

# Community Connections

A publication of the Wayne County Community Foundation

Spring 2015



Wayne County  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH SOMEONE YOU MAY NEVER MEET®

## The Women's Fund Awards \$15,000 First grant made for Women's Economic Empowerment

The Women's Fund has made its first grant, while continuing on the path to a fully-funded endowment. Wayne County Common Good was awarded the \$15,000 grant to develop an economic empowerment program for women throughout Wayne County, Ohio. The award was made possible through the generosity of The J.M. Smucker Company, which has provided a matching challenge for gifts to the endowment; The Noble Foundation, which contributed the first \$15,000 grant; and members of our community who have made gifts and pledges to The Women's Fund.

Wayne County Common Good is a network of 13 community organizations and educational entities. Established in 1995, the Common Good works to reduce barriers to employment for unemployed or underemployed clients. The services provided by member organizations include mental health and addiction services, basic education and

literacy, employment and training services, and technical skills development. The new grant-funded program will provide workshops that address the most common barriers to women. Participants will complete a skills assessment, voluntarily participate in drug and alcohol screenings, and enter into a job search or workplace readiness program through one of the Common Good partner agencies. It will serve as an educational experience for the women referred into the program. Participants will conclude the program with a "Job Readiness Certificate" and be launched to priority placement focus at the Wayne County Job Expo. Transportation, childcare, and certification testing will be provided as needed.

"We based the program on a belief that having a good job is fundamental to economic empowerment for women," stated Robert Smedley, deputy director of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties.

**Continued on page 5 – The Women's Fund**





Dear Friends,

As I write this, "Spring" seems to be taking its time to arrive, but each day brings us closer to the end of another long Winter in Wayne County. But as you'll see from the items in this report, the sun is definitely shining on Wayne County Community Foundation, thanks to the generous support of many individuals and organizations.

Gifts received in the second quarter ending December 31 were particularly encouraging. We received over \$1.8 million and established seven new funds. I'm pleased to report that more than \$500,000 of the \$1.8 million are *permanent* assets that will continue to grow over time to meet community needs. Building our base of permanent assets is important because these funds are essential to WCCF's competitive grant program. For example, we have received requests totaling some \$370,000 for the Spring grant cycle alone, while unrestricted funds available for distribution total only \$140,000. Our goal is to narrow that gap in the future!

The article on page 3 spotlights four organizations that are engaged in capital campaigns, each of which, when completed, will enhance opportunities available to individuals and families in Wayne County.

At this time last year, The Women's Fund was just getting started. Led by an Advisory Group of remarkable women from throughout the County, they have made great progress. You can read all about it in the article on the front page.

In October, we recorded another record-breaking attendance at our Annual Dinner, where the Smucker Family was honored with the "Friend of Philanthropy" award. If you know someone who deserves recognition for exemplifying and inspiring philanthropy in our community, please send us a nomination. (Details below).

The snow won't last forever! Come see us.

With warm regards,

## Friend of Philanthropy Award Nominations being accepted



The Wayne County Community Foundation has opened the nomination process for the "Friend of Philanthropy Award". This award is meant to honor those who make a difference in our communities with their philanthropic activities, which can include financial contributions that benefit the community; volunteering; and

giving of time, resources and skills for the betterment of the Wayne County area.

To be eligible for the award, nominees must be an individual, a couple, or a family with a continuing history of volunteer work and/or contributions that advance the quality of life or grow community

philanthropy in Wayne County, Ohio. The recipient of the award will be honored at the WCCF Annual Dinner to be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Arden Shisler Conference Center. In addition, a \$1,000 grant will be made on the awardees' behalf to a charity they designate.

Anyone residing or working within Wayne County may recommend deserving candidates. Nominations are due to the WCCF office by noon on July 1, 2015. Full guidelines and nomination forms are available online at [www.WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org) or by calling the WCCF office at 330.262.3877.

Previous recipients of the *Friend of Philanthropy Award* include:

- 2013 Stanley C. & Flo K. Gault
- 2014 The J.M. Smucker Family

# Partnering for Growth

## Foundation Assists with Capital Campaigns

The Wayne County Community Foundation has been the administrative partner to many community campaigns in the past several years. Currently, we are proud to be working with Cornerstone Elementary PTO, Montessori School of Wooster, Wooster Noon Kiwanis Club, and Wayne County Public Library. Gifts may be made to these capital campaigns, or any Fund held at the Foundation, by visiting us online or contacting the office for more information.

### Cornerstone PlayLab

It has been nearly 20 years since the former Wooster High School was converted to Cornerstone Elementary. With more than 400 students in grades K-4, and an additional 100 enrolled in the Littlest Generals Preschool, the school – and its playground – get lots of use. With no significant upgrades having been made to the playground in the past 20 years, the current playground is not ADA-compliant, nor does it meet the needs of the current student population.

The Cornerstone Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) partnered with the Foundation to create the *Cornerstone Playground Rebuild Project Fund* to accept donations for a new PlayLab. The PlayLab, which will incorporate many elements of nature, will create both play areas and spaces for outdoor education. The space will also include a ¼ mile walking and wellness path to provide fitness opportunities for students, along with a pavilion and garden area featuring a butterfly/sensory garden, geology area, and a weather station.

Children of all abilities will be able to enjoy the PlayLab, which will now be ADA compliant, of particular importance since Cornerstone houses the Wooster City School District's dedicated autism and multiple disabilities units.



### Montessori School of Wooster



For more than 30 years, Montessori School has complemented our community's many quality school options. Offering programming for toddlers through sixth grade, Montessori is a vibrant community of teachers, children, and families.

Embarking on an \$800,000 capital campaign, Montessori is "Building for the Future." Along with renovations to the current building, a new 6,000 square foot addition will house classroom spaces and a multi-purpose room. The campaign also includes student safety enhancements with the addition of an entrance off Highland Park Drive to improve the parking and drop-off configuration.

Montessori School of Wooster has experienced steady, strong growth. These additions will enable them to accept more students, expand Middle School and Aftercare Programs, and to increase scholarship opportunities.

**Continued on page 4 – Capital Campaigns**

**Kiwanis Building Fund**

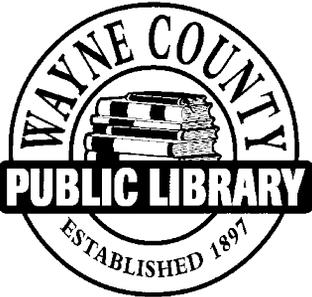


"We build!" That simple sentence is the foundation of Kiwanis Clubs around the world. Here in Wooster, Kiwanians take that motto to heart in their service to children and families. Over the years, the Club has worked closely with the City to build playgrounds in the majority of city parks, including Christmas Run Park .

Originally built in 1990, the Bob Tuck Kiwanis Playground was closed in July 2014 due to issues with a faulty water main and damage to the existing structure. Upon assessing the situation, it was determined that building a new playground, using "faux" wood, would be a more economical option than moving forward with extensive repairs. At the same time, the "new" playground will be made ADA-compliant.

To assist the City with the \$300,000 project, the Kiwanis Club has established the Kiwanis Building Fund. Their goal is to raise approximately one-third of the costs associated with the project – as well as to provide volunteer labor to construct the playground.

**Wayne County Public Library, Dalton Branch**



When the Wayne County Public Library opened the doors of the Dalton Branch in 1988, its shelves were only half-filled. Ten years later, the Branch was exceeding its capacity for library materials. In conjunction with the Dalton Library's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the WCPL has kicked off a capital campaign that will more than double the current space.

Two additions to the existing building will provide 3,600 more square feet – dedicated completely to library materials, programming, and community spaces. Updates will include a new and flexible community room, adult reading room, teen center, children's room, an interactive early literacy play area, technology

center, and a front porch entrance. Other amenities such as comfortable seating, study tables, and book displays will also be added, along with high ceilings and tall windows that allow for natural light.

The Wayne County Public Library established the *Dalton Addition/Renovation Fund* at the Foundation to assist with the fundraising process. Their goal is to raise at least \$300,000 of the \$1.85 million project through donations to the Fund from individuals and businesses in Wayne County.

**Scholarships Available**

The Foundation will award more than \$400,000 in scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year. Our 125 different scholarship funds provide opportunities for graduating high school seniors and non-traditional students. See what is available for you – check out the full list and how to apply online!

**Save the Date!**

The 2015 Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Arden Shisler Center on the OARDC Campus. Watch your mailbox for more information.



## The Women's Fund (cont.)

Smedley, who also serves as the Chair of the Wayne County Common Good, went on to say "a career development educational process provided by the combined membership of the Common Good will be an employment launch pad for the women participating in the program."

All 13 organizations that make up the Common Good have a strong interest in the empowerment of women involved with their programming, and in the development of a strong workforce in Wayne County.

The focus of The Women's Fund, an affiliate of the Wayne County Community Foundation, is to create opportunities for women to participate in programs

that will help to develop their full potential, and to change their lives for the better.

"The Women's Fund Advisory Committee has worked hard to put The Women's Fund in action in Wayne County," says Sara Patton, Executive Director of the Wayne County Community Foundation. "We had a number of excellent proposals to choose from and the Committee did a great job with the grant review process. The Women's Fund is especially interested in collaborative approaches to problem-solving. Common Good's proposal hit the nail on the head. We're looking forward to seeing the program evolve."

## WorthyWorks Awards Two Wayne Co. nonprofits honored

Each year the Foundation, in conjunction with the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce and the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, honors two local non-profit organizations that make significant impact in their local communities.



In January, Wayne County Humane Society was honored at the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. For more than 40 years, WCHS has served the community by

providing a place of safety for healthy adoptable animals; a temporary home for the lost or homeless; and a haven for mistreated, neglected or abused animals.



Orrville Area United Way will be honored for their support of those in need and their programs that help people become more self-sufficient on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. Since

1958, Orrville Area United Way has distributed over \$14.3 million to the community..

The award is made on the basis of an organization's commitment to the quality of life, social conscience and betterment of the community, and it includes a \$1,000 contribution from the WCCF to support the continuing efforts of the organization.

Previous WorthyWorks Award recipients, and presenting Chambers, include:

2008	Your Human Resource Center	Orrville
2009	Viola Startzman Free Clinic	Orrville
2010	Quota International of Orrville	Orrville
2011	Every Woman's House	Wooster
	The Railroad Heritage Society	Orrville
2012	Goodwill Industries	Wooster
	OrrViews Community Newspaper	Orrville
2013	Quota International of Wooster	Wooster
	Orrville-Dalton YMCA	Orrville
2014	The Counseling Center	Wooster
	Augsburg Lutheran Church	Orrville



# Celebrate Mother's Day!

by honoring...

Your Mother, Grandmother, Wife, Daughter, Aunt, Sister, Friend ...or any woman who has made a lasting difference in your life.

Make a gift in her name to *The Women's Fund*

The woman – or women – you honor will receive a beautiful Mother's Day card telling her of your tribute (but not the amount).

It's a wonderful way to celebrate the women in your life!  
Contact the Foundation at 330.262.3877 for more information.

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## Vision

To effectively leverage Wayne County's resources to improve the quality of life in our community.

## Mission

To provide philanthropic leadership to our community.

## Goals

1. To encourage individuals, organizations and businesses to share part of their resources for the good of our community.
2. To assist community charitable organizations in the creation and management of endowments.
3. To provide oversight of investment and disbursement of funds devoted to charitable purposes.



## Contact us:

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