



Monroe County
Community Foundation
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Monroe Central High School FFA | 2025 grant recipient



GMN Tri-County CAC Inc. | 2025 grant recipient



Woodsfield Kiwanis Club | 2025 Breakfast with Santa event



Monroe County Community Foundation

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING MONROE COUNTY



Pictured (from left) are Monroe County Community Foundation (MCCF) committee members Adam Archer, Megan Kinzy, Gwynn Stewart and Nikki Baker-Lude; Stephanie Paluda and Morgan Mallett from Expand Energy; MCCF committee members Ruth Workman, Alyssa Stephens and Mick Schumacher; and Sherri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

ABOUT US

The **Monroe County Community Foundation (MCCF)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), 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.



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!



✉ Monroe@ffao.org

☎ 740.753.1111

📍 Monroe County
Community
Foundation

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Monroe

2025 GRANTS

The Monroe County Community Foundation, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded a total of \$76,863 in grant funding in 2025.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK MONROE COUNTY

Up to 65 hours. That's how long Monroe County children are home each weekend during the school year – sometimes without adequate nutritious food. This grant is providing food to Monroe County students at five elementary schools who are at risk for food insecurity to help ensure they return to class after the weekend nourished and ready to learn.

BROKEN TIMBER OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

In 2022, MCCF, through the Baker Education and Economic Development Fund, awarded a grant to Broken Timber Outdoor Education Center to complete a pavilion where area residents can enjoy the outdoors while learning lifelong skills. A 2025 grant enabled the center to build a parking lot at the newly enclosed pavilion, install a waterline and purchase epoxy to seal the floor.

BUCKEYE HILLS FOUNDATION

Feedback from Buckeye Hills Regional Council's Mobility Management staff and transit riders consistently highlights the physical challenges passengers face when carrying groceries or personal items. This grant funded the purchase of collapsible, lightweight shopping carts for seniors, individuals with disabilities and other community members who use local transit services and face mobility, transportation or accessibility challenges.

EASTERN OHIO EXTENSION CAMPS INC.

For more than 75 years, 4-H Camp Piedmont has provided local youth with summer experiences and memories that last for lifetimes while also serving Monroe County families, businesses and nonprofits through overnight and day programs. This grant is replacing two sets of railroad tie steps with concrete steps, enhancing safety at the camp.



MCCF partnered with the Buckeye Hills Regional Council's Mobility Management program to provide collapsible shopping carts to Monroe County residents who rely on public transportation, helping them access groceries and other everyday essentials safely and conveniently.



Monroe County 4-H'ers enjoy some time at Camp Piedmont. An MCCF grant is replacing steps at the camp that lead from the girls' cabins to the recreation hall and from the dining hall to the boys' cabins.

2025 GRANTS

GMN TRI-COUNTY CAC INC.

Through its home-delivered meal service, the Monroe County Senior Center provides seniors with lunches, wellness checks and social connection five days a week. This grant is supporting the expansion of the center's nutrition program to include a light breakfast and evening snack for seniors facing food insecurity, helping them stay nourished throughout the day.

LIFEWISE ACADEMY MONROE

In fall 2025, LifeWise Academy Monroe launched at Woodsfield Elementary School in the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District, offering students character education programming. This grant is supporting the program's startup by funding curriculum for its initial operations.

MONROE ARTS COUNCIL

For nearly 30 years, the Monroe Arts Council has promoted and developed the talents and heritage of local residents while broadening the community's exposure to art experiences. This grant is funding two community art opportunities – a family-friendly candle-making workshop and an adults-only watercolor painting class – and creating new avenues for residents to learn, create and connect.



A 2025 MCCF grant is supporting two opportunities offered through the Monroe Arts Council: a watercolor painting class instructed by Yvonne Reusser and a hand-dipped candle-making workshop led by Lynda Berman.

MONROE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FFA

This grant supported two free annual community events hosted by Monroe Central High School's FFA chapter: Halloween in the Village and its first indoor Christmas celebration. Beyond festive fun, both events gave Monroe County children a chance to learn new skills through hands-on activities, connect with community organizations and enjoy safe, family-friendly celebrations close to home.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN MONROE COUNTY

Through FAO's **Growing Home Fellowship**, Lauren Craig, a behavioral therapist at the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District, serves on the Monroe County OSU Extension Advisory Board and collaborates with community members on mental health programming for youth. She recently participated in the Growing Home Fellowship pitch competition and secured grant funding to establish the Ashlynn Gonzalez Creative Legacy Fund to support students in vocational programs, with priority given to students at the Swiss Hills Career Center.

Lauren is one of four Monroe 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.



MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY

Staff at the Monroe County District Library wanted to expand opportunities for their youngest patrons – without screen time. This grant enabled the library to purchase WhaZoodles, a screen-free, interactive audio device that allows children ages 3 and older to explore podcasts, music, short stories, games and other engaging, age-appropriate content.

MYOFB RESCUE INC.

Woodsfield-based My Young & Old Fur Babies (MYOFB) Rescue saves special needs dogs and other animals from puppy mills and shelters as well as from owners who are surrendering them. This grant is supporting spay and neutering services, ensuring rescued animals are healthy and ready for adoption through this no-kill organization.

SARDIS CARES

The terrazzo floors of the Sardis Community Center's main hall restrooms were badly stained, damaged and, when wet, slippery, making them unsafe and unsightly. This grant funded repairs, restoration and the addition of a nonslip additive to the flooring, making this community gathering space cleaner, safer and more welcoming.

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

The basketball court at Summit Township's Lewisville Park offers a free and accessible space to support physical fitness, mental well-being and community connections. This grant is supporting upgrades to the court to improve play, increase usage, and foster greater community pride and engagement.

UNITED WAY OF GUERNSEY, MONROE AND NOBLES COUNTIES

Nearly 400 Monroe 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 United Way of Guernsey, Monroe and Noble Counties, which manages the program locally and covers half its cost, as it seeks to grow enrollment and put more children on pathways to success.

WOODSFIELD KIWANIS CLUB

A 2024 MCCF grant supported the Woodsfield Kiwanis Club's Coats for Kids project, providing winter clothing to K-8 students in the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District who are economically disadvantaged. A 2025 grant is helping the organization sponsor Key Clubs, student-led groups that provide opportunities to serve, build character and develop leadership skills, at all three Monroe County high schools.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT



ALL ABOARD!

The Monroe County Community Foundation teamed up with Expand Energy to bring "The Magical Train" to the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Christmas Parade and Festivities. The free train rides added a new attraction to this holiday celebration and made the day even brighter for Monroe County residents and visitors of all ages.

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Monroe County Community Foundation**

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

- Betty McElfresh Ogden Methodist Scholarship Fund
- Broken Timber 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
- Expand Energy STEM Education Fund
- Fill the Freezer Monroe County
- 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
- James and Lois Baker Memorial Fund*
- Jeff & Jane Schumacher Cox Fund
- Jeff & Jane Schumacher Cox Scholarship
- Jennifer Garrison Public Service Scholarship Fund
- Jim Turner Memorial Scholarship
- John and Lois Baker Education and Economic Development Fund*
- 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
- 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

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



OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$3.2M+

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

\$2.1M+

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

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$76,863

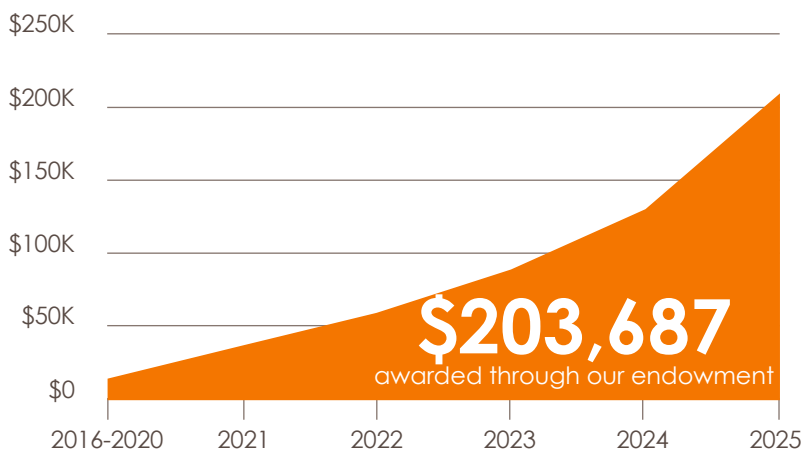
awarded through
MCCF's endowment fund

\$170,606

awarded through
restricted funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

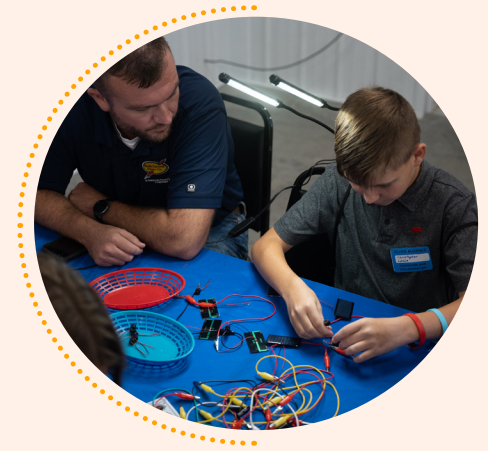
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$931,130

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

BRINGING COSI AND CAREER EXPLORATION TO OUR YOUTH



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

That's what Monroe 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 the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Monroe County elementary and middle 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.

MCCF allocated a portion of our 2025 grant funding to help make this opportunity possible. A special thanks to our industry partners – the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition, Connect SCP, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 168, South Central Power Co. and WVU Medicine Regional Hospitals – who led many of the day's activities.

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



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**Help support the people, places,
programs and future of Monroe County**

GROW MCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to MCCF's endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
Monroe 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 MCCF'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 MCCF. 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 Monroe 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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