



Nelsonville Community Foundation
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

York Township Volunteer Fire Department | 2025 grant recipient



Bottoms Up Diaper Bank | 2025 grant recipient



Circle Round the Square | 2025 grant recipient



Nelsonville Community Foundation

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING NELSONVILLE AREA



ABOUT US

The **Nelsonville Community Foundation**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), provides a way for anyone with a heart for Nelsonville and the surrounding communities of Buchtel, Carbon Hill and Murray City to support our people, 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 the 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

- Steven Cox
- Kevin Dotson
- Bill L'Heureux
- Jennifer L'Heureux
- Kevin Lowry
- Anita McDonald
- Betty Jo Parsley

Want to learn more?

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



✉ Nelsonville@ffao.org ☎ 740.753.1111

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Nelsonville



The Nelsonville-York Drama Club, hosted and sponsored by Stuart's Opera House through its Arts Education Program, collaborated with the Athens Berean Community Players on the spring 2025 production of "Freaky Friday." A 2024 Nelsonville Community Foundation grant supported creative costs, such as sets and costumes, for the production. Photo courtesy of Scotty Hall

2025 GRANTS

The Nelsonville Community Foundation, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, awarded a total of \$47,438 in grant funding in 2025.



ATHENS BEREAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

A 2024 grant supported the Nelsonville-York Drama Club's spring musical "Freaky Friday," produced in collaboration with the Athens Berean Community Players, and a fall workshop on theater etiquette, audition techniques and performance styles. A 2025 grant is replacing the community theater's nearly 20-year-old set flats, which bring everything from palace walls to mountain landscapes to life on our local stage.

BOTTOMS UP DIAPER BANK

Half of U.S. families with young children struggle to afford clean diapers for their babies, according to research from the National Diaper Bank Network. This grant is funding diapers for Nelsonville families served by the Athens County Pregnancy Resource Center, providing an item essential to the health and well-being of our youngest residents.

ATHENS COUNTY INDEPENDENT

A previous grant from the Nelsonville Community Foundation enabled the nonprofit Athens County Independent to regularly cover Nelsonville City Council. A 2025 grant is supporting media coverage of York Township government meetings, including Nelsonville-York City Schools Board of Education meetings, to ensure our community stays informed and engaged.

CIRCLE ROUND THE SQUARE

A 2024 Nelsonville Community Foundation grant supported the hiring of local, professional artists for the 2025 Circle Round the Square summer camp, which provided youth in grades 5-12 experiences in fashion, music, photography and video, and for three weeks of workshops at The Hive. A 2025 grant is extending support for this free summer programming to a third consecutive year.

2025 GRANTS

HOCKING COLLEGE

This grant is supporting a first-of-its-kind collaboration between two Nelsonville educational institutions serving our students and the greater community. The Hocking College Film Department and Stuart's Opera House's Afterschool Music Program are teaming up to create a music video on videography, choreography, editing and production – giving students a hands-on learning experience while creating educational material for future students.

HOCKING COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The 740 Rescue Kitchen, which operates out of Hocking College's kitchen facilities, collects surplus produce and donated food from farms, distributors and retailers and turns those ingredients into nutritious meals, reducing both food waste and hunger in Southeast Ohio. This grant is funding labels for the ready-to-eat meals it provides to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

THE LIBBY PROJECT

Founded in 2024, Logan-based The Libby Project provides low- or no-cost vaccinations to dogs cared for by low-income households. This grant is funding a generator to power its mobile unit, bringing these essential veterinary services directly to our communities.



Nelsonville Church of the Epiphany's blessing box is just one of the ways the church's feeding ministry serves community members facing food insecurity – this year with help from a Nelsonville Community Foundation grant.

NELSONVILLE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Each month, members of the Nelsonville Church of the Epiphany's feeding ministry host a free community dinner, preparing meals for approximately 150 of our neighbors. This grant is supporting this monthly community meal as well as the ministry's blessing box, which is stocked with nonperishable products, ensuring those in our community have access to food when they need it.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN NELSONVILLE

Through FAO's **Growing Home Fellowship**, Casey Cox serves on Nelsonville's Board of Parks and Recreation as well as its Dog Park Board. He has secured resources to establish the city's first dog park, which opened in 2026, and is fundraising to revitalize Nelson Commons.

Casey is one of four individuals living and/or working in Nelsonville and serving through the inaugural Growing Home 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.



NELSONVILLE-YORK CITY SCHOOLS

Nelsonville-York City Schools received 10 grants from the Nelsonville Community Foundation:

- To establish an emerging needs fund for the school district
- To fund students' participation in the Ohio Association of Student Leaders summer workshop
- To provide suicide awareness/prevention T-shirts for sports events
- To support a program for sophomores that includes career assessments, one-on-one coaching and job shadowing experiences with local businesses and organizations
- To fund a Spanish immersion lunch at a Nelsonville restaurant for middle and high school students studying Spanish
- To fund paid internships for Nelsonville-York High School students
- To fund an immersive field trip to Passion Works Studios for middle school advanced art students
- To purchase a basketball shooting machine for the Nelsonville-York High School boys and girls basketball programs
- To provide free feminine hygiene products to elementary school students
- To support the founding of a Sunshine Committee through which student volunteers will plan and execute a monthly appreciation activity or treat for middle and high school faculty and staff



A 2024 Nelsonville Community Foundation grant expanded hands-on cooking opportunities in Nelsonville-York City Schools' family and consumer sciences classes by funding supplies for cooking labs, allowing students to cook more often and work with healthier, more nutritious ingredients.



A 2024 grant from the Nelsonville Community Foundation funded an April 2025 field trip to Passion Works Studios for Nelsonville-York Middle School art students. At the Athens studio, the students worked with artists of all abilities to learn color theory, technique, business skills and more.

2025 GRANTS

RURAL ACTION

This grant is supporting a series of experiential introductions to environmental careers for Nelsonville-York middle and high school students as part of the school's Workforce Wednesdays programming. Each session will feature an overview of a career pathway that includes responsibilities and earning potential, an engaging activity and take-home resources outlining steps students can take to pursue that career.

SIMON KENTON COUNCIL OF SCOUTING AMERICA

Nelsonville is home to two strong Scouting units serving our youth. This grant is helping fund participation in the Scouting program for economically disadvantaged youth in the Nelsonville area, expanding access to programs designed to build character, strengthen leadership skills and equip young people with the tools and confidence needed for future success.

SOUTH EAST OHIO HOPE CENTER

The Recovery Safe Space in Nelsonville provides a welcoming, peer-led environment for individuals to engage in activities and services to support their journeys through the stages of recovery from substance use disorders. This grant is helping to cover the rent, ensuring the continued availability of a safe, supportive space for healing, connection and community engagement.

WOUB PUBLIC MEDIA

Nelsonville-York students earned second place for "Home is the Heart: An Interview" and honorable mention for "The Impact of Rocky Boots" at the 2025 Our Ohio High School Documentary Film Festival. This grant is supporting their participation in the 2026 festival, the culmination of a project that teaches students about documentary filmmaking and challenges them to create short films about their community.

YORK TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

This grant is funding the purchase of an inflatable education house to promote fire safety at schools and community events, helping to protect our youth while supporting local firefighters.

HONORING A FAMILY OF PHILANTHROPISTS



The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio honored the Brooks family with its 2025 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in recognition of a multigenerational legacy of giving that has made a lasting impact on the Nelsonville and Hocking County communities. Read about how four generations of the Brooks family have turned generosity into a family tradition, and watch a special video celebrating their impact.



www.tinyurl.com/CPOTY25-Brooks

OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$1.5M+

in restricted assets to support Nelsonville-area causes designated by fund creators

\$1.4M+

in unrestricted assets through our endowment fund and unrestricted named funds to support our annual grantmaking*

* Our endowment fund is designed to provide continuous investment in Nelsonville and the surrounding communities of Buchtel, Carbon Hill and Murray City. Our endowment is invested. The earnings generated from those investments fund the grants we award each year, providing resources to meet our communities' needs today while preserving the fund to serve our communities for generations to come.

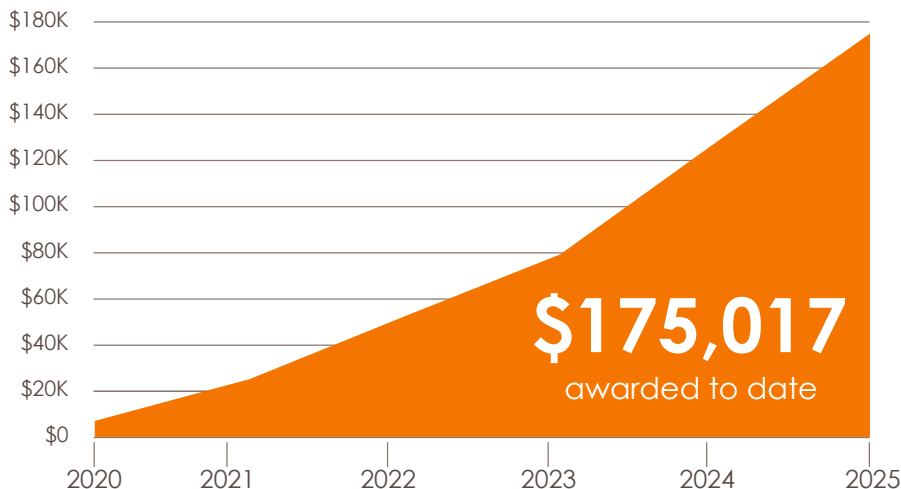
OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$51,788

awarded across our family of funds

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$175,017
awarded to date

\$250,399

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- Nelsonville Community Foundation Fund**

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

- The Baird Brothers Company Foundation Fund for Nelsonville*
- The Katie McCoy and Mary Jane McKinley Music Scholars Fund of First United Methodist Church of Nelsonville
- Lee Beckett Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Max Conner Memorial Fund to Support the Nelsonville-York School District
- Nelsonville Area Chamber of Commerce Fund for Nelsonville*
- Nelsonville High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
- Nelsonville Presbyterian Farm Endowed Fund
- Path of Light Foundation Fund*
- Stuart's Opera House Endowment Fund

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



Nelsonville
Community Foundation

An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

**Help support the people, places, programs
and future of the Nelsonville area**

GROW OUR ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to our endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
Nelsonville 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 our 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 the Nelsonville 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 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 Nelsonville 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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