



Community Connections

A publication of the Wayne County Community Foundation

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Fund for Our Economic Future strengthens NE Ohio

Philanthropy and economic prosperity are intricately intertwined. Long before there was philanthropy in Northeast Ohio, there were phenomenally successful entrepreneurs. Many of these entrepreneurs, both of the past and the present, have been instrumental in the founding of the region's philanthropic organizations – including the nation's *first* community foundation in 1914. A strong, vibrant economy creates the potential for more strategic philanthropy and less charity required for economic relief.

That is why the Wayne County Community Foundation, through the Wayne Growth Partnership, has banded together with more than 100 other philanthropic organizations and individuals to support the Fund for Our Economic Future. Raising nearly \$80 million, the Fund supports strategies that produce positive economic outcomes, promote sustainable systems, and build a regional, collaborative culture that strengthens our region's economic competitiveness.

“The involvement of the Wayne Growth Partnership has been instrumental to the success of our unique collaboration,” stated Brad Whitehead, President of the Fund for Our Economic Future. “The Partnership has provided regional leadership, scalable projects and is an inspiring example of collaboration in progress.”

Since 2004, the Fund estimates that the regional economic strategies have helped generate 10,500 jobs, \$333 million in payroll and nearly \$2 billion of capital to the region. Over the next three years, the Fund has set goals of helping the region add an additional 8,000 jobs, \$300 million in payroll and \$1.5 billion in new capital invested.

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F U N D F O R O U R
E C O N O M I C F U T U R E

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Sharing your life with someone you may never meet.®





As we get closer to the end of the year, a glance in the rearview mirror reveals that we have awarded over \$4.2 million in grants (through the end of November) and earned a net return of nearly 9% on our investments. That mirror also casts a sad shadow of a greater number of our community leaders passing on...most recently Wayne County's own Santa in the form of Al Kobilarcik.

But to keep driving forward, we must focus on the road ahead...a road filled with uncertainty and a potentially huge "cliff."

This issue, like most correspondence from charitable organizations at this time of year, is a call for contributions...a call for supporting wellness agencies, local environmental agencies, local civic and religious groups and local scholarships. It also focuses on some of our current, but soon-to-change tax and estate laws, that may add to your tax burden, if not acted on upon before the end of December. See your financial or estate advisor about reviewing your current plans.

Our newsletter insert describes the purpose of most of our Agency and Designated Funds. Please review the list and consider a donation to those that best fit your spirit of local support. You may also wish to create your own named fund to honor a loved one.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, Barb, Lacie and I, we wish you a joyful and healthy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Ferenc M. Relle, Jr.
Executive Director

FFEF

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Examples of the Fund at work in Wayne County include:

- Growth of ABS Systems of Wooster Inc., a Core Sciences, Engineering Programs and Water Remediation Technology company based in Wooster.
- Quasar Energy Group is a growing company bringing "green collar" jobs to Wayne County. The company collaborates across the region with its headquarters in Cleveland and R&D housed at the OARDC in Wooster.
- Through its support of the development and strengthening of the Ag-Bio Network initiative, the Fund has provided grants totaling \$625,000 to Professor Casey Hoy of the OARDC for continued development of the Wayne County based initiative that will further enhance the sustainability of the specialty agriculture and food processing industry cluster in Northeast Ohio.
- Assisting with the creation of the Wooster Opportunity Loan Fund (WOLF), which recently expanded its scope to include all of Wayne County. WOLF supports early stage, high-potential technology companies located in or willing to move to Wayne County.

The Fund works to bring the skills, convening power, networks and resources of its members to align, connect, and strengthen the region's assets and address economic competitiveness priorities in ways that promote good jobs, vibrant cities and communities, and equitable access to opportunities. For more information on the Fund for Our Economic Future, visit www.futurefundneo.org.

Foundation's Board awards grants

The Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) Board of Trustees approved \$ 66,790 in competitive grants when they met in November. Competitive grant applications from nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations are accepted March 1st and September 1st each year. Community funds and field of interest funds permit the board to be responsive to the changing needs of the community. The following organizations received discretionary grants:

Christian Children's Home of Ohio was granted \$6,000 from the Nolan and Elsie Hite Community Fund to renovate its Century farmhouse.

Goodwill Industries of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Inc. was granted \$10,000 from the Carl E. Congdon, Jr. and Susanna Congdon McIntyre Memorial Fund to help purchase equipment for the new Orrville retail store.

The Heartland Education Community, Inc. – OrrViews was granted \$5,000 from the Carl E. Congdon, Jr. and Susanna Congdon McIntyre Memorial Fund to assist with archiving OrrViews online.

Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club was granted \$11,000 from the John Kaylor Memorial Fund to complete the renovation of their Education Room.

Sterling School Park/Milton Township was granted \$4,290 from the Edward, Arlene and Kaye Maibach Community Fund to install equipment at Sterling School Park.

The Village Network was granted \$5,000 from the Lillian Steiner Community Fund for the expansion of the administration building.

Viola Startzman Free Clinic was granted \$8,000 total: \$6,000 from the Harold W. Picking Charitable Fund and \$2,000 from the WCCF General Fund, for cardiopulmonary training equipment, dental tools, and medical diagnostic equipment.

Viola Startzman Free Clinic was granted a total of \$15,000 from two anonymous community funds to assist with the costs of partnering with an experienced consultant to help them analyze future community needs and the predicted emerging medical provider shortage.

Wee Care Center, Inc. was granted \$2,500 from the Charles R. and Henrietta Yenne Fund for renovation of both the girls' and boys' restrooms.

In addition, the WCCF Board of Trustees also serves as the advisors for the Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust, which awarded \$52,000 in grants to local Wayne County organizations during their November meeting.

Grant guidelines and application forms are available at the Foundation or on our website. Donations to Community Funds by individuals, families, businesses and service organizations allow for greater future grant opportunities.

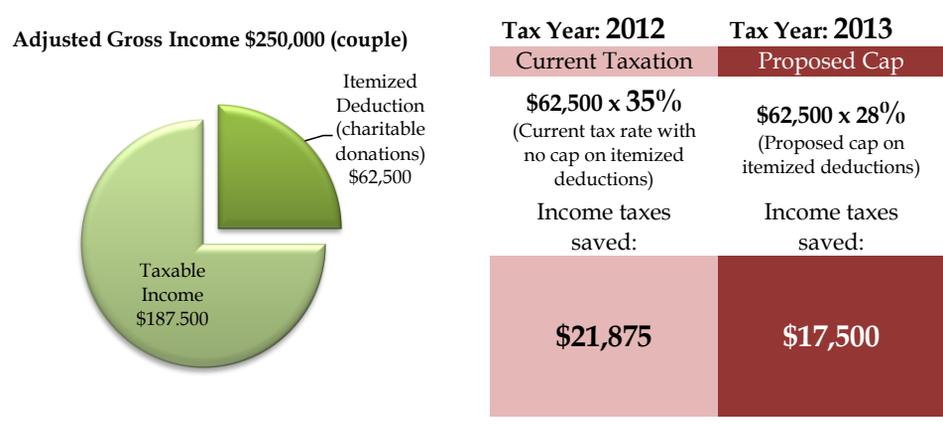


The Viola Startzman Free Clinic (VSFC) is the only free clinic in Wayne County and the 3rd largest in the state of Ohio. Since 1995, VSFC has provided high-quality comprehensive health and dental care, wellness education, medications, and related health services at no charge to low-income uninsured Wayne County residents.

Tax Laws are changing...are you prepared?

Every year, it's important to review your charitable giving strategies as part of your overall financial, tax and estate planning. As you determine your approach to giving this year, keep in mind this year's rules on tax treatments are certain, but 2013 and beyond may not be so clear. Below are three strategies that you may want to consider with your financial advisor that can reduce some taxes while supporting the charitable needs of the community..

1. Consider increasing your donations this year in case itemized deductions become limited in 2013. Without Congressional action, the gradual phase-out of itemized deductions for higher income taxpayers will be reinstated in 2013. That means the deduction for your charitable donations may be more valuable for reducing taxes this year than next. At the same time, a proposal to cap itemized deductions starting in 2013 could reduce the income tax benefit of your charitable gifts in the future. Consider taking advantage of today's maximum allowable tax deductions for charitable donations – up to 50% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts to a qualified charitable organization.



2. Consider donating your appreciated securities to reduce your taxes now and later. Donating shares of long-term highly appreciated securities directly to qualified charities, such as the Wayne County Community Foundation, may help you manage the resulting higher taxes associated with the capital gains. When you donate appreciated securities as a charitable contribution, rather than selling the securities and donating the proceeds, you owe no taxes on the capital gains – and the charities you choose receive a larger donation. You may also be eligible to take a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of the donated securities up to a maximum of 30% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2012.

3. A different way to give... Consider establishing a donor advised fund. Regardless of when and how the dust settles on tax issues, implementing flexible giving strategies using a donor advised fund may help “lock in” better outcomes – for both you and your favorite charitable causes. One key advantage is that a donor advised fund allows you to make contributions in the current tax year and take appropriate deductions, then make grant recommendations as you identify giving opportunities.

The Wayne County Community Foundation does not provide tax advice and encourages donors to consult their accountant, financial advisor, or tax counsel, regarding all tax matters related to charitable gifts to the Foundation.

Estate planning: get ready for possible changes

We are currently in an extremely favorable estate tax environment but, unless Congress intervenes, the current estate tax laws will expire at the end of 2012 resulting in significant changes. If you have been putting off creating an estate plan or haven't updated it in years, please consider some of the below opportunities with your estate planner.

Estate, gift and generation-skipping tax exemptions will change dramatically. The basic exclusion amount – the amount you can owe before your estate is subject to estate taxes – lowers from a \$5.12 million exclusion amount to \$1 million in 2013. The top estate tax rate will also increase from 35% to 55%. That means, for every dollar you own more than the \$1 million exemption, up to 55% will be subject to federal estate taxes upon your death.

In addition, the portability provision will come to an end. During 2011 and 2012, if one spouse died without using up his or her federal estate tax exemption, the unused portion could be transferred to the surviving spouse. However, in 2013, this portability between spouses ends.

If you haven't drawn up an estate plan yet, there may be no better time to do so! Building flexibility into your estate plan by creating charitable trusts may help you respond to potential estate tax changes while you honor your commitment to favorite charities. You may create a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) or Charitable Lead Trust (CLT) during your lifetime or through your will. There are no limitations on the total amount you may donate from your estate to these trusts and the assets you transfer to charity are not taxed.

Since everyone's financial situation varies, it is best to set up a meeting with your personal tax adviser or estate planning attorney to review your estate plan and make any necessary changes.

The Wayne County Community Foundation does not provide tax advice and encourages donors to consult their accountant, financial advisor, or tax counsel, regarding all tax matters related to charitable gifts to the Foundation.

Presentations

Do you have a group or organization that is interested in learning more about the Wayne County Community Foundation or how to qualify and get grant awards? We'd be glad to present! Contact us at 330.262.3877 or wccf@sssnet.com.

Options for receiving newsletters

We're happy to continue to mail newsletters to you, but wanted you to be aware of another option. We have begun sending newsletters through email! If you'd prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, just let us know by sending an email to wccf@sssnet.com.

Mark your calendar!

Spring grant applications are due Friday, March 1, 2013. They must be received in the Foundation's office before Noon.

Annual dinner focuses on the impact of philanthropy

Over 200 supporters of the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) came together on October 10th to celebrate the organization’s recent achievements and to hear about the impact philanthropy is having on the community. J.C. Johnston III, Board President, introduced the trustees and special guests, and noted that as a result of strategic planning, the WCCF increased its staff by 50 percent with the addition of Lacie Neal, development coordinator, whose primary focus is to increase awareness and funds in all parts of the county.



Chairman of the Board, J C Johnston III inducts Richard (Dick) Wagner as an Emeritus Trustee of the Board.

Executive Director Ferenc Relle, Jr.’s presentation focused on the impactful commitments of the Foundation, and its donors, throughout Wayne County. “Our donors have helped us in being the community fundraising conduit for several major community initiatives,” noted Relle. Over the past year WCCF has administered fundraising initiatives for Oak Hill Park, Dalton High School, and Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County’s “A Place Like Home.”

Richard (Dick) Wagner was inducted as the organization’s fifth Emeritus Trustee. Wagner was an instrumental part of the organization, serving on the Board of Trustees since its founding in 1978. Wagner, a firm believer in volunteerism, community, faith and mission, said he leaves the position of Trustee “knowing the foundation is in good hands and will continue to provide valuable service to Wayne County.” Retiring from the WCCF Board of Trustees in June 2012, Wagner was immediately nominated as a Trustee Emeritus, an honor given to trustees of the Board who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the organization, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the community.

The aim of philanthropy is to improve quality of life throughout the community. Keynote speaker, George Espy, president of the Ohio Grantmakers Forum, provided the hard data behind the impact of philanthropy throughout the State of Ohio and the role community foundations play in building up communities. Last year alone, Ohioans gave a total of \$6.2 billion in charitable dollars to a variety of non-profit organizations. The role of the WCCF is to improve the quality of life in Wayne County by connecting donors with community needs they care about, and providing leadership on critical community issues. Over the past five years, WCCF has awarded \$20.4 million back into the community.

Find thousands of free grant dollars!

The Wayne County Public Library and WCCF are sponsoring free grant research and grant writing seminars at the Wayne County Public Library. In this two-part seminar, our executive director, Ferenc Relle, Jr., will explain the steps to write an effective grant. Participants will learn to use the Foundation Center’s online database to locate grant makers. Registration is limited to 16 individuals per class.

Session 1: Mon. 1/7/13 4:30 – 8:30pm OR Sat. 1/12/13 10am – 2pm
 Session 2: Mon. 1/14/13 4:30 – 8:30pm OR Sat. 1/19/12 10am – 2pm

Participants must be able to use a computer. Session One must be completed before attending Session Two. To register, call the Wayne County Public Library at 330.262.0916 ext. 7140 or visit them online at www.wcpl.info.



John S. Alioto Scholarship Fund

John S. Alioto passed away on the last day of 2010, but his legacy for supporting students will live on for members of the Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club (OABGC).

Memorial gifts from family and friends were pooled together to form the *John S. Alioto Scholarship Fund* to honor a man who helped students gain the skills and opportunities needed for productive careers.

Even though he finished his educational career as the Superintendent of Schools in Soledad, California, his passion for teaching continued beyond retirement as the golf coach at Orrville High School and an engaged member of the OABGC Board of Directors. John was also the recipient of the “Orrville Rotary Volunteer of the Year Award.”

Students eligible for this scholarship must be members of the OABGC, be graduating high school seniors enrolling in a 2-4 year college, community or technical school, and be engaged in community service or extra curricular activities that demonstrate their leadership abilities.

New sign from old materials



Entrance and trail signs have been installed at Oak Hill Park. Each is manufactured from recycled materials and direct visitors to *The Joan & Gene Buehler Trail* and *The Donald & Alice Noble Trail*.

Markley appointed to Board of Trustees



Dr. Larry Markley has been appointed to serve on the Wayne County Community Foundation's (WCCF) Board of Trustees, which is composed of 18 volunteers who represent all of Wayne County. Markley will represent the Rittman – Doylestown area.

Markley and his wife, Sally, are the owners of All Creatures Veterinary Clinic & Lodge. He attended the University of Akron – Wayne College in Orrville before receiving both a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a Master's Degree of Veterinary Preventative Medicine from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. His passion to make high quality medicine available to everyone has guided the practice's advancement in technology and diagnostic capabilities.

An active member and three time past president of the Rittman Rotary Club, Markley has been recognized as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. Markley is also an active member and past president of the Rittman Kiwanis Club. He promotes community activism and growth as a member of the Rittman Chamber of Commerce, Rittman Lions Club and serves as Co-chair, alongside his wife, of Rittman United Way. In addition, Dr. Markley and his wife are active supporters of Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County, Central American Medical Outreach, Rittman Recreation Center, Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club, and the Wayne County Humane Society, as well as numerous other youth activities and animal rescue and placement groups.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Markley share his wealth of experience and energy with us,” said J.C. Johnston III, WCCF Board President.



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Quota International of Wooster named *WorthyWorks* recipient

The Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC), in partnership with the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF), announced that Quota International of Wooster will be recognized as the Chamber’s 2012 recipient of the *WorthyWorks Award* at the annual Chamber Dinner on January 17 at Greenbriar Conference and Party Center in Wooster.

The award recognizes the contributions nonprofit Chamber members make to their community. Qualifying criteria is a commitment to the quality of life, social conscience and betterment of the Wooster community and includes a \$1,000 contribution from the WCCF to support the continuing efforts of the organization.

Quota International is a women’s service organization established to serve the local community in which they live and work. They are known for their service to disadvantaged women and children and to people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired.

“Each year, Quota International of Wooster generates and distributes over \$25,000 back into the Wayne County community,” stated club president Brenda Cherry. “We are very proud and honored to be a part of the Wooster community.”

As part of their mission, Quota International of Wooster has provided local schools with over 100 classroom amplifications units for kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms, as well as gifts and programs to over 50 local nursing homes residents throughout the holiday season. They also provide over \$6,000 each year in educational scholarships to graduating seniors and disadvantaged women.

Quota International of Wooster joins previous WACC *WorthyWorks Award* recipients Every Woman’s House and Goodwill Industries of Wayne and Holmes Counties. WCCF also partners with the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce (OACC) to recognize nonprofit organizations. Past recipients of the OACC *WorthyWorks Award* include Your Human Resource Center, Viola Startzman Free Clinic, Quota International of Orrville, The Railroad Heritage Society and OrrViews Community Newspaper.

Check out our annual report online!

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet or visit us online at waynecountycommunityfoundation.org.

