



Harrison County  
Community Foundation

An affiliate of

FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Harrison County Community Foundation

# 2024 Annual Report

*Advancing a flourishing Harrison County*





Pictured are (front row, from left) Sheri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, and Harrison County Community Foundation committee members Allison Anderson, Lori Milleson, Karli Ray, John Tabacchi, Kris Puskarich, (back row, from left) Matthew Puskarich, Todd Dunlap, Jim Rocchi, Sandi Thompson and Sam Smith.

## About us

The Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF), a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, provides a way for anyone with a heart for Harrison 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 Harrison 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

- Allison Anderson
- Todd Dunlap
- Amy Jones
- Lori Milleson
- Kris Puskarich
- Matthew Puskarich
- Karli Ray
- Jim Rocchi
- Sam Smith
- John Tabacchi
- Sandi Thompson

### Want to learn more?

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

740.753.1111

Harrison@ffao.org

Harrison County Community Foundation

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison)

## 2024 Grants

The Harrison County Community Foundation, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded 15 grants, totaling \$33,280, in 2024.

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio

With a mission to help children realize their potential and build their futures, Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio provides support aimed at decreasing the likelihood that youth engage in drug use. This grant is helping expand a school-based mentoring program for Harrison County students whose families are battling opioid addiction.

### Blues For A Cure

Over the past 13 years, Sean Carney's Blues For A Cure benefit concerts have raised more than \$300,000 to support Harrison County's fight against cancer, using music to advance education, awareness and research. This grant is sponsoring the 2025 concert, with proceeds benefiting Harrison Community Hospital-WVU Medicine and Harrison Cancer Crusaders programs for local cancer patients.

### Crossroads Farm

Crossroad Farm's rural youth ministry provides Harrison County students in grades 6-12 with weekly programming during the school year and outreach events where they gain new friends, mentors, skills and experiences in a safe environment. This grant is providing the final funding for a 15-passenger van for the program, eliminating a transportation barrier for many students.

### Deersville Community Players

For the past several years, HCCF has awarded grants to the Deersville Community Players to help fund everything from improvements to stage flooring to areas for costume, prop and scenery storage. This grant is completing the theater's LED lighting project and helping to upgrade its sound equipment, supporting a community gem that brings theatrical experiences to our community.



### Community highlight

In 2024, a new mural – paying tribute to Cadiz's 1938 "Proudest Small Town in America" award – was painted on one of the oldest buildings in town. A 2023 grant from HCCF helped fund the mural, which serves as a reminder of what the community was and is and as an inspiration for what it always can be.

### Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers

In 2024, more than 240 dogs came into the Harrison County Dog Pound – more than 100 were claimed by their owners, 130 dogs were adopted, and none were euthanized. This grant is helping to fund veterinary care secured by the Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers for dogs at the pound, which last year cost more than \$51,000.

## 2024 Grants

### Harrison County Tourism Council

Two grants were awarded to the Harrison County Tourism Council:

- To repair and maintain memory boards and replace some lighting on the Christmas display at the courthouse, which has been brightening Harrison County's holiday season since 2019
- To sponsor the 2025 Mark Stage at Sally Buffalo Park summer concert series, which also received HCCF grant funding last year and attracted nearly 5,000 people

### Harrison Hills City School District

Three grants were awarded to the Harrison Hills City School District:

- To help fund Harrison Central High School's "Close Up" government studies program in Washington, D.C., providing students a better understanding of how government works and how they can impact their communities and beyond
- To support the Caring for Huskies program and the emergency clothing it makes available for immediate student needs
- To purchase a freezer for the monthly food distributions the district has hosted for the past 10 years

### Humane Society of Harrison County

In 2024, a HCCF grant funded the vaccinating, spaying or neutering of 44 stray cats or kittens served by the Humane Society of Harrison County's Trap-Neuter-Return program. This grant is continuing that assistance in 2025, protecting the people and other animals that encounter the cats and helping to control the growing cat population in our communities.

### Puskarich Public Library System

The Puskarich Public Library System hosts weekly programs for individuals with disabilities but lacks the specialized resources and staff training necessary to adequately support individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities. This grant is supporting the first two years of a new partnership with Kulture City that will enhance sensory and accessibility services for individuals with disabilities, transforming our libraries into more inclusive and welcoming spaces.

### Scott Memorial United Methodist Church

In October 2024, there were 39 Harrison County children in foster care, kinship care, congregate care, independent living and other settings, according to data from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This grant is helping to stock a new Foster Closet for children in foster care and the families caring for them.

### Tri-County Help Center

None of the counties served by the Tri-County Help Center have a local youth center, so staff try to meet people where they are. This grant is helping to fund the agency's community education and youth outreach efforts in Harrison County, as well as supplies and outings for Safe Spaces, a new support group for all youth in the county.

## Fighting hunger in Harrison County – one pig at a time

The freezers of Harrison County's food pantries were fuller in 2024, thanks to a new campaign that brought local residents and businesses together to help community members facing food insecurity.

HCCF debuted its Fill the Freezer campaign at the 2024 Harrison County Fair, inviting buyers at the fair's livestock sale to donate their hog purchases to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and fight hunger – one pig at a time.

In 2024

19 pigs  
donated

=

3,739  
pounds of  
sausage

to feed Harrison County families

Fill the Freezer was piloted in the region by the Community Foundation for Perry County in 2021 and has since expanded to four other Appalachian Ohio counties served by FAO affiliate foundations. Across our region, communities are putting much-needed protein on the tables of local families, supporting those working on the front lines of food insecurity and demonstrating the difference we can all make when we work together.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/kill-the-freezer](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/kill-the-freezer)



## Investing in Harrison County's young leaders

In 2024, FAO teamed up again with its affiliate foundation partners to fund projects developed and implemented by local youth under age 18. The goal of this funding is to inspire young people to embrace roles as changemakers committed to creating strong, vibrant communities.



**The Harrison Hills City School District** received funding for a project spearheaded by three Harrison Central High School seniors who are working with the district's elementary teachers to develop mathematical fact fluency decals for the elementary school's four stairways. The project is rooted in research that shows repeated exposure to learning tools like this helps with memory consolidation, faster recall and greater levels of confidence with math.

*During an October 2024 event, the Harrison County Community Foundation celebrated its 2024 grant recipients, including Harrison Central High School seniors who received funding for a youth-led project.*

## Answering the call to lead and serve in Harrison County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Karli Ray of Harrison County. The fellows have committed to live, work and volunteer in their communities for five years and 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:

### Karli Ray | Puskarich Public Library



Karli Ray, a graduate of Harrison Central High School and West Liberty University, is the children's librarian at Puskarich Public Library. She also serves as the head cheer coach and theater technical director at Harrison Central. For her service, Karli joined the committee that leads the Harrison County Community Foundation, where she's had opportunities to collaborate with mentors who share her passion for making a difference in the community. In 2024, she helped the committee achieve two of its goals for the year: launching its Fill the Freezer campaign and increasing funding for the local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.



View the Growing Home Fellowship Impact Report and see how we are investing in our region's next generation of community builders and leaders.



Harrison County  
Community Foundation

An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

# HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF HARRISON COUNTY

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

## GIVE TO HCCF

Gifts to the Harrison County Community 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 Harrison County Community 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:

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

or



### Online:

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/HCCF](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/HCCF)  
or [www.tinyurl.com/GiveHarrison](http://www.tinyurl.com/GiveHarrison)

For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email [Harrison@ffao.org](mailto:Harrison@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 impact in 2024



**\$2.4  
MILLION**

In assets for the people  
of Harrison County



**\$38,079  
AWARDED**

Across HCCF's family  
of funds



**\$2,250  
GIVEN**

In scholarships through  
HCCF and FAO funds



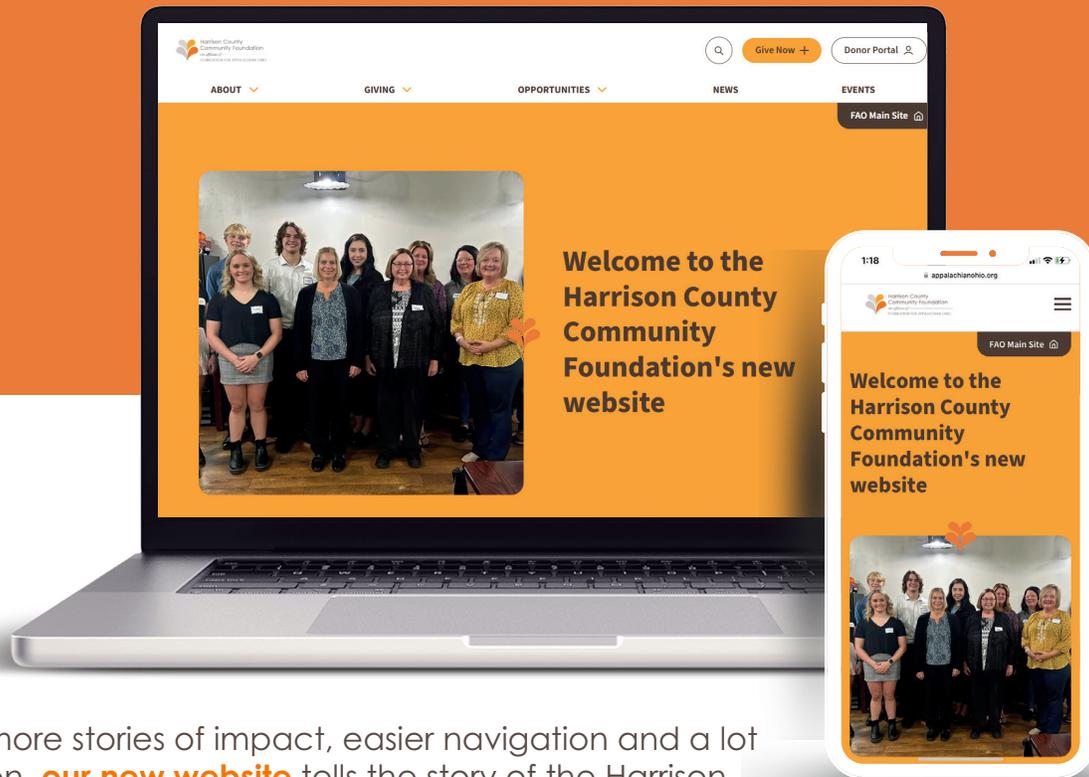
**11  
FUNDS**

Partnering with HCCF  
in service to  
our community

## Our family of funds

- Harrison County Community Foundation
- Cadiz High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
- Chad Clay Memorial Fund
- Fill the Freezer Harrison County
- Gulfport Energy Fund
- Harrison Central Soccer Fund
- Harrison County Arts & Culture Fund
- Harrison County Imagination Library Fund
- Husky Education Fund
- Jewett Methodist Church Endowment Fund
- W. Donald and Marian Porter Huffman Family Scholarship Fund

## Check out our new website!



Featuring more stories of impact, easier navigation and a lot of inspiration, **our new website** tells the story of the Harrison County Community 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.

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison)

