



Morgan Community Fund
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Morgan Community Support and Solutions | 2025 grant recipient



Morgan County Community of the Arts | 2025 grant recipient



Appalachian String Initiative | 2025 grant recipient



Morgan Community Fund

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING MORGAN COUNTY



Pictured (from left) are Morgan Community Fund committee members Devan Eier, Mike Workman (emeritus), Cinda Erickson, Adam Shriver, Kelsey Wells, Quincy Robe, Sarah Griesmyer, Chris Penrose and Sherri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. Photo courtesy of One Moore Snap Photography

ABOUT US

The **Morgan Community Fund (MCF)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), provides a way for anyone with a heart for Morgan 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 Morgan 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

- Emily Baker
- Adam Copeland
- Devan Eier
- Cinda Erickson
- Sarah Griesmyer
- Matthew Hupp
- Chris Penrose
- Quincy Robe
- Adam Shriver
- Kelsey Wells
- Mike Workman, Emeritus

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

 Morgan@fao.org

 Morgan Community Fund

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Morgan



2025 GRANTS

The Morgan Community Fund, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded 11 grants, totaling \$31,485, in 2025.

APPALACHIAN STRING INITIATIVE

Every session of the Arco Strings beginner music education program – which gives Morgan County children and adults a place to learn, create and connect through classical music – has been full for the past four years. This grant is covering the cost of having Ohio University music education majors help teach the program, expanding class capacity while increasing one-on-one instruction.



Arco Strings provides Morgan County children and adults with group instruction on bowed string instruments, brings them together as a community orchestra for performances and fills a need for string music education in our communities. A 2025 MCF grant is funding student teachers for the program.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF APPALACHIAN OHIO

About 30 students ages 8-10 at Morgan East Elementary School participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Appalachian Ohio's Lunch Buddies school-based mentoring program, with teachers and parents reporting improved student confidence, attendance and academic effort. This grant is expanding the program to include interactive, educational enrichment activities – from live reptile encounters to STEM kits.

COMMUNITY ACTION OF WASHINGTON-MORGAN COUNTIES

In 2025, the Summer Feeding Program, which expanded to a new Chesterhill location with support from a 2024 MCF grant, served 8,217 free meals – including hot lunches, shelf-stable breakfasts and weekend packs – to Morgan County children ages 1-18. A 2025 grant is supporting the 2026 program, ensuring our children have reliable meals throughout the summer when they are most at risk of food insecurity.



Morgan East Elementary School students who participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Appalachian Ohio's Lunch Buddies program enjoy a field trip to River Valley Social in McConnelsville. A 2025 MCF grant is expanding the educational opportunities provided by this school-based mentoring program.



A 2025 MCF grant is funding wheeled carrying cases, art supplies and other teaching materials that support Morgan County Community of the Arts classes at local businesses and community sites, including the Morgan County Senior Center and the Kate Love Simpson Library.

2025 GRANTS

MOCO KITTY KONTROL

2025 marked MoCo Kitty Kontrol's 10th year of providing Morgan County residents with access to affordable spay and neutering services, vaccinations and general veterinary care. This grant funded vouchers to spay or neuter 15 cats and extended MCF's support for these services to a fifth consecutive year, helping local residents while reducing the number of roaming cats and homeless kittens.

MORGAN COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SOLUTIONS

A 2024 MCF grant enabled Morgan Community Support and Solutions to offer its first fall art internships to two Morgan High Schools students, who collaborated with Morgan County Community of the Arts to create a mural at the McConnellsville Community Garden. A 2025 grant is funding two 2026 summer internships – one in social media and marketing, the other in education.

MORGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY OF THE ARTS

Without a permanent location, Morgan County Community of the Arts relies on community support to offer a few basic art classes, primarily at businesses and organizations in McConnellsville. This grant is funding portable equipment, tools and materials for "carry-in" art classes at sites across Morgan County, spreading the joy of creativity and community connections.



Jeff Bookman is pictured on March 31, 2026, with the 4,000th cat served through MoCo Kitty Kontrol's spay/neuter clinics. MCF grants have supported these efforts for the past several years.

MORGAN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Morgan Local Schools received two grants from the Morgan Community Fund:

- To purchase gym shoes and exercise mats for physical education classes at Morgan East Elementary School
- To support the Morgan South Care Team's work to provide South Elementary School students with food, clothing, hygiene products and attendance incentives

RURAL ACTION

Since 2022, Rural Action has provided more than 310,000 pounds of Ohio-grown food to 60 pantries across nine Ohio counties. This grant is funding local food purchases for distribution at the Bishopville Food Pantry and Morgan County United Ministries, supporting our farmers, feeding our families and helping the volunteers working on the front lines of food insecurity.

TWIN CITY OPERA HOUSE

McConnelsville's historic Twin City Opera House has limited accommodations for patrons with hearing disabilities. This grant is funding the purchase and integration of a hearing-assist and closed-captioning system, making films and on-screen content more accessible and ensuring a more inclusive experience for all audiences.



McConnelsville's Twin City Opera House is committed to ensuring all can fully experience and enjoy the magic of the movies affordably and close to home. A 2025 MCF grant funded new assistive technology at the historic theater for patrons with hearing impairments.

UNITED WAY OF MUSKINGUM, PERRY AND MORGAN COUNTIES

Nearly 500 Morgan 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 Muskingum, Perry and Morgan Counties, which partners with Kate Love Simpson Library to manage the program locally, cover half its cost and put more children on pathways to success.

AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO MORGAN COUNTY

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Karen Lines and Bill McElfresh embody this philosophy, literally.

Driven by a shared desire to leave a legacy of positive impact – and a hope to inspire others to do the same – the couple established a series of gifts through their estate plan in 2025 that will benefit Bill's native Morgan County and Marietta, their home for four decades.

In Morgan County, their gifts will support:

- *Twin City Opera House, where Bill attended numerous shows as a youth*
- *The planting of trees, inspired by Bill's childhood memories of tree canopies in Chesterhill, Pennsville and Stockport.*



Read more about their legacy, which will serve as a lasting reminder of the impact we can all make on the communities we love.

www.tinyurl.com/Lines-McElfresh

FIGHTING HUNGER IN MORGAN COUNTY – ONE PIG AT A TIME

In 2025, MCF partnered with two Morgan County educators to launch the county's first Fill the Freezer. The campaign invited buyers at the Morgan County Fair Livestock Sale to donate their hog purchases to fill the freezers of Morgan County United Ministries' food pantry and fight hunger – one pig at a time

The campaign exceeded its first-year goal, with 13 hogs donated and 1,450 pounds of fresh, local protein provided to local families.

The effort was led by MCF committee member Devan Eier, then an agricultural educator and FFA advisor at Morgan High School (MHS), and Chase Myers, the band and choir director at MHS, as a joint service project through their participation in FAO's Growing Home Fellowship. They are two of eight individuals living and/or working in Morgan County who were selected for the fellowship, which is investing in emerging leaders across the region, both financially and through a leadership program.

Fill the Freezer is held in partnership with the Morgan County Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, Hilltop Butcher Shop and Morgan County United Ministries. Thanks to donor support, MCF covered the meat processing costs for the campaign's first year.



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.

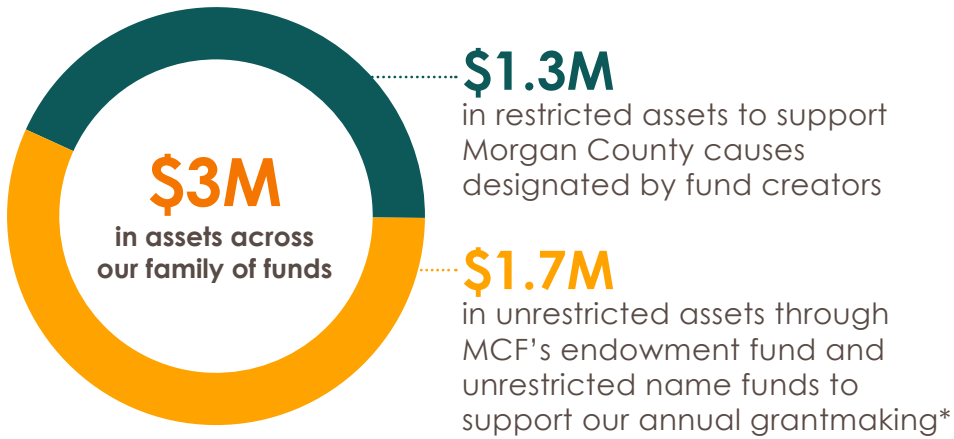


Learn more about Fill the Freezer and support MCF's next campaign. Scan the QR or visit us at:

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

OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$31,485

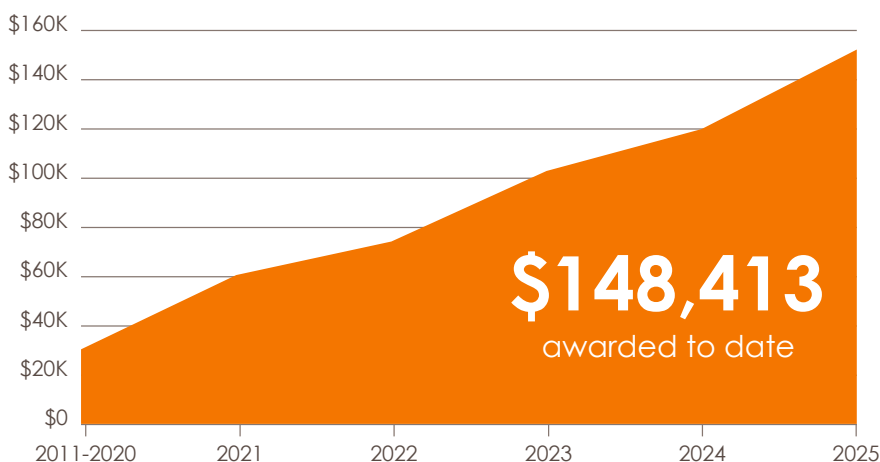
awarded through MCF's
unrestricted funds

\$41,145

awarded through restricted
funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$295,824

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

• Morgan Community Fund

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

- Bonsell Family Fund
- Bryan Williams Memorial Scholarship
- Citizens National Bank Fund for Morgan County*
- Dr. Robert Richmond Twin City Opera House Endowment
- Joy Valley Farm Endowment
- Lines-McElfresh Morgan County Tree Fund
- Lines-McElfresh Twin City Opera House Fund
- M&M Kiwanis Scholarship Fund
- Morgan County – Christmas in the Village Fund
- Morgan Community Fund Auxiliary Program
- Morgan County Companion Animal Care Endowment Fund
- Morgan County Historical Society Fund
- Morgan County Youth Development Fund
- Morgan Emergency Grant Program
- Morgan Foundation Christmas Wish for Kids Fund
- Outdoor Extravaganza Scholarship
- S.P.O.T. & MoCo Kitty Endowment

* This unrestricted named fund contributes to MCF's annual grantmaking. Gifts to unrestricted named funds as well as MCF's endowment fund are invested and generate earnings in perpetuity. Those earnings fund MCF's grants year after year.



Morgan
Community Fund

An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

GROW MCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to MCF's endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
**Morgan Community Fund
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 MCF'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 MCF. 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 Morgan Community Fund 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!**

Morgan@ffao.org | www.AppalachianOhio.org/Morgan | 740.753.1111