

# Community Connections

A publication of the Wayne County Community Foundation

Summer 2013

## Friend of Philanthropy Award Created Nominations being accepted

The Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) is pleased to announce the "Friend of Philanthropy Award" to be awarded for the first time in 2013. This award will 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 their time, resources and skills for the betterment of the Wayne County area.

Eligible nominees will be individuals or couples who demonstrate 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 9, 2013 at the Arden Shisler Conference Center. Winners will also be recognized on a permanent display at the WCCF offices. In addition, a \$1,000 grant will be made on their behalf to the charity of the recipient's choice.

Anyone residing or working within Wayne County may recommend deserving nominees. Nominations must be received at the WCCF office by Noon on August 15, 2013. Full guidelines and nomination forms are available on the Foundation's website or by calling the WCCF office at (330)262-3877.

### Fall Grants Deadline

Due to the Labor Day holiday, fall grant applications will be due on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. They must be submitted by 12 noon. WCCF applications must be submitted electronically. Applications for the Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust should be submitted to Stephen Kitchen, Senior Trust Advisor, PNC Wealth Management, 112 W. Liberty Street, Wooster, OH 44691. For more information, please visit us online.

### Save the Date!

The 2013 Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. More information coming soon.



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



As I write this, I am in my first month as Executive Director of the Wayne County Community Foundation. It's a pleasure and an honor to be here, and I look forward to working with the individuals, agencies, and companies that make our home towns the wonderful places they are. We are fortunate to have so many resources that support our County's remarkable vitality and quality of life.

Ferenc Relle, during his six years as Executive Director, increased WCCF's visibility and brought it to a new level of financial strength. In the final months prior to his retirement, Ferenc was most generous in sharing with me his knowledge of the many facets of this position and the many ways that WCCF connects donors' interests with causes and activities that make a positive impact on the lives of Wayne County citizens. I'm also grateful to Barb Slabaugh and Lacie Neal, who continue as key members of the WCCF team. Their professionalism and expertise are invaluable.

This newsletter will give you a glimpse of what we've been doing lately and what we have to look forward to. I am especially eager to get to know more of you whose generosity and commitment have brought WCCF to its current position of strength, and who will help to move it forward in the months and years ahead. Please see the note on page 1 regarding WCCF's new "Friend of Philanthropy" award. If you know someone who deserves this honor, please let us hear from you soon. And do plan to join us for the Annual Dinner on October 9<sup>th</sup>, when we will be celebrating the Foundation's 35th Anniversary. It's a party you won't want to miss!

Thank you for your confidence in the Wayne County Community Foundation.

With warm regards,

*Sara L. Patton*

## Nonprofit Spotlight People to People Ministries

For most people, the arrival of summer means slowing down a little, taking vacations, enjoying picnics and barbecues – but for Lydia Stahl, things are just starting to heat up! As the executive director of People to People Ministries, Lydia is busy gathering her staff and volunteers to coordinate two of the organization's biggest annual projects – the Back to School and Holiday Toy Projects.

Held each August, the Back to School Project helps get school supplies, clothing and shoes into the hands of hundreds of eligible Wayne County children. Most of the items kids will receive are donations from the community. While the project is coming along smoothly, there is still a need for donations of, or monetary donations for, backpacks. Last year, over 300 volunteers for the Back to School Project helped prepare over 800 kids for school.

The Holiday Toy Project, held each December, takes

months of planning and gathering of gifts. Through this program, People to People is able to provide a range of toys and holiday gifts for some 1,200 children annually in the Wayne County area. They are currently accepting donations of gifts and toys for babies and children to age 18. However, this year's biggest need is for a secure storage location of approximately 2,500 square feet to house the inventory before the holidays.

If you are able to help either of these very worthy Wayne County projects – or have storage space you'd be willing to donate – please contact Lydia Stahl at 330.262.1662 ext. 210. Visit them online at [www.ptpm.net](http://www.ptpm.net).



## Income-Producing Gifts

### Making a gift that generates income for yourself or for loved ones

If you wish to make a significant gift to the community but are not sure you can comfortably give up the assets, you may want to consider one of our income-producing gift options. These gifts can provide an income stream for yourself and/or your spouse, children, and others. Life-income gifts allow you to take advantage of government tax laws that are designed to encourage philanthropy – offering current income tax deductions. They may also provide an opportunity to avoid or reduce capital gains tax on assets that have substantially appreciated. Plans can also be used to minimize estate taxes. The most popular life-income gift options are charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts.



**Charitable Gift Annuities:** A charitable gift annuity provides a way to make a meaningful gift while enjoying guaranteed income and tax benefits, thus also enhancing your financial well being. Under the terms of a gift annuity, you make a charitable gift of cash or other property and then receive guaranteed fixed payments for your lifetime. You are entitled to an income tax deduction in the year of your gift and, for a period of time, a portion of each payment may be free of income tax or taxed at capital gain tax rates that are lower than tax rates on other income.

**Charitable Remainder Unitrusts:** When you prefer an income that varies with market conditions, consider a charitable remainder unitrust. A unitrust allows you to make a major gift, typically of real estate or securities, while continuing to receive income from your gift during your lifetime. Payments are based on a specific percentage of the value of the trust as it is valued each year and thus may vary from year to year. In addition to the income you will receive from the trust, you will also be entitled to a charitable income-tax deduction for the value of the remainder interest in the trust asset. When the last beneficiary dies, the unitrust assets will benefit any WCCF fund you choose.

The type of asset being given, and the age and specific needs of your beneficiaries all help determine which vehicle is right for you. Our staff can work closely with you and your financial advisor to determine the best way for you to make a planned gift.

*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.*

## Over \$400,000 in scholarships awarded

Spring time at the Foundation is a busy season. Managing over 100 different scholarship funds, each with its own award criteria and award selection committee, keeps us on our toes! We are delighted to announce the awarding of more than \$400,000 for the 2013 – 2014 academic year, to assist students throughout Wayne County in reaching their goal of higher education.

WCCF is indebted to our many donors and community organizations who continue to generously support the scholarship program. For many donors, there is no greater joy than making higher education possible for deserving recipients. WCCF is honored to play a part in rewarding our communities' young people through scholarships and to work with the donors who see the lasting value of an investment in education.

For more information on our scholarship program or to learn how you, too, can make a difference for a deserving recipient, please contact the Foundation office at 330.262.3877 or [wccf@sssnet.com](mailto:wccf@sssnet.com).



## Foundation's Board Awards Grants

### Spring Competitive Grant Cycle invests more than \$48,000 in the community.

The Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) Board of Trustees approved \$48,100 in competitive grants when they met in May. 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:

**Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank** received \$5,000 for the purchase of a new day cab tractor. This purchase will eliminate their current need to lease a tractor, saving the organization an estimated \$255,000, over the next 10-years, and thereby enable the Foodbank to allocate more of their funds to food distribution. Last year, the foodbank provided 186,000 pounds of food to over 7,600 people throughout Wayne County.

**Central American Medical Outreach Inc. (CAMO)** was awarded \$5,000 to help purchase land surrounding their physical office space in Orrville. This space will eliminate their current land lock and will enable them to meet future facility expansion needs, including parking spaces, additional storage space for medical supplies and equipment, a shipment preparation area for volunteers, and a clean room separate from existing work space that will limit equipment exposure to dirt and dust.

**Rails-To-Trails of Wayne County** received \$10,000 for the construction of a 2.4 mile rail-trail from north of Orrville to Marshallville. The asphalt trail is a segment of the Ohio-to-Erie Trail, a 240-mile green corridor from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. When completed, the Wayne County section of the Trail will connect the Holmes County Trail, in Fredericksburg, to the Towpath Trail, in Clinton.

**Rittman Police Department/City of Rittman** will use their \$8,600 grant to construct a building for safe, secure storage of their firearms training and range equipment. In addition, this building will provide more room to host classes.



*Continued on page 5 – Grants Awarded*



It has been my honor and privilege to serve you, and our entire community, as your foundation's executive director. Together we have accomplished much in a short period of time. Despite the challenges and slow recovery of the recession, nearly \$26 million has been awarded to support our non-profit agencies and a record number of scholarships. These grants reinforce the community spirit and vision of our Trustees, during a time when other foundations were reducing or even halting some of their grant making.

But the Foundation does more than just provide financial assistance. Our trustees and ambassadors volunteer their time and talents to serve the community, which is why we are so blessed to have them. The Foundation is also blessed with the daily dedication, energy, and professionalism of Barb Slabaugh and Lacie Neal. And the Foundation is fortunate to have Sara Patton succeed me and I invite you to support her enthusiasm for this community.

On a personal note, during the past few years, I've lost both my parents and the Foundation most recently lost Bob Seiwert, one of its founders. Your compassion and sympathy have been sincerely appreciated. During my first months on the job, I met a donor who reinforced the essence of this great community. His father told him that Wayne County has the best people per acre you'll ever find. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet so many of these truly wonderful people!

*~ Ferenc M. Relle, Jr.*

## Grants Awarded

(continued from page 4)

**Rittman Recreation Center/City of Rittman** received \$10,000 to purchase dumbbells, kettlebells, medicine balls, pro-fitness bars, and workout mats, as part of their Facility Improvement Program/Equipment Procurement Program.

**Sterling United Methodist Church** was awarded a \$2,000 challenge grant. Pending the acquisition of challenge dollars, this grant will be used to purchase a 50 cubic foot commercial refrigeration unit for their Bountiful Box Program.

**Wayne County Historical Society of Ohio** received \$3,500 to replace the frame surrounding the five large display windows in their General Store and Clothing Shop, which was moved piece by piece onto the Society campus from Fredericksburg in 1997.



**West View Manor Inc.** was awarded a \$4,000 grant to procure an interactive and adaptive computer system that will provide a person-centered experience and enhance the quality of life of their residents. By utilizing *Its Never 2 Late* (iN2L) adaptive computers, their residents will have access to activities that encourage lifelong learning and exploration, programs for cognitive stimulation, physical engagement and fun, email and web cam capabilities and connection to large screen TVs and projectors for group engagement. Their therapy department will also be able to utilize this computer system in providing Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy modalities to their Residents.

The WCCF Board of Trustees also serves as the advisors for the **Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust**, which awarded \$66,700 in grants to local Wayne County organizations during their May meeting.

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

## Allen to speak at Foundation's Annual Dinner



WCCF will hold its annual dinner on Wednesday, October 9th. Designed to inform our donors and the community of the Foundation's recent events and accomplishments, the annual dinner is a time to celebrate philanthropy in Wayne County and to thank our many donors for their support. This year we will inaugurate the **Friend of Philanthropy Award** (see article on page 1).

We are very pleased to have as our speaker this year Dr. Suzanne Allen, president of Philanthropy Ohio (formerly Ohio Grantmakers Forum). Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Philanthropy Ohio is the leading statewide network of philanthropy – bringing together foundations, corporate giving programs and other grantmaking public charities.

Dr. Allen was named the third president in the organization's history in December 2012. Prior to accepting the position, she was Vice President of Development and Donor Services for the Akron Community Foundation. In addition, Dr. Allen has held leadership, teaching and senior development positions with several institutions of higher learning, including the University of Akron, Walsh University and Kent State University. During her career, Dr. Allen has also acted as a private consultant, serving clients in the nonprofit and academic sectors.

Be sure to mark your calendars now and join us on **October 9<sup>th</sup>**. This year, the event will be held at the Arden Shisler Conference Center on the OARDC campus with catering by The Wooster Inn. Social hour will begin at 5:30pm, with the dinner and program following shortly after.



## Three Appointed to WCCF Board

J.C. Johnston III, President of the Wayne County Community Foundation, announced the appointment of three Trustees to the Foundation's Board: Brent Steiner, representing the Northeast Quarter of Wayne County; Bala Venkataraman and William (Bill) DeRodes, both representing the Wooster area.



**Brent Steiner**, co-owner of Ramsier Financial Services, Inc. in Smithville, currently serves as Vice President and Legislative Liaison for the Green Local School Board. He is also an active member of the Apostolic Christian Church in Rittman and a Board Member for

the Apostolic Christian Church National Endowment Fund. Steiner previously served as a Board Member for the Orrville Chamber of Commerce. Brent earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Human Resource Management from Ohio University. He is a Certified Financial Planner, a member of the Financial Planning Association, and holds a Series 7 and Life/Health Insurance Licenses. In addition, he is a member of the Financial Educator Network and has taught classes on retirement planning.



**Bala Venkataraman**, President and CEO of Magni-Power Co., has been a resident of Wooster since 1970. He currently serves on the Boards for both Magni-Power Company and the Seaman Corporation, and previously served on the Board of Wayne

County National Bank. Bala is active in the nonprofit community as well, having previously served on the Boards of the United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Boy's Village (now The Village Network) and the Advisory Council of Wayne College. In addition, he currently serves as a Board Member for Great Decisions of Wayne County and an Advisory Board Member of the Wayne Economic Development Council. Bala holds a Master's degree in Chemical Technology and Chemical Engineering. He is also a graduate of the Executive Business Management program from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



**Bill DeRodes**, founder and CEO of D+S Distribution Inc., joins the Board as a mid-term appointment, filling the position vacated by the passing of Bob Seiwert. Bill is currently serving his second year as President of the United Way of Wayne & Holmes

Counties Board of Directors. In addition, he has served as a board member for the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce and Meals on Wheels. He has spent 36 years serving his church as a Sunday School Teacher and has held various council positions. Bill earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Kent State University before entering the warehousing and distribution business. D+S Distribution Inc. has grown into a multi-million dollar enterprise with over a dozen locations throughout the state of Ohio. In 2009, D+S Distribution was named the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year.

## Congratulations to WCCF Board Members!



Dr. Larry Markley was recently honored by the University of Akron Wayne College Alumni Association as the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus.

Larry, the owner of All Creatures Veterinary Clinic and Lodge, joined the WCCF Board in 2012.



Deanna Troutman received the Youth Professional ATHENA Award. The YP ATHENA Award recognizes a community role model between the ages of 21-40.

Deanna, co-owner and vice president of Troutman Vineyards, has served the WCCF Board since 2009.

## Holtman Named Emeritus Trustee

Ronald (Ron) Holtman has been appointed Trustee Emeritus of the Wayne County Community Foundation. Holtman began serving as a WCCF Trustee in 1990, representing the Wooster area; he has since held a variety of roles in the organization, including serving as President of the Board from 1993 to 2005 and as the Investment Committee Chairperson for the past eight years. This most recent honor, Trustee Emeritus, is given to Trustees of the Board who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the Foundation.



"While we are sorry to see Ron step down at the end of his current term as a Trustee, we are pleased that in his new role as an Emeritus Trustee he will continue to be involved with the Foundation and that it will continue to benefit from his experience and perspective," stated WCCF Board President, J.C. Johnston III. "In his capacity as a lawyer, he has played a key role in helping donors structure gifts to the Foundation. His service to the Foundation has not only been long, but also extremely valuable."

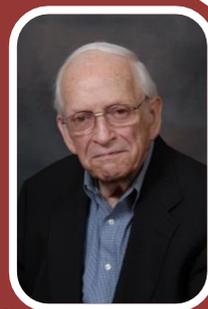
Holtman is a partner in the law firm Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman & Lehman. In addition to his volunteerism with WCCF, he is also a Director of the Western Reserve Group and The Commercial & Savings Bank. He is also a Trustee of the East Ohio United Methodist Foundation and serves on the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. In 2011, Ron was recognized as a Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Wall of Fame Recipient.

"It has been a great honor to serve as a Foundation trustee, but also a pleasure to watch new leadership take charge to guide the Foundation into the future" said Holtman. "We are very fortunate to have this invaluable resource in our community."

## Seiwert a great asset and greatly missed

**Robert C. Seiwert, 1921-2013**

The Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) lost one of its greatest assets this spring as Robert (Bob) Seiwert, one of the original founders of the organization, passed away on May 3rd. Bob was instrumental in ensuring the success of the WCCF.



While he already had a full-time job, Seiwert took on the role of being the first executive director, a role he held for 16 years. He not only managed the Foundation entirely out of his office, but also paid all of the operating expenses himself. In 1996 Bob was elected to the WCCF Board of Trustees and remained a member until his passing.

It was Bob's insight to have the first office of the WCCF in Smithville, an effort to ensure that the Foundation was truly a Wayne County resource and not one focused on Wooster or Orrville alone. This strategy turned out to be quite successful, as the Foundation is approaching its 35th anniversary and celebrating some impressive milestones: since inception the Foundation has awarded over \$53 million in grants and scholarships while its asset base has topped the \$50 million mark.

Seiwert's faith was his foundation. He always looked beyond himself and wanted others in the community to be able to enjoy the fruits of his efforts and benefit from the work of the Wayne County Community Foundation. Without the leadership, vision, and energy of Seiwert and the other core founders, the Foundation would not be the thriving organization it is today.



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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.*



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