



A YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

BRYANAREAFOUNDATION.ORG

419-633-1156

FISCAL
YEAR
2025

Annual Report

"He that plants trees loves
others besides himself."

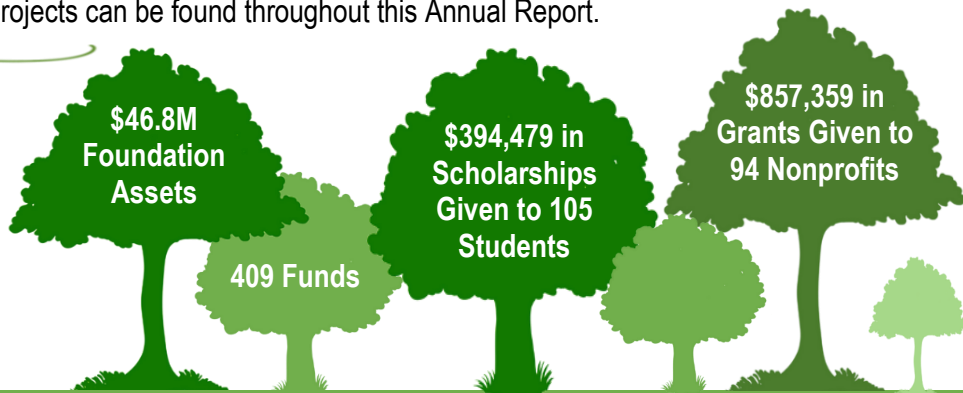
-Thomas Fuller

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Bryan Area Foundation adopted "Planting Trees" as its theme, symbolizing endowment growth for future generations. Two key initiatives brought this vision to life:

- **Matching Fund Program:** The foundation allocated \$50,000 to match 25% of gifts to community funds. Donor response exceeded expectations, exhausting the matching funds by December and generating over \$200,000 in donations while opening 10 new funds.
- **Festival of Trees:** The inaugural festival on Bryan's historic square combined community celebration with fundraising through a merchant decorating contest, progressive holiday party, commemorative ornament sales, and silent auction of fund-themed Christmas trees. The event successfully educated the community about foundation funds while strengthening holiday traditions.

These initiatives created immediate community engagement and long-term resources for Williams County. Additional "Planting Trees" projects can be found throughout this Annual Report.

Since 1969, over
\$21.2 million has
been given back to
the Williams County
area in grants &
scholarships!!



BRYAN AREA FOUNDATION

338 FUNDS

\$749,765
GRANTS AWARDED

\$253,000
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$38,587,191
TOTAL ASSETS

EDON AREA FOUNDATION

19 FUNDS

\$50,379
GRANTS AWARDED

\$67,000
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$4,244,000
TOTAL ASSETS

MILLCREEK-WEST UNITY FOUNDATION

23 FUNDS

\$25,337
GRANTS AWARDED

\$21,000
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$1,498,589
TOTAL ASSETS

MONTPELIER AREA FOUNDATION

29 FUNDS

\$31,878
GRANTS AWARDED

\$53,479
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$2,521,988
TOTAL ASSETS



Fiscal Year 2025 Highlights

In fiscal year 2025, the Bryan Area Foundation continued to successfully plant the seeds necessary to further our mission of enhancing the quality of life for all in Williams County. Below and on the next page, you will see a few of the key highlights.

ART Connects Us

In November 2024, Bryan Area Foundation Trustees approved the establishment of a new project fund to support the fundraising efforts of a new collaborative community project to benefit the performing arts in Bryan. Established by Bryan City Schools with a \$100,000 donation pledged by community members, Dr. George and Julie Brown, the **ART Connects Us Project Fund** will be used to revitalize the historic Arts and Education Center building located at 325 W. High St. The ART Connects Us project will address the removal and remediation of the former classrooms and gymnasium, will add a much-needed fellowship space, accessible restroom facilities, and will bring the performing arts technology up to the twenty-first century. Bryan native, community member, and arts advocate Russ Davies is leading the ART Connects Us capital campaign. Russ notes the value of the arts in our community goes well beyond just self-expression and enjoyment. A strong arts culture, and especially the facilities to support it, creates shared experiences and has social and generational impact. As the current President of Bryan Development, Russ also notes the project's role in the continued momentum and revitalization taking place in downtown Bryan.

If you'd like to contribute to the **ART Connects Us** project fund at the Bryan Area Foundation, you can do so by clicking "Donate" on the Bryan Area Foundation website, www.bryanareafoundation.org



Pictured left to right during are Dr. George Brown; Amy Miller, BAF President and CEO; Russ Davies, Bryan Development President; Julie Brown; and Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools Superintendent.

419 Day

The Bryan Area Foundation (BAF) is dedicated to improving and enriching life in Williams County by connecting people, ideas, real needs, and charitable resources. One way to accomplish this goal is by providing leadership training, coaching, and guidance to nonprofits. When nonprofits and their board members have the necessary tools to be more efficient and successful, they can more effectively distribute grant dollars, ultimately benefiting the community.

To support nonprofit education, the BAF offered two in-person "Charitable University" certification classes in April 2025. Presented by the Ohio Attorney General Office and hosted by the Bryan Area Foundation, the Thursday Charitable University Training gave insight into the essential elements of leading a charitable organization: board governance, financial operations and internal controls, governmental filings, and fundraising. The Friday Charitable University Advanced Training gave those who had completed the Foundational Training focus on advanced board governance with real-world situations and cybersecurity.



This was our second year to have the opportunity to host a Charitable University trainings and we are excited to have provided this invaluable training for area nonprofits as they continue to serve the residents of Williams County.

Donations Received in 2025: \$1,621,132

Because of our amazing donors, 10 new funds were established in 2025!!

Bryan City Schools - Art Connects Us Project Fund
Harold and Shirley Carder Community Fund
Dottie L. Hallett Community Fund
Thomas M. and Susan Y. Herman Designated Fund
Nancy Kay Merillat Scholarship Fund
Newlyn-Quest Club Community Fund
David and Heather Reiser Family Community Fund
Dr. Stanley and Carol Rowan Community Fund
Lee R. and Marcia L. Thiel Designated Fund
Christopher and Kathrine Walker Community Fund



Pictured left to right are members of the Newlyn-Quest Club, one of our newest fund donors: (back row) Jen Green, Nici Manahan, Caitlin Roehrig, Carrie Welling, Delaney Valderas; (front row) Michelle Henricks, Andrea Miller, Juliet Stockman, Krissy Schafer, and Casey Clemens.

Festival of Trees 2024



What a tremendous joy we had as the Foundation to join in on all the holiday festivities happening in downtown Bryan during the Christmas season! We hope that many of you had the chance to visit our office to view and possibly take home one of our beautifully decorated trees, purchase a commemorative ornament, and vote for your favorite tree decorated by a local business.



Ajav's salon & Just Liv Boutique won the Bryan Area Foundation Festival of Trees 2024 Christmas tree decorating contest! After the public votes were cast and tallied, Ajav's salon & Just Liv Boutique won a \$1,000 award to invest in their historic downtown Bryan, Ohio, building through partner, Bryan Development.

Millcreek-West Unity Foundation celebrates 30 years!

On Wednesday, September 4, 2024, the Millcreek-West Unity Foundation celebrated its founding 30 years ago at its annual dinner. Established in 1994, the Foundation has given over \$355,000 back to the community in scholarships and grants,

enhancing residents' quality of life. Many thanks to the numerous civic leaders, donors, volunteers, and former and current board members for their time, talent, and treasure ensuring the Foundation became a resource for charitable giving for generations to come. Congratulations to the Millcreek-West Unity Foundation for 30 years! We look forward to the next 30 and all your future accomplishments!



First Members' Meeting on June 4, 1994.

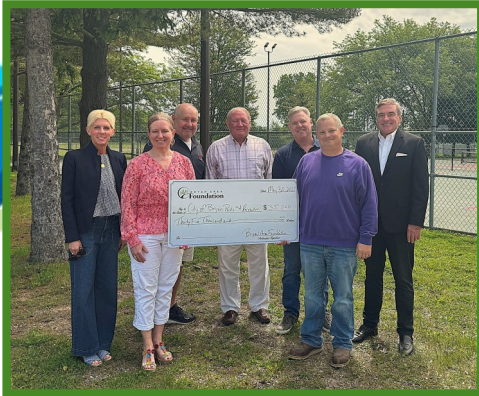
Thank you for partnering with the Foundation to fulfill your philanthropic wishes!

Community & Field of Interest Funds

Thank you to all Bryan Area Foundation donors who have established Community and Field of Interest 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 or a Field of Interest Fund may contribute to one of our 182 existing Community or 14 Field of Interest Funds in any denomination or start their own named fund. A full list of Community and Field of Interest Funds and their fund biographies can be found on our website at www.bryanareafoundation.org/funds-of-baf or by scanning the QR code.



Community & Field of Interest Funds made these grants possible in 2025!!!



Bryan Parks and Recreation
East End Pathways - \$35,000



Lily Creek Farms
Capital Improvement Project:
Phase 2 - \$30,000



Sanctuary of Williams County
Floor Replacement - \$15,000

“The mission of the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department is, to create strong ties within the Bryan Community in order to achieve diverse leisure experiences, to preserve and utilize the natural beauty of our environment, and to enhance the quality of life. With the construction of this leisure pathway, the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department hopes to provide the citizens of the Bryan community and the surrounding communities with another opportunity to engage in leisure activity and enhance their quality of life.”
-Benjamin Dominique, Director of Parks and Recreation



Sandy Cay
North Campus Renovations - \$10,000



Sauder Village
Carolyn Sauder Education Center - \$20,000



Williams County Parks
Goldie Newman Dog Park - \$20,000



Williams County YMCA
Cardiac Equipment - \$10,000



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. In fiscal year 2025, we approved ten Founders Grant requests, offering nonprofit organizations the opportunity to further their mission to serve Williams County.



Bryan City Schools
GBSN Livestreaming - \$2,313.45



Bryan Elementary Parent Teacher Org.
Bear Bags Program - \$2,500



Bryan Development
Flair on the Square - \$2,500



Kate's Kart, Inc.
Pediatric Book Giving - \$2,500



Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, Inc.
Well for Serenity Springs (Women's Recovery House) - \$2,500



First Lutheran Church, Stryker
Backpack & School Supply Giveaway - \$2,000

"Thanks to the support of the Bryan Area Foundation, we've been able to bring high-quality broadcasts to our community—even from remote locations with no internet access. This grant has not only elevated our student-run program but also allowed us to serve other local organizations in meaningful ways."

-Chris Malanga, Executive Producer of Golden Bear Sports Network



Sarah's Friends
Therapeutic Riding - \$2,240



Williams County Humane Society
Trap/Neuter/Release Program - \$2,500



Williams County Special Olympics
State Summer Games 2025 - \$2,500

Affiliate Community Grants



Pictured in the front row, left to right during the check presentations are Edon Area Foundation Co-Chair Susan Allomong, Edon Summer Ball League Treasurer Trista Wehrle, Edon Area Foundation Co-Chair Jo Luce, and Edon Friends of the Library President Jennifer Maier. In the back row left to right are Edon American Legion Post #662 Adjutant Gary Best, Village of Edon Mayor Duane Thiel, and Edon Area Ministerial Association representative Jeff Bowling.



- American Legion Dept. of Ohio Charities, Inc. -
Hometown Hero Banners - \$5,000**
- Edon Ministerial Association -
Food Pantry - \$4,500**
- Edon Summer Ball League -
Pitching Machine - \$2,500**
- Friends of the Edon Library -
Electronic Sign - \$4,500**
- Village of Edon -
Accessible Picnic Tables - \$4,500**



- Brady Township Fire Department -
Battery Powered Rescue Tools - \$5,000**
- Hilltop Athletic Boosters -
Student Admissions Program - \$5,000**
- Village of Alvordton -
Automated External Defibrillator - \$1,500**
- Village of West Unity -
Inclusive Playground Equipment - \$10,000**



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Millcreek-West Unity Foundation President Patsy Miller and Millcreek Township Trustee Chairman Berdon (Bob) Short.



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Hilltop High School Athletic Director Tony Gerig, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation President Patsy Miller, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Secretary Abbie Smith, Brady Township Fire Department Safety Officer Dean Stuckey, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Grant Committee Chair Lew Hilkert, and West Unity Mayor Don Leu.



- Friends of the Montpelier Parks, Inc. -
Bean Days - \$1,996
Janet Bennet Distribution (general use) - \$1,000
Softball Press Box - \$8,000**
- Hands Helping Hands Ministry -
Food Pantry - \$1,000**
- Hope Community Center -
Janet Bennet Distribution (general use) - \$1,000**
- Montpelier Exempted Schools -
Janet Bennet Distribution (cover unpaid lunch and library fees) - \$1,000
Skilled Trades Program - \$4,000**

- Montpelier Public Library -
Janet Bennet Distribution (general use) - \$1,000
Storywalk on the Iron Horse Trail - \$5,300**
- Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering -
Parade - \$1,000**



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Montpelier Area Foundation member Jim Thompson, Montpelier Public Library Director Angela Humphrey, and Montpelier Area Foundation member Susan Rockey.

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.
Edon Northwest Schools

Thank you to our donors who build and strengthen our community by establishing Designated Funds. The Foundation currently manages 47 Designated Endowment Funds, which benefit the organizations listed below.

Edon United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Friends of West Unity Library
Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio
Millcreek-West Unity Foundaion
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 their work in our community.

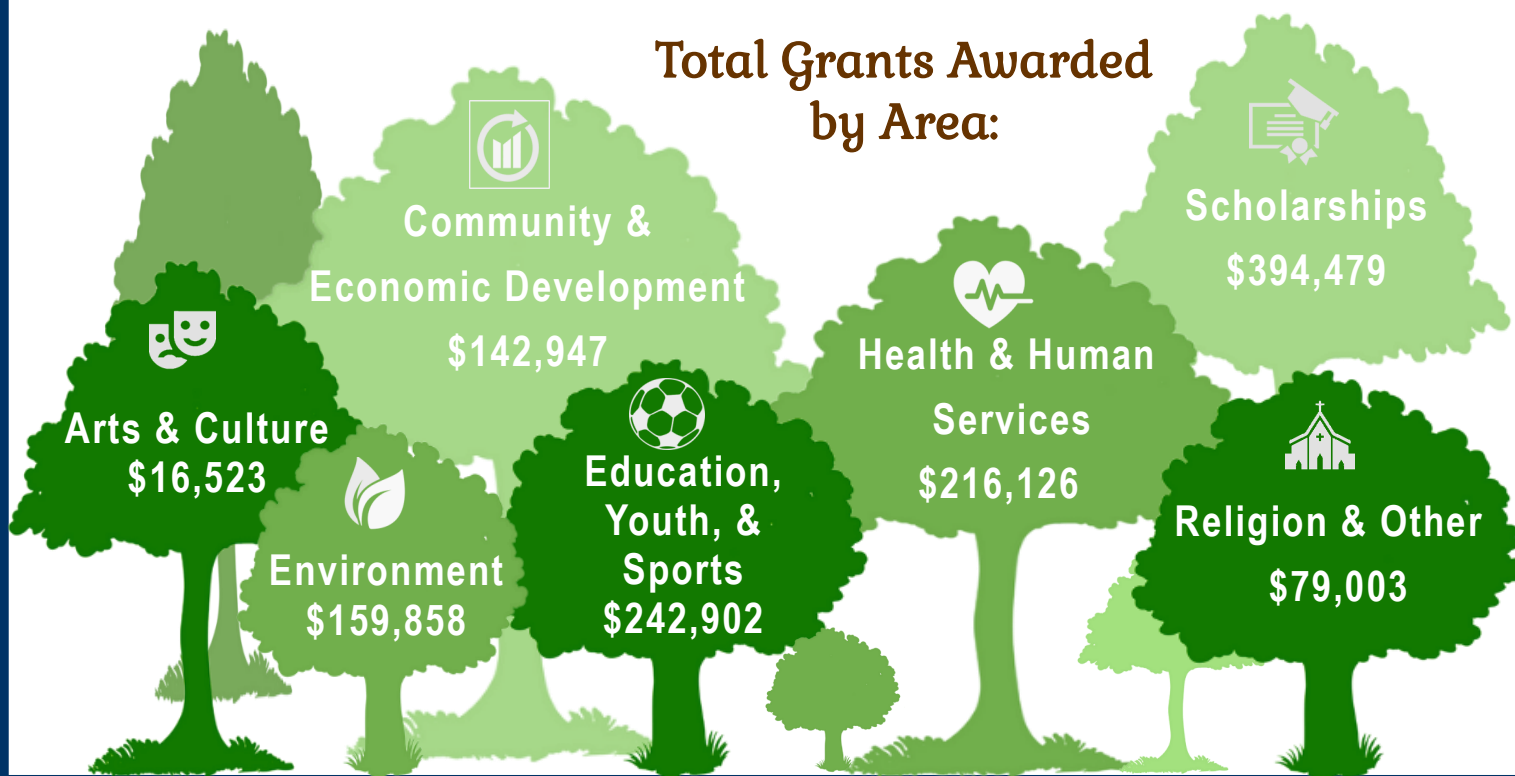
Academic Booster Club
ACRES, Inc.
Black Swamp Area Boy Scouts
Bryan Rotary Foundation
David Betts Double Play Diamond
First Presbyterian Church
Four County Career Center
Montpelier Fire Department

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

\$1,251,838 Grants in FY2025 (Including Scholarships)

Total Grants Awarded by Area:





Since 2016 More Than \$241,000 Given

Our Power in the Purse (PIP) members know how to have fun while raising awareness and funds for Williams County nonprofits. Celebrating its tenth year in 2025 with 93 members and 7 sponsors, this all-women's giving circle has given more than \$241,000 to 45 nonprofit projects.



Compassion Medical Clinic
Purchase Medications - \$6,775



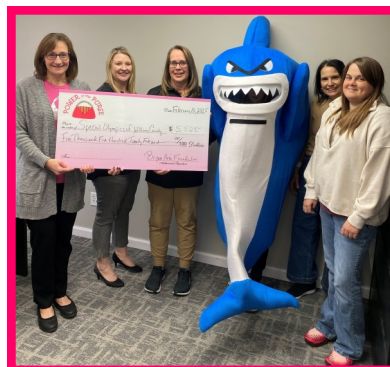
Flair on the Square
Operational Needs - \$1,000



Mentors For Williams County
Operational Needs - \$6,175



Open Hands Caring Hearts
Food Pantry - \$6,725



Williams County Special Olympics
Programming - \$5,525



Cancer Assistance of Wms. County
Assistance for Cancer Patients - \$1,000



Toys for Tots
Toys - \$1,000

PIP Endowment Balance:
\$66,629

"The Bryan Area Foundation's grant funding has significantly enhanced the Mentors For Williams County program by providing essential resources, training, and support to our dedicated mentors, enabling them to build stronger, more impactful relationships with local youth. This support has allowed us to expand our outreach, ensuring more young people in Williams County have access to positive role models who guide them toward personal and academic success. Youth mentoring is vital for our community, as it fosters confidence, resilience, and opportunity, empowering the next generation to overcome challenges and thrive in an ever-changing world."

-A.J. Nowaczyk, President of Mentors For Williams County

Thank you to our Sponsors:



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