

WARREN COUNTY FOUNDATION

WINTER UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

THE WARREN COUNTY FOUNDATION TEAM WISHES YOU A HEALTHY, SAFE AND HAPPY 2024!!

(left to right) Tom Seddon, President & CEO; Mike McGinty, Ambassador; Jennifer Landry, Administrative Assistant; Carol Hughes, Ambassador; and Mike Mansbridge, Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer.



THE FOUNDATION HOLDS THEIR ANNUAL MEETING

Four Board members retired after providing 61 years of service to the Warren County Foundation. The group receiving retirement clocks were: Anne Krehbiel, Attorney; Bob Morgan, retired from Cincinnati Financial Corporation; Judge Mike Powell, 12th District Court of Appeals, State of Ohio; and Barney Wright, Warren County Treasurer.

Four new members were elected to the Board, including: Justin Conger, President, Conger Construction Group; Pat Foley, Agency Owner, Simpkins Insurance Agency, Inc.; Rebekah Anderson Giuffre, Funeral Director, Anderson Funeral Homes; and Mike Kelly, Managing Partner, Right Path Enterprises, LLC, and Founder & Principal, Kelly Financial Services.

Shannon Jones, Warren County Commissioner, was recognized for her two years of service as Chair of the Warren County Foundation Board of Trustees. New officers elected include: Dale Brunner, Chair; Maggie Hess, Vice Chair; Christye Leasure, Secretary; and Eric Meilstrup, Treasurer.



Maggie Hess presents retirement clocks to Anne Krehbiel and Barney Wright.



Shannon Jones presents clock to Mike Powell.



Tom Seddon presents retirement clock to Bob Morgan.



Tom Seddon presents recognition award to past chair Shannon Jones.

BUSY SEASON FOR GRANTS TO WARREN COUNTY NON-PROFITS AND BUSINESSES

The **The Warren County Foundation Grants Committee** reviewed 19 proposals for **Impact Grants** and made nine grants totaling \$62,500. Six WCF donors provided \$47,500 for funding of full and partial Impact Grants. The recipients include: 1N5 (\$2,500 for building resiliency in youth); Beech Acres Parenting Center (\$2,500 for beyond the classroom program); Friends of the Twenty Mile House (\$10,000 for Dr. Joseph Warren statue); Joy Outdoor Education Center (Camp Joy) (\$10,000 for 2024 underserved youth camp); LEAD Training (\$2,500 for high school workforce initiative); Magnified Giving (\$10,000 for philanthropy education youth program); Ohio Living Communities Quaker Heights (\$10,000 for transforming memory care); Safe Families for Children Dayton (\$5,000 toward keeping families safe and together); and Warren County Community Services (\$10,000 for adult new readers).

The **Women's Fund of Warren County** made four grants to programs supporting at-risk women and children, including: Atrium Medical Center Foundation (\$2,000 for a comfortable space for HEALing); Elizabeth's New Life Center (\$1,000 for earn while you learn for Warren County mothers); Kindness Backpack Program (\$2,000 for expansion in the Franklin City Schools); and Joy Outdoor Education Center (\$1,000 for underserved girls camp programming). Over the past five years, the Women's Fund of Warren County has made 20 grants totaling \$51,000 to 12 different organizations in Warren County.

The **Mary Ann Klingling Trust** continues to make grants every year to programs supporting at-risk children. The Klingling Trust goes back to September 1867. The trust made grants to: Beech Acres Parenting Center (\$5,000); Big Brothers & Sisters (\$5,000); Countryside YMCA (\$11,000); Joy Outdoor Education Center (Camp Joy) (\$5,000); and Kindness Backpack Program (\$9,000).

Two have retired from the Fund Committee including Richard Jones and Barney Wright. The two newest committee members include: Chris Johnson, Countryside YMCA, and Brad Rupert, LCNB National Bank.

They join the other committee members: Barbara Berry-Spaeth; Russell Jones; and Laura Sutherland.

The **Duke Energy Foundation** has worked closely with the Warren County Foundation over the past 18 months to make Small Business Assistance/Hometown Revitalization Grants in the Carlisle, Franklin and Franklin Township area; Morrow and surrounding townships; and most recently, in the Lebanon and Turtlecreek Township area. 33 applications were reviewed by a local committee and 25 - \$1,000 grants were awarded to small businesses on December 19, 2023.

The small businesses include: Anna's Gourmet Popcorn; Arrow Adventures; Brickhouse on Broadway; Catch-a-Fire Pizza; Chapelo Photography; Duffy's Detailing; Equivet Medicine, Inc.; Greenhouse Café & Bar; Jam & Jelly Lady; Lauren James Aesthetics; Melody A. Ghiloni Insurance Agency; Mim's off Main Too; Oliver & Lee Boutique; Revolution Group Fitness LLC; Salon Noir LLC; Slightly North on Broadway Spa & Salon; Soul Sidekick Studio; Sunset Acres Farm LLC; SWOC Inc.; The Cedar Shack; The Curated with Care Co.; The Glassy Lady; The Village Parlor; Watkins Catering; and Woodshed Smokehouse & Grille.



Duke Energy Foundation small business incentive grants were awarded to 25 businesses in Lebanon and Turtlecreek Township by the Warren County Foundation on December 19.

WARREN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

The Warren County Environmental Forum has had an active year. The goal of the Forum is to help the Warren County Community develop and grow funding that aims to establish environmentally conscious practices in business and on private lands. The Forum is accomplishing this through education and funding to inspire action. By helping mitigate climate change risks, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the Forum hopes to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the entire County.

The Forum will engage the community in both the giving and decision-making process to support Warren County-based businesses and community members through grants. These grants will be approved by the Advisory Council and awarded to individuals or companies that submit a proposal demonstrating a positive environmental change or a conservation minded practice that establishes or enhances the environmental landscape of Warren County.

Examples of grant uses include, but are not limited to: Establishing a rain garden; converting business disposables to biodegradable products; establishing a composting system; implementing a recycling program; other environmental/conservation projects not listed above.

The most recent incentive grant was awarded to St. Zachary's Haven in Morrow to help construct a greenhouse to grow vegetables and fruits throughout the year to feed the residents. St. Zachary's Haven is a nonprofit, faith-based and sober living residential farm.



Incentive Grant from the Environmental Forum helped St. Zachary's Haven build as greenhouse.



URBAN CONSERVATION LEARNING LAB

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (Warren Co SWCD) and the Warren County Foundation have entered into a partnership to promote conservation best management practices with the establishment of the Urban Conservation Learning Lab (the Lab). This public education space will demonstrate simple, affordable conservation opportunities that Warren County residents can implement to help improve the stormwater quality, soil health, and pollinator populations. Phase I of the Lab entailed the installation of the rain garden, sponge garden, rain barrels, compost bins, and small pollinator house. Phase II will be composed of a patchwork permeable pavement walkway, large pollinator house, community art installation, and turf alternative display. The Lab will address the following pressing challenges:

Water Quality In most urban settings, approximately 55 percent of rainwater becomes surface runoff. This can negatively impact water quality as sediment and unseen pollutants, such as lawn fertilizers and chemicals, become free to move with urban runoff. Extensive surface runoff during and after high intensity rainfall events can increase the likelihood of local and downstream flooding. Conservation measures help to capture, infiltrate, and clean stormwater, reducing a property's contribution to water quality degradation, flashy stream flows, and localized flooding.

Loss of Pollinator Habitat Pollinating insects are among the most important to human populations and native biodiversity as they facilitate the vital process of pollination, either to perpetuate native plant species or produce many of the crops we rely on for food at the global scale. Pollinators are in decline for a variety of reasons including the loss of habitat. The Lab will be home to a variety of small best management practices that most homeowners could build and maintain regardless of their lawn size.



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WARREN COUNTY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Scholarships are an incredible source of financial assistance for college students. Unlike loans, scholarship funds are free money usually earned by students based on need or achievement. That means you don't have to pay them back over time – an assurance that can vastly reduce financial stress and help you focus more academic studies. For the donor, the satisfaction of paying it forward and helping students achieve their dreams is powerful.

In 2023, the Warren County Foundation has helped to award 105 scholarships from 28 funds totaling more than \$196,000. The scholarships are awarded in nine high schools across Warren County. Scholarship funds are established to honor and memorialize Individuals, families and groups, organizations and businesses, etc.

"Working with the Warren County Foundation to manage our local scholarship program is one of the best decisions we could have made. Setting up the fund was simple, and we have been impressed with the ease of awarding our first four scholarships through the Foundation this year. We are excited to be able to focus on growing the scholarship program now because we are confident that the Warren County Foundation is managing the administrative details for us."

— Karen and Tony DeRosa, Owners of Class 101 - Dayton, Excellence is a Habit Scholarship Fund

Contact the Warren County Foundation to establish your scholarship fund. You can call 513-934-1001 or e-mail info@warrencountyfoundation.org. We are here to assist you!!

WARREN COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY UPDATE

The Warren County Imagination Library will be celebrating its fourth anniversary in the spring providing free, age-appropriate books to Warren County children from ages 0-5 every month. The theme of the program is "Every Child Reads Every Day." During the first three plus years through December 2023, we have served more than 14,700 children. More than 8,400 are active readers (60.6 percent) and 6,500 plus have turned five and graduated from the program going on to kindergarten.

The five Warren County Library Districts continue to support the program, providing funding to support the purchase of books. They include: Franklin-Springboro Public Library; Lebanon Public Library; Mary L. Cook Public Library; Mason Public Library; and Salem Township Public Library. The five libraries have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to provide financial support in 2024 and 2025. The local funds coupled with matching funds from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio pay for the free books mailed to children in Warren County. More than 300,000 books have been mailed to Warren County children from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Children can be registered at www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org.