

NEWSLETTER 2019

first quarter

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

The Van Wert County Foundation celebrated giving by matching donations (up to \$10,000 each) made to VWCF Charitable Organization Endowment Funds on #GivingTuesday. Individuals and businesses donated to one or multiple VWCF Charitable Organization Endowment Funds, essentially doubling the gift with the match. Those who gave to The Van Wert County Foundation's #GivingTuesday initiative donated through social media and brought donations to the office.

The initiative was a success with over 173 gives for a total endowed amount of \$128,716.00 with match.



**Currently accepting
GRANT APPLICATIONS
NOW THROUGH
MAY 1, 2019.**

**SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS
accepted from
MAY 1 - MAY 31, 2019.**

**APPLY ONLINE AT
vanwertcountyfoundation.org**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Seth Baker
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

With a degree in horticulture, I am eager for the fresh emerging life of spring. Seasons provide a natural cycle of growth, fulfilling life, dormancy, and regeneration. Surface growth, greenery, and exquisite

blooms can be most beautiful, but the deeper mystery and excitement happens below the surface. Plant health is frequently affected not by what is seen, but by what is unseen. A favored garden only happens with significant attention to soil quality, pH balance, and nutrients – ultimately delivering an environment for high quality root growth. When plants are dormant above the surface, the roots are actively growing, developing energy needed to sustain and perpetuate life.

Organizational growth follows the same seasonal cycles. We are in a season of deep strategic work at The Foundation – a season of soil cultivation and deep subsurface growth. Many of you recently participated in what I believe might be our first community perception survey since our establishment in 1925. We are grateful to you for investing your time and voice as we work towards supporting purpose, inspiring growth, and building the future of Van Wert County and surrounding region. As a direct result of your input, we have identified five pillars that we will be developing over the next several months. They include Mission and Vision; Stewardship and Impact; People (board, staff, and constituents); Finance, Fundraising and Sustainability; and Community Leadership and Programs. We are eager to show off the exquisite emerging life that is developing because of this cultivation. A deeper look into this process will be unveiled in our upcoming Annual Report.

Another seasonal change is upon us. We are grateful for the work of our friend and employee Paul Hoverman. On May 6, Paul will retire from his work with us as Coordinator of Performing Arts for The Foundation and as Executive Director of The Niswonger Performing Arts Center. Paul has been a significant face of the Van Wert community and of The Foundation. He has coordinated and introduced life-breathing performances to many stages in Van Wert. He has had a positive impact on countless individuals as he worked to fulfill the mission of The Foundation and our donors.



Join us for a light open house reception honoring Paul in the Van Wert Federal Savings Bank Grand Lobby of The Niswonger Performing Arts Center on Sunday, May 5 from 2-4 PM.

Paul Hoverman

WASSENBERG ART CENTER

A CATALYST FOR CREATIVE EXPANSION

2019 ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ART INVITATIONAL

April 28, 2019 - May 12, 2019

April 28, 2019, begins another celebration of the work of young artists in our region. Area high school students will once again come together and showcase their creative work and open our eyes to some of their world.

Joining us for a mini-concert, at exhibit opening is High School Alternative Rock Band, Radithor, from tiny Millbury, Ohio. Radithor, 6-high school freshmen, were recently chosen to compete in the national "High School Rock Off" at The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland. Check them out!



The Wassenberg Art Center endeavors to be a catalyst for creative expansion through art. With an open, diverse approach to art, our programs outreach to inspire interaction in the arts for all area cultures and communities.



Hope Wallace

DIRECTOR OF WASSENBERG ART CENTER

LEADING WITH INTENT

Through purposeful day to day interactions with community non-profit organizations, we strive to provide resources to create stronger engagement, strategy, and leadership.

In 2018, The Foundation established IMPACT; a non-profit capacity building program. This program acts as a process for developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, methods, and resources that organizations need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast-changing world. Serving as an informational resource and acting as a catalyst to encourage stronger collaboration among non-profit organizations, this program will strengthen our local non-profit leaders and enhance collective community impact.

2019 participants are: Main Street Van Wert, Van Wert Area Performing Arts Foundation, Van Wert Co. Council on Aging, PLC Health Clinic, Van Wert Co. Ag Society, Van Wert Parks & Recreation, Wassenberg Art Center, and YMCA of Van Wert County.

2018 PARTICIPANTS PICTURED:

Joe Steffan, Van Wert Co. Historical Society;
Quincy Thompson, Van Wert Co. Ag Society;
Danni Chiles, YWCA; Kimberly Laudick, YWCA;
Kathy Taylor, Crisis Care Center; Mary Ann Falk,
Van Wert Civic Theatre; Candy Clay, Van Wert
Co. Humane Society; Gary Showalter, Van Wert
Co. Historical Society



SUPPORTING PURPOSE

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

MIDDLE POINT PARK



The Middle Point Recreation Association, has a sense of enthusiasm about the major renovation projects that have been going on in the Middle Point Park.

It all started a couple of years ago when the association received a large capital improvements grant from the State of Ohio then coupled with contributions from The Foundation.

From 2016 to date, VWCF has awarded \$20,850 in competitive grant dollars to The Middle Point Recreation Association for improvements to the Middle Point Park.

Monies from the grants enabled officials to put in six new dugouts, replace fencing, construct a new shelter house, complete with restrooms and install new basketball goals. Another grant cycle enabled the association to resurface the basketball courts, do a sidewalk project that included handicap access, placement of eight benches and lights to illuminate the walkway geared for those seeking to utilize it for health reasons.

Most recently, the association was able to acquire an old brick structure south of the railroad tracks on Adams Street that was constructed in the early 1900's. Plans are to restore the building to use for meetings and add batting cages.

To contribute to the on-going projects lead by The Middle Point Recreation Association, contact Kevin Price at k2thap@hotmail.com

Find your
purpose

COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS

DECEMBER 2018

Buckeye Y Youth - supplies for summer camp

Central Insurance Co. Educational & Charitable Foundation - Technology Camp

Challenged Higher Drop-In Center - Transportation

Historic Main Street Van Wert - Heritage Ohio

Middle Point Community Recreation Assoc. - Park & Building Improvements

Science Central - Study Trips for Van Wert Co. students

Van Wert Area Boy Choir - Director & Accompanist

Van Wert Area CVB - Hinton Educational Kiosk

Van Wert Economic Dev. Corp. - Teacher Boot Camp

Van Wert City Schools - Robotics Program

Van Wert City Schools - Wellness Program

Van Wert Civic Theatre - Lighting Upgrades

Van Wert Co. Ag Society - Jr. Fair Building Remodel

Van Wert Co. Sheriff's Office Aux. - Christmas with Kids

Village of Venedocia - Park Repair & Maintenance

Village of Wren - Building Maintenance

Wassenberg Art Center - Sculpture

West Central Ohio Youth for Christ - Kingdom Basketball

Western Buckeye ESC - Synergy - Student Relief Supplies

YMCA of Van Wert Co. - HVAC Repair, Practice Areas, Camp Clay Maintenance

YWCA of Van Wert Co. - Match for Housing & Youth Enrichment

Cross Over the Hill - Operating

Van Wert Co. Victim Services - VOCA Match

Holiday at Home - Fireworks



INSPIRING GROWTH

COMMUNITY IMPACT INVESTING



FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Recently, VWCF facilitated a community impact investment loan for \$100,000 to Van Wert Area Economic Development to fund the upfront costs of administering the land bank program in Van Wert County. This is interest-free working capital and has a low half-percent administrative services fee.

The Van Wert County Land Reutilization Corporation which operates alongside area economic development, is focused on facilitating the transition of blighted, vacant, and abandoned properties into viable, marketable properties by working collaboratively with public and private entities in a financially responsible, transparent manner with a long-term goal of returning these properties to the tax roll or other greater public purpose.

In its two years of existence, the land bank has acquired 51 properties throughout the county and revitalized 47 that were vacant and blighted. The land bank has received \$1.15 million in federal grant funds since it was formed in 2017. Properties that have been improved are located in the city of Van Wert and the villages of Willshire, Middle Point, Venedocia, Ohio City, and Convoy. Land bank activity has led to a decline in the county's tax delinquency rate from 2.7 percent in 2016 to 1.3 percent in 2018.

"The Van Wert County Land Bank is focused on facilitating the transition of blighted, vacant, and abandoned properties into viable, marketable properties. The goal is to return properties to the tax roll or other greater public purpose and stabilize property values in our neighborhoods. We appreciate the support the VWCF has provided to the program by giving access to temporary working capital, enabling us to address more properties and positively impacting more neighborhoods." states, Stacy Adam, Executive Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development.

Proceeds from the sale of the properties are returned to the Neighborhood Initiative Program, the federal grant program administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Authority. Proceeds from properties sold more than three years after the land bank acquired them is returned to the local land bank.

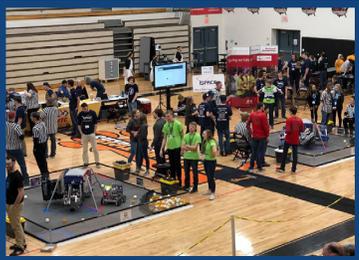
For further details on The Van Wert County Land Reutilization Corporation visit www.vanwerted.com/landbank.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

YOUTH INITIATIVES

VWHS ROBOTICS PROGRAMS FOR SUCCESS



We would like to congratulate the Van Wert Robotics team #14174 for their 5th place finish at the Ohio State FTC (First Tech Challenge) Championship!

The Robotics program is a recent competitive grant recipient of \$2,000 from the William J. Flickinger Memorial Trust.

This fund is a "multi-purpose" fund meaning the income is distributed several different ways as directed by the donor, part designated and undesignated.

Junior Achievement empowers young people to own their future economic success by enhancing the relevancy of education. At every grade level JA programs expose students to basic business concepts and the skills that enable them to understand real-life economics. With this knowledge, they build an understanding regarding economic choices and the resulting consequences of each decision. This prepares them for economically independent futures based on strong economic knowledge and solid personal financial management skills.

More than 1,500 young people in Van Wert County schools are building economic knowledge and personal financial literacy through JA programs during this school year. The learning is possible because of grant funding through The Van Wert County Foundation.

A total of \$3,750 in competitive grant funds were awarded to JA of Van Wert County in 2018 supported through the Fred W. & Kathleen M. Wollenhaupt Memorial Fund and the Charles E. & Velma R. Eggress Memorial Fund. Both funds are "undesignated" which means that the distribution of income is determined by the VWCF Board of Trustees.

In partnership with educators, local adult volunteers deliver professionally developed learning activities and share their experiences with students. They are igniting the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work in the global marketplace.

To join as a volunteer, contact Mark Verville at mark.verville@ja.org



Pictured above Seth Baker and Anthony Adams share their time and talents with students at local elementary schools through volunteering for Junior Achievement of Van Wert County.



We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Giving can be done through a number of vehicles, some during a donor's lifetime where the individual may take advantage of income tax reductions and at the same time, gain satisfaction from watching the income of a gift being used for the intended purpose, or after the death of the donor, having the donor's estate, or a portion of it, managed to continue to support specific, or general activities.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

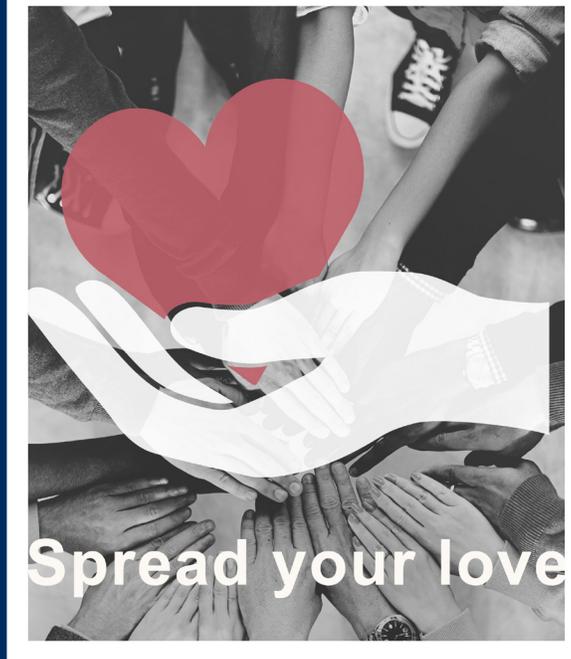
Charitable giving, through trusts, normally involves one of two types of trusts; the charitable remainder trust or the charitable lead trust. There are many variations of each, but the principals are the same; property is placed into a trust, income is generated for the duration of the trust, and at the end of the trust, the principal is distributed to the proper beneficiary.

LIFE INSURANCE GIFTS

A gift of a life insurance policy with The Foundation named as owner and beneficiary can be a particularly effective way for a donor to make a gift. A donor of insurance can obtain an income tax deduction in the year the gift is made. A new policy may also be written with The Foundation as the beneficiary, and a tax deduction can be obtained.

TRUSTS, WILLS, AND BEQUESTS

Trusts, wills, and bequests are used to assure the wishes of the donor are carried out specifically, and that activities supported by the donor during his or her lifetime, continues to be funded in the future.



HOW TO SET UP A FUND

3 EASY STEPS TO FULFILL YOUR PHILANTHROPIC PASSION



It's our passion to help you find yours. Whether your philanthropic interests are close to home or a world away, we'll help you chart a course for meaningful impact on the causes closest to your heart.



1 SELECT YOUR PASSION
Philanthropy is most effective and sustainable when it is connected to what matters most to you.

2 DECIDE YOUR FUND TYPE
Our broad array of fund options, allows us to help you develop a plan designed to enhance your knowledge of the issues you choose to address.

3 MEET WITH US
We will work with you and/or your advisor team to help achieve your giving goals and to create a successful giving strategy.



VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION

138 E. Main St.
Van Wert, OH 45891

SUPPORTING PURPOSE.
INSPIRING GROWTH.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.

We are a local organization with deep roots in the community. Our professional staff has broad expertise regarding community issues and needs. We provide personal service by working with local professional advisors to tailor to each individual's charitable and financial interest. Our funds help people invest in the causes that they care most about. We are a community leader, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.

SETH BAKER

Executive Secretary
seth@vanwertcountyfoundation.org

PAUL HOVERMAN

Coordinator of Performing Arts
paul@vanwertcountyfoundation.org

HOPE WALLACE

Director of The Wassenberg Art Center
hope@wassenbergartcenter.org

AMANDA MILLER

Marketing & Resource Development
amanda@vanwertcountyfoundation.org

RENEE THATCHER

Office Manager
renee@vanwertcountyfoundation.org



VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION

////////// A Community Trust.

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