



Meigs County Foundation
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





The Meigs County Foundation announced and celebrated its 2023 grant recipients at a reception held at the Blakeslee Center. Pictured at the event are foundation committee members and grant recipients.

ABOUT US

The Meigs County Foundation (MCF), a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, provides a way for anyone with a heart for Meigs 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 Meigs 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 areas of need, 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

- FRANK BLAKE
- RYAN BUCKLEY
- SUSAN CLARK
- CANDICE HESS
- JOHN HOBACK
- TRICIA MCNICKLE
- BARBARA MUSSER
- DRU REED
- PAUL REED
- CHARLENE RUTHERFORD
- JENNIFER SHEETS
- LAURA SHEETS
- CINDA STEVENS
- PERRY VARNADOE, *SECRETARY*
- LINDA WARNER

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



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



740.753.1111



Meigs@ffao.org



Meigs County Foundation

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs

**AMERICAN
ELECTRIC
POWER**

Special thanks to the AEP Foundation for a visionary gift to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to support philanthropic growth in the region, including FAO's partnership with the Meigs County Foundation.

2023 GRANTS

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Meigs County Foundation awarded 17 grants, totaling \$50,150, in 2023.

BETHEL WORSHIP CENTER

Bethel Worship Center launched "It's Our Time: Meigs Mobile Food and Supplies Outreach" to assist low-income Meigs County residents who have limited access to local food pantries or hot meals. MCF grants have supported that mission for the past two years, bringing sustenance and community love to our neighbors in need.

CHESTER YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL AND TUPPERS PLAINS YOUTH BASEBALL (2 GRANTS)

If you build it, they will come. When youth organizations in Chester and Tupper Plains built batting cages for their youth leagues and communities, so many people came that the new amenities quickly became mud holes from use. These grants are funding concrete, which will be covered by turf, making the batting cages accessible for years to come.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

It is estimated that at least 30 percent of the community accesses food and other necessities from the Blessing Box in Columbia Township. This grant is funding the purchase of storage cabinets and food for the Blessing Box, ensuring this lifeline is stocked and available to all who need it.

EASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (2 GRANTS)

Through support from the Buckley Family, MCF awarded two grants to benefit students in the Eastern Local School District. One grant is funding the purchase of tools and materials to help the Eastern FFA create a greenhouse and community garden for staff, students and the community. The other is funding tools and supplies the Science Olympiad team needs to advance in competition and to expand the academic competition to both high school and junior high students.



God's Hands At Work, which has received grants from the Meigs County Foundation the past two years, provides food and other life necessities to the underserved with the help of volunteers who donate their time to help package food boxes.

GOD'S HANDS AT WORK

God's Hands At Work started its Meigs County mobile food pantry three years ago to help address food insecurity in the most rural areas of the county. Every quarter, they hold a distribution at various locations, providing 300-400 individuals at each event a box containing enough food for approximately two weeks. This grant is funding the purchase of food for those distributions.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SOUTHEAST OHIO

In 2024, Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio is embarking on its third home build in Meigs County – a community endeavor that is providing an affordable home to a local family and giving hundreds of volunteers the opportunity to gain skills while serving others. This grant is supporting that home build, an investment in the community and a local family's dream.

2023 GRANTS



In 2023, the Meigs County Schools Food Pantry served a total of 7,173 people, including 3,897 children and 3,276 adults – all thanks to donors and volunteers who have supported this community effort for the past three years.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF CENTRAL OHIO

Every month, Lutheran Social Services holds a food pantry distribution at the Rutland Civic Center, providing healthy food to residents in need. This grant is funding food purchases for the distributions, assisting the increasing number of our neighbors who need a helping hand.

MEIGS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

The Blakeslee Center in Middleport continues to grow and is fielding more requests from people interested in hosting conferences, trainings and other events. This grant is funding upgrades to the Blakeslee's conference and training equipment and ensuring the venue can meet the needs of groups from the community, region and state.

MEIGS COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

Many local veterans report they are not able to shop locally for fresh food. The Meigs County Farmers' Market's veteran voucher program provides the men and women who have served our country with \$10 vouchers weekly to purchase produce. This grant will help fund that program for an estimated 600 veterans in 2024 and help cover the cost of the market's free educational classes.



A 2022 MCF grant helped fund the Meigs County Farmers' Market's third season of Music Along the Riverfront. A 2023 grant is helping fund the market's veteran voucher program and its free educational classes.

MEIGS COUNTY SCHOOLS FOOD PANTRY

In Meigs County, 16.7 percent of the population is food insecure, according to Feeding America. In 2021, MCF, in partnership with the Meigs Local, Eastern Local and Southern Local school districts, established the Meigs County Schools Food Pantry. This grant is funding the purchase of food for the pantry, which provides a monthly, year-round distribution of healthy, nutritious food to school-age children and their families experiencing food insecurity.

2023 GRANTS



A 2022 MCF grant helped fund additional equipment for the River of Life Food Pantry. A 2023 grant is continuing support for the nonprofit, which has been helping to feed Meigs County residents for 30-plus years.

MID-VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

During the 2022-23 school year, several middle and high school students at Mid-Valley Christian School in Middleport started a band – and raised awareness that a music program was needed. The school invested in an online music curriculum in 2023. This grant is helping to purchase the instruments and supplies needed to complete the school's new music program.

RIVER OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY

The River of Life Food Pantry, which served an estimated 15,000 people in 2023, has been helping to feed Meigs County residents for more than 30 years. This grant is supporting their long-time and much-needed service to our communities with the purchase of food.

SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 2023-24 school year is a little brighter at the Southern Local School District, which went more than 15 years without an art program. This grant is funding the purchase of materials and equipment for the district's new Introduction to Art Program, bringing opportunities for creative expression and learning to students in third through 12th grade.

OUR GROWING HOME FELLOWSHIP

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundations welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including seven individuals living and/or working in Meigs County: Ryan Davis, Ally Durst, Dylan Haynes, Kathryn Matson, Jenna Stoltzfus, Hannah Thompson and Maddie Wright. The Growing Home Fellowship is designed to recruit, retain and nurture our region's next generation of community builders. In exchange for committing to live, work and volunteer in their communities for five years, the fellows receive a financial stipend and access to a leadership program.

VILLAGE OF RUTLAND

The doors of the Rutland Civic Center's gymnasium must be replaced with ones that are fire-rated for the center to serve as an emergency shelter and host community events. This grant is funding the replacement of some of the gymnasium's doors – phase one of improvements being made to the center.

INVESTING IN OUR YOUNG LEADERS

In 2023, FAO partnered with its affiliate foundations to fund projects developed and implemented by local youth under age 18. The goal of this funding is to empower young leaders and inspire them to embrace greater roles in their communities.

MCF awarded youth-led project grant funding to the **iBELIEVE Foundation**. The grant is funding the participation of five Meigs County high school students in the 2024 iBELIEVE Youth Leadership Workshops at no cost to them or their families. The workshops focus on leadership skill development with the goal of equipping young people to create positive change in their schools, communities and beyond.



OUR IMPACT IN 2023



**\$4.7
MILLION**

In assets under
the MCF umbrella



**\$67,068
AWARDED**

Across MCF's family
of funds



**\$18,000
GIVEN**

In scholarships through
MCF and FAO funds



**14
FUNDS**

Partnering with MCF
in service to
our community

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- Meigs County Foundation
- Bachtel Scholarship Fund
- BraylynStrong Childhood Cancer Awareness Scholarship Fund
- Camp Kiashtuta Endowment
- Charles A. and Joan Corder Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Chester-Shade Historical Association Fund
- Eastern Local Alumni & Friends Endowment
- Karr-Aanestad K9 Foundation Fund
- Leifheit-Michael Family Scholarship Fund
- Meigs County Schools Food Pantry Fund
- Meigs Performing Arts Fund
- New Haven School Fund
- Reed Family Fund
- The William M. and Janet P. Betcher Memorial Endowment for Library Services



Meigs County
Foundation

An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

**Gifts to the Meigs County Foundation are
tax-deductible and can be made in a variety of ways.**

GIVE TO MCF

Gifts to the Meigs County Foundation'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 Meigs County Foundation. 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:

Meigs County Foundation
c/o Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
35 Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764

or



Online:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs
or www.tinyurl.com/GiveMeigs

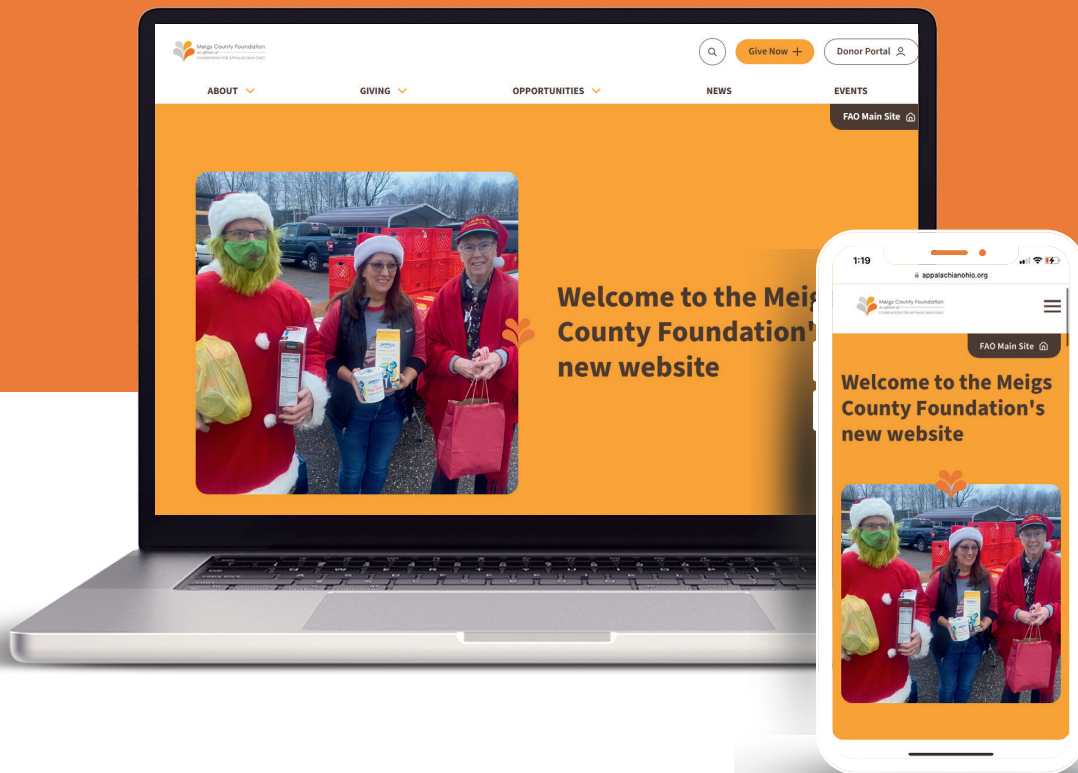
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Meigs@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

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/Meigs



Featuring more impact stories, easier navigation — and a lot of inspiration! Check back often for updates.