadline
- ◆ Monday, May 8 { Academic Booster Club (ABC) Awards & Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Award Presentation (7:00 PM)
Location: Bryan High School Gymnasium @ 1350 W. Fountain Grove Dr., Bryan
- ◆ Monday, May 15 { Bryan High School Senior Scholarship Night (7:00 PM)
Location: Bryan Arts and Education Center @ 325 W. High Street, Bryan
- ◆ Thursday, May 25 { Bryan Area Foundation Special Meeting of the Members
Location: TBD
- ◆ Friday, June 30 { Grant Application Deadline



Community Events

2023 Season



- May 13 @ 1-3 PM - Get the Scoop with a FREE scoop of ice cream
- May 19 @ 8:00 PM - Luca Stricagnoli
- May 26 @ 7-9 PM - Grad Night: End of Year Party
- May 27 @ 8:00 PM - She Will Rock You
- June 3 @ 7:30 PM - Mac Powell
- June 10 @ 7:00 PM - Buckets N Boards
- June 21 @ 7:30 PM - Bryan City Band
- June 24 @ 8:00 PM - Rockland Road
- July 8 @ 8:00 PM - **Forever Simon & Garfunkel** *Sponsored by:
- July 14 @ 7:00 PM - Toledo Symphony Brass Quintet
- July 15 @ 5:00 PM - BHS Concert in the Park
- Aug. 19 @ 8:00 PM - Girl Named Tom
- Sept. 8 @ 8:00 PM - The Derina Harvey Band



Repeat Events:

Friday Night Local Band Jam Sessions - June 9, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 8 @ 7:00 PM

Family Craft Nights - June 22, July 20, Aug. 10 @ 7:00 PM

Yoga - June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, Aug. 12 & 26 @ 9:00 AM

Comedy Under the Stars - July 7, Aug. 11 @ 8:00 PM

Worship at the AMP - May 21, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 @ 7:00 PM

June 25 @ 11:00 AM

Story Time at the AMP - June 10, July 8, Aug. 12 @ 11:00 AM



A full schedule of upcoming events can be found online at the following website:

www.cityofbryan.com/fcamphitheater/

You can also follow Fountain City Amphitheater on Facebook and/or Instagram for up-to-date information.

Grants Awarded



Giving Back

\$100,000 Grant to Community Theater

Rain or shine, the show must go on! The Williams County Community Theater (WCCT), which has been bringing live theater to Northwest Ohio for

70 years, is being renovated! The Goldsmith Theatre at 208 West Butler in Bryan will have a new lobby, restrooms, stage location, theater office, windows, doors, and much more. The goal is to have all construction complete by this fall.

The Bryan Area Foundation kicked off this project by granting \$100,000 and pledging an additional \$100,000 match for funds raised before June 30, 2023. Anyone that would like to donate and make the restoration a reality can visit the theater's website, www.williamscountycommunitytheatre.com.



Pictured receiving the check from left to right are Kim Semer, WCCT Trustees Treasurer; Crystal Bowers, WCCT Trustees Vice President; Mary Beth Snider, WCCT Trustees President; and Amy Miller, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO.

Williams County Humane Society



The Williams County Humane Society received a \$7,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to install a disposal trough and build two new fenced-in dog grass play areas. From left to right, pictured during the check presentation are Mark Miller, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair; Alicia Strup, Williams County Humane Society Operations Manager; and Amy Miller, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO.

Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation

The Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation awarded a \$2,500 check to Hilltop High School to help purchase new weight room equipment for their new building. The monies will be used to replace older equipment and create better use of space in the new weight room. Pictured left to right is

Patsy Miller, President of the Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation, presenting the check to Tony Gerig, Athletic Director of Hilltop High School.



Together, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary results.

Grant & Scholarship



Long-term
Impact

Wabash Cannonball Trail

The Bryan Area Foundation, Montpelier Area Foundation, and Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation independently agreed to financially support an engineering study for the Wabash Cannonball Trail. Once the study results are evaluated, the Friends of Montpelier Parks can apply for grants and capital funds to pay for the paving of the trail



from County Road 13 to the Fulton County line, east of West Unity. Improving the Wabash Cannonball Trail would give Williams County a safe and well-maintained outdoor space for walking, biking, and equestrian use. It would also provide an economic benefit for the region.

Realizing the significance of paving the trail, all three Foundations collaboratively gave a total of \$10,000 to the study. Its results should be received in the fall of 2023, so additional funding can be secured. The goal is to complete the paving in the future, enhancing a recreational area for all community members to enjoy.

Pictured Left to right: Patsy Miller, Millcreek-West Unity Area Foundation President; Jenny Horn, Bryan Area Foundation Director of Communications and Programs; Chris Kannel, Village of Montpelier City Council Member; Amy

Miller, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO; Barb Watson, Montpelier Area Foundation President; Sandy Gordon, Village of Montpelier Parks and Recreation Department; Jason Rockey, Village of Montpelier Manager; and Nate Thompson, Village of Montpelier City Council President.

Leaving a Legacy

Linda (Nofziger) Belcher was born in March 1948 and graduated from Stryker High School in 1966. She married her high school sweetheart, Mick Belcher, in 1967. After attending Goshen College, Bowling Green State University, and receiving her master's degree in education from the University of Toledo, the couple settled in West Unity in 1972. Mick started his career as a health and physical education teacher at Hilltop High School before becoming its high school principal for eighteen years. Linda taught art, music, kindergarten (transition), first grade, and reading in the Bryan City School District.

Since Linda deeply valued education and encouraged everyone to obtain a post-secondary degree, she and her husband guided and supported their three children, Erik, Kristin, and Brooke, in receiving their doctorate degrees. She also cheered them on as they competed in high school and college sporting events. But Linda's children were not the only ones to benefit from her kind words of reassurance and inspiration. Many of her students received rides home, delicious treats, and typed science fair project papers. Her beautiful smile, kind heart, and giving nature were for everyone to enjoy.

Linda unexpectedly passed away in November of 2022, and since the Belcher Family Scholarship Fund had been established in 2019, all memorial gifts were designated for it. The outpouring of donations and support it received from family, friends, former students and co-workers was overwhelming. Seventy donors gave more than \$8,000 in Linda's honor, demonstrating how many lives she helped and inspired. Contributions are still being received, and the legacy that Linda started will continue to touch the lives of future generations forever.



"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives."
-Clarence, from *It's a Wonderful Life*



Bryan, OH

Community Development

Living the Sweet Life

We have always known that life is just a bit sweeter in our hometown of Bryan, Ohio, but now we want to share what makes our town unique with the rest of the world! Introducing Bryan's new website, **www.visitbryanohio.com**, which lets everyone else see our small-town charm and sweet offerings. It also includes information on where to eat, stay, shop, and participate in activities.

As new businesses open and renovate their buildings around the downtown Bryan Courthouse Square, it became apparent a marketing campaign was necessary to promote them, their existing neighbors, and our city. Thanks to the Bryan Area Foundation Community Impact Project Fund and Committee for fostering and funding the development of this new website and its social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. With their launch, downtown Bryan will now be able to generate additional awareness, sales, and networking. And with other events and companies, like Flair on the Square, Cove Interiors + Salon, Spangler Candy World, and Fearfully Made Boutique, new to Bryan in 2023, their promotion will benefit economic growth to all those within Williams County.

Check out the new site, see what is happening, and share with a friend. We are confident that everyone will soon discover what we have always known: Bryan, Ohio, is a fantastic place to live, work, and play with something special for all.



Photo credit to Williams Aerial and Mapping

Follow and share:

Visit Bryan Ohio



#sweetlifebryanohio

Correction:

In our last newsletter, Power in the Purse (PIP) corporate sponsor Amerimade Realty's logo was inadvertently excluded. We apologize for this error and thank them for their previous sponsorship that increased the amount we could provide to local non-profits serving Williams County.



Women's Giving Circle



Celebrating 8 years!!

Since 2016, more than **\$179,800** has been donated to
31 nonprofits throughout **Williams County!**



The first quarter 2023 PIP meeting was held on Monday, January 30, at the First Presbyterian Church, Bryan. PIP currently has 92 members. Jeanette Roberts was recognized as the new PIP Program Director and Jody Freeman as the new Member-at-large. Three worthy contributions were nominated:

Cancer Assistance of Williams County: Nominated and presented by Cheryl Andres, Cancer Assistance of Williams County has served the county since 1996. They have two main fundraisers each year, Bike to the Bridge and Witches & Warlocks. They also receive tremendous support from several county school sports, FFA programs, and memorial donations that help with their operations. Last year they assisted those diagnosed with cancer with \$1,500 towards expenses related to their diagnosis. PIP's grant would be used to purchase grocery gift cards.

Bryan Development Foundation (BDF)/Christkindl Market: The second presentation, Bryan Development Foundation/Christkindl Market, was nominated by Amy Miller and Ann Spangler and presented by Ann Spangler. Ann highlighted that the 2022 event had excellent attendance, with happy vendors, and numerous community involvement. She said they are already planning for this year, and their wish list would be to build another booth to sell hot beverages. She estimates this cost to be \$8,000, and the PIP money would help with this expense.

Sanctuary Homeless Shelter: The last presentation was nominated by Cheryl Andres and Margie Geisler and presented by Cheryl Andres. The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter was established in 1993 to provide clients with clothing, food, and shelter. In 2005, they purchased the building on Main Street. They have four apartments and serve 80-90 people a year. PIP's donation would be used for operating expenses.



Pictured from left to right are Sibin Sam and Pheba Banerjee-Sam accepting the check on behalf of the shelter; Cheryl Andres and Karin Bowers (PIP members).

Please join us!!

Contact Jenny Horn at the Bryan Area Foundation for more information.

#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

Next Mtg: Thursday, April 27 @
First Presbyterian Church (7PM)

And the Winner Is . . . After the votes were tallied, the **Sanctuary Homeless Shelter** was chosen and will be the beneficiary of a **\$5,725** grant!

Together we can do great things!

2023 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient
The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$5,725

2nd Quarter Recipient
TBD

3rd Quarter Recipient
TBD

4th Quarter Recipient
TBD

2022 Total Grants - \$27,775

PIP Endowment Balance - \$51,310

Thank you to our
corporate sponsors:





Est. 1969

BRYAN AREA
Foundation

P.O. Box 651
Bryan, OH 43506

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRYAN, OH
PERMIT NO. 190

P.O. Box 651,
Bryan, OH 43506

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Outstanding
Educator

Seeking Nominations for the Benedict Family **Outstanding Educator!**



The 2022 Outstanding Educator



Pictured from left to right are Scott Benedict, representing the Benedict family; Therese Seaman, Academic Booster Club President; Chad Savage, 2022 Award Recipient; and Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools Superintendent.

Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a teacher who has met the challenges and is an outstanding educator!

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.

Criteria, applications, and past recipients are listed on the nomination form that can be downloaded by visiting: BryanAreaFoundation.org

Deadline for nominations: Friday, April 14, 2023

Please submit nomination forms to the Foundation office
or mail to PO Box 651, Bryan, Ohio 43506.