



A YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

BRYANAREAFOUNDATION.ORG

419-633-1156

FISCAL
YEAR
2023

Annual Report

“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.”

-Dale Carnegie



The Bryan Area Foundation chose to make this year, “All about the Fun(d)” seeking events and programming with fun in mind, and of course to benefit the funds of the Foundation. Examples of our “fun” include kicking off the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground fundraising, bringing in engaging speakers, distributing transforming grants and scholarships, sharing Fun(d) Fridays on social media, and launching the new www.visitbryanohio.com website and social media pages.

Our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report highlights the exciting work of the Foundation including financial statistics, an overview of our projects, and quotes / stories from our donors and grant recipients. We are excited to share with you the work completed this fiscal year as we continually seek to fulfill our mission of enhancing 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.

Since 1969, over \$17.9 million has been given back to the Bryan area in grants and scholarships!!

BRYAN AREA FOUNDATION	EDON AREA FOUNDATION	MILLCREEK-WEST UNITY FOUNDATION	MONTPELIER AREA FOUNDATION
327 FUNDS	18 FUNDS	22 FUNDS	29 FUNDS
\$1,160,298 GRANTS AWARDED	\$26,068 GRANTS AWARDED	\$23,341 GRANTS AWARDED	\$18,442 GRANTS AWARDED
\$188,800 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$63,500 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$16,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$37,500 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$31,852,992 TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,536,710 TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,174,067 TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,093,342 TOTAL ASSETS

2023 Fiscal Year



Foundation Highlights

Did you ever wonder how the word "fun" originated? Although its exact origin is uncertain, most believe it derived from the Middle English word, *Fonne*, *fon* (foolish, simple, silly) of North Germanic/Nordic languages. Using "fun" as a descriptive adjective only began in the mid-1800s, but no matter how the word fun became part of our vocabulary, it describes the Bryan Area Foundation's past year, and it is also a great descriptor for the magnificent impact made through endowed fun(d)s. Highlights from our programs/projects this past year include:

- **Fun(d) Friday social media posts** featuring Bryan Area Foundation Community fun(d)s provided an inside look at the donors and their stories that make up the Bryan Area Foundation. We will continue to build on these posts in the coming year!
- **Wheelchair Motocross athlete Aaron 'Wheelz' Fotheringham** gave an exhilarating talk to students about accepting people with different abilities and overcoming obstacles. This school assembly also introduced Bryan area pupils to the future Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground and kicked off the fundraising efforts for the **Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Project Fund**.
- **Jim Tressel**, former Ohio State Football Coach, and Bowl Championship Series National Champion and Fiesta Bowl Most Valuable Player **Mike Doss**, spoke at the **Bryan Arts and Education Auditorium** discussing the thrilling lessons they learned on the field, and how they transfer to everyday success in life.
- **Robert (Bob) Rowan**, Air Force veteran and 72-year Bryan, Ohio resident, received the **2022 Bryan Area Foundation Good Citizen of the Year** award.
- The Foundation created and distributed student designed **"Let's Play Together" greeting cards** in exchange for donations made to the Inclusive Playground Project Fund during the **Christkindl Market of Bryan**, of which the Bryan Area Foundation once again served as the presenting sponsor.
- We developed and launched **www.visitbryanohio.com** as an avenue for developing an online presence with the intention to share our **"sweet life"** with others in the hopes that they will see that Bryan is a great place to visit, and an even better place to live!
- Our **Parklet** returned to the square with a new accessibility ramp, creating a vibrant community space for gathering outdoors.
- A new **Memorial Scholarship Video** honoring loved ones lost debuted at the annual Bryan Scholarship Awards night.
- **Project Next**, the newest giving circle of the Foundation, hosted its first annual golf outing to raise additional funds and the group sponsored the Simon & Garfunkel Tribute concert at the Fountain City Amphitheater to increase awareness and invite new members.

Even as our fiscal year ends, the fun goes on for the Bryan Area Foundation as we continue to build better communities and enhance the quality of life for all.



Donations Received in 2023

\$2,781,070

Seventeen new funds were established in 2023!!

Chaney Family Healthcare Scholarship Fund

Chris Gotshall Memorial Fund

David and Jan Batt Community Fund

Duane and Sharon King Designated Fund

Duane and Sharon King Scholarship Fund

Gotshall Family Christian Service Fund

Gotshall Family Donor Advised Fund

Gotshall Family First Church of Christ Fund

Marion Isaac Donor Advised Fund

Mary Alice Hart Community Fund

Mike and Connie Richer Scholarship Fund

Mike Eschhofen Fund for Musicians

Nathan Ashenfelter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Richard A. McCullough Scholarship Fund

Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Donor Advised Fund

Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund - Bellaire

Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund - Stryker

Thank you for partnering with the Foundation to fulfill your philanthropic wishes!

The Bryan Area Foundation fulfills its mission through the generosity of donors, and this past year we were honored to collaborate with donors to establish seventeen new endowed funds. One of our donors, JoNell Gotshall, started four new endowed funds, each with a unique purpose and intent. These funds include the Chris Gotshall Memorial Fund, a Designated Fund to benefit the students of Edon Northwest Locals Schools, the Gotshall Family Christian Service Fund, a Field of Interest Fund to support Christian ministry programs, the Gotshall Family First Church of Christ Fund, a Designated Fund created to benefit the First Church of Christ in Bryan, and the Gotshall Family Donor Advised Fund, established to assist JoNell and her family in responding to current projects, programs, and philanthropic requests. When asked why she chose the Bryan Area Foundation to be the administrator of her charitable gifts, JoNell Gotshall stated the following:



"My husband Chris and I graduated from Bryan High School (BHS) and then lived in Bryan our entire lives. My father, Royal Walker, also a BHS graduate, lived here until 1963. Chris's roots were even deeper: both of his parents, Cliff, and Yvette, and also his grandfather, Gayle Calvin, were BHS graduates and lifelong residents. So, through our involvement in church, schools, businesses, clubs, athletics, city government, and various community activities, we all were richly blessed by having lived here. These Bryan Area Foundation funds are an opportunity to show appreciation for all that Bryan has provided for this family".

Community Funds

Thank you to all Bryan Area Foundation donors who have established community funds. The Foundation uses funding generated to address the most urgent needs in Williams County through our competitive grant-making process. Individuals interested in donating to a community fund may contribute to one of our 174 existing community funds in any denomination or start their own named fund with a \$5,000 gift.

Community Funds made these grants possible in 2023!!!



Bryan Athletic Boosters
*Community Athletics Capital Improvement
Project Phase One - \$100,000*



**Center for Child and Family
Advocacy, Inc.**
Training - \$5,000



Christkindl Market
Purchase of Heating Stations - \$5,000



Lily Creek Farms
Facility Improvements - \$50,000



Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground
Playground Equipment - \$100,000



Williams County Community Theater
Renovation Project - \$200,000

"We are so incredibly grateful for the grant we received from the BAF. Through this grant, we were able to begin the complete renovations (inside and outside), including making our theatre ADA compliant and more accessible to everyone in the community. We host the local senior centers for each of our season productions and we are very excited for our theatre to be a more inviting space for them. The renovations will also help us continue to host our yearly Summer Theatre Children's Workshop. With a larger, safer, and more accommodating space, we will continue to teach the youth in our area about the performing arts, as well as continue to bring live theatre to downtown Bryan." -Crystal Bowers, WCCT Trustees Vice President



Williams County Humane Society
Facility Improvements - \$7,000



Williams County Port Authority
*Development of Resident Housing
in NW Ohio - \$100,000*



Founders Grant

Founders Grants, which are grant requests of \$2,500 or less, have an abbreviated application and faster approval process than traditional competitive Bryan Area Foundation grants. This past fiscal year, we received and approved eight Founders Grant requests, offering nonprofit organizations the opportunity to further their mission to serve Williams County.



The Bed Brigade of Williams County
Purchasing of Materials - \$2,500



Edgerton Firefighters Association
Exterior Mural - \$2,500



Flair on the Square
Start-up Costs - \$2,500

"With the onset of COVID-19 in past years, the Bed Brigade of Williams County lost a lot of avenues and abilities to fundraise.

The security of applying and receiving a grant from the Bryan Area Foundation in the past and future is a great benefit to us and our entire community!! God Bless the Bryan Area Foundation and thank you!" -Rick Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Bed Brigade of Williams County



Hosanna Horse Haven
Perimeter Fencing - \$2,500



Sanctuary Homeless Shelter
Basement Renovations - \$2,500



Storehouse 4 Hope, Inc.
Financial Coaching Training - \$2,500



Village of Edgerton
ADA Picnic Tables & Benches - \$2,500



Williams County Health Dept.
Grief Recovery Program - \$650

Affiliate Community Grants

Edon Area Foundation

Edon Northwest Schools - **New Books \$2,500**

Affiliate Foundations unite to explore outdoor fun and recreation!

The Bryan Area Foundation, Montpelier Area Foundation, and Millcreek-West Unity Foundation worked collaboratively to financially support an engineering study for the Wabash Cannonball Trail. Once the study is complete, the Friends of Montpelier Parks intends to apply for grants and capital funding 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 contributed to funding the study giving \$10,000 in total to bring it to fruition.



Village of Edon
Walz Park Inclusive Portion- \$8,000



Edon Ministerial Association
Summer Lunch Program - \$500

Millcreek-West Unity Foundation

Brady Township Fire Department **MARCS Radios for Fire Trucks - \$5,000**



Lincoln Park Inclusive
Playground
Equipment - \$2,500



Hilltop High School
Weight Room
Equipment - \$2,500



Brady Township
Rings Cemetery
Improvements
Phase One - \$8,000

Montpelier Area Foundation

Friends of Montpelier Parks - **Bean Days Events - \$3,000**

Friends of Montpelier Parks - **Tie Dye Shirts - \$1,000**

Hands Helping Hands Ministry - **Food Pantry - \$1,250**

Montpelier Public Library - **Wonder Books - \$1,250**

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." -Margaret J. Wheatley



Olde Tyme Holiday
Gathering
**Christmas Display &
Stage Updates - \$3,500**

Designated Grants

Academic Booster Club
ACRES, Inc.
American Cancer Society NW Region
American Heart Assoc. - Williams County
Bryan Area Foundation
Bryan City Band, Inc.
Bryan City Schools
Bryan Music Boosters, Inc.
Center Township
Christian & Missionary Alliance Church
City of Bryan Parks & Recreation Dept.

Thank you to our donors who build and strengthen our community by establishing Designated Funds. The Foundation currently manages 32 Designated Endowment Funds, which benefit the organizations listed below.

First Presbyterian Church
Friends of West Unity Library
Millcreek West Unity Local School District
Montpelier Exempted Schools
National Audubon Society - Audubon, OH
Presbyterian Church USA-Ministries
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic School
Taylor University
The First Church of Christ
The Share Foundation

Village of West Unity
Wesley United Methodist Church
Williams County 4-H
Williams County Fair Foundation
Williams County Historical Society
Williams County Humane Society
Williams County Public Library
Williams County Senior Support Fund
Williams County Veterans Memorial, Inc.
Williams County YMCA

Organizational Grants

Organizational Funds provided these 24 nonprofit organizations an annual grant to support their mission. Thank you to these organizations for investing in their future!

Academic Booster Club
ACRES, Inc.
Black Swamp Area Boy Scouts
Bryan Rotary Foundation
David Betts Double Play Diamond
First Presbyterian Church
Four County Career Center
Montpelier Fire Department
Montpelier Rotary

Montpelier School Athletic Dept.
Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
Stryker Schools Foundation
Trinity Lutheran Church
United Way of Williams County
Wesley United Methodist Church
Williams County 4-H
Williams County Fair Foundation
Williams County Historical Society

Williams County Humane Society
Williams County Parks
Williams County Senior Center
Williams County Sportsman's Ed. Assoc.
Williams County Veterans Memorial, Inc.
Williams County YMCA

Total Grants Awarded by Area

Fiscal Year 2023
\$1,533,950
Grants
(Including Scholarships)

Arts & Culture	\$267,388
Community & Economic Development	\$339,505
Education, Youth, Scholarships, & Sports	\$591,883
Environment	\$145,806
Health & Human Services	\$109,195
Religion & Other	\$80,173



WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Since 2016

More Than \$185,000 Given

Our Power in the Purse (PIP) members know how to have fun while raising awareness and funds for Williams County non-profits. Now in its eighth year with 99 members and six sponsors, this all-women's giving circle has given more than \$185,000 to 32 nonprofit projects. PIP's "future's so bright, they have to wear shades!"



PIP Endowment
Balance
\$51,810

Contributions

Fiscal Year 2023 July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground - Building Expenses- \$6,725

First Presbyterian Church - Tuesday Night Free Meal Program - \$6,725

Flair on the Square - Start-up Costs - \$1,000

Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - Operating Expenses - \$5,725

Storehouse 4 Hope - Start-up Support - \$6,025

Thank you to our Sponsors:



"'Always be kind, have a good attitude, never give up, and keep smiling' is a motto I have tried to live by for many years. Becoming a member of PIP has given me the opportunity to learn about others throughout Williams County . . . their needs, their passion, their desire to make this a better community, and to serve others. Along with the other PIP members, I can make a difference. Through PIP, my small monetary donation turns into thousands, to benefit various needs in our area. By giving to nonprofit organizations, we are helping others to 'always be kind, have a good attitude, never give up, and keep smiling.' I am proud to be a member of this Women's Giving Circle, Power in the Purse!" - Helene Moog, PIP member since 2016