



Vinton County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center | 2025 grant recipient



Southern Ohio Sales Inc. | 2025 grant recipient



Fair to Family | A program of VCCF



Vinton County Community Fund

2025 Annual Report

ADVANCING A FLOURISHING VINTON COUNTY



FOR A FLOURISHING *Vinton County*

ABOUT US

The **Vinton County Community Fund (VCCF)**, a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), provides a way for anyone with a heart for Vinton 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 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@fao.org



Vinton County
Community Fund



www.AppalachianOhio.org/Vinton

2025 GRANTS

The Vinton County Community Fund, with support from our donors and in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, awarded 12 grants, totaling \$41,360, in 2025.

CARE UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH

CARE (Christians Agreeing to Reach Everyone) United Methodist Outreach helps Vinton County families meet basic needs with supplemental food and emergency assistance. This grant is helping fund essential assistance, including rent, utilities and other necessities – ensuring families remain stable during times of financial hardship.

EASTERSEALS CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST OHIO

More than 500 Vinton County children are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, receiving a free book each month until age 5. This grant is supporting Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio – which manages the program locally and covers half its cost – for the fourth consecutive year as it seeks to grow enrollment and put more children on pathways to success.

GALLIA-VINTON EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

The Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center received two grants, both supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund:

- To support student and family meal services during Vinton County Middle School's Viking Quest after-school program
- To cover the cost of driver's education coursework and instruction for Vinton County High School students in need of financial assistance

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT



A 2024 VCCF grant empowered Vinton County Middle School students in the Viking Quest after-school program to lead a campus beautification project from start to finish. The students did everything from filling out the grant application and researching native-friendly plants to building the flower boxes and planting the flowers.

2025 GRANTS

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 packaging materials for the ready-to-eat meals the organization provides to Vinton County residents experiencing food insecurity.

SOUTHERN OHIO SOLES INC.

A 2024 VCCF grant, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, enabled Southern Ohio Soles to expand into Vinton County. A 2025 grant, also supported by the Mitchell fund, is continuing that assistance to provide new shoes to Vinton County students who need them, improving confidence, attendance and participation in school and activities and easing financial strains on families.

TRUTH FOOD PANTRY

A 2024 VCCF grant covered the electric bill at Hamden's Truth Food Pantry for more than four months, keeping the freezers and coolers that help feed Vinton County families running. A 2025 grant, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, is extending that support to another year, helping the volunteer-run pantry manage rising energy costs and serve more neighbors in need.

"Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the passion of the individuals and organizations leading these efforts, we're seeing real investment in the well-being and future of Vinton County. Together, we're addressing needs and creating lasting opportunities for our neighbors, our youth and our communities."



In 2025, Southern Ohio Soles Inc. delivered more than 220 pairs of new shoes to students in Jackson, Vinton and Pike counties – with a 2024 VCCF grant helping to expand the nonprofit's reach into Vinton County. A 2025 grant is supporting the assistance Southern Ohio Soles is providing to Vinton County students in 2026.

VILLAGE OF McARTHUR

Previous VCCF grants have supported key improvements to McArthur's Wyman Park – from helping to extend a sidewalk for better restroom access to installing concrete cornhole boards and purchasing portable pickleball nets for use on the existing tennis courts. This grant is continuing that progress by funding improvements to the park's sand playground.

—CANDICE WALTON, VCCF COMMITTEE MEMBER

VINTON COUNTY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Vinton County Local Schools received three grants:

- To support the Project Backpack program, which provides nonperishable food twice a month to approximately 700 students facing food insecurity, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund
- To cover transportation costs for college and career field trips for Vinton County High School students, supported by the Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund
- To establish a program to provide basic necessities, such as socks and hygiene products, to students at Vinton County South Elementary

WILTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Wilkesville Community Center serves as an emergency shelter and a meeting and event space for everyone from the town council and fire department to 4-H groups and local community members who rent the space for special occasions. This grant is funding new tables for the center, replacing tables that have served the community for more than 30 years.

Mitchell Fund deepens commitment to students, community

The Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund, a member of VCCF's family of funds, continues to make transformative investments in Vinton County.

Established by Vinton County native James Mitchell in 2024, the Fund supports the health and advancement of Vinton County youth and residents, with an emphasis on students and young adults seeking career advancement and personal growth opportunities to better themselves and their community.

In addition to funding six of the grants VCCF awarded in 2025, the Mitchell Fund continued and deepened its support for Vinton County residents pursuing higher education. In 2025, it awarded a grant to continue funding the tuition, books and fees of Vinton County students enrolled at Rio Grande Community College's McArthur Center – and awarded another grant to support students attending the center's new facility, which opened in June 2026.

FIGHTING HUNGER IN VINTON COUNTY – ONE POUND AT A TIME



2025 was another record-setting year for VCCF's Fair to Family campaign, which brings our community together to help feed our friends and neighbors facing food insecurity.

The campaign invites buyers at the Vinton County Fair's junior livestock sale to donate their hog and steer purchases to fill the freezers of the St. Francis Evangelization Center's food pantry and others to donate money to cover the meat processing costs.

The 2025 campaign, with corporate sponsorship from the NiSource Charitable Foundation and Columbia Gas, saw area residents, businesses and organizations donate 16 hogs and three steers, generating 5,230 pounds of fresh, locally raised protein.

VCCF is one of a growing number of FAO affiliate foundation partners spearheading or supporting hunger-relief campaigns similar to Fair to Family. FAO presented its 2025 Changemaker of the Year Award to these campaigns.

Fair to Family is held in partnership with the Vinton County Junior Fair Board, local 4-H and FFA members, meat processors and the food pantry at the St. Francis Evangelization Center in McArthur.

BRINGING CAREER AND SPACE EXPLORATION TO OUR YOUTH

Baking soda rockets. Virtual reality labs. Lunar landers – and more!

That's what Vinton County youth experienced in 2025 when we partnered with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), Janet's Planet, the Ohio University Performing Arts and Concert Series, local employers and FAO to bring science-based learning to our community.

Our COSI programming provided middle and high school students with hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine – all tied to local, in-demand career opportunities. Thanks to the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center for sponsoring this opportunity and to our industry partners – Austin Powder Co., the Ohio Department of Transportation, the OSU Extension Office in Vinton County, Vinton County EMS, the Vinton County Engineer's Office and Vinton County National Bank – who led many of the day's activities.

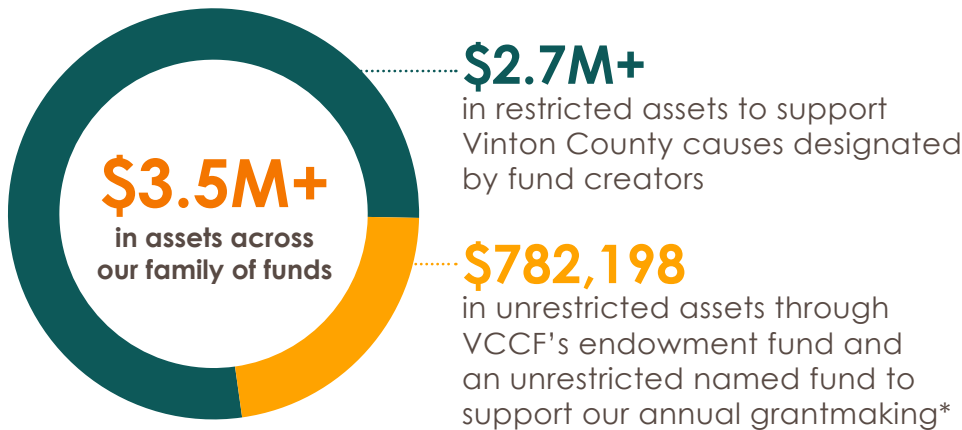
Our Janet's Planet programming enabled elementary students to explore space – right from their schools. Janet Ivey-Duensing, CEO and creator of the award-winning Janet's Planet education program, delivered performances at all three Vinton County elementary schools. During each event, students brought the learning to life by designing and building lunar landers.

From elementary school students exploring space to middle and high schoolers exploring future careers, we are encouraging our youth to dream big and empowering them to believe they can be – and do – anything.



OUR IMPACT

OUR ASSETS



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

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$16,000

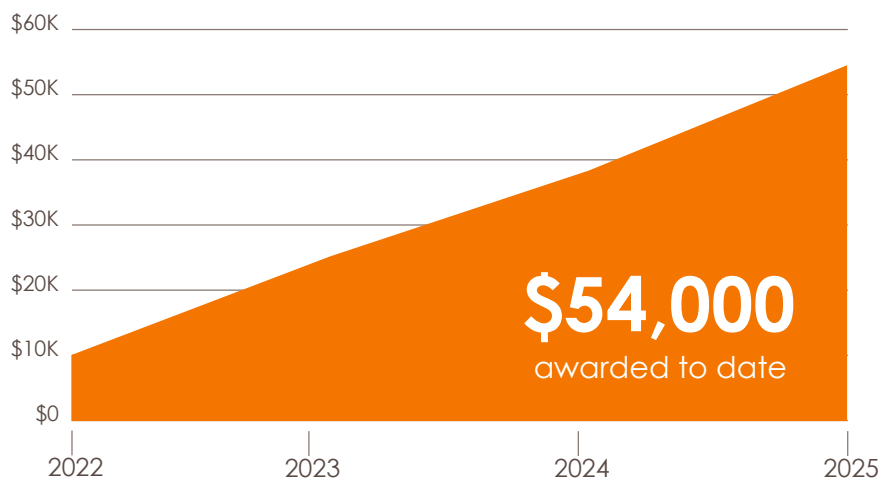
awarded through VCCF's
unrestricted endowment
and named fund

\$536,229

awarded through
restricted funds created by donors

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH VCCF



\$901,252

AWARDED ACROSS OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS TO DATE

OUR FAMILY OF FUNDS

• Vinton County Community Fund

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

- Arc of Appalachia
Hocking Hills Forever
Fund
- Broken Halos Domestic
Violence Support Fund
- The Carey & Mildred
Strausbaugh Scholarship
- Clovis and Ada M.
Strausbaugh Fund
- Fair to Family Vinton
County
- 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

* This unrestricted named fund contributes to VCCF's annual grantmaking. Gifts to unrestricted named funds as well as VCCF's endowment fund are invested and generate earnings in perpetuity. Those earnings fund VCCF's grants year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation.



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An affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

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

GROW VCCF'S ANNUAL GRANTMAKING

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

Give to VCCF's endowment fund by:



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



or mailing your gift to
Vinton County Community Fund
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 VCCF'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 VCCF. 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 Vinton County Community Fund 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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