



Hocking County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Hocking County Community Fund

2024 Annual Report

Advancing a flourishing Hocking County





Hocking County Community Fund committee members Kristi Brooks, Libby Hosler (former committee member), Keith Hood, Alison Kanaan and Abby Saving are pictured with Growing Home Fellows Brianna Johnson, Summer Ballinger, Paige Dew, Cort Forgrave, Cristie Collins and Kaleigh Cox, as well as Sherri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

About us

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

- Kristi Brooks
- Laurel Danes-Webb
- Laura Davidson
- Keith Hood
- Alison Kanaan
- Katy Kudlapur
- Abby Saving
- Bobby Smathers
- Bailey Venzin

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

Hocking@ffao.org

Hocking County Community Fund

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hocking

2024 Grants

The Hocking County Community Fund, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded 13 grants, totaling \$25,200, in 2024.

First Presbyterian Church of Logan

The First Presbyterian Church of Logan hosts two food pantries each month, providing everything from meat and dairy products to household necessities and hygiene items to Hocking County families who could use a helping hand. This grant is funding food purchases – and helping to meet a rising need in our communities.

FosterHub

In October 2024, 48 Hocking County children were 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 FosterHub provide resources, including housing and food, to Hocking County youth aging out of the foster care system.

Green Township Trustees

This grant is funding enhancements to the park in Haydenville, including the addition of musical activities for children. The goal of the project is to add some color and creative outlets to the park, which is located in an economic development area.

Helping Hands of Southeast Ohio

Established in 2024, Helping Hands of Southeast Ohio offers Home Beautification and Safe at Home programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Athens County. This grant is helping to expand those programs, which provide exterior home maintenance and minor interior home repairs, to residents in the city of Logan.

Community highlight



In January 2025, FosterHub, with funding from Ohio's Appalachian Community Grant Program, broke ground on a new transitional housing and training center in downtown Logan.



Michelle Mays founded FosterHub in 2022 to help Hocking County teens aging out of the foster care system navigate life's transitions by providing them with housing, resources and a community of support. In 2023, the nonprofit received its first grant – from HCCF – and the following year established the FosterHub for Hocking County Endowment, a member of HCCF's family of funds, to provide continuous investment in the resources local youth transitioning out of foster care need to flourish.



Hocking Hills Archers of Faith debuted in 2023 with more than 50 Hocking County youth participating in the program and competing in five tournaments. Many of the participants qualified for nationals. A 2024 grant from HCCF is supporting this free program for all Hocking County youth in grades 4-12.

2024 Grants

Hocking County Community Garden

This grant is supporting a Growing Home Fellowship project that will establish a summer garden at the Hocking County Community Garden and donate all produce to local food pantries. Among the project's plans? Bringing in leadership groups from the Logan-Hocking School District to help with planting, maintaining and harvesting the garden.

Hocking County Historical Society

Among the many historical treasures donated to or collected by the Hocking County Historical Society are large pieces of farm equipment that have remained in storage due to a lack of space to display them. This grant is supporting the expansion of the farming display area to a space behind the main museum.

Hocking Hills Archers of Faith

More than 50 Hocking County children in grades 4-12 participated in the first year of the Hocking Hills Archers of Faith, a subministry of the Southern Ohio Fishers of Men Association. This grant is supporting the program that includes archery instruction from National Archery in the Schools Program-certified instructors.



Community highlight

Nearly 20 local girls, ages 5-17, attended the Girl Scouts' 2024 Camp Beckoning Trails in Hocking County, thanks to support from a 2023 HCCF grant. The weeklong camp includes programming aimed at helping girls develop the courage to try new things, the confidence to take on leadership roles and the character to make important life choices – all while exploring the outdoor beauty of our county.



Fifty local residents – from church groups to individuals from the Hocking County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies – came together in 2024 to build playhouses for area families in need. The project, organized by the Logan-based Southern Ohio Fishers of Men Association, provided playhouses to 11 families, including 30 children, thanks to a 2023 HCCF grant that funded five of the playhouses.

Local-Hocking Local Schools

Three grants were awarded to Logan-Hocking Local Schools:

- To fund facilitators for a new Parenting Support Program that will serve Hocking County families who are grappling with social, economic, educational, truancy, child-rearing, nutrition, mental health and addiction challenges
- To support Project SAFE's food distributions for families and grab-and-go meals for middle school students
- To provide copies of the district's annual literary anthology, featuring the work of students and staff, to participants and each school library in the district, as well as to fund materials for other writing opportunities throughout the school year



Project SAFE is the Logan-Hocking School District's before- and after-school program. A 2024 HCCF grant is supporting its food distribution and grab-and-go meal services.

Logan Theater Inc.

The Logan Theater and Community Arts Center hosts everything from conferences and classes to receptions and reunions. And when it does, the group often has to borrow or rent tables to accommodate those events. This grant is purchasing tables for the facility's second and third floors, allowing for more events and programming for all ages.





Hocking County's Bishop Educational Gardens welcomes thousands of people annually for Lilyfest and many more throughout the year for everything from educational workshops to nature hikes. In 2024, Logan High School students studying technology education and engineering researched, designed and fabricated donation receptacles for the nonprofit organization – with funding from a 2023 HCCF youth-led grant.

Investing in Hocking 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.

HCCF youth-led grants are supporting:

- Logan High School's Student Leadership program, which includes juniors and seniors who collaborate with Jostens Renaissance and Ohio State Collaborative to research potential solutions for an area of concern they identify at the school
- Community bloodmobile drives organized by Logan High School students in partnership with the American Red Cross



"We are honored to partner with those with a heart for Hocking County who give to support our neighbors and communities. These grants are investments in those who give their passion, energy and transformative ideas in service to Hocking County."

– BAILEY VENZIN, PRESIDENT, HCCF COMMITTEE



Answering the call to lead and serve in Hocking County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Summer Ballinger, Cristie Collins, Kaleigh Cox, Cort Forgrave, Brianna Johnson and Gretchen Weber, who live and/or work in Hocking 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 participate in a leadership program that includes coaching. In 2024, the fellows began implementing service projects in our communities, including:

Brianna Johnson



Hocking County native Brianna Johnson teaches seventh-grade English at Logan-Hocking Middle School. For her Growing Home Fellowship service, she worked with Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio to grow Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio enrollment in Hocking and Vinton counties by attending events and distributing materials to local families. In addition, she partnered with Growing Home Fellow Kaleigh Cox, an eighth-grade English teacher at Logan-Hocking Middle School, to launch the Appalachian Literary Arts & Storytelling Festival, a two-day celebration of writing, reading, publishing and performing Appalachian stories in all forms. Brianna participated in FAO's inaugural Growing Home Fellowship pitch competition and secured the final funding needed for the festival.



View the 2023-2024 Growing Home Fellowship Impact Report and see how we are investing in our region's next generation of community builders and leaders.

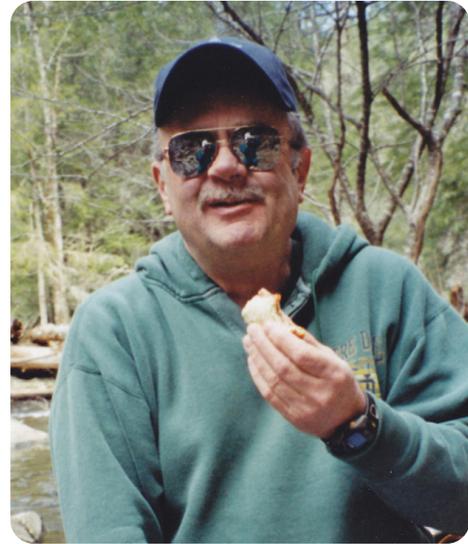
Inspired by nature, Hocking County resident makes plans to give back

Bill Phillips' love of the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway started years ago after he moved to Ohio's Hocking Hills. And thanks to the William L. Phillips Fund, a fund he established at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio through his will, his love for the bikeway will endure for years to come.

As a Columbus resident and practicing certified genealogist, Bill often visited the Hocking Hills to enjoy the region's rich, beautiful landscapes and tranquility. While touring the countryside one day in 1985, he saw a "For Sale" sign on a property and decided to investigate. Within a few weeks, Bill was a Hocking County resident.

Two years later in 1987, the genealogist switched gears and stopped commuting into the big city. On his property, which was near many of the region's state parks, he opened the Wind Chime Shop and later the Christmas Treasures Gift Shop with an attached Candle Shop. The trio of specialty stores soon became a regular stop for tourists contributing to the local Hocking County economy. The shops were sold in 2007.

For many years, Bill spent time cycling on the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, a paved route that takes cyclists, walkers and runners from Nelsonville to Athens along the scenic Hocking River. It is frequently used by students commuting to Hocking College in Nelsonville.



"I thought I would help other people enjoy what I have enjoyed."

– BILL PHILLIPS

On the bike path, Bill found a place where he could enjoy the outdoors, test his physical limits and enjoy the companionship of fellow bikers. His positive experiences on the bike trail motivated him to establish the charitable fund that bears his name.

In seeking guidance for establishing such a fund, he turned to his attorney, Abigail Saving, a partner at Saving & Shepler in Logan. "The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio made the charitable planned giving process easy. Their team genuinely cared about assisting me as an advisor and the charitable giving dreams of Mr. Phillips," said Abigail, who now serves on the Hocking County Community Fund committee.

Your legacy is what you are known for today and how you will be remembered for years to come. While thinking about your legacy and your plans for the future, we hope you'll also consider a planned gift to support the communities and causes closest to your heart. Contact us to learn more.

740.753.1111 | Hocking@ffao.org | www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hocking

Our impact



**\$7.6
MILLION**

In assets for the people
of Hocking County



**\$350,493
AWARDED**

Across HCCF's family
of funds since 2019



**\$111,367
GIVEN**

In grants and
scholarships in 2024*



**57
FUNDS**

Partnering with HCCF
in service to
our community

** Includes scholarships awarded through HCCF and FAO funds*

Our family of funds

- Hocking County Community Fund
- Arc of Appalachia Hocking Hills Forever Fund
- Arthur and Dorothy Kalklosch Family Fund
- Artista Rock School Fund*
- Barton and Regina Holl Legacy Fund
- Bishop Educational Gardens Endowment Fund
- Bison Hollow Conservation Fund
- The Bowen House Endowment Fund
- Brice Berry Scholarship Fund
- Brighten Your Future Endowment
- Cara and Dominick Brook Family Fund
- Chieftain Center Fund
- Dayton Schultheis Mathematics Award Endowment
- Debby Angle Memorial Fund
- Dollars for Holiday Lights Fund*
- Endowment Supporting Mark J. Potter Training Center
- Faith & Mary Ruth Krinn Memorial Fund
- Fireworks Fund*
- FosterHub for Hocking County Endowment
- The Frank Judy Family-Logan High School Fund
- Frederick M. Ervin III Legacy Fund for Hocking County
- Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park
- Helen Grettler "Got Music" Endowment Fund
- Hocking Area End of Life Care Fund
- Hocking Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Hocking Hills Conservation Endowment Fund
- Hocking Valley Scenic Trails*
- Jim Raeder Helping Hand Scholarship Fund
- Ken & Joan Danes Farmers Market Fund
- Keynes Drive Recreation Complex*
- LifeWise Logan-Hocking County Endowment
- LilyFest Fund
- Logan Gates*
- Logan High School Work/Study Endowment
- Logan-Holl Foundation Fund
- Logan in Bloom Fund*
- Logan Mural Project*
- Logan Rotary Community Fund
- Logan Theater Fund
- Logan Town Center*
- Long Term Recovery Team*
- Loryn Cassady Memorial Fund
- Maddy Schein Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Merchants National Bank Fund for Hocking County
- Mingo Park Project Fund*
- Operation Santa*
- Pamela Jones Brooks Legacy Fund for Hocking County
- Park National Bank Community Fund for Hocking County
- Phillip Davis Memorial Endowment
- Ruth and Edgar "Jake" Huffman Endowment
- Scenic Hills Senior Center & Educational & Wellness Center Endowment
- Schmidt Family Endowment
- Sherman and Regina Prater Fund
- Supporting Families Fund
- Tedd McCormick Memorial Fund
- Union Furnace Elementary Endowment
- VCNB Family Fund for Hocking County

**This fund is part of the Hocking Hills Chamber of Commerce Foundation*



Hocking County
Community Fund

An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

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

GIVE TO HCCF

Gifts to the Hocking 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 Hocking 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:

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

or



Online:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hocking
www.tinyurl.com/GiveHocking
or scan the QR code above!

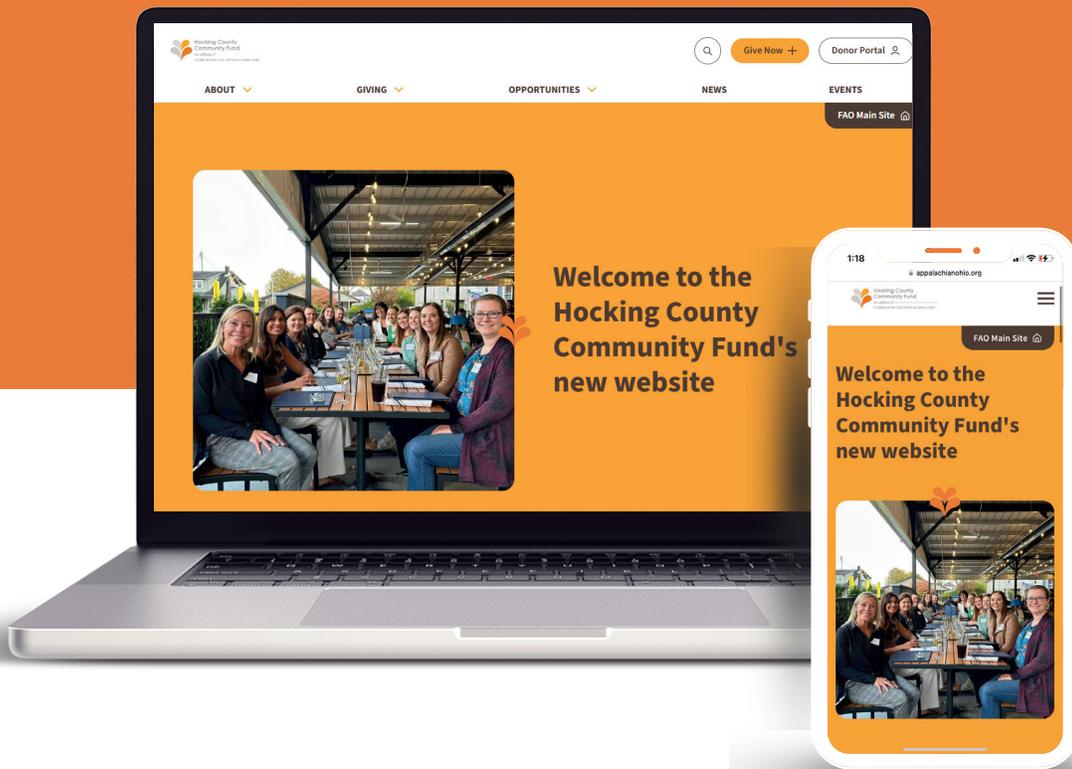
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Hocking@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

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/Hocking



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