



Inside the Foundation

Volume 24, Issue 4
Summer 2024

Previous Good Citizens

- 1980 John Dwyer
- 1981 Forrest Witzerman
- 1982 Rosa Isaac
- 1983 Howard Rogge
- 1984 Lemuel Hawk
- 1985 Grant Brown
- 1986 Ernestine Spangler
- 1987 Arthur Spletzer, Jr.
- 1988 Neva Ringer
- 1989 John & Virginia Hartman
- 1990 Mildred Mayberry
- 1991 Luke & Mary Thaman
- 1992 Tom Voigt
- 1993 Tom Herman
- 1994 Tony Gretick
- 1995 Bill Pepple
- 1996 George Isaac
- 1997 Markey & Anderson Families
- 1998 Paul & June Webster
- 1999 Theodore Spangler
- 2000 Laura Kesler
- 2001 Bruce Benedict
- 2002 Richard Buchsteiner
- 2003 Rusty Brunicardi
- 2004 Albert Horn, Jr.
- 2005 Wayne Shaffer
- 2006 Feroen Betts
- 2007 David Newcomer
- 2008 C. Gregory Spangler
- 2009 James & Richard Bard
- 2010 Dr. Robert Woodgeard
- 2011 Dr. George & Julie Brown
- 2012 Lou Mollett
- 2013 Dr. Richard & Charlene Hess
- 2014 Richard L. Reed
- 2015 Angelike Schreder
- 2016 Dave & LeeAnne Perkins
- 2017 Dr. John Moats
- 2018 George H. Gardner
- 2019 Dean Spangler
- 2020 J. Chip Wood
- 2021 Constance Tipton
- 2022 Robert Rowan
- 2023 Bill Martin



Congratulations, Jim! 2024 Good Citizen

Congratulations to Jim Tucker for receiving the Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Good Citizen Award for 2024! The Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Good Citizen Award is presented annually to one of Bryan's outstanding citizens. This award, endowed by the Lemuel L. Hawk family is one of the most prestigious in our community. The list of prior recipients is long and distinguished, with each recipient having been a resident of Bryan for at least 20 years, active in unpaid positions and nonprofit organizations, and associated with at least one outstanding accomplishment for the Bryan community.



Pictured presenting the award are Amy Miller, BAF President/CEO; Jim Tucker, award recipient; and Diana Moore Eschhofen, BAF Chair.

Nominated for the award by multiple people, Jim is known to most as Mr. Tucker, "the waver", Mr. Smiley, Bryan's Santa, Coach Tucker, the custodian at the former Washington Elementary School, or the owner of Tucker Field. A model citizen who has served Bryan for over 60 years, Jim spreads positivity with his contagious smile and uplifting words of encouragement. Known for waving to those on their way to work or school in his driveway or on the corner of West High and Portland Streets



Pictured Left to Right is Jim's family: Joe Tucker, Jim Tucker, Julie Tucker, and Deanna Tucker.

by Parkview Hospital, Jim, in his famous smiley shirt, exemplifies that everyone can make a difference.

Called Jumpin' Jim Tucker when he coached the little league Astros team, players still get together and talk about how much fun they had. Most of all, they fondly remember the valuable lessons the sport and their coach taught

them and how applicable they are now. Jim Tucker shows up every day to spread cheerfulness, positivity, and messages of faith as he firmly believes it's about how he makes others feel. It is the inspiration he gives, the hope he provides, and the joy that he spreads.

Thank you, Jim, for showing up daily and sharing your message of happiness, optimism, empathy, and faith. "We're proud of you" and grateful you remind us to "keep smiling and keep laughing" in the rain, snow, or sunshine!



"One person can make a difference and everyone should try." -John F. Kennedy



Transition of Board Chair

Message from our Outgoing Chair

As I contemplate the end of my term as Chairman of the Bryan Area Foundation, I am filled with gratitude and admiration. When I first was invited to consider the BAF chairmanship, I felt unqualified and inadequate. But I took on the challenge in anticipation of the great things that I might learn.

And oh, the learning! Strategic planning, investments, grant making, development, scholarships, community impact, and the many types of funds and investment opportunities that exist to benefit our community only scratch the surface. Perhaps the greatest learning has been the tremendous benefit of the passion and commitment of those who give their time and money to the Foundation. The old Greek proverb, "A society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they know they will never sit" remains a stronghold for everything the Bryan Area Foundation does.



I'd like to offer a huge shoutout to predecessor, Mike Shaffer, whose passion for the Bryan Area Foundation and its mission is truly inspirational, and to Steve Hess, whose financial expertise and strong leadership will continue to carry the Foundation as he steps into the Chairman role.

Diana Moore Eschhofen



Thank you for serving, Diana!

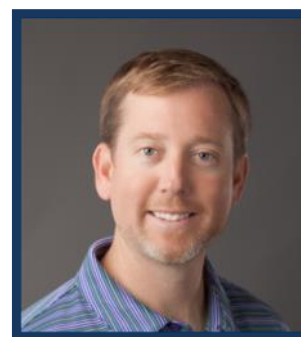
Message from our Incoming Chair

The mission of the Bryan Area Foundation is 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.

As I read this mission, it brings a smile to my face because we are working, collaborating, and achieving those goals for our community. I think the aspect that makes me most proud is that The Foundation has made a concerted effort to evaluate and adapt over time.

As you will learn, The Foundation continues to evaluate its Strategic Plan which is an opportunity to acknowledge our successes, but more importantly it allows us the ability to re-focus our energy and explore the needs of our community.

I have been very fortunate to work with many of you, and I especially appreciate Diana's leadership and high standards she continued as Chair. I am looking forward to continuing The Foundation's work with our members, staff, and community.



Steve Hess

Grand Opening



Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground



On Sunday, June 2, a dream became a reality! For twelve years former Bryan City Schools employee and current Bryan Parks and Recreation Board member Paula Kline, who worked with children of various abilities, wondered why her hometown of Bryan, Ohio, didn't have its own inclusive playground. That all changed when the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground, built on the former site of the Lincoln Elementary School, at 301 East Butler Street, Bryan held its grand opening celebration in early June.

Building of the new playground started last fall, after individual donors, service groups, the Blizzard Auction, local corporate partners, and city and state grantees successfully raised more than \$730,000. The Bryan Area Foundation was the fundraising partner for the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, accepting and managing contributions through a project fund created by Kline. At her high school reunion, she encouraged her class to establish the fund to have an avenue to collect and save donations for when the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department would be ready to move forward with the project.

Incorporating the Seven Principles of Universal Design, the playground includes ramp entry points, a poured-in-place surface, braille and picture communication boards, a flush-to-ground merry-go-round, a zipline, expression swings, and more. Creating a destination where children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities can learn, play, and grow together was the park's goal, and the grand opening gave everyone who attended this experience. Music, a selfie booth, and free food, ice cream, and t-shirts were enjoyed by all. Construction is underway for accessible bathrooms, and pavilions are planned for addition later this year.



Photo by Doug Hinebaugh, courtesy of the Ability Center of Northwest Ohio



The playground is now open for all to enjoy, so "swing" by and check it out yourself. Additional funds are still being collected for future upgrades, and donations of all sizes are appreciated and welcome.

LINCOLN PARK *inclusive*
playground
bryan, ohio



Scholarships

The Bryan Area Foundation currently manages 115 endowed scholarship funds. As a result, in fiscal year 2024, we awarded more than \$285,000 to 95 students. Below are a few of the highlights from this spring.

Bryan High School

On Monday, May 13, the Bryan community gathered to recognize Bryan High School senior scholarship recipients. Bryan Area Foundation scholarships awarded in Bryan this year exceeded \$150,000. Bryan High School Senior Katelyn Nagel is on the left in the accompanying picture accepting her three scholarships totaling \$3,500 from Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller. The Tara Arnold Memorial Scholarship, Mae, Dema, and Clark Dimler Memorial Scholarship, and the Ralph and Mable L. Scott Memorial Scholarship will aid her in attending The University of Toledo to study psychology and social work. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients and good luck in your future!



Edgerton High School

Congratulations to Edgerton High School Senior Carter Herman on receiving a Bryan Area Foundation Scholarship for \$1,000. Carter plans on attending Miami University and studying robotic engineering. He is pictured on the left accepting the scholarship from Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller. We wish Carter the best of luck as he pursues his future goals!

Edon High School

The Edon Area Foundation awarded 13 Edon High School seniors \$61,300 in scholarships. 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! The Edon High School recipients pictured left to right in the front row are Grace Reitzel, Ashton Oberlin, Jacyea Craven, Kendall Siebenaler, Samantha Hake, and Elliot Mohre. Back row left to right are Skylar Osborn, Christopher Joice, Haley Guy, Alyssa Adams, and Brennan Duvendack-Hickman.



Fairview High School



Three Fairview High School students were awarded Bryan Area Foundation scholarships to help them achieve their educational goals. Nathan Olinger received \$1,500 from the Ford Family Scholarship and will use the funds to study chemistry at Bowling Green State University. Jack Karzynow, the recipient of the Wayne and Beulah Hulbert Memorial Scholarship for \$500, will attend The Ohio State University to pursue a degree in

economics. Given the Clarice Moats Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, Bethany Singer will go to Trine University and major in education.



\$285,557 Total Awarded



Hilltop High School

The Millcreek-West Unity Foundation awarded 14 Hilltop High School graduating students \$12,500 in scholarships for the fiscal year 2024. All monies will be used to help the graduates further

their education. Thanks to the donors who made these funds available and will assist these youth in achieving their future goals. Good luck to all of them in attaining their dreams!

Montpelier High School

The Montpelier Area Foundation awarded \$38,513 in scholarships to 7 Montpelier High School students on Monday, April 29. One of those recipients is Brennen Friend, pictured on the left receiving the Bill and Deanna Gipe Scholarship, Dreher Track Scholarship, and Montpelier Area Foundation Community Scholarship totaling \$6,250 from Montpelier Area Foundation member Michelle Anderson. Brennen will use the money to attend Bowling Green State University where he will study finance. Congratulations and good luck to him and all the graduates as they pursue their educational dreams!



North Central High School



The Bryan Area Foundation awarded the Paul and Lois Stombaugh Family Scholarship to North Central High School seniors Grecia Dominguez and Ethan Beard. Each received \$4,000 and Grecia will use her scholarship to attend The Ohio State University to study biology before applying to medical school to become a physician. Ethan's scholarship will help him go to Bowling Green State University where he will pursue a degree in engineering. Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Grecia Dominguez, Bryan Area Foundation member Mark Miller, and Ethan Beard. We wish both graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Stryker High School

Congratulations to Stryker High School Seniors Oliviah Clingaman and Angela Soellner on earning Bryan Area Foundation scholarships! The checks were presented to both soon-to-be graduates by Bryan Area Foundation Scholarship Committee

Chair Tom Turnbull. Oliviah received the Donald L. and Martha M. Juillard Scholarship for \$1,500 and will use the funds to attend Bowling Green State University where she will study education. Angela was the recipient of the Robert E. Willis and Elizabeth L. Willis Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 and plans to use the money to attend Ohio Wesleyan University where she will pursue a degree in psychology. We wish all the best to both Oliviah and Angela as they strive to achieve their educational dreams!





Grants

Bryan Athletic Boosters



The Bryan Athletic Boosters started fundraising for phase two of their Community Athletics Capital Improvement Project, and the Bryan Area Foundation awarded them a \$200,000 grant to help them in their campaign.

These monies will be used to improve the middle school-aged baseball, softball, and soccer facilities, including upgrades to Field 4 located in Recreation Park. They will also assist with constructing a new softball field and upgrading soccer amenities at the former Washington Elementary School site. If the Bryan Athletic Boosters reach their financial goal, all renovations and enhancements should be complete by the fall of 2024.

Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, Bryan Athletic Boosters President Jason Brown, Bryan Athletic Boosters and Bryan Area Foundation representative Dave Batt, and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee members Steve Voigt, Larry Harsila, and Carolyn Sharrock-Dorsten.



Habitat for Humanity of Williams County



The Bryan Area Foundation presented Habitat for Humanity of Williams County (HFHWC) (Ohio) with a \$33,000 grant to help them construct a new house at 202 South Cherry Street. The property, donated by Faith United Methodist Church, is currently an empty parking lot, but in a few months, will be home to Kristin, Stella, and Steven Peet. This will be the 37th dwelling HFHWC (Ohio) has built, and it is only possible because of the incredible support of numerous local organizations and volunteers.

Pictured during the groundbreaking ceremony are left to right HFHWC (Ohio) volunteer Lyntha Collins, HFHWC (Ohio) Board President Steve Collins, First Presbyterian Church volunteer Marilyn Scott, future residents Stella, Steven, and Kristin Peet, HFHWC (Ohio) Board members Duane Knisely and Lisa Wert, HFHWC (Ohio) Build Chair Ross Widney, HFHWC (Ohio) Board Member Dawn VanHorn, Bryan Area Foundation Director of Communications and Programs Jenny Horn, HFHWC (Ohio) volunteer Jennifer Vetter, HFHWC (Ohio) primary and Mark It Done contractor Mark Vetter, HFHWC (Ohio) Executive Director Mary Ann Peters, HFHWC (Ohio) volunteers John Kurtz and Bradley Plummer, Faith United Methodist Church Pastor Eric Dailey, Faith United Methodist Church Trustees Doug Saul and Steve Casebere, and HFHWC (Ohio) volunteers Michelle Law and Jack Sigler.



Grants



Fountain City Festival



Fountain City Festival was the recipient of a \$2,500 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to help pay for expenses associated with their upcoming production of Disney's Newsies, the Broadway Musical. Marking the 25th anniversary that the Fountain City Festival has brought quality live theater to the local community, they are grateful to the Mike Eschhofen Fund for Musicians for funding this grant. The monies will be used to offset the costs of the choreographer, accompanist, vocal director, pit orchestra conductor, and more.

Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Fountain City Festival Treasurer Linda Jinks, Fountain City Festival Board President and Director of

Disney's Newsies Denver Henderson, and Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller.

Hilltop Athletic Boosters

The Hilltop Athletic Boosters received a \$10,000 grant from the Millcreek-West Unity Foundation to add a press box to the current concession stand at the Dewey VanArsdalen Athletic Complex in West Unity. This new second-story addition will provide a location for local media to broadcast high school baseball and softball games during the spring and summer seasons. It will also allow the cross-country team to monitor their runners and the football team to videotape practices.



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are the Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Secretary Abbie Smith, Hilltop Athletic Boosters Treasurer Vickie Schaffner, Hilltop Athletic Boosters President Tim Clark, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation President Patsy Miller, and the Dewey VanArsdalen Family representative and press box fundraising chair Bruce VanArsdalen.

Rings Cemetery



The Millcreek-West Unity Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Brady Township for phase two of Rings Cemetery improvements. Started in June of 2023, the community group, "Respect the Past," has been using funds to clean and repair tombstones in a non-active graveyard, home to many veterans. This new grant will allow the group to continue their work and pay for supplies and contract labor to dig and set footers, and refurbish, restore, and purchase plaques to honor these heroes.

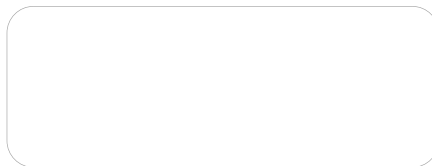
Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Brady Township Trustees Jim Eisel and Willie Grime, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Board Member Lew Hilkert, Rings Cemetery Coordinator Marilyn Royal, and Brady Township Trustee Tim Nofziger.



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4th Annual Ali Held Herman Memorial Run/Walk



Ali loved her family and her community. After she passed away at the age of 35 from a brain aneurysm, her family started a scholarship fund at the Bryan Area Foundation to honor her legacy and allow other Bryan High School graduates to continue their education. This year's recipient of the Ali Held Herman Memorial Scholarship was Bryan senior Ella Rau. Ella plans to attend Bowling Green State University and major in Elementary Education.



The memorial run/walk is an amazing way to celebrate the life of a community member who continues to make a lasting impact. Funds raised through this event will support the Bryan Area Foundation scholarship fund as well as several other community organizations.

Pictured Left to Right: Ella Rau, scholarship recipient; Mia Herman (Ali's daughter); Loren Held (Ali's father).



You can register via the QR code here or going directly to the following website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Bryan/Ali-HeldHermanMemorialRun>. Up-to-date information can be found @ Ali Held Herman Memorial Run/Walk Facebook page.



Women's Giving Circle

Together we can do great things!

Since 2016, more than **\$213,000** has been donated to **38 nonprofits** helping create a bright future throughout **Williams County**!

Speakers: Fourth quarter 2023 PIP \$6,275 recipient Kim Miller representing the Bryan Bear Bags and First Quarter 2024 PIP \$6,475 winner Pheba Banerjee-Sam speaking on behalf of the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter expressed their gratitude for their PIP monies.



PIP prize winner: Congratulations to Deb Opdycke on winning this quarter's item. **Thank you to ImagePro for all the PIP gear!**

Organizations nominated: We had 9 nominations at the April meeting, and the three that were picked and presented are as follows:

Catholic Charities: New PIP member Darby Hildebrandt presented this organization that just opened an office at St. Patrick Church in Bryan. Their mission revolves around helping people, families, and communities in need and they operate as crisis navigators, assisting people and families with referrals and resources, financial difficulties, hunger, and other life obstacles, regardless of their faith. They currently have funding for Bryan residents, but a PIP grant would allow them to serve people outside of town.

United Way of Williams County: Nominated and presented by Misty King, United Way is celebrating its 30th year. They help nonprofits financially and will be distributing more than \$120,000 to those groups this year. They also manage three internal projects, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library (books for children under 5), Let me Play (sponsoring kids in school sports), and the We Care Cabinet (hygiene products for those who can't afford them). The PIP grant would be used for their three in-house programs.

Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember: The last presentation, nominated and given by Lesley Shirkey, is an annual motorcycle ride held in memory of Kevin and Kim Oxender's son Kaleb, who tragically died in 2013. This ride is scheduled for Saturday, July 13 this year, and creates awareness of organ donations. In 2021, The Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember became a 501(c)3 and since then has been raising money to purchase life-saving equipment, educational items, and transplant services. The PIP funds would assist them in supporting those affected by the transplant process.



And the Winner Is.....After the votes were tallied, **Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember** was chosen and will benefit from a **\$6,675 grant**.

2024 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient

The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$6,475

2nd Quarter Recipient

Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember - \$6,675



Join us!!

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

#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 29

First Presbyterian Church

7:00 PM



Thank you to our corporate sponsors:





Upcoming Community Events

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) Storytime @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM) Comedy Night @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Wednesday, June 12	Bryan City Band @ the Amphitheater (7:30 PM)
June 13-15 (Thurs.-Sat.)	Bryan Jubilee with the Jubilee Parade on Saturday
Saturday, June 22	Cardio Drumming @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM) Artisan and Crafter Market @ the Amphitheater (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM) Day in the Park - NYC3 @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Sunday, June 23	Worship @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM)
Friday, June 28	Bryan Area Foundation Grant Application Deadline
Saturday, June 29	Yoga @ the Amphitheater (8:00 AM) Proud Mary @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Wednesday, July 3	Exotic Zoo @ the Amphitheater (10:00 AM)
Saturday, July 6	Zumba @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
Friday, July 12	Good Shot Judy @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Saturday, July 13	Yoga @ the Amphitheater (8:00 AM) Storytime @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM) David Anthony: An Evening of Magic and Hypnosis @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Saturday, July 20	BHS Alumni Concert @ the Amphitheater (5:00 PM)
Sunday, July 21	Worship @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)
Saturday, July 27	Cardio Drumming @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
Friday, August 2	Comedy Night @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)
Saturday, August 3	Yoga @ the Amphitheater (8:00 AM)
Sunday, August 4	Worship @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)
Saturday, August 10	Cardio Drumming @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
Saturday, August 17	Zumba @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)
Saturday, August 24	Mall Rats @ 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**