



Jackson County
Community Foundation
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Wellston City Schools | 2025 grant recipient



Eastseals Central and Southeast Ohio | 2025 grant recipient



Southern Hills Arts Council | 2025 grant recipient



Jackson County Community Foundation

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING JACKSON COUNTY



FOR A FLOURISHING

Jackson County

ABOUT US

The **Jackson County Community Foundation (JCCF)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), provides a way for anyone with a heart for Jackson 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 Jackson 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

- Maddie Allman-Winters
- Macie Arthur
- Marilyn Boggs
- Brianna Jenkins
- John Jones
- Kayla Kincaid
- Seth Michael
- Brian Moore
- Vicky Retterer
- Susan Stockmeister
- Carol Wright

Want to learn more?

For more information about planned giving, to make a gift to JCCF or to create a fund to support a cause closest to your heart, please contact us!

 740.753.1111

 Jackson@ffao.org

 Jackson County Community Foundation



www.AppalachianOhio.org/Jackson

2025 GRANTS

The Jackson County Community Foundation, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded eight grants, totaling \$19,194, in 2025.

BOOKS ACROSS THE BEND

Inspired by his previous volunteer work with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, which mails free monthly books to children under 5, Jackson High School senior Drew Neff is extending that impact into students' early elementary years. This grant is supporting his annual service project that provides books to pre-K through first-grade students in Jackson City Schools.

CITY OF JACKSON

Boone Rocks, a rock bluff in Jackson with a small shelter, is steeped in local folklore, most notably that Daniel Boone was once imprisoned there. This grant is supporting improvements to the trail leading to Boone Rocks and the installation of interpretive signage that highlights archaeological discoveries made at the site and celebrates the area's history and heritage.

COMMUNITY ASSAULT PREVENTION SERVICES

"This program allowed me the support and guidance that I so desperately needed." That's how a 17-year survivor of domestic violence described the help she received from Community Assault Prevention Services. This is the second consecutive year JCCF grants are supporting the organization, helping to fund its operations and add another bed to its domestic violence shelter.

EASTERSEALS CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST OHIO

Nearly 1,400 Jackson County children are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, receiving a free book each month until age 5. This grant is supporting Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio – which manages the program locally and covers half its cost – as it seeks to grow enrollment and put more children on pathways to success.



Over the past two years, Drew Neff has provided 450+ Jackson County pre-K through first-grade students with new books – accompanied by a letter for parents and guardians sharing the importance of reading with their children. A JCCF grant is supporting his service project.



As the local program partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio covers 50 percent of the book costs for Jackson County children ages 5 and younger enrolled in the program – this year with help from a JCCF grant.

2025 GRANTS

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD ON AGING

The Jackson County Board on Aging delivers three hot meals each week to 100 seniors, some of whom report rationing the meals to make them stretch to avoid going hungry. This grant is supporting a new Supplemental Nutrition Project that will provide one extra meal per week for seven weeks and help reduce food insecurity.

JACKSON COUNTY HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

In 2025, the Jackson County Homelessness Committee housed 14 families, helped pay the rent for 18 families and helped five families pay for their utilities. This grant is helping the organization purchase paint to refurbish the houses used to provide free housing to Jackson County residents experiencing homelessness, ensuring safe, welcoming spaces for local families in need.

SOUTHERN HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

More than 1,000 people attended the first season of Jackson's Movies at Manpower, enjoying outdoor movie screenings, activities and time together while supporting local businesses. A 2024 JCCF grant supported the initiative's inaugural year, and a 2025 grant is continuing that support – strengthening community connections, encouraging tourism and providing free, family-friendly entertainment for all ages.

WELLSTON CITY SCHOOLS

Art education is an important part of childhood development, supporting creativity, emotional expression and academic performance. This grant is funding art supplies for the K-5 visual arts programs at Bundy Elementary and Wellston Intermediate Schools, ensuring all 500+ students across both schools continue to have meaningful and equitable access to quality art instruction.



Jackson County youth gather after a community kickball game at the July 2025 Movies at Manpower event. JCCF grants have supported Movies at Manpower for the past two years, contributing to this community-focused initiative designed to strengthen local connections and boost tourism.



In May 2025, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce hosted and celebrated Bundy Elementary School first graders for their artwork featuring cardinals, which was displayed in the department's lobby. A JCCF grant is supporting Wellston City School's K-5 visual arts program.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN JACKSON COUNTY

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including seven individuals living and/or working in Jackson County. The fellowship is investing in emerging leaders across the region who commit to live, work and volunteer in our communities for at least five years and take part in a strengths-based leadership program that includes one-on-one coaching, service, skill development and more.



Maddie Allman-Winters is a 4-H youth development extension educator with the Ohio State University Extension Office in Jackson County. She serves on the Jackson County Community Foundation committee and is partnering with another fellow, Bri Jenkins, to launch the Fill the Freezer campaign in summer 2026 to address food insecurity in Jackson County.



Shannon French is an intervention specialist at Jackson County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Hope Haven School. She has served the Oak Hill Food Pantry and is partnering with local organizations to establish blessing boxes, expanding food access across the community.



Mallory Huff teaches science at Jackson High School. She and another Growing Home Fellow, Gracie Walburn, co-founded the Jackson Youth Volleyball League, a nonprofit that is creating new opportunities for girls in grades 3-7 to stay active and engaged in their community.



Bri Jenkins, a high school science teacher at Jackson City Schools, serves with the Friends of Lake Katharine and on JCCF's committee, where she is partnering with Fellow Maddie Allman-Winters on the Fill the Freezer campaign. She also served on the Jackson County Forward committee and secured funding for a tourism project.



Chelsea Mullins is a licensed clinical professional providing outpatient mental health counseling at Hopewell Health Center. She serves on the Jackson County Substance-abuse, Prevention and Addiction Resource Council steering committee, where she has helped fundraise and provide programming for local youth.



Eli Wagner, a visual arts teacher at Wellston High School, teaches a free monthly ceramics workshop at the Dairy Barn Arts Center called "Create to Donate," where bowls are created for donation to local fundraising events that address food insecurity.



Gracie Walburn, a sixth-grade English teacher at Jackson City Schools, established the Jackson Youth Volleyball League in partnership with another fellow, Mallory Huff. She has connected with local businesses to sustain the program, which recently celebrated a successful second season.

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



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS JACKSON COUNTY



A NEW GARDEN TAKES ROOT

The City of Jackson, Jackson County Forward and Jackson City Schools Youth Climate Action Team are transforming an empty lot into a community garden – a hands-on space where youth learn sustainable agriculture while improving their community. A 2024 JCCF grant funded a sign for the garden as well as two trailhead signs that will be installed at Hammertown Lake.



STEPPING UP FOR STUDENTS

Thirty-three students throughout Jackson County were gifted new shoes during the second half of the 2024-2025 school year, thanks to a 2024 JCCF grant awarded to Southern Ohio Soles. As one teacher explained, this simple support eases financial burdens for families and allows students to stay focused, confident and ready to learn, improving their academic performance and overall well-being.



A DAY DOWN ON THE FARM

Each spring, every Jackson County second grader is treated to a field trip to the OSU Extension Jackson Research Farm to engage in hands-on lessons about agriculture – from milking a cow to making lip balm – and to learn how our food gets from farm to table. A 2024 JCCF grant supported the Jackson-Vinton Farm Bureau's 2025 Ag Experience Day.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST ACORN

You've heard the saying, "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow." But in Oak Hill, it was the community from which a mighty acorn grew!

On June 14, 2025, Oak Hill made history, unveiling the world's largest acorn sculpture in Central Memorial Park. Launched by the Oak Hill Chamber of Commerce in 2023 to commemorate the village's 150th anniversary, the project grew from a bold idea to reality with lots of community support, including a 2023 JCCF grant.

At more than 15 feet tall and weighing more than 1.4 tons, this new landmark has generated a lot of community pride and is already attracting visitors.



OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$1.5M

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

\$524,710

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

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$19,194

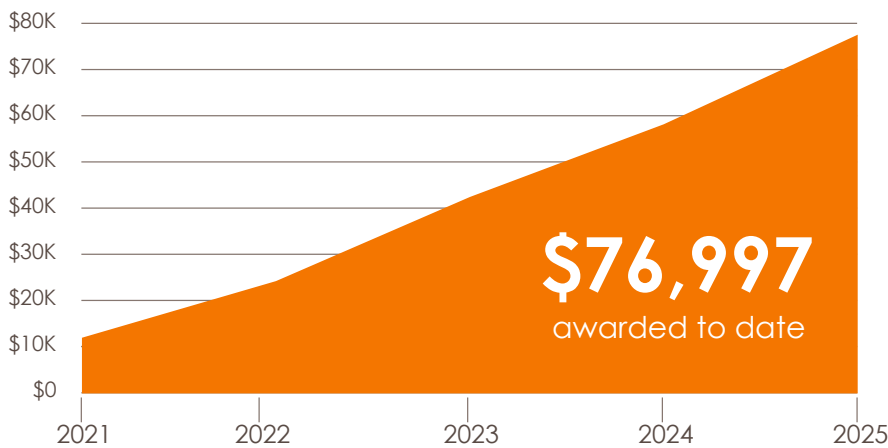
awarded through JCCF's endowment and unrestricted funds

\$52,550

awarded through restricted funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$76,997
awarded to date

\$1,285,934

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Jackson County Community Foundation**
(This is the endowment fund that fuels our annual grantmaking.)

- Adena Health System Fund for Jackson County*
- Arc of Appalachia Preserve Stewardship Fund for Gallia-Lawrence-Jackson Counties
- Bellisio Foods Foundation Fund
- CPFNA Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Allen Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Fill the Freezer Jackson County
- Jackson High School Class of 1962 Scholarship Fund
- Paul and Eleanor Essman Family Scholarship
- The Stockmeister Family Fund
- Sylvester Memorial Library Fund
- VCNB Family Fund for Jackson County*

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



Jackson County
Community Foundation

An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

GROW JCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

Gifts to the Jackson County Community Foundation's endowment fund are invested. The earnings generated from those investments fund the grants JCCF awards each year to nonprofit and public organizations working to increase quality of life in our communities.

Give to JCCF's endowment fund by:



Scanning the QR code or visiting
www.AppalachianOhio.org/Jackson/give



or mailing your gift to
Jackson County Community Foundation
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 JCCF'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 JCCF. 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.

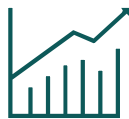
LEAVE A LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

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 Jackson County Community Foundation 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!**

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