



Highland County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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 areas of need, 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

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

OUR GROWING HOME FELLOWS

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundations welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Highland County resident Ali Vesey, a first-grade teacher at Greenfield Exempted Village Schools, and Ellie Wright, a speech-language pathologist at Hillsboro City Schools.

The Growing Home Fellowship is designed to recruit, retain and nurture our region's next generation of community builders. In exchange for committing to live, work and volunteer in their communities for five years, the fellows receive a financial stipend and access to a leadership program.



Growing Home Fellowship

A Program of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



2023 GRANTS

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Highland County Community Fund awarded seven grants, totaling \$15,000, in 2023.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

In the first eight months of 2023, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio served an average of 162 Highland County families – including an average of 19 new families – each month at its Food for All mobile pantry at Hillsboro's Greater Life Assembly Church. This grant is funding food purchases for the pantries and helping our neighbors in need.

GIRLS SCOUTS OF OHIO'S HEARTLAND COUNCIL

More than 140 Highland County girls, ages 5-17, participated in local Girl Scout programming from October 2022 through September 2023. This grant is helping fund the 2024 Girl Scout Leadership Experience in Highland County, providing our youth with experiences, skill development and leadership programming that will equip them to be our communities' next generation of changemakers and community leaders.

HIGHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION INC.

This grant is supporting the second year of the I Am a Child of Highland County Leadership Academy, giving local high school students access to programming that highlights the assets and opportunities that exist in our communities. The goal? To educate and encourage Highland County youth to envision their futures in their hometowns.



HILLSBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Diaper Depot, a mission of Hillsboro First Baptist Church, has helped at least 550 local families in need – many of whom have more than one child in diapers. This grant is funding the purchase of diapers and other items for The Diaper Depot's weekly giveaways and community events that widen the program's reach.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF OKI PARTNERS INC.

In March, more than 65 Highland County high school students traveled to northern Kentucky to participate in the Inspire to Hire career expo as part of Junior Achievement's Innovative Generation (I-Gen) program. This grant helped fund that experience and program, connecting students with potential future employers and empowering them to own their future success.



Special thanks to the AEP Foundation for a visionary gift to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to support philanthropic growth in the region, including FAO's partnership with the Highland County Community Fund.



In July 2023, Highland County children with disabilities participated in Wilmington College's summer therapeutic horse-riding camp – thanks to funding provided by a 2022 HCCF grant. The five-day camp offered kindergarten through sixth-grade youth a recreational and therapeutic experience.

INVESTING IN HIGHLAND COUNTY'S YOUNG LEADERS

In 2023, FAO partnered with its affiliate foundations to fund projects developed and implemented by local youth under age 18. The goal of this funding is to empower young leaders and inspire them to embrace greater roles in their communities.

HCCF awarded youth-led project grant funding to:

GREENFIELD AREA CHRISTIAN CENTER'S NEW DIRECTIONS YOUTH MINISTRY

This grant is helping to fund New Direction's Discover Inspire Grow Groups, an eight-week summer program that brings together students in grades 4-12 and adults to learn, play and connect through a variety of shared experiences – from art and community service to physical fitness activities and outdoor adventures. The program provides a place for local youth to develop skills and relationships in the community and to lead some activities.

HIGHLAND COUNTY ACCESS PROGRAM

The Highland County ACCESS (Alignment of Community Connections for Employer and Student Success) Program debuted in 2023, bringing together local businesses, schools and students with a goal of providing each Highland County high school student a work experience with a local employer prior to graduation. This grant is funding some of the program's micro-internships – an investment in the future success of Highland County's youth and the local workforce.

OUR IMPACT IN 2023



**\$430,511
IN ASSETS**

Under the HCCF umbrella



**\$15,000
AWARDED**

Across HCCF's family of funds

3 FUND

PARTNERING WITH HCCF IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

1. Highland County Community Fund
2. Highland County Bat Stewardship Fund
3. Highland County Conservation Fund

Learn more at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Highland



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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

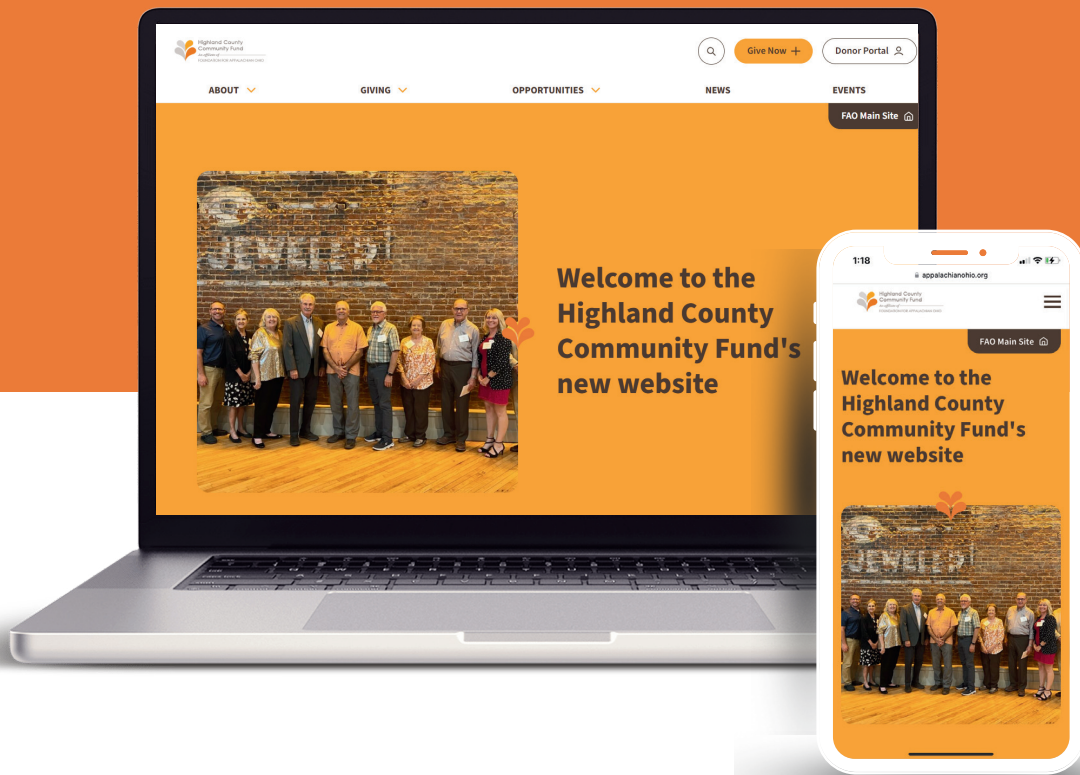
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Highland@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

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



Our new website!

LIVE NOW



www.AppalachianOhio.org/Highland



Featuring more impact stories, easier navigation — and a lot of inspiration! Check back often for updates.