



Inside the Foundation

Volume 23, Issue 4
Summer 2023

Our Mission

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.

New Memorial Scholarship Video Featured

In 1973, fifty years ago, the Bryan Area Foundation awarded its first \$400 scholarship to a graduating senior. Since then, it has given more than **\$3.7 million** in scholarships to **2,366 graduating students** to help them achieve their educational goals. Of the 115 different scholarship funds, 39 are memorial scholarships given to Bryan High School students in memory of a loved one who passed away, helping to keep their legacy alive.

Several years ago, a memorial scholarship video was produced and shown annually at the Bryan High School scholarship ceremony each May. Since its creation, technology has advanced, and several new memorial scholarship funds have been established. For those reasons, The Bryan Area Foundation made a new memorial scholarship video this year and unveiled it this past spring scholarship night. The video now features pictures and short vignettes of 19 of our memorial scholarships and can be viewed on The Bryan Area Foundation website under the scholarship tab.

We hope all donors who started a Bryan Area Foundation scholarship in honor of their loved ones will find the video a wonderful tribute to them. Scholarship recipients will also have the opportunity to learn more about the individual and family that created these scholarships, which will assist them in reaching their career objectives. And ultimately, the Foundation will ensure the scholarship continues to make a difference in the lives of others for years to come, bringing solace to the family.

Pictured below are a few of our featured memorial scholarships:
(A full listing of all BAF scholarships can be found on our website.)



Mose and Yvonne Isaac Scholarship

Rigg Family Scholarship Honoring Richard Alan Rigg



Brenda M. Hugg Memorial Scholarship



Judge Harry J. Rigdon Memorial Scholarship



To view the new video:

⇒ Go to our website: www.bryanareafoundation.org

⇒ Click on the **SCHOLARSHIPS** tab on the top menu.



Message from our Chair

What a pleasure to attend our annual Bryan Area Foundation Members' Meeting on May 25! Allow me to share some of my favorite take-aways.



Diana Moore Eschhofen
Chair of the Board

Among the accomplishments shared for fiscal year 2023 . . .


- 18 new funds established – 2nd highest number in six years
- More than \$3 million in contributions received
- 142 grants made, totaling \$975,015
- 148 scholarships awarded, totaling \$305,800
- 141 new donors – up from 44 in 2022, driven in large part by contributions to the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Project


From the Development Committee, we learned about the Hidden Spaces Tours, a very cool idea to increase awareness of revitalization and the Community Impact Project Fund, and to entice investing in downtown Bryan retail or dining venues. The Nominating Committee presented four new member nominations, and as a result we are pleased to welcome the passion and expertise of Meg Kunsman, Diane Peters, Chad Tinkel, and Brad Bowers to our membership. The Grant Making Committee successfully addressed the challenge of managing grant requests that, for the first time ever, far exceeded available funding, and found a way to substantially support the requests, plus award seven Founders Grants and nine competitive grants. This is a tiny sampling of a lot of great news from the Bryan Area Foundation.


As summer approaches, of course we have challenges, but we have so much to celebrate! Visit the concerts and events at the Fountain City Amphitheater. Visit the events happening in and around downtown Bryan, and visit www.visitbryanohio.com to stay up-to-date on it all. Have a great summer!



Since the Project Next initiative kicked off last year, its officers and committee members have been busy meeting to draft the group's by-laws, organizing a fundraiser, and planning our next social and annual meeting. These activities and dates are listed below, and we hope all Project Next shareholders will be able to attend and participate!

 **Friday, June 9, 2023, Project Next hosted a golf outing** at Suburban Golf Club, 9358 OH-15, Bryan, to raise money to add to our fund. Thanks to Jason Kos, Project Next fundraising chair, for initiating and organizing this event and Bard Manufacturing and Spangler Candy Company for being our presenting sponsors. Also, a big thanks to McNeill Chevrolet for sponsoring the hole-in-one challenge. This event raised over \$6,000 for Project Next.

 **Saturday, July 8, 2023, Project Next will be the presenting sponsor for the Forever Simon & Garfunkel concert at the Fountain City Amphitheater, 526 Avenue B, Bryan.** This will be a great way to share Project Next with the community and recruit new shareholders. It will also be a fundraiser where current Project Next shareholders will be volunteering to sell bracelets to those of age and interested in alcoholic drinks. If you can help that evening, please contact the Foundation, and join us for a wonderful night of music, fellowship, and fundraising.

 **Wednesday, September 27, 2023, shareholders will gather for our annual Project Next meeting.** Starting at 6:00 p.m., with an hour of social time for shareholders to get to know each other better, the business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Williams County Public Library in Bryan, 107 East High Street. Next year, Project Next plans to have another social event with the opportunity to invite potential shareholders as well.

If you or anyone else you know is interested in becoming a shareholder in Project Next, please contact the Foundation. We would be happy to explain more about this initiative and how it generates funds for a future project that will benefit the residents of Williams County.

Women's Giving Circle

Together we can do great things!

Since 2016, more than **\$185,000** has been donated to **32 nonprofits** helping create a bright future throughout **Williams County!**

The 2nd quarter 2023 PIP meeting was held on April 27, at the First Presbyterian Church. PIP currently has 98 members. Kathy Smith updated members on the first annual juried Fine Arts Festival, Flair on the Square (PIP's 4th quarter endowment winner). This event will take place on Saturday, July 29, in downtown Bryan.



Three worthy organizations were nominated and voted on by members:

Storehouse 4 Hope, Inc.: Nominated by Misty King and presented by Lesley Shirkey, this centralized financial ministry is dedicated to helping individuals and families with monetary needs. Based in Bryan, Ohio, this non-profit works with community partners and donors to collect and distribute financial assistance and then coach those recipients on managing their money for the future. The organization's goal is to immediately relieve the financial crisis and then give the individual and families the necessary tools to help them avoid the problem again. A PIP grant would assist Storehouse 4 Hope, Inc., in continuing its mission and helping the new start-up support those in need.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): Shirley Fry, a NAMI, Four County, Ohio, board member, nominated and presented for this non-profit. NAMI is a grassroots, family-oriented organization whose mission is to provide education, support, and advocate for individuals and families living with mental illness as well as increase public awareness and understanding of mental health. A PIP grant would help them continue their work in Northwest Ohio.

Bryan Athletic Boosters - Community Athletics Capital Improvement Project: The last presentation, nominated by two people, was given by Helene Moog. The Bryan Athletic Boosters is fundraising for phase one of the Community Athletics Capital Improvement Project. A PIP grant would be used to help upgrade the Golden Bear Football Stadium, Bryan High School Girl's Softball facilities, the soccer field at the former Washington Elementary School site, and Bryan Middle School baseball field number 4. All these enhancements would support the many programs, teams, and student-athletes of all ages that compete in Bryan, providing them with the best opportunities for success. It would also increase the economic development of the community.

And the Winner Is.....After the votes were tallied, **Storehouse 4 Hope, Inc.** was chosen and will benefit from a **\$6,025 grant.**

2023 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient

The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$5,725

2nd Quarter Recipient

Storehouse 4 Hope - \$6,025

3rd Quarter Recipient

TBD

4th Quarter Recipient

TBD



Join us!!

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

#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 31

First Presbyterian Church

7:00 PM

2023 Total Grants

\$11,750

PIP Endowment Balance

\$51,660

Thank you to our corporate sponsors:



**COLDWELL BANKER
CLASSIC
PROPERTIES**





Scholarships



\$305,800 Awarded to Students

Bryan High School

On Monday, May 15, 2023, forty-seven Bryan High School students were awarded more than \$149,000 in Bryan Area Foundation scholarships, enabling them to further their education and achieve their career goals. Congratulations to these Bryan High School scholarship recipients pictured on the right!



Edon High School



The Edon Area Foundation awarded twenty-two scholarships totaling \$63,500 to twelve Edon High School graduating students. Thanks to all the donors who helped make this possible, allowing these students to pursue their educational dreams. Good luck to them and all the other graduates in their future endeavors! Edon High School scholarship recipients pictured left to right in the front row are Meghan Derck, Jenna Dulle, Emma Howard, and Desiree Dunkle. The back row is Konnor Prince, Caden Nester, Blake Dulle, and Jack Morris. Missing from photo are Maddison Gearig, Tehya Mills, Wade Parrish, and Kendall Sheline.

Hilltop High School

Congratulations to the 2023 Hilltop High School graduating students awarded Millcreek-West Unity Foundation scholarships! \$16,000 were presented to ten scholars that will be used to help them further their education. Thanks to the donors that made these funds available which will assist these youth in achieving their goals. We wish all the Hilltop High School graduates good luck in their futures! Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Annika Wright, Mia Hancock, Ranie Roesch, Madisyn Routt, Abby Austin, and Jasmine Varnado. In the second row, left to right, are Gabby Rodriguez, Jaden Bowers and Jayma Bailey. James Bell, Quentin Runkel, and Colby Tyler are missing from the picture.



Edgerton High School

The Bryan Area Foundation presented scholarships to Edgerton High School graduating students Quentin Blue, Ashlee Hug, and Molly Hennessey. Bryan Area Foundation member Chip Wood is pictured giving the checks to Quentin and Ashlee. Quentin received \$2,500 from the Richard A. McCullough Scholarship and will attend The Ohio State University to study mechanical engineering. Ashlee was awarded the Edgerton High School Scholarship for \$750 and will use the money to earn a degree in chemical engineering from Trine University. Molly accepted the Bryan Area Business Women Scholarship for \$500 to study management consulting and global affairs at the University of Notre Dame. Congratulations to Quentin, Ashlee, Molly, and all graduating Edgerton High School students! Best of luck in achieving your future goals! (photos courtesy of The Edgerton Earth)



Montpelier High School

The Montpelier Area Foundation presented more than \$37,000 in scholarships to thirteen Montpelier High School graduating students. Congratulations to the recipients, and many thanks to the donors who made these awards possible. Best of luck to all the graduates as they pursue their educational dreams! Pictured left to right front row are students Gabrielle Stefanelli, Makaya Crisenbery, Arielle Bass, and Alyssa Bass. Second row, Montpelier Area Foundation members Jim Thompson, Susie Rockey, Alice Miller; students Tatum Grime, Faith Miller, Chloe Martin; Montpelier Area Foundation members Rachael Sostoi-Willis, and Barb Watson. Third row, students Amanda Taylor, Evan Rummel, Trent Thorp, Gavin Zyjewski, Jamison Grime, Ethan Adams, and Montpelier Area Foundation member Chuck Moore.



Fairview High School

The Bryan Area Foundation awarded \$2,800 in scholarships to three Fairview High School graduating seniors. Tom Turnbull, Bryan Area Foundation Scholarship Chair, presented Hannah Colbert, Michael Mansel-Pleydell, and Jeffrey Smith with their checks. Hannah, who received the Ford Family Scholarship for \$1,500, will attend Hocking College to study music production and recording. Michael was given the Wayne and Beulah Hulbert Memorial Scholarship for \$500 and will use this to study mechanical engineering at The University of Toledo. Jeffrey accepted the Clarice Moats Memorial Scholarship for \$800 and will attend Defiance College to study environmental science. Congratulations to Hannah, Michael, Jeffrey, and the other Fairview High School graduating students. We wish you the best as you pursue your dreams!



Stryker High School



For the first time, a pair of Stryker High School graduating students earned Bryan Area Foundation scholarships! Pictured left to right is Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller awarding Stryker High School seniors Kaitlyn Myers and Sage Woolace with their checks. Kaitlyn received the Mary Jestine Flightner Memorial Nursing Scholarship for \$1,000 and the Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Memorial Scholarship for another \$1,000. She will be attending The University of Toledo this fall and studying nursing. Sage received the Mary Jestine Flightner and Ruth Johnson Spence Memorial Education Scholarship for \$1,000 and will be going to The Ohio State University to study early childhood education. Congratulations to Kaitlyn, Sage, and all the graduating Stryker High School students! We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

Other BAF Scholarships Awarded . . .

- Randolph O. Bard Scholarship for \$2,500 awarded to Trinity Sanders of Morgan County High School, GA
- Lilly George Isaac Scholarship for \$1,500 awarded to Dala Khourieh in Cleveland, OH
- Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 to Sophia Porter of Bellaire High School, OH



Grants

**Interested
in applying
for a grant?**

**More information and
applications can be
found on our website:**

**www.bryanareafoundation.org
or contact the office
419-633-1156**



**June 30
for consideration in
September**

**September 30
for consideration in
December**

Fountain City Amphitheater

The City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department received a \$50,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to install an electronic sign at the entrance of Recreation Park off of Center Street, to announce upcoming events, particularly at the Fountain City Amphitheater. The grant also helped cover the costs of additional stage lighting for smaller amphitheater events and the placement of lights to create a safe and beautiful ambiance for exiting patrons. Pictured presenting the check and showcasing the new electronic sign are left to right Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller and the City of Bryan, Director of Parks and Recreation Ben Dominique.



Lily Creek Farms



Lily Creek Farms received a \$50,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to help them cover the costs of improvements, including bathrooms, upgraded arena heating, parking, and outdoor arena rehabilitation. Once complete, these enhancements will allow participants to physically, cognitively, and emotionally benefit from their equine-assisted activities. Currently, 40% of Lily Creek Farms participants are from Williams County. Participating in the check presentation from left to right are Lily Creek Farms Belgian/Andalusian horse Sir Chancelot; Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Members Larry Harsila and Bill Martin; Lily Creek Farms Haflinger horse Sammi; and Lily Creek Farms Founder/Executive Director Jami Young.

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Flair on the Square

The Bryan Area Foundation awarded a \$2,500 grant to Flair on the Square, a juried Fine Arts Festival that includes live entertainment, delicious culinary treats, and a fresh local market. Happening on the scenic downtown Bryan, Ohio, Courthouse Square, on Saturday, July 29, the monies will be used to help pay for start-up costs associated with the event. This first annual festival aims to cultivate, encourage, and develop public appreciation and support of the visual arts for the enjoyment of the tri-state area. Pictured left to right at the check presentation are Tammy Wood, Flair on the Square Committee Member; Mark Miller, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair; and Kathy Smith, Flair on the Square Committee Member.



Grants



Williams County Port Authority

The Bryan Area Foundation presented a \$100,000 check to the Williams County Port Authority (WCPA) to assist them in developing resident housing in Northwest Ohio. In response to a Williams County assessment indicating our area needs 300 to 450 additional housing units to help the county economically grow and aid local employers in finding new workers, the Foundation agreed to support WCPA in their efforts. As the funds become available, the WCPA will use them to construct affordable single-family homes, develop multi-family apartments, and purchase land for new housing developments. Participants in the check presentation from left to right are WCPA Board Member Stacy Lillard; WCPA Board Member Bill Martin; Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller; WCPA Vice Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer Dawn Fitzcharles; WCPA Board Member Tyson Stuckey; WCPA Board Member Sean Rupp; and WCPA Board Member Dick Reed.



Bryan Athletic Boosters



The Bryan Athletic Boosters received a \$100,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation for phase one of the community athletics capital improvement project. Monies will be used to upgrade the Golden Bear Football Stadium, Bryan High School Girl's Softball facilities, the soccer field at the former Washington Elementary School site, and Bryan Middle School baseball field number 4. All these enhancements will support the many programs, teams, and student-athletes of all ages that compete in Bryan, providing them with the best opportunities for success. It will also increase the economic development of the community. Pictured left to right, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Committee Member Kirk Vashaw; Bryan Area Foundation Trustee Michael Shaffer; Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller; and Bryan Athletic Booster Committee Members Shelly Smith, Jason Brown, Tasha Muehlfeld, and Dave Batt.

Center for Child & Family Advocacy

The Bryan Area Foundation presented a \$5,000 check to the Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Inc. for the Northwest Ohio Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Symposium. The grant will help pay for crime victim service professionals in our area to attend a two-day training that increases awareness, education, and advanced instruction on dealing with and recognizing survivors of sexual assault. Guests and presenters from various fields, including legal, law enforcement, medical, education, social workers, and victim advocates, will participate in the program, enabling them to learn and implement the training in their businesses. Participants in the check presentation from left to right are Katie Shaffer, Executive Director at Sarah's Friends and planning committee member for the symposium; Sharla Young, Coordinator for the SART Clinic of Northwest Ohio; Amy Miller, Bryan Area Foundation, President/CEO; and Mark Miller, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair.

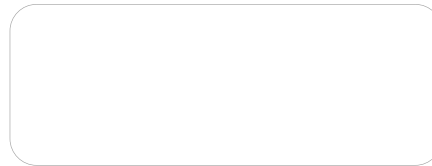




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2023 Benedict Family Outstanding Educator

Presented to

Chris Minor



Pictured from left to right are Traci Hartman, Academic Booster Club President; Chris Minor, 2023 Award Recipient; Scott Benedict, representing the Benedict family; and Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools Superintendent.

Congratulations to Chris Minor, Bryan Elementary School's fourth-grade math teacher, on winning the 2023 Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Award. Responsible for orchestrating the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program at the Bryan Elementary School, this research-based and data-driven initiative provides schoolchildren with behavioral, emotional, and social support. She also started the One School One Book, Family Literacy Night, and "Too Good for Drugs" project. Outside the classroom, Chris volunteers as a volleyball line judge for Bryan Junior and High School games; participates in fundraisers benefiting the school and scholars; and attends her students' musical, athletic, and dance events. Her peers and pupils describe her as a driven, passionate, and committed educator who strives to help them succeed and reach their academic goals.

LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!

LINCOLN  PARK *inclusive*
playground
bryan, ohio



WHY?

To provide a place where children & families of all physical, mental, & social abilities can LEARN, PLAY, & GROW together

WHERE?

The site of the former Lincoln Elementary school which is a currently underutilized property



WHEN?

Currently raising funds with the goal of breaking ground and beginning construction **FALL 2023!!!**



THERE'S STILL TIME TO BE INVOLVED!!!

1

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the project fund.

CHECK: Make payable to the Bryan Area Foundation with **Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Project** in the memo line.

ONLINE: Go to www.bryanareafoundation.org and click on the "Donate Now" link in the blue header ribbon.

2

Please share this exciting project with others!



Lincoln Park Rendering

The Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Project is an initiative of the Bryan Parks & Recreation utilizing a project fund at the Bryan Area Foundation.





DON'T WAIT! DONATE TODAY!!



2 Ways to Donate:

Donate by Check:

- 1 Write a check to Bryan Area Foundation. Please write **Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Project** in the memo line.
- 2 Drop off the check or mail it to the BAF office:
PO Box 651
Bryan, OH 43506.

Donate Online:

- 1 Go to BAF website:
www.bryanareafoundation.org
- 2 Click on "Donate Now" from the blue main menu.
- 3 Complete needed information then add to the giving cart.
- 4 Complete payment transaction.

THANK YOU



Please contact the BAF with any questions. #419-633-1156
www.bryanareafoundation.org