



Planting Trees

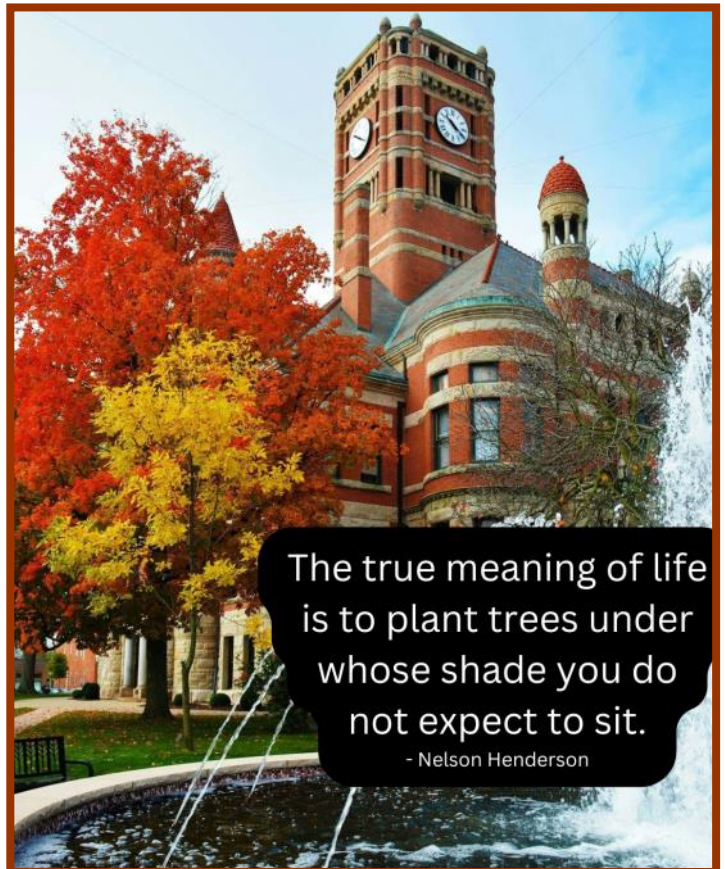


With a new fiscal year under way, the Bryan Area Foundation has set its sights on a new set of goals, projects, and plans for positively impacting Williams County. A special committee of Bryan Area Foundation members led by incoming Chair Steve Hess and President Amy Miller prepared for this new year by evaluating the results of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The group determined what had worked well, what had not, and what the focus of the Foundation should be for the next 24 months. The exercise proved fruitful, and in June 2024, the Bryan Area Foundation Trustees adopted a new strategic plan to guide fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

The first focus? **Growing endowed assets.** Increasing endowment fund dollars directly impacts financial giving for generations to come. For this reason, two initiatives in fiscal year 2025 will focus on endowment growth.

First, **Bryan Area Foundation Trustees have allocated \$50,000 for matching 25% of all gifts made to new or existing community funds from September 15, 2024, to June 30, 2025** (or until matching funds are exhausted.) Details of the match can be found in the handout enclosed. A successful matching campaign will increase our endowed community fund assets by \$200,000 this fiscal year!

Second, **Bryan Area Foundation will be hosting a "Festival of Trees" in our office and around Bryan's historic square this holiday season.** The event will include a Christmas tree decorating contest for downtown merchants, a progressive holiday party, the sale of commemorative Bryan ornaments, and a silent auction of Bryan Area Foundation "fund-themed" Christmas trees in our building. The



The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

- Nelson Henderson

Festival of Trees will not only be a fundraiser for increasing endowment, but a fun and engaging way for all community members to celebrate the Christmas season. To learn more about the Bryan Area Foundation Festival of Trees, and how you can participate, we encourage you to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. All event details and information can also be found on www.visitbryanohio.com and www.bryanareafoundation.org.





Message from our Chair

Growing the Foundation



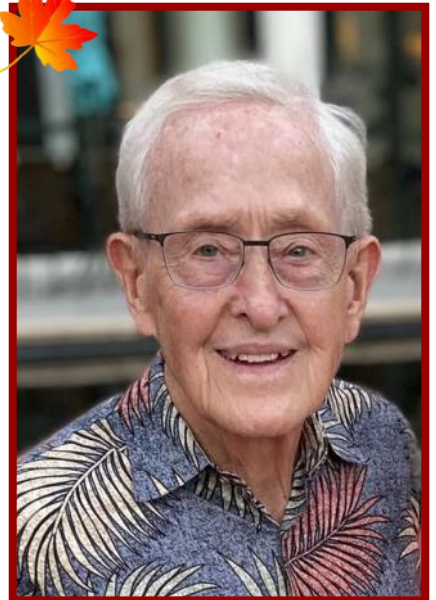
Steve Hess
Chair of the Board

Growing the foundation has always been a core goal. The revival of the community fund match is an example of that commitment. This financial growth can have an immediate impact for the grants and programs in our community, and it will create resources for generations to come.

This growth also has a tangible quality that we can all define, but I want to highlight another growth that is intangible – the growth of leadership. Not only are we planting financial seeds, but we are inspiring growth in people through the connection of the foundation. Our engagement with the community has continued to flourish through the collaboration of new projects and ideas. The Festival of Trees is an example of this work.

I truly believe that the Bryan Area Foundation has encouraged and challenged leaders in the community with the work that continues to be done. As the following quote states, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” I feel excited about tomorrow!

In Memory of James “Jim” R. Bard January 14, 1937 - July 21, 2024



We are saddened by the passing of long-time Bryan Area Foundation member, Jim Bard. Along with having served as Co-Chair of the family-owned Bard Manufacturing Company in Bryan, Ohio, Jim prioritized community service in Williams County and beyond. Joining the Foundation in 1991, Jim served on the Development, Scholarship, and Nominating Committees before becoming a member of the Board of Trustees. From 2006-2008, he served as the Foundation Chair, and during this time established the James and Joan Bard Donor Advised Fund. In 2009 he and his brother Richard received the Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Good Citizen Award, and both started the Richard and James Bard Technical Scholarship Fund to assist students attending a community, technical, or trade school pursuing a career in HVAC, engineering, or manufacturing.

Jim continued giving back to his hometown by constructing the Bard Centennial Fountain on the historic Williams County Courthouse Square. He wanted to ensure that our town, known as the “Fountain City”, had a fountain to commemorate it. And even though we will greatly miss him and his constant support, the legacy he leaves behind will enrich the quality of life in our area now and for generations to come.

To honor Jim and his love for Bryan, a contribution can be made to the Bryan Area Foundation’s Community Impact Project Fund, which helps existing building development, promotes the establishment of new businesses, and aids projects that enhance the community experience for residents and visitors.

A Year in Review



Since 1969, over \$19.9 million has been given back to the Bryan area in grants & scholarships!!

Every building starts with a good foundation.

\$1,789,972 in Grants Given to 87 Nonprofits

\$285,557 in Scholarships Given to 98 Students

\$42.1M Foundation Assets

399 Funds

When the Bryan Area Foundation embarked on Fiscal Year 2024 last July, we did so with the theme “*Building for the Future*” woven throughout our plans, goals, and objectives. The theme was easy to select, because of our planned involvement in so many building projects. In August, we moved our office to a permanent home on Bryan’s historic square, and in September we broke ground on building the Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground. Through the fall and winter, we granted over \$500,000 from our Community Impact Project fund for re-investment in multiple historic buildings in downtown Bryan. In addition to physical building projects, we remained focused on our mission, 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. This snapshot of the annual report highlights the Bryan Area Foundation’s financial achievements and our programs focused on *Building for the Future*. A copy of the complete 2024 Annual Report is available on our website: www.bryanareafoundation.org/financial-highlights.

Bryan Area Foundation	Edon Area Foundation	Millcreek-West Unity Foundation	Montpelier Area Foundation
330 FUNDS	18 FUNDS	22 FUNDS	29 FUNDS
\$1,696,933 GRANTS AWARDED	\$38,133 GRANTS AWARDED	\$30,548 GRANTS AWARDED	\$24,358 GRANTS AWARDED
\$173,244 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$61,300 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$12,500 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	\$38,513 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$34,616,915 TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,861,804 TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,356,972 TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,302,834 TOTAL ASSETS



Grants - Bryan

Bryan City Schools

The Golden Bear Sports Network (GBSN) was awarded a \$2,313 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation (BAF). The monies will be used to purchase a Starlink satellite internet service ensuring reliable connectivity for livestreaming of Bryan High School sports and arts events. This will enhance broadcast quality, improve the viewer experience, and provide better learning opportunities for student broadcasters. It will also allow viewers living out of town or unable to attend, to watch online. The grant will cover the first year of service, and future sponsorships on the network will pay for subsequent years.



Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Bryan High School Superintendent Mark Rairigh, BAF President/CEO Amy Miller, BAF Board Chair Steve Hess, BAF Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, Bryan High School Director of Media Communications and BAF member Chris Malanga, and BAF Grant Making Committee Member Steve Voigt.

Sandy Cay



Sandy Cay, Inc., received a \$10,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to assist in renovating their north campus. The monies will help them purchase and install window replacements, new vinyl plank flooring in half the building, and two new doors in the back part of the educational center. The funds will enable the nonprofit to continue to improve programs for students ages 3-22 on the autism spectrum.

Pictured accepting the check are front row left to right students Anthony Cline, Grace Joseph, Alec Blinzler, Sully Joseph, Channing Rhoden, and Educational Center Director Kathleen Ewonus. In the second row left to right are BAF President/CEO Amy Miller, BAF Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, and BAF Grant Making Committee Member Larry Harsila.



Sarah's Friends

Sarah's Friends was awarded a \$2,240 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to be used for a new collaborative partnership with Hosanna Horse Haven. The monies will help survivors of crime in Williams County participate in a therapeutic horseback riding/healing curriculum. This therapy program will benefit seven survivors with eight weeks of riding services.

Pictured during the check presentation are left to right BAF Grant Committee member Larry Harsila, rescued and therapy horse Jessa, Hosanna Horse Haven President Will Allomong, Sarah's Friends Executive Director Katie Shaffer, and Hosanna Horse Haven Director Lisa Allomong.



Williams County Family YMCA

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to the Williams County Family YMCA enabling them to purchase the necessary equipment for community members to maintain their cardiac health. This resource, formerly at Parkview Bryan Hospital, will now be available at the Williams County Family YMCA 24 hours a day. The monies will help acquire a NuStep Cross Trainer, two LifeFitness UBE Armcranks, and a commercial-grade blood pressure kiosk.

Pictured during the check presentation are BAF President/CEO Amy Miller, BAF Board Chair Steve Hess, BAF Grant Making Committee Chair Mark Miller, Williams County Family YMCA CEO Daniel Tinch, and BAF Grant Committee Members Steve Voigt and Cliff Oberlin.



Grants - Affiliates



Old Tyme Holiday Gathering



The Montpelier Area Foundation awarded Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering (OTHG) a grant for \$1,000. The monies will be used for the upcoming annual OTHG parade in its 18th year, which takes place in downtown Montpelier, Ohio, on Saturday, November 23. The event from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. will feature a craft and vendor show, food, holiday caroling, tree lighting, a parade with Santa's arrival, and so much more. All these festivities help Montpelier kick off the holiday season!

Pictured during the check presentation are left to right OTHG Board Members Teri Aldrich and Connie Nickells, OTHG Chair Michelle Kannel, Montpelier Area Foundation President Kara Custar, and OTHG Treasurer Terri Buntain.

Montpelier Parks

The Montpelier Area Foundation awarded an \$8,000 grant to the Friends of Montpelier Parks, Inc. to help construct a press box for the 10u/12u/14u girls' softball field. Similar to the boys' baseball program press box design, the bottom part of the building will have a garage door for easy access and equipment storage. The top half of the new structure will be designated as the press box area with sound and scoreboard equipment.

Pictured during the check presentation are from left to right, Montpelier High School Athletic Director and Montpelier Softball Commissioner Joe Brigle, Montpelier Area Foundation representative Charles Moore, and Montpelier Softball Commissioners Alysha Sloan, and Brandon Moore.



Millcreek-West Unity Foundation celebrates 30 years!



On Wednesday, September 4, 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 their 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.



Pictured above is President Patsy Miller, sharing with Foundation members on the right.



Congratulations again 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.





Scholarships

Robert F. Flightner Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship



Congratulations to City of Bryan Police Department Patrolman Justin Coffman and Patrolman John Rathke on receiving the Robert F. Flightner Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship. This annual scholarship is for the training and education of law enforcement officers in Williams County. Patrolman Coffman, who just finished his first year of teaching at the police academy at Northwest State Community College, is looking to add to his credentials by completing a course in the use of impact weapons. The \$750 scholarship will help him take the class and use his new knowledge to broaden his instruction abilities at the police academy and provide in-service training at the City of Bryan Police Department. Patrolman Rathke, an assigned narcotics investigator with the Multi-Area Narcotics Task Force (MAN Unit), will use the \$1,500 scholarship to attend the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. When done with the two-week course, he plans to use this new information to instruct academy cadets and new law enforcement officers enabling them to be even more successful in their role, and in turn, make their community safer.



Pictured from left to right are Patrolman Coffman, Bryan Area Foundation Scholarship Committee Member Dottie Hallett, and Patrolman Rathke.

Chris and Mary Thaman Scholarship



Congratulations to Kaitlyn Posey on receiving the Chris and Mary Thaman Scholarship for \$1,250. This annual scholarship is awarded to a Williams County or Fairview High School graduate who has completed at least one year of post-secondary schooling following graduation, employed to support their education, and in good academic standing. Kaitlyn attends Spring Arbor University, where she is a student-athlete, and studying to be a nurse. She also works throughout the school year with a high-needs child with cerebral palsy, having found a passion for caring for those in need. Upon receiving her diploma, Kaitlyn would like to return to Northwest Ohio and work at an area hospital before becoming a hospice nurse. We wish the best of luck to Kaitlyn in all her future endeavors and a big thank you to the Thaman family for helping them come true!

Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Mary Ann Thaman, Kaitlyn Posey, fellow nurse Gabe Thaman, and Josiah Thaman.



Harlan and Ernestine Spangler Continuing Education Scholarship

Congratulations to Christie Roan and Ben Lupo for receiving the Harlan and Ernestine Spangler Continuing Education Scholarship. To qualify for this annual scholarship, applicants must be a Williams County resident, at least 25 years old, and returning to school after a minimum of five years in the workforce. Christie has an associate's degree from Northwest State Community College but wants to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix in business/human resources. A full-time working mom and spouse, she will use the \$6,500 to pay for her classes. Ben is currently the Bryan City School District Director of Vocal Music and will use the \$6,500 to help him earn his Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. After graduation, he intends to continue teaching, researching, publishing, and contributing to the arts in Bryan, Ohio, while implementing "best practices for choral music education in rural communities."



Pictured during the check presentations are left to right Spangler family representative Kirk Vashaw, and scholarship winners Christie Roan and Ben Lupo.

Women's Giving Circle

Since 2016, more than **\$219,000** has been donated to
39 local nonprofit projects!

The third quarter 2024 PIP meeting was held on Monday, July 29, at the First Presbyterian Church, Bryan. PIP currently has 97 members. Three worthy organizations were nominated:



Open Hands Caring Hearts:

Nominated and presented by new member Cheryl Sanders, Open Hands Caring Hearts, is a faith-based organization in the New Life

Worship Center that collects food, clothing, and paper and hygiene products for residents in need in Northwest Ohio. In 2023, they served 6,262 families representing 15,130 family members with 21% being children and 29% senior citizens. The PIP grant will help the all-volunteer program continue to provide to those in need, as they firmly believe, no one should go without food.

Flair on the Square:

This juried art fair and sale, along with its music, food, and fun, was nominated and presented by Kathy Smith and will be held next year on Saturday, July 26, 2025. The free annual event around Bryan's historic downtown square started in 2022 and is coordinated by an all-volunteer committee. A PIP grant would enable the group to purchase tents and tables for the future.

Edon Friends of the Library:

The last candidate, nominated and presented by Jo Ann Luce, was for the Williams County Public Library, Edon Branch. They would like to purchase a digital sign system to better inform the community of the free events, classes, and activities they offer, especially to those who don't have internet access. A PIP grant would help them raise some of the funds for this \$38,000 project.

2024 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient

The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter - \$6,475

2nd Quarter Recipient

Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember - \$6,675

3rd Quarter Recipient

Open Hands Caring Hearts - \$6,725

4th Quarter Recipient

TBD

And the Winner Is.....After the votes were tallied, **Open Hands Caring Hearts** was chosen and will benefit from a **\$6,725 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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 31
First Presbyterian Church
7:00 PM

Thank you to our corporate sponsors:



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2024 Benedict Family Outstanding Educator

Presented to **Ben Lupo**



The 2024 Outstanding Educator



Pictured from left to right are Julie Taylor, Academic Booster Club President; Scott Benedict, Benedict family representative; Ben Lupo, 2024 Award Recipient; and Mark Rairigh, Bryan City Schools Superintendent.

Congratulations to Ben Lupo, Bryan City School district's middle and high school vocal music teacher, for winning the 2024 Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Award. An exceptional instructor with a passion for music, Ben helps his students grow as musicians and individuals whether participating in local or state competitions or during rehearsals for an upcoming concert or play. This dedication to his pupils has resulted in multiple graduates singing in college or becoming music educators. Ben also advocates and mentors new teachers by providing counsel and wisdom.

Outside the classroom, Ben is the choir and bell director at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan and previously served on the board of the Fountain City Festival. All this while preparing to go back to college to earn his doctorate. And over the past year, Ben has been instrumental in developing his student intern, who says, "Mr. Lupo motivates and rewards me for having a deeper understanding of music and effectively communicating it to others. I am grateful for his seemingly endless commitment to me, his students, and everything he has taught all of us."

BRYAN AREA
Foundation
 Festival of Trees 2024

*Christmas
 Tree Auction*

10 beautifully & professionally decorated trees can be viewed at the Bryan Area Foundation office (124 S. Lynn St.):

Nov. 29, 30 (4-8pm)

Dec. 5, 6 (4-8pm)

Dec. 7 (4-7pm)

Trees will be offered via silent auction, in person, and online.

Event Sponsor:



*Progressive
 Holiday Party*

Saturday, December 7 @ 4-9 PM

\$75.00 per ticket

Tickets available to purchase through the QR code **starting Oct. 17** (only 50 tickets available).



Holiday cocktails, appetizers, & desserts included at 4 different locations, as well as a "last look" at the silent auction trees for bidding.

Event Sponsor:



*Join us for the
 festivities!*

*Christmas Tree
 Decorating Contest*

Downtown Bryan merchants will be competing for the "Best Decorated Tree" prize. The winner will receive \$1,000 to invest in their business. Stop by the Bryan Area Foundation office or the Christkindl Market information booth for a map of all tree locations so you can vote for your favorite tree.

*Bryan, OH
 Commemorative
 Ornaments for sale*

\$15 for 1 ornament or
 \$40 for 3 ornaments
 -150 available-

Three unique designs will be available to purchase at the Bryan Area Foundation office and the Christkindl Market information booth.

Thank you to
 our sponsors:



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 & LOWE
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Proceeds from all Festival of Trees Activities benefit the funds of BAF and the people of Williams County.



*Under the beautiful lights of
the historic courthouse square
in downtown Bryan, Ohio*

2024 Hours
4-8 PM

Nov. 29 & 30
Dec. 5, 6 & 7
Dec. 12, 13 & 14
Dec. 19, 20 & 21

Scan to see the
complete
schedule of
events!



- Specialty chalet vendors with unique gift items
- Free nightly entertainment
- Horse-drawn wagon rides
- Santa visits
- Food & hot beverage chalet



Presenting Sponsor:



The Christkindl Market is an initiative of Bryan Development & Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce.



Grow your impact by 25%

From September 19, 2024 to June 30, 2025, make a donation of \$50 or more* to a new or existing community fund and your donation will be matched by 25%. The maximum gift size to be matched is \$80,000.


Give 25% more to an existing fund.

 Choose an established community fund found on our website:
www.bryanareafoundation.org/funds-of-baf/

 Donate to your chosen fund in one of the following ways:


- Go to our website and click on “Donate Now” on the main menu
- Write a check with the fund name on the memo line; mail in (PO Box 651, Bryan, OH 43506) or drop off (124 S. Lynn Street, Bryan, OH)
- Scan the QR code and follow directions to give



 Your gift will be increased by 25% by the Bryan Area Foundation.

Establish your own named community fund.

 An acorn community fund can be started with as little as \$1,000.

 If you would like to establish your own named fund, contact Amy Miller, amiller@bryanareafoundation.org or 419-633-1156 to schedule an appointment.

Details of the “25% in fiscal 2025” campaign can be found on the back of this flyer.



Plant a legacy in our community through your gift!

Community Funds address the most urgent needs of our community, and right now, your donation is worth 25% more!

Overview

Donations of \$50 or more* to a new or existing named Bryan Area Foundation community fund will be matched by 25% between September 19, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (or until the \$50,000 allocated by the Bryan Area Foundation Trustees has been depleted.) **Donors may also make up to a 3-year pledge to a new or existing community fund utilizing the 25% match.** *The maximum gift size to be matched is \$80,000.

Donor Benefits

- The 25% community fund matching campaign is an opportunity for those interested in establishing their own named community fund to do so with as little as \$4,000 in total contributions versus the required \$5,000 minimum.
- The 3-year pledge option allows donors to receive a 25% match for up to 3 years.
- The 25% community fund match is available for donations of \$50 up to \$80,000 in total. (\$20,000 is the maximum match available per donor/household.)
- Donation/payment options include cash, check, ACH payments, gifts of stock, and credit card.
- Contributions to the Bryan Area Foundation are tax deductible up to the maximum allowed by law.

25% in Fiscal 2025 (One time gift examples)		
Original Gift	Match \$'s Added by BAF	Total Gift
\$100	\$25	\$125
\$500	\$125	\$625
\$1,000	\$250	\$1,250
\$2,500	\$625	\$3,125
\$4,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,000

25% in Fiscal 2025 (3-year pledge examples)					
FY 2025	FY 2026 Pledge Gift	FY 2027 Pledge Gift	FY 2028 Pledge Gift	Match \$'s Added by BAF	Total gift to Fund (New or Existing)
\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$100,000



3 Year Pledge Example

Donor X wishes to establish a new named community fund with \$10,000 in principal and wishes to use the 3-year pledge option. In this scenario, Donor X will make a \$2,000 donation in FY25 and will pledge 3 additional \$2,000 annual contributions. The Bryan Area Foundation will match \$2,000 (\$500 each gift) total, making the fund \$10,000 in principal in year four. (The fund's value will likely be greater than \$10,000 at the end of this period because the donations will be invested as they are received.)