



Vinton County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO



Vinton County Community Fund

2024 Annual Report

Advancing a flourishing Vinton County



FOR A FLOURISHING

Vinton County

About us

The **Vinton County Community Fund (VCCF)**, an affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, is composed of a dedicated group of local leaders who cultivates the growth of philanthropy to enhance the quality of life for Vinton County residents, today and for generations 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 Vinton 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

- Ashley Ervin
- Bruce Knox
- Bryan Radabaugh
- Cindy Strausbaugh
- Deanna Tribe
- Candice Walton
- Jeremy Ward
- Rich Weller

Want to learn more?

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



740.753.1111



Vinton@ffao.org



Vinton County
Community Fund

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Vinton

2024 Grants

The Vinton County Community Fund, in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, awarded nine grants, totaling \$19,250, in 2024.

Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio

An additional 97 Vinton County children, ages 5 and younger, were enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio in 2024, thanks to a grant from VCCF. This grant is enrolling more Vinton County children in the program, mailing their families a book each month and putting them on a pathway to success in school and in life.

Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center

A collaboration between Vinton County Local Schools and the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center, Vinton County Middle School's before- and after-school program – Viking Quest – provides a safe, engaging and educational environment for students. This grant is expanding the program to include shared meals for students and their families, helping to build a stronger, healthier and more connected community.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio

In 2023, 19 Vinton County families stayed 254 nights at the Ronald McDonald House – a home away from home while caring for their children who are battling serious illness at Columbus-area hospitals. This grant is helping cover the cost of overnight stays, providing a safe haven for local families facing difficult times.

Southern Ohio Soles Inc.

Southern Ohio Soles Inc., a nonprofit established by three then-high school students, provided 110 pairs of shoes to Jackson County students last year, ensuring that at least one of their essential needs was met. This grant, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, is expanding the program to Vinton County, empowering our youth to take a step toward a brighter future.



Max Gentry, Dayne Neff and Isaac Slark founded Southern Ohio Soles Inc. in 2023, partnering with donors and local schools to ensure that students have an adequate pair of footwear. The nonprofit has expanded to Vinton County with a goal of providing 100-150 pairs of shoes in its first year – and a vision to eventually serve students across southeastern Ohio.

2024 Grants

Truth Food Pantry

Volunteers from Hamden's Truth Food Pantry, a Feeding America food rescue pickup unit, travel to out-of-county retailers each week to secure fresh meat, produce and baked goods for the Vinton County residents they serve. This grant is helping to cover the cost of refrigerating that much-needed assistance for our neighbors.

Vinton County Local Schools

Last year, Vinton County Middle School Junior Beta Club members created an after-school space for teens as just one community service element of their participation in the Leadership Summit. This grant, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, is funding that leadership experience again this year, empowering our youth to make a difference in their school and community.

Vinton Soil & Water Conservation District

As the local affiliate for the National Archery in the Schools Program, the Vinton Soil & Water Conservation District provides youth with opportunities to learn and compete in archery, with an emphasis on home-schooled children. This grant is funding new equipment for the program that combines education, the outdoors and team building.



Photo: Melissa McDaniel, the 2024 Conservation Educator of the Year, is the lead coordinator for the homeschool group in the local National Archery in the Schools Program. A VCCF grant is providing new equipment for the program.

Investing in Vinton County's young leaders

In 2024, FAO teamed up again with its affiliate foundation partners to fund projects developed and implemented by local youth under age 18. The goal of this funding is to inspire young people to embrace roles as changemakers committed to creating strong, vibrant communities.

VCCF awarded youth-led grants to:

Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center

This grant is funding a project designed and implemented by students in the Viking Quest after-school program at Vinton County Middle School. Students will create a vibrant, sustainable raised flower bed at the school that will enhance the exterior of the building while providing learning opportunities that span environmental education, teamwork and community service.

Vinton County Local Schools

This grant is supporting community service projects spearheaded by Vinton County Middle School Junior Beta Club students in partnership with fellow students, community members and local organizations. The projects will benefit local veterans, senior citizens, students with multiple disabilities and children who are hospitalized due to cancer or another serious illness.

Fighting hunger in Vinton County – one pig at a time

2024 was a record-breaking year for our Fair to Family campaign, thanks to individuals, organizations and businesses who generously gave to help feed local families facing food insecurity.

With a goal of fighting hunger in Vinton County, Fair to Family invites buyers at the Vinton County Junior Fair's livestock sale to donate their hog purchases to help feed community members who rely on the St. Francis Evangelization Center's food pantry. In 2024, the campaign, with sponsorship from Columbia Gas and the NiSource Charitable Foundation, expanded to include steer purchases as well.

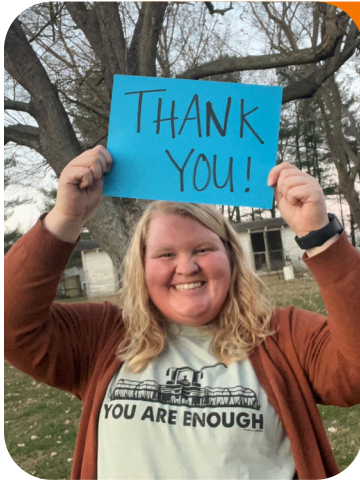
During the 2024 livestock sale, approximately 20 individuals, organizations and businesses donated 10 hogs and two steers to Fair to Family, allowing us to deliver 3,537 pounds of pork and beef to the food pantry.



We thank everyone who has contributed to this growing tradition of giving that supports our local 4-H youth, helps our neighbors by providing much-needed protein and demonstrates the difference we can make in our communities when we work together.

Answering the call to lead and serve in Vinton County

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundation partners welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Vinton County resident Hannah Thompson. 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.



Hannah Thompson

Hannah Thompson of McArthur is an agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor at Meigs High School. She is expanding her volunteer work with Vinton County's 4-H Program, helping to organize and produce an opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to experience "A Day in the Ring" at the Vinton County Junior Fair. The program pairs participants with 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors who accompany them into the ring to exhibit an animal at the fair. She is working with others on bringing a similar program to the Meigs County Fair. In Vinton County, Hannah has helped facilitate a teen leadership retreat and is engaging in conversations about the development of a community center.



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

Our impact



**\$1.2
MILLION**

In assets for the people
of Vinton County



**\$349,023
AWARDED**

Across VCCF's family
of funds since 2022



**\$298,980
GIVEN**

In grants and
scholarships in 2024



**11
FUNDS**

Partnering with VCCF
in service to
our community

Our family of funds

- Vinton County Community Fund
- Arc of Appalachia Hocking Hills Forever Fund
- The Carey & Mildred Strausbaugh Scholarship
- Clovis and Ada M. Strausbaugh Fund
- Ivan and Deanna Tribe Heritage Fund
- Michele L. Hart Legacy Fund
- Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund
- VCNB Family Fund for Vinton County
- Vinton County Conservation Fund
- Weller Scholarship Fund
- The William M. and Janet P. Betcher Memorial Endowment for Library Services

From a new welding lab to free college tuition

A Vinton County native is creating life- and community-changing opportunities

Growing up in Vinton County, James Mitchell witnessed the many ways his parents gave to the community. His mother, Virginia, was a registered nurse for the county. His father, Kenneth, served on the McArthur Volunteer Fire Department.

Jim is continuing that family legacy, creating the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund through VCCF to support Vinton County students and young adults who are seeking career advancement and personal growth opportunities to better themselves and their community.

Among the fund's investments to date? Equipment to establish a welding program at Vinton County High School. Funding for the 2024 "Teens Lead VC" retreat for high school students poised to step forward as leaders in their school and community. And support for two of the grants VCCF awarded in 2024.



Seventy-four individuals participated in the 2024 "Day in the Ring" program at the Vinton County Junior Fair, thanks to a grant from the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund.

The Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund ended 2024 with its largest gift to date: a commitment from Jim to pay the tuition, books and fees for all students who attend Rio Grande Community College's McArthur Center. It's a gift that will open the doors of education to students who otherwise might not have the opportunity – and a gift that will impact the lives and the livelihood of our communities for years to come.



Vinton County
Community Fund

An Affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OF VINTON COUNTY

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

GIVE TO VCCF

Gifts to the Vinton County Community Fund'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 Vinton County Community Fund. 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:

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

or



Online:

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Vinton
or www.tinyurl.com/GiveVinton

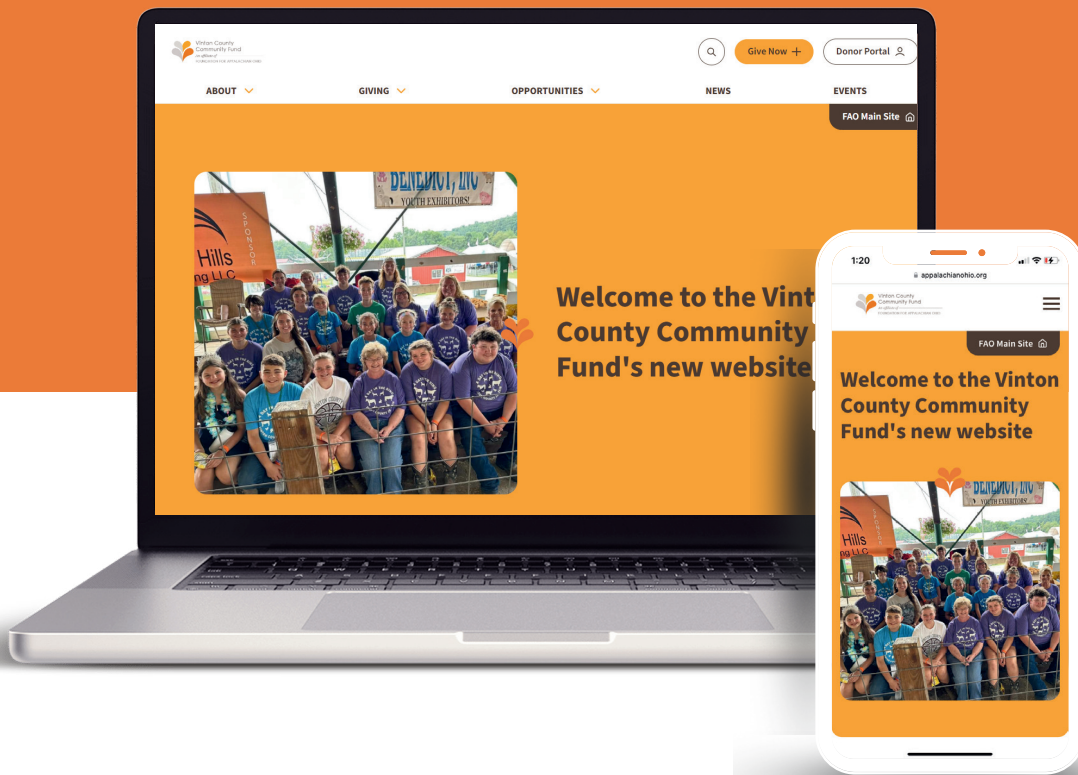
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Vinton@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

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/Vinton



Featuring more stories of impact, easier navigation and a lot of inspiration, **our new website** tells the story of the Vinton County Community Fund 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.