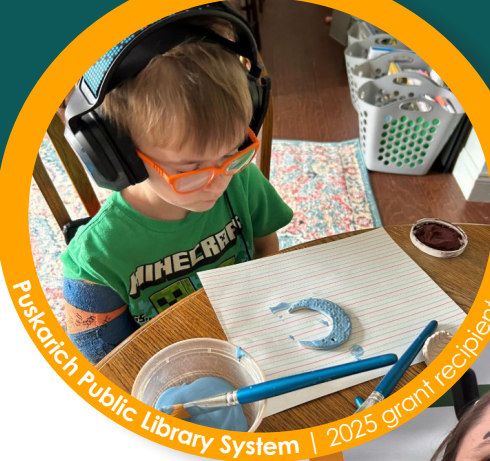




Harrison County  
Community Foundation  
An affiliate of  
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

COSI programming in Harrison County | 2025 grant recipient



Puskarich Public Library System | 2025 grant recipient



Crossroads Farm | 2025 grant recipient



Harrison County Community Foundation

# 2025 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 (FAO), 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.



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)



## 2025 GRANTS

The Harrison County Community Foundation, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded a total of \$34,762 in grant funding in 2025.

### BOWERSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Bowerston Volunteer Fire Department operates Harrison County's only full water rescue team, with members certified in swift water, cold water and dive rescue. This grant helped fund a trailer and two new rescue boats, replacing a failing inflatable and a damaged aluminum boat that was 35+ years old – and strengthening the team's ability to respond quickly and safely to water emergencies.

### CROSSROADS FARM

With support from a 2024 HCCF grant, Crossroads Farm purchased a 15-passenger van, allowing the rural youth ministry to transport students in grades 6-12 from several locations in Harrison County to its special events and weekly programming. A 2025 grant is helping to cover the cost of a band for the youth ministry's 2026 murder mystery outreach event.

### DEERSVILLE COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Deersville Community Players has been upgrading its stage lighting – some of which dates back to the 1970s, is expensive to operate and makes the stage uncomfortably hot. This grant, which marks HCCF's fifth consecutive year of grant support for the community theater, is helping with the transition to LED lighting, improving efficiency, cost and comfort of use.

### EASTERN OHIO EXTENSION CAMPS INC.

In 2022, Eastern Ohio Extension Camps Inc. added a lakeside beach at Harrison County's 4-H Camp Piedmont, giving campers and visitors a new place to swim and enjoy the grounds. This grant is helping to install a dual changing station at the beach, improving accessibility, enhancing visitor experiences and addressing a need identified through user surveys.



The Bowerston Volunteer Fire Department closed out 2025 with some new rescue equipment, thanks to funding from an HCCF grant. The new rescue boat, inflatable and transport trailer will allow both boats to arrive on scene simultaneously, improving response times, increasing efficiency in swift water rescues and providing a more stable platform for dive rescue operations.



Crossroads Farm is now able to transport students in grades 6-12 to youth programs and special events from multiple stops in Harrison County, including Adena, Cadiz, Harrisville, Hopedale, Jewett, New Athens and Scio. A 2024 HCCF grant provided the final funding needed to purchase a 15-passenger van for its rural youth ministry.

## 2025 GRANTS

### GERMAN TOWNSHIP

In October 2025, local leaders, residents, businesses and organizations celebrated the opening of the German Township Community Park – a project that will foster community well-being and connections for years to come. The first-of-its-kind recreational area in the township, the park was funded entirely through donations and grants, including an HCCF grant that helped purchase playground equipment.

### HARRISON CENTRAL THEATRE PARENTS CLUB

This grant supported a spring 2026 educational trip to New York City for Harrison Central High School's Thespian Troupe. The trip was designed to deepen the interests and aspirations of these students, offering opportunities to learn from Broadway professionals, explore world-class theater, and gain inspiration and insight that could shape their future goals.

### HARRISON COUNTY DOG POUND VOLUNTEERS

The Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers, which operates entirely through donations and grants, works tirelessly to provide veterinary care such as spaying/neutering and vaccinations to dogs that find themselves at the pound. This grant is supporting those efforts for the third consecutive year, helping dog adopters and reducing the number of stray dogs in Harrison County.

### HARRISON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Improperly discarded sharps pose serious risks, including needle-stick injuries, disease transmission and environmental contamination. This grant is funding the installation of a secure, ADA-compliant sharps disposal box outside the Harrison County Health Department. Harrison Career Center welding students are fabricating the box, giving them hands-on, real-world experience while supporting an important community health initiative.



*Students in Harrison Central High School's thespian troupe had the opportunity to experience the bright lights and big stages of New York City this past spring, thanks to several sources of community support, including a 2025 HCCF grant.*



*Welding students at Harrison Career Center are putting their skills to work for good in their community, fabricating a custom sharps disposal container for the Harrison County Health Department. This project was funded by an HCCF grant.*

### HARRISON METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

The A-Z Learning Lab provides after-school and summer programming for children ages 5-17 living at Bingham Terrace Apartments, offering a safe space and structured activities to learn and grow. This grant is funding a greenhouse and gardening supplies for the program, giving youth hands-on opportunities to learn gardening skills and the importance of healthy eating.

### HARRISVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

When Harrisville Methodist Church hosts evening events, guests park in a grassy area with no lighting adjacent to the church. This grant is funding the installation of solar-powered lighting for a new parking lot, improving safety and accessibility for a space that will be available for use by other groups and organizations and for community events.

### PATHWAYS FOR INCLUSION: A DELUCA FAMILY INITIATIVE

Pathways for Inclusion: A DeLuca Family Initiative is dedicated to creating inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Harrison County. This grant is supporting the organization's Friday night social club events, designed to support social-emotional development for participants while promoting greater community integration and awareness in a family-friendly environment.

### PUSKARICH PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

This grant is supporting a partnership with Cadiz-based Peaceflower Pottery to offer free community-centered pottery classes, including both general instruction and specialized therapeutic clay sessions. The goal? To create a welcoming space where Harrison County residents of all ages and backgrounds can explore creativity and experience the joy and therapeutic benefits of working with clay.

### VILLAGE OF HOPEDALE

In February 2026, community members gathered for a ribbon-cutting and open house celebrating the new Schoolhouse Museum and Venue, located in a former school building in the heart of Hopedale. This grant helped refurbish the building's restroom and return the historic structure to service as a community gathering space and museum that preserves and celebrates Hopedale's history.

## FIGHTING HUNGER IN HARRISON COUNTY – ONE PIG AT A TIME

2025 marked the second year for HCCF's Fill the Freezer campaign, which invites buyers at the Harrison County Fair's Junior Livestock Sale to donate their hog purchases to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and others to donate money to cover meat processing costs. The goal? To fight hunger – one pig at a time.

Twenty-one hogs were donated during the 2025 campaign, generating 4,080 pounds of locally raised protein to feed Harrison County, where more than 16 percent of residents experience food insecurity. The campaign not only helps our neighbors but also the food pantries who serve them. Meat is among the most expensive grocery purchases, making it often unaffordable for families living on lower incomes and food pantries that serve them.

Fill the Freezer is held in partnership with the Harrison County Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, local food pantries and meat processors, and FAO.



Fill the Freezer, which operated in seven counties served by FAO affiliate foundations in 2025, was presented FAO's 2025 Changemaker of the Year Award. Since 2021, the program has provided a combined 92,000 pounds of meat to help fight hunger.



Learn more about Fill the Freezer and support HCCF's next campaign. Scan the QR or visit us at:

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/fill-the-freezer](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/fill-the-freezer)



## BRINGING COSI AND CAREER EXPLORATION TO OUR YOUTH

### Baking soda rockets. Elephant toothpaste. Virtual reality labs – and more!

That's what Harrison County youth experienced last fall when we partnered with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), local employers and FAO to bring COSI programming to the Harrison Hills City School District.

Harrison Central eighth-grade students participated in a morning of hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine – all tied to in-demand career opportunities in our communities.

This opportunity was made possible by the Husky Education Fund and a portion of HCCF's 2025 grant funding. A special thanks to our industry partners – G&S Swine, the Harrison County Health Department, the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Interstate Waste Services and WVU Harrison Community Hospital – who led many of the day's activities.

Together, we are encouraging our youth to dream big and envision their futures right here in Harrison County.



# OUR IMPACT

## OUR ASSETS



**\$1.7M+**  
in restricted assets to support  
Harrison County causes  
designated by fund creators

**\$888,500**  
in unrestricted assets through  
HCCF's endowment fund to  
support our annual grantmaking\*

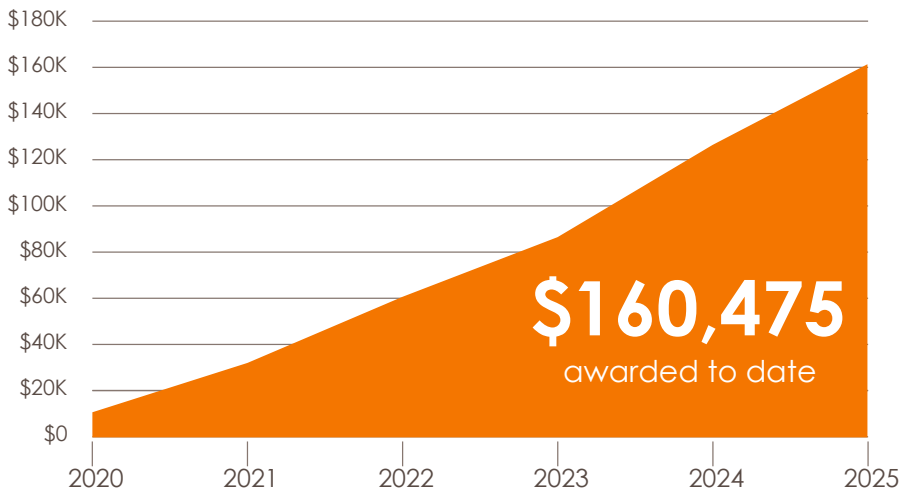
\* Our endowment fund is designed to provide continuous investment in Harrison County. Our endowment is invested. The earnings generated from those investments fund the grants we award each year, providing resources to meet the community's needs today while preserving the fund to serve Harrison County for generations to come.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2025



## OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



## OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Harrison County Community Foundation**  
*(This is the endowment fund that fuels our annual grantmaking.)*
- Area Agency on Aging Region 9 Scholarship Fund
- 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 Cancer Crusaders Endowment
- Harrison County Imagination Library Fund
- Husky Education Fund
- Jewett Methodist Church Endowment Fund
- W. Donald and Marian Porter Huffman Family Scholarship Fund



Harrison County  
Community Foundation

*An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio*

**Help support the people, places,  
programs and future of Harrison County**

## GROW HCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

Gifts to the Harrison County Community Foundation's endowment fund are invested. The earnings generated from those investments fund the grants HCCF awards each year to nonprofit and public organizations working to increase quality of life in our communities.

**Give to HCCF's endowment fund by:**



Scanning the QR code or visiting  
[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/give](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Harrison/give)



or mailing your gift to  
**Harrison County Community Foundation**  
**c/o Foundation for Appalachian Ohio**  
**35 Public Square**  
**Nelsonville, OH 45764**

You can also establish an unrestricted fund – named in honor of your family or a loved one – that will contribute to HCCF's grantmaking each year.

## FUND WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU

Provide sustained support for what's closest to your heart by establishing a restricted fund through HCCF. We can help you create endowments to support specific charitable organizations or schools; scholarships to provide educational opportunities; donor-advised funds for family or corporate giving; funds that benefit an area of interest; and more.

## LEAVE A LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

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.

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



CASH



STOCK



REAL ESTATE



ROYALTIES



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE  
DISTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAs

***Gifts of all sizes and kinds make a difference!***

For more information about establishing a fund or planned gift, **contact us today!**

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