



Growing the Foundation

In September 2024, the Bryan Area Foundation shared that its primary goal for FY2025 would be to increase endowed assets, thereby increasing grant making dollars now and into perpetuity. The driver of this goal? A dollar today isn't worth as much as it was yesterday. To overcome this truth, we must increase our endowed assets now, planting seeds for future growth.

To grow community fund endowment, Bryan Area Foundation Trustees authorized a 25% match on donations of \$50 or more to any new or existing named Bryan Area Foundation community fund until June 30, 2025, or until matching dollars had been exhausted. With the match, a \$4,000 donation would grow to \$5,000, meeting the minimum threshold for establishing a community fund.

Due to the extreme generosity of community members, by December 2024, \$50,000 in matching dollars available for the 25% in fiscal 2025 campaign had been exhausted, increasing community fund endowment by over \$200,000, and opening 8 new funds.

Responding to the success, BAF Trustees allocated an additional \$25,000 in matching dollars to be available until June 30th, 2025, or until fully utilized.

The campaign features flexible giving options, including:

- Three-year pledge opportunities
- Matches on gifts from \$50 up to \$80,000
- Multiple payment options including cash, check, ACH, and credit card

Every contribution to this campaign strengthens our community's future. These endowed funds will provide sustainable support for local needs, ensuring that Williams County continues to thrive for generations to come.



Details of the Community Fund Match offer can be found in the enclosed flyer.

Thank you, fund donors!



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.

New Funds Established in FY 2025:

- Harold and Shirley Carder Community Fund
- Dottie L. Hallett Community 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





Message from our Chair

As we enter the second half of our fiscal year, the Bryan Area Foundation has been working diligently to build for the future. One way has been through the matching campaign, which has been a great success in adding new community funds. In addition, the launch of the "Build for the Future" videos are planning to be released to the public via social media to help create awareness for the Community Impact Committee.

Ultimately, the Bryan Area Foundation is a partner in helping create a legacy. Doing this can take on many different forms, but to me it is about leaving a lasting impact that extends beyond lifetimes and influencing the future generations in a meaningful way. This requires intentional effort, consistency, and a vision that goes beyond the present moment. It takes tremendous commitment and effort to continue our path, and I'm very thankful for all of you who have assisted in our mission in so many ways.

Sadly, we have recently lost George Gardner who embodied the efforts for a legacy through his service and treasures that he shared with us all. His commitment will add to our lasting legacy.



Steve Hess
Chair of the Board

Magazines Available



We still have magazines available in our office! All Bryan Area Foundation members receive one free copy. Please stop by to pick that up at your convenience. If you are local and would like to purchase a copy, they are \$5.00 each.



In Memory

With a heavy heart, we share the news that long-time Bryan Area Foundation member George Gardner passed away on February 17, 2025. A member of the Foundation since 2003, he served on the Audit, Investment, Development, and Scholarship committees and was the Foundation Board Treasurer from 2004 until 2024. As a couple, George and his wife Robin were also Project Next shareholders and established a community fund assisting in grantmaking, which addresses the most

urgent needs in Northwest Ohio. In 2018, George was awarded the Howard C. and Mary Allene Hawk Good Citizen Award for his participation and volunteerism with the Foundation and numerous other organizations in Williams County.

George will be greatly missed and remembered for his service and loyalty to our country and community. To honor George, his smile, and his love for chocolate milkshakes and sweets, contributions can be made to the George and Robin Gardner Community Fund at the Bryan Area Foundation in his memory.



419 Day Event



The Bryan Area Foundation 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 that the Foundation has also financially supported. When the 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.

For this reason, **we are offering two in-person** "Charitable University" certification classes on Thursday and Friday, April 3 and 4 (419 Day). Presented by the Ohio Attorney General Office and hosted by the Bryan Area Foundation, the Thursday Charitable University Training will give insight into the essential elements in leading a charitable organization: board governance, financial operations and internal controls, governmental filings, and fundraising. The Friday Charitable University Advanced Training will be for those who have completed the Foundational Training and will focus on advanced board governance with real-world situations and cybersecurity.

Open to area nonprofits, schools, and governmental agencies responsible for providing charitable services in and around Northwest Ohio, attendees will receive training and certification in three hours. If you are interested in participating, registration is now open and can be found on the Bryan Area Foundation website under the "events" tab. We hope to see you this 419!



Charitable University Foundational Training

Thursday, April 3, 2025
5:00 PM Registration/Networking
5:30-8:30 PM Training

Topics Covered:

- Board Governance
- Financial Operations and Internal Controls
- Government Filings
- Fundraising

REGISTER NOW

Go to Website:
[bryanareafoundation.org](http://bryanareafoundation.org/events)
/events
OR scan QR code



Charitable University Advanced Training*

Friday, April 4, 2025
8:30 AM Registration/Networking
9:00 AM-12:00 PM Training

Topics Covered:

- Advanced Board Governance with real world situations
- Cybersecurity

**To register for this advanced course, you must have completed the April 3 session, last year's 419 training, or completed a previous Charitable University course.*

REGISTER NOW

Go to Website:
[bryanareafoundation.org](http://bryanareafoundation.org/events)
/events
OR scan QR code



Participants will receive a certificate of completion and have their name and organization listed on the Attorney General's Charitable University webpage.

Location for both trainings:
Dean L. Spangler Conference Center on Spangler Candy Co. Campus
416 W. Mulberry Street
Bryan, OH 43506

Early Bird Registration by Friday, March 21 - \$20

Final Registration by Friday, March 28 - \$25





Grants Awarded

Bryan Bear Bags

The Bryan Elementary Parent Teacher Organization supports the Bryan Bear Bags program, which started in 2010 and exists to provide nutritious food over the weekend to Bryan City School



students and their families with food insecurity. Entirely funded by individual donations and community food drives, the average number of weekly bags sent home this school year has been 73. To help the program continue providing access to needed food, the Bryan Area Foundation awarded the Bryan Bear Bags a \$2,500 grant, which will improve the quality of life for families in Northwest Ohio.

Pictured during the check presentation are, left to right, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Committee member Cliff Oberlin, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, Bryan Bear Bags volunteer Julie Cummins, and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making committee member Steve Voigt.



Bryan Recovery Services



Congratulations to the Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, Inc. for receiving a \$2,500 check from the Bryan Area Foundation to drill a new well at the Serenity Spring Women's Recovery House. Serving Williams, Fulton, Henry, and Defiance County areas, this home helps women aged 18 and over recover from alcohol/substance addiction issues. Serenity Spring Women's Recovery House is a safe, sober living environment where residents can continue their healing journey, enabling them to eventually gain employment, reunite with their families, and become productive citizens in their community.

Pictured left to right during the check presentation are Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Larry Harsila, Recovery

Services of Northwest Ohio CEO Ruth Peck, Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee chair Mark Miller, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, and Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Steve Voigt.

Bryan Youth Activities

The Bryan Youth Activities Fund, held at the Bryan Area Foundation, awarded \$7,500 in grants to various Bryan, Ohio, youth sports groups. Each program recipient will use the money for their diverse athletic needs, ultimately allowing more local children to participate in that sport and instill in all competitors the value of teamwork, healthy lifestyles, leadership, and determination.

Pictured left to right in the front row during the check presentation are Bryan Swim Team Association representative Nichole Wallace, Bryan Little Bears Football Program representative Jessica Watson, and Bryan Youth Basketball representative Shelly Smith. Pictured in the second row left to right are Bryan Girl's Softball Association representative Brett Cordy, Bryan Soccer Association representative Natalie Smith, Bryan Baseball Association representative Ryan Miller, Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller, and Bryan Swim Team Association representative Jennifer Martin.



Grants Awarded



Williams County Humane Society



The Williams County Humane Society received a \$2,500 grant from the Bryan Area Foundation to assist with the overpopulation of outside cats in the county. The funds will help the nonprofit safely capture, vaccinate, medically treat, and find a forever home for the animals.

Pictured during the check presentation, holding three of the seven twelve-week-old terrier mixed puppies available for adoption, are Bryan Area Foundation Grant Making Committee member Larry Harsila, Williams County Humane Society Executive Director Alicia Strup, and Bryan Area Foundation President/CEO Amy Miller.



“Building for the Future” Video Series

In 2021, Bryan Area Foundation members established the Community Impact Committee (CIC) to evaluate and address the reasons behind the decline in the number and quality of businesses within Bryan’s downtown area. At the root of the issue, they found the cost of restoring and renovating the historic buildings prohibitive for would-be entrepreneurs and investors. To assist this need, the Bryan Area Foundation Trustees allocated \$150,000 from the retained earnings of Bryan’s Community Fund as seed money to create the Community Impact Project Fund.

Since the initial funding, with the help of many donors, over one million has been invested in restoring historical buildings on or near the Williams County Courthouse Square. Additionally, the Foundation invested in developing the “Live the Sweet Life” brand, website, and social media assets to market Bryan as a great place to visit and an even greater place to live. It also provided the seed funding to establish the holiday Christkindl Market of Bryan event.

To showcase some of the projects completed thus far, the Foundation has created a series of “Building for the Future” videos featuring buildings enhanced by the Forgivable Loan Program alongside community partner Bryan Development. These videos will be shared on the Foundation’s social media channels and website.

Please like and follow the Bryan Area Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, and www.bryanareafoundation.org to watch us “Build for the Future.”



The Community Impact Project Fund helped Ignacio Romero financially restore and renovate the historic building, allowing him to expand his restaurant business and food offerings to Northwest Ohio residents and visitors. Eclipse, on the south side of the historic Williams County Courthouse Square, is now open and ready to serve the community.





Building Youth Programs

Gotshall Family Excellence Award

In the 1990's, staff members of Bryan City Schools, along with community members, created the Gotshall Excellence Award, a \$1,000 award, used to incentivize students to complete a rigorous college prep curriculum over their four years in high school. The Award was originally financed by the Bryan City

School's educational foundation fund and named after JoNell Gotshall, as recognition for her outstanding service to Bryan City Schools as a long-time teacher.



Pictured is Mrs Gotshall presenting the award at the 2024 ABC Award Night at Bryan High School.

The program was successful, and by 2004, both advanced science and senior level math classes had increased enrollments, and 75% of previous Excellence Award winners had been music class participants in addition to their standard courses. Regrettably though, when the original funding source was depleted, the Excellence Award was discontinued.

Last May, the Gotshall Family Excellence Award returned, and qualifying Bryan High School graduating seniors were recognized at the May Academic Booster Club Awards night. Made possible by the generosity of JoNell Gotshall, through the establishment of the Gotshall Family Donor Advised Fund, and a partnership with the Academic Booster Club, the award will once again be \$1,000 and will recognize and incentivize educational excellence.

Criteria for the Award:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Math
- 4 credits of Science
- 4 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Foreign Language
- 1 credit of Fine Art
- An overall GPA of 3.5 or higher
- A composite ACT score of 27 or higher



2025 Update



Last June, Lincoln Park Inclusive Playground celebrated its grand opening, creating a destination where children and families of all physical, mental, and social abilities can learn play and grow.

The playground became a reality through the generous support of individual donors, service groups, the Blizzard Auction, local corporate partners, and city and state grants. 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.

In the Fall of 2024, highly specialized restrooms were completed, and these will open later this Spring. Next on the horizon for the playground are a series of 10' wide concrete paths that will later serve as the border for a future fence with multiple gates.



Also in the works are benches to be placed on the concrete pad. The benches are available for memorials/recognition and those interested should contact the City of Bryan Parks & Recreation department for details. Slated for next year, a sizeable pavilion is planned for future growth.

The playground is open for all to enjoy, so "swing" by and enjoy this beautiful park!



Women's Giving Circle



This year Power in the Purse (PIP) ladies are celebrating 10 years of giving back! The first quarter meeting was held on Thursday, January 30. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to hear from previous grant recipients, including Cheryl Andres, representing Cancer Assistance of Williams County and Toys for Tots; and Tammy Wood, on behalf of Flair on the Square.



Three local organizations were nominated during the meeting:

Special Olympics of Williams County:

Nominated by Vilinda Lemons and presented by Judy Kaufmann, Special Olympics of Williams County provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in many Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Ninety-eight competitors between the ages of 8-74 develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and share their gifts of skill and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes, and the community. A PIP grant would stay in Williams County to help support these programs and their participants.

Christkindl Market of Bryan:

Ann Spangler nominated and presented Christkindl Market of Bryan, which drives traffic and business to downtown Bryan, Ohio, for four weeks. Held in November and December, this will be the fifth year for this event, and plans are already underway to increase its attendance with more people coming to Northwest Ohio from all over the United States. PIP monies would help with the overall operations of the event.

Williams County Community Gardening Association (WCCGA):

Nominated and presented by Jeanette Roberts, she gave a brief history of the association, one of its gardens at 426 N. Williams Street, Bryan, Ohio, and the other in Edon. From other grants they have received from local organizations, they have been able to build out, develop, and make capital improvements to the gardens. WCCGA would use a PIP grant to sustain the nonprofit and assist with its overhead costs, including water, administrative expenses, property maintenance, education, and produce donations.

TOGETHER... WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS!

2025 PIP Recipients

1st Quarter Recipient
Special Olympics of Williams County - \$5,525

2nd Quarter Recipient
TBD

3rd Quarter Recipient
TBD

4th Quarter Recipients
TBD

2025 Total Grants: \$5,525



And the Winner Is.....After the votes were tallied, the **Special Olympics of Williams County** was chosen and is the beneficiary of a **\$5,525 grant!**



Established in 2016, PIP has donated **\$235,265** to **44 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:
Monday, April 28, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
@ 7:00PM

Contact Jenny Horn at
#419-633-1156

jhorn@bryanareafoundation.org

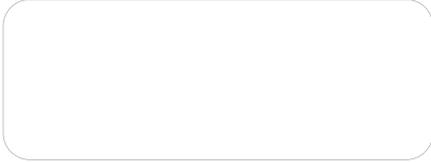
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Seeking Nominations for the Benedict Family Outstanding Educator!



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.

Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a worthy teacher or educator who is outstanding!

This prestigious award, endowed through the Foundation by the Benedict Family, in memory of Greg Benedict, is presented annually to one of Bryan's outstanding educators.

Criteria, applications, and past recipients are listed on the nomination form that can be downloaded by visiting: BryanAreaFoundation.org
Deadline for nominations: Friday, April 25, 2025

Please submit nomination forms to the Foundation office or mail to 124 S. Lynn Street, PO Box 651, Bryan, Ohio 43506.

PROJECT NEXT GOLF OUTING 2025



FRIDAY, JUNE 6 @ SUBURBAN GOLF CLUB
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:15AM
SHOTGUN START @ 10:00AM

\$360 per 4-man Team

Price includes lunch and a shot at a \$25,000 hole-in-one challenge

sponsored by  **McNEILL**

Maximum of 24 teams.

Thank you to our sponsors!!

Presenting:



Instructions:

Send names (detach below) along with a check to Jason Kos @ 105 Shaffer Blvd., Bryan, OH 43506. Checks can be made payable to the **Bryan Area Foundation** with **Project Next** noted in the memo line. Please contact Jason Kos with any questions. jkos19@hotmail.com or 419-553-1000 (cell#)

Company Name: _____

Golfer #1: _____ **Golfer #2:** _____

Golfer #3: _____ **Golfer #4:** _____



Upcoming Events and Deadlines



- ◆ **Monday, March 31** **BAF Grant Application Deadline** 
- ◆ **Friday, April 25** **Benedict Family Outstanding Educator Application Deadline** 
- ◆ **Monday, May 5** **Montpelier High School Scholarship Night (6:30 PM) - High School Auditorium**
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 7** **Stryker High School Scholarship Night (5:30 PM) - High School Auditorium**
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 7** **Edgerton High School Scholarship Night (7:00 PM) - Performing Arts Annex**
- ◆ **Saturday, May 10** **Get the Scoop @ Fountain City Amphitheater (1-3 PM)**  **Free Ice Cream!!** 
- ◆ **Monday, May 12** **Bryan High School Scholarship Night (7:00 PM) - High School Gymnasium**
- ◆ **Thursday, May 15** **Chocolate Walk on the Square (5:00-7:30 PM)**
- ◆ **Sunday, May 18** **Hilltop High School Scholarship Night (4:00 PM) - High School Gymnasium**
- ◆ **Sunday, May 18** **Fairview High School Scholarship Night (3:00 PM) - High School Gymnasium**
- ◆ **Monday, May 19** **Edon High School Scholarship Night (7:00 PM) - High School Auditorium**
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 21** **Bryan Area Foundation Members' Meeting (5:45-8:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Friday, May 23** **Wheels on Display @ the Amphitheater (6:00-8:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Saturday, May 24** **Captain Fantastic: The Magic of Elton John @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Sunday, May 25** **Worship @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Saturday, May 31** **Matt Maher @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Sunday, June 1** **Worship @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Friday, June 6** **3rd Annual Project Next Golf Outing (10:00 AM) - Registration on back.** 
- ◆ **Friday, June 6** **Water Street Dance Milwaukee @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Saturday, June 14** **Zumba @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM) / Wellness @ the AMP (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Wednesday, June 18** **Bryan City Band @ the Amphitheater (7:30 PM)**
- ◆ **Friday, June 20** **Exotic Zoo @ the Amphitheater (10:00 AM)**
- ◆ **Friday, June 20** **Jurassic Bark Live @ the Amphitheater (7:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Saturday, June 21** **Cardio Drumming @ the Amphitheater (9:00 AM)**
- ◆ **Friday, June 27** **Todd Herendeen: Tribute to the Legends Show @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Saturday, June 28** **Sharpe Family Singers @ the Amphitheater (8:00 PM) as a part of Day in the Park**
- ◆ **Sunday, June 29** **Community Worship @ the Amphitheater (11:00 AM)**
- ◆ **Monday, June 30** **Bryan Area Foundation Grant Deadline** 



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.



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.)