



Community Foundation
for Perry County
An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action | 2025 grant recipient



Southern Local School District | 2025 grant recipient



Ludowici Community Foundation | 2025 grant recipient



Community Foundation for Perry County

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING PERRY COUNTY



Pictured (from left) are Sherri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, and Community Foundation for Perry County committee members Eric Hutchins, Jeanette Addington, Jessica Emmert, Judge Luann Cooperrider, Darlene Wells, Kevin Wood, John Winnenberg and Tony Fiore.

ABOUT US

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

- Jason Adams
- Jeanette Addington
- Les Boyer
- Judge Luann Cooperrider
- Jeff Dennis
- Jessica Emmert
- Tony Fiore
- Eric Hutchins
- Tim McLain
- Chris Mooney
- Julie Paxton
- Chris Snider
- Tony Taylor
- Darlene Wells
- John Winnenberg
- Kevin Wood

Want to learn more?

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

 740.753.1111

 Perry@fao.org

 Community Foundation
for Perry County

www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC



2025 GRANTS

The Community Foundation for Perry County, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded 23 grants, totaling \$59,900, in 2025.

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. A 2025 grant is funding diapers for Perry County families served by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Corning, providing an item essential to the health and well-being of our youngest residents.

CAPABILITIES CHARITABLE FUND

A 2024 CFPC grant provided mini grants to five Perry County residents with disabilities, funding everything from work clothing and enrollment in a specialized summer camp to a new camera to start a business. A 2025 grant is extending support for this program to a third year and helping our neighbors overcome barriers to employment, independence and community engagement.

DESTINATION SHAWNEE

Over the years, many people have given artifacts and photos to Destination Shawnee, building a rich collection that highlights and preserves the community's history and culture. A 2025 grant is supporting the development of a mobile display to serve as a traveling museum that shares Shawnee's heritage with audiences across the community and throughout the region.

EHFAR

More than 1,200 Perry County children are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, receiving a free book each month until age 5. A 2025 grant is supporting EHFAR (Everything Happens for a Reason) – a new nonprofit that is managing the program locally and covering half its cost – as it seeks to grow enrollment and put more children on pathways to success.



Inclusion and empowerment. That's the mission of the Capabilities Charitable Fund. CFPC grants have supported the nonprofit for the past three years, providing mini grants that enable Perry County residents with disabilities to secure and sustain employment and integrate more fully into our communities.



EHFAR (Everything Happens For A Reason), a new nonprofit dedicated to supporting Perry County youth, hosts its first "Chalk It Up to Summer" event in New Lexington. A CFPC grant is supporting EHFAR's efforts to grow Perry County children's enrollment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.



2025 saw ForeverDads, a Zanesville-based nonprofit dedicated to encouraging, educating and equipping men to develop positive relationships with their children, family and community, expand into Perry County. A CFPC grant is supporting one of the organization's signature programs: the All Pro-Dads Breakfast – with the first breakfast held at Crooksville Elementary School.

2025 GRANTS

FOREVERDADS

In March 2026, Crooksville Elementary School hosted Perry County's first All Pro-Dads Breakfast, a school-based literacy program that brings fathers and father figures together with their children to share breakfast, a book and some memorable moments. A 2025 grant is funding the books for this program, which will be expanded to all nine Perry County elementary schools.

GENESIS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

A 2024 CFPC grant funded the first automated external defibrillator (AED) at the Perry County Fairgrounds, bringing this life-saving equipment to a community hub that hosts more than 100,000 visitors each year. A 2025 grant is funding the purchase of another AED for a community-based location in Perry County.

HOCKING-ATHENS-PERRY COMMUNITY ACTION

A 2024 CFPC grant provided essential appliances – a refrigerator and two hot water tanks – to three Perry County families in need of assistance. A 2025 grant is extending that support beyond household appliances, contributing to an emergency assistance program that also helps low-income Perry County residents with rent, mortgage, property taxes, water and utilities.



Thanks to a 2024 CFPC grant awarded to the Perry County Commissioners, the Coliseum at the Perry County Fairgrounds is now equipped with an automated external defibrillator (AED). A 2025 grant awarded to the Genesis Healthcare Foundation will bring another AED to Perry County.

THE LIBBY PROJECT

Founded in 2024, Logan-based The Libby Project provides low- or no-cost vaccinations (and in the future spay/neuter services) to dogs cared for by low-income households. A 2025 grant is funding vaccines, equipment and materials for its mobile unit, bringing these essential veterinary services directly to our community.

LOTUS HEALING CENTER

In 2025, Lotus Healing Center, in partnership with the Saltlick-Coal Improvement Alliance, piloted a six-week trauma and healing group at the Southern Perry County Community Center – with all participants reporting feeling calmer, more hopeful and more connected. A 2025 grant is funding materials and supplies to launch a trauma-informed community engagement and healing initiative in Perry County.

LUDOWICI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LCF Park in New Lexington serves Perry and surrounding counties with 160 acres filled with hiking trails, ball fields, playgrounds, a fishing pond, a shelter house and the kids' favorite – a splash pad. A 2025 grant funded cushioned tiles to soften falls and reduce injuries at the splash pad.

MILLER HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS

In 2025, the Miller High School Band Boosters began selling popcorn at home football games, raising funds for everything from instrument repairs to music for the band's performances. A 2025 grant is providing supplies, including cash boxes, tables and a canopy, to expand and strengthen their fundraising efforts.

PERRY COUNTY MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Local service agencies routinely encounter Perry County residents whose homes are unsafe or inaccessible, particularly after hospitalization, during disability assessments or while receiving aging services. A 2025 grant is funding ADA-compliant ramp kits that can be installed, removed and reassigned to Perry County households that need wheelchair access but are unable to afford it.



A 2025 CFPC grant is helping equip a mobile veterinary unit that delivers free or low-cost vaccinations to dogs cared for by low-income Perry County households, improving pet health, preventing disease and supporting stronger, healthier communities.

“These grants represent Perry County at its finest – generous donors who believe in the potential of our people uniting with committed community members who are bringing that potential to life. Together, we are driving meaningful change and creating opportunities to flourish across all ages and communities in Perry County.”

— KEVIN WOOD, CFPC COMMITTEE MEMBER

2025 GRANTS

THE OHIO UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Twenty-two individuals ages 8-17 from nine counties attended the Ohio University Diabetes Institute's 2025 CAT Camp for youth with Type 1 diabetes, including two campers from Perry County whose camp experiences were funded entirely by a 2024 CFPC grant. A 2025 grant is continuing to support this opportunity for our youth and their families in 2026.

PERRY COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

In 2025, the Perry County Calvary Arts Center became the Perry County Cultural Arts Center and began remodeling its building in partnership with the New Lexington School District's Workforce Development Program. A 2025 grant is supporting the center's 2026 Summer Arts Program for students in grades 1-8, which will be hosted in this newly renovated space.

PERRY COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

A 2024 CFPC grant funded enhancements to Perry County Job and Family Services' outreach vehicle, improving its functionality by adding a desk, chair and shelving. A 2025 grant, supported by the AT&T Foundation, is helping to fund the agency's Senior Technology and Engagement Program, which includes workshops and interactive sessions designed to enhance digital literacy and technology skills.

PERRY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

It costs more than \$6,000 each year to keep the New Lexington Food Pantry open. A 2025 grant is funding operating costs for the pantry, which serves five Perry County townships, ensuring it remains a source of nutrition for local individuals and families struggling to make ends meet.



Representatives from the Perry County Cultural Arts Center are pictured at CFPC's 2025 grant celebration. A 2025 CFPC grant is helping fund the center's 2026 Summer Arts Program, expanding access to creative learning opportunities for local youth.

RENDVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

In 2025, the Rendville Historic Preservation Society celebrated 10 years of preserving the history, heritage and physical structures of the village of Rendville. A 2024 CFPC grant funded roof repairs on the Little White House, the last miner's house on Main Street. A 2025 grant is replacing windows on the historic home, pushing it closer to becoming a community museum.



RURAL ACTION

A 2025 grant is supporting a project through which Miller High School English students will learn about southern Perry County's Robinson's Cave and help develop a self-guided tour of this historic site and notable cultural resource. The tour will live on the Appalachian Understories website, driving pride in local culture and attracting tourists to the area.

SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL

Through summer fundraising, Sheridan High School launched a competitive esports team during the 2025-2026 school year – but only for Nintendo gaming. A 2025 grant is funding equipment to expand the team to PC gaming, providing more students with a popular activity that builds teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills while opening pathways to careers in technology, game design and broadcast media.



Sheridan High School launched its competitive Nintendo esports team during the 2025-2026 school year. A 2025 CFPC grant will expand the program to include PC gaming, creating more opportunities for students to build teamwork, strategy and technology skills.

SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Southern Local School District received two grants:

- To support a career exploration program that includes field trips and workplace visits for students in grades 7-12
- To help fund a field trip to Cincinnati museums for gifted students

SUNDAY CREEK ASSOCIATES

Sunday Creek Associates received two grants:

- To help fund stipends for high school students who lead and mentor fifth- and sixth-grade students participating in the Outdoor Adventure Guides Buddies Program
- To support the development of a monthly variety series that will be held in the newly restored second floor of the Tecumseh Theater



A 2025 CFPC grant enabled Southern Local Schools' first-ever gifted program field trip for students in grades 1-12. Embracing the "Falcons are Flocking to Cincy" theme, nearly 50 students visited the Cincinnati Museum Center and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center for a day of hands-on learning and discovery.



ANSWERING THE CALL TO LEAD AND SERVE IN PERRY COUNTY



Antonio Villaloboz

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including nine individuals living and/or working in Perry County. The fellowship is investing in emerging leaders across the region, both financially and through a targeted program that teaches them how to identify community needs, develop solutions and assemble a network of partners to address local challenges.

Antonio Villaloboz, a PAX Partner at New Lexington City Schools, serves several organizations benefiting Perry County residents. He supports the summer food assistance programs at Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action, volunteers with Perry County Job and Family Services, contributes to CFPC's Fill the Freezer campaign and serves on FAO's scholarship advisory committee.



Jackie Wayne

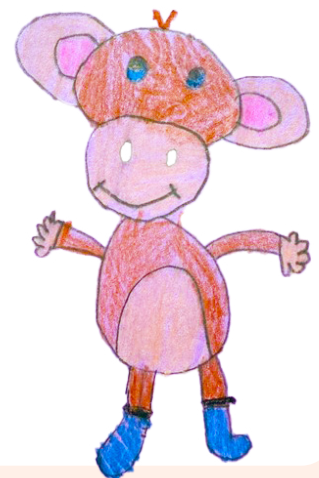
Jackie Wayne, a second-grade teacher in the Crooksville Exempted Village School District, has helped champion CFPC's last three Fill the Freezer campaigns. She attends fair board meetings, leads marketing efforts to boost the program, collaborates with local food pantries to track the campaign's impact and has used her experience to help other Growing Home Fellows bring similar programs to their counties.



A DAY TO ROAR ABOUT!

Millcreek Elementary School's Falcons welcomed some unusual visitors – a penguin, opossum, sloth, snake and turtle – on Sept. 12, 2025. A 2024 grant from the Community Foundation for Perry County helped fund the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's visit to the school, giving its 400+ students up-close encounters with exotic animals and an unforgettable learning experience.

Pictured are some of the many thank-you notes students sent to the Community Foundation for Perry County and its donors.





FIGHTING HUNGER IN PERRY COUNTY

It all started in Perry County in 2021 with a simple question:
What if hogs purchased at the Perry County Fair's Junior Livestock Sale could help feed local families?

That idea became Fill the Freezer, a campaign first piloted by CFPC that invites buyers to donate their hog purchases and others to donate money to cover meat processing costs to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and fight hunger – one pig and pound at a time.

The 2025 campaign, with corporate sponsorship from the NiSource Charitable Foundation and Columbia Gas, saw 61 hogs donated and CFPC purchase an additional 19 pigs – resulting in 9,570 pounds of locally raised protein to feed Perry County residents. To date, the campaign has provided more than 55,000 pounds of sausage locally – enough to keep Perry County food pantries stocked with protein year-round for the past three years.

The model has expanded to seven (and counting!) counties served by FAO affiliate foundation partners and has delivered a combined 92,000 pounds of fresh, local protein to communities across the region.

The campaign has also earned state and regional recognition. In 2025, Philanthropy Ohio honored Julie Paxton, a longtime CFPC committee member and the driving force behind Perry County's Fill the Freezer success, with its Philanthropy Innovation Award, while FAO named Fill the Freezer its 2025 Changemaker of the Year.

Fill the Freezer is held in partnership with the Perry County Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, the Southeast Ohio Foodbank, local food pantries and meat processors.



Read about this homegrown solution to fighting hunger
www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC/fill-the-freezer



OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

- **Community Foundation for Perry County** ↗

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

- Arc of Appalachia Hocking Hills Forever Fund
- Bope Family Fund
- Broken Halos Domestic Violence Support Fund
- Christopher P. Mooney Family Fund
- Clay Center of Ohio Endowment Fund
- Crooksville Arts Council Scholarship Fund
- Holy Trinity School Endowment Fund
- Janet Hursey Koehler Wade Scholarship Fund
- Jimmy Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Johnson Family Fund
- Partners For Your Health
- Perry County Connectivity Fund
- Perry County Historical & Cultural Arts Society Fund
- Perry County Hunger Relief Fund
- Perry County Park Board Endowment
- Perry County Single Parent Support Fund
- Somerset Artists' Co-Op Imagination Fund
- Somerset Builder's Club Fund
- Somerset Community Fund
- Somerset Courthouse Building Fund
- Somerset Emerald Necklace Fund
- Somerset Reading Township Fire Department Fund
- Somerset Horticultural Endowment
- Supporting Families Fund
- Upper Rush Creek Revitalization Project

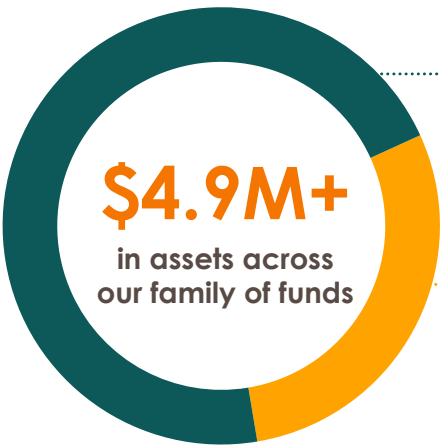
- Southern Perry County Academic Endowment Fund family of funds
 - Ben and Alyce Shaver Scholarship Fund
 - Blake Underwood Student Learning Grant Fund
 - Bob and Ruth Holland Community Fund
 - Briggs Family Scholarship Fund
 - Bruce and Dolores Hannah Scholarship Fund
 - Catherine Blankenship Scholarship Fund
 - Charlene Joseph Scholarship Fund
 - Commander Lambert Scholarship Fund
 - Corning Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
 - Donald and Catherine Palmer Scholarship Fund
 - Hazel Post Fisher Community Fund
 - Jack and Clara Reho Scholarship Fund
 - Janet Arkley Legacy Scholarship Fund
 - Janice E. Norris Memorial Scholarship
 - Jesse, Olema & Ralph Drake Scholarship Fund
 - Jim and Vicki Palmer Legacy Scholarship
 - John and Elsie Exenkemper Scholarship Fund
 - Joseph and Marie Lichtenstein Scholarship Fund
 - Murray and Lulu Brown Scholarship Fund
 - Paul and Charlotte Hope Scholarship Fund
 - Robert Woodruff and Charles & Elizabeth Scholarship Fund
 - Shawnee Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
 - Vincent and Gene Hope Scholarship Fund
 - William and Frances Dunlap Scholarship Fund
 - Willard & Frances Kay Burns Legacy Scholarship



The Community Foundation for Perry County partners with donors to create funds that benefit Perry County. To learn more or give to our funds, scan the QR code or visit: www.AppalachianOhio.org/Perry/family-of-funds

OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



\$3.4M+
in restricted assets to support Perry County causes designated by fund creators

\$1.4M+
in unrestricted assets through CFPC's endowment fund to support our annual grantmaking*

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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$59,900

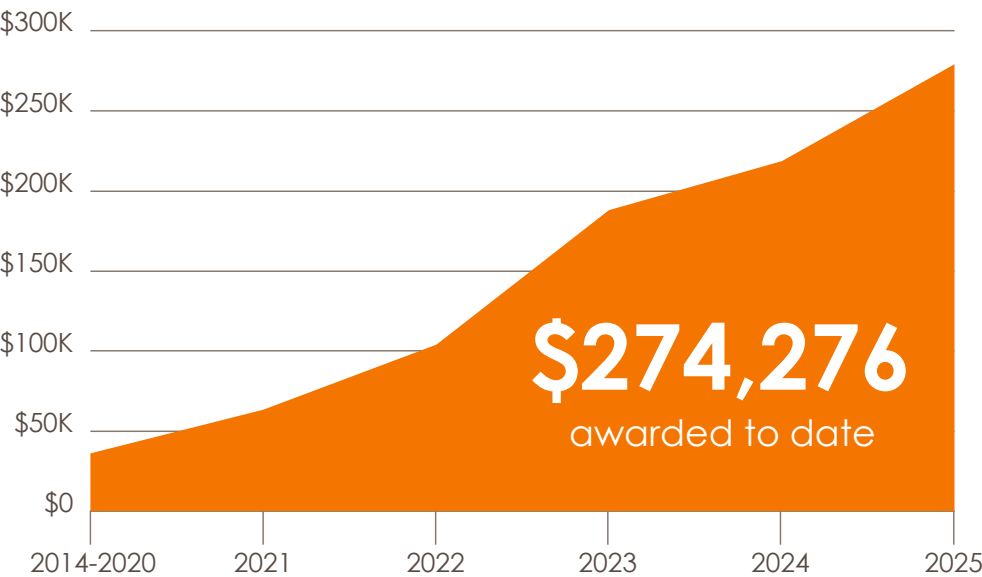
awarded through CFPC's unrestricted endowment fund

\$49,182

awarded through restricted funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT



\$834,182

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE



Community Foundation
for Perry County

An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

GROW CFPC'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to CFPC's endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
**Community Foundation for Perry County
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 CFPC'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 CFPC. 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 Community Foundation for Perry County 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!**

Perry@fao.org | www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC | 740.753.1111