



Highland County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Highland County Family YMCA | 2025 grant recipient



Southern Ohio Educational Service Center | 2025 grant recipient



Greenfield Area Christian Center | 2025 grant recipient



Highland County Community Fund

2025 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 Alfater, Appalachian Ohio Alliance board member, representing the Highland County Bat Stewardship and Conservation funds; John Kellis, Vicki Knauff and Larry Dukes, representing the Highland County Historical Society Endowment Fund; HCCF committee member Lindsay Cloud; and Earl Smith, representing the Highland County Historical Society Endowment Fund.

ABOUT US

The **Highland County Community Fund (HCCF)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), 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

2025 GRANTS

The Highland County Community Fund, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded six grants, totaling \$12,000, in 2025.

GREENFIELD AREA CHRISTIAN CENTER

This year, Greenfield Area Christian Center's youth ministry will celebrate five years of its summer Discover Inspire Grow Groups (DIGGs) that bring students in grades 4-12 together with adults to build connections through a variety of shared experiences – from arts and outdoor adventures to community service. HCCF grants have supported this initiative for three of the past five years.

HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

In 2025, the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities borrowed Gallia County's portable universal changing table for use at the Highland County Fair. This grant is funding the purchase of Highland County's own table, making it available at local events and helping our residents with disabilities participate more fully in our community.

HIGHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION-HIGHLAND COUNTY OHIOMEANSJOBS

Having steel-toed boots can mean the difference between getting a manufacturing job or not. Gas cards or bus passes can help fill a transportation gap until employees receive their first paycheck. This grant is providing one-time support services, like appropriate workwear, to help Highland County residents secure or retain employment, benefiting both our neighbors and local employers.

HIGHLAND COUNTY FAMILY YMCA

The Highland County Family YMCA is committed to health and wellness, helping individuals at every life stage learn new skills, develop healthy habits and build stronger connections to their community. This grant is increasing free and subsidized access to fitness classes, chronic disease prevention programs and other healthy living services for Highland County residents.

HILLSBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Many U.S. families face diaper insecurity and struggle to afford this basic need. The Diaper Depot, a ministry of Hillsboro First Baptist Church, has been filling that need in Highland County, distributing more than 29,000 diapers and pull-ups to Highland County families in 2025 alone. HCCF grants have supported this effort for four of the past five years.

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

The Highland County Micro-Internship Program provides high school students hands-on work experience in career fields they have an assessed aptitude or interest in – and with local employers. This grant is funding four micro-internships, connecting Highland County teens with career opportunities close to home and helping them earn the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal to meet graduation requirements.



OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$670,674

in restricted assets to support Highland County causes designated by fund creators

\$132,046

in unrestricted assets through HCCF's endowment fund to support our annual grantmaking*

* Our endowment fund is designed to provide continuous investment in Highland 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 Highland County for generations to come.

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Highland County Community Fund**

(This is the endowment fund that fuels our annual grantmaking.)

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

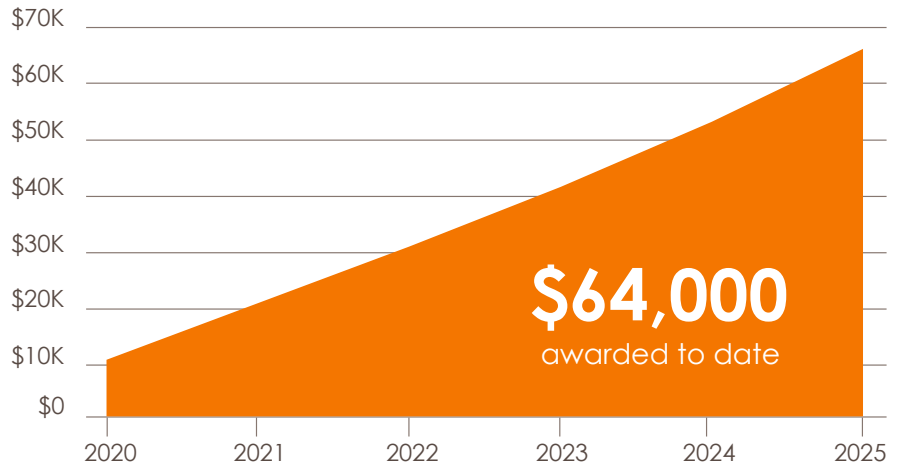


\$12,862

AWARDED IN GRANTS
ACROSS OUR FAMILY
OF FUNDS

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

Through FAO's **Growing Home Fellowship**, Ali Vesey is working to secure funding for the Just A Kid From Appalachia Retreat, a one-day leadership and service-learning event for students in grades 5-8 to collaborate with mentors and local leaders through community service projects.

She is one of two individuals living and/or working in Highland County serving through this inaugural fellowship. The fellowship is investing in emerging leaders across the region, both financially and through a program that teaches them how to identify community needs, develop solutions and assemble a network of partners to address local challenges.



Highland County
Community Fund

An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Help support the people, places, programs and future of Highland County

GROW HCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

Gifts to the Highland County Community Fund'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/Highland/give



or mailing your gift to
Highland County Community Fund
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.

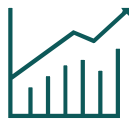
LEAVE A LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

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 Highland County Community Fund 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!**

Highland@fao.org | www.AppalachianOhio.org/Highland | 740.753.1111