



Community Foundation  
for Perry County

An affiliate of  
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Community Foundation for Perry County

# 2024 Annual Report

*Advancing a flourishing Perry County*



*Pictured are Community Foundation for Perry County committee members (front row, from left) Julie Paxton, Kevin Wood, Judge Luann Cooperrider, Eric Hutchins, Jeff Dennis, Chris Mooney, (back row, from left) Les Boyer, Jason Adams, Chris Snider, Tony Taylor, Jeanette Addington, John Winnenberg, Tony Fiore and Sherri Simons, director of outreach at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.*

## About us

**The Community Foundation for Perry County (CFPC)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, 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.



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**
- **Angela Arnett**
- **Les Boyer**
- **Judge Luann Cooperrider**
- **Jeff Dennis**
- **Jessica Emmert**
- **Tony Fiore**
- **Eric Hutchins**
- **Tim McLain**
- **Chris Mooney**
- **Julie Paxton**
- **Chris Snider**
- **Tony Taylor**
- **John Winnenberg**
- **Kevin Wood**

## Want to learn more?

For more information about leaving a legacy, 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@ffao.org



**Community Foundation for  
Perry County**

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





As the local partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, the Ludowici Community Foundation covers half of the cost of the books provided to Perry County children enrolled in the program and has received assistance from CFPC grants for the past two years.

## 2024 Grants

**The Community Foundation for Perry County, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded 16 grants, totaling \$36,286, in 2024.**

### Capabilities Charitable Fund

This grant is providing mini grants to Perry County residents with disabilities to cover expenses essential to their participation in the workforce and the local community. Funding can assist with everything from job training to adaptive equipment – all benefiting the recipient, their family, local employers and the greater community.

### FosterHub

Each year over the past few years, an average of 10-20 Perry County youth who have aged out of the foster care system have reached out to FosterHub for assistance in navigating this life transition. This grant is supporting the nonprofit in providing these young adults the resources they need to thrive, including housing and food.

### Glenford Lions Club

More than a decade ago, the Glenford Lions Club partnered with the Perry County Health Department to develop a one-mile walking trail on the club's property adjacent to Glenford Elementary School. This grant is helping fund repairs to the walking trail and provide access to ADA-compliant restroom facilities.

### Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio

There are few programs that provide affordable financing for low-income homeowners in need of home repairs – from roof repairs/replacements to projects addressing accessibility issues. This grant is funding home repairs, often completed in collaboration with local contractors, for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities in Perry County.

### Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action

The Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action resource navigation program receives many requests for assistance in repairing, replacing and/or installing stoves, refrigerators and hot water tanks – appliances essential to an individual's or family's basic needs. This grant is helping fill those needs for low-income Perry County residents.

### Ludowici Community Foundation

This grant is supporting Perry County children enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, which mails a book each month to children ages 5 and younger. The program helps children build strong reading comprehension, allowing them to advance through elementary school and beyond with confidence and a love for learning.



Among the community visits the Perry County Job and Family Services' staff and outreach vehicle made in 2024 was Crooksville's holiday parade. A grant from CFPC is funding improvements to the vehicle.

### Mount Aloysius Corp.

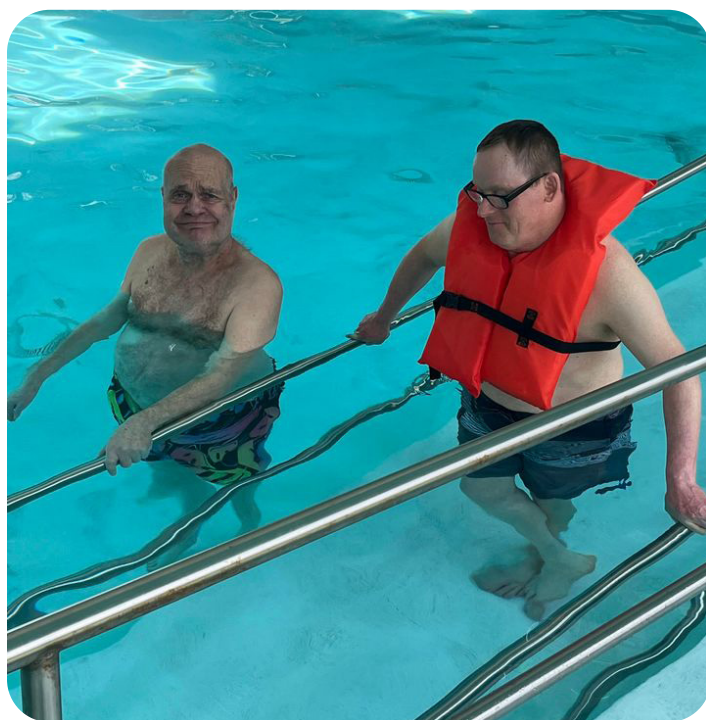
Among the many activities enjoyed year-round by the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Perry County's Mount Aloysius is swimming in the indoor pool. This grant is funding the purchase and installation of a pool lift, enabling all to fully and safely participate in aquatic activities and therapies.

### Northern Local School District Band Boosters

The Northern Local School District Band Boosters is "banding" the community together for a project honoring the spirit, traditions and pride of Sheridan High School. This grant is supporting the Generals Pride Walk – A Performance Patio project, a designated outdoor area for the band and other musical performances at the high school.

### Ohio University Foundation

The Ohio University Diabetes Institute's CAT Camp serves youth ages 8-17 with Type 1 diabetes, providing an environment that encourages independence in self-management. Through this experience, campers gain confidence in controlling their diabetes and fostering positive life-long habits. This grant is helping to fund Perry County youth's participation in the 2025 summer camp.



A grant from CFPC is providing Mount Aloysius a pool lift and advancing its mission to support individuals of all abilities.

### Perry County Commissioners

Cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for adults, students and athletes. When a cardiac emergency hits, an automated external defibrillator (AED) is critical to survival. This grant is funding the purchase of an AED and protective cabinet for the Perry County Fairgrounds, a community hub that hosts more than 100,000 visitors each year and has no AEDs.



### **Perry County Job and Family Services**

Perry County Job and Family Services' outreach vehicle provides a direct and accessible link to needed resources, training opportunities and programs by bringing those services to various locations, events and school districts. This grant is funding improvements to the vehicle, creating a more efficient and organized space for the agency's outreach activities in Perry County.

### **Rendville Historic Preservation Society**

Efforts are underway to preserve the Town Hall and Little White House, the only remaining miner's house on Rendville's Main Street, with a goal of developing them into an education center and museum/visitor center, respectively. The grant is funding scaffolding to complete window replacement at the Town Hall and a roof repair on the Little White House.

### **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio**

In 2024, a CFPC grant helped fund stays for 12 Perry County families at the Ronald McDonald House – a home away from home while caring for their children who are battling serious illness at Columbus-area hospitals. The grant is continuing that assistance in 2025, providing a safe haven for local families facing difficult times.

### **Rural Action**

This year, the Somerset Builder's Club will launch a fabric arts program, hosting bimonthly events that will allow local residents of all ages to learn hands-on skills while engaging across generations and building community. This grant is funding the purchase of a sewing machine and fabric bolts for the program.

### **Somerset Artists' Co-Op**

The Somerset Artists' Co-Op hosts a Kids Creativity Camp that introduces children ages 5 and older to different forms of art while helping them develop creative skills and artistic expression – all in a community-based setting. This grant is supporting the summer 2025 Kids Creativity Camp, helping to keep this experience affordable for Perry County families.

### **Southern Local School District**

Transportation is a barrier that prevents many Southern Local School District teachers from taking students on educationally enriching field trips. This grant is funding the Columbus Zoo Habitat Heroes program at Millcreek Elementary School, introducing students to the zoo's habitats and the animals who live in them.



### **Feeding our children's minds and bodies**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, waivers made it possible for the Perry County District Library to distribute food to all Perry County children through an after-school and summer food program. While those waivers have since gone away, the need has not.

A 2023 grant from CFPC allowed the Perry County District Library to purchase 650 shelf-stable meal packs, each containing 10 nonperishable healthy food items, for children who reside in areas of the county not eligible for USDA-funded programs that provide nutritional snacks outside school hours. In 2024, those snacks were distributed at the Somerset and Thornville library branches as well as to those who visited bookmobile stops throughout the county, nourishing the minds and bodies of our children – and alleviating worries about where they will receive their next meal.



## Answering the call to lead and serve in Perry County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including eight individuals living and/or working in Perry County. In exchange for committing to live, work and volunteer in their communities for five years, these young community builders receive a financial stipend and participate in a leadership program that includes coaching. In 2024, the fellows began implementing service projects in our communities, including:



### Laurel Frash

A resident of Corning, Laurel Frash is volunteering for the Perry County Possibilities Invitational, an all-inclusive track meet in Crooksville. This event allows young people with disabilities to take part in activities that haven't previously been available to them and creates opportunities for them to work together and participate in an event organized specifically for them.



### Christina McClean

Christina McLean is working to expand access to health care in southern Perry County. She is serving on the new Wellness Committee for the Southern Local School District and leading efforts to advocate and secure state funding for a school-based health clinic within the district in collaboration with local health care providers.



### Ryan Lewis

Ryan Lewis works at New Lexington High School, where he teaches a leadership class in the workforce development program. He is collaborating with a local food pantry and engaging the New Lexington City School District in food drives year-round. His goal is to expand the food drives to school districts throughout Perry County.



### Scott Weis

Scott Weis is a biology teacher at Miller High School and passionate about ecological restoration, environmental education and sustainable life practices. He is using his education and experience to serve the Athens Conservancy and Rural Action, where he is participating in its environmental education advisory group and exploring ways to bring local projects into local classrooms.



View the Growing Home Fellowship Impact Report and see how we are investing in our region's next generation of community builders and leaders.



## Fighting hunger in Perry County – one pig at a time

For the second consecutive year, Perry County food pantries should have enough sausage to stock their freezers for the entire year thanks to the growing number of individuals and businesses who are supporting our Fill the Freezer campaign.

Through the campaign, we invite buyers at the Perry County Fair Junior Livestock Sale to donate their hog purchases to fill the freezers of the county's food pantries and others to donate dollars to cover meat processing costs.

**In 2024**

**63 pigs**  
donated

+

**66 pigs**  
purchased  
by CFPC

=

**11,000**  
pounds of  
sausage

**to feed Perry County families**

CFPC piloted the Fill the Freezer campaign in the region in 2021. Its success has inspired four other FAO affiliate foundation partners to follow suit. Across Appalachian Ohio, communities are putting much-needed protein on the tables of families in need, supporting those working on the front lines of food insecurity and demonstrating the difference we can all make when we work together.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit us at:  
[www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC/fill-the-freezer](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC/fill-the-freezer)





## Honoring and remembering Tom Johnson (May 6, 1956 – Oct. 31, 2024)



### Mayor of Somerset. Dreamer. Doer. Innovator. Inspirer.

Through his words, actions and deep commitment to community, Thomas H. Johnson III taught us one person really can make a difference, in their lifetime and beyond.

After growing up in Somerset, Tom traveled the world through a career in human resources in international banking. When he returned to his hometown and his family, he set his sights on serving his community. And that he did – in countless ways.

As mayor of Somerset, he led numerous projects to bring funding and resources into his community, including the Genesis Perry County Medical Center. His desire to personally invest in his community led him and other champions of Perry County to establish the Community Foundation for Perry County at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) in 2012.

A dear friend to FAO, Tom was a collaborator in its goal to ensure every county in Appalachian Ohio is supported by a local foundation, a changemaker who helped secure funding to launch FAO's Growing Home Fellowship and one of the region's greatest champions.

His unparalleled life of giving lives on in the countless investments he brought into his community and across Appalachian Ohio. In the community resources he inspired. And in his thoughtfully crafted planned gift, which, through CFPC and FAO, will support nine organizations he started or served.

Tom's last gift to the people and communities of Perry County is supporting four existing funds – the Perry County Hunger Relief Fund, the Perry County Single Parent Support Fund, the Somerset Community Fund and the Somerset Horticultural Fund – and creating five new funds:

- The Perry County Park Board Endowment
- The Somerset Builder's Club Fund
- The Somerset Courthouse Building Fund
- The Somerset Emerald Necklace Fund
- The Somerset Reading Township Fire Department Fund

With deep gratitude, we celebrate the life and legacy of Tom Johnson, today and always.

***"Be brave and go in and make a contribution because the world is run by those who show up. Come to those community meetings, volunteer. That's where change is made in the world."***

**TOM JOHNSON**



Hear more of the words of wisdom and encouragement Tom shared with FAO's Growing Home Fellows during their inaugural gathering in April 2023.



FAO's Child of Appalachia® Award honors those whose stories are exceptional examples of what Appalachian Ohioans can achieve and those whose commitment to Appalachian Ohio has paved the way for remarkable achievements by the people who call our region home. Tom embodied the spirit of the award to its fullest and is being recognized posthumously as FAO's 2024 Child of Appalachia® Award recipient. Scan the QR code to watch his award video or visit [www.tinyurl.com/ICA24-TJ-FAO](http://www.tinyurl.com/ICA24-TJ-FAO).



## Honoring and remembering Bill Morgan (Aug. 28, 1935 – Nov. 30, 2024)

**William “Bill” Morgan dedicated his life to service – to his native Perry County, to his state and to his country.**

A Child of Appalachia who grew up in New Straitsville, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school and served in Europe during the Cold War. He later returned to his beloved Perry County to serve as deputy sheriff and mayor of Shawnee.

From there, he went on to spend 25 years with the Ohio Bankers Association, serving as a strong champion for the region's and state's competitiveness. Bill also provided leadership to numerous agricultural advancement initiatives and educational and economic development networks, and he was the longest-serving member of the Ohio Ballot Board.

In all he did, Bill never forgot his roots. When Bill was named FAO's 2012 *Child of Appalachia*® honoree, his daughter, Susan Kougendakis, said her father often shared these words of wisdom with his family:



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***“Remember where you came from because that’s important – because it will make you who you are.”***

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Among the many gifts Bill gave to Perry County was serving as a committee member of the Community Foundation for Perry County. His life and legacy will continue to guide our path for many years to come.

## Honoring and remembering Ben Shaver (Nov. 8, 1924 – March 27, 2024)



Perry County native Benjamin O. Shaver left his hometown to serve his nation at the age of 17, but his generosity continues to shape the communities that shaped him.

Ben started giving back decades ago, donating \$20 to the Southern Perry County Academic Endowment Fund (SPCAEF) when he didn't have \$20 to give. Years later, it was a gift from Ben that helped SPCAEF surpass its goal of \$1 million in endowment to forever benefit the people in the Southern Local School District.

Ben dedicated his professional life to education, believing it was the key to unlocking opportunity. In 2020, he established the Ben and Alyce Shaver Scholarship Fund to benefit Miller High School seniors. Ben was also the driving force behind the Perry County Single Parent Fund, supporting a group he often saw fall through the cracks during his time as a school superintendent.

Even in death, Ben continued to give. In the summer of 2024, the Ben and Alyce Shaver Scholarship Fund received a gift left by him. His generosity and commitment to community lives on in all who have and will benefit from his dedication to giving back – and all who are inspired by his example.

## Our impact in 2024



**\$3.9  
MILLION**

In assets for the people  
of Perry County



**\$48,984  
AWARDED**

Across CFPC's family  
of funds



**\$41,178  
GIVEN**

In scholarships through  
CFPC and FAO funds



**52  
FUNDS**

Partnering with CFPC  
in service to  
our community

## Our family of funds

- Community Foundation for Perry County
- Arc of Appalachia Hocking Hills Forever Fund
- Ben and Alyce Shaver Scholarship Fund\*
- Blake Underwood Student Learning Grant Fund\*
- Bob and Ruth Holland Community Fund\*
- Bope Family Fund
- Briggs Family Scholarship Fund\*
- Bruce and Dolores Hannah Scholarship Fund\*
- Catherine Blankenship Scholarship Fund\*
- Charlene Joseph Scholarship Fund\*
- Christopher P. Mooney Family Fund
- Clay Center of Ohio Endowment Fund
- Commander Lambert Scholarship Fund\*
- Corning Alumni Association Scholarship Fund\*
- Crooksville Arts Council Scholarship Fund
- Donald and Catherine Palmer Scholarship Fund\*
- Hazel Post Fisher Community Fund\*
- Holy Trinity School Endowment Fund
- Jack and Clara Reho Scholarship Fund\*
- Janet Arkley Legacy Scholarship Fund\*
- Janet Hursey Koehler Wade Scholarship Fund
- Janice E. Norris Memorial Scholarship\*
- Jesse, Olema & Ralph Drake Scholarship Fund\*
- Jim and Vicki Palmer Legacy Scholarship\*
- Jimmy Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund
- John and Elsie Exenkemper Scholarship Fund\*
- Johnson Family Fund
- Joseph and Marie Lichtenstein Scholarship Fund\*
- Ludowici Community Foundation Fund
- Murray and Lulu Brown Scholarship Fund\*
- Partners For Your Health
- Paul and Charlotte Hope Scholarship Fund\*
- 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
- Robert Woodruff and Charles & Elizabeth Scholarship Fund\*
- Shawnee Alumni Association Scholarship 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
- Southern Perry County Academic Endowment Fund\*
- Supporting Families Fund
- Upper Rush Creek Revitalization Project
- Vincent and Gene Hope Scholarship Fund\*
- William and Frances Dunlap Scholarship Fund\*
- Willard & Frances Kay Burns Legacy Scholarship\*

*\*This fund is part of Southern Perry County Academic Endowment Fund.*





Community Foundation  
for Perry County

*An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio*

## HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF PERRY COUNTY

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

### GIVE TO CFPC

Gifts to the Community Foundation for Perry County'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 Community Foundation for Perry County. 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:**

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

**or**



#### **Online:**

[www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC](http://www.AppalachianOhio.org/CFPC)  
**or** [www.tinyurl.com/GiveCFPC](http://www.tinyurl.com/GiveCFPC)

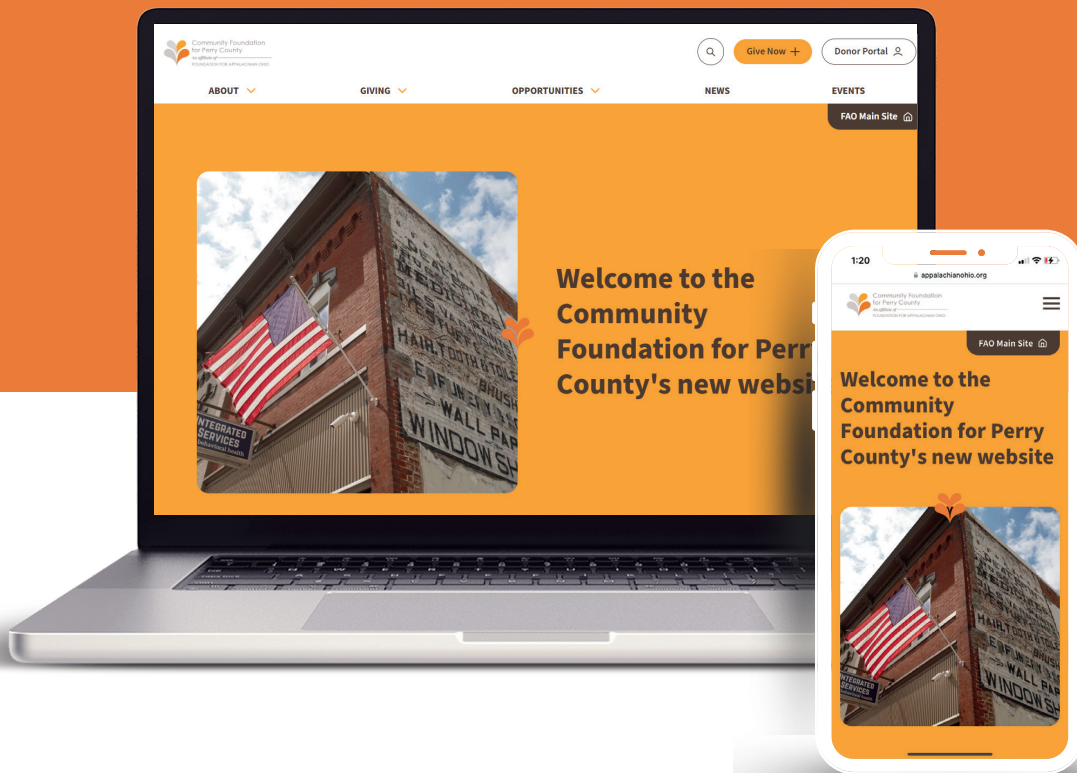
**For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email [Perry@ffao.org](mailto:Perry@ffao.org) or call 740.753.1111.**

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



Featuring more stories of impact, easier navigation and a lot of inspiration, **our new website** tells the story of the Community Foundation for Perry County and a community of givers who are championing our people and communities. Discover how far we've come, where we're going and how you can leave your legacy for generations to come.