



Inside the Foundation

Volume 24, Issue 3
Spring 2024

Strong Non-Profits BUILD Strong Communities



One of the pillars within the Bryan Area Foundation Strategic Plan is "Community Leadership" which we define as "our responsibility to provide leadership that stimulates and encourages citizens to support improvements to the quality of life in Williams County." One way that we are working to fulfill this role is by providing training, coaching, and guidance to both emerging and existing non-profits.

As a community Foundation, we impact projects, events, and services by granting funds to non-profits; therefore, the more efficient and successful the non-profits are, the more effective our grants are. Non-profit board members also have critical legal duties of which they may or may not be fully aware, making governance training vital to all serving in these capacities.



For these reasons, we are offering two in-person "Charitable University" certification classes on Thursday and Friday, April 18th and 19th (4-19 Day). Presented by the office of the Ohio Attorney General, and hosted by the Bryan Area Foundation, Charitable University will give insight on the most essential elements in leading a charitable organization: board governance, governmental filings, financial operations, and fundraising.

Open to area non-profits, schools, and governmental agencies responsible for providing charitable services in and around Williams County, attendees will receive training and certification in just three short hours. If you, or a non-profit you know are interested in participating, registration is now open and can be found on the Bryan Area Foundation website under the "events" tab.

We hope to see you this 4-19!

In Appreciation,

President / CEO



Thursday, 4/18/2024
5:00 PM Registration/Networking
5:30-8:30 PM Training

OR

Friday, 4/19/2024
8:30 AM Registration/Networking
9:00 AM-12:00 PM Training

Register at www.bryanareafoundation.org/events or
scan the QR code below.

Call #419-633-1156 with any questions.



Early Bird Registration by Tuesday, March 19 - \$20
Registration by Friday, April 12 - \$25
Limited Seats Available



Message from our Chair



Diana Moore Eschhofen
Chair of the Board

Four years ago, the Bryan Area Foundation developed a strategic plan and over the ensuing years, accomplished many great successes for the Foundation and for our community. Just a few worth mentioning: the Community Impact Committee and its Forgivable Loan Program, a new Bryan Area Foundation Operating System, our new building on the downtown square, Founder's Grants, Fountain City Amphitheater programs, and Project Next.

This momentum is imperative to maintain, so this year, we have assembled a committee to review the results of the 2021-2023 strategic plan and to identify key projects and initiatives to guide us through the next few years. As more and more people begin to use words like "vibrant" and "exciting" in their conversations about Bryan, it is particularly motivating to know that the Bryan Area Foundation's involvement is being recognized in those conversations.

It is important to note that even as we present and implement new projects and ideas, the mission of the Foundation doesn't change. Our committees continue to work hard to build community endowment, address needs through grant-making, and serve as leaders, catalysts, and resources for charitable giving. The original intent of the Foundation established 65 years ago remains strong, and your participation matters.



In Memory of Mary Smith Thaman



We are saddened by the passing of long-time Foundation member Mary Smith Thaman. Her service and loyalty to our community will always be remembered and appreciated. She will be greatly missed.

One of the first three women elected to the Bryan Area Foundation in 1971, Mary Smith Thaman served on the Development, Grants, and Nominating Committees and later became a part of the Board of Trustees from 1971-1980 and again from 1988-1995. She and her husband, Luke Thaman, were the 1991 recipients of the Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Good Citizen Award for their participation and volunteerism in numerous organizations that benefited Northwest Ohio. In 2001, after the death of their youngest son, the Chris and Mary Thaman Continuing Education Scholarship was established. It provides financial assistance to high school graduates who have completed at least one year of post-secondary classes. The Luke Thaman Community Fund was created in 2007 in memory of Mary's husband, Luke, and is used for grant-

making that addresses the most urgent needs of the county. Mary passed away on Tuesday, January 16, at the age of 97 after an incredible life of continuous support and cooking for her husband, family, and community.

Contributions can be made in Mary's memory to the Chris and Mary Thaman Scholarship Fund or the Luke Thaman Community Fund at the Bryan Area Foundation.

Upcoming Events & Deadlines



- ◆ Friday, March 29 BAF Grant Application Deadline
- ◆ Friday, April 26 Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Application Deadline
- ◆ Saturday, May 11 Get the Scoop @ Fountain City Amphitheater (1-3 PM)
Free Ice Cream 
- ◆ Monday, May 13 Bryan High School Senior Scholarship Night (7:00 PM)
Location: Bryan High School Gymnasium @ 1350 W. Fountain Grove Dr., Bryan
- ◆ Thursday, May 16 Chocolate Walk on the Square
- ◆ Saturday, May 18 Spring Fling on the Square (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)
- ◆ Wednesday, May 22 Bryan Area Foundation Members' Meeting (6:00-7:00 PM Social / 7:00 PM Meeting)
Location: Bryan MS/HS Commons @ 1350 W. Fountain Grove Dr., Bryan
- ◆ Saturday, May 25 Next Generation Leahy Concert @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM) *Premier Seating Available
- ◆ Sunday, May 26 Worship @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM) *Presented in part by Bryan Area Ministerial Association (BAMA)
- ◆ Saturday, June 1 Sidewalk Prophets @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM) *Sponsor:  *Premier Seating Available
- ◆ Monday, June 3 Exotic Zoo @ the Amphitheater (10:00 AM) *Presented by the Williams County Library
- ◆ Friday, June 7 2nd Annual Project Next Golf Outing (10:00 AM) 
- ◆ Friday, June 7 Puppy Pals @ the Amphitheater (6:00 PM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 8 Zumba @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 8 Storytime @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 8 Comedy Night @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
- ◆ Wednesday, June 12 Bryan City Band @ the Amphitheater (7:30 PM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 22 Cardio Drumming @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 22 Day in the Park - NYC3 @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM) *Premier Seating Available
- ◆ Sunday, June 23 Worship @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM) *Presented in part by BAMA
- ◆ Friday, June 28 BAF Grant Application Deadline
- ◆ Saturday, June 29 Yoga @ the Amphitheater (8:00 AM)
- ◆ Saturday, June 29 Proud Mary @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)



A full schedule of upcoming community events can be found online at the following website:
www.visitbryanohio.com.

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

***Contact FCA/Parks & Recreation for Premier Seating Pricing and Availability. #419-633-6030**



Grants Awarded

Bryan Youth Activities

The Bryan Youth Activities Fund, held at the Bryan Area Foundation, awarded \$6,000 in grants to various youth sports groups. Each youth program recipient will use the money for their diverse athletic needs, ultimately allowing more local children to participate in that sport and instilling in all competitors the value of teamwork, healthy lifestyles, leadership, and determination.

Pictured during the check presentation are representatives from the following organizations: left to right Shelly Smith (Bryan Youth Basketball), Nathan Keel (Bryan Little Bears Program), Carrie Zimmerman (Bryan Soccer Association), Ryan Miller (Bryan Baseball Association), Jodi Arnold (Bryan Girl's Softball Association), Steve Hess (Bryan Area Foundation), and Amy Miller (Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO).



United Way of Williams County



The Bryan Area Foundation, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation, and Montpelier Area Foundation all awarded \$2,500 grants to the United Way of Williams County. The \$7,500 will be used to help pay for speaker Chris Herren, a former college, and National Basketball Association (NBA) player, who is coming to Bryan, Ohio, to give a raw and powerful talk about his battles with substance abuse. All junior high and high school students from the seven school districts in Williams County have been

invited to attend the event, which will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

Pictured during the first check presentation are Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, United Way of Williams County Executive Director Andy Brigle, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation President Patsy Miller, and Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller. In the second check presentation photo are Montpelier Area Foundation representative Jim Thompson and United Way of Williams County Executive Director Andy Brigle.



Williams County Humane Society

The Williams County Humane Society was awarded a \$2,500 grant to assist with the overpopulation of outside cats in our community. The monies will be used to safely capture, medically treat, and find a forever home for the animals. Pictured during the check presentation are Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller holding Ingrid, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, and Williams County Humane Society Executive Director Alicia Strup holding Dennis.



CIC Grants Awarded



The Community Impact Committee (CIC) of the Bryan Area Foundation was established in 2020 and exists to support economic and social advancement in Bryan, Ohio. To help in the execution, the committee partnered with the local non-profit, Bryan Development, whose mission is to support commercial growth, preservation, health, wealth, and community pride in Bryan. Out of this partnership, a Forgivable Loan Program was created with its primary goal to increase occupancy of the city's downtown business district. Secondary goals include addressing safety issues, improving aesthetics and building facades, and extending the life of existing structures.

Launched in 2022, the Forgivable Loan Program is currently helping property owners renovate historic buildings around the courthouse square. Primary funding for the program came from the estate of Richard C.

Anderson. ***Interested applicants can learn more about the Bryan Area Foundation / Bryan Development Forgivable Loan Program by contacting the Bryan Area Foundation office at 419-633-1156.***



Gallery 317

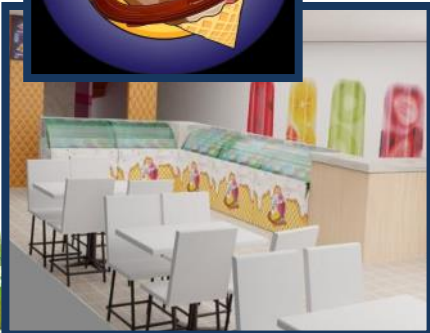
The Bryan Area Foundation and Bryan Development awarded a forgivable loan to Gallery 317 to help them refurbish the 317 West Butler Street, Bryan, property. Proprietors Paul and Sheryl Combs envision the historic home being an art gallery, studio space, and community art experience when all the exterior and interior renovations are complete. The forgivable loan will assist them in accomplishing this goal and add another destination location to the City of Bryan, furthering the economic growth of the town.

Pictured during the forgivable loan presentation are Paul and Sheryl Combs, Bryan Development representative Mike Sheeran, and Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller. This was the tenth forgivable loan awarded to aid in the restoration of historic buildings and economic development in downtown Bryan.



Eclipse

Another forgivable loan from the Bryan Area Foundation and Bryan Development was given to Ignacio Romero Angeles, the current owner of Tacos Nacho, to help him convert the 105 West Butler Street, Bryan, building into Eclipse ice cream and food shop. With the success of Tacos Nacho, Ignacio was inspired to establish a restaurant that would cater to families with children. He and his family will integrate Mexican flavors with an ice cream parlor to offer a variety of sweets and treats including ice cream, funnel cakes, churros, fresh fruit popsicles, and more. Funding from the forgivable loan program is being used to renovate the historic building to ensure the building is safe, modern, and able to be enjoyed by future generations. Construction for Eclipse is currently underway with the intent to open the space this summer.



The Bryan Area Foundation is proud to be a part of making life just a bit sweeter in Bryan, Ohio.

To the Left: Logo & Architectural Rendering





Building Youth Programs

Gotshall Family Excellence Award

In the 1990's, staff members of Bryan City Schools, along with community members, participated in a strategic planning process. One of the outcomes of the plan was the creation of the Gotshall Excellence

Award, a \$1,000 award, used to incentivize students to complete a rigorous college prep curriculum over their four years in high school. The Award was originally financed by the Bryan City School's educational foundation fund, named after JoNell Gotshall, as recognition for her outstanding service to Bryan City Schools as a long-time teacher. The program was successful, and by 2004, both advanced science and senior level math classes had increased enrollments, and 75% of previous Excellence Award winners had been music class participants in addition to their standard courses. Regrettably though, when the original funding source was depleted, the Excellence Award was discontinued.

This May, the Gotshall Family Excellence Award will return and be given to qualifying Bryan High School graduating seniors at the May Academic Booster Club Awards night. Made possible by the generosity of JoNell Gotshall, through the establishment of the Gotshall Family Donor Advised Fund, and a partnership with the Academic Booster Club, the award will once again be a \$1,000 to recognize and incentivize educational excellence.

Criteria for the Award:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Math
- 4 credits of Science
- 4 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Foreign Language
- 1 credit of Fine Art
- An overall GPA of 3.5 or higher
- A composite ACT score of 27 or higher



A dream is soon to be a reality!

Ziplines! Roller slides! Musical instruments! A flush-to-ground merry-go-round and a poured-in-place surface! All this and more are being built and put into place at the new Bryan Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground at 301 East Butler Street, the site of the former Lincoln Elementary School. With the cooperation of Mother Nature, the construction and implementation of playground equipment and bathrooms should be completed in the next few months.



As you read this article, plans are being made for an early summer ribbon-cutting celebration that you and the entire community are invited to attend. Please follow our social media and website for updates on when this will occur and how you will have the opportunity to play, learn, and grow with other children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities. We look forward to playing together soon!



Women's Giving Circle



Power in the Purse (PIP) ladies met January 29 for the 1st quarter meeting of the new year. Winners from the 4th quarter "second chance" endowment fund, Tara Stiver Joyful Bird Ministries' Founder and Molly Gibler, Ministry Operations Director along with JC Moore, Bryan Swim Team Association President, thanked members for the \$750 grants received. Joyful Bird Ministries will use the funds to help the Christ-centered ministry start the construction of Joy's House, a place of rest and a haven of hope, healing, and restoration for women in Northwest Ohio. The Bryan Swim Team Association will use their monies to replace the heating equipment in both the East End and Moore pools.

Three local organizations were nominated during the meeting:

Joyful Bird Ministries: Presented by Amy Miller, Joyful Bird Ministries was again recommended for consideration for a larger grant to support the capital campaign to construct Joy's House. The facility will be built on ten acres the organization already owns with the intent to expand its services to even more women. A PIP grant would be used to assist in completing this new building.

Sanctuary Homeless Shelter: Pheba Banerjee-Sam spoke on behalf of this non-profit, which was established in 1993 to provide homeless clients with clothing, food, and shelter. In 2005, they moved to their current location on Main Street which has four apartments and last year served 87 families. The need is great for urban and rural shelters, although there are many different necessities required to serve those diverse communities. A PIP grant would help our local shelter with its operating expenses and address its specific rural needs.



Flair on the Square: This free event will be taking place again in July on Saturday the 27th, around the historic Courthouse Square in downtown Bryan. Kathy Smith said that last year approximately 3,000 people attended and for this year, they are planning to have exhibits on all four sides of the square with expanded youth activities, a second performing arts stage, and more food trucks. A PIP grant would help the committee market to more people and continue to make the day even bigger with additional opportunities for participation.

And the Winner Is.....After the votes were tallied, the **Sanctuary Homeless Shelter** was chosen and is the beneficiary of a **\$6,475 grant!**

2024 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient

The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$6,475

2nd Quarter Recipient

TBD

3rd Quarter Recipient

TBD

4th Quarter Recipients

TBD

2024 Total Grants: \$6,475

Together we can do great things!

POWER in the PURSE



PIP

Established in 2016,
PIP has donated
\$206,365 to 37 non-profit projects serving
Northwest Ohio. If you
want to make a difference
in our community and
learn more about PIP,
consider joining us at our
next meeting:
Thursday, April 25, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
@ 7:00PM

Contact Jenny Horn at
#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

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



The 2023 Outstanding Educator



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.

Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a worthy teacher or educator who is outstanding!

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 26, 2024

Please submit nomination forms to the Foundation office or mail to 124 S. Lynn Street, PO Box 651, Bryan, Ohio 43506.

PROJECT NEXT GOLF OUTING 2024



FRIDAY, JUNE 7 @ SUBURBAN GOLF CLUB
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:15AM
SHOTGUN START @ 10:00AM

\$360 per 4-man Team

Price includes lunch and a shot at a \$25,000 hole-in-one challenge

sponsored by  **WE ARE** **MCNEILL**

Maximum of 24 teams.

Thank you to our sponsors!!

Presenting:



Instructions:

Send names (detach below) along with a check to Jason Kos @ 105 Shaffer Blvd., Bryan, OH 43506. Checks can be made payable to the **Bryan Area Foundation** with **Project Next** noted in the memo line. Please contact Jason Kos with any questions. jkos19@hotmail.com or 419-553-1000 (cell#)

Company Name: _____

Golfer #1: _____ **Golfer #2:** _____

Golfer #3: _____ **Golfer #4:** _____

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!

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



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