



Inside the Foundation

Volume 26, Issue 2
Winter 2025

Experience the Magic: Bryan Area Foundation's Festival of Trees

The holidays are upon us, and our charming downtown in Bryan, Ohio transforms into a winter wonderland, offering residents and visitors alike a spectacular celebration of the season. At the heart of this festive experience is the beautifully decorated Williams County Courthouse, and this year's festivities will be extra special with the Bryan Area Foundation Festival of Trees being held inside this historic monument.

The Festival of Trees features three unique elements, each designed to create fun, engaging holiday activities while raising awareness about the important work of the Bryan Area Foundation during select nights of the Christkindl Market.

Inside the Historic Courthouse

The first element takes place inside the historic Williams County Courthouse. Visitors are invited to view and enjoy beautifully decorated Christmas trees, holiday wreaths, and porch pots, each representing a fund of the Foundation. Guests can take part in a chance to win these stunning holiday displays through an online silent auction and ticket raffle. All proceeds benefit the BAF funds represented.

Downtown Merchant Tree Decorating Contest

The second element brings the festive spirit directly to Bryan's downtown merchants. Fifteen local businesses are participating in a Christmas tree decorating contest, showcasing their creativity and holiday enthusiasm. Maps of tree locations and information for voting are available at the Bryan Area Foundation office, the Christkindl information booth, or online at <https://tinyurl.com/mrx946ek>.

All are encouraged to visit the participating merchants and vote for their favorite tree. Multiple categories will be awarded, with the coveted "People's Choice" winner receiving \$500 to invest in their business.

Progressive Holiday Party

The third element is the Bryan Area Foundation Festival of Trees Progressive Holiday Party. Sponsored by **Advanced Rehabilitation Technology** and **S&S Directional Boring**, this special event takes place on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:30 PM. Attendees will enjoy multiple fun-filled stops throughout downtown Bryan, including a "last look" at the Festival of Trees auction items inside the historic Williams County Courthouse. Tickets include beverages, appetizers, a meal, and dessert—everything needed for a memorable evening! The Bryan Area Foundation is grateful for the sponsors (listed below), tree decorators, and volunteers that make these events possible. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure to make our holidays magic!

Complete event details can be found at www.visitbryanohio.com and www.bryanareafoundation.org.





Message from our Chair

Our recent weather is a great reminder that winter is coming! While it may be cold, this time always leads into the holidays, a time to reflect on the year, and a time to be warmed by generosity.



Steve Hess
Chair of the Board

I hope during this season you will visit the BAF office and view our new timeline wall. It's a wonderful acknowledgement of our history and how the Bryan Area Foundation has evolved. Our history truly epitomizes the value of our founders, members, donors, staff and volunteers that have and will continue to add to our success!

Also, please stop by our 2nd annual Festival of Trees which will be displayed in the Williams County courthouse this year. Thank you for your support and please enjoy your holiday season with your family and friends!



New Bryan Area Foundation Members

Welcome to our newest Bryan Area Foundation members, pictured left to right, Ryan J. Miller, Jacob Willey, and Terry Rummel. These residents of Northwest Ohio bring a wealth of community experience and business knowledge to the Foundation. We look forward to working with them and thank them in advance for their service.



Over \$428,000 Granted through Designated & Organizational Funds

The Bryan Area Foundation observed Foundation Week, from Sunday, October 12, to Saturday, October 18, and as part of that week, 85 grants were given from designated and organizational funds, totaling \$428,812, to various nonprofits. Each recipient will use the money to help them achieve their mission and goals and improve the quality of life within our community. To learn more about designated and organizational grants and how to establish one, please get in touch with the Bryan Area Foundation. Congratulations to all recipients, and thank you for making our community better!



Pictured left to right during the check presentation to the various nonprofits are United Way of Williams County Executive Director Amy Kirby, Academic Booster Club (ABC) President Julie Taylor, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, Williams County 4-H representative Donna Missler, Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Trustee Bart Westfall, Williams County Fair Foundation representative Jean Darby, Bryan Ohio Rotary Club Secretary Craig Grieser, First Presbyterian Church representative Yvette Zedaker, St. Patrick Catholic School Principal Tracy Koenig, Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Andy Hunter, City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department Director Ben Dominique, and Bryan Ohio Rotary Club Treasurer Rick Kuhman.

Designated & Organizational Funds



Designated Funds

A designated fund is created to ensure that support will be provided to one or more specific charitable organizations. Bryan Area Foundation ensures that disbursements are made to the appropriate charitable agencies or causes as specified in the establishing fund document. The minimum gift to establish a designated fund is \$25,000. The foundation currently has 46 designated funds.

4-H Activities Fund
Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Fund
Bill and Helen Stine Memorial Fund
Bob and Joyce Markey Fund
Bob E. Rose Fund
Brown Cemetery Memorial Fund
C. Library Fund
Carter Kissel Friends of the Library Fund
Carter Kissel Village Park Fund
Catherine Markey Anderson Library Fund
Chris Gotshall Memorial Fund
Cora Isaac Memorial Fund
Darrell D. Bayes and Eleanor E. Bayes Memorial Fund (Humane)
Denver G. Taylor and Mildred P. Taylor Memorial Fund
Duane and Sharon King Designated Fund
Earl Walters and John Patten Fair Foundation Fund
Edward and Elma Auchard Fund
Etoll-Essi-Isaac Fund
Ewing Pendleton Knox and Eleanor Jane Knox Memorial Fund (Library)
Ewing Pendleton Knox, Eleanor Jane Knox and Evelyn Jepson Memorial Fund (Humane)
George and Dolores Mellott Memorial Fund
George Azar and Mary Ade Isaac Memorial Fund
Gladys E. Isaac Memorial Fund

Gotshall Family First Church of Christ Fund
Henry and Wanda Walters Historical Society Fund
Henry and Wanda Walters Wesley UMC Fund
Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Memorial Fund
Howard L. and Laurena L. Arnos American Cancer Fund
Howard L. and Laurena L. Arnos American Heart Fund
James A. and Jane A. Hutchinson Fund
Jerome J. Hartman Fund
John G. and Marilyn C. Toner Fund - Williams County Historical
John G. and Marilyn C. Toner Fund - Williams County Veterans
Laura Lee "Lolly" Benner Booth Memorial Fund
Lee R. and Marcia L. Thiel Designated Fund
Lilly George Isaac Wesley UMC Fund
Linda Wiley Fox Memorial Fund
BAF Members Fund
Richard C. Anderson Designated Fund
Robert Markey Memorial Fund
Roger O. Burkholder Memorial Fund
Rosa Isaac Memorial Alliance Church Fund
Rosa Isaac Memorial Bryan City Parks Fund
Rosa Isaac Memorial Roseland Park Fund
Thomas M. and Susan Y. Herman Designated Fund
Thoral and Marjorie Mitchell Memorial Designated Fund
William and Nancy Martens Fund

Organizational Funds

An organizational endowment fund is a form of a designated fund where the donor is a nonprofit agency or organization contributing funds to provide current income and long-term security for its operation. The minimum gift to establish an Organizational Endowment Fund is \$10,000. We currently have 27 organizational funds.

Academic Booster Club of Bryan City Schools Fund
ACRES, Inc. Endowment Fund
Boy Scouts Endowment Fund
Bryan Civic League Fund
Bryan Rotary Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund
City of Bryan Senior Center Building Endowment Fund
David Betts Double Play Diamond Fund
First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund
Four County Career Center Endowment Fund
Hip Klotz Athletic Booster Fund
Montpelier Fire Department Endowment Fund
Montpelier Rotary Endowment Fund
Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Endowment Fund
St. Patrick Church Endowment Fund
Stryker Schools Foundation Endowment Fund
Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund
United Way of Williams County Endowment Fund

Veterans Memorial Building Endowment Fund
Wesley United Methodist Church Endowment Fund
Williams County 4-H Educational Advancement Fund
Williams County Fair Foundation Endowment Fund
Williams County Family YMCA Endowment Fund
Williams County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Williams County Humane Society Endowment Fund
Williams County Parks Endowment Fund
Williams County Senior Center Endowment Fund
Williams County Sportsmen's Educational Fund



The Nutcracker Tree will be available at the Festival of Trees 2025. Funds raised from the sale of this tree and life-size nutcracker will benefit the Bryan Civic League Fund.

Grants



CPC Women's Health Resource

CPC Women's Health Resource was the recipient of a \$2,500 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to help them purchase

a new washer and dryer at their Bryan, Ohio, location. As the nonprofit is fortunate to receive donated new and gently used baby items for its clients, on several occasions, those articles need washing. Now with the addition of the new washer and dryer, employees of the organization won't have to take them home to clean.



Pictured during the check presentation and getting the chance to see the new washer and dryer are, from left to right, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, CPC Women's Health Resource RN Teresa Collins, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee members Dr. Carolyn Sharrock-Dorsten and Michael Johnson, CPC Women's Health Resource Nurse Manager Tami Rhodes, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Larry Harsila, and CPC Women's Health Resource Executive Director Mark Pitman.

Edon Area Foundation

The Edon Area Foundation awarded \$26,000 from their community fund!! The grants were distributed as follows:



Pictured in the front row, left to right, during the check presentation are Edon Area Foundation Co-Chair Jo Ann Luce, LifeWise Edon Northwest representative Krystal Hake, and Edon Area Foundation Co-Chair Susan Allomong. In the second row, left to right, are Edon American Legion representative Gary Best, Florence Township Firefighters' Association representative Allyn Luce, Edon Area Ministerial Association representative Jeff Bowling, Edon Northwest Schools Music Department representative Cathy Fastaci, Edon Northwest Schools Library/Media Center representative Shanea Herman, and Edon Chamber of Commerce representative Chandra Lyman.

- The Edon American Legion-\$1,500 for veterans' banners to be displayed in town.
- The Florence Township Firefighters' Association-\$4,400 to purchase new equipment, in particular a fire attack hose and accompanying nozzles.
- Edon Area Ministerial Association-\$5,000 to its food pantry that has been serving 40-45 families monthly.
- LifeWise Edon Northwest-\$5,000 to help expand its Christian teaching program to additional grade levels.
- Edon Northwest Schools Music Department-\$3,000 to help fund an educational trip and performance in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Edon Northwest Schools Library/Media Center-\$5,000 to buy a book vending machine.
- Edon Chamber of Commerce-\$2,100 to acquire 30 "Welcome to Edon", "Happy Holidays", etc., banners to also be hung around town.



Tuesday, December 30 is the deadline for all grant applications to be considered in March.

You can drop off all applications in person no later than Tuesday, December 30, or mail them to PO Box 651, Bryan, OH 43506.

Applications & Instructions can be found @ www.bryanareafoundation.org (GRANTS tab).

Grants



Edon Summer Ball League



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Edon Summer Ball League President Chad Livensparger and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller.

The Edon Summer Ball League was awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation for baseball and softball field updates. The funds will be used to replace a dated PONY League mound and purchase new softball pitching mats. These improvements will enhance the quality of practice and games for youth participating in these sports, while also providing a safer and more enjoyable experience for player development.

Goldie Newman Dog Park

The Bryan Area Foundation is going to the dogs! Staff members of the Bryan Area Foundation took their dogs to the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Goldie Newman Dog Park, located at 7424 State Route 15, Bryan, Ohio. The park is officially open from dawn to dusk and features two separate gated sections, with a large dog area at 0.75 acres and a small dog area at 0.30 acres. Other amenities include pedestrian entry gates, benches, waste stations, and lighting surrounded by a chain-link fence. In fiscal year 2025, the Bryan Area Foundation granted \$20,000 to the Williams County Parks for the new dog park.



Pictured during the event are Williams County Commissioner Bart Westfall, Williams County Engineer Todd Roth, Williams County Commissioner Terry Rummel with Bernese Mountain Dog Ollie, Williams County Highway Department Clerk Steve Humphrey, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller with Shih Tzu Charlie, and Williams County Park Commissioner Robert Tressler.

Hosanna Horse Haven

Congratulations to Hosanna Horse Haven on receiving a \$10,500 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation. The funds will help complete the tack/viewing room, fix chronic mud and drainage in the northside barn extension, and build a hay storage lean-to. These enhancements will directly improve safety, protect resources, and support equine-assisted services for 20-30 area students who participate weekly in the Hosanna Horse Haven therapeutic programs. It will also benefit the veterans and first responders, who attend the sessions at no cost.



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Hosanna Horse Haven Director Lisa Allomong, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, rescued and therapy quarter horse Nellie, and Hosanna Horse Haven President Will Allomong.





Charitable Giving

How the “Big Beautiful Bill” Could Change Charitable Giving in 2026

By SJS Investment Services

Congress recently passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), a *broad* tax law that affects nearly every household in some way. Among the many provisions are important updates to how charitable donations will be treated for tax purposes starting in 2026. Understanding these changes can help donors make the most of their giving in the months ahead.¹

- **For Those Who Itemize Deductions**

Beginning in 2026, individuals who itemize their deductions will no longer be able to deduct 100% of their charitable contributions. A small portion of the deduction will be disallowed. While the exact impact will vary based on income and filing status, 2025 may be an advantageous year to **accelerate** or “**bunch**” **charitable gifts**, which could mean combining two years’ worth of giving into one tax year, to maximize the deduction before the new limits take effect.

- **For Those Who Take the Standard Deduction**

The new law reintroduces a charitable giving incentive that had disappeared in recent years. Starting in 2026, taxpayers who don’t itemize will once again be able to deduct up to **\$1,000 (single)** or **\$2,000 (married filing jointly)** in cash charitable contributions. This reinstated deduction gives most households, regardless of whether they itemize, a meaningful way to reduce taxes while supporting the causes they care about.

What It Means for Donors in 2025

Because 2025 is the final year before these changes take effect, it may be an especially good time to review your charitable giving strategy. Accelerating certain donations—whether to a community foundation fund, a donor-advised fund, or directly to charities—could enhance the tax impact of your philanthropic interests.

As always, donors should consult with their tax advisor to understand how these provisions apply to their personal situation. Thoughtful planning today can help maximize both your charitable impact and your tax benefit tomorrow.

¹ “H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act”. 119th Congress 2025-2026, [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).



Featured Fund: Community Impact Project Fund

A gift to the Community Impact Project fund restores historic downtown buildings for future generations and enhances the quality of life for residents today.

Interested in learning more? Watch our video series “Building for the Future” on the Bryan Area Foundation website:

www.bryanarefoundation.org/forgivable-loan-program **OR** scan the QR code.



Gallery 317 - A forgivable loan was created for Gallery 317 through a grant to Bryan Development from the Bryan Area Foundation Community Impact Fund. This allowed Paul and Sheryl Combs to turn a historic home on Butler Street into an art gallery, studio space, and community art experience.



Celebrating 10 Years of Giving!

On Monday, October 20, PIP members celebrated a wonderful night of food, drinks, fellowship, recognition, and additional giving to local nonprofits. PIP 10th Anniversary gear was raffled during the event, raising an additional \$660 for the PIP endowment fund! Thank you to Bill's Locker Room 3 and PIP member Dottie Hallett for donating PIP items.

Fourth-quarter voting by members occurred prior to the celebration. Board officers and directors were approved for the coming year. Three organizations were voted upon by members for the fourth quarter grant recipient: Bread of Life Community Center, Edon LifeWise, and Marine Toys for Tots. After votes were tallied, the winner was Edon LifeWise winning a \$6,275 grant!



Pictured are Amy Miller (BAF President) and Linda Smith (Edon LifeWise representative).

Ten years ago, when PIP was established, it was determined that after the endowment fund reached \$25,000, distributions could be made from the account. That total for this year was \$2,938.61, and the PIP Board and membership decided to award a second-chance

grant drawing of \$2,500 to one 2025 non-winning, presented nominee. Congratulations to the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter on winning the \$2,500 grant!

It was a tremendous evening for celebrating the good that has happened in our communities because of the generosity of women who give and serve! Let's see what can happen in the next 10 years!



Pictured left to right: Jody Freeman (founding member), Pam bard Steel (founding member), Jack Brace (BAF President at time of PIP founding), Diana Moore Eschhofen (founding member), and Meg Kunsman (founding member). Missing from photo: Laura Eckhardt, Beth Hollabaugh, Connie Tipton, and Ann Vreeland (all founding members).



Pictured are Pheba Banjeree (Sanctuary Homeless Shelter Representative), Jenny Horn (BAF Director of Communications), and Miller (BAF President).



In total, 42 individuals have been PIP members for all 10 years. Pictured are those who were in attendance at the celebration.



Ready to join or renew your membership?



You can scan the QR code, go to our website, or drop off a check at the Bryan Area Foundation office. All renewals are due by January 16, 2026.

Established in 2016, PIP has donated \$256,290 to 48 non-profit projects serving Northwest Ohio.

Contact Jenny Horn at #419-633-1156
jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

Thank you to our 2025 corporate sponsors:

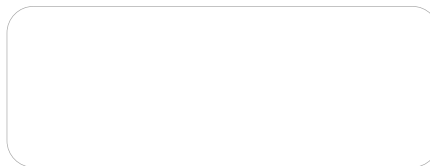




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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Holiday Hours

The Foundation office
will be closed on:

Thurs., November 27th

Fri., November 28th

Wed., December 24th

Thurs., December 25th

Wed., December 31st

Thurs., January 1st



Good Citizen Award

It's that time again! We are seeking nominations for the 2026 Good Citizen.

Each nominee must be or have been:

- A resident of Bryan for at least 20 years.
- Active in unpaid positions in organizations providing services to Bryan.
- An officer or director of a nonprofit organization.
- Associated with at least one outstanding accomplishment for the Bryan community.

This prestigious award, endowed by the Hawk family in memory of their parents, Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk, is presented annually to one of Bryan's outstanding citizens.

The deadline for nominations is: Friday, January 30, 2026

Applications can be found @ www.bryanareafoundation.org. Completed nomination forms may be dropped off at the Foundation office or mailed to:

Bryan Area Foundation, P.O. Box 651, Bryan, OH 43506



Give a gift that lasts forever.

A donation made to a Bryan Area Foundation endowed fund benefits our community now and for generations to come.

Below are a few strategies for giving this Holiday Season:

1. Consider making gifts using IRA dollars: If you are age 70 ½ or older, you may transfer up to \$108,000 annually from your IRA accounts directly to a charity without having to recognize the distribution as taxable income, potentially saving federal, state, and local income taxes. You may request that your IRA custodian cut a check directly to a charity (called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)). This strategy works well for individuals who cannot itemize deductions on their tax returns. Additionally, if you are taking required minimum distributions (RMDs), these donations can be used to satisfy your RMDs. [1] [3]

2. Donate highly appreciated securities: If you are making a meaningful gift to a qualified charity like the Bryan Area Foundation, you may be able to donate a stock, mutual fund, or exchange-traded fund (ETF) in kind. By doing so, you can avoid realizing the gain on the security at the sale (and the resulting tax). The charity can sell the security and does not realize the gain if they are a qualified organization.[2] A win for both the giver and receiver!

3. Establish your own named fund: The Bryan Area Foundation has a variety of endowed fund types for assisting donors like you in achieving your long-term philanthropic goals. Acorn funds can be established for as little as \$1,000, and community funds can be fully established for as little as \$5,000. If having your own named fund, or a fund to recognize your family or a loved one is of interest to you, reach out to the Foundation to learn more.

4. Give to an existing endowed fund: Interested in making a one-time gift to support an organization or a cause that you are passionate about, while receiving a tax benefit this calendar year? The Bryan Area Foundation has over 413 funds, many established to benefit specific organizations and causes. If you have an interest in making a one-time gift before the end of the year, we can help you identify a fund matching your charitable interests.

Regardless of your individual decisions, conferring with a financial advisor or legal professional is best to ensure all gifts accomplish your goals and follow IRS guidelines.

Important Disclosure Information & Sources:

[1] "IRA FAQs – Distributions (Withdrawals)." Internal Revenue Service, 2025, irs.gov.

[2] "About Publication 526, Charitable Contributions." Internal Revenue Service, 2025, irs.gov.

[3] Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) cannot go to a donor advised fund.

Happy Holidays!



Two Ways to Give to a Bryan Area Foundation Fund:

Donate by Check:

- 1 Choose a fund. A complete list of funds with biographies can be found on the BAF website.
- 2 Complete a giving envelope.
- 3 Write a check to Bryan Area Foundation. Note the fund name in the memo line.
- 4 Return to BAF via mail: PO Box 651, Bryan, OH 43506 or drop off at the office: 124 South Lynn Street, Bryan.

Donate Online:

- 1 Go to BAF website:
www.bryanareafoundation.org
- 2 Click on "Donate Now" from the blue main menu.
- 3 Complete needed information then add to the giving cart.
- 4 Complete payment transaction.

Donate Online:

- 1 Scan the QR code to be linked to online giving.



Please contact the BAF with any questions. #419-633-1156

