



Vinton County
Community Fund

An affiliate of
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

The Vinton County Community Fund (VCCF), a geographic affiliate of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, 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 areas of need, known as our Pillars of Prosperity.



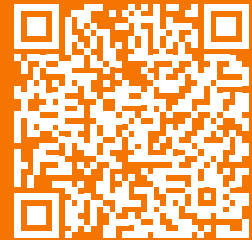
Our investments improve health, create educational opportunities, advance economic development and environmental stewardship, and provide access to arts and cultural experiences.

OUR COMMITTEE

ASHLEY ERVIN
BILL GARRETT
BRUCE KNOX
BRYAN RADABAUGH
CINDY STRAUSBAUGH
DEANNA TRIBE
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

OUR GROWING HOME FELLOWS!

In 2023, FAO and its affiliate foundations welcomed the inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows, including Kaylee Koker, a physical education teacher at Vinton County Local Schools, and Vinton County resident Hannah Thompson, an agriculture teacher at Meigs Local Schools.

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.



Growing Home Fellowship

A Program of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



2023 GRANTS

In partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Vinton County Community Fund awarded seven grants, totaling \$15,000, in 2023.

EASTERSEALS CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST OHIO

In the coming year, 80 percent of Vinton County children eligible for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio will be enrolled in the program – up from 42 percent in August 2022 – thanks to VCCF grants in 2022 and 2023. The program mails children ages 5 and younger a book each month, fostering a love of reading and putting our youth on a pathway to success.

THE iBELIEVE FOUNDATION

This grant is funding the participation of five Vinton County 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.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION – VINTON COUNTY

Individuals ages 18-35 make up 19 percent of Vinton County's population; their community engagement and leadership are key to our future. This grant is supporting the participation of Vinton County residents in this age group in the 2024 Emerging Leaders Workshops, inspiring our young professionals to become positive and engaged leaders in their personal and professional lives.

SOJOURNERS CARE NETWORK

Youth experiencing homelessness face significant hurdles throughout the year, but the holiday season can be especially difficult. This grant is providing Vinton County youth experiencing homelessness a warm holiday experience, offering them a respite from their daily hardships in a nurturing environment where they can feel a sense of a community, support and the simple joys of the season.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT



VCCF was established in August 2022 and that fall awarded its first-ever grants. One of those grants was awarded to the Vinton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The district used the funding to purchase equipment for and expand – by 33 percent – its local National Archery in the Schools Program, which not only instructs youth in the safe and effective use of archery equipment but opens the doors to all the joys of nature.



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 Vinton County Community Fund.

2023 GRANTS

VILLAGE OF MCARTHUR, MCARTHUR PARK BOARD AND WYMAN PARK

An active and engaged community is a healthy community. Building on the impact of a 2022 grant that extended a sidewalk to make the restrooms at Wyman Park more accessible for all, a 2023 grant is funding additional recreational equipment at McArthur's only park and the most utilized park in Vinton County.



VINTON COUNTY CANCER RESEARCH

In 2023, the nonprofit Vinton County Cancer Research provided gas cards to an average of 16 Vinton County residents per month, helping to fuel their travels for medical care due to a cancer diagnosis. This grant is funding the purchase of gas cards to help our neighbors – and their families – literally navigate their road to recovery.



Over the past several years, Wyman Park has seen many upgrades, spearheaded by the Vinton County Healthy Communities Coalition, Vinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities and McArthur Park Board. VCCF and its donors are honored to play a role in increasing and making more accessible opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, engage in recreational activities and gather in our community.

INVESTING IN VINTON COUNTY'S YOUNG LEADERS

In 2023, FAO partnered with its affiliate foundations to support 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.

VINTON COUNTY SCHOOLS BETA CLUB

VCCF awarded youth-led project grant funding to the Vinton County Schools Beta Club. Composed of approximately 80 students in sixth through 12th grade, Vinton County Schools Beta Club is the local chapter of the National Beta Club, whose mission is to prepare youth to be tomorrow's leaders. Its motto? "Let us lead by serving others."

The grant will be used to finance the club's community services projects throughout the school year and participation in leadership events such as the State Convention and Leadership Summit.



“
Let us lead by
serving others.
”

OUR IMPACT IN 2023



**\$760,326
IN ASSETS**

Under the VCCF umbrella



**\$39,340
AWARDED**

Across VCCF's family
of funds

Learn more at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Vinton

6 FUNDS

Partnering with VCCF in service to our community.

1. Vinton County Community Fund
2. The Carey & Mildred Strausbaugh Scholarship
3. Clovis and Ada M. Strausbaugh Fund
4. Michele L. Hart Legacy Fund
5. Mitchell Family Youth Development Fund
6. Weller Scholarship Fund
7. The William M. and Janet P. Becher Memorial Endowment for Library Services

Fair to Family alliance nearly triples program's impact

Vinton County Middle School teacher Megan Macke launched Fair to Family in 2019, inviting buyers at the Vinton County Junior Fair's livestock sale to donate hogs they purchase to help feed those who would go hungry without assistance from the St. Francis Evangelization Center's food pantry.

Macke thought Fair to Family, which had been yielding three to four donated hogs annually, would end after the 2022 event. VCCF asked Macke if she would help continue the program with VCCF taking the lead – and a partnership was born. The result? Eight of the 30 hogs purchased at the 2023 livestock sale were donated. A local family gave an extra hog. More than \$2,000 was raised to cover meat processing costs, and 1,586 packages of meat were delivered to the food pantry.

Last year's success is only the beginning. VCCF has assumed ownership of the program – and with the community's generosity looks to feed more neighbors in need.



OUR COMMITTEE



Ashley Ervin was born and raised in Vinton County and is a mathematics teacher at Vinton County Local Schools, where she has also coached girls' high school basketball, softball and volleyball.

Having grown up in the Vinton County 4-H Program, Ashley also served as secretary of the Vinton County Agricultural Society.



Bill Garrett is a former resident of McArthur and funeral director serving Vinton County. Over the past 60 years, Bill has dedicated his time to many local civic activities, including

the Wescoat Library Board, Vinton County Chamber of Commerce, 4-H, and the Vinton County Athletic and Band Boosters.



Bruce Knox attended Vinton County Local Schools, graduating in 1979. His finance career spans 40-plus years, currently as a member of the WesBanco Inc. and WesBanco Bank Board and a

personal tax preparer for Cotner & Company. A former member of McArthur Village Council, Bruce's service also includes the Vinton County Chamber of Commerce Board and Vinton County Pilots & Boosters.



Bryan Radabaugh of Hamden has called Vinton County home most of his life. He is the chief operations officer at Vinton County National Bank, where he has served for 30 years, and the varsity girls'

golf coach at Vinton County High School. His previous community involvement includes 4-H and the Vinton County Athletic Boosters.



Cindy Strausbaugh is a 1974 graduate of Vinton County High School and president of the Vinton County Local School Board. A certified public accountant, Cindy dedicated

her career to nonprofit accounting, retiring as associate controller of The Ohio University Foundation, where she was employed for 30 years. She is the Athens County Foundation's finance and administration manager.



Deanna Tribe is a Vinton County native and a 1965 graduate of Allensville High School. She is a retired community development specialist and associate professor emerita at Ohio State University

Extension and active in the Vinton County Historical and Genealogical Society. Deanna is author of "Images of America: Vinton County" and was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.



Jeremy Ward is the network director at Building Bridges to Careers, where he fosters relationships that inspire career choice and empower individuals to pursue meaningful and

fulfilling career paths. Jeremy's previous career includes elementary educator; varsity baseball, basketball and softball coach; and middle school principal for Vinton County Local Schools, as well as park director for the Village of McArthur.



Rich Weller grew up in Hamden, graduating from Vinton County High School in 1985. He is a project, program and portfolio management solution specialist at MIGSO-PCUBED and has been

a college instructor for nearly 20 years, currently teaching at Washtenaw Community College. In 2015, he established the Weller Scholarship Fund to help Vinton County students.



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

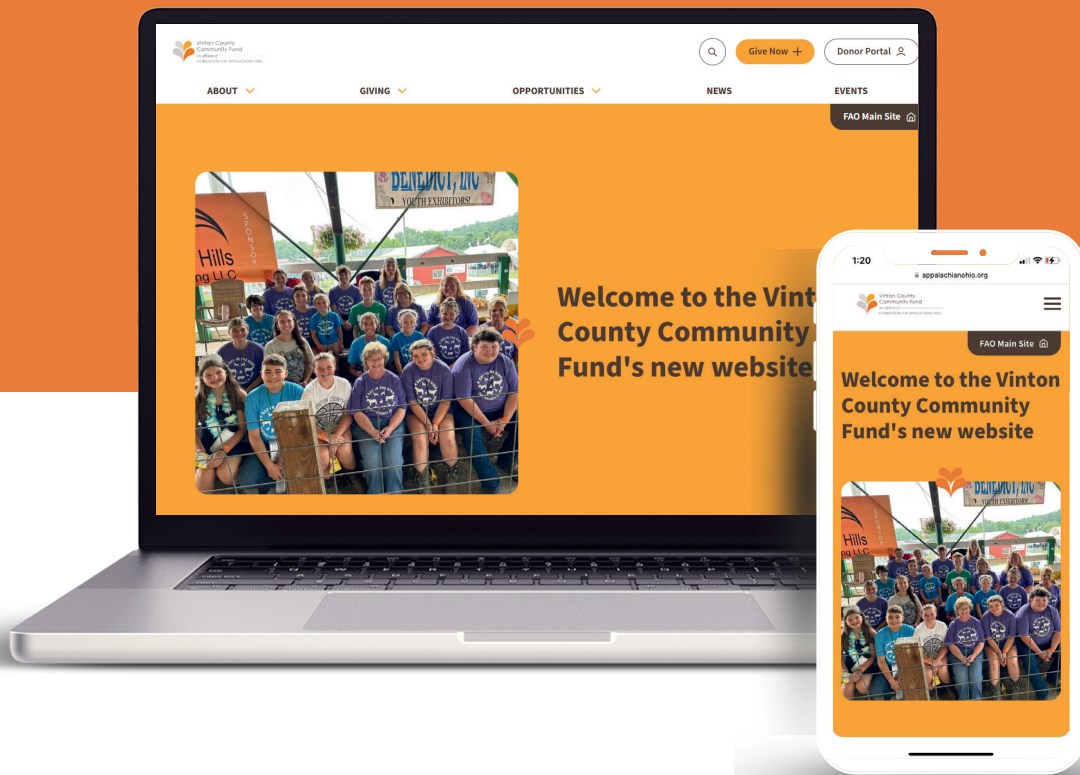
For information about establishing a named fund or planned gift, email Vinton@ffao.org or call 740.753.1111.

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