

NEWSLETTER 2017

FALL EDITION



MARKETING

NEW FACE & BRANDING AT VWCF

The Van Wert County Foundation has updated the look and feel of our brand, in collaboration with the recent hiring of Amanda Miller, Marketing & Resource Development Manager. The refresh reflects unity, strength, and trust while also showing movement forward. The Foundation still stands firm as we build the future. A quick trip to the Pantone wall revealed an updated color palette with Monanco Blue, Dusk Blue and Poppy Red.

In addition to marketing, Amanda will work with local individuals and organizations to seek grant funding and create resources to better support our purpose driven organizations.



Amanda Miller
MARKETING & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Paul Svabik
PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Giving is not an easy thing to do. Maybe if we were as wealthy as a Bill Gates or Warren Buffet it would be a lot easier to give back to your local community. Of course winning the lottery would give us plenty of opportunities to make a contribution to a local charity. Yes, under these circumstances it would allow us to give something back to make a change and to possibly get some recognition for doing so. However, I believe giving back is when you give (something little perhaps) and then nothing happens. No benefits for you, no recognition, and nothing gets sent your way. Your sole reward is only the realization that you made a significant change in someone's life. And if not significant, then a positive change nevertheless!

It is this kind of giving that has been responsible for the continued growth at The Van Wert County Foundation. This has made it possible to meet the yearly needs of local non-profits, scholarships for college students and support of many other community requests. This is in addition to the Wassenberg Art Center and Niswonger Performing Art Center. Many of the gifts that have made all this possible were as little as \$25, \$100 or maybe \$1,000 dollars.

I recently came across an article stating that a \$1,000 investment in Amazon nearly twenty years ago would now be worth \$638,000! In time, a small amount can grow to become quite significant.

The Van Wert County Foundation appreciates the "giving" that has taken place over the past ninety plus years. Please take a moment and ask yourself if you can see yourself becoming a donor to the Foundation. In doing so, I can make you one promise - You may or may not realize the difference it will make!

Recent Events



SUPPORTING PURPOSE
2017 Grants Awarded



INSPIRING GROWTH
Franklin Park project



BUILDING THE FUTURE
2017 Scholarship Celebration

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Seth Baker
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In a recent Guidestar Publication, 21st Century Tools for 21st Century Community Foundations (May 2017) an observation was made: "Regardless of the differences between them, community foundations share a common goal: to harness philanthropy to improve the quality of life in their respective locations." For over 90 years, our donors have trusted us with this task – to improve the quality of life in Van Wert County and surrounding areas. Because of the incredible foresight of our donors, The Foundation has

been able to give to the community in amazing ways. We actively provide financial resources to our local non-profit organizations, secure access to education for many of our residents, and coordinate vibrant arts access. However, we have paused for a moment to ask if we can do even more. How do we make a deeper impact on our community? How do we harness philanthropy to improve the quality of life?

The answers are simple. We can harness philanthropy by effectively communicating our giving story and by making ourselves nimble and readily available to donors, grantees, scholarship recipients, and other community organizations. We can also make a deeper impact on our community by investing in the non-profit organizations who are doing the bulk of the work in our communities.

Before The Foundation could invest in the health of other organizations, we needed to complete a whole health assessment of the Foundation. This process included working through a Board Governance and Non-Profit Best Practice Checklist. This gave us insight on the areas we needed to focus on immediately: marketing, resource development, and technology.

We need to share the impact of our donors in a more effective way. This generates excitement and serves as a catalyst for future philanthropy. We can also assist non-profit organizations more effectively by investing in resource development. This might be as simple as providing training on Board Governance or Non-Profit Best Practices. This also includes leveraging our resources by researching, applying, and administering grant opportunities that will bolster the missions and impact of our local non-profits. We created a new Marketing and Resource Development Manager position that would focus on these areas. We hired Amanda Miller in April to begin to implement this mission driven approach.

The Foundation can become nimble and accessible by improving both internal and external technology. We have a fiduciary responsibility to provide and respond to the needs of our donors and our grantees in an immediate way. We have been researching web-based whole foundation management systems that will provide an instant snapshot image of donor accounts, giving, investments, and more. Our goal is that donors will be able to access their information online. Donors will also be able to make gifts online. We would also like to move our grant and scholarship application process to the same web-based portal. This will make it easier for students to access the funds they need. This also will make it easier for grantees to submit and track funding proposals and requests.

These next generation improvements are incremental. They take time to implement. Thank you for joining us and for your patience as we journey together to improve the quality of life here in Van Wert County and surrounding areas!

SUPPORTING PURPOSE

2017 GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS

The non-profit organizations below received funding from VWCF in 2017 in the form of field of interest bequests and/or grants.

AARL Foundation	First United Methodist Church	Salvation Army	Van Wert Performing Arts Foundation
AAUW – Camp Be Wise	Gardeners of Van Wert County	Sigma Chi Foundation	Van Wert Rotary Foundation
AAUW – Camp Gems	Holiday at Home	St. Paul's Church	Van Wert Soil & Water
American Heart Association	Huntington Disease Society	Trinity United Methodist Church	Van Wert Youth Baseball
Black, Inc.	Junior Achievement of Van Wert	Van Wert Area Boy Choir	Van Wert Youth Football
Boy Scouts	Junior Fair Livestock Sale	Van Wert City Schools	Vantage Career Center
Brumback Library	Kiwanis Club of Delphos	Van Wert Civic Theatre	Village of Convoys Historical Society
Buckeye Y Youth	Lincolnview Bible Board	Van Wert Co. Historical Society	Village of Elgin – Park
Business Development Corporation	Middle Point Recreation Association	Van Wert County Airport Authority	Wassenberg Youth Art Scholarships
Challenged Higher Drop-In Center	Ohio Northern University	Van Wert County Cultural Exchange	Wassenberger Art Center - Awards
Community Dog Park	Old Fashioned Farmers' Association	Van Wert County Fruit Growers Association	Wee Care Learning Center
CHP- Visiting Nurses Council on Aging	OSU Extension	Van Wert County Hospital	Woodland Cemetery
Crestview Heritage Board	Paulding County Soil & Water	Van Wert County Hospital Nursery	YMCA
Cross Over the Hill	Philanthropy Ohio	Van Wert County Special Olympics	YWCA
Culver Military Academy	Pleasant Township Cemetery	Van Wert County Victims Services	
DARE Red Ribbon	Pregnancy Life Center	Van Wert Peony Festival	
Evangelical Protestant Cemetery	Red Cross of West Central Ohio		
Fall Fright Festival	Ridge Township Cemetery		
First Presbyterian Church	Safe Sidewalks to School		



PERFORMING ARTS

A LEGACY OF MUSIC LOVERS



Paul Hoverman

COORDINATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

The coming Autumn season will mark the end of our 16th season of Fountain Park Summer Music Series concerts and the beginning of our 11th season at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center of NW Ohio. All these wonderful music and educational opportunities afforded to us have raised the level of culture for the citizens of Van Wert County and beyond.

In each case, The Van Wert County Foundation is either entirely or integrally involved in making it all happen. The Saltzgaber Music Fund initiated much of this and more lately, other contributors like John Alspach, Edna Evans, Irene and Leigh Eisenhauer have enhanced both Fountain Park and Niswonger PAC endeavors. Who might be next in this legacy of music lovers?

In order to keep at the level of performances we present and visitors have come to appreciate and expect, new monies are always welcomed and appreciated. I can't tell you how many people have expressed to me of how much they have been affected by the enjoyment of our concerts and events, but I am indeed honored and humbled by this.

With continuing support of our Board of Directors and donors like these and future donors, I will continue to humbly serve as Coordinator of Performing Arts for The Van Wert County Foundation and Executive Director of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center of NW Ohio.



NISWONGER
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
OF NORTHWEST OHIO



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAYS NOW - SEPTEMBER 30:

VAN WERT FARM & ART MARKET

The Van Wert Farm & Art Market will offer its bounty! On the last Saturday of every month, we will feature gourmet food trucks/vendors, demos and live music. Join us, sit a spell enjoy summer Saturdays with fresh, local goodness.

BEGINNING AUGUST 18: SCRAPPED!

ScrapDetroit and Dani Herrera (Toledo) will present art made from recycled materials from paper and fabric to sculptures made out of reclaimed bicycle parts from Detroit.

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17: AUGUSTO BORDELOIS

High-end, large scale paintings, Gallery talk on being a Cuban immigrant and making it as an artist in Cleveland.

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 17:

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT



Hope Wallace
DIRECTOR OF WASSENBERG
ART CENTER

VISUAL ARTS

A CATALYST FOR CREATIVE
EXPRESSIONS

The Wassenberg Art Center endeavors to be a catalyst for creative expressions and the study of visual art and architecture. Through an open, diverse approach, our programs are offered as an outreach to inspire interaction in the arts for all area cultures and communities.

We have many exhibits and events scheduled for this fall. Always check our website for more information as well as exhibit hours and details.

www.wassenbergartcenter.org



INSPIRING GROWTH

FRANKLIN PARK PROJECT PROGRESSES



PLAYGROUNDS READY FOR FUN



AERIAL VIEW OF CONSTRUCTION



BUILDING THE PAVILION

After a couple of years of planning and design work, much progress has been made this summer on the Franklin Park project.

"It's been going great and we're actually on schedule with things, we are where we want to be right now, although it may look slow to the community," states Seth Baker, Executive Secretary of VWCF, which is financing the bulk of the project along with Van Wert native Scott Niswonger.

Recently the rubberized surface and equipment has been installed for the two playgrounds included in the park.

In addition, trusses arrived for the park shelterhouse, and masonry work has begun on that portion of the project. Site electrical work is also underway with electric power and lighting already installed.

"The park will be turnkey & we will turn over to the city in 2018"

Concrete was poured for the splash pad as planned and above ground portions of the splash pad were installed, just a couple weeks ago.

Trash cans, benches, and other park amenities are on-site, and assembly is progressing.

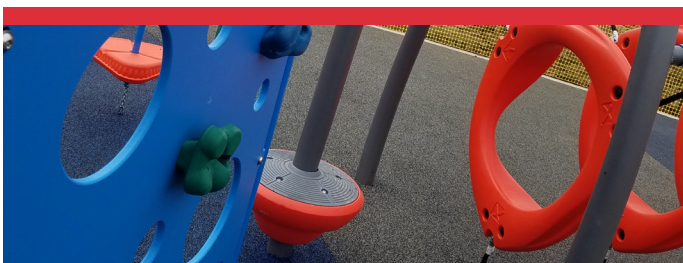
Trees have also been ordered for the park and those should be put in place around the second week of September to end the current phase of the project.

Next year, Baker said, a double pickleball court, a basketball court, and a skate board park will be constructed at Franklin Park, while a portable ice skating rink is in consideration for the site.

After those items are put in place, landscaping will complete the final portion of the park project.

"The park will be turnkey and we'll celebrate with a handover ceremony to the city next year," Baker said, noting that would likely happen next fall.

Much of the work on the project is being done by local contractor Alexander & Bebout.





BUILDING THE FUTURE

2017 SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

On Tuesday, August 1, 2017 The Van Wert County Foundation hosted its 1st Annual Scholarship Celebration. This event was held at The Wassenberg Art Center to recognize the recent student scholarship recipient's accomplishments and provided an opportunity for them to connect with VWCF Board of Trustee members, staff, and community business leaders.

Several recipients took this opportunity to learn about the donor fund associated with their scholarship. Many felt it was important to know the person or family who established the fund and has assisted in their education and future.

The Van Wert County Foundation awards annual scholarships through an application and review process. For 2017, 241 recipients received a combined total of \$803,985 provided through 83 funds established for scholarship purposes.

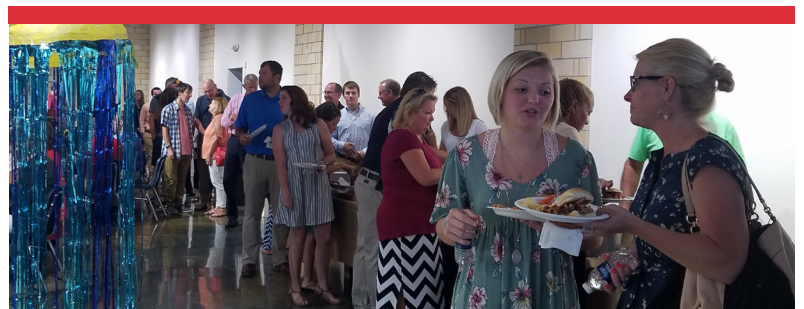
For more information about The Van Wert County Foundation scholarship program or to find out how you can establish a scholarship fund contact, Executive Secretary, Seth Baker at 419.238.1743 or email info@vanwertcountyfoundation.org

241
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

\$803,985

PROVIDED THROUGH 83 FUNDS

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
Celebration



A NOTE OF THANKS

THANK YOU for awarding me with this awesome scholarship. I appreciate it so much!! It will come in handy paying my tuition.

- Parker Sealscott

I just wanted to take a moment to EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE. I am very thankful for The Van Wert County Foundation because all the financial help The Foundation has provided for me and so many others. It is truly a blessing. Thank you so much.

- Kennis Mercer

THANK YOU SO MUCH for the generous scholarship that you gave me for the 2017-2018 school year! I cannot tell you how much stress was lifted off my shoulders after opening your letter. Paying for nursing school has not been easy - and scholarships like yours make it possible for me to pursue my goals in becoming an RN.

- Alli Taylor

I would like to express my GRATEFULNESS for the generous amount of money that I have received from the Merle & Naomi Brady fund. I would also like to say thank you to the scholarship committee of The Van Wert County Foundation. This scholarship is extremely helpful as I continue battling the expenses of college!

- Mitchell Rickard

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING Junior Achievement. Your generosity is helping to change the world for the better! Your contribution will immediately have a positive effect by preparing children for the real world.

Because of your donation, young people will understand important life skills such as personal finance, economics and workforce readiness. By partnering with JA, you will inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs, strengthen our local economy and build personal responsibility. This is accomplished through your gift!

Thanks for empowering area youth to achieve their aspirations!

- Thaison Leaser, JA Treasurer

Thank you for the donation that you have given me. It has provided me the opportunity to continue my education at Lourdes University. It is my passion to teach children and with your help I am one step closer to making that dream a reality. Thank you again!

- Lindsey Motycka

I can't say THANK YOU enough for the very generous scholarship grant that you awarded me. This money will go towards my expenses for my junior year in college at Anderson University where I am double majoring in Psychology and Social Work. My ultimate goal is to serve others in my profession and I so appreciate your help which will allow me to do so.

- Paige Royer

I would like to extend my SINCEREST THANKS AND GRATITUDE for your generous sacrifice to fund The Van Wert County Foundation Scholarship. It is always exciting and honoring to be selected as a recipient for this award, which helped relieve a significant portion of my financial burden and worries. It is a tremendous blessing not only to me, but to my parents as well. I would also like to thank you for hosting the wonderful dinner the other night, which was a great time of connecting with many of the people involved with the Foundation and seeing old classmates again.

- Nathan Diller

On behalf of the volunteer board of directors, the YMCA membership and all of the staff, I would like to take this OPPORTUNITY TO THANK The Van Wert County Foundation and its Board of Directors for their generous distribution to the YMCA. This money will be applied towards our capital and grounds projects. Specifically, we will be replacing our handicap swimming pool ramp, slip resistant coating at our CC pavilion and winterizing our new storage building behind the YMCA.

The Van Wert County Foundation has a long history of supporting the YMCA and we look forward to a continued relationship. Thank you for all of the support The Van Wert County Foundation continues to bless us with.

- Hugh G. Kocab, YMCA CEO

THANK YOU to The Van Wert County Foundation for the very generous grant in support of the PLC Medical Clinic.

We can continue to serve our community only because of the awesome people and businesses like yourselves.

- Trina Langdon, Director Pregnancy Life Center

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORT. INSPIRE. BUILD.

The Van Wert County Foundation is able to benefit the community because of the foresight and generosity of others. Consider choosing VWCF 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 the future

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.

FUND TYPES

There are two types of funds held at The Van Wert County Foundation: Permanent Funds and Non-Permanent Funds.

PERMANENT FUNDS – The original gifted amount (principal) is permanently preserved. Only the income is spent.

NON-PERMANENT FUNDS - The original gifted amount and income can both be spent in entirety.

Within the confines of permanent and non-permanent funds, the following categories serve as a guide for how funds can be established and used:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – Supports any charitable purpose. The Bequest Committee will make general-purpose grant spending recommendations to the board from these funds. These funds typically fulfill semi-annual grant requests from area organizations.

DESIGNATED FUNDS – Supports a specified public charity as established by the donor (for example: museum, church, hospital, library, youth organization).

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS – Supports a specified charitable purpose as established by the donor, but not restrictive to a specific charitable organization.

UNRESTRICTED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS – Provides general educational scholarships to individuals with no restrictions.

DESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS – Provides educational scholarship to individuals with criteria on who should receive funds (for example: students graduating from named high school, enrolled in a specified major, and/or attending a specified university).

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FUNDS – Established by a charitable organization to provide support for the agency's exempt purposes (for example: youth organization, service club, non-profit endowment).

MULTI-PURPOSE FUNDS – Often a combination of the various permanent funds (for example: Percentage of income directed as a Designated Fund and percentage of income directed towards Scholarship Funds).

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS – Created by a donor to provide support for charitable activities recommended by the donor (for example: direct charitable contribution towards youth camp, library, arts organization, church).

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS – Established by a group of individuals who determine a solution to a community need. Often the group does not have a 501(c)3 status and uses The Foundation as an umbrella for donors to make charitable gifts towards the project. Funds can be established for a one-time project or for a new community program (for example: community fireworks, building projects, safety programs).



VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION

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**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.

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VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION
A Community Trust.

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