



ART Connects Us

In November, 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, Ohio.

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. This property was the original site of the Bryan High School, opened in 1903. In 1917, the auditorium and gymnasium were added. Since that time, the building has undergone multiple transitions and served many purposes. Since 2020, a sizable portion of the building has remained unused. Escalating maintenance issues, the ability to utilize a Brownfield Remediation Grant, and interest by community groups, the City, and Bryan City Schools to invest in the arts led to the opening of the fund.

Bryan City Schools Superintendent Mark Rairigh notes that capital improvements to the Arts & Education Center building are fully aligned with the district's commitment to "best in class" facilities supporting not only the Arts but also Education and Athletics as well. With the recent capital improvements to the athletics complex nearing completion and the STEM innovation center supporting academic needs nearing groundbreaking, the Arts & Education Center building renovation is very timely. 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.

George and Julie Brown also noted the location and history of the Arts & Education Center building as primary reasons for their interest in supporting the cause. Having previously been a part of prior renovations of the Arts & Education Center building, and having participated in supporting the recent Bryan City Schools athletics project, they were excited to be a part of establishing a fund to support the arts in Bryan. As George and Julie often say, quoting anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

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, or you can mail a donation using the envelope enclosed.

"He that plants trees loves others besides himself." -Thomas Fuller



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.





Message from our Chair & Funds

As we enter the holiday season, it is a busy time for everyone including the foundation. We continue to add new funds through our matching campaign and grow our community outreach. Our first annual Festival of Trees and Progressive Holiday Party took place, and I hope you had a chance to visit the office and bid on your favorite Christmas tree! There is so much vibrant activity on the square this season that I hope you all can enjoy! I also hope you have the opportunity during the hustle and bustle to take time and reflect on the meaningful work that has been done and our future work ahead. Remember, the end of the year is a great time to consider gifts to one of our many funds or your own fund!



Steve Hess
Chair of the Board

Thank you and we wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season!



What a tremendous joy we had as the Foundation to join in on all the holiday festivities happening in downtown Bryan this 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.

To those in our community who decorated a tree, those who contributed to our funds, and for the many volunteers who gave of their time - **THANK YOU!**

82 Grants Given through the Designated & Organizational Funds

The Bryan Area Foundation observed Foundation Week, October 13-19 and as part of that week, awarded 82 grants from designated and organizational funds, totaling \$328,990 to various nonprofits.



Pictured left to right are United Way of Williams County Executive Director Andy Brigle; Bryan Ohio Rotary Club Treasurer Rick Kuhman; Williams County Sportsmans

Educational Association representative Joe Nester; Williams County Family YMCA CEO Daniel Tinch; Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Andy Hunter; Millcreek-West Unity Foundation Trustee Lew Hilkert; Academic Booster Club President Julie Taylor; Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller; Williams County Department of Aging Executive Director Sarah Stubblefield; First Presbyterian Church representative Yvette Zedaker; St. Patrick Catholic School Principal Tracy Koenig; Williams County 4-H representative JoAnn Skiles; Wesley United Methodist Church Senior Pastor Steve Rath; Bryan Ohio Rotary Club Service Chair Ty Otto; The SHARE Foundation of Community Hospitals of Williams County representative Chad Tinkel; Edon Northwest Local Schools Superintendent Anthony Stevens; and Bryan City Schools Superintendent Mark Rairigh. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for making our communities better!

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
Etolli-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
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

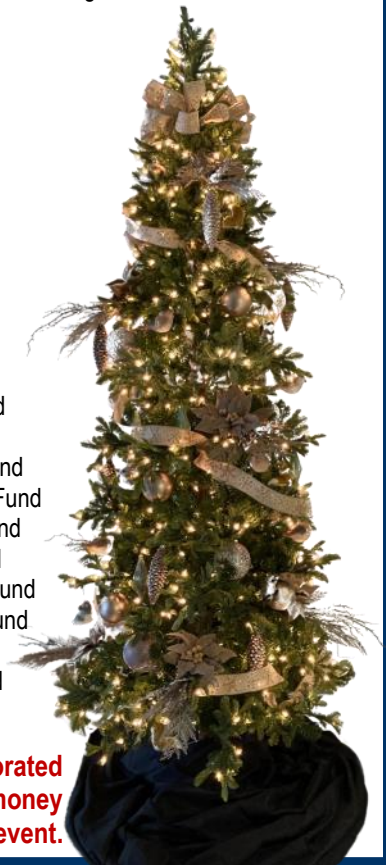
Organizational Funds

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

Pictured on the right is one of our beautifully decorated trees (Bryan Civic League Fund) which helped raise money for our funds through the recent Festival of Trees event.





Affiliate Grants

Edon Area Foundation

The Edon Area Foundation awarded \$21,000 from their community fund!! The grants were distributed as follows:

- \$2,500 to the Edon Summer Ball League for a new pitching machine to support both the softball and the baseball programs
- \$4,500 to the Edon Friends of the Library for an outdoor digital sign in front of the Edon Public Library
- \$5,000 to the Edon American Legion Post #662 for their veteran's banner project which recognizes former and current military personnel
- \$4,500 to The Village of Edon to purchase handicap-accessible picnic tables for the Walz Park Inclusive Playground
- \$4,500 to the Edon Area Ministerial Association to support the Edon Food Pantry which serves families experiencing food insecurities in the Edon Northwest School District



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.



Friday, December 27 is the deadline for all grant applications to be considered in March.

You can drop off all applications in person no later than Friday, December 27, or mail them to PO Box 651, Bryan, OH 43506.

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

Affiliate Grants



Millcreek-West Unity Foundation



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.

The Millcreek-West Unity Foundation recently awarded three \$5,000 grants to local organizations.

- The Hilltop High School Athletic Department received a grant to support honor roll scholars in grades 3-12 and all K-2 students to attend school-sponsored home sporting events for free. In the first quarter of the school year, 362 pupils qualified for the program and are now able to support their classmates in their athletic endeavors.
- \$5,000 was granted to the Brady Township Fire Department to purchase battery-powered TNT rescue tools. The funding allows firefighters to replace their hydraulic tools with lighter battery-powered ones, starting with the Jaws of Life.
- A \$5,000 grant was given to the Village of West Unity to help build an inclusive playground in Wabash Park, allowing children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities the opportunity to play together.

Montpelier Area Foundation

The Montpelier Area Foundation awarded \$4,000 in grants due to the generosity of Montpelier resident Janet Bennett. Those monies will be used for the following:

- \$1,000 to Montpelier Parks and Recreation for their summer tie-dye T-shirt program
- \$1,000 to Montpelier Public Library for Toni figures and Wonderbooks
- \$1,000 to Montpelier Exempted Village Schools and the elementary school library
- \$1,000 to Hope Community Center for their Hope Cupboard and After-School Club.



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Montpelier Area Foundation member Deb Clum, Montpelier Parks and Recreation Director Sandy Gordon, Montpelier Area Foundation member Susie Rockey, and Montpelier Area Foundation President Kara Custar.



Pictured left to right during the check presentations are Montpelier Area Foundation member Deb Clum, Montpelier Public Library Director Angie Humphrey, Montpelier Area Foundation member Susie Rockey, and Montpelier Area Foundation President Kara Custar.



Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Montpelier Area Foundation member Deb Clum, Hope Community Center representative Terra Peggs, Montpelier Area Foundation member Susie Rockey, and Montpelier Area Foundation President Kara Custar.



Bryan Grants

B.I.G. Grant Program

Bryan Development accepted a \$30,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation for its Business Improvement Grant (B.I.G.) program. The purpose of the B.I.G. program is to encourage economic development, increase occupancy, improve aesthetics and building facades, address safety issues, and extend the lifecycle of existing historic buildings in the downtown Bryan, Ohio, commercial district. All awarded grant funds are dollar-for-dollar matching grants that downtown businesses or property owners can apply to receive. To learn more visit <https://www.bryandevelopment.org/>. The Bryan Area Foundation matched local donor Renee Isaac's \$15,000 gift, enabling more businesses to get B.I.G. grant funding for small building renovation projects.



Pictured in front of the Bryan Theatre, a previous B.I.G. grant recipient, are left to right Bryan Development committee members Betty Franks, Renee Isaac, and Russ Davies, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, and Bryan Development committee members Ann Spangler and Jake Willey.



Sanctuary Homeless Shelter

The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter received a \$15,000 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to help it replace its carpeting. Vinyl flooring will be installed that is long-lasting, scratch—and burn-resistant, waterproof, and more manageable. The goal is to have the work done by the end of the year, so guests have a clean, healthy, and safe environment for living.

Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Larry Harsila, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, Sanctuary Homeless Shelter Director of Pastoral Care Pheba Banerjee-Sam, and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Mike Johnson.

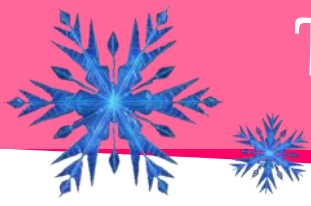
Williams County Special Olympics

The Bryan Area Foundation awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Williams County Special Olympics to assist in paying for athletes and coaches to attend the 2025 Summer Games. Held in Columbus over a weekend, the monies will help pay for hotels, meals, and entry fees. This past summer, Williams County had 26 athletes, and nine coaches participate in the games, and they anticipate even more competitors in 2025.



Pictured during the check presentation are left to right Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Cliff Oberlin, track athlete Dawson Moore, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Steve Voigt, track athlete Daniel Bell, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Bill Martin, track athlete Alex Miller, Williams County Special Olympics Local Coordinator Angela Luke, and Williams County Special Olympics Assistant Coordinator and Coach Beth Votaw.

Together we can do great things!!



PIP now has **98 members**. Current members can renew their membership for 2025 by scanning the QR code to the right or by mailing a check. Renewals are requested by Friday, January 10, 2025. Once again, the commitment is \$250 for the year. The first \$50 goes towards the endowment fund, and \$50 is payable at or before each quarterly meeting. If you desire, the entire \$250 may be paid up front when renewing.



During the 4th quarter meeting, 3 nominations were made representing three different groups. They were as follows:

Toys for Tots: Nominated by Pheba Banerjee-Sam and presented by Cheryl Andres, this program has collected toys for children during Christmas time for 28 years. Collection boxes are distributed throughout Williams County and all those wishing for toys sign up through the Toys for Tots website. In 2023, \$32,000 was donated to the nonprofit enabling them to give 861 area children 2 to 3 toys each. The PIP monies would help the program purchase toys for even more youth during the holidays.

Cancer Assistance of Williams County: Cheryl Andres nominated and presented this nonprofit, which serves people in Williams County diagnosed with cancer. They give patients \$1,500 to offset expenses related to their illness such as gas cards, lodging, and supplies not covered by insurance. A PIP grant would give Cancer Assistance of Williams County more money to assist these individuals.

Compassion Medical Clinic: The last presentation, nominated and presented by new member Diane Ullom, was for Compassion Medical Clinic. Opened in 2007, they help those without insurance or with a deductible higher than \$2,500 to receive non-emergency health care. They operate primarily on donations with only one paid employee and all medical staff volunteering their time. Currently housed at the First Church of

Thank you to our ladies from PIP who decorated a tree for our Festival of Trees!



Christ in Bryan and open one evening each week, the PIP money would help purchase medications for those in need.

And the winner was **Compassion Medical Clinic** was chosen and received a \$6,775 grant.

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 Recipients

Compassion Medical Clinic - \$6,775

Cancer Assistance of Wms. Co. - \$1,000*

Toys for Tots - \$1,000*

Flair on the Square - \$1,000*

*Endowment Grants

2024 Total Grants: \$29,650

POWER in the PURSE



PIP

Established in 2016, PIP has donated over **\$229,540** to **43 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, January 30, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
@ 7:00PM

Contact Jenny Horn at
#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

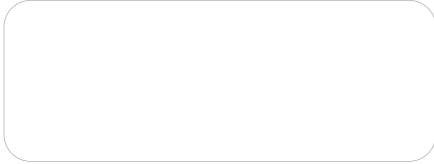
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Holiday Hours

The Foundation office
will be closed on:
Tues., December 24th
Wed., December 25th
Tues., December 31st
Wed., January 1st



It's that time again! We are seeking nominations for the 2025 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 31, 2025

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

