



THE VAN WERT COUNTY FOUNDATION



SUMMER 2016 | NEWSLETTER



GROWTH RINGS

Nature has beautiful ways of recording time. Trees are a wonderful example of this. Each year a tree adds a new growth ring that depicts the age and the weather conditions of that year.

Our growth rings are well developed at The Van Wert County Foundation. Our history demonstrates 91 years of focused efforts of donors, trustees, staff, scholarship recipients, grant recipients, and many other community members. These efforts circle around our mission, which is to facilitate the mental, moral, intellectual, and physical welfare and advancement of the citizens of Van Wert County, Ohio, and other geographical areas as may be directed by a donor. We are donor driven, which means that we are only able to give back to the community in ways that a donor directs. Several donors have directed that their funds be used for the general purpose of The Foundation. These types of directives allow us to tackle broader challenges in the community when others may not have the resources readily available.

Mark White was recently elected as the 63rd Trustee of The Foundation. He is President of Vancrest Management Corp. and has been involved in long term health care and real estate development his entire career. He is a graduate of Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science in Management. White has been active in the community and is currently serving on the board of the Van Wert Business Development Corporation, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and is active at First Presbyterian Church where he serves as Treasurer. He is also on the advisory board of the Dicke College of Business at Ohio Northern University. Mark and his wife Michelle are the parents of Claire and Nicolaus.



Mark White



Michael Gearhart

We also said a sad fair well to our 55th Trustee, Mr. Michael Gearhart. Mr. Gearhart was The Board President of The Van Wert County Foundation at the time of his death. He was a true champion of the Van Wert community. We are forever grateful for his service and owe a debt of gratitude to his family for allowing him to tirelessly serve both The Foundation and his community.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Seth A. Baker

COORDINATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Paul G. Hoverman

DIRECTOR OF WASSENBERG ART CENTER

Hope Wallace

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Paul Svabik

As we drive around Van Wert this time of the year, we can't help but notice all of the growth! We see crops growing from seeds that have been planted, and summer flowers are in full bloom. Growth can mean many different things. Successful business owners look for ways to grow their companies. Children grow by advancing through their educational years into adulthood.

The Van Wert County Foundation continues to play a role in assisting young men and women as they grow by providing scholarships for higher education. Scholarships have been a "backbone" of The Van Wert County Foundation since its inception in 1925.

Through the generosity of many former Van Wert County residents, The Foundation has also realized a tremendous amount of growth over the years. We are thankful and proud of those who have contributed through The Van Wert County Foundation. Their efforts allow us to promote growth in the community that otherwise may not happen.

The next time you are driving around, think about all the growth that is surrounding you as the result of one little seed. Then ask yourself if you may be someone who would want to plant that next seed with The Van Wert County Foundation and watch it grow. Why wait?

Paul Svabik, President

I am blessed to be part of a non-profit that has had a long history of quality organization and operation. However, I was reminded recently that when a farmer plows his field, he should be careful about looking back, but, align his eyes on a fixed object ahead. Innovative growth occurs when organizations look toward the future. We should observe, but not dwell on the past. On occasion, great organizations must pause and evaluate their surroundings. The Foundation is currently working through a *Board Governance and Nonprofit Best Practice Checklist* that will position us to keep our eyes on the prize – a Van Wert that is full of life, passion, vision, and energy!

In the meantime, work continues on the tasks before us. Franklin Park is under construction as you read this. Work on the park will occur over several years. The goal is to have curbs, gutters, curb ramps, street repairs, berming, drainage, utilities, and signage in place by the end of 2016. A 3,200 sq. ft. shelter providing a picnic and lounge area for up to 100 persons along with restrooms and a utility storage area will also be constructed as a part of phase one. Site amenities, play structures, splash pad, and sports courts will advance in future phases.

Although the 2016 Bequest and Scholarship season is in full force, a portion of this newsletter will focus on the impact The Van Wert County Foundation had on the community in 2015. We love to take action on the awesome visions that our donors have had. If you ever want to share your vision with me, I would love to talk!

Seth Baker | seth@vanwertcountyfoundation.org | 419.238.1743
Executive Secretary, The Van Wert County Foundation



Seth Baker

OUR IMPACT!



165 LEGACY FUNDS
27 DONOR ADVISED FUNDS
5 CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

223 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN
\$500 - \$8,000 EACH

\$ 617,542 INVESTED
INTO OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE



75+

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
RECEIVING DIRECT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION

PASSIONS

41 MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS
SPECIFICALLY DIRECT INCOME TO A
NAMED ORGANIZATION.



PERMANENT
DONOR
LEGACY

\$ 1,249,449 ADDITIONAL FUNDS GIVEN IN
GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE

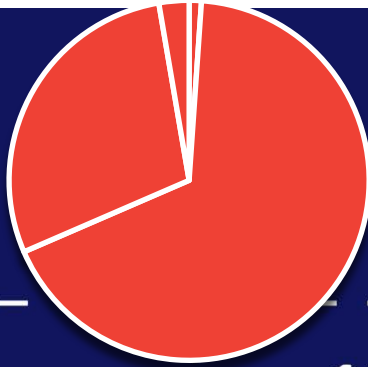
ASSETS:

1.1% CASH

67.4% INVESTMENTS

28.8% FARMLAND

2.7% OTHER



25

ANIMALS
PURCHASED
AT VAN WERT
COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR

13 FARM
OPERATORS;
2,700 ACRES
FARM GROUND

74.02M TOTAL ASSETS
FAIR MARKET VALUE

\$92,986 SPENT FOR FOUNTAIN
PARK SUMMER MUSIC SERIES



.4% ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES



Summer is here and that means fun, relaxation, and music in Fountain Park on Friday nights – all compliments of The Van Wert County Foundation. This is the 15th year for Foundation sponsored concerts in Fountain Park. Many Van Wert area citizens and visitors to our community have enjoyed these community gatherings with music. If you would ever like to talk to us about how you can someday contribute to assure future generations can enjoy these concerts, please feel free to visit us at The Van Wert County Foundation office. We would love to talk with you.

This coming season marks “Ten Years of Wow!” at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. We are celebrating with a special season just announced on June 15. A very special Gala Celebration has been set for April 1, 2017 when we will present Tony, Grammy and Golden Globe Award winning Bernadette Peters with the renowned Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Keith Lockhart. It will be a memorable evening of celebrating ten years of performing arts success at the Niswonger. The Van Wert County Foundation, Scott Niswonger, and Central Insurance, along with support from Kenn Feld Group are helping make this monumental evening happen. We hope you can be a part and help us celebrate!

Performing Arts and the positive impact of music on our community have grown tremendously over the past 15 years. I am pleased to have been a part of this rising success, thanks to the support and direction of The Van Wert County Foundation.

Paul Hoverman | director@npacvw.org | 419.238.1743 | www.npacvw.org
Coordinator of Performing Arts, Executive Director of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center

Welcome to the whirlwind world of the arts! Former *Eats in the Street* has become a permanent event with our energetic partner Main Street Van Wert. It is now called *Town Creek Live* and will be happening on July 9, 3 p.m. to midnight. We named it *Town Creek Live* to anchor the event to space and to keep it flexible for longevity. This year will feature twice as many food trucks and bands and include an interactive art exhibit entitled *Get in the Swing*, which means exactly what it says. Stop in to find out why!

In keeping with our myriad of programs, exhibit and events, we have recently been rewarded for our stellar growth. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission has appropriated funds of \$175,000 to the Wassenberg Art Center to begin development of a festival and event space east of the building. We are excited to sit down and begin formal planning of what will continue to be the expansion of an already beautiful and functional space that any community large or small would be proud of.

If you have any questions regarding our progress, exhibits, classes, programs, or even better, would like to get involved by volunteering or contributing to our programs, contact me at The Wassenberg Art Center.



Hope Wallace | hope@wassenbergartcenter.org | 419-238-6837 | www.wassenbergartcenter.org
Executive Director of the Wassenbera Art Center

MAKE A DIFFERENCE....

The Van Wert County Foundation is able to benefit the community because of the foresight and generosity of others. Consider choosing The Van Wert County Foundation to continue your passions and legacy with an Endowment Fund!

YOUR GIFT WILL BE HELD IN PERPETUITY

Income generated from your gift will continue to benefit the community now and in future years.

GRANTS WILL BE MADE IN YOUR NAME

You may name the fund with your name, or that of your family, friend, or organization. Your fund is open ended and may be increased with additional gifts at any time. Grants from your fund will be recorded in the name of your fund as a lasting symbol of your caring.

YOUR GIFT MAY BE DESIGNATED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

As a donor, you may specify how the income is to be used. Should the intended purposes of your gift become obsolete in the future, The Foundation's Trustees will amend the provisions of your fund to continue to meet the changing community needs. You may also donate undesignated funds for use at the Trustee's discretion.

TAX BENEFITS

Gifts made to The Foundation (a public charity) qualify for maximum deductions for income, gift and estate purposes.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual reporting and filing of tax returns, public disclosure of all grant activities and a broad based Board of Trustees representing diverse areas of expertise assures continued use of public funds in the public interest.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE PROFESSIONALLY AND PRUDENTLY MANAGED

The Foundation's Investment Committee provides the oversight of our investment portfolio. Investment managers are monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis. Funds are pooled for investment purposes, so donors have the advantage of a diverse investment mix. The Foundation's Trustees are elected for their integrity, competence, knowledge of the community and concern for its philanthropic needs.

TO ESTABLISH A DONOR FUND

Contact Seth Baker at The Foundation office, call 419.238.1749 or email seth@vanwertcountyfoundation.org.

ADD TO YOUR TOOLBOX...

A **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST** is an irrevocable trust that generates an income stream for a donor or a named current beneficiary. The remainder of the gifted asset eventually becomes the property of the remainder beneficiary (The Van Wert County Foundation). This provides a potential immediate tax deduction and could provide the donor or beneficiary with income for life or for a fixed term. In addition, investment income from a Charitable Remainder Trust is exempt from tax. A **CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST** would allow a donor to place an asset into a trust that would provide income to The Van Wert County Foundation for a set number of years. Upon timed completion, the remainder may be transferred back to the donor.



THE VAN WERT COUNTY FOUNDATION
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