



Monroe County  
Community Foundation

An affiliate of  
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Monroe County Community Foundation

# 2024 Annual Report

*Advancing a flourishing Monroe County*





# FOR A FLOURISHING *Monroe County*

## About us

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

- Adam Archer
- Nikki Baker-Lude
- Tracy Blackstone
- Diane Burkhart
- Megan Kinzy
- Mick Schumacher
- Alyssa Stephens
- Gwynn Stewart
- Ruth Workman

## Want to learn more?

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



740.753.1111

Monroe@ffao.org



Monroe County  
Community Foundation

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe)

## 2024 Grants

The Monroe County Community Foundation, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded seven grants, totaling \$24,590, in 2024.

### Beallsville Volunteer and Community Fire Department

When emergency responders from the Beallsville Volunteer and Community Fire Department respond to structure fires and vehicle accidents involving power lines, they lose critical time waiting for staff from the power company to arrive and cut power to any live wires. This grant is funding equipment that will allow firefighters to safely check for electrical currents on power lines.

### Lewisville Community Center

The Lewisville Community Center often serves as the heart for events in the village, hosting everything from holiday celebrations to more than 100 private gatherings each year. This grant, supported by the Baker Education and Economic Development Fund, is helping to replace the center's broken sound system.

### Monroe County EMA

Two grants were awarded to the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency:

- To provide house number signs for Monroe County homes to help guide emergency responders
- To support disaster recovery efforts following the April 2024 storms and tornado



### Community highlight

Four River High School students contributed to a 2024 project at their former elementary school, which now serves as the Sardis Community Center. They put the finishing touches on a project to restore the terrazzo tile floor of the center's kitchen, helping to place the appliances back in the facility that hosts everything from community gatherings to family reunions. The project received funding from a 2023 grant from MCCF.

### A milestone and momentous year for MCCF

2024 was a milestone year for the Monroe County Community Foundation, as we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bringing together gifts of time, talent and treasure to make a lasting difference in our communities.

It was also a momentous year. In early 2024, FAO announced a 50-cent match for every \$1 given to any endowment fund within affiliate foundations' family of funds. A total of \$300,000 in match funding was available for each affiliate foundation through Nov. 8. Thanks to the generosity of our community, MCCF met our match! Combined with another match opportunity FAO made available at the end of 2023, we raised more than \$1.1 million in donations and matching funds to support a flourishing Monroe County for generations to come.



### Celebrating 10 years!

*Pictured at MCCF's 10th Anniversary Celebration are committee members (from left) Gwynn Stewart, Leanne Harper (former committee member), Alyssa Stephens, Diane Burkhart, Tracy Blackstone and Nikki Baker-Lude.*



Monroe County youth who participate in Tri-County Help Center's Safe Spaces program decorate a tree at the 2024 Woodsfield Christmas celebration. Safe Spaces, a support group for Monroe County youth, was launched in June 2024 with funding from a 2023 MCCF grant.

## 2024 Grants

### River Elementary School PTO

Students' enjoyment of the River Elementary School playground is often disrupted when the balls they play with bounce over the fence. This grant is helping to replace the existing fence with a taller one that will serve students and all who use the playground outside of school hours.

### Tri-County Help Center

In 2024, an MCCF grant allowed Tri-County Help Center to create Safe Spaces, a support group where Monroe County youth can share concerns and goals while engaging with their peers. This grant is helping to fund the continuation of the program in 2025 – and filling a need expressed by local families.

### Woodsfield Kiwanis Club

The Woodsfield Kiwanis Club celebrated 100 years of service to Woodsfield and surrounding communities in 2024. This grant is supporting the club's Coats for Kids project, which for 20+ years has provided winter clothing to K-8 students in the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District who qualify for free or reduced lunches.



In September 2024, community members and groups came together for the Coats for Kids BBQ to support the Woodsfield Kiwanis Club's annual program that provides winter clothing to hundreds of K-8 students in the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District. The project has received grant funding from MCCF for the past four years.

**Since our founding in 2014, MCCF has awarded more than \$96,000 in grant funding.**



## Answering the call to lead and serve in Monroe County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Andrea Blackstone, Lauren Craig, Elizabeth Hoover, Mattie Vinskovich and Rusty Winland, who live and/or work in Monroe 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. Two of those projects include:

### Mattie Vinskovich



Mattie Vinskovich of Woodsfield is a media arts teacher and advisor to the Business Professionals of America and yearbook staff at Monroe Central High School. Mattie is serving on the Monroe County Mental Health and Recovery Board for her Growing Home Fellowship service.

### Rusty Winland



A fourth-grade math teacher at Caldwell Exempted Village Schools, Rusty Winland is serving the Beallsville Volunteer Fire Department. Rusty secured grant funding through the Monroe County Community Foundation to purchase equipment that will allow firefighters to safely check for electrical currents on power lines. He also participated in FAO's inaugural Growing Home Fellowship pitch competition and secured funding to purchase an automated external defibrillator and Ambu bags to assist with emergency cardiac arrest calls.



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.



Four generations of the Baker family pose for a photo at Baker & Sons Equipment in Lewisville in August 2024. The family was honored with FAO's 2024 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award.

**Honoring a family's legacy of giving** | In memory of John Baker August 8, 1931 - March 4, 2025

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio created the Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2016 to honor Jeff Chaddock and Mark Morrow for their visionary planned gift to support the region and its nonprofit organizations. The award celebrates those who have made an outsized difference in Appalachian Ohio through their charitable giving.

In 2024, the Baker family of Monroe County received the award in recognition of a legacy of giving that spans generations – from John Baker, who passed away in March 2025, and his late wife, Lois, to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family's service to community dates back nearly seven decades to when John started the family business with one piece of farm rental equipment. As the business grew, so did the Bakers' commitment to helping others. When John's son, Greg, died unexpectedly in 2011 during his service as a volunteer firefighter, the Bakers' desire to honor family legacies



and to support the community they call home grew even stronger.

Over the years, the Baker family has established or championed nine separate endowment funds within MCCF's family of funds, covering everything from economic development to heart health awareness and much more.



View the Baker family's 2024 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year award video.



# HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF MONROE COUNTY

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

## GIVE TO MCCF

Gifts to the Monroe County Community 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 Monroe County Community 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:

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

or



### Online:

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe)  
or [www.tinyurl.com/GiveMonroe](http://www.tinyurl.com/GiveMonroe)

**For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email [Monroe@fao.org](mailto:Monroe@fao.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 impact in 2024



**\$4.6  
MILLION**

In assets for the people  
of Monroe County



**\$113,070  
AWARDED**

Across MCCF's family  
of funds



**\$12,750  
GIVEN**

In scholarships through  
MCCF and FAO funds



**49  
FUNDS**

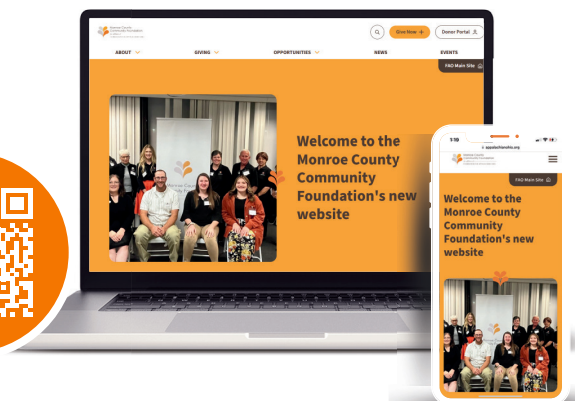
Partnering with MCCF  
in service to  
our community

## Our family of funds

- Monroe County Community Foundation Endowment Fund
- Baker Education and Economic Development Fund
- Betty McElfresh Ogden Methodist Scholarship Fund
- Broken Timbers Outdoor Education Center Endowment
- Dalton Ludwig Memorial Fund for Monroe County
- The Davey L. and Sandra Jackson Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund
- David and Patricia Phillips Fund for Monroe Youth
- Friendship Cemetery Endowment
- Graysville Community Center and Volunteer Fire Department Fund
- The Greenbrier Cemetery Endowment
- Gregory S. Baker Legacy Scholarship
- Gulfport Energy Fund
- Hoops for Heart VFD Fund
- Hoops for the Heart VFD Scholarship
- Jeff & Jane Schumacher Cox Fund
- Jeff & Jane Schumacher Cox Scholarship
- Jennifer Garrison Public Service Scholarship Fund
- Jim Turner Memorial Scholarship
- John & Lois Baker Scholarship Fund
- John Ogden Monroe County Historic Preservation Fund
- Kenneth Fuchs Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Kevin F. Arnold Memorial Fund
- Kiwanis Coats for Kids Fund
- Lewisville & Community Volunteer Fire Department Fund
- Lois J. Baker Memorial Fund
- Long Ridge Energy Fund for Monroe County
- Low Gap Cemetery Endowment
- Maurice & Hazel Ritchie Scholarship Fund
- Mick & Ashley Schumacher Fund for Monroe County
- Minnie Pfalzgraf Memorial Scholarship
- Monroe Arts Council Endowment Fund
- Monroe County Empowerment Endowment
- Monroe County Faith-Based Scholarship
- Monroe County 4-H Endowment
- Oaklawn Cemetery Endowment
- Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Endowment
- River High School Alumni & Friends Fund
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ Hunnell/Haren Endowment
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mick/Christman/Cox Endowment
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ Whittmer Fund
- Stafford Cemetery Endowment Fund
- The Statoil Monroe County Energy Fund
- Supporting Student Success Fund
- Swiss Hills Career Center Fund
- Tim Ross Legacy Fund
- United Way of Guernsey, Monroe and Noble Endowment Fund
- Weber Family Fund
- Weber Family Scholarship
- Woodsfield Kiwanis Club Pioneer Cemetery Fund

## Check out the Monroe County Community Foundation's new website!

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



[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe)