



An affiliate foundation of
FOUNDATION FOR
APPALACHIAN OHIO



Guernsey County Foundation 2024 Annual Report

Advancing a flourishing Guernsey County

FOR A FLOURISHING
Guernsey County

About us

The Guernsey County Foundation, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, provides a way for anyone with a heart for Guernsey County to support our people and communities, today and for years to come.

Donor generosity fuels the work of doers who give their time and talent to meet our communities' greatest needs and opportunities – all while building a strong foundation for Guernsey County's future.

With the support of our donors, we award grants annually to nonprofit and public organizations for projects and programs that advance opportunities across five funding areas, known as our Pillars of Prosperity.



Arts & Culture



Community
& Economic
Development



Education



Environmental
Stewardship



Health
& Human
Services

Our investments improve health, create educational opportunities, advance economic development and environmental stewardship, and provide access to arts and cultural experiences.

Our committee

- Cindy Bond
- Dave Caldwell
- Bryan Conaway
- Matt Dolan
- Jeff East
- Joel Losego
- Mandy McGlumphy
- Jeremy Morrow
- Dan Padden
- Rory Stelzer
- Dave Wilson
- Maribeth Wright
- William Black, *Ex Officio*
- David Ellwood, *Ex Officio*

Want to learn more?

For more information about planned giving, to make a gift to the Guernsey County Foundation or to create a fund to support a cause closest to your heart, please contact us!



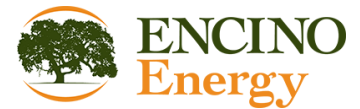
 740.753.1111

 Guernsey@fao.org

 Guernsey County Foundation
www.AppalachianOhio.org/Guernsey

2024 Grants

The Guernsey County Foundation, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and with support from Encino Energy, awarded 17 grants, totaling \$64,751, in 2024.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Zanesville

Approximately 100 Guernsey County youth participate in BBBS of Zanesville's mentoring programming designed to ensure that school-aged children reach their full potential. This grant is supporting the first "Big for a Day" event in Guernsey County to educate families about mentoring opportunities, recruit adults to volunteer as mentors and identify potential partnerships to expand programming in our communities.



Buckeye Trail Band Boosters

Buckeye Trail's Band Program, including concert band, marching band, pep band and jazz band, provides students who are interested in playing a musical instrument opportunities to learn, compete, perform and shine. This grant is funding the purchase of new instruments to support a rapidly growing band program, which entertains thousands of people every year.



Byesville Rotary Club

Each year, the Byesville Rotary Club brings the community together to provide holiday food baskets to families in the Rolling Hills Local School District who could use a little help. Each basket is filled with enough food to provide a Christmas dinner and several good meals to start the new year. This grant supported the 2024 food basket program, which served more than 170 families.

Byesville Rotary Club members are committed to giving back to their community by encouraging education, supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, and working to reduce hunger. The club's 2024 holiday food basket program, which received funding from a Guernsey County Foundation grant, helped to feed more than 170 local families.



Match met in 2024!

In early 2024, FAO announced a 50-cent match for every \$1 given to any endowment fund within affiliate foundations' family of funds. A total of \$300,000 in match funding was available for each affiliate foundation through Nov. 8. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Guernsey County Foundation met our match, raising \$900,000 in donations and matching funds – and creating five new funds – to support a flourishing Guernsey County!



The carriage rides at the Dickens Victorian Village provide visitors the opportunity to view all 96 Victorian scenes as well as other activities and businesses in downtown Cambridge – all from the comfort of a horse-drawn carriage. A 2024 Guernsey County Foundation grant is supporting extensive repairs and refurbishing of the carriage.

2024 Grants

Dickens Victorian Village

A 10-week community event, Dickens Victorian Village brings thousands to downtown Cambridge each holiday season to be immersed in old-world England, learn about Guernsey County's English heritage and explore all the area has to offer. Among the most popular element of the experience? Horse-drawn carriage rides. This grant is supporting a full overhaul of the carriage.

East Central Ohio Educational Service Center

Approximately 400 children and their families attended Guernsey County's 2024 Reading Festival – an event full of hands-on activities designed to promote literacy and the love of reading that provides every child in attendance a free book of their choice to take home. Guernsey County Foundation grants have supported this community event for the past three years.

Guernsey County Community Development Corporation

In August 2024, nine individuals were on the waitlist for a program that provides metal wheelchair ramps to Guernsey County residents who do not have the financial means to purchase them. This grant is supporting the expansion of the program – and helping to keep our neighbors mobile and active in their communities.



The East Central Ohio Educational Service Center coordinates the annual Guernsey County Reading Festival as part of its mission of "Helping Schools Help Students." The event has received Guernsey County Foundation grant funding for the past three years.



Since 1983, Guernsey County Feed My People has been on a mission: To serve the community's most vulnerable in hopes that no one goes hungry. A Guernsey County Foundation grant is funding the nonprofit's operations, including food, insurance, rent and staff, for approximately two months.

Guernsey County Feed My People

Guernsey County Feed My People is a free kitchen run entirely off the generosity of the community, which serves lunch six days a week to those who need it – and even offers an additional meal to go. This grant is funding the nonprofit's operations – and the nearly 1,200 meals it serves weekly – for approximately two months.

Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center

Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act allowed the Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center to pilot an out-of-county transportation program that saw significant interest and success – and helped keep our seniors healthy, mobile and independent. This grant is providing funding to help continue out-of-county transportation for seniors, with priority given to those requiring out-of-county medical care.

LifeWise Academy Guernsey

LifeWise Academy Guernsey launched in October 2023 for K-2 students in all three Guernsey County school districts, providing children character education programming. This grant is supporting expansion of the program to grades 3-5 this school year.

Community highlight



Middle school students in the Rolling Hills Local School District are seen inside the school's new social-emotional wellness and learning space, equipped with age-appropriate sensory items funded through a 2023 Guernsey County Foundation grant. School officials report the new space, which is available to individuals and groups, has made a big difference for students, their teachers and their parents.

2024 Grants

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio

More than 17 percent of Guernsey County residents are food insecure, according to data from Feeding America. This grant is funding food purchases for Lutheran Social Services' monthly pantry and produce distributions in Guernsey County – where visits have risen 29 percent in the past two years while food costs have increased 30 percent.

Ohio Arts & Crafts Foundation

For more than 50 years, the Salt Fork Arts & Crafts Festival has brought artists near and far to the Cambridge City Park for three days of all things creative – from painting and pottery to metal work and music. This grant is helping to fund a mobile glass-blowing unit for demonstrations and make-and-take classes at the 2025 festival.

Ohio Hills Folk Festival

The Ohio Hills Folk Festival, which draws 10,000-15,000 people to Quaker City each year, celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2024. This grant is helping the festival upgrade its power system to accommodate the electrical needs of modern food trucks. It is the first time the festival, which is an entirely volunteer-led and self-funded event, has applied for any grant funding.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio

In 2024, a Guernsey County Foundation grant helped fund stays for eight Guernsey County families at the Ronald McDonald House – a home away from home while caring for their children who are battling serious illness at Columbus-area hospitals. This grant is continuing that assistance in 2025, providing a safe haven for local families facing difficult times.



Visitors to the Salt Fork Arts & Crafts Festival can browse and purchase colorful glass creations from local artists. Thanks to a 2024 Guernsey County Foundation grant, the 2025 festival will also allow those visitors to witness glassblowing up close and to participate in make-and-take classes.



Despite being one of the oldest festivals in the state, the Ohio Hills Folk Festival has never applied for grant funding – until 2024, when it was awarded a grant from the Guernsey County Foundation to help upgrade the electric system that powers the event's food vendors, stages and carnival acts.

"This funding is the latest chapter in our journey to support our neighbors and our communities in ways that will be seen today and felt for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for the donors who make these grants possible and the doers who turn donor generosity into opportunity."

– DAVE WILSON, GUERNSEY COUNTY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Salvation Army-Guernsey

Each winter, The Salvation Army in Guernsey County partners with local businesses, organizations and individuals on fundraising, donations and distribution for its annual Coats for Kids program. This grant is purchasing coats for the program, ensuring that our youth, who often outgrow this seasonal item, have proper attire for the cold weather.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Christ Our Light Conference

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Christ Our Light Conference serves our neighbors in need by connecting them with public services and resources and – when necessary and financially possible – with monetary assistance. This grant is providing transportation, housing and utility assistance to Guernsey County residents seeking employment or at risk of losing employment.

The Wilds

This grant is supporting a new program and poster contest through which Guernsey County 4-H members will learn about Ohio's birdlife, venture outdoors to experience issues the birds are facing and explore how they can help. The goal? To build understanding, stewardship and appreciation of birds and other wildlife in our communities.

Community highlight



Each year, the Jenco Foundation Fund and FAO recognize Appalachian Ohioans who go and above beyond in service to others. Guernsey County's Margaret "Peggy" Adams was among the 2024 Jenco

Award recipients. She was honored for helping to establish and lead the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Christ Our Light Conference, an all-volunteer Catholic charity helping those in need in Guernsey County, as well as her volunteer work in the church and community.

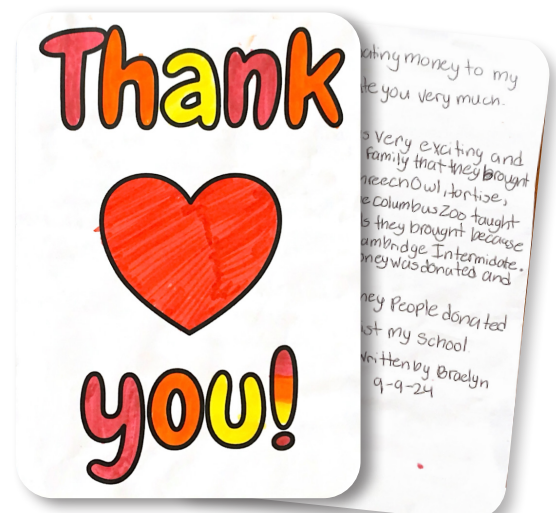
Youth Shooting Sports Funding Foundation

In 2022, East Guernsey Local Schools launched the first school-related trap shooting team in the county. The program has since doubled in size, added a fall team and secured a facility in Guernsey County. This grant is supporting the district's middle and high school trap shooting teams, providing students an avenue for growth, learning and community engagement.

Students earn the zoo at school

There are hundreds of Bobcats at Cambridge Intermediate School, but on Sept. 9, 2024, there was also a sloth, screech owl, opossum, tortoise and penguins in the building. A 2023 grant from the Guernsey County Foundation helped fund a school visit from the Columbus Zoo – a celebration for students having met the district's annual growth rate in reading and math.

Pictured is one of many thank-you notes students sent to the Guernsey County Foundation and its donors.





Answering the call to lead and serve in Guernsey County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including seven individuals living and/or working in Guernsey County. In exchange for committing to live, work and volunteer in their communities for five years, these young community builders receive a financial stipend and participate in a leadership program that includes coaching. In 2024, the fellows began implementing service projects in our communities, including:

Zack Canter



Zack Canter is the agricultural natural resources teacher at Buckeye Trail High School. Through his service, he is working with the Warrior Prairie project, a collaboration between Buckeye Trail students and the community to build, plant and maintain a native tallgrass prairie. The project received a grant through the Southwestern Energy STEM Education Fund in partnership with FAO.

Kirstin Carpenter



Kirstin Carpenter lives and teaches in Guernsey County, where she is a fifth-grade math teacher at Cambridge Intermediate School. For her service project, Kirstin joined the Cambridge Parks Board and was elected board secretary. Since joining the board, Kirstin has worked with other members to form a nonprofit that has opened the doors for community members to donate to the local parks department. It has already received three donations.



View the 2023-2024 Growing Home Fellowship Impact Report, read about all the fellows' service projects and see how we are investing in our region's next generation of community builders and leaders.

Our impact in 2024



**\$18.1
MILLION**

In assets for the people
of Guernsey County



**\$366,682
AWARDED**

Across the Guernsey
County Foundation's
family of funds



**\$231,389
GIVEN**

In scholarships through
the Guernsey County
Foundation and FAO



**84
FUNDS**

Partnering with the
Guernsey County
Foundation in service
to our community

Honoring two of Guernsey County's greatest champions

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio created the Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2016 to honor Jeff Chaddock and Mark Morrow for their visionary planned gift to support the region and its nonprofit organizations. The award celebrates those who have made an outsized difference in Appalachian Ohio through their charitable giving.

In 2024, Rhonda and Tom Stemmer received the award in recognition of their longtime support of nonprofits in Appalachian Ohio, especially in Guernsey County where they live. Over the years, they have taken a blended approach to philanthropy, supporting both endowments for the future and immediate grantmaking.

In Guernsey County, the Stemmer Family Foundation provided the initial gift to establish the Rolling Hills Foundation Scholarship Fund, which supports the Rolling Hills Local School District and its scholarship program. The Stemmer Family Foundation has also supported the Guernsey County Foundation's endowment fund, the earnings from which are reinvested in our communities through grants each year.



Through a donor-advised fund housed at FAO and gifts to support other FAO initiatives, the Stemmers have supported everything from services for seniors to shoes for children, education about the Underground Railroad and much more. Much of their current charitable giving centers on organizations that support families as a way of strengthening the community they call home.

**View Rhonda and Tom
Stemmer's 2024 Chaddock
Philanthropist of the Year
award video.**



Our family of funds

- Guernsey County Foundation
- Achilles Nicholakis Scholarship Trust Fund*
- Antrim Community Cemetery Association Endowment Fund
- Art Clemenson Scholarship*
- Blaine and Martha Neilley Family Fund
- Bruce Orahoske Scholarship Fund*
- Byesville Rotary Christmas Food Basket Fund
- Byesville Rotary Fund
- Cambridge Alumni & Friends Educational Fund
- Cambridge City Schools Scholarship Foundation Fund
- Cambridge Singers Scholarship Fund
- Cecil J. McFarland Science Scholarship*
- Charles E. Chippi Scholarship Fund
- Charles E. Jefferson Award*
- Charles R. Nelson Scholarship Fund*
- Charles W. and Olive L. Hanna Scholarship Fund*
- CHS Class of '57 Scholarship Fund
- Citizens for Rolling Hills Schools Fund
- Don Coss Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Doug Steele Memorial Scholarship
- East Guernsey Fine and Performing Arts Fund
- Elizabeth Burgess Briggs Trust Fund*
- Erven Trust Fund*
- Frank & Esther Ricketts Memorial Fund
- Friends of East Guernsey Education Fund
- G.D. Agnew Foundation Scholarship Fund
- George and Mary Ellen Ontko Scholarship Fund
- Gregory Cardamone Scholarship*
- Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities Scholarship Fund
- Guernsey County Drug Coalition Fund - CHOICES
- Guernsey County Education Assistance Grant Fund
- Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center Endowment Fund
- Gulfport Energy Fund
- Harvey and Edna Ferrier Scholarship Fund*
- Isaac and Carey Esper Scholarship Fund*
- James R. Milligan Legacy Fund
- Jeanne Warne Frontz Memorial Scholarship
- Jeff & Jane Schumacher Cox Fund
- Jeff and Jane Schumacher Cox Scholarship Fund
- Jenny Cornelius-Woltz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Joe Mowad Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- John and Rose Dunlavy Scholarship Fund*
- Kathryn L. Duffey - Baker and Hostetler Scholarship*
- Kevin Ritz Family Foundation Fund
- Larry and Carol Caldwell Fund for Guernsey County
- Leadership Guernsey
- Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Educational Scholarship
- The Living Word Outdoor Drama Endowment Fund
- Loran & Shirley Stutz Fund
- Loran & Shirley Stutz Scholarship Fund
- Madison High School Alumni Scholarship Fund
- Mandy McGlumphy Social Work Scholarship
- Maribeth Wright Community & Economic Development Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- Maribeth Wright Fund for Guernsey County
- Markley (Brent Markley/Sarah Morrison) Family Fund
- Mary E. Knauer Scholarship Fund
- Mary Kackley-Brill Scholarship Fund
- Mary Moore Scholarship Fund*
- McGlumphy Family Fund
- Michael C. Long Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Miriam Hawes Legacy Endowment Fund
- Myron Fishel Scholarship Fund
- Nicolozakes Trucking & Construction, Inc. Environmental Stewardship Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- Ohio Arts and Crafts Foundation Fund
- Old Guernsey County Conservation Association Fund
- Paul Sayanek Scholarship
- Ralph G. Ferguson Scholarship Fund*
- Ralph L. and Linda S. Warne Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Rolling Hills Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund
- The Rose Elizabeth Bell MacConkey Scholarship Fund for Women Going into a Career in Business
- Russel B. Diehl Scholarship*
- Sara Lee Stevens-Youngs Family Memorial
- Scottish Rite Valley of Cambridge Endowment Fund
- Scott Harper Bennett Memorial Scholarship*
- Stansbury Family Fund
- The Stemmer Family Foundation Fund
- Teresa Clark Memorial Scholarship
- Tim McBride Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- Tostenson Family Foundation Fund
- United Way of Guernsey, Monroe and Noble Endowment Fund
- W. Grant Hafley & Patricia J. Hafley Fund
- Whitney Proctor Scholarship Fund*
- Winnie Mae Sharpe Education Scholarship Fund
- Zelma Gray Medical School Scholarship

**This fund is part of the Cambridge City Schools Scholarship Foundation Fund.*



An affiliate foundation of
FOUNDATION FOR
APPALACHIAN OHIO

HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF GUERNSEY COUNTY

**Gifts to the Guernsey County Foundation are
tax-deductible and can be made in a variety of ways.**

GIVE TO GCF

Gifts to the Guernsey County Foundation's endowment fund permanently grow grant funding, with priorities locally determined, for nonprofit and public organizations working to increase quality of life in our communities. Your generosity supports efforts that improve health, create educational opportunities, advance economic development and environmental stewardship, and provide access to arts and cultural experiences.

CREATE A FUND

Provide sustained support for the causes closest to your heart by establishing a named fund through the Guernsey County Foundation. We can help you create endowments to support specific charitable organizations or schools; scholarships to provide educational opportunities; donor-advised funds for family giving; corporate funds for a company's charitable grantmaking; and more.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Include charitable giving in your estate planning, giving you the peace of mind of knowing the communities and causes closest to your heart will continue to receive your support beyond your lifetime. The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio can assist you and/or your advisors with charitable research, provide options and create necessary documents or language for your plan.

How to make a gift



Mail to:

Guernsey County Foundation
c/o Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
35 Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764

or



Online:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Guernsey
www.GuernseyCountyFoundation.org
www.tinyurl.com/GiveGuernsey

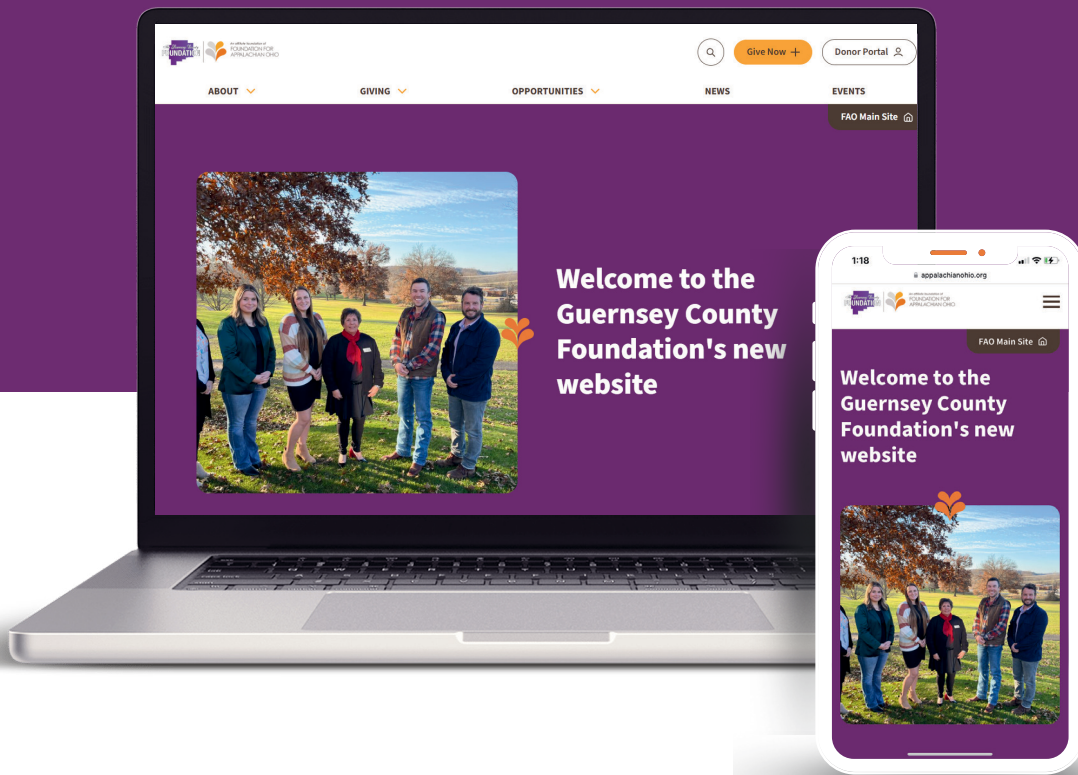
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Guernsey@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

GIFTS OF ALL SIZES AND KINDS – CASH, STOCK, REAL ESTATE, ROYALTIES OR QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Our new website!

LIVE NOW



www.AppalachianOhio.org/Guernsey



Featuring more stories of impact, easier navigation and a lot of inspiration, **our new website** tells the story of the Guernsey County Foundation and a community of givers who are championing our people and communities. Discover how far we've come, where we're going and how you can leave your legacy for generations to come.