



## Building for the Future



The Bryan Area Foundation's 2021 to 2023 Strategic Plan identified a variety of projects and initiatives, but above all, a philosophical shift for the Foundation. ***The Bryan Area Foundation would, with intention and purpose, shift in all aspects of serving the community from being "reactive" to being "proactive" in fulfilling its mission to "enhance the quality of life for all citizens of our area."*** No longer would we wait for a funding request to address community needs or enhancements. Instead, we would evaluate the greatest areas of opportunity, and utilize our resources to address the needs present.

### **The first target? The revitalization of downtown Bryan.**

Bryan Area Foundation members established the Community Impact Committee (CIC) to evaluate and address the reasons behind the decline in the number and quality of businesses within Bryan's downtown area. At the root of the issue, they found the cost to restore and renovate the historic buildings prohibitive for would be entrepreneurs and investors. To address this need, BAF Trustees allocated \$150,000 from the retained earnings of Bryan's Community Fund as seed money to establish the Community Impact Project Fund. Not long after, the Bryan Area Foundation was the beneficiary of an estate gift of \$1.2M from Richard C. Anderson designated for the Community Impact Project Fund. With funding in hand, the CIC had a new hurdle to jump; how to appropriately grant the funding in accordance with the governance requirements of being a community foundation.

The answer was partnering with the Bryan Development Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization whose charitable intent is restoration of historic buildings and economic development of small businesses in Bryan, Ohio. Several initiatives to support downtown Bryan have been accomplished through this partnership.

We created a Forgivable Loan Program with the primary goal of increasing occupancy in the city's downtown business district. Secondary goals include addressing safety issues, improving aesthetics, building facades, and extending the life of existing buildings. To date, five buildings/businesses have begun or completed renovations using Forgivable Loan funding, and four more buildings are slated to receive funding later this year. Additionally, the Bryan Area Foundation matched \$30,000 from local donor Renee Isaac for the establishment of Bryan Development's Business Improvement Grant (B.I.G.) program. Through this, more than twenty businesses have received matching grant funding for small building renovation projects up to \$5,000.

While focusing on improving the physical building stock on Bryan's historic downtown square, the Bryan Area Foundation also invested in building Bryan's digital presence collaborating with consultants from Small Nation to develop a downtown Bryan branding campaign, website, and social media channels. In December 2022, [www.visitbryanohio.com](http://www.visitbryanohio.com) launched with the tagline, "Live the Sweet Life." These digital assets, along with the investment in physical buildings, are just a few examples of the Bryan Area Foundation's commitment to "Building for the future."



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# Message from our Chair



*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."* That quote by Margaret Wheatley is on the home page of our Bryan Area Foundation website.

It is clear that the Foundation cares about downtown Bryan; the change is evident all around the square (see Amy's article on page 1). With our new office (see article below), the Foundation has become a strong, visible presence. Happily, people are taking notice. Recently, a former Bryan resident walked unsolicited through the door of our office, shared with staff his admiration for the visible improvements to the downtown, and after a relatively short conversation, committed to establishing a generous fund to support our future projects.



*Diana Moore Eschhofen*  
**Chair of the Board**

It's hard to believe, but there are still people who don't know about the Foundation and what it does. Keep sharing your experience and what you know, so we can continue discovering and changing our community for the better. Happy Fall!



## The Foundation's New Home

After 53 years of moving from donated space to leased occupancy, the Bryan Area Foundation finally owns a home in the heart of downtown Bryan! This monumental move took place thanks to many donors, including two Foundation and lifelong community members who generously donated the funding to purchase the 124 South Lynn Street building. Renovations to the building were made using a combination of retained operating funds, additional donations from Bryan Area Foundation members, and in-kind donations from community members. The Bryan Area Foundation proudly used all local contractors and businesses for the design and construction of the building, and we are incredibly excited to have additional space for growth, a physical mailing address, savings from rental expenses, and a highly visible home on Bryan's Courthouse Square. The Foundation's investment also reinforces its commitment to being a part of the economic growth in downtown Bryan.



*thankful*

### Special thanks to those that donated to the Bryan Area Foundation Building Project:

- Dr. George and Julie Brown
- Ohio Art Company (Member Martin Killgallon)
- Karen K. Gallagher
- Larry and Mona Harsila
- David C. Newcomer
- Michael A. and Jane M. Shaffer
- Gregory C. Spangler
- Christopher and Elizabeth Cullis
- Thomas and Susan Herman
- Michael L. and Cheryl Johnson
- Bruce A. and Marty Manett
- Mark A. and Kimberly J. Miller
- Ryan and Andrea Miller
- Ryan and Amy Miller
- William and Pamela Steel
- J.T. and Georgia M. Stelzer
- Kirkland and Sarah Vashaw
- Stephen and Kelly Voigt
- David E. and Janice L. Batt
- Beth Ann and Tim Hollabaugh
- Christopher Malanga
- Tri-State Vision Center, Inc. (Member Jason Kunsman)
- Howard B. and Ann E. Vreeland
- Glen and Ann Newcomer
- Bill and Donna Martin
- Linda Rosswurm
- Ken Richer / Spangler Candy
- Buehrer Modern Finishes (Dan Buehrer)
- Office Partners (Cookie Lehman)



# New BAF Members & Upcoming Events



Pictured left to right: Meg Kunsman, Brad Bowers, Diane Peters

## Welcome New Foundation Members!

Welcome to our newest Bryan Area Foundation members, Brad Bowers, Meg Kunsman, Diane Peters, and Chad Tinkel! All long-time residents of Bryan each bring a wealth of community experience and business knowledge to the Foundation.

Brad grew up in rural Bryan, Ohio, and is a proud Bryan High School and Baldwin Wallace University graduate. He is Vice-President-Midwest Region for Martin Sprocket & Gear and, outside of work, sits on the parish council at St. Patrick Catholic Church. He and his wife, Karin, are members of Project Next, and Brad initiated the Bryan High School reunion and alumni day at the Fountain City Amphitheater.

Meg and her husband Jason are the proud parents of four active girls. While busy being a full-time mom, Meg has been actively involved at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Girl Scouts of the USA, Claire Newcomer Club, and the local four-county Ohio State University Alumni Association. A founding board member of the Bryan Area Foundation's Power in the Purse women's giving circle, Meg has also served on the Imagination Station 25th anniversary committee, the implementation committee for Project 2020, and coached the St. Patrick Catholic School Junior High Volleyball team.

Diane has lived in Bryan for more than 25 years, practicing as a clinical psychologist. She and her husband Randy are the proud parents of three adult children. Diane was active on numerous Wesley United Methodist Church boards before joining New Hope Community Church. As a former Bryan Athletic Boosters president, Diane is currently a part of Project Next and Power in the Purse. She and her husband, Randy, have a fund at the Bryan Area Foundation, which benefits the community through grant-making, and they have also invested in renovating a downtown Bryan building.

Chad, the President/CEO of the Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers, is also the current co-chair of Project Next, a giving circle at the Bryan Area Foundation that will provide seed money to develop an impactful project for the community. He and his wife, Jodi, volunteered to lead this group after being a part of the Project 2020 initiative that built the Fountain City Amphitheater and Interactive Fountains. A former Bryan Athletic Boosters and YMCA board member, Chad graduated from Bryan High School before earning his degree from Ohio University.



Pictured: Chad Tinkel



Project Next Social & Shareholders' Meeting - Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> (6-8 PM) @ Williams County Public Library

Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground Groundbreaking - Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> (2 PM) @ 301 E. Butler Street, Bryan

BAF Members Only Open House - Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> (5-7PM) @ 124 S. Lynn St.

BAF Community Open House - Tour our new building on the square! - Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> (3-6 PM) @ 124 S. Lynn St.

BAF Members Annual Meeting - Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> (5:45 PM) @ Bryan Eagles

Christkindl Market - Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> / Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> / Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> / Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> (4-8 PM) @ Courthouse Square

Save  
the  
Date





# Scholarships & FY2023 Highlights

## Chris & Mary Thaman Scholarship

Congratulations to Megan Grimm on receiving the Chris and Mary Thaman Scholarship for \$1,000. This annual scholarship is awarded to any Williams

County or Fairview High School graduate who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education following graduation, employed to support their education, and in good academic standing.

Pictured is Mary Thaman (left) presenting this scholarship to Megan (right), who graduated from The University of Toledo and will attend the College of Law at The University of Toledo this fall. She has worked at the Williams County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division while attending school to help her financially and academically further her studies.

Congratulations and best of luck to Megan!



## Harlan & Ernestine Spangler Continuing Education Scholarship



Congratulations to Tyecyn (Ty) Towns on receiving the Harlan and Ernestine Spangler Continuing Education Scholarship for \$2,000. This annual scholarship is awarded to a Williams County resident who is at least 25 years old and returning to school from at least five years in the workforce.

Pictured is Ty (left) accepting the scholarship from Kirk Vashaw (right), representing the Spangler Family. Ty studies at Western Governors University and is earning his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. He will be the new third-grade teacher at Stryker Local Schools this fall and hopes to be a basketball coach someday. Best of luck to Ty in his new position, and thanks to the Spangler Family for helping to make his dreams come true!



## Highlights for Fiscal Year 2023



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



A copy of the full 2023 Annual Report is available on the Bryan Area Foundation website:

[www.bryanareafoundation.org/financial-highlights](http://www.bryanareafoundation.org/financial-highlights)



# Grants



## Williams County Community Theater

Thank you to everyone that answered the Bryan Area Foundation challenge and donated to the Williams County Community Theater (WCCT) renovation project! In February of 2023, the Foundation awarded the WCCT a \$100,000 grant and said it would give them another \$100,000 if the WCCT could raise \$100,000 themselves. They chose to accept the mission and succeeded in this goal which is helping them build a new lobby, restrooms, stage location, and theater office and install new windows and doors.

Standing in front of the newly painted WCCT exterior during the matching check presentation are left to right WCCT Trustees Vice President Crystal Bowers; WCCT Trustees President Mary Beth Snider; WCCT Trustees Treasurer Kim Semer; Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller; and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller.



## Brady Township Fire Department



The Brady Township Fire Department received a \$6,000 grant from the Millcreek-West Unity Foundation to purchase additional battery-powered tools, MARCS mobile and portable radios, and a hose roller. All this equipment will help make the fire department and its firefighters more proficient at doing their jobs and keeping the community safer.

Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Millcreek-West Unity Foundation President Patsy Miller, Brady Township Fire Department Chief Randy Borton, and Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Vice-President Scott Maneval.

## Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground

The Bryan Area Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground being built at the former Lincoln Elementary School site in Bryan, Ohio. Once the construction is complete next spring, the playground will provide children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities with an environment where they can learn, play, and grow together.

Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Bryan Parks and Recreation Board Member Paula Kline; Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller; Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller; City of Bryan, Director of Parks and Recreation Ben Dominique; and Bryan Area Foundation grant-making committee members Larry Harsila and Jodi Tinkel.



**Interested in applying for a grant?**

More information and applications can be found on our website: [www.bryanareafoundation.org](http://www.bryanareafoundation.org) or contact the office 419-633-1156



**Next Deadline: Friday, September 29 for consideration in December**



# Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground

## Goal Met!!!

The Bryan Area Foundation recently granted \$100,000 to the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground, helping it raise \$730,000. Thanks to the Foundation's gift, along with donations from individual supporters, service groups, the Blizzard Auction, local corporate partners, and city and state grants, the monies will be used to build a new inclusive playground and fully accessible bathroom at the former Lincoln Elementary School site.



Incorporating the Seven Principles of Universal Design, the playground will include ramp entry points, a poured-in-place surface, braille and picture communication boards, a flush-to-ground merry-go-round, zipline, expression swings, and more. The Foundation was the fundraising partner for the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, accepting and managing contributions through a project fund created by Bryan Parks and Recreation Board Member and former Bryan City Schools employee Paula Kline.

For twelve years, Kline worked with children of various abilities and would take them to Fort Wayne, Indiana, the closest to Bryan, to enjoy outdoor recess. She said, "During those hour-long drives, I would wonder why my hometown didn't have its own inclusive playground. At my high school reunion, I encouraged my class to establish a project fund at the Bryan Area Foundation to have an avenue to collect and save donations when the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department was ready to move forward with the project. In 2022, they told me it was time to start planning and building it."

A groundbreaking ceremony with speakers Ohio Senator Rob McColley, Ohio State Representative James M. Hoops, City of Bryan, Ohio Mayor Carrie Schlade, Ability Center Executive Director Stuart James, and Bryan Parks and Recreation Board Member Paula Kline, is planned for Friday, September 29, at 2 p.m. The event will celebrate the campaign's success, recognize donors, and commence playground construction. Once it is complete in the spring of 2024, it will create a destination where children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities can learn, play, and grow together. Additional funds are still being collected to be used for future upgrades.



LINCOLN  
**play**  PARK *inclusive*  
**ground**  
bryan, ohio





# Celebrating 8 years!!

Since 2016, more than **\$192,000** has been donated to  
**33 local nonprofit projects!**

The third quarter 2023 PIP meeting was held on Monday, July 31 at the First Presbyterian Church, Bryan. PIP currently has 103 members. Three worthy organizations were nominated:

**Christkindl Market of Bryan:** Nominated by Tammy Wood and presented by Ann Spangler, Christkindl will return to the historic downtown Bryan Courthouse Square this November and December for its third year. Like European Christmas Markets, this event will feature vendors selling unique gifts and merchandise. A PIP grant would help the organization purchase two additional chalets increasing from twelve to fourteen retailers, and another larger one to have hot beverages and food available for sale.



### **Village of Edon Walz Park:**

Village of Edon Walz Park was nominated by Sheryl Combs and presented by Jo Ann Luce. Since 2021, the park has been experiencing a significant upgrade that includes constructing an inclusive playground. PIP monies would be used to help purchase accessible playground equipment and for the poured-in-place surface, allowing wheelchairs to move around easily.

**Operation Clean Duds:** The last presentation, nominated by Debbie Gearhart and given by Amy Miller, was on Operation Clean Duds. Founded in 2021 by retired veteran Jasmine Conley this non-profit provides free laundry events and supplies to those in need in Northwest Ohio. Currently serving six counties, including Williams, the organization has washed over 15,000 loads in two years. A PIP grant would help them add a second laundry event in Montpelier and offer more cleaning services and items.



**And the Winner Is.....**After the votes were tallied, **Operation Clean Duds** was chosen and will benefit from a **\$6,275 grant.**

*Together we can do great things!!*

POWER in the PURSE



PIP

## Join us!!

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

#419-633-1156

[jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org](mailto:jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org)

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, October 26**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**7:00 PM**

**2023 Total Grants**

**\$18,025**

**PIP Endowment Balance**

**\$52,110**

**Thank you to our  
corporate sponsors:**



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### **2023 PIP Recipients**

#### **1st Quarter Recipient**

**The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$5,725**

#### **2nd Quarter Recipient**

**Storehouse 4 Hope - \$6,025**

#### **3rd Quarter Recipient**

**Operation Clean Duds - \$6,275**

#### **4th Quarter Recipient**

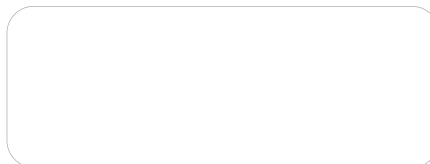
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# Bryan Ohio

Live the sweet life.

We have always known that life is just a bit sweeter in Bryan, Ohio, and we want to share what makes our town unique with the rest of the world!

## LIVE THE SWEET LIFE MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE!!

Wherever you go, you can now take a small piece of our sweet town with you! Get a keepsake to commemorate a special visit, represent your hometown with pride, or find a special gift for someone who loves Bryan. We've worked with local merchant, Bill's Locker Room III, to create a variety of "Live the Sweet Life" merchandise that you can order online. Pick up in store or have it shipped directly to your door.

Scan the QR code to visit the website which includes information on where to eat, stay, shop, participate in activities, and purchase merchandise.



## [www.visitbryanohio.com](http://www.visitbryanohio.com)

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