



Hocking County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

The Bowen House | 2025 grant recipient



Simon Kenton Council of Scouting America | 2025 grant recipient



Logan Theater & Community Arts Center | 2025 grant recipient



Hocking County Community Fund

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING HOCKING COUNTY



Pictured (from left) are Hocking County Community Fund committee members Laura Davidson, Katy Kudlapur, Bailey Venzin, Keith Hood, Kristi Brooks, Abby Saving, Laurel Danes-Webb and Bobby Smathers with 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 (FAO), 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.



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

2025 GRANTS

The Hocking County Community Fund, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded a total of \$25,085 in grant funding in 2025.

APPALACHIAN STRING INITIATIVE

This grant is supporting a beginner strings music program for Hocking County children and adults, opening new pathways to learn, create and connect through music. Led by Ohio University students majoring in music education, the program began in January and is enriching the artistic culture of the Hocking County community.

THE BOWEN HOUSE

The Bowen House, a Hocking County gathering space for more than 170 years, stands as a center for art, music, culture and community. This grant is supporting accessibility updates to the historic home's back entrance, an interior ramp and first-floor restrooms to provide a welcoming, inclusive space for all.

HOCKING HILLS GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

This grant is supporting the church's Healthy Living through Healthy Cooking food education program, with a focus on serving families experiencing food insecurity. Participants explore everything from food safety to budget-friendly meal planning, then apply those skills in a hands-on cooking demonstration, followed by a shared meal and take-home recipe with ingredients to recreate the meal at home.

THE LIBBY PROJECT

Logan-based The Libby Project was founded in 2024 to provide low- or no-cost vaccinations (and in the future spay/neuter services) to dogs cared for by low-income families. This grant is helping to fund a cargo trailer that will operate as a mobile unit, bringing these essential veterinary services directly to the community.



Members of the Appalachian String Initiative perform at HCCF's grantee celebration held in January at the Hocking Hills Chamber of Commerce's new coworking space in Logan. HCCF awarded the Appalachian String Initiative a 2025 grant to start a beginner string music program for Hocking County children and adults.



Baking is just one of the many ways Doris Wilson shows her love for her community. She also leads the Healthy Living through Healthy Cooking food education program at Hocking Hills Global Methodist Church, which received a 2025 grant from HCCF.

2025 GRANTS

LOGAN-HOCKING LOCAL SCHOOLS

Three grants were awarded to Logan-Hocking Local Schools:

- To support Project SAFE's year-round food pantry, providing grab-and-go meals and food boxes for students and families
- To provide emergency support for essential needs, including food and shelter
- To support community bloodmobile drives organized by Logan High School students in partnership with the American Red Cross

LOGAN THEATER AND COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

The Logan Theater and Community Arts Center will be launching a hands-on visual arts program for youth ages 3-17, providing classes at the theater and through mobile outreach events across Hocking County. This grant is funding supplies for the program and supporting updates to the theater's lobby and nearby spaces to better display and celebrate community artwork.

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

Through its food pantry and a community-stocked blessing box outside the pantry, Shepherd of the Valley United Brethren in Christ Church assists Hocking County families facing food insecurity. This grant is funding food staples not available to the pantry through the regional foodbank and helping the approximately 100 people the pantry serves monthly.

SIMON KENTON COUNCIL OF SCOUTING AMERICA

In 2024, the Simon Kenton Council of Scouting America provided financial assistance to help nearly 20 economically disadvantaged Hocking County youth participate in scouting. This grant is helping expand that support, ensuring more youth can access programming designed to build character, develop leadership skills and prepare for their futures.

IGNITING THE SCIENCE OF HOPE IN OUR SCHOOLS

A group of first-year students at Logan High School started the 2024-2025 academic year with renewed ambition after completing a pilot program in middle school.

Conceived by eighth-grade English teacher and FAO Growing Home Fellow Kaleigh Cox, the program explored whether a curriculum based on the science of hope would increase hope in students with chronic absenteeism. The results? One-third of the students increased school attendance. Half reduced behavioral incidents. And 92 percent earned higher GPAs – while reporting increased hope. FAO, with funding from the Barton and Regina Holl Legacy Fund, gave this inaugural class of Hope Scholars early education awards to support their future postsecondary education.

Kaleigh is one of seven individuals living and/or working in Hocking County serving through FAO's inaugural Growing Home Fellowship, which invests in emerging leaders across the region financially and through leadership programming that includes coaching, service and skill development.



Speaking at an HCCF event to celebrate its 2025 grant recipients, Kaleigh Cox, a Logan-Hocking Middle School teacher and Growing Home Fellow, shares the results of a project she piloted to implement the science of hope in her classroom.



BRINGING CAREER AND SPACE EXPLORATION TO OUR YOUTH

Baking soda rockets. Virtual reality labs. Lunar landers – and more!

That's what Hocking County youth experienced last fall when HCCF partnered with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), Janet's Planet, the Ohio University Performing Arts and Concert Series, local employers and FAO to bring science-based learning to our community.

Our COSI programming provided Logan-Hocking Middle School students with hands-on learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine – all tied to in-demand career opportunities in our communities. A special thanks to our industry partners – Hocking College, Hocking Hills Banking Center, Hocking Hills Tourism Association, Hocking Valley Community Hospital, Mennel Milling and Rocky Brands – who led many of the day's activities.

Our Janet's Planet programming enabled elementary students to explore space – right from their schools. Janet Ivey-Duensing, CEO and creator of the award-winning Janet's Planet education program, delivered daytime performances at Central and Union Furnace elementary schools, followed by an after-school event at Logan-Hocking Middle School for students and families. During each event, students brought the learning to life by designing and building lunar landers.

HCCF allocated some of its 2025 grant funding to help make these opportunities possible. From elementary school students exploring space to middle and high schoolers exploring future careers, we are encouraging our youth to dream big and empowering them to believe they can be – and do – anything.



HONORING A FAMILY OF PHILANTHROPISTS

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio honored the Brooks family with its 2025 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in recognition of a multigenerational legacy of giving that has made a lasting impact on the Nelsonville and Hocking County communities. Read about how four generations of the Brooks family have turned generosity into a family tradition, and watch a special video celebrating their impact.

www.tinyurl.com/CPOTY25-Brooks



OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Hocking County Community Fund** 

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

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

* These unrestricted named funds contribute to HCCF's annual grantmaking. Gifts to these funds as well as HCCF's endowment fund are invested and generate earnings in perpetuity. Those earnings fund HCCF's grants year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation.

OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$9.1M+

in assets across our family of funds

\$8.2M+

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

\$917,208

in unrestricted assets through HCCF's endowment and unrestricted named funds to support our annual grantmaking*

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$25,085

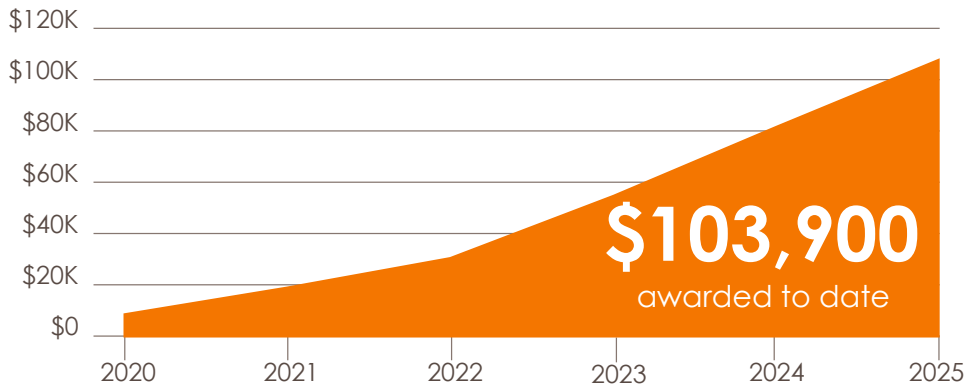
awarded through HCCF's unrestricted endowment fund

\$78,275

awarded through restricted funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$556,221

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

FIGHTING HUNGER IN HOCKING COUNTY – ONE PIG AT A TIME

2025 marked the fourth (and a record-making) year for HCCF's Fill the Freezer campaign, which invites buyers at the Hocking County Fair's Junior Livestock Sale to donate their hog purchases to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and fight hunger – one pig at a time.

Over the past four years, 94 hogs and a steer have been donated, generating 10,261 pounds of locally raised protein to help our neighbors facing food insecurity.

In 2025 alone

28

hogs donated
generating **3,416 pounds**
of protein to feed
Hocking County families!



Fill the Freezer is held in partnership with the Hocking County Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, the Southeast Ohio Foodbank, 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:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hocking



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

GROW HCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

Gifts to the Hocking 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/Hocking/give



or mailing your gift to
Hocking 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.

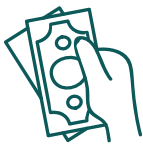
FUND WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU

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.

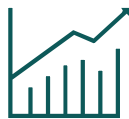
LEAVE A LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

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 Hocking 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!**

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