

NEWSLETTER 2019

second quarter



ART NIGHT
Every Thursday @ 6 PM



SEPTEMBER 15
Wynonna & The Big Noise

SEPTEMBER 22
The Guess Who

SEPTEMBER 28
A Night with Janis Joplin

VWCF COMPLETES 3 YR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Van Wert County Foundation recently completed a three-year strategic plan with the guidance of Aly Sterling Philanthropy. This 6-month process began with a community survey to better understand perception, gauge needs, and drive change. Aly Sterling Philanthropy collected the survey data then presented the findings to the Board of Trustees. From there, the group created five strategic plan pillars that are vital components for sustainability and growth. These five pillars are:

1. **MISSION & VISION:** Update these statements to better account for the work of The Foundation and establish organizational values.
2. **STEWARDSHIP & IMPACT:** Engage with community to seek input, encourage participation, and share our why.
3. **PEOPLE:** Seek ways to vary board members and committees. Encourage more significant involvement in community projects.
4. **FINANCE:** Diversify funding sources and improve strategies for seeking funds.
5. **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:** Serve as change-agents in the community through determined action, needs-based focus, and critical decision making.

Groups mixed of trustees and staff tackled these areas to establish goals, strategies, and work plans. We look forward to transitioning from a transactional cohort to a transformational partner as we strive to improve the quality of life in Van Wert County.



VWCF GRANT SUPPORTS INNOVATION AT YOUTH TECH CAMP HOSTED BY CENTRAL INSURANCE CO.



LEADING WITH INTENT

VWCF ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Van Wert County Foundation's Board of Trustees honored two retiring long-time trustees and welcomed two new board members at their Annual Meeting in June.

Mike Cross retired from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Cross was elected to the board in 1998, served as a member of the board for 21 years. "We are grateful for his commitment to The Foundation and to our community. During his time on the board, Mike oversaw various committees, served as President of the Board from 2005-2007, and represented The Foundation on the Wassenberg Art Center Board, shared Seth Baker, VWCF Executive Secretary.



Paul Svabik also retired from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Svabik served as a member of the board for 10 years. "During his time on the board, Paul served as President from 2016-2018, served on various committees, and helped to forge The Foundation we know today." continued Baker.

Newly-elected trustee, Cindy Hurless, is the Chief Operating Officer of the Central Insurance Companies. She and her husband Mark have six children and three grandchildren. She is a member of Life House Church and Van Wert Rotary. She and her husband are involved in a variety of community outreach activities. They enjoy gardening, cooking, sports, and travel. She also serves on the YWCA Board and NPAC Board.



Tom Burenga, was also elected to the Board. Burenga is the CEO of Kenn-Feld Group LLC, an eight location John Deere dealer with locations in Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana. He and his wife, Julie, have two daughters - Jamie, age 16, and Mandy, age 12. In his free time, Tom enjoys growing a garden and canning salsa each summer. He also likes growing hot peppers and creating things from them. He currently serves as a trustee for First United Methodist Church in Van Wert.

"We are excited to install Cindy and Tom as trustees. Both are a great fit to carry out the mission of our organization - Transforming quality of life by fulfilling purposeful endowments, inspiring collective growth, and building initiatives for the future. I look forward to working with them on committees and upcoming projects", stated Andy Czajkowski, Board President.

SENIOR STARS HONORED

CROSS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

On May 9, 2019, The Van Wert County Council on Aging celebrated seniors going the extra mile for our community with the annual Senior Citizen Day luncheon and celebration of seniors who actively volunteer in ways that make Van Wert County a better place. The COA recognized twelve individuals from around the Van Wert area for their volunteerism. While these Senior Stars are doing real work, a common trait among them is that they believe they could always be doing more.

One of those recognized was VWCF trustee, Mike Cross.

Mr. Cross served on The Van Wert County Foundation Board of Trustees from 1998 - 2019 (recently retiring from the board in June). As part of his volunteer board service, he lead various committees relating to grants, scholarships, and arts. He served as a dual board member by representing VWCF on the Wassenberg Art Center Board. Mike has also shown community stewardship through programs with his church and his many years at 1st Federal of Van Wert.



SUPPORTING PURPOSE

RECENT GRANT AWARDS



EMERGENCY GRANT MADE TO VILLAGE OF WREN

In May, the emergency generator at the Wren Fire Department became inoperable. The generator is an extremely critical piece of equipment to the station, and the timely replacement was vital. The potential for severe weather outbreaks during the spring also caused concern for the safety of residents within the fire district. In the event of a power outage the emergency generator powers such things as the weather siren, radios, lights, and the water pump (in case water is needed to fight a fire). VWCF provided \$13,403.00 to this emergency grant request from The Associated Charities Fund.

passion leads to
purpose

" A big thank you to The Van Wert County Foundation, Zion Lutheran Church, and an anonymous donor. Without their assistance, the purchase of the new generator would not have been possible. Also thanks to Kerry Callow and Current Energy Solutions for installing the generator. It impresses me that there are still organizations and people that are willing to step up to assist those in need and believe me we were in need. It's amazing what can happen when we all band together. Our heartfelt thanks to all those that assisted us in our time of need."

- Chief Mike Marchek, Wren Fire & EMS

COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS

JUNE 2019

- American Legion Auxillary* - Buckeye Girls State
- Buckeye Y Youth* - Laptop
- Delphos Canal Commission* - Peltier Exhibit
- Evergreen Garden Club* - flowers for Fountain Park
- FOA Foundation* - Rise Together program
- Junior Achievement of VW Co.* - JA Finance program
- Love Inc. of VW Co.* - Transformational program
- Main Street Van Wert* - Ohio Main Street membership
- Middle Point Community Recreation Assoc.* -
- Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District* - field day
- United Way of VW Co.* - Donation tracker software
- Van Wert Area Boy Choir* - Director & Accompanist
- Van Wert Civic Theatre* - Building upgrades
- Van Wert Co. 4-H* - 4-H Camp counseleors & campers
- Van Wert Co. Ag Society* - Tree replacement
- Van Wert Co. Fruit Growers* - Apple Festival
- Van Wert Co. Historical Society* - Holiday at Home entertainment & restoration in historic home
- Van Wert Co. Humane Society* - reapiir & maintenance of shelter
- Van Wert Co. Master Gardener Volunteers* - renovations to Butterfly house at Smiley
- Van Wert Rotary Club* - Fountain Park sign
- Van Wert Youth Football* - Financial Hardship Scholarship & Equipment
- Village of Wren* - Emergency Generator
- Wee Care Learning Center* - Landscaping & Trees
- YMCA of Van Wert Co.* - Buidling & Grounds Repairs
- YWCA of Van Wert Co.* - Match for Housing & Food Program

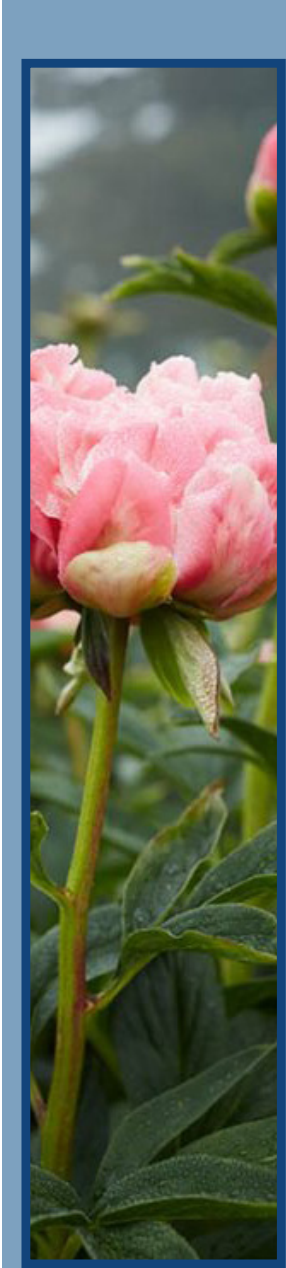


COA Establishes Endowment with VWCF



INSPIRING GROWTH

LEAVING A CHARITABLE LEGACY



FUND SPOTLIGHT

LEE R. & NELLIE BONNEWITZ AND ALICE B. ANDERSEN MEMORIAL

Alice B. Andersen was born in Van Wert, OH, the daughter of Lee R. & Nellie Bonnewitz. She graduated from Van Wert High School and Bryn Mawr College. Alice's professional career was spent with Macy's of New York as a financial officer. Alice was an accomplished artist and world traveler. She also inherited her father's love of flowers. In 1982, she married Frank Andersen, who was a native of Denmark and worked for her father.

Her father, Lee R. Bonnewitz was President of The Bonnewitz Co., a charter member of The Van Wert County Foundation, and former President of the American Peony Society. He was one of the pioneer growers of exceptional peonies, irises, and oriental poppies in Van Wert and had the first commercial garden. His garden on South Washington Street is now the site of Central Mutual Insurance Companies. Lee curated numerous pieces of literature on gardening.

In 2016, 2017, and part 2018 this fund granted over \$300,000 to the Franklin Park Project, where VWCF and community partners created a park at the location of the former Franklin Elementary School.

With the most recent June grant cycle; this fund is helping to replace trees at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds and update landscaping and add new trees at Wee Care Learning Center.

LEE R. & NELLIE BONNEWITZ AND ALICE B. ANDERSEN MEMORIAL

"The income only there from may be used for the beautification of the City of Van Wert, Ohio in planting, trimming, feeding, and replacing of trees and shrubs, and/or for higher education scholarships with full discretion vested in the Trustees of The Van Wert County Foundation."



BUILDING THE FUTURE

2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The Van Wert County Foundation awards annual scholarships through an application and review process. This year's application was open from May 1 - May 31, 2019. Eligible applicants were required to submit an unofficial transcript showing their cumulative GPA, a Student Aid Report generated from their 2019-2020 FAFSA, and their families 2017 1040.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Students who have completed the equivalent of one year in college are eligible provided they have a 2.75 accumulative grade point average. A first-time applicant with above sophomore standing must have a 3.0 accumulative grade point average. An applicant must be a full-time student enrolled in a minimum of 12 quarter or 12 semester hours per term. Special consideration may be given to part-time students.

2. Students who have been granted a scholarship must maintain a 3.0 accumulative grade point average to warrant continuation of a scholarship.

3. An applicant must have been a resident of Van Wert, Paulding, or Allen Counties when they graduated from one of the following eligible High Schools:

- Antwerp Local School
- Crestview Local Schools
- Delphos Jefferson
- Delphos St. Johns
- Lincolnview Local Schools
- Parkway Local School (only Van Wert Co. residents eligible)
- Paulding Local Schools
- Spencerville Local School (only Van Wert Co. residents eligible)
- Vantage Career Center
- Van Wert City Schools
- Wayne Trace Local Schools

**For full guideline details visit vanwertcountyfoundation.org

For the 2019-2020 academic year,
298 scholarship recipients received
a combined **total of \$1,050,000.00**
provided through funds established for
scholarship purposes.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



PROGRAM SERVICE AREAS FOR 2018

- Arts – 18.7%
- Civic Services – 4.10%
- Community Development – 21.8%
- Education & Scholarships – 40%
- Health & Human Services – 2%
- Other – 0.9%
- Religious – 6.3%
- Youth Services – 6.2%

STEWARDSHIP

- 183 – Legacy Endowments
- 37 – Donor-Advised Funds
- 5 – Charitable Remainder Trusts
- 2,555 Acres of Farmland
- 312 – Student Scholarships
- Franklin Park
- Hiestand Woods Park
- Wassenberg Art Center

GRANTS & OTHER EXPENSES ENDING DEC 31, 2018

Grants & Program Services	\$1,774,447
Scholarship Program	\$872,568
Donor Designated Allocations	\$392,804



FUND YOUR PASSIONS

BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY



We offer a wide range of giving options, all specially designed to help maximize your impact. Within these options, you'll find opportunities to give using a range of assets, from cash, to life insurance, to stock.

Whatever you choose, we'll be right by your side every step of the way, ensuring that your dollars make the biggest possible impact—so the people and places of Van Wert County can thrive for generations to come.



The Van Wert County Foundation
transforms
QUALITY OF LIFE by
fulfilling purposeful
ENDOWMENTS
INSPIRING collective
growth & building
initiatives for the
FUTURE.





VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION

138 E. Main St.
Van Wert, OH 45891



OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We work to earn the trust of those we serve.

LEADERSHIP

We cultivate community leadership.

COLLABORATION

We strive to identify and engage all stakeholders.

STEWARDSHIP

We endeavor to exceed expectations while safeguarding donor intent in perpetuity.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Tom Burenga
- Gary Clay
- Andy Czajkowski
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