

Community Connections

A publication of Wayne County Community Foundation

Summer 2019



Annual Dinner to be held in October

Reardons to be honored; Moore to speak

WCCF's annual dinner will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Designed to celebrate philanthropy in Wayne County, the annual dinner provides an opportunity to thank our many donors for their support, while sharing news of the Foundation with the community.

Michael and Stephanie Reardon will be honored with the 2019 **Friend of Philanthropy Award**. The award was created to honor those who make a difference in our communities with their philanthropic activities – the giving of treasure, time, or talent – for the betterment of citizens of Wayne County.



In establishing the Friend of Philanthropy award, the Foundation wanted to recognize the difference that individuals can make through personal commitment and leadership, taking into account the impact such persons have on our community, and the role that their creativity and advocacy can play in a project's success. The Reardons exemplify the very best of all these qualities, and have repeatedly shared them – over many years – in good times and in hard times – with members of this community.



E. Blake Moore, Jr., President of North American Asset Management of Foresters Financial, will be the featured speaker. Moore has a passion for giving back and has been engaged with a variety of non-profits. He is currently a Trustee of The College of Wooster and was the Chair of the College's most recent capital campaign (successfully exceeding its \$165 million goal). Previously he served on the boards of the Greater New York Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Central Park Conservancy. Blake is also a long-time board member of the Investment Adviser Association.

Moore has a law degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in history from The College of Wooster. He also played six seasons in the National Football League for both the Cincinnati Bengals (where he played in Super Bowl XVI) and the Green Bay Packers. Blake is the author of his football memoirs, *Through a Pigskin Prism: An Unlikely Journey to and through the NFL*.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us on October 10th. The event will be held at Lowry Center on The College of Wooster campus. Social hour begins with complimentary appetizers and beverages at 5:30 pm, followed by the dinner and program.

Sharing your life with someone you may never meet.®

Foundation unveils new website

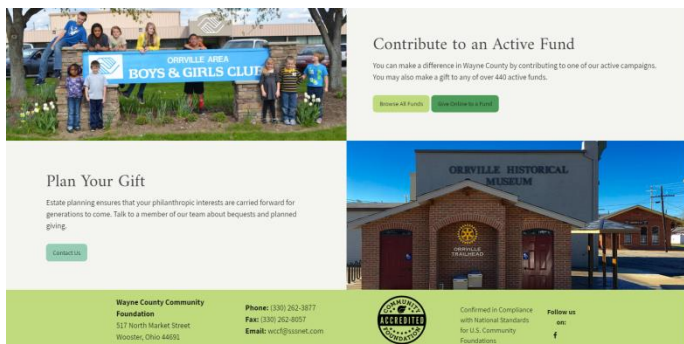
www.WayneCountyCommunityFoundation.org



scholarship recipients can search for available grant dollars with a click of the mouse.

The new site also allows the Foundation to highlight some of our community partners with photos used throughout the site.

We welcome any feedback about the site. Please direct questions or comments to Lacie Neal, Program Manager, at lneal_wccf@sssnet.com or 330.262.3877.



If you haven't checked out the Foundation's website recently, it's time to give it another look. Released at the beginning of August, the redesign features updated content and streamlined navigation.

Designed with both donors and grantees in mind, the new website includes tools and resources for friends of the Foundation. Giving has never been easier – with a quick “donate” link at the top of every page and a detailed “find a fund” page that allows users to search by fund name or category. Nonprofit organizations and

Over \$600,000 in scholarships awarded

Springtime at the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) is a busy time of year. Managing over 130 different scholarship funds, each with its own award criteria and award selection committee, keeps us on our toes!

We are pleased to announce the awarding of over \$600,000, in the form of 297 scholarships, for the 2019-2020 academic year. This assistance to students throughout Wayne County will bring them closer to their goals for higher education.

Scholarships serve recipients in many ways, all of them important. A scholarship can be the difference between going to school or having to take a year off to work and save. A scholarship can ease a family's burden of fully funding a college education. And Wayne County reaps the benefits of scholarships because young people who

gain the opportunity to train their minds are better equipped to become our future leaders.

WCCF is indebted to the many donors and community organizations who support the scholarship program. For many donors, there is no greater joy than making higher education possible for deserving recipients. WCCF is honored that we can reward area young people through scholarships, thanks to our generous donors who see the lasting value of an investment in education.

For more information on the scholarship program or to learn how you, too, can make a difference for a local recipient, please contact WCCF at 330.262.3877.



GIVE 365 continues to grow

Grants made to support mental health & wellness

The third year of GIVE 365 was a success! Members came together to increase participation, determine the focus for the 2019 grant making, encourage nonprofit organizations to apply, complete the review process and, of course, vote to determine award recipients. Membership continued to grow, as did the amount of grant dollars available for distribution.

The program brings together emerging philanthropists to make an impact in Wayne County. GIVE 365 allows members to leverage their charitable contributions with others' to support nonprofits throughout Wayne County. The larger the membership of the Fund, the greater the impact.

While members can be as actively involved in the program as they wish, each member has the opportunity to vote on the annual theme, as well as on grant recipients.



This year, members opted to focus on *Mental Health and Wellness of Youth in Wayne County* – and were able to award a grant of \$11,500 to **Boys & Girls Club of Wooster** to expand current drug prevention programs to serve more students. The program is a collaborative effort between Boys & Girls Club, O'Huddle, Wooster City Schools, and OneEighty, Inc., focusing on youth in grades 5 through 12.

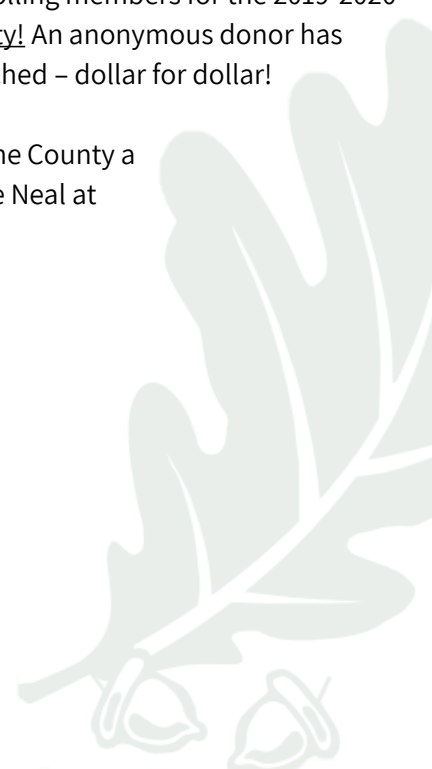
GIVE 365 is currently enrolling members for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We expect our growth trend to continue with an exciting opportunity! An anonymous donor has come forward with a challenge. Every NEW membership (up to 15) will be matched – dollar for dollar!

You can make a difference every day. Give \$365 – a dollar a day – to make Wayne County a better place, today and in the future. To find out how **YOU** can join, email Lacie Neal at lneal_wccf@sssnet.com or call 330.262.3877.

Mark your calendar

Annual Dinner

The 2019 Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 10th at Lowry Center, on The College of Wooster campus. Our featured speaker will be Blake Moore; Michael and Stephanie Reardon will be honored as the *Friend of Philanthropy*. (Full story on page 1.)





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Youth Foundation graduates

Relle retires as advisor

Wayne County Community Youth Foundation (WCCYF) wrapped up its sixth year in May with the graduation of 49 students representing 10 area high schools. The program gives local youth a voice in providing financial and human resources to projects and programs benefiting youth in Wayne County. Throughout the academic year, members meet monthly – gaining valuable leadership experience while learning more about local charitable giving and the nonprofit organizations serving Wayne County. In addition to financial support, members of the Youth Foundation also participate in several community service projects.

After reviewing grant applications, this year the group voted to distribute over \$8,000 in grants to youth-oriented projects and programs. Grants included the purchase of books for Reading Under the Lights (photo at right), a program organized by United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties, Inc.; support for Mobile Community Outreach Clinics for Viola Startzman Clinic; and funding for the Kids Café at Orrville Area Boys & Girls Club, which serves breakfast and dinner to at-risk youth.



After six years of leadership, Ferenc M. Relle, Jr. has stepped down as the Advisor of the Wayne County Community Youth Foundation (WCCYF). Under Relle’s advisement, over 200 Wayne County high school students completed the program – acquiring knowledge of local philanthropy and how investments grow charitable funds.



Deanna Troutman, a local business owner and a Trustee of the Foundation, will lead the group next year. As a long-time participant and advisor of 4-H, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in youth development.