



Nelsonville Community Foundation  
*An affiliate of* —  
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







## ABOUT US

**The Nelsonville Community Foundation**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, 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 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

- 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!



740.753.1111

Nelsonville@fao.org

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



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 Nelsonville Community Foundation.





As one of FAO's Growing Home Fellows, Nelsonville-York High School teacher Casey Cox is serving on the Nelsonville Dog Park Board as part of his service project. Casey applied for and received a 2023 grant from the Nelsonville Community Foundation to support the development of the dog park.

## 2023 GRANTS

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Nelsonville Community Foundation awarded 15 grants, totaling \$23,775, in 2023.

### ATHENS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 2023, Athens County Public Libraries celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Book-a-Bike program, through which library patrons can borrow a bike and bike equipment for free at branches across the county. The year also brought an expansion of the program to include electric-assisted bikes. This grant is helping to fund the purchase of e-bikes that will be available at the Nelsonville Public Library.

### CITY OF NELSONVILLE

The City of Nelsonville is building a dog park on the site of the old wastewater treatment plant off East Canal Street. Plans include fencing, the planting of trees, a spigot for the dogs, a boat ramp that will provide much-needed access to the Hocking River and a shelter house. This grant is helping fund fencing and labor costs for this new Nelsonville attraction.

### COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVES

With the Nelsonville Community Garden closed indefinitely due to erosion, Community Food Initiatives is focusing its garden outreach in 2024 on "growing a garden community in Nelsonville" while working with partners to identify and establish a new community garden site. This grant is funding materials for workshops at various partner sites and supporting community members with container gardening.

### NELSONVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A 2023 Air Collaborative Shift Workshop, spearheaded by the Nelsonville Area Chamber of Commerce and Nelsonville Rotary, gave birth to a new community project that will preserve history while enhancing the future. This grant is supporting the Follow the Star Brick Road: Nelsonville Brick Park Revitalization Project, which will refresh, restore and expand upon the former site of the Nelsonville Brick Company and its historic kilns.

## Our Growing Home Fellows

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundations welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including eight individuals living and/or working in Nelsonville: Noah Andrews, Bree Brown, Casey Cox, Kaleigh Cox, Aron Davis, Cort Forgrave, Katherine King and Christina McLean. 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.



*The Summer Arts Camp at Stuart's Opera House, which received a 2023 grant from the Nelsonville Community Foundation, is designed to elevate physical activity, explore cultural awareness, implement character-building activities and promote community involvement.*

## NELSONVILLE-YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seven grants were awarded to support the students and educational mission of the Nelsonville-York School District:

- The purchase of sensory tools for social-emotional learning in the first-grade classroom at Nelsonville-York Elementary School to support the success of students coping with trauma and disabilities.
- The purchase of iPads for second-grade classrooms to enhance students' learning experience and digital literacy skills and support differentiated instruction through personalized learning apps.
- The purchase of iPads, which can act as a communication and educational device, for the multiple disabilities cross-categorical classroom at Nelsonville-York Elementary School.
- Support for the setup of a new restaurant at Nelsonville-York Middle and High School that will be operated by special education students in the school's cross-categorical classroom at least three times per year, allowing students to gain

employment skills and experience.

- The purchase of desktop computers for K-12 classroom use and afterschool programming, including the district's new esports club.
- The purchase of rock band instruments, such as guitars, a drum set and keyboard, for use by the middle and high school choirs and by the community.
- Funding local dining-out experiences for students in the high school business class, encouraging students to learn different skills, gain knowledge and connect with their community.

## STUART'S OPERA HOUSE

The Summer Arts Camp at Stuart's Opera House is a two-week, full-day program that allows children ages 9-16 to think creatively about the world around them, explore everything from songwriting and acting to performance and theater artistry, and express themselves through the arts. This grant is helping to fund the artist fees and production costs of the 2024 Summer Arts Camp.



# INVESTING IN OUR YOUNG LEADERS



*Launched in 2005, Circle Round the Square, which received a 2023 grant from the Nelsonville Community Foundation, helps local youth develop creative skills, improve self-esteem and foster friendships and group interaction through creative processes and leadership activities.*

**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. The Nelsonville Community Foundation awarded youth-led project grant funding to:**

## THE iBELIEVE FOUNDATION

This grant is funding the participation of Nelsonville-York 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.

## CIRCLE ROUND THE SQUARE

Circle Round the Square is a holistic arts and wellness program that offers youth in grades 6-12 hands-on experiences in ceramics, photography, painting, fashion, media, leadership, STEM classes and more. This grant is funding three student interns – all former participants – who are stepping into leadership roles for the 2024 program and helping shape an experience that helped shape them.



## NELSONVILLE-YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In 2023, students in Nelsonville-York High School's National Honor Society developed and implemented a project to help fellow students battling period poverty. A grant from the Max Conner Memorial Fund to Support the Nelsonville-York School District helped fund the installation of two feminine hygiene product dispensers at the high school. The students fundraised to cover remaining costs and to purchase refill cartridges, and this grant is funding additional refills to sustain the project.

## Honoring and remembering Dorothy Gettle



Dorothy Rosalie Gettle lived a life of unwavering love and service to her hometown. Her commitment to make life better for her Nelsonville neighbors lives on through her lifetime achievements – and in the legacy she left behind.

When Nelsonville's historic school buildings faced demolition, Dorothy and two fellow Nelsonville High School graduates, Betty Jo Parsley and Anita McDonald, formed a nonprofit to preserve this treasured piece of local history. In 2016, a developer

purchased the property and transformed it into affordable housing. Dorothy and her fellow community champions used proceeds from the sale to establish the Nelsonville Community Foundation at FAO.

Dorothy served on the Nelsonville Community Foundation committee from day one until her passing in August 2023, when she gave her last – and a lasting – gift to her beloved community: a planned gift through her will to forever support the foundation's work and mission.

To join Dorothy and many others in leaving a planned gift to support the communities and causes closest to your heart, visit <https://ffao.giflegacy.com/>.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2023



**\$1.4  
MILLION**

In assets under the Nelsonville Community Foundation umbrella



**\$29,245  
AWARDED**

Across the Nelsonville Community Foundation's family of funds



**\$3,500  
GIVEN**

in scholarships through the Nelsonville Community Foundation and FAO funds



**9  
FUNDS**

Partnering with the Nelsonville Community Foundation in service to our community

## OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS



**Nelsonville Community  
Foundation**

*An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio*

1. Nelsonville Community Foundation Fund
2. The Baird Brothers Company Foundation Fund
3. The Katie McCoy and Mary Jane McKinley Music Scholars Fund of First United Methodist Church of Nelsonville
4. Lee Beckett Legacy Scholarship Fund
5. Max Conner Memorial Fund to Support the Nelsonville-York School District
6. Moon Family Legacy Fund for Nelsonville
7. Nelsonville Area Chamber of Commerce Fund
8. Nelsonville High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
9. Stuart's Opera House Endowment Fund





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Foundation

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## HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF THE NELSONVILLE AREA

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

### GIVE TO NCF

Gifts to the Nelsonville 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 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 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:**

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

**or**



**Online:**

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/Nelsonville](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Nelsonville)  
or [www.tinyurl.com/GiveNelsonville](http://www.tinyurl.com/GiveNelsonville)

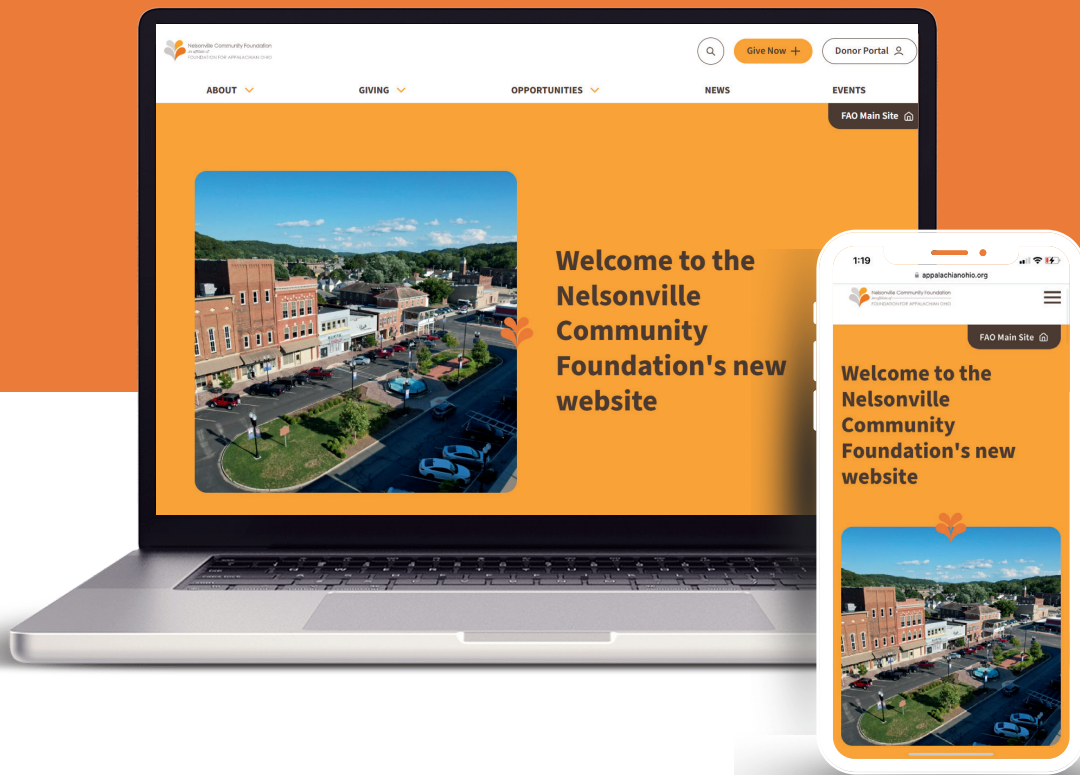
**For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email [Nelsonville@ffao.org](mailto:Nelsonville@ffao.org) or call 740.753.1111.**

**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/Nelsonville](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/Nelsonville)



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