

Southern Wayne Advocacy Council | 2025 grant recipient



Rotary Club of Ironton | 2025 grant recipient



Chesapeake High School | 2025 grant recipient



Lawrence County Community Foundation

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING LAWRENCE COUNTY



FOR A FLOURISHING

Lawrence County

ABOUT US

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

- Sandy Blackburn
- Donna Dingus
- Shirley Dyer
- Dan Evans
- John Ferguson
- Joe Freeman
- Jim Galloway
- DeAnna Holliday
- Dan Jeffries
- Bill Jessie
- Ralph Kline
- Mike McKee
- Shannon Smith
- Terri L. Taylor

Want to learn more?

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



740.753.1111

Lawrence@ffao.org

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Lawrence

2025 GRANTS

The Lawrence County Community Foundation, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded a total of \$48,564 in grant funding in 2025.

CHESAPEAKE HIGH SCHOOL

This grant is supporting a community beautification initiative through which students in art, engineering and Ohio history classes will create and install large-scale artwork and banners in public spaces in the village of Chesapeake. The project aims to enhance students' artistic skills, promote civic engagement and cultivate a stronger sense of community within Chesapeake.

FACING HUNGER FOODBANK

Nearly 19 percent of Lawrence County residents experience food insecurity, according to Feeding America. This grant is purchasing food for distribution to Lawrence County food pantries, helping our neighbors put meals on their tables. (See page 6 to read about an LCCF campaign that provided locally raised protein to Lawrence County food pantries.)

FAIRLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

This grant is funding recording equipment for Fairland High School's music department, giving students hands-on experience in audio engineering, production and digital media. The equipment will also open doors to new collaborations with other departments in the school as well as partnerships with local artists, businesses and organizations.

FRIENDS OF IRONTON

In June 2025, the Friends of Ironton broke ground on a \$2.7 million renovation of the historic Ro-Na Theater, with funding from the Ohio Department of Development's Appalachian Community Grant Program. Rising costs left no room in the budget to install stage lighting. This grant is filling that gap and contributing to the revitalization of this beloved local landmark.



A 2024 LCCF grant enabled the Chesapeake Band Boosters to purchase wireless mics and earpieces that were used for the first time during the "Peake of Performance" Marching Band's 2025 season. In 2025, the band qualified for state competition three times.



Of the 445,000 pounds of food Facing Hunger Foodbank distributed in Lawrence County in 2023, less than 10 percent was protein. A new LCCF campaign is helping to fill that gap, and a 2025 grant is providing additional food to help feed local families.

2025 GRANTS

IRONTON CITY SCHOOLS

The average age of the nonfiction book collection at Ironton High School's library is about 45 years, leaving students to navigate outdated information. It is especially challenging for College Credit Plus students, whose coursework often requires credible, citable books. This grant is helping to modernize the collection, equipping students with up-to-date resources essential for academic success.

OHIO UNIVERSITY SOUTHERN

This grant is supporting the creation of the Bobcat Boutique, which will provide students and other Lawrence County residents access to free professional clothing – from business wear to scrubs and Occupational Safety and Health Administration-approved clothing. By reducing barriers to workforce readiness, this initiative aims to empower career success for students and other community members.

ROTARY CLUB OF IRONTON

In 2025, the Rotary Club of Ironton, in partnership with the International Arts Fund, hosted Armenia's Armfolk ensemble, bringing the international youth artists to Lawrence County for a day of cultural programming for students and community. This grant is supporting another Armenia Armfolk cultural exchange tour in 2026, fostering global connections and showcasing our community's assets.

ROME TOWNSHIP

Rome Township has invested in several improvements to its riverfront over the past several years, including recently added basketball courts. This grant is funding benches and swings for the riverfront park – enhancements that will complement the \$5.2+ million investment the state is making in the area through the Appalachian Community Grant Program.

SOUTHERN WAYNE ADVOCACY COUNCIL

This grant is helping to launch the Lawrence County Youth Environmental Stewardship and Cleanup Initiative to cultivate our community's next generation of environmental stewards. High school students from across Lawrence County will participate in clean-up efforts at riverfront and forest recreation sites and take part in educational sessions on everything from wildflower identification to caring for public spaces.

TRI-STATE STEM+M EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

This grant is supporting the creation of an outdoor classroom where students, families and community members can experience nature while learning about environmental stewardship. Planned enhancements include a picnic area for classes and families, educational trail signage highlighting native plants and local wildlife, and recycling stations – promoting hands-on learning, conservation and responsible waste reduction.

WAY TO BATTLE

In 2024, Way To Battle gifted South Point Elementary School 400 Battle Pups – stuffed animals with collars reading “No one battles alone” and bearing a kind note – comforting students after their principal was attacked. This grant is paying that kindness forward, funding 200 Battle Pups to be distributed to individuals fighting illness or facing other trauma.

“We’re seeing new opportunities blossom across our communities, from our classrooms to our riverbanks and beyond, thanks to those who give selflessly of their time, talent and financial resources. It’s an honor to partner with donors and doers to invest in an even brighter Lawrence County.”

—— DAN EVANS, CHAIR OF LCCF'S GRANTS COMMITTEE



BRINGING COSI AND CAREER EXPLORATION TO LAWRENCE COUNTY YOUTH

Baking soda rockets. Elephant toothpaste. Virtual reality labs – and more!

That's what Lawrence County youth experienced in summer 2025 when we partnered with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), local employers and FAO to bring COSI programming to our community.

Lawrence County middle and early high school students were invited to participate in a morning of hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine – all tied to in-demand career opportunities in our communities.

Thanks to Vistra for sponsoring this opportunity in partnership with LCCF and for joining our other industry partners (Engineered Profiles LLC, IE Corporation, Marathon Petroleum Company and Vertiv) to lead many of the day's activities.

Together, we are encouraging our youth to dream big and envision their futures right here in Lawrence County.



ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

Through FAO's Growing Home Fellowship, Isaac Floyd serves Bobcat Academy, Ohio University Southern's interactive skill-building summer program for elementary students. He recently participated in the Growing Home Fellowship pitch competition and secured grant funding for 30 students to attend the 2026 Bobcat Academy at no cost.

Isaac is one of four Lawrence County residents 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.



FIGHTING HUNGER IN LAWRENCE COUNTY – ONE POUND AT A TIME

In 2025, LCCF debuted its Fill the Freezer campaign, inviting buyers at the Lawrence County Fair Livestock Sale to donate their market lamb, goat, hog or beef purchases to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and fight hunger – one pound at a time.

In its first year, the campaign resulted in 37 animals donated (one steer, six lambs, 10 hogs and 20 goats), generating 4,332 pounds of locally raised protein to feed Lawrence County residents. LCCF allocated a portion of its 2025 grant funding to cover the meat processing costs.

The Fill the Freezer campaign is held in partnership with the Lawrence County Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, meat processors and Facing Hunger Foodbank, which distributes the donated meat to food pantries and mobile units serving Lawrence County.



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 LCCF's next campaign. Scan the QR or visit:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Lawrence/fill-the-freezer



MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH JUBILEE

On Nov. 14, 2025, LCCF joined in a jubilee celebrating the restoration of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church – the first Black church west of the Appalachians, the only surviving antebellum Black church in Ohio and a national historic site that served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Since 1849, the Lawrence County church has stood as a testament to freedom, resilience and community. Its restoration and return to service as an educational and community center are the result of many partnerships. LCCF provided the last of the funding needed to complete the church's historic structure report and its new parking lot.

OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$364,817

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

\$2.8M+

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

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$48,564

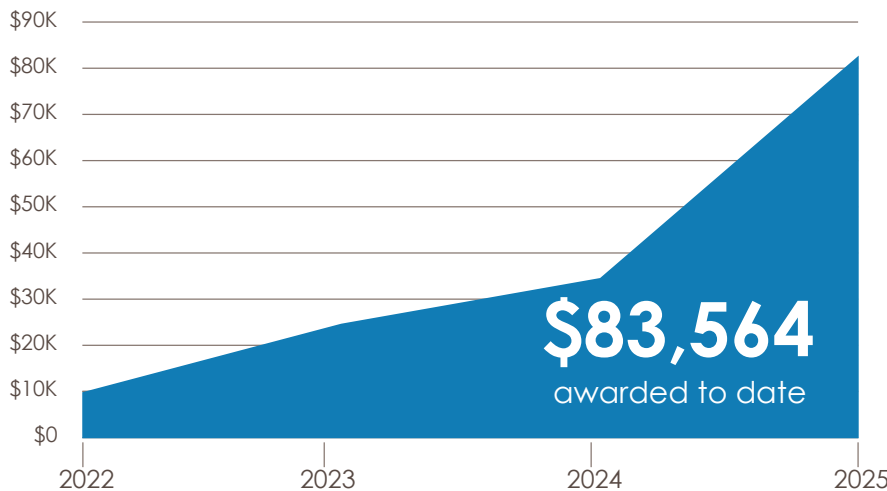
awarded through LCCF's
unrestricted endowment fund

\$21,473

awarded through restricted
funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$120,037

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- Lawrence County Community Foundation**

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

- A&L Home Healthcare Scholarship Fund
- Arc of Appalachia Preserve Stewardship Fund for Gallia-Lawrence-Jackson Counties
- Collins Career Technical Center Alumni & Friends Fund
- David Ryan Mitchell Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Don Irby Endowed Professorship Fund for Tri-State Bible College
- Dr. Karen LaRoe Scholarship
- Fill the Freezer Lawrence County
- Hand in Hand The Clonch Legacy Fund for Lawrence County Beautification
- Janice Large Wheeler and Richard Wheeler Foundation for Science and Technology Education Fund
- Larry and Dawnetta Abnett Substance Use Recovery Return to School Scholarship Fund
- Leona "June" Freeman Legacy Fund
- Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
- Simeon and Alma Mullins Legacy Fund for Rock Hill Local School District



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

GROW LCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to LCCF's endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
Lawrence 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 LCCF's grantmaking each year.

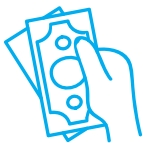
FUND WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU

Provide sustained support for what's closest to your heart by establishing a restricted fund through LCCF. 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 Lawrence 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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