



Highland County
Community Fund

An affiliate of

FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Highland County Community Fund
2024 Annual Report

Advancing a flourishing Highland County



Pictured (from left) are Robert "Mick" McLaughlin, FAO board member emeritus; HCCF committee members Marty Bailey, Susan Davis, Shawn Priest and Ron Coffey; Al Altfater, Appalachian Ohio Alliance board member, representing the Highland County Bat Stewardship and Conservation funds; John Kellis, Vicki Knauff and Larry Dukes, representing the new Highland County Historical Society Endowment Fund; HCCF committee member Lindsay Cloud; and Earl Smith, representing the new Highland County Historical Society Endowment Fund.

About us

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

- **Marty Bailey**
- **Lindsay Cloud**
- **Ron Coffey**
- **David Daniels**
- **Susan Davis**
- **Shawn Priest**

Honorary member

Robert "Mick" McLaughlin,
FAO Board Member Emeritus

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



Highland@ffao.org

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Highland

2024 Grants

The Highland County Community Fund, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded four grants, totaling \$11,500, in 2024.

Hillsboro Christian Academy

With no library on its campus, Hillsboro Christian Academy busses its third-grade students to the local library twice a month. It's a move designed to help students meet the rising expectations of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee but one that also sacrifices students' time in the classroom.

This grant is funding the purchase of approximately 300 books to outfit a library with reading material covering various interests for students reading below, at or above grade level.

Hillsboro First Baptist Church

To date, the Diaper Depot, a ministry of Hillsboro First Baptist Church, has distributed more than 25,000 diapers to a growing number of Highland County families who need help securing this necessary and increasingly costly item.

This grant is continuing three years of financial support HCCF has provided to this effort, helping to fill a basic but big need for Highland County families and our youngest community members.

Area 937 Community Outreach Inc.

Since 2009, Area 937 Community Outreach has provided support to Highland County residents who are unemployed, underserved or struggling to provide food, clothing and daily necessities for their families. It serves an average of 63 households per month through its free choice food pantry and clothing closet, as well as provides families with much needed protein options.

This grant is funding the purchase of higher quality meats for the nonprofit's monthly food distributions, providing local at-risk families healthier options.

Grow! Highland County

For the past 15 years, a group of successful Highland County businesspeople have been on a mission to grow our county – one business at a time. By sharing their expertise and resource connections, they are helping local community members with business ideas turn their dreams into reality, adding more than 110 jobs, retaining another 55+ jobs and contributing an estimated \$725,000 to Highland County's economy since 2017 alone.

This grant is supporting Grow! Highland County's enterprise facilitation programming that provides free and confidential resources for new and existing businesses in Highland County.



Investing in Highland County's young leaders

In 2023, we teamed up with FAO to award grants supporting projects developed and implemented by local youth under age 18. One of those youth-led grants supported the 2024 Summer Discover Inspire Grow Groups, a program of the Greenfield Area Christian Center's New Directions Youth Ministry. More than 80 students in grades 4-12 participated in the program and several of its community service projects, including working in the garden at Adena Greenfield Medical Center and baking and delivering muffins to local first responders and families experiencing hardship and loss.

Our impact in 2024

 **\$586,860 IN ASSETS**

under the HCCF umbrella

 **\$11,500 AWARDED**

Across HCCF's family of funds

 **4 FUNDS**

Partnering with HCCF in service to our community

- Highland County Community Fund
- Highland County Bat Stewardship Fund
- Highland County Conservation Fund
- Highland County Historical Society Endowment Fund

Answering the call to lead and serve in Highland County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including two individuals living and/or working in Highland 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 access to a leadership program and coaching. In 2024, the fellows began implementing service projects in our communities.

Ali Vesey



Ali Vesey is a teacher at Greenfield Elementary School who serves in a variety of roles outside the classroom, including president of Y-Gradale, a women's service group, and a board member of Main Street Downtown Greenfield and Grow Greater Greenfield. Her Growing Home Fellowship service is the Give & Gather Project, showcasing local philanthropic endeavors while fostering connections between volunteers and organizations. In 2024, Ali hosted the first Service Showcase, which gave organizations an opportunity to share their goals and provided residents a chance to learn about local service opportunities. In September 2024, she was named Greenfield Village Citizen of the Month for her work with Main Street Downtown Greenfield.

Ellie Wright

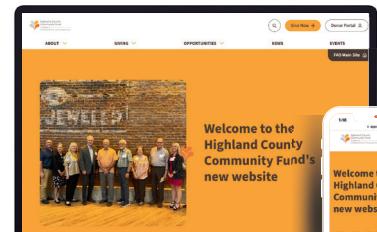


Ellie Wright is a speech-language pathologist for Hillsboro City Schools, providing special education services to students with a variety of unique communication needs. Over the course of her Growing Home Fellowship, Ellie has volunteered at Because He Lives Food Pantry in Lynchburg and is active in the Owensville Beautification Committee, through which she helped raise funds to decorate the village for the holidays.

Check out Highland County Community Fund's new website!

Featuring more impact stories, easier navigation and a lot of inspiration, [our new website and video](#) tell the story of the Highland County Community Fund 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/Highland





Highland County
Community Fund

An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

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

GIVE TO HCCF

Gifts to the Highland County Community Fund'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 Highland County Community Fund. 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:

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

or



Online:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/HIGHLAND
or www.tinyurl.com/GiveHighland

For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Highland@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!