

NEWSLETTER 2018

FOURTH QUARTER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A NEW MEMBER IS APPOINTED AS
A LONG-TERM TRUSTEE RETIRES

Bob Young retired from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Young served as a member of the board for 24 years. "We are grateful for his commitment to The Foundation, our mission, and our community," shares Seth Baker.



Randy Myers

Newly appointed trustee, Randy Myers is a lifelong resident of Van Wert County, who graduated from Lincolnview High School. In 1977, Randy married

Betty (Richey), and together they have three daughters, Krista Schlemmer, Amy Amstutz, and Brooke Meyer, as well as eight grandchildren. In his free time, Randy enjoys an occasional round of golf and fishing with the grandkids.

He currently serves on both the Van Wert County Board of Health and Board of Directors at 1st Federal Savings and Loan. In 1984, he started The Leland Smith Life & Health Agency, now known as Leland Smith Insurance Services, Inc. with six area locations.

Recent Events



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE..." – AFRICAN PROVERB.



Seth Baker
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

For the past ten years, I have had the privilege to volunteer for Junior Achievement, one of the organizations that The Foundation typically funds through our competitive grant process. This year, more than 1,500 students in

Van Wert County will be building economic knowledge and personal literacy through Junior Achievement programs in their classrooms. I am one of several who teach second graders about how a community works – one of my biggest passions in life! When we are done for the season, students should be able to:

- Describe a community.
- Identify the variety of careers people have in a community and how each job requires specific skills.
- Identify how business and government jobs help a community.
- Explain how taxation supports government services.
- Recognize voting as a way responsible citizens' act and contribute to meet a community's needs.
- Describe the flow of money in a community's economy.

The students learn a lot through the process, and have a lot of fun doing it. For me, it is an opportunity to share about why I choose to volunteer my time. I have never ventured beyond teaching second grade because for most of my career, my daily work has somehow evolved around these topics.

At The Foundation, we are focused on systematic improvements in and around Van Wert County. We do not do this alone – we cannot do this alone. It takes a community of people who take ownership. People who believe in the work of non-profits like Junior Achievement. They are the individuals and organizations – the givers and doers – who truly make a community a great place to be.

This is why we are focusing efforts to invest in the volunteers and non-profit organizations who are making strides to permanently improve the future of our community. We are investing not only financial resources, but also time and knowledge resources. We believe that through shared resources we can make a collective impact.

We believe in the power of connections – connecting donors with grantees. Connecting our Givers with our Doers. This is the core of what we do. Watch for more to come on this!

If you are passionate about supporting a local non-profit who is making amazing strides on pressing issues that you're passionate about, I'd love to have a conversation with you. Connect with me at seth@vanwertcountyfoundation.org or 419-238-1743.

ONWARD!

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The Foundation believes in supporting purpose, inspiring growth, and building the future. We do this through funds established by donors who, had the forethought to invest in the social impact of our community.

I am reminded of the legacy that the Saltzgaber's had when they established a fund for the specific purpose of music. We wouldn't have the Niswonger Performing Arts Center without their vision! You too could build a personal legacy by establishing an endowment with The Van Wert County Foundation, benefiting the community forever.

Donors who endow their gifts can make a difference in their community during their lifetime and, at the same time, provide a gift that lasts forever.

Grants will continue to be made in the name of the fund you establish so that your charitable wishes are preserved, even if an organization receiving gifts ceases to exist in the future.

Non-profit organizations might also consider establishing a charitable organization fund with The Foundation. This would create a constant permanent source of income that helps them to plan for the future and sustain the excellent work they do.

Seth Baker, our Executive Secretary, or any of our Trustees or Staff can help facilitate the simple process.



Andy Czajkowski
PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LEADING WITH INTENT

IMPACT: NON-PROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

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

The Foundation established a non-profit resources program, IMPACT. This annual program aims to increase the capacity of our non-profit organizations. 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.

Professionals from The Ohio Association of Non-profit Organizations work alongside VWCF Marketing & Resource Development Manager, Amanda Miller to present workshops on a variety of topics: Board Development, Marketing, Outcomes and Measures, Financial and Legal, Leadership Development, Strategic Planning, Human Resources, Fundraising, and Grant Writing.

Recently, Vantage Career Center and The Van Wert County Foundation partnered to offer a workshop for area 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations to test drive the tools and learn how they can benefit from G Suite for Non-profits by Google. The workshop showcased the free suite of cloud-based collaboration, productivity, and sharing tools including emails, drive space, and calendars.

Mary Ann Falk, Vantage Technology Integration Specialist, provided the training. She is a Google Certified Educator who regularly uses Google tools in her work and with Van Wert Civic Theatre as the web administrator.



Sign Up

YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR
IMPACT 2019

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) be a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization
- 2) have received funding from VWCF within the past three years
- 3) be governed by a board of directors

Amanda Miller

Marketing & Resource Development
419.238.1743

amanda@vanwertcountyfoundation.org

SUPPORTING PURPOSE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING

WREN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Social impact investing seeks to generate social impact through community capital investments.

The Village of Wren was the recipient of a social impact loan from The Van Wert County Foundation. This investment brought together capital and expertise from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to achieve a social objective.

The Wren Eagles Nest, a new community center, made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and a social impact loan from The Foundation. The ODNR grant was a reimbursement type grant. Which meant that the Village of Wren would have to pay for the project up front, then wait for reimbursement from the state. The Foundation made a social impact loan to the Village of Wren to cover the upfront expenses. Temporarily financing \$185,000 interest-free, The Foundation leveraged community capital to enable social growth.

The building will be available for the public use for weddings, graduations and any other type of event approved by the village council. The building is located on West Jackson Street at the Wren Ballpark.

Another recent, project is The Hurless Schoolhouse restoration effort. The Hurless School is located in Moser Park in the Village of Wren. The painting of the school was made possible by a grant from the Russell & Dorothy Gilliland Memorial Fund administered by The Van Wert County Foundation.



"The Wren community needed a modern-day facility for public events. This grant and assistance from The Van Wert County Foundation made it all possible." – Beth Marcheck

WEE CARE

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FUND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Central Mutual Insurance has committed up to \$250,000 in matching community funds to be used for the permanent benefit of Wee Care capital improvement projects. Central will match what supporters within the community can raise, up to the \$250,000 mark.

Wee Care has served thousands of children and families with little fanfare. The not-for-profit fills an essential need in the community with programs that allow families to have a quality childcare experience as parents work to provide for their loved ones financially.

Wee Care, with the financial assistance of the community, built a new facility in 2005. They are committed to maintaining the 13-year-old building for the long term. As a not-for-profit, it is a mission of the board and administration to keep a fee structure that is affordable while being fiscally responsible.

The center is heavily used 12 hours a day, five days a week. With heavy use comes ongoing needs such as upkeep of HVAC, kitchen and laundry equipment, carpeting, lighting, playground equipment, parking lots, etc. These expenses are a challenge to address while keeping the services affordable. Central Mutual has stepped in to provide a pivotal part of the long-term puzzle.

The Van Wert County Foundation is also playing an essential role in this effort. The Foundation will permanently hold all the funds raised and matched by Central through the form of a Permanent Charitable Organization Fund that directs future income to Wee Care.

"We are extremely excited to get this campaign off the ground," stated John White, Campaign Chair for the project. "Getting the initial campaign funding to over \$122,000 with the Central match, before going to the community, shows our commitment to this effort and the long-term well being of Wee Care."

For additional information on how you can help to support this worthy cause, contact John White at 419.203.1217.



INSPIRING GROWTH

FRANKLIN PARK OPENS



FLAG RAISING CEREMONY



BBQ LUNCHEON



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Van Wert County Foundation, along with the Van Wert City Parks Department, officially opened Franklin Park to the public on Saturday, July 21. This highly anticipated event began at 10 am with a flag raising, private transfer ceremony, and ribbon-cutting.

Following the ceremony, the public joined the celebration with free community activities. Kids received a Franklin Park water bucket filled with summer fun.

The YWCA held kids' activities on the grand lawn, while the YMCA hosted basketball and beginners pickleball instruction. Jacque Welch with The Van Wert Manor read a kids book at the little library located between the playgrounds. The little library was donated by The Van Wert Manor and designed by employees of Alexander & Bebout. Live art on the graffiti panels near the skatepark, by artist Dave Lough, occurred in collaboration with Spark Place Making of Fort Wayne, IN. CJ's Shaved Ice served up free cool treats. Straley Realty hosted a skateboard give-a-way with many youth participating.

Completion of this 1.7-million-dollar community park provides area residents access to several amenities. The park includes a grand lawn, continuous walking loop, pavilion, splash pad, 2-5-year-old playground, 5-12-year-old playground,

double pickleball courts, basketball court, and a skatepark.

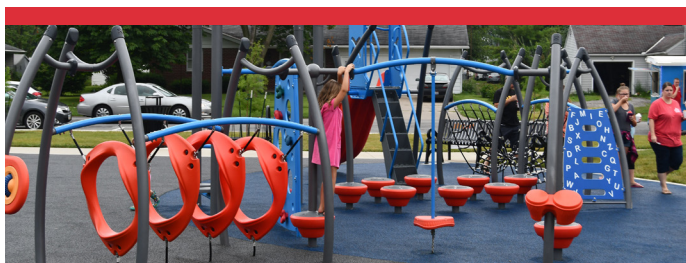
Construction of the park kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony in August 2015. It has been brought to life through funding by Scott & Nikki Niswonger, The Van Wert County Foundation, and Van Wert City Parks & Recreation.

The Franklin Park Committee consisted of Honorary Member Scott Niswonger; City Representatives Jay Fleming and Sue Heppard; Former Van Wert City School Superintendent Ken Amstutz; and Van Wert County Foundation Representatives Seth Baker, Amanda Miller, Michael Gearhart, Chuck Koch, Thad Lichtensteiger, and Bill Purmort. The Design Team consisted of Alexander and Bebout (Sara Zura), General Contractor; Hodgson Douglas, Landscape Architecture services; and John Fisher of Fisher and Associates, Architectural services.

The Van Wert County Foundation Executive Secretary Seth Baker states, "We led this project because we believe in supporting purpose, inspiring growth, and building the future. This neighborhood needed significant investment. As a community development partner, we committed to this investment long-term. I am humbled to have been a part of a place that is already well loved and will be

loved for generations. However, we are only able to do this because of those who have established endowment funds with us in the past to make this gift possible. We are deeply indebted to our donors for their vision. I wish they could see the joy that exudes from this site – I'm certain they would say it has been worth all the time, effort, and investment!"

To use or reserve the facilities at Franklin Park, contact The Van Wert City Parks Department at 419-238-9121.





BUILDING THE FUTURE

2018 SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

On Thursday, July 12, 2018, The Van Wert County Foundation hosted its 2nd 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 and staff. Scholarship checks were available for pick up.

Gary Clay, Foundation Trustee, and Scholarship Committee Chairman spoke to guests about the scholarship program and the learn and return philosophy. "Learn, continue your education, gain experiences and knowledge. However, know that you can return. There are opportunities right here in our communities. Bring those experiences and that knowledge to build the future of our community.", added Clay.

The Van Wert County Foundation awards annual scholarships through an application and review process. For 2018, 314 recipients received a combined total of \$896,260.00 provided through funds established for scholarship purposes.

For more information about the scholarship program or to find out how you can establish a scholarship fund contact us at 419.238.1743.

With immense gratitude, I am able to say I will finish undergrad with \$0 in student loans. This would not have been remotely possible without your work and generosity. I have been blessed by you and my dream is to someday give back to those who have so greatly helped me. - Ann Brake

The scholarship money I have received over the last three years has allowed me to chase my career goals, and I thank you for donating so generously. I hope to one day give back to the Van Wert community using the education you have helped financially support. - Julia Thatcher

I would like to thank you for choosing me to receive the scholarship award from The Van Wert County Foundation. I would also like to thank the donors. This scholarship will greatly help me in paying for my college education. - Tanner Crowle

YOU CAN DONATE TO THE BACK STAGE ANNEX



YOU CAN DONATE TO THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS!

We invite you to visit NPACVW.ORG and take a VIRTUAL TOUR of the Back Stage Annex.

If you would like to contribute to this campaign, your tax-deductible gift may be sent to:

Van Wert Area Performing Arts Foundation
138 E. Main Street
Van Wert, OH 45891

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORT. INSPIRE. BUILD.



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.



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 selected for their integrity, competence, knowledge of the community and concern for its philanthropic needs.

Ways to Give



GENERAL

Charitable giving can be done through a number of vehicles, some during the donor's lifetime where the individual may take advantage of income tax reductions and at the same time, gain satisfaction from watching the income from a grant 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.

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 trust principal is distributed to the proper beneficiary. At the same time the trust is set up, a charitable income tax deduction is generated for the donor.

LIFE INSURANCE GIFTS

A gift of a life insurance policy with the Foundation named as owner and beneficiary of the policy can be a particularly effective way for a donor to make a gift. Many people own insurance, where the original purpose is no longer valid, and there is no reason to keep the policy active. 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. See an insurance agent or financial planner for details.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

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 lifetime, continue to be funded in the future.

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

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

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VAN WERT COUNTY
FOUNDATION
A Community Trust.

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