

Growing Home GAZETTE

2019



A NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

NEW MATCHING CHALLENGE WILL DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

The creation of the *I'm a Child of Appalachia*® Fund is a dream realized for the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. To finally have a fund focused on the greatest needs and most promising opportunities across all of our communities will accelerate our mission on an exceptional scale. Now, we have the great opportunity to invite donors to join us in growing this fund from the ground up with a dollar-for-dollar match!

The *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Fund is dedicated to unleashing the potential of the children of Appalachia. Giving FAO the resources needed to address the areas of greatest need and opportunity in the region, the *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Fund supports:

- FAO's work to build local capacity by nurturing local community foundations and nonprofits, and connecting partners around issues of regional importance.
- Programmatic initiatives and grant programs creating opportunities across our 32 counties in Arts & Culture, Community & Economic Development, Education, Environmental Stewardship, and Health & Human Services.
- FAO's work to encourage high expectations among all of the region's citizens, including FAO's *I'm a Child of Appalachia* campaign.

Because of a landmark investment of \$10 million from the state legislature (*learn more on our back cover!*), **up to \$5 million is available for a dollar-for-dollar match for gifts to the *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Fund.**

The *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Fund is unique, with half of each gift invested in endowment for the future and the other half impacting programs in the next 1 – 5 years. In the near-term, this includes: a partnership to connect books with children who need them; the first competitive FAO grant round focused on environmental stewardship; a grant program that puts youth in the driver's seat of substance use prevention; and a redesign of our long-treasured *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Writing Contest.

Gifts of all sizes will make a great difference. And with a gift of \$10,000 or more you can create a permanently named fund to celebrate your family's love for the children of Appalachian Ohio, or honor a special person who has made a difference in your life.

The Foundation's deadline to meet this match is June 30, 2021. The sooner we meet the match, the faster we will be able to create opportunities for the children of Appalachian Ohio. Make your gift today with the giving envelope included in this newsletter, or learn more at AppalachianOhio.org/Match.

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TWO GENERATIONS OF ART LOVERS CREATE ARTS & CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES



Through piano lessons, gifts of classical music albums, and more, Catherine Lahmers instilled an appreciation for music and the arts in her daughter, Nancy, from a young age. And, over time, this appreciation for arts and culture has grown into a passion that they both share and cherish deeply.

“I thought it was important for my children to engage with music and the arts, because you can enjoy your life so much more when you learn to see the beauty in plants and paintings and books,” said Catherine.

That's why, when Nancy Lahmers resolved to do something to honor her mother, she decided on a gift that would flow from their shared passion for the arts, and that would also speak to her mother's spirit of kindness and generosity. So Nancy established the Catherine M. Lahmers Arts & Culture Fund for Appalachian Ohio at FAO, which supports Appalachian Ohioans in pursuing and accessing arts and culture opportunities.

Nancy was able to establish this fund thanks in part to matching dollars from Ohio CAT, which helped kickstart FAO's *Pillars of Prosperity* to create opportunities across Arts & Culture, Community & Economic Development, Education, Environmental Stewardship, and Health & Human Services.

Another factor that helped Nancy honor her mother was the ease of making complex gifts to community foundations like FAO. Nancy established the Catherine M. Lahmers Fund through a gift of appreciated stock. She received a tax deduction on the full market value of her appreciated stock, while eliminating the capital gains tax that would otherwise have been assessed from the sale of her stock.

“The stock transfer was really, really easy to do,” Nancy said. “I just called my stockbroker and said ‘transfer these stocks to FAO.’ If I’d sold that stock, then I would have had to pay maybe 30% in taxes. So FAO got more money than I otherwise would have been able to give, and, as an added bonus, I didn’t have to pay any taxes on the stock growth.”

And thanks to this gift, Catherine will now be able to see her love for the arts spread far beyond her own children, as the fund in her name meets the region's greatest needs and opportunities in the area of Arts & Culture. In this way, the Catherine M. Lahmers Fund will help all the children of Appalachian Ohio lead richer lives through opportunities to appreciate the beauty in the world around them.

Thanks to a \$10 million investment from the State of Ohio, your gift to FAO can be matched, too! To learn more, contact the Foundation at 740.753.1111.



INAUGURAL INITIATIVE OF FAO'S EDUCATION PILLAR INSPIRES LEARNERS WITH BOOKS

There's no denying the power of a book. Stories can transport children to new lands, help them imagine themselves as astronauts or superheroes, and teach them how to appreciate and understand their neighbors. Access to educational resources like books is vital to taking full advantage of education, as is access to the basic needs children require to learn and grow. That's why FAO has launched a new partnership with First Book through our *Education Pillar of Prosperity* to support educators with the resources they need to serve the children of Appalachian Ohio.

First Book is a nonprofit social enterprise that helps educators and service providers working with children in low-income communities to connect with books and other resources, including basic needs items, school supplies, and more. With funding from the American Electric Power Foundation, the AEP Ohio Foundation, and an OMG Books Award from First Book, FAO's partnership with First Book will connect children with those high-quality books and resources. This partnership also gives FAO and First Book the opportunity to learn from the region's educators on what resources we should develop next.

All this begins with educators and those serving children from under-resourced communities in Appalachian Ohio – including those working in early childhood programs, faith-based organizations, shelters, and many more organizations. Registration with First Book and FAO is completely free and takes about 5 minutes. Register at www.FirstBook.org/FAO to start accessing brand-new, free and low-cost books and resources for children.

Help us spread the word about our partnership with First Book by connecting the educators and service providers in your life with the included \$25 credit for high-quality, low-cost books!

Just cut out the coupon or take a picture, and send it along.

\$25

credit for high-quality, low-cost books

This credit can be redeemed on the First Book Marketplace after registering with FAO and First Book at www.FirstBook.org/FAO.



COUPON CODE: [TreatYoShelves](#)

Did you know?

Teachers spend an average of **\$500 out of their own pockets** to supplement what is needed for their classrooms or programs. Help ease that burden for Appalachian Ohio's educators by sharing the coupon above.

EVERY SCHOLARSHIP, AN OPPORTUNITY

In 2019, FAO awarded more than 585 scholarships to support over 320 of our region's students in achieving their dreams. **Every scholarship awarded honors a unique legacy and empowers each student who receives a scholarship to create their own legacy.**

HUNTER WELCH


Noble County

SCHOLARSHIP
AK Steel Scholarship

IMAN ABUKAMAIL

Athens County

SCHOLARSHIP
Ariana Ulloa Scholarship



COLLEGE
Baldwin Wallace University

DREAM JOB
Primary Care Physician

HIGH SCHOOL
Marietta High School

AREA OF STUDY:
Biology
"I fell in love with medicine while taking an EMT class my senior year of high school, and I also really love serving the community, so I want to come back to this community and help serve the public as a physician."



COLLEGE
Case Western Reserve University

DREAM JOB
Working with the U.N.

HIGH SCHOOL
Athens High School

AREA OF STUDY:
International Relations, French, and Business
"Today's world is really interconnected and there's no way for it to function without people who are helping to connect everyone on the international level."

WANT TO CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP?

1. Call FAO at 740.753.1111 to discuss your ideas.
2. Make a gift today or through a planned gift of \$50,000 or more to establish a new scholarship.
3. See your scholarship fund make a difference for the region's students!



EACH STUDENT, A DREAM TO HELP OTHERS

We take pride in our recipients and the story behind each scholarship fund.
The **Foundation for Appalachian Ohio** is honored to support over 280 donor-established scholarship funds.

WYATT SIPPLE

Gallia County

SCHOLARSHIPS

Bob Evans & Wayne White Legacy Scholarship,
Ora E. Anderson Scholarship

EMILY POLCYN

Jackson County

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Allen Smith Memorial Scholarship,
Jackson City Schools Alumni & Friends
Fund scholarship awards

COLLEGE
University of
Rio Grande

DREAM JOB
Working at a fish
hatchery that promotes
conservation

HIGH SCHOOL
Gallia Academy
High School

AREA OF STUDY:
**Wildlife Biology
& Natural
Habitats**

"I love being outdoors, I love fish, and I love fishing, so I've always wanted to help the water in as many ways as I can. That's why I want to work to increase the number of fish in all the lakes and rivers around."

COLLEGE
Baldwin Wallace
University

DREAM JOB
Performing on Broadway
(or any job related to
theater)

**HIGH
SCHOOL**
Jackson High
School

AREA OF STUDY:
Acting and Music

"I've always loved music and theater, and there's never been anything else I could see myself doing for the rest of my life. Whether I'm on stage, whether I'm backstage, whether I'm teaching – I'm always happy and satisfied, and I feel like I can contribute, help other people, and get my own voice out there."



Visit FAO's website and hear from each of these
four scholarship recipients on our video page:
www.AppalachianOhio.org/Watch

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PLANNED GIVING: TIPS FROM PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR JOHN WELLS



John Wells doesn't have a crystal ball or a time machine, but he does have the ability to see the future. John is an attorney in Morgan County who has the privilege of working with people who are thinking about leaving a gift in their wills. Through their generosity, he sees a bright future ahead for Morgan County.

Recently, a client approached John to leave a percentage of their estate to charity. John's client had a deep love for Morgan County but was unsure how they could leave a gift that would support the entire Morgan County community forever. After John shared a few options, his client arranged to leave a gift to the Morgan Community Fund.

Because the Morgan Community Fund was designed to serve the changing needs of Morgan County, they will always be there to make sure the gift from John's client makes a difference. The Morgan Community Fund believes that children are the next generation of entrepreneurs, leaders, and workers who are vital to the community's prosperity. That's why the Morgan Community Fund invests in a wide range of programs that put children on a path to success, awarding \$10,000 to seven grantees in 2018 alone to provide basic needs items to seniors, connect children with opportunities to pursue the performing arts, provide wildlife management education, and much more.

**Do you want to leave a legacy that supports a cause or community you care about?
Here are some of the most common concerns John has heard from clients.**



**What if I don't have very much money?
Is it pointless to leave a gift?**

A lot of people are hesitant to make gifts in their estate planning because they don't think they have enough money. It's a misconception, and I don't think people should be concerned about this, especially if the gift is going to a local organization. That gift given locally can make a huge difference.



Do I have to have everything figured out to leave a planned gift?

The client should tell their professional advisor what they want, and then it's our job to find the mechanisms or tools to make it happen. For those who want to leave a planned gift to support a community, school, or cause they care about, the Foundation gives us the tools we need to help.



How can I make sure my gift serves its purpose forever, even if the organization I want to support disappears?

FAO and its funds like the Morgan Community Fund create consistency and a sense of security. They are designed to serve the region forever so that your gift will always serve its purpose even if the organization you support today isn't around anymore.



I care deeply about my community, but I also want to ensure that my family has the resources to thrive after I'm gone. How can I make sure that my estate plan does both?

If this is a concern for you, then consider leaving a percentage of your estate to charity, rather than a fixed dollar amount. It doesn't matter how much money you have left when it's a percentage.

Q: WHAT DO PIRATE SHIPS AND MEIGS COUNTY BARN HAVE IN COMMON?

A: Both were the sites of exciting charity events hosted by FAO funds this year, which showcased local leadership and advanced community-driven solutions.



At a Meigs County barn, the Meigs County Community Fund (MCCF) announced over \$21,000 in grants to local nonprofit and public organizations working to improve quality of life in the community. MCCF encouraged giving to their Endow 200 campaign, which will harness 200 gifts of \$3,000 to allow the MCCF to sustainably grant upwards of \$24,000 each year in the future. Hear about their work in their own words at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs and watch a video about MCCF.



And at a pirate ship (that is, the home of the proud Pirates in the Wheelersburg Local School District) the newly established Wheelersburg Schools Alumni & Friends Fund inspired alumni and friends to help fulfill its mission of ensuring that all young people in Wheelersburg have access to high-quality education while raising over \$75,000.

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In addition to FAO's Board, our work is guided and supported by more than 100 volunteers who represent the broad diversity of our region. If you would like to make a difference in Appalachian Ohio by volunteering with FAO please contact us at **740.753.1111**



STATE OF OHIO INVESTS \$10 MILLION TO HELP YOU DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT IN APPALACHIAN OHIO

Check presentation with the FAO Board of Trustees.



This year's State of Ohio budget included \$10 million for FAO's work of building endowment and creating opportunities in Appalachian Ohio!

This was possible thanks in part to the leadership of the State Representative who drafted the amendment in the budget, Jay Edwards, pictured above with the FAO Board of Trustees as he confers a ceremonial check from the State of Ohio to FAO's President & CEO, Cara Dingus Brook. His leadership, and that of Speaker Larry

Householder, Senator Bob Peterson, and the entire Appalachian Delegation, has ensured that we all can make an even greater difference for the children of Appalachian Ohio.

Learn more on our front cover and at **AppalachianOhio.org/Match**.

Check out the front cover to see how your gift can be matched dollar-for-dollar!



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