

ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Saying that the last several months have been challenging for so many is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic shined a harsh spotlight on disparities that have long existed in our community: food insecurity, unemployment, broadband access, adequate housing, and affordable childcare are some of the many examples. Even while navigating these challenges, I am struck by the resilience, optimism, and perseverance of those who live in and love Athens County. People who — even when struggling themselves — found ways to show up for each other and lend a helping hand. People who — instead of feeling defeated in the face of adversity — are innovative, creative, and collaborative.

Inspired by our community, the Athens County Foundation learned how to work in new ways that tap into our collective resilience. We've deepened our partnerships with other funders in our region so we can multiply our impact, including Sisters Health Foundation, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville, and the Rocky Community Improvement Fund. In addition to our largest-ever fall grants cycle, funding 23 projects totaling \$268,000, we launched and have sustained a Response Fund that quickly deploys grants to organizations responding to the pandemic and aiding in our recovery. To date, we've awarded \$248,000 to 36 organizations, and we are still going. I am humbled by the generous spirit of our donors and our partners that have enabled us to continue this work.

As our community's foundation, we focus both on the future and the present: We are committed to ensuring funds and resources will be available to meet future needs. And we take action to address present challenges to make a difference today. While we always are balancing these perspectives, this year has brought a renewed sense of urgency to our work and new ways of seeing and responding to long-standing challenges. This year, conversations with nonprofit partners, fellow funders, and community leaders often started with how to respond "right now," then often turn to "what next?" and a discussion on how we can work together to shape our future once we are on the other side of this pandemic. We will continue these conversations, as they are making us more responsive and providing value for Athens County. For example, through deep listening and learning from our nonprofit partners, we evaluated our grant processes to make them more streamlined and focused. This allowed us to deploy grants faster and enabled our nonprofit partners to focus on their work instead of multiple applications and reporting requirements. I am proud of the nimble response from the Foundation's staff and Board of Directors and also struck by the creativity of our nonprofit partners who found new ways to work to reach those who needed them most.

Another program that demanded new ways of working and thinking was Leadership Athens County. This ninemonth leadership immersion program had always been in person, with students visiting organizations, doing projects together, and connecting over shared activities and spaces. But due to restrictions and uncertainty of what the next year would look like, we took it virtual. Every two weeks, sixteen committed individuals tune into a Zoom session with speakers, activities, and conversations. Topics range from infrastructure gaps to cultural assets in Athens County, and students discuss the challenges we are all facing right now and thinking creatively about what the future could look like.

The Athens County Foundation plays different roles in our community, depending on the issue and those involved. Sometimes it's providing funds or specific tools, other times we convene the community on a pressing question or issue, and other times we create a space to have challenging conversations. This year, we focused on creating space for the Racial Equity Coalition of Athens County. Guided by our vision of a "healthy, inclusive community where there are opportunities for all people," we are inspired by the individuals and organizations working together to address racial equity in Athens County. This year, the Foundation hosted coalition meetings, published a newsletter to promote activities from local organizations, and hosted a training attended by over 70 community members about the far-reaching impacts of racism on our society and community. In 2021, we will seek opportunities to support racial equity programs and events. In addition to creating the space for community partners, Foundation staff are turning inward to examine policies, practices, and tools through a racial equity framework.

Thank you for walking with me and the Athens County Foundation through this year. Your kindness, support, and generosity inspire us every day. Following your example, we will keep showing up for each other, even when the work is hard. We will draw inspiration from our partners who are resilient, strong, and innovative and work together to build a strong, inclusive, vibrant Athens County.

I hope you will continue to join us in this work. We need you.

Gratefully,

Executive Director



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

When it comes to doing good in Athens County, you can trust us! The Athens County Foundation is pleased to announce our accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations[™]. This accreditation program affirms that we have met or exceeded the most rigorous benchmarks in philanthropy. In short, we meet the highest standards for local giving!

Learn more at www.athensfoundation.org or www.cfstandards.org.

2020 Board of Directors

Cheryl Sylvester President

Peter Galbraith Vice President

Claudia Hale Secretary

Scott Robe Treasurer

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Jim McDonald Member

Julia Paxton Pagan Member

> Laurie Deal Member

Mark Seckinger Member

Ruthie Nellis Member

Mayor Steve Patterson Member

Travelia "Tee" Ford-Ahmed Member

> W. Otis Crockron Jr. Member

Dr. Wayne Carlsen Member

Meet our new team



Kerry Pigman *Executive Director*

Eleni Zulia Director of Programs and Engagement

10 years ago, when I first joined the work of the Athens County Foundation as a founding member of the Athens Professionals for Philanthropy Board of Directors, I described the mission of the Foundation to my then young son. I told him that the Athens County Foundation was an important leader in our community, working hard with so many others to solve challenges. I also told him that the Foundation had a uniquely optimistic perspective on the opportunities that we have in Athens County, and worked to turn that optimism into reality. I am grateful that my son advised me to get involved and gave me permission to miss out on family time because as he said 'it's a small investment of your time to make a big difference'. He was right! The time I have spent as part of the Athens County Foundation, as a board member and now as Executive Director, has been a difference-maker for me, my perspective on the opportunities for our region, and my place in the community. The Foundation has long been recognized as an integral part of our community- full of resources, leadership, and visionbecause of the courageous and strong leadership of Susan Urano and the Foundation's staff and Board. It is my great honor to build upon this strong foundation and to help steward the Foundation through its next chapter.

'Always learning' is one of my mantras, and it's happening every day in my work with the Athens County Foundation. This includes navigating new systems and tools; building relationships with coworkers, donors, and nonprofits; and pivoting to virtual programming. It's exciting, interesting, and fulfilling. I've admired the Athens County Foundation as long as I've lived in Athens (over two decades now!). It's an honor to be a part of a team of caring, enthusiastic, and smart staff and board members who are focused on making a difference in Athens County.



Shayne Lopez Programs and Outreach Coordinator

I joined the Foundation last year as an intern seeking experience in nonprofit work. The Foundation has not only provided me with a space to learn, but since offering me a full-time position, ACF continues to provide me with a space to grow. I am humbled by the wonderful opportunity that the Foundation has opened for me. As an immigrant in Athens, I am grateful to get to know my new community through the Foundation — a community of generous, thoughtful, and mission-driven people! Working at the Foundation continues to validate my chosen career path, of serving the people through nonprofit work. Coming in as a new employee at the time of the pandemic has been quite challenging, but nevertheless, very rewarding! I am happy to be a part of this team and I'm excited to see what the future holds!



Cindy Strausbaugh *Finance Manager*

I joined the Athens County Foundation in 2009 when a new part-time in-house position for Finance Manager was created. After retiring as the Associate Controller for The Ohio University Foundation in 2007, this was the perfect fit for me and my knowledge of and experience with the charitable nonprofit sector, as well as the Athens community. Since that time I have enjoyed watching the Foundation grow tremendously in dollars, donors, number of funds held and partnerships with several organizations. So many new and diverse programs have evolved throughout my tenure because of our competent staff and governing board members' foresight. I believe our greatest challenge to date has been the pandemic. The Foundation has risen to the challenge, along with our partners, and has been able to provide support to the community through many agencies. The Athens County Foundation has a bright future in helping others and I am proud to be a part of it!

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

40 Years of Serving Athens County





Athens County



Grantmaking



connections capacity to tackle difficult issues



Supporting 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 needsincluding needs that cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

Building

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.

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 organization. Creating a designated fund though 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.

Operational Support

Your gift to the Foundation's Operating Fund sustains the dayto-day operations. Gifts to this fund enables the Foundation to build a stronger and more sustainable infrastructure to provide programs and services that will have the greatest impact. Supporting the Operating Fund fosters innovation by providing the Foundation with resources and bandwidth to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise.

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

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) 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.

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 comprised of a variety of fund types established by donors for the benefit of our communities.

Unrestricted Funds Endowed

Field of Interest Funds

14

\$4,229,632

Athens Bar Association Fund Athens Foundation General Fund Carlsen Family Fund Claire O. Ping Fund Dr. Bruce R. Paxton Fund Ismail and Barbara Ghazalah Fund James and Sara Gilfert Fund John and Betty Laverne Peterson Fund Mary Carolyn Clutter Fund Marjorie Ann Malcom Fund Ohio Realty/Wharton Family Fund O.U. Greek Community Fund Susan, Bruce and Will Mitchell Fund William and Elizabeth Turman Fund

9

\$1,878,192

Ann Fox Education Fund Athens County Trail Fund Bobbie Britton Fund Dean and Alvi McWilliams Fund Elizabeth P. Hollow Fund Leadership Athens Fund R. Craig Copeland Fund SEPAN Fund Women's Fund Organization Funds Endowed

4

\$353,401

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

Donor Advised Funds

17

\$1,768,138

Athens Jaycees Senior Fund Athens Professionals for Philanthropy **Beale Legacy Fund Children Conservation** League Fund Christine Knisely Fund Joe Burrow Fund Keller J. Blackburn Fresh Start Fund Koshal Family Fund Mark and Rita Snider Family Fund PPE for Athens Fund **Rosanne Eigel Fund** Robert E. Pitts Endowment for Appalachia **Rocky Community** Improvement Fund Shukla/Chase Fund Solly and Sammy Fund for Peace Thomas and Barbara Kostohryz Fund Wendy Jakmas Fund

Designated Funds

6

\$751,630

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

8

Scholarship Fund

1

\$34,091

Mary Elizabeth Lasher Barnette Women's Leadership Scholarship Fund

51 Total Funds

5 New Funds

New Funds

Imagination Library Fund





The Ohio Governor's Office has partnered with the Athens County community to bring the Dolly Parton Foundation's Imagination Library to the children of Athens County!

Through the collaboration with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library puts free books in the hands of children across Ohio to give every child the chance to succeed inside and outside the classroom. The benefits of Imagination Library go beyond children having more books. Early language development is critical to a child's literacy, and participants receiving books through the Imagination Library have been able to see this development in real-time.

Residents of Athens County with any children under the age of five are eligible to enroll in the program. In Athens, about 2,700 children in Athens qualify to receive free books every month! Registration for this program is ongoing. Residents must apply through the Athens County Public Libraries, 95 West Washington St., Nelsonville, OH 45764.

The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library in Athens is supported by the Athens County Public Libraries in partnership with OhioHealth, Athens County Department of Job and Family Services, Athens City School District, and the Athens Noon Rotary Foundation.

Marjorie Ann Malcom Fund



An unrestricted fund was established to honor Marjorie Ann Malcom. Marjorie was an educator, leader, advocate, and an active community member whose life was filled with love and generosity. She was deeply involved in the Athens community, and she has made a great contribution to leveraging education in our community through scholarships.

The Athens County Foundation is honored to continue Marjorie's generosity and commitment to service through this fund.

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Community in Action: PPE for Athens Fund

Associate professor of higher education at Ohio University, Lijing Yang, is the facilitator of a project that has left an immensely positive impact on the community of Athens, Ohio. As a response to the global pandemic, this project illustrated the importance of the Chinese and Chinese-American community as well as the power of global networking.

In April of 2020 Yang organized a group of Chinese and Chinese-American students and faculty at Ohio University to donate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to the community. The group's total donation of **15,800 masks and 220 coveralls** during a national drought of PPE was made to to the Athens City-County Health Department on May 29th, 2020.



Yang originally met with ACF for assistance in generating a list of organizations such as local offices and nonprofits that provide health care services. This list prioritized essential workers, disadvantaged groups, and groups with special needs. The donations sustained the public health needs of these community members for a few months.

As a University of Michigan alumna, Yang connected with Dr. Jiayan Liu, a medical professional at the University of Michigan hospital to research quality PPE products made in China. Mr. Shaoju Tian, a family member of Yang, having visited Athens a few years prior was concerned with our community's public health during the pandemic. He collaborated with Mr. Yanbo Liu, CEO of Kangbeier Medical Devices, and together all four individuals made the first donation possible.

Yang said "Mr. Tian was inspired by the American and Chinese

people and companies who vested interest in sustaining the US-China relationship and donate PPE to each other in times of need." She went on to say that Mr. Tian worked relentlessly to make this donation happen and his efforts were rewarded. Athens received one of the first PPE shipments that passed regulations and departed from China.

Donations were made by Ohio University's Chinese Learners Association who donated 40 medical coveralls. Additionally, Dr. Baotang Zhuang, a former visiting scholar, and his wife Jie Shi donated an additional 2,000 surgical masks. Yang relayed their sentiments saying "While currently living in China, they often thought about the beautiful college town and their friends here. They asked me to send good wishes to the Athens community that the pandemic gets over soon and everyone in Athens stays safe."

Written by: Alli Westbrook, ACF Intern

Response Fund

On March 9th, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency in reaction to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Athens County Foundation created the Response Fund, which allowed nonprofit organizations responding to the effects of the crisis to apply for financial assistance. Initially, priority was given to organizations addressing food security, health and safety, but that has evolved to include organizations assisting with the recovery efforts, and additional aspects of handling the response to the pandemic.

The Response Fund is made possible by the generous support of our partners: Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville, Sisters Health Foundation, Rocky Community Improvement Fund, ACF's Donor Advised Funds, and the many donors who have helped grow this fund. With increased demands on nonprofits due to the pandemic, these funding partners recognized that pooling funds and aligning the application process through ACF could further support nonprofits seeking funding.

"The strong demand for Response Fund grants to meet needs prompted by the pandemic made it clear the program needed to continue," said Kerry Pigman, Executive Director of the Athens County Foundation. "But continuing the Response Fund required additional funding from both ACF and our partners. I am grateful for these organizations, along with Athens County donors, who have generously stepped up to address the continuing challenges agencies face due to COVID-19."

We awarded over \$174,000 in Response Fund grants within the duration of fiscal year 2019-2020. This amount continues to grow as we continue to support recovery efforts of organizations serving the Athens Community.

\$174, 513

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED



27%



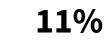
18%

HUMAN SERVICES

17%

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HEALTH SERVICES



LEGAL SERVICES



11% ARTS & CULTURE



9% ECONOMIC DEV.

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Response Fund Grants

Grantee	Program Name	Amount
Athens County Disaster Relief Fund		
Lutheran Social Services	Food Security	\$10,875
Athens County Foundation General Fund		
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio	Athens Health Center COVID-19 Emergency Support	\$237
Athens Area Mediation Services	Difficult Conversations Workshop	\$900
The Ohio University Foundation	International Student Emergency Relief Fund	\$2,810
Dairy Barn Southeast Cultural Art Center	Summer Art Camp At Home	\$5,000
Athens Photographic Project	APP Studio - Responsible Restart	\$5,000
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	Water Bill Assistance Program	\$5,000
Athens Jaycees Senior Fund		
United Seniors of Athens	Food Security	\$1,750
Beale Legacy Fund		
Rural Action	Resilience Fund	\$15,000
Children Conservation League Fund		
Southeast Ohio Youth Mentoring	Virtual Mentoring	\$750
Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery	Summer Camp STEAM Boxes	\$1,250
Roseann Eigel Fund		
OhioHealth Foundation	Self-care for Healthcare Workers	\$5,000
Response Fund: Donations		
Shade Community Center	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	\$275
Women for Recovery	COVID-19 Response	\$750
HAVAR, Inc.	COVID 19 Mitigation Supplies	\$1,200
City of Athens (Athens Community Center)	Athens Community Center Summer Camp	\$2,000
Federal Hocking Local Schools (Amesville	Remote Learning Art Supplies for Social-Emotional	\$2,000
Elementary School)	Learning	
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio	Athens Health Center COVID-19 Emergency Support	\$2,263
Athens County Child Advocacy Center, Inc.	Athens County CAC Emergency Fund	\$3,825



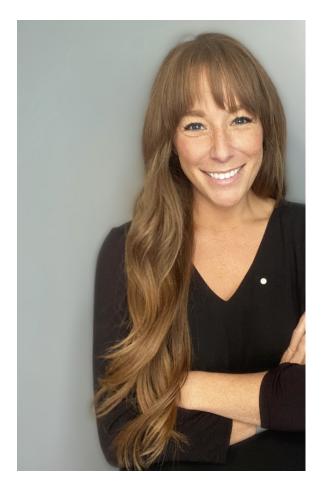
Ohio University-HCOM's Community Health Program's Taking Hope on the Road project provides care packages, distributed through a no-contact home delivery system, to Heritage Community Clinic patients throughout Southeast Ohio.

Athens County Department of Job and Family	Back to School Bash 2020	\$4,675
Services		
Athens County Department of Job and Family	Operation Full Belly	\$5,000
Services		
Response Fund: Osteopathic Heritage		
Foundation of Nelsonville		
Southeast Ohio Youth Mentoring	Virtual Mentoring	\$810
Susan G. Komen	Pandemic Patient Assistance Program	\$1,250
Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery	Summer Camp STEAM Boxes	\$1,250
Federal Hocking Local Schools (Amesville	Remote Learning Art Supplies for Social-Emotional	\$2,000
Elementary School)	Learning	
Ohio University HCOM CHP	Taking Hope on the Road: Delivering Care Packages to	\$2,500
	Clinic Patients	
The Ohio University Foundation	International Student Emergency Relief Fund	\$4,190
Athens County Department of Job and Family	Back to School Bash 2020	\$4,674
Services		

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health	COVID-19 Sanitation and Safety Measures	\$5,000
The Plains United Methodist Church	Helping Hands Food Pantry	\$5,000
Response Fund: Sisters Health Foundation		4075
Shade Community Center	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	\$275
Good Works Inc.	Friday Night Life	\$800
Rural Action	Combating Covid-19 through Zero Waste	\$1,000
Athens County Child Advocacy Center, Inc.	Athens County CAC Emergency Fund	\$1,175
United Seniors of Athens	Food Security	\$1,750
The Edna Brooks Fdn dba My Sister's Place	Emergency Funds for COVID-19 Response	\$2,500
Ohio University HCOM CHP	Taking Hope on the Road: Delivering Care Packages Clinic Patients	to \$2,500
	Clinic ratients	
Elizabeth P. Hollow Fund		
Athens County Department of Job and Family	Back to School Bash 2020	\$1,901
Services		
Christine Knisely Fund		
The Ohio University Foundation	International Student Emergency Relief Fund	\$1,000
	international student Emergency Kellen und	\$1,000
PPE for Athens Fund		
Athens City Co. Health Department	PPE Procurement	\$2,200
Rocky Community Improvement Fund		
Ohio State Legal Services Association	Legal services for Athens County	\$20,000
Hocking Athens Perry Community Action	General Support	\$20,000
Mark and Rita Snider Family Fund		
Good Works Inc.	Friday Night Life	\$800
The Ohio University Foundation	International Student Emergency Relief Fund	\$2,000
OhioHealth Foundation	Self-care for Healthcare Workers	\$2,850
Rural Action	Combating Covid-19 through Zero Waste	\$4,328
		\$.,020
Solly and Sammy Fund for Peace		
BBBS of Central Ohio	Camp Lionheart Grief Camp	\$1,200
Women's Fund		
Susan G. Komen	Pandemic Patient Assistance Program	\$1,250
Women for Recovery	COVID-19 Response	\$2,250
The Edna Brooks Fdn dba My Sister's Place	Emergency Funds for COVID-19 Response	\$2,500
	TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED	\$174,513
		- 4

Woman of the Year

Jenny Stotts



The Athens Foundation Women's Fund awards the 2020 Woman of the Year award to Jenny Stotts, Executive Director of the Athens Court Appointed Special Advocates Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program.

Jenny Stotts is a remarkable young professional who has positively impacted the youth of our community through the CASA/GAL program. She has been the Executive Director of the program since 2013 and prior to that, Jenny was a family services caseworker and sexual abuse investigator for 9 years. Her dedication to the CASA/GAL program became even more apparent in 2016 when she took on an additional role as the Regional Director of Southeast Ohio CASA, continuing to seek a brighter future for our part of Appalachia.

Jenny inspires those around her through her energy which leads to great team cohesion within her department. Her free spirit empowers others to think for themselves and from there creativity spreads. She has shown how her efforts have prevailed by increasing volunteer numbers by 300% since her start. With her hard work and dedication, she hopes to have a volunteer for every child that is being served by their CASA program.

Jenny's passion for personal and organizational development makes her an integral member of our community. Through her love of personal development and organization, Jenny is a staunch member of our community. She is a charter member of the Athens Sunrise Rotary and the District Chair of Membership for Rotary District 6690. She is a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and a member of the Child Conservation League as she continues to dedicate her time to helping children who are less fortunate in some aspect of their lives. Jenny has a B.S. degree in Social Work and a Master of Science degree from Ohio University.

The Athens County Foundation and the Women's Fund will give a \$500 grant to Women for Recovery in honor of Jenny.

Other nominees for this year's award were Jodi McNeal & Jennifer Fritchley and Linda Strunk.

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 nonprofits which benefit women and girls.

Written by: Rose Meyer, ACF Intern

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Senior of the Year

The Athens County Foundation and the Athens Jaycees Senior Fund Advisory Board award the 2020 Senior of the Year award to Nellia Underwood for her volunteerism and commitment to service to the Athens County Community!

Nellia, an Athens resident of Malaysian-Filipino descent, has been living in the area for 27 years. During her time in Athens, she worked doing various types of jobs — from quilting, to sewing at a car manufacturing plant, to doing administrative work for businesses.

Volunteering is not new to Nellia. She and her late husband, David Underwood, were active volunteers of the American Red Cross in Athens. Upon David's passing in 2015, she decided to continue volunteering in the community to help in every little way that she could. For the past five years, she volunteered with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Athens and Hocking County at the Corporation of Ohio Appalachian Development Inc. (COAD). In the RSVP office, she works the front desk, maintains files, and enters data. Nellia also serves on the RSVP advisory board and the annual senior recognition luncheon and program. But her dedication to Athens County extends beyond RSVP, and this has made a difference in Athens County for many people.

Nellia was one of the primary coordinators of the "Summer Feed" program in Amesville for children. She works with the Athens County Red Cross to coordinate the distribution of supplies through RSVP. Nellia also was instrumental in taking photos for the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs. And at the start of the pandemic, she made masks and distributed them to those who needed them in Athens County.

"Nellia is a very engaged and committed volunteer with RSVP. She pitches in on projects when asked, and she takes initiative to start new projects, too," shared Mary Abel, RSVP Advisory Board member.

Nellia Underwood



Her work also extends outside of Athens County. Nellia convenes the Filipino Community where she brings together Filipinos from Athens and other neighboring communities for various events such as the Annual International Street Fair at Ohio University, and their annual Christmas get-together. In 2013, Nellia and the rest of the Filipino community raised funds to help the survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The Athens County Foundation and the Athens Jaycees Senior Fund will donate a \$500 grant to Nellia's chosen cause, COAD's Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The Athens Jaycees Senior Fund through the Athens County Foundation awards the Senior of the Year 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.

Cornwell Award



Susan Urano

Susan Urano began working for the Athens Foundation in 2003 as Executive Director and retired from her position in May of 2019. However, she has been an instrumental part of navigating the organization through the recent pandemic as a part-time consultant. In recognition of her service to the Foundation, and the community, the Athens County Foundation is honoring her with the Cornwell Award.

Susan is a graduate from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Master of Fine Arts. Prior to her work at the Athens County Foundation, she was employed at the Dairy Barn as Executive Director. She is an author of *The Community Table*, which was published in 2018. Since retiring from her position at the Foundation, she started a consulting firm, V+U Strategies, and has returned to her roots as an artist.

Susan's list of achievements include establishing a no-rent lease agreement for the entire second floor of the Chase bank building which now houses the Foundation while they search for a permanent home. During Susan's tenure with the Foundation, she structured a robust financial system, developed the successful Leadership Athens County program, developed many strategic corporate and community partnerships, and succeeded in creating many fundraising events, including Bounty on the Bricks which raised over \$400,000 in four years to support our local food bank and food pantries. One of the endeavors for which Susan is most proud however is, "... being able to cultivate loyal donors who genuinely love Athens County and want to help those in need," to which she quickly adds, "everything accomplished was through the strength of partnering with the community, and the help of qualified associates with

whom I worked." For example, Susan helped launch Leadership Athens County, a program now in its 15th year with over 300 graduates. Participants explore different components of Athens County including capitalizing on natural and cultural assets, cultivating a ready workforce, building critical infrastructure, exploring economic shifts and identifying opportunities, creating healthy communities, addressing racism and inclusion and developing community capacity. Many graduates have gone on to assume leadership roles in government, business, education and nonprofits. She proudly cites the 2007 partnership formed with the Osteopathic Heritage



Foundation of Nelsonville and the Sisters Health Foundation (former the Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Fund) which launched the Access to Health Care for Athens County Senior Adults grant program. The initiative was established to expand impact to Athens County seniors, 50 years and over, through programs that address and improve access to health care.

In 2008 Susan championed the first Community Convening for all service providers working with children. This started a long, successful practice of inviting people into conversations that mattered to the community while constructing networks and finding solutions together.

The Foundation's Women's Fund was also launched during Susan's tenure with the help of Susan Burgess, Kate Leeman, Susan Roth and Judy Millesen. The fund supports projects benefiting women and girls in Athens County. Last year, the advisory board established a Women's Microloan Fund in partnership with the Sugarbush LLC and Appalachian Growth Capital. In 2016, Susan guided the board to develop a Mission Related Investment Policy allowing assets to be invested in local companies for both economic and income benefits and income for the Foundation. The William Beale Legacy Fund, established by the family of the late William Beale, made a significant investment in a local company. Through these initiatives Susan raised the profile of the Athens Foundation and expanded its endowment assets by 400%.

The Athens County Foundation will give a \$500 grant to Rising Suns Pharmacy in Susan's honor.

The Athens County Foundation Foster B. Cornwell Awards are named in honor of local Attorney Foster B. Cornwell, a 4th generation Athenian, and his wife, Helen W. Cornwell. The Cornwells were instrumental in the growth of the Foundation and philanthropy in Athens County. Each year, the Foundation recognizes individuals with the same vision and dedication to the Athens County Community.

Leadership Athens County



Leadership Athens County completed its 15th year in 2020 with nearly 300 graduates living and working in our community!

The program falls under the Athens County Foundation's mission to strengthen and support local leadership. It aims to introduce participants who feel a call to action, want to make a change, and grow both professionally and personally with connections and resources to make an impact.

Participants in the LAC program began their journey with a two-day retreat last September at the beautiful Inn at Cedar Falls. Because of the overwhelming response from applicants, two cohorts were formed. After their initial deep dive, each group met monthly for eight more sessions. In March, the program went virtual, along with the rest of the world. Although the in-person experience was gone, the cohorts continued building connection while learning and networking. This year's class decided to forgo the celebration of graduation until they could safely come together in person with their cohort, family, sponsors and friends.

Although the 2020-2021 cohort began meeting virtually, hopefully they will end by celebrating in person. New Director of Programs and Engagement, Eleni Zulia, took charge this year and is adapting the program to a virtual platform, at least for now. By embarking on this journey with others, each cohort creates a more connected and vibrant community.



My time with Leadership Athens County was transformative. Not only was I afforded nuanced insight into my community, I was also given the chance to look inside myself in a way I had never done before.

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Almost 10 years ago, I was 21 years old, toddling out of my undergraduate career into the professional world. I was practically a child finding herself in the throes of the male-dominated TV industry. I was fortunate to have incredible support from my coworkers, mentors, family, and friends. However, it took some growing up, some transitions, and the turning point of the LAC experience to truly start to think of myself as a leader. Confidence in the workforce is a must for young women, but we need the tools to build a strong foundation for ourselves. LAC provided those tools, and I can say now with fortitude instead of fear that I am a leader committed to restorative justice in my community.

Leadership is a relationship, not just a title. What captured my heart the most about my cohort was the inherent kindness and empathy of each and every person. Imagine being in a room of 15 other people, each of them with the capacity to care so deeply about their communities and their colleagues. The experience is awe-inspiring. I know that the future of Athens County is in remarkable hands because of the generous people doing such great work in the present.

> Claire Gysegem Public Relations Manager, Hocking Athens Perry Community Action

Donor List

Athens Area Stand Down Fund

Alexandria Madry American Legion Auxiliary KT Crossen Unit 21 EERC - Casual Day Fund Jo Brown Jodi Malone OU Credit Union Peoples Bank Sons of Amvets Post 76 WATH, Inc.

Athens County Foundation General Fund Janet Werner Thomas & Barbara Kostohryz

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Thomas & Barbara Kostohryz

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Nancy Rue Kathleen Fair

Mike Carpenter Alvi McWilliams Susan Urano Marietta Community Foundation

Scott Robe Edward and Sally Robe

Jesse Stock Janalee Stock

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donor Spotlight: Raymond C. Cook

The Athens County Foundation is deeply grateful for the longtime support of the Raymond C. Cook Fund. As an affiliate of the Columbus Foundation, the donor remained anonymous until this year. Raymond Cook was a Nelsonville native and worked as a banker in Athens for many years. Upon his death, his wish was for the money he left to be equally split between Nelsonville and Athens. In 2009 we started our Leadership Athens County program which was backed by many donations given by Raymond C. Cook. This program has helped to develop our citizens into a dynamic community of leaders. The donations received over the past 10 years from Raymond's entrusted advisors have been used to fund the betterment of both Athens and Nelsonville communities through the legacy and remembrance of Raymond C. Cook. This year the Cook Fund gave \$500,000 to the Rocky Community Improvement Fund. The Rocky Community Improvement Fund is committed to improving Nelsonville and other communities in Southeast Ohio. As we've seen throughout the pandemic, there are many local needs, and the generosity of Rocky Brands associates and the Cook Fund are helping to meet these needs now and into the future.

The Athens County Foundation could not operate without the support from many generous donors, including Raymond Cook. The \$250,000 grant made this year in support of Foundation operations is one example of the trust donors place in the Athens County Foundation to work to improve the lives of those in Athens County, now and into the future.

Written by: Rose Meyer, ACF Intern

Grants

Grantee	Program Name	Amount
Athens Area Stand Down Fund		
American Legion Post 21	Program Support	\$539
American Legion Post 21	Athens Area Stand Down Event	\$2,509
American Legion Post 21	Athens Area Stand Down Event	\$4,100
Ann Fox Education Fund		
United Campus Ministry-Center for Spiritual Growth & Scl. Jst.	Prism LGBTQA Youth Art Program	\$1,410
Athens Bar Association Fund		
Athens Conservancy	Trailhead Enhancement-Baker and Cucumbertree	\$1,230
Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center	Project RISE: Discovery Events (Athens County)	\$158
Athens County Trail Fund		
Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	Trail Construction - 2nd Phase	\$32,000
Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	Trailhead Construction-steel Fee Boxes construction	\$1,215
Athens Jaycees Senior Fund		
Athens Village	Senior Social Transportation	\$4,400
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	Athens on Demand Transit Matching Funds	\$5,600
United Seniors of Athens	Resource Manual and Media Specialist Program	\$7,500
Village Productions Performing Arts Inc.	Senior Nutrition	\$4,000
Athens County Historical Society & Museum	Senior Docent Program	\$5,300
Athens Professionals for Philanthropy Fund		
Athens County Children's Services	2019 Peanut Butter and Jelly Project	\$2,500
Beale Legacy Fund		
Rural Action	Grow Solar Jobs Initiative	\$3,931
Rural Action	Reimagined	\$9,000
Carlsen Family Fund		
Factory Street Dance Studio	Circle Round the Square	\$125
Children Conservation League Fund		
Amesville Elementary	Backpack Initiative to Fight Childhood Hunger	\$4,000
Athens County Foundation	Imagination Library Fund	\$1,500
Birth Circle	Prepared Parents Workshop	\$6,000

Tomcat Bridgebuilders	Youth and Community Substance Abuse Prevention	\$4,500
Christine Knisely Fund		
Community Food Initiatives	Truck purchase	\$1,000
Dr. Bruce Paxton Fund	Diving Design Chairs and Connect	62.007
Athens Mental Health dba The Gathering Place First United Methodist Church	Dining Room Chairs and Carpet Trimble Backpack Initiative	\$2,887 \$885
This office Methodist Church		2003
Howard M. Walton Fund		
Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library	General Support	\$9,423
Wellston Public Library	General Support	\$9,423
Ismail and Barbara Ghazalah Fund		
Sojourners Care Network	Sojourns Youth Homeless Outreach Project	\$863
-		
James and Sara Gilfert Fund		
Athens County Community Singers	Providing Music Performance for Youth thru Senior	\$1,790
Arts West	Free music lessons, repairs, and more	\$3,100
John and Betty Laverne Peterson Fund		
Athens Conservancy	Trailhead Enhancement-Baker and Cucumbertree	\$2,977
Sojourners Care Network	Sojourns Youth Homeless Outreach Project	\$3,000
Koshal Family Fund		
Southeast Ohio Free Pharmacy	General support	\$600
Mary Carolyn Clutter		
Factory Street Dance Studio	Circle Round the Square	\$2,200
Ohio Realty/Wharton Family Fund		
Rural Action	Reducing Consumption and building economic	\$233
	opportunity in Athens County's Zero Waste Sector	
OU Greek Community Fund		
Factory Street Dance Studio	Circle Round the Square	\$280
R. Craig Copeland Fund		
Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center	Project RISE: Discovery Events (Athens County)	\$1,000
Factory Street Dance Studio	Circle Round the Square	\$1,150
Ronald McDonald Charities of Central Ohio	Helping Hands Program	\$2,000
UCM-Center for Spiritual Growth & Scl. Jst.	Prism LGBTQA Youth Art Program	\$2,590
Athens County Department of Job and Family Services	Operation Full Belly	\$5,000

Rebecca Dale Fund		
Center for the Creation of Cooperation	General Support	\$3,697
Rising Suns Pharmacy Fund (Temp)		
Southeast Ohio Free Pharmacy	Start-up Support	\$343
Southeast Ohio Free Pharmacy	Start-up Support	\$2,314
Robert E. Pitts Endowment for Appalachia		
Rural Action	Grow Solar Jobs Initiative	\$3,957
Rocky Community Improvement Fund		
Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Operation Full Belly	\$5,000
Athens Mental Health dba The Gathering Place	Bus Passes/Outreach for Nelsonville peers	\$1,000
Health Recovery Services	Comfort for Kids-Improving Environmental Factors for	\$2,215
	Trauma Informed Care	<i>+_,</i>
Hocking County Board of Development Disabilities	Hocking County Diaper and Formula Bank	\$3,434
Logan Hocking Local School District	Helping Families By Healthy Families	\$3,000
Lutheran Social Services	LSS Thankfull Holiday in Athens County	\$5,000
Sojourners Care Network	Sojourners Transitional Living Program	\$1,500
Susan G. Komen Columbus	Ohio Breast Health Initiative	\$3,000
Tomcat Bridgebuilders	Youth and Community Substance Abuse Prevention	\$2,000
Trimble Local Textbooks & Supplies Fdn.	Trimble Local Textbook and Supplies Foundation	\$3,000
	2020-2021 Project	
Truth Food Pantry, Inc. (agape)	Repair Expense	\$2,851
Village Productions Performing Arts Inc.	Senior Nutrition	\$2,000
Amesville Elementary	Backpack Initiative to Fight Childhood Hunger	\$4,000
SE Perry Food Pantry	Serving the Needy of Perry County	\$2,000
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	General Support	\$1,278
SEPAN Fund		
Athens County Community Singers	Providing Music Performance for Youth thru Senior	\$1,496
Actions county community singers	rovening music renormance for routir tind senior	91,490
Solly and Sammy Fund for Peace		
Integrated Services	Osage Coral - equine therapy	\$10,000
Cusen Druce and Will Mitchell Fund		
Susan, Bruce, and Will Mitchell Fund	National Cide and Warran in Sparts Days Preakfast of	¢1 200
City of Athens	National Girls and Women in Sports Day: Breakfast of Champions	\$1,208
Health Recovery Services	Creating a Place to Learn and Change	\$4,300
Thomas & Dashava Kasta hurra Tarad		
Thomas & Barbara Kostohryz Fund	Conoral funding par Day Kastahar -	61 000
2020 Vision Sports Corp.	General funding per Ray Kostohryz	\$1,000
Allenspark Fire Department	General support	\$500 \$500
Arts West	General support	\$500 \$1,000
Athens Conservancy	General support	\$1,000

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Athens County Child Advocacy Center	Soundproofing Project	\$2,920
Athens County Foundation	Operational Support	\$5,000
Athens County Foundation	Fall Grant Cycle	\$10,000
Athens County Foundation	Athens County Trail Fund-Baileys	\$10,000
Athens County Foundation	Operational Support	\$5,000
Athens County Foundation	For Spring cycle children's grants	\$15,000
Athens County Foundation	In memory of Kristin Kostohryz	\$1,000
Athens County Historical Society & Museum	General support	\$1,000
Bobbie Merritt Foundation	General support	\$1,000
Carousel of Happiness	In memory of Ray Sheriff	\$500
Community Food Initiatives	Sprouting Healthy Lifestyle Choices: First Grade	\$5,865
	Gardens Curriculum at East-West & the Plains	
	Elementary Schools	
Community Food Initiatives	General support	\$1,000
Dairy Barn	General support	\$500
Esselstyn Family Foundation, Inc.	Food Security	\$1,000
Friends of Athens Public Library	General support	\$500
Friends of Dog Shelter	General support	\$500
Friends of Strouds Run	General support	\$1,000
Good Works	General support	\$1,000
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary	In memory of Raymary Sheriff	\$1,000
Iris Global	General funding per Kelly Kostohryz	\$1,000
Live Healthy Appalachia	General support	\$10,000
Live Healthy Appalachia	Street Banner Replacement	\$650
Mully Childrens Family USA Inc.	From the Kostohryz family for general school needs	\$5,000
National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force	In memory of Robert E Sheriff	\$500
Oasis of Hollywood	General funding per Kelly Kostohryz	\$1,000
Ohio University	CAT Camp	\$3,215
Old Gallery	General support	\$1,000
Old Gallery	General support	\$500
Outdoor Alliance	General support	\$1,000
Parkersburg Art Center	General support	\$500
Passion Works	General support	\$500
Portrait Society of America	General funds - in memory of Edward Jonas	\$1,000
Project Plant	General support	\$500
Retrieve a Golden of the Midwest	General support	\$500
Rocky Mountain Conservancy	General support	\$1,000
Rural Action	General support	\$1,000
Stuart's Opera House	General support	\$1,000
Stuart's Opera House	General support	\$500
Trimble Local Textbooks & Supplies Fdn.	Trimble Local Textbook and Supplies Foundation 2020-2021 Project	\$3,000
Union Institute and University	Ril Beatty III Scholarship fund per Kate Kostohryz	\$1,000
Wild Animal Sanctuary	General support	\$1,000

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Women's Fund

Athens County Child Advocacy Center	Soundproofing Project	\$3,225
Calliope Feminist Choir	Calliope Feminist Choir Outreach Program	\$1,100
	Development	
City of Athens	National Girls and Women in Sports Day: Breakfast of	\$1,000
	Champions	
Stuart's Opera House	Legacy: Women of Southeastern Ohio	\$2,741
Susan G. Komen Columbus	Southeast Ohio Breast Health Initiative	\$1,000
Women for Recovery	Garage Conversion-Equipping Functional Space	\$500
Appalachia Growth Capital, LLC	Women's Business Loan Fund	\$5,000
Athens Foundation General Fund		
Athens County Community Singers	Providing Music Performance for Youth thru Senior	\$714
Athens Village	In honor of Ed Baum	\$250
Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center	Project RISE: Discovery Events (Athens County)	\$3,342
Calliope Feminist Choir	Calliope Feminist Choir Outreach Program	\$1,500
	Development	
Factory Street Dance Studio	Circle Round the Square	\$245
Federal Hocking High School	George "Doc" Wood Auditorium upgrade	\$2,000
First United Methodist Church, Athens	Trimble Backpack Initiative	\$4,115
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio	In honor of Channing C McAllister	\$500
Glouster Revitalization Organization	Sedalia Crossing Development	\$4,000
Glouster Revitalization Organization	Knights of Pythias Engineer assessment	\$6,500
Good Works	In honor of Otis Crockron	\$250
Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio	Endowment Campaign	\$10,000
Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio	In honor of Ed Baum	\$250
Health Recovery Services	Creating a Place to Learn and Change	\$4,300
Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action	Athens on Demand Transit Matching Funds	\$4,400
Imagination Library	A match for the Imagination Library Fund	\$3,000
Indiana University	Fundraising for nonprofits training	\$4,000
Lutheran Social Services	LSS Food Pantries in Athens County	\$7,000
Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society	Support for the River of Hope	\$1,000
Passion Works	Evening and weekend arts events	\$4,000
Philanthropy Ohio	Philanthropy Forward 2020 Sponsorship	\$1,000
Rural Action	Reducing Consumption and building economic	\$5,767
	opportunity in Athens County's Zero Waste Sector	
Sojourners Care Network	Sojourns Youth Homeless Outreach Project	\$2,637
Stuart's Opera House	Legacy: Women of Southeastern Ohio	\$259
Village of Glouster	Glouster Park Revitalization	\$4,000
Women for Recovery	Garage Conversion-Equipping Functional Space	\$1,750
WOUB	2020 Annual Support Contribution	\$2,500

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$411,999

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