



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

What makes a strong, resilient community?

Over the past few years, the Athens County Foundation board and staff have wrestled with this question. Although we don't have all the answers, we came up with three key ingredients:

Connecting Resources Leadership

How can we support resilient communities in Athens County?

Connecting people & ideas.

Using the Art of Hosting toolkit and the 16 trained facilitators, we listen to what is going on in our communities and help guide the conversations that need to happen now. We provide our services to groups throughout the region, including the City of Athens' Visioning session with over 75 participants. We helped the Mt. Zion Baptist Church to envision its rebirth and the Chauncey community to address community change.

This past year, task forces were formed to connect practitioners in the areas of Economic Vitality, Individual Health and Wellbeing, and Vibrant Communities.

Their aim is to:

- 1. provide a forum for information sharing and the cross pollination of ideas and opportunities**
- 2. offer planning and support in project prelaunch phase**

- 3. identify organizations ready for strategic or catalytic investment**
- 4. assist in moving investments to self-sustainability**

Providing resources.

We believe that strengthening individual wellbeing by fighting addiction, preparing students for school, and increasing access to healthcare will give citizens the needed skills, health, and confidence to thrive. In partnership with the Sisters Health Foundation, we awarded funds to help launch an addiction patient navigator in the Athens area through Ohio Health. Mt. Zion Baptist Church is a beautiful gem in our community and monument to interracial collaboration. A \$10,000 grant this summer helped to preserve the building by putting on a new roof.

In addition to grant making, the Foundation aims to assist startups in Athens County that align with our Mission Related Investment policy. As an endowment-based foundation, we have the potential to unlock capital for slower returns, but more immediate impact

on our local economy by investing a small portion of that capital locally. We look for projects that offer a double or triple bottom line, that is, they return income to the Foundation, employ more local residents, and contribute a program, product, or service that improves the lives of our citizens.

Supporting nonprofits and emerging leaders.

For thirteen years, we have brought emerging leaders together to learn who we are, what we have, and what is needed in Athens County. This year, with the help of the Ohio Association of organizations, an eight-month training program increased the knowledge and capacity of local nonprofit staff and boards.

We will continue to support the important work of the nonprofits in Athens County and also to make strategic investments for impact. Our work is possible because of the many generous donors, advised fund holders, and field of interest funds at the Foundation that make it possible for us to play the roles of responsive grant maker and community investor.

The Athens County Foundation IS built on the donations and bequests of local citizens who trust us to carry out their passion for supporting our community by investing in their vision. We invite you to continue to do this work with us!

Sincerely,



John Haseley
President



Susan Urano
Executive Director

Task Forces



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**Community Members
on our task force**



2018 BOARD & Staff

Front Row (Left to Right)

Jesse Stock, *Program Director*; Andrea Reik; Cindy Strausbaugh, *Finance Director*; Ann Fox; Claudia Hale

Middle Row (Left to Right)

Dr. Wayne Carlsen; Kerry Pigman, *Vice President*; Susan Urano, *Executive Director*; Ruthie Nellis; John Haseley, *President*; Otis Crockran, Jr.

Back Row (Left to Right)

Reverend Peter Galbraith, *Secretary*; Mayor Steve Patterson; Mark Seckinger; Scott Robe, *Treasurer*; Scott McDonald

Not shown: Cheryl Sylvester; Candy Kemmerer; Hilary Nichols, *Director, Donor Relations*.

OUR MISSION

We invest in local strategies to empower Athens County residents and build on the strengths of our region, now and for generations to come.

The Athens County Foundation believes that a healthy, inclusive community is one that:

- values local input
- solicits diverse perspectives
- stewards valued resources
- encourages self-assessment and continuous learning
- promotes shared values of trust, respect, honesty, and openness
- recognizes the inter-relatedness of community development and economic development

Funds

The Athens County Foundation manages a variety of fund types established by donors for the benefit of our community. Choose the one that's right for you. It's a great way to always be involved with and remembered for your community investment.

Donor Advised Funds

You can maintain ongoing involvement through the use of your gift.

When you establish a donor-advised fund, you will work with our professional staff to identify ways to use dollars from the fund you create to address issues and needs you care about most. We will submit your recommendations to the Athens County Foundation Board for approval; we then distribute the awarded grant dollars.

Unrestricted Funds

Your gift can address ever-changing community needs—including needs that cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

When awarding dollars from unrestricted funds, we evaluate all aspects of community well-being—arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization, and more. The flexibility of your unrestricted gift enables the Athens County Foundation's grants committee to respond to the community's most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.

"Our challenges are great and our resources are limited. Thankfully we have awesome people working on creative solutions for our region. "

-Peter Kotses



Field Of Interest Funds

Your gift can target needs in an important area of community life: Arts, Education, At-Risk Youth, etc. You identify your personal interest area when making your gift. Our board awards grants to community organizations and programs that are making a difference in the area you select.

Designated Funds Or Organization Endowments

You can direct your gift to a specific nonprofit organization or purpose. Help provide ongoing funding for your favorite nonprofit charitable organization. Creating a designated fund through the Athens County Foundation is an excellent way for nonprofit organizations to build their endowments and enhance their ability to accept large and complex gifts. Or, contribute directly to one of the organizational endowments managed by the foundation: Rural Action, Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio, the Birth Circle, or The Athens Village

Turning Retirement Accounts into Charitable Good

There is good news for those in their 70s—and for the communities and causes about which they care. It is possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) retired distributions to a charity, free from federal tax, annually. This could be an attractive giving option for you if you are over 70½ and now receiving minimum IRA distributions—but do not need the extra income—and are interested in making a significant lifetime gift to positively impact your community. Using IRA assets to make a gift during your lifetime, as opposed to giving via a bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift.

For more information concerning any of the foregoing options, please contact the Athens County Foundation.

Be A Legacy Giver

MAKE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

You are invited to join a tradition of extraordinary generosity by adding your legacy to others who realize the importance of giving back to their community.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest to the Athens County Foundation in your estate plan. Decide what matters most to you. Consider your hopes and dreams for our area and the causes and organizations that inspire your passion. Then contact the Athens County Foundation. We can share knowledge of the needs our community and the organizations working to meet our region's priorities.

Talk with your professional advisor to determine which type of planned gift is best for you. Arrange your estate plan to create a personal legacy with a bequest or planned gift for the Athens County Foundation. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and/or your advisor at any time.

FUNDS

The Athens County Foundation is composed of a variety of fund types established by donors for the benefit of our communities.

Unrestricted Funds Endowed	Field of Interest Funds	Organization Funds Endowed
12	6	4
\$3,371,754	\$505,199	\$186,078

Unrestricted Funds

- Athens Bar Association Fund
- Athens Foundation
 - General Fund
- Carlsen Family Fund
- Carolyn Clutter Fund
- James and Sara Gilfert Fund
- Ismael and Barbara
 - Ghazalah Fund
- Ohio Realty/Wharton
 - Family Fund
- Susan, Bruce and Will
 - Mitchell Fund
- O.U. Greek Community Fund
- Dr. Bruce R. Paxton Fund
- John and Betty Laverne
 - Peterson Fund
- Claire O. Ping Fund

Field of Interest Funds

- Bobbie Britton Fund
- Ann Fox Education Fund
- Leadership Athens Fund
- SEPAN Fund
- R. Craig Copeland Fund
- Alvi and Dean McWilliams Fund

Organization Funds

- Athens Habitat for Humanity of
 - Southeast Ohio
- Athens Village Fund
- Birth Circle Fund
- Rural Action



“The Patient Navigation program will be a resource for those abusing or at risk of abusing opioids as well as for family members of people struggling with addiction and anyone else in our community who needs assistance navigating substance abuse education, treatment, and prevention resources. We’re so grateful to the Athens Foundation and the Sister’s Health Foundation for their support of this importance service.”

– Mark Seckinger President, Ohio Health O’Bleness Hospital

Donor Advised Funds	Designated Funds	Scholarship
17	4	1
\$2,210,890	\$693,394	\$29,584

Donor Advised Funds

Athens Jaycees Senior Fund
 Athens Professionals for
 Philanthropy
 Beale Legacy Fund
 Keller J. Blackburn Fresh
 Start Fund
 Intermediate Circle of the
 Child Conservation Fund
 Wendy Jakmas Fund
 Christine Knisely Fund
 Koshal Family Fund
 Thomas and Barbara
 Kostohryz Fund
 James and Rosanne
 Krager Fund
 Robert E. Pitts Fund
 for Appalachia
 Rocky Community
 Improvement Fund
 Shukla/Chase Fund
 Mark and Rita Snider Fund
 Solly and Sammy
 Fund for Peace
 Upgrade Athens County
 Women’s Fund

Designated Funds

Rebecca Dale Fund
 Long Term Disaster
 Recovery Fund
 Howard M. Walton Fund
 Athens Area Stand Down Fund

Scholarship Fund

Mary Elizabeth Lasher
 Barnette Women’s
 Leadership Scholarship
 Fund

NEW FUNDS

Athens Village

The Athens Village is a nonprofit organization founded to give Athens County citizens age 60 and over assistance to live their lives to the fullest in their own homes. The Village board members decided that it would be a good investment to create an endowed fund at the Athens County Foundation to ensure the continuation of the Village work in the community.

The Athens Village Fund will help support its members to live independently, comfortably, and safely in their homes. The Village is organized and managed entirely by its members. The Village is one of a growing number of such groups across the country with the common goal of enabling senior citizens to age well in their own homes.



Pictured L-R: Steven Grimes, Athens Village Treasurer; Susan Urano, Executive Director, Athens County Foundation; Barbara Conover, Director of Village Operations



Koshal Family

Drs. Rajindar and Manjulika Koshal, are retired Ohio University professors. They came to the United States in 1961 and to Athens County in 1965 when Rajindar accepted his teaching position at the University. Rajindar taught economics while Manjulika taught business.

Dr. Vipin Koshal is a cardiologist at OhioHealth O’Bleness Hospital and his wife, Dr. Bela Bhatt-Koshal is the Assistant Clinical Professor, Family Medicine at Ohio University and Associate Program Director for the Family Medicine Residency at OhioHealth O’Bleness Hospital. Drs. Koshal and their three children are active in the Athens community through the Friends of India Foundation, Athens County Foundation, Rotary and other community organizations.

Recently, the Koshal family set up a fund at the Athens County Foundation because they want to keep their money local to help improve, nurture and grow the community in a positive direction. Vipin believes that wherever you live, treat it like your home and make it better in whatever way you can.



Mary Elizabeth Lasher Barnette

Women's Leadership Scholarship Fund

The Mary Elizabeth Lasher Barnette Women's Leadership Scholarship Fund was established by the daughters of Mary Elizabeth Lasher Barnette to honor their mother's leadership and devotion to the journalism profession and to Ohio University. The daughter of Elizabeth Siddons and George Starr Lasher, Mrs. Barnette grew up in Athens. She became the first woman editor of the O.U. Post student newspaper in 1941 before graduating with a journalism degree in 1942. She broke professional barriers in New York City, becoming the first female reporter and columnist to work for Editor and Publisher, a trade journal for the newspaper industry. Later in her career, she worked as a reporter, weekly newspaper editor, and public relations executive in

the Buffalo, New York area. Mrs. Barnette devoted her retirement years between 1989 and 2007 in Athens, Ohio to building scholarship opportunities for students at both the collegiate and high school levels. It is the intention that this award encourage the development of women leaders in the field of journalism who will make lasting contributions to their profession and deliver quality journalism to the public.



Susan, Bruce and Will Mitchell Fund

Susan and Bruce Mitchell have recently chosen to donate \$100,000 to the Athens County Foundation to give back to the community that has given so much to them. The Susan, Bruce and Will Mitchell Unrestricted Fund will provide grants to the community in perpetuity.

Both came to Athens in the 1970s to attend Ohio University by way of Cleveland and Columbus. Bruce founded the Athens News in the spring of 1977 as a bi-weekly alternative newspaper. He believed in strong investigative reporting and holding those in power accountable. Susan worked as a photo editor for the publication which is where she and Bruce met. Susan and Bruce have two sons. Bruce says his three greatest achievements are marrying Susan, founding the Athens News, and visiting all 30 Major League Baseball Parks with his boys.

Bruce explained that "A key factor in our financial success over the last 40 years has been my business partner in the newspaper Guy Philips who, along with his wife Linda, have been our partners in local real estate."

The Mitchell's were inspired by all those who have given so generously their time, hard work, and donations to the Athens County Foundation, and that moved them to do more. Bruce said, "We don't have to worry about our investment in the community with the Foundation."

Susan added, "Another thing that keeps me more generous and loving is loss. We birthed two children and lost one when he was twenty-one. I think when you are broken and experience tremendous loss, when you come back you want to give, give, give. That is where I am. You realize how a lot is really shallow and giving and helping others isn't."

Susan wrapped her thoughts about the decision to start this fund with one of her favorite quotes, "Money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It is not worth a thing unless it is spread around encouraging young things to grow." -Hello Dolly

Bruce retired after nearly 38 years as publisher of the Athens News. The Mitchell's now spend most of the year living in Key West where Susan owns her own company, susanskeywestcondo.com, and Bruce is a part-time bicycle tour guide with Key Lime Bike Tours. Bruce summed up why he wants to give back to the community through his fund by saying "You can't take the money with you, so why not get the great joy that it gives both of us to give to the Foundation now."



BEYOND THE MONEY

The Athens County Foundation is built on generous donations and bequests, with the goal of becoming a perpetual resource to support nonprofits and local initiatives. You might not know of its contributions “beyond the money”.

Nonprofits are as strong as their foundation. This past year, the Athens County Foundation, in conjunction with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Healthpath Foundation of Ohio, hosted Capacity Building for Stronger Nonprofits, presented by the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations. The 24 nonprofit organizations participating in this eight-month course were given tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations in order to realize and sustain their missions.

Director Susan Urano has been working with local nonprofits to develop outcome based strategic plans to guide organizations into the next 3 years. The board of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Athens Hope, Mt. Zion Preservation Organization, Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare, and the Rocky Community Improvement Fund held retreats and produced new plans with her help.

Communities are strengthened by dense connections and strong social capital. This past year people from diverse organizations were invited to participate

in discussions around three themes: Economic Vitality, Individual Health and Wellbeing, and Vibrant Communities. The role of the task forces created through these discussions is to:

- 1. Provide a forum for information sharing and the cross pollination of ideas and opportunities,**
- 2. Offer planning and support in project prelaunch phase,**
- 3. Identify organizations ready for strategic or catalytic investment,**
- 4. Assist in moving investments to self-sustainability.**

Following are some examples of project support that emerged through this initial work.

The Mt. Zion Preservation Society saw the potential to save an Athens landmark and are working hard to preserve and breathe new life into the facility. The Foundation is working to help the Mt. Zion board develop a strategic plan and vision for future use of the structure.

Athens Hope is a 50 member consortium of agencies working to address addiction in our communities. The Athens County Foundation facilitated a ½ day strategic planning session for Athens Hope members at the Inn at Hocking College. In addition to facilitation, the Foundation joined with the Sisters Health Foundation to invest in a new Ohio Health Patient Navigator for addiction services.



Leadership Athens
County 2017 at SEO
Habitat for Humanity

Liz Shaw of Meigs County has been designated as one of 7 national "Firestarters" in her work to level the playing field in our region by expanding access to broadband. The Broadband Task Force of the Athens County Foundation is hosting the film Do Not Pass Go at libraries throughout the region. The goal of the screening, which is followed by a facilitated discussion, is to address broadband access as an equity issue and necessary public service for education, healthcare, and business development.

Along with local Pharmacist Marilee Broy, Sarah Adkins is working to found a Free Pharmacy for the region. The Athens County Foundation is helping develop a business plan, advisory board, and funding plan for this much needed start up.

Additionally, the Foundation has crafted a sought after emerging leadership experience, Leadership Athens County. Over 250 people have graduated from the Foundation's nine month program with a deep understanding of who we are as a county. They are engaged as nonprofit leaders, elected officials, business owners and caring citizens working to make Athens shine. Graduates have the opportunity to continue their learning and engagement through additional learning cohorts and one on one coaching as well.

You can join us in any of this work by continuing your support of the Foundation financially, by volunteering or by sharing with your friends our impact on your community. We are strengthened by working together for a bright future in Athens County.

"As a past board member of the Athens Foundation, I am delighted that the foundation has given support to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church project. We look forward to celebrating our regions black culture and heritage upon the reopening of this historic facility. "
-Ada Woodson Adams



WOMEN'S FUND

The Women's Fund was the inspiration of Susan Burgess and Kate Leeman and was launched in 2006 by a group of inspired donors with a goal of building a \$250,000 endowed fund. To date, they have far exceeded their original goal and have awarded nearly \$30,000 in grants.

\$30,000

AWARDED GRANTS TO DATE

The purpose of the Women's Fund is to promote philanthropy among women, and to establish a permanent fund which will provide support to programs and projects in Athens County that empower low income women to achieve their full potential.

Approximately one out of five women in Athens are living at or below the poverty level. The Foundation encourages women who have received support in attaining their goals to pass this blessing onto others who are in desperate need of motivation.

This year the advisory board launched a Women's Micro Loan Fund through Appalachian Growth Capital, LLC. The fund was created to help women find financing to start and grow small businesses.

This coming year, the Fund is supporting Women LEADing Ohio, an information and training program presented by LEAD Ohio to encourage women in the region who are interested in running for office.

Women's Fund Advisory Board

Delysa Burnier

Nancy Schell

Laura Black

Sara Brumfield

Solveig Spjeldnes

Kerri Shaw

Jennifer L'Heureux

Sarah Garlington

Deb Meyer

Honorary Advisory Board

Dr. Jane Broecker

Liz Pepper

Janalee Stock

Nancy Pierce



"We are proud to be founding members of the Women's Fund, which has helped many local organizations better serve the women and children of Athens County."

-David Descutner and DeLysa Burnier

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

ACF Women's Fund Named Nancy Pierce 2018 Woman Of The Year

The advisory board of the Women's Fund honored Nancy Pierce and the other nominees at the Annual Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at Stuart's Opera House. Pierce, the Director of Calliope Feminist Choir, was nominated by the women of the choir for using her teaching, leadership, and musical gifts to empower women in Athens County.

Nancy empowers women — Calliope singers, collaborating artists, and our audiences. She sets a tone of inclusion by welcoming singers from diverse backgrounds and selecting music that represents the voices and strengths of women from both local and global perspectives. Nancy supports young singers who wish to join Calliope (which often has an age range of 12-75). This has also created opportunities for mothers and daughters to share musicianship and feminist ideals. She has also been instrumental in making Calliope accessible to singers without regard for the ability to pay dues. Nancy is committed to Calliope, offering free childcare to members, making singing with Calliope possible for mothers of young children.



Raised in a small town in Kansas and a graduate of Kansas University, Nancy moved to rural Athens County in 1976. After earning her law degree from Ohio State University, Nancy served as a lawyer with Southeast Ohio Legal Services and then in private practice. She then received an M.Ed. and became a counselor at Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services, a job in which she felt she could better meet the needs of people without means. She retired from Tri-County to devote herself full-time to Calliope. Nancy has also served on the boards of Athens Area Mediation Services, Webs Women's Center, Southeast Ohio ACLU, Subamuh Women's Land Trust, Athens Aids Task Force, Athens County Fracking Action Network, and most recently, Community Foods Initiative.

Other nominees for this year's award were: Terry Bitsel, Sarah Fick, Becky Filar, Kari Gunter-Seymour, Kim Jackson, Patty Mitchell, Emily Prince, Susan Quinn, Dr. Tresa Randall, and Jenny Stotts.

The mission of the Women's Fund of The Athens County Foundation is to promote philanthropy among women, and to establish a permanent fund which will provide funding to programs and projects in Athens County which empower women to achieve their full potential. Each year the Women's Fund awards grants to Athens County non-profits which benefit women and girls.

SENIOR AWARD WINNER

Julia Nehls Received The Athens Jaycees Senior Of The Year Award

The Athens County Foundation recognized Julia Nehls for her lifetime of service to the community and to philanthropy by selecting her for this year's Athens Jaycees Senior Award.

Born in Clark County, Nehls came to Athens in 1948 to pursue a graduate degree in preschool education at Ohio University. She didn't plan on staying in Athens, but once she graduated in 1950 with her degree, things started falling in place and she has been a part of the community ever since.

Nehls graduate work in nursery school led her to a job offer right after graduation. Julia would go on to teach classes at the Putnam Nurse School (Ohio University) until 1972 when she was named the Director. At that time, the school also changed its name to the Nursery Childcare Center (now called the Child Development Center).

Julia has always been a caregiver, not only through her career choice, but in her personal life as well. She has dedicated her life to helping others, including taking three boys into her home and raising them as her own.

After years of working to care for hundreds of children in the community, Julia has spent her retirement continuing her dedication of helping others. She is the co-founder of the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd. This group knit or crochet shawls and blankets for those that are ill, in need, are grieving, are celebrating a new baby and many others. Julia believes in her community and is happy to have

been able to give back to it all these years. Her advice for others to get an education, help as many people as you can and to just be happy.

The Athens County Foundation will give a \$500 grant to the American Red Cross in Julia Nehls honor.

The Athens Jaycees Senior Fund, through the Athens County Foundation, gives the Senior Award annually to a senior (65 or older) who has provided key leadership in our community, especially related to issues affecting the quality of life of seniors or in the area of philanthropy.



LEADERSHIP ATHENS COUNTY

Now in its thirteenth year of programming, Leadership Athens County continues to engage emerging leaders within our community in programming designed to offer insights into the changing landscape of our county and region. Participants utilize the nine-month professional and personal development program to gain awareness of, examine, and respond to the social, economic and environmental needs of this community in which we all live and work.

Jenn Bennett, a graduate of the 2017-2018 cohort, had this to say about her experience: "This program brings people together from their secluded experiences at work and in our community and helps them get up close and personal to see what is happening in our community at an individual level. LAC helped propel me into our community in a different way personally and professionally working with the programs and resources that have already been created and utilizing the connections from the cohort and the presenters."

With an alumni cohort of 244, the program continues to build a foundation for collaboration, learning and personal growth, and provides opportunities to positively impact our community. It is this expanded

common-ground that paves the way for our future leaders to build pride in and develop positive solutions to our shared community needs.

This work is made possible by number of key leaders, sponsors, and businesses. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Hocking Valley Bank, Peoples Bank, Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Carpenter and Associates, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, Career Connections, and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville.



DONOR LIST

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Patricia Watts

Athens Professionals for Philanthropy Fund

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Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
Career Connections
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Mathews Insurance
OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital
Ohio University

Athens Village Fund

Athens Bar Association Fund

Mary Elizabeth Lasher Barnette Women's Leadership Scholarship Fund

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Melanie A. Caldwell

Estate of Mary Elizabeth Barnette
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David Rodgers
Kathleen S. Watt
William and Carol Beale Fund
Lynn Sturgeon

The Carlsen Family Fund

Children Conservation League Fund

Ohio University

The Ann Fox Education Fund

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Athens County Habitat for Humanity Fund

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Wendy Jakmas Fund-Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

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Koshal Family Fund

Rajindar and Manjulka Koshal
Vipin Koshal and Bela Bhatt-Koshal

Thomas and Barbara Kostohryz Fund

Rosanne Krager Fund

Lynn Sturgeon
James and Rosanne Krager

Leadership-Athens Fund

Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Carpenter and Associates
Hocking Valley Bank
Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville

Susan, Bruce, and Will Mitchell Fund

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Margaret Topping
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Susan Urano
Richard and Karen Vedder
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Megan Wanczyk
Michael and Barb Ward
George Weckman
Bruce and Marilyn Wentworth
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Mark and Wanda Weinberg
Ruth Ann Whitaker
Paul Wiehl
Robert and Shirley Williams
David and Karen Williams
Jeffrey and Janice Wilson
Kevin Witham
Thomas Wolf
Jane Woodrow
E. H. and Rory Woods
Lynne Woods
Robert and Karen Woodworth
Louis and Karin Wright
Julie Zdanowicz
Raymond Zielinski

Rural Action Fund

Gary and Amy Coombs
Megan Tomeo

The Solly and Sammy Foundation for Peace

Carol Adkins and George Atkins
Al Blazevecius
Nicole Cottrill
Terri Foglesong
Patricia Guthrie
Stefanie Hatfield
Amber Healy
Steven Kefevre
Mark and Lauren McMills
Bella Mehta
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Kathryn Westlake
Athens High School Class of 1993
Sarah Lambert Adair
Kristi Adkins
Melissa James Andel
Katie Miller Anderson
Charlotte Leslie Angell
Wendella Bear
Chrys Buchenic Beebe
Darlene Evans Berryman
Jen Bevan
Liz Beverly
Joe Bianco
Alexandra Blood
Adam Blue
Charlotte Boehm
Lori Boldman
Sara Branch
Janice Keeseey Brunner
Nicole VanSteyn Caldwell
Gabrielle Campbell
Jaime Capestany
Cynthia Carnes
Kristin Casper
Chris Cavender
Jennifer Chung
Martin Coady
Lura Cochran
Amy Cooperrider
Mary DeStefano
Kathryn Lambert Dillon
Amy Dingle
Jen Dodson
Jodi Donofrio
Lorena Donofrio
Amy Drayer
Debbie Durbin
Laura Blevins Elam
Peggy Elliott
Neil Enloe
Holly Fahey
Jessica Fike
Jill Filar

Kelley Finan
Holly Flauto
Betsy Franjola
Jeremy Fredell
Lauren Fuller
Chris Gibson
Paula Koontz Gilmour
Phyllis Sims Grauer
John Greathouse
Jo Wise Grey
Charity Harter
Sarah Hartley
Sara Lohrman Hartman
Lisa Henningsen
Aimee Hickox
Marianne Graham Hollingshead
Ben Holter
Andrew Holzaepfel
Sara Hughes
Leslie Goodrum Humphrey
Martha Iazard
Amrita Jagpal
Leila Jindra
Diane Bebo Johnson
Janette Allen Jones
Sarah Jones
Emily Keeler
Betsy George Kinkela
Jennifer Kinkela
Grace Kirkland
Shannon Kiser
Jim Kliesch
Ashley Knackstedt
Paul Kudlak
Nicole Cartwright Kwiek
Chrissie Masdea Landolfi
Matthew Lee
Mark Loudin
Kenny Macklin
Denise Malcolm
Katharine Mallory
Doug Mansfield
Jessica Marie
Katie Troyer Marks
James McAuley
Kim Kozak McCunn

Sarah Mcgrew
Patty Meeks-Seymour
Kara Hagen Merz
Deborah Meyer
Stacey Foglesong Micheli
Mike Miller
Lori Cooper Mitchell
Lee Ann Morosco
Meg Morosco
Angie Mowrer
Erin Murphy
Shali Nali
Debbie Nelson
Brenda Noftz
Amy O'Connor
Kate O'Neil
Khanh Pantelis
Lindsey Peterson
Lynn Monty Petrik
Eric Place
Danielle Powall
Maria Pruchnicki
Sandy Reed
Chelsea Regina
Deb Roberts-Carter
Whitney Shafer Robey
Heidi Ruben-Kleinman
Heather Roof Rutter
Jill Schermacher
Carole Schloss
Jenni Lahman Seifert
Sarah Seither
Megan Reilly Shannon
Tiffany Shin
Lisa Slavinski
Cammie Coen Starner
Stephanie Stevens
Doug Stroh
Deanna Sullivan
Sandy Sullivan
Dustin Tefs
Melissa Watkins
Katy Wesel

Lindsay West
Traci Winchell
Teresa Wood
Amy Zobler-Heady

Women's Fund

Ann Brown and Ken Holroyd
Carpenter and Associates
Dirty Girl Coffee
Lee Cibrowski
Mary Boone Costello
Berry Dilley
Don and Mary Anne Flournoy
Elizabeth Gleason/Athens Real
Estate
Jan Griesinger
Claudia Hale
Jason Hillard and Anne Charles
Watts
Anita James
Kleinpenny Educational Fund
Lynne Lancaster and Thomas
Carpenter
Susan Righi
Nancy Schell
Alice Strauss
Melissa Wales and Greg Kessler

HONORY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Nancy Rue

Kathleen Fair

Michael Kennedy and Yi Zhang

Jesus and Julie Pagan

Bill Malcom

Jeff Connor and Jenny Byers

Martin and Anne Paulins

Scott and Marjorie Malcom

Beverly Mottl

Dick Mottl

Wil Chandler

Sallie Roberts and Bob Lazuka

Ronald Whitaker

Ruth Whitaker

Eleanor Schmieding and Judy Blahnik

John and Deborah Schmieding

Claire Ping and Verda Jones

Jack and Sue Ellis

Wes Peterson

Alice Peterson

Lester Marks

Elizabeth Story

THE ROCKY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Rocky Community Improvement Fund (RCIF) was created in May of 2009 as a way for Rocky Brands, Inc. employees to become more involved within the community while helping to enhance the quality of life for the people of Nelsonville and surrounding area. Rocky Brands is one of the largest employers in Athens County. Founded in 1932, Rocky Brands, Inc. designs, develops, manufactures, and markets premium quality Outdoor, Work, Western, Duty, and Military footwear as well as Outdoor and Work apparel and accessories. The Rocky Brands family of brands includes ROCKY, GEORGIA BOOT, DURANGO, LEHIGH, and the licensed brand MICHELIN Footwear. The mission of the Fund is to provide impactful support to the local communities by awarding grants to build a clean, safe, and healthy community for their neighbors.

The RCIF is supported by the generous donations from associates within Rocky Brands, Inc who are eager to make a difference within the community. The RCIF consists of an advisory board that acts on behalf of the associates who donate to the fund. The board sends out a yearly survey to all employees asking them to prioritize funding areas and needs in the community. The board then uses the results of this survey to help with their decision-making process when selecting grant recipients. In the fall of 2013, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville joined their efforts by matching their contributions and doubling RCIF's impact in the community.

The RCIF also hosts a golf tournament each year which has become the single biggest fundraiser for the organization. The event is held on the Friday after Labor Day and is open to the

community to participate. This year was the 5th annual tournament which hosted 148 golfers and raised \$34,000 for the Fund. One example of a positive impact the fund has had within the community is the grant awarded to the Nelsonville Food Cupboard. The Nelsonville Food Cupboard requested \$5,000 to support a backpack program in the Nelsonville-York school system which would provide food for all the kids that fell below the national poverty level every other weekend. The RCIF board was touched by this particular grant application and wanted to know how much it would be to fund the program and provide backpacks every weekend to all children who received free or reduced lunches. After working with the Nelsonville Food Cupboard, The RCIF board approved a grant in the amount of \$15,000 in an effort to increase the impact made to the children and community as a whole.



Pictured Left To Right: Danielle Brooks, Melissa Lewis, Samantha Thompson, Stephen Crook, Michael Harper, Danika Waldren, Mike Pack, Amy Mcculloch, Amy Williams

Grantee	Amount	Program Name
Amesville PTO	\$4,000	Amesville backpack program and Federal Hocking schools
Athens Area Mediation Service	\$2,794	Mixed bag summer youth program
Athens City-County Health Department	\$2,500	Polley field improvement project
Big Brother Big Sisters Association Greater Columbus	\$3,000	Summer camp for Athens and Hocking of County youth
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens Inc.	\$1,625	Youth in leadership
Blessings in a Backpack Inc.	\$5,000	2018-2019 Meigs local blessings in a backpack
Children's Hunger Alliance	\$5,750	Providing healthy meals and snacks for at-risk children
Church of the Epiphany	\$2,756	Kitchen equipment to increase efficiency
Community Food Initiatives	\$2,000	Nelsonville school garden support
Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio	\$4,000	Critical home repair program
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	\$3,547	Kitchen upgrades for improved efficiency
Hopewell Health Centers	\$2,500	Enhanced accessibility for employment and independence
Integrated Services	\$7,074	Support for the Nelsonville HIVE
Lutheran Social Services	\$5,000	Athens County mobile food pantry
Nelsonville Division of Fire	\$2,300	Medical equipment for community first responders
Nelsonville Food Cupboard	\$5,000	Backpack program
Nelsonville-York Elementary School	\$2,500	Learning commons and makerspace
Nelsonville-York High School	\$2,500	The picnic table project
Perry County District Library	\$4,200	Stepping stones adult reading education
Senior Citizens Club of Nelsonville	\$1,690	Sidewalk rebuild
Sojourners Care Network	\$4,700	Sojourners athens homeless youth outreach center
Women for Recovery	\$2,606	Basic appliances acquisition
Women for Recovery	\$2,500	Chrysalis garden at serenity grove

Total **\$79,542**

9
Advisory
Board
Members

\$530,000
Given Out Since
Inception (May 2009)

over
200
Grants
Given

GRANTS

Grantee	Amount	Program Name
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Athens Foundation General Fund

American Red Cross	\$500	In honor of Julia Nehls
Appalachian Color in the Hills Festival	\$1,000	Glouster First Fridays
Dairy Barn	\$10,000	Capital campaign
Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio	\$10,000	Capital campaign
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	\$5,000	2018 Bounty on the Bricks
Mount Zion Baptist Church	\$10,000	Save the roof
Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations	\$5,600	Nonprofit capacity building series
Ohio University Press	\$3,000	Community Table
Ohio University Press	\$391	Community Table
OhioHealth Corporation	\$10,000	Patient navigator
Philanthropy Ohio	\$1,000	General Support
Stuart's Opera House	\$10,000	Capital campaign
UCM-Center for Spiritual Growth	\$100	In honor of Sean Parsons
WOUB	\$2,500	General Support

Dr. Bruce Paxton Fund

Glouster Project	\$2,136	Bathroom upgrade
Ohio University Press	\$760	Community Table

Ohio Realty/Wharton Family Fund

Ohio University Press	\$221	Community Table
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Claire O. Ping Fund

Ohio University Press	\$628	Community Table
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Women's Fund

Birth Circle	\$5,000	Prepared mommy camp 2.0
Health Recovery Services	\$500	Rural women's recovery program garden project
Women for Recovery	\$2,605	Basic appliance acquisition

Bobbie Britton Fund

Glouster Project	\$864	Bathroom upgrade
Ronald McDonald Charities of Central Ohio	\$845	Helping hands program

Howard M. Walton Fund

Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library	\$9,370	General support
Wellston Public Library	\$9,370	General support

SEPAN Fund

Athens County Community Singers	\$1,452	A choir for all voices: transition and service
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Thomas and Barbara Kostohryz Fund

Athens Conservancy	\$250	General support
Athens County Historical Society & Museum	\$250	General support
Friends of Stroud's Run	\$250	General support
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	\$500	2018 Bounty on the Bricks
J Warren McClure Athens Education Foundation	\$500	In support of the Charlie McAfee scholarship fund
Live Healthy Appalachia	\$1,000	General support
Mully Children's Family USA Inc.	\$750	General contribution
National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force	\$500	In memory of Robert E Sheriff
The Old Gallery	\$600	General support
Project Plant	\$250	General support
Stuart's Opera House	\$500	General support

R. Craig Copeland Fund

Appalachian Peace & Justice Network	\$4,750	Social emotional learning in K-12 schools
Athens County Child Advocacy Center	\$2,596	Office improvements
Athens County Humane Society	\$2,207	Addressing pet overpopulation
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens Inc.	\$420	Youth in leadership
Trimble Local Textbooks & Supplies Foundation	\$1,500	Supplies for 2018-2019 school year

Rebecca Dale Fund

Center for the Creation of Cooperation	\$3,590	General Support
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The Solly and Sammy Foundation for Peace

Big Brother Big Sisters Association of Greater Columbus	\$3,125	Camp Lionheart
My Sisters Place	\$1,500	Victim support
Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association	\$3,880	Counselors training

Children Conservation League Fund-Restricted

Appalachian Peace & Justice Network	\$2,000	Social emotional learning in K-12 Schools
Integrated Services	\$5,000	Support for the Nelsonville HIVE
Nelsonville Food Cupboard	\$3,605	Backpack program
Ohio University	\$5,000	Kids on Campus 2018 summer camp meals
Trimble Local Textbooks & Supplies Foundation.	\$2,285	Supplies for 2018-2019 school year

Athens Jaycees Senior Fund

Athens County Historical Society & Museum	\$20,700	A/V for seniors
Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio	\$6,800	Age in place senior critical home repair
United Seniors of Athens	\$3,500	Upgrade technology and online presence for Athens

Bounty on the Bricks

Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	\$100,000	2017 Bounty on the Bricks
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Athens Area Stand Down

American Legion Post 21	\$1,200	Support 2017 Athens Stand Down
American Legion Post 21	\$1,060	Support 2018 Athens Stand Down
American Legion Post 21	\$662	2018 Athens Stand Down volunteer shirts

James and Rosanne Krager Fund

Bella Run Equine	\$1,000	General support
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Beale Legacy Fund

Rural Action	\$4,016	Connecting consumption, climate change, and composting
Upgrade Ohio	\$5,600	Plug-In to Nelsonville

Koshal Family Fund

Women for Recovery	\$1,000	Serenity Grove
WOUB	\$500	General Support

TOTAL **\$295,688**



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