

# **Wayne County Community Foundation**

## **Christmas Run Pool Fund**

The creation of this fund is the response of public opinion to the City of Wooster's February 28, 2010 announcement that due to a \$68,000 shortfall in the City's budget it would have to potentially close Christmas Run Pool. A group of citizens called the Friends of Christmas Run Pool and a Facebook group (Save Christmas Run Swimming Pool Wooster Ohio) were formed with the intention of raising up to \$100,000 from the community to be designated for keeping the Christmas Run Pool open now and for sometime into the near future.

The Friends of Christmas Run Pool need your support. The Christmas Run Pool Fund has been established at the Wayne County Community Foundation, which has been designated only for the pool's operation and maintenance. Please make checks payable to the Wayne County Community Foundation and list the Christmas Run Pool Fund in the memo line.

### **Friends of Christmas Run Pool**

#### **Fundraising FAQs**

**1. What is your fundraising goal?**

\$100,000

**2. How did you arrive at that goal?**

We looked at the City's expenses of running the pool in 2009. The mayor asked us to support the cost of personnel for this year (\$37,617.79) and to set aside the total for pool operations and maintenance (\$68,617.79). We decided to meet this need and provide additional funding into next year.

**3. Why isn't the city funding a city-run pool? Or, why aren't my tax dollars paying for this?**

The City was considering closing the pool this summer as a means of providing savings prior to next year when it will potentially have a budget shortfall without the likelihood of being able to utilize the "rainy day" fund which will be down to the minimum 60 days of cash. The City perceives any savings it can achieve this year will benefit them next year.

**4. Does my donation go directly to the city?**

No. All donations go to a fund specifically targeted for Christmas Run Pool and managed by the Wayne County Community Foundation. Friends of Christmas Run Pool are advisors to the fund.

**5. Who are the Friends of Christmas Run Pool?**

The Friends of Christmas Run Pool is a grass roots organization of Wooster residents interested in keeping the pool open and available to residents of the City of Wooster. They have undertaken this project as a means of assisting the City of Wooster during this period of budget shortfalls.

**6. If \$100,000 is raised, what amount will be given to the city this year to operate the pool this year?**

The City will have access to an amount up to \$68,000 this year and the remainder during future years.

**7. How much have you raised so far?**

As of March 24, 2010, we have \$3,045 in the fund.

**8. Do you have any matching funds, challenge grants, etc.?**

No, we have none at this point, but would welcome any such opportunities.

**9. Are you collecting funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations?**

Yes, we are working to collect contributions from all of these groups.

**10. Will you be recognizing donors? Are there donor categories?**

This has yet to be determined. We will ask contributors if they want to be recognized prior to any public recognition.

**11. If I donate, may I designate that my donation remains anonymous?**

Yes.

**12. What expenses will the donations fund: operation, maintenance, programs, personnel, scholarships, or any cost associated with Christmas Run Pool?**

The fund will be only for the maintenance and operation of Christmas Run Pool.

**13. Can I target my donation to underprivileged children, aqua-aerobics for senior citizens, or to some other specific aspect of pool expenses?**

We have only the one fund that is designated for the maintenance and operation of Christmas Run Pool. The City accepts donations for its scholarship fund that helps subsidize pool passes for children who are eligible for free and reduced lunches.

**14. What will happen to any funds that are raised in addition to the funding that the city requires for operating the pool this year?**

Any funds remaining after this year are intended for the City to use next year for the maintenance and operation of Christmas Run Pool.

**15. Will donors have their money returned if all of the funding is not used this year or next?**

This is not legally allowable based on the nature of the fund that has been established, but based on the operational needs of the Pool, no carryover is expected.

**16. What guarantee do you have from the City that it will resume funding the pool once the city's budget is in better shape?**

We have no official assurance.

**17. Do you have any guarantee from the city that the pool will remain open when this funding expires?**

Not at this time.

**18. Does the Wayne County Community Foundation charge a fee for managing the account? Is it a flat-rate fee or a percentage?**

The Foundation charges a 1% annual fee during the fundraising phase and a 0.5% annual fee during the maintenance period. This fee is divided by 12 and deducted from the account monthly.

**19. Will the funds be invested or will they earn interest? Is it possible that my donation could be lost if the funds are invested?**

The funds will be pooled with the other funds managed and invested by the Foundation. There is some risk associated with this pooling, but the Foundation's investments are very diversified to reduce risk.

**20. Are contributions tax deductible?**

Yes, all contributions qualify for a charitable tax deduction.

**21. Who will send me a receipt?**

The Wayne County Community Foundation will acknowledge your gift and provide a year end summary of all your donations.

**22. If I am interested in making a contribution, where do I send it?**

Make checks out to the "Wayne County Community Foundation" designating the "Christmas Run Pool" and send to:

Wayne County Community Foundation  
517 N. Market St.  
Wooster, OH 44691

**23. Can contributions be made online?**

No

**24. Why should I make a contribution, especially since I do not swim at the pool and do not have children who swim at Christmas Run Pool?**

- Healthy options – it provides fun and healthy recreation for community residents, especially for children in a time when childhood obesity has been declared a national epidemic.
- Environmentally friendly – pool is ideally situated in the center of the city where many people can walk or ride their bicycles to it, and do not have to drive.
- Quality of life – the centrally-located pool increases the quality of life for all residents.
- Business enhancement – the pool enhances the offerings of the entire P&R system of the city, which is attractive to existing and potential businesses.
- Closing the pool may attract delinquency, vandalism, and crime in the center of the City.