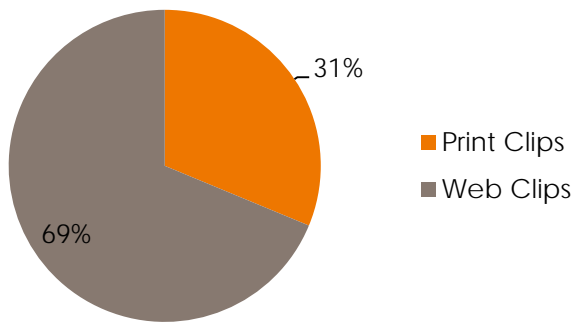


This Communications Coverage Report includes newsclips
received from April 1 – April 30, 2020

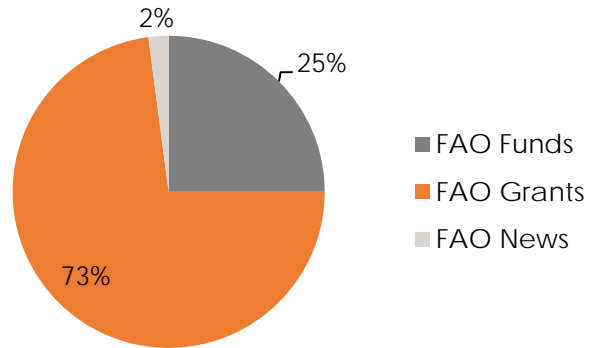
Web and Print Media



If these 33 online articles and 15 print articles were
ads, we would have paid (ad equivalency):
\$79,726.31

These 15 print articles reached an estimated
circulation of: **72,660**

Coverage



FAO Funds: **12 Articles**

FAO Grants: **35 Articles**

FAO News: **1 Article**

This Month's Highlights:

- [First Grants Awarded from Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [Second Round of Grants Awarded from Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [Meigs County Community Fund Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [New Fund Created to Support African American Communities Throughout Appalachian Ohio](#)

Interesting Reads:

- [Food Shortages? Nope, Too Much Food in the Wrong Places](#)
- [Coronavirus for Kids without Internet: Quarantined Worksheets, Learning in Parking Lots](#)
- [For Joe Burrow, the N.F.L. Draft Offers a Path Home](#)
- [Closed Hospitals Leave Rural Patients 'Stranded' as Coronavirus Spreads](#)
- ['It Got Ugly': What Happened When Black Lives Matter Protests Came to Small Town Ohio](#)
- [Why The Small Protests in Small Towns Across America Matter](#)

News to Share:

- FAO Stands in Solidarity With the Black Lives Matter Movement ([Web](#), [Facebook](#))
- Meigs County Community Fund Meets Fundraising Goal ([Web](#), [Facebook](#))
- Passion Works Creates Endowment at FAO ([Facebook](#))
- Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund Continues to Support Basic Needs ([Web](#))

[Click here](#) to read press clips packets from recent
months.

Give. Grow. Create.

Table of Contents

FAO Funds	4
Appalachian Emergency Response Fund (Print) – The Times-Gazette	4
Appalachian Emergency Response Fund – The Times-Gazette	5
Ohio Philanthropy News: The Osteopathic Heritage Foundations Joined FAO as a Partner in their Emergency Response Fund – Philanthropy Ohio	7
New Fund Created to Support African American Communities Throughout Appalachian Ohio(Print) – The Clermont Sun	11
New Fund Created to Support African American Communities Throughout Appalachian Ohio – The Clermont Sun	12
Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to Support COVID-19 Response – Pike County News Watchman	14
FAO Announces New Fund for African American Communities (Print) – Perry County Tribune	17
Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund (Print) – Monroe County Beacon	18
Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to Support Region’s Response to COVID-19 Crisis – Monroe County Beacon	19
Ohio Philanthropy News: FAO Establishes the African American Community Fund – Philanthropy Ohio	21
FAO Establishes Emergency Response Fund (Print) – Perry County Tribune	23
Ohio Philanthropy News: FAO Assists nonprofits with Emergency Response Fund – Philanthropy Ohio	24
FAO Grants	26
Community Fund Awards \$22,000 in Grants (Print) – The Daily Sentinel	26
MCCF Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis (Print) – The Daily Sentinel	27
MCCF Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis – The Daily Sentinel	28
Meigs County Community Fund Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis – Meigs Independent Press	30
Grant Funds Used to Upgrade Electric on Parking Lot (Print) – The Daily Sentinel	33
Grant Funds Used to Upgrade Electric on Parking Lot – The Daily Sentinel	35
Grant Funds Used to Upgrade Electric on Parking Lot (Print) – Gallipolis Daily Tribune	37
Grant Funds Used to Upgrade Electric on Parking Lot – Gallipolis Daily Tribune	39
CFI Among First Grantees of Emergency Funding (Print) – The Daily Sentinel	41
CFI Among First Grantees of Emergency Funding – The Daily Sentinel	42
CFI Among First Grantees of Emergency Funding (Print) – Gallipolis Daily Tribune	44
CFI Among First Grantees of Emergency Funding – Gallipolis Daily Tribune	45
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Chillicothe Gazette	47
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Cincinnati Enquirer	49
St. Peter Parish in NR Among COVID-19 Grant Recipients (Print) – The Clermont Sun	51
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Coshocton Tribune	52
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Fremont News Messenger	54
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Lancaster Eagle Gazette	56
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Mansfield News Journal	58
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Marion Star	60
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Newark Advocate	62
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Port Clinton News Herald	64
News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Telegraph Forum	66

News Briefs: FAO Awards Grant Funding – Times Recorder	68
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Assists Nonprofits with Emergency Response Fund – The Post	70
Ohio Philanthropy News: FAO Awards over \$23K to four nonprofits – Philanthropy Ohio	74
Community Fund Awards \$22,000 in Grants – The Daily Sentinel	77
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Announces Grants – The Bargain Hunter	79
Southern Ohio Makers Awarded Grant (Print) – The Times-Gazette	81
Southern Ohio Makers Awarded Grant – The Times-Gazette	82
Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund Announces Second Round of Grant Awards – Athens Messenger	83
HVCH Among First Grantees of Response Fund (Print) – Logan Daily News	86
HVCH Among First Grantees of Response Fund – Logan Daily News	87
Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition Among Grantees of the Appalachian Emergency Response Fund (Print) – The Clermont Sun	89
Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition Among Grantees of the Appalachian Emergency Response Fund – The Clermont Sun	90
Ohio University’s Voinovich School Provides Resources for Mental Health and Addiction – Athens Messenger	92
Interesting Reads	98
Food Shortages? Nope, Too Much Food in the Wrong Places – NPR	98
Coronavirus for Kids Without Internet: Quarantined Worksheets, Learning in Parking Lots – The Columbus Dispatch	103
For Joe Burrow, the N.F.L. Draft Offers a Path Home – The New York Times	108
Closed Hospitals Leave Rural Patients “Stranded” as Coronavirus Spreads – The New York Times	113
Why the Small Protests in Small Towns Across America Matter – BuzzFeed News	122
‘It Got Ugly’: What Happened When Black Lives Matter Protests Came to Small Town Ohio – USA Today	134

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio has launched the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund because there are urgent needs facing communities, and the region's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet the expanding need head-on.

Across the country, needs have emerged in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appalachian Ohio's communities, however, face the increased needs of their citizens with an added challenge – a significant philanthropy gap. With nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita than the rest of Ohio, the region does not have the same capacity for the grants and partnerships that are so crucial in responding to moments like this one. The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) has been working to change that every day, but this philanthropy gap makes it all the more important for the region to band together to support the nonprofits and public organizations responding to the current crisis. Through many gifts coming together, there will be a greater

impact. As everyone looks to find a way to help, a gift to the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund, which can be made at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus, is a powerful way to make a difference.

The Emergency Response Fund will make grant awards to help 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations whose resources are, and will continue to be, strained by this unprecedented event, as they work to expand and modify how they deliver their services. The fund will begin making grant awards over the coming weeks, focusing on immediate needs, including basic necessities and the health and safety of the most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 outbreak. Nonprofits and public organizations that are interested in sharing their needs or learning more should visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus.

"Our nonprofits are feeding our neighbors, serving our seniors, providing vital childcare, and protecting all of our health," said

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President & CEO Cara Dingus Brook. "They play an essential role in our communities every day, but now we see them all stepping in to grow their services, reach more individuals and families, and help us all weather these unprecedented times. They cannot do it alone. I hope those who are able will join us with a gift to provide the help that is needed now more than ever."

FAO and the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund serve Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.

The fund was created with dollars from FAO and a number of individual donors, who are showing their support for their neighbors and the communities they love. This week, the Osteopathic Heritage

Foundations joined FAO as a partner in its work to grow the Emergency Response Fund and connect funding to nonprofit and public organizations that are meeting the ever-growing needs of the people who call Appalachian Ohio's communities home.

Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will allow the fund to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund with a gift, visit

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at info@fao.org or 740-753-1111.

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

Submitted by Daniel Kington, communications and programs associate, Foundation For Appalachian Ohio.

POSTED ON [APRIL 2, 2020](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund

FEATURES

Submitted story

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Submitted by Daniel Kington, communications and programs associate, Foundation For Appalachian Ohio.

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Ohio Philanthropy News - April 3, 2020

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

Father and son found the African American Community Fund at the [Foundation for Appalachian Ohio](#).

[The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation](#) simplify grant requests to address coronavirus.

[The Barberton Community Foundation](#) board voted to create the Barberton Small Business Emergency Loan Fund.

[Muskingum County Community Foundation](#) donates to local group that feeds the hungry.

[The Greater Toledo Community Foundation](#) started the COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund for nonprofits on the front lines of the pandemic.

[FirstEnergy Foundation](#) donates \$500,000 to food banks.

[Troy Foundation](#) establishes COVID-19 emergency fund.

[The Licking County Foundation, United Way of Licking County](#) and community partners have set up the Licking County COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Akron Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund jumped to nearly \$1 million after the [John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#) contributed \$500,000 Monday.

The United Way of Williams County and Bryan Area Foundation launched an economic relief fund to help county residents through financial difficulties brought on by the coronavirus crisis.

The **Oxford Community Foundation** has started the Greater Oxford COVID-19 Organizational Assistance Fund.

Joining Cincinnati Edition to talk about the COVID-19 efforts are **United Way of Greater Cincinnati President and CEO Moir Weir, Greater Cincinnati Foundation President & CEO Ellen Katz, Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky President Nancy Grayson.**

Mortar at Bounce is funded by and presented in partnership with **GAR Foundation; Burton D. Morgan Foundation; the city of Akron and Rubber City Match; and the Greater Akron Chamber.**

A \$70,000 grant awarded to NEOCH Friday from the **Cleveland Foundation's** new Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund will cover hotel costs for about 50 people experiencing homelessness.

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundations joined **The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio** as a partner in their emergency response fund.

The Cleveland Foundation announced the recipients of the 85th Annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards.

The expanded education program is made possible with a \$25,000 grant from **the Stocker Foundation** for increased programming while students engage in at-home learning.

The Community Foundation of Shelby County and the Shelby County United Way have partnered to establish the 2020 Recovery Fund.

The Dayton Foundation and United Way of the Greater Dayton Area announced the third round of recipients in a series of grants awarded from the COVID-19 Response Fund for Greater Dayton.

Lit Youngstown receives grant from the **Youngstown Foundation.**

The Black River Education and Wellness Foundation, Community Foundation of Lorain County, Lakeland Community Fund, The Nord Family Foundation, Nordson Corporation Foundation, The Stocker Foundation and United Way of Greater Lorain County create **Lorain County Cares COVID-19 Response Fund.**

Funding for the \$340,000 Brigid's Path project was made possible by grants from **The Dayton Foundation and The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation.**

The New Albany Community Foundation acted quickly to help neighbors in need of assistance by expediting grants.

The Erie Community Foundation announced that Erie's COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund has grown to \$557,000.

Honda's pledge to communities and customers in response to COVID-19.

Richland County Foundation redirects funds to meet emerging COVID-19 community needs.

The Wayne County Community Foundation, in conjunction with local private foundations, has established and provided the initial funding for the Wayne County Emergency Response Fund.

Contributions grow the **Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund** to more than \$5.37 million to date.

Fairfield County Foundation to support local nonprofits affected by COVID-19.

Meals on Wheels gets \$200,000 boost from **Columbus Foundation** during COVID-19 emergency.

Trustees of the **Coshocton Foundation** announced creation of two \$20,000 grants providing citizens and small businesses relief.

The Holmes County Education Foundation celebrates 31 years of helping achieve higher education.

Melissa Heson is leading food assistance efforts in her role as the **Yellow Springs Community Foundation** outreach manager.

A program that is part of the **Ashland County Community Foundation** tasks students with deciding which programs will receive \$1,000 in grant money.

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty established the Community Health Fund aimed at addressing local needs during the COVID-19 health crisis.

The Middletown Community Foundation has established a Coronavirus Emergency Fund.

Community West Foundation announces COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

Applications for the Becky Bricker Scholarship are now available through the Rebecca Bricker Scholarship Committee and the **Sebring-West Branch Area Community Foundation**.

ArtsWave is focused on helping the Cincinnati region's arts sector weather the coronavirus crisis.

MetroHealth receives \$1 million from former Hyland Software exec to bolster COVID-19 preparedness.

Sen. Rob Portman to donate two months of salary in coronavirus fight.

Delta Dental Foundation creates \$500,000 emergency fund for coronavirus assistance to clinics, nonprofits.

Pelotonia pledges \$1 million to research coronavirus effects on the cancer community.

United Way of Greater Lorain County has launched a redesign of its 2-1-1 First Call for Help website.

The NiSource Charitable Foundation is committing \$1 million in relief support to nonprofit organizations responding to COVID-19 to be distributed in Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Saturday in the Park donations will support the **United Way of North Central Ohio's** Community Relief Fund.

The Catholic Diocese set up a fund and the Catholic Community Foundation has already donated \$500,000 to aid people in need.

Akron Community Foundation awards grants to nonprofits helping during coronavirus.

New Blog Post

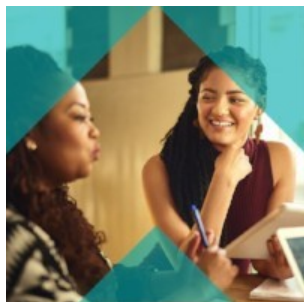


A key time for Foundations on the Hill 2020

On March 9 – 11, eight foundation members from across the state shared their stories with elected officials and the value of philanthropy in their districts – which is now very significant as our communities are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. This was my first year participating in FOTH, which was an experience I will not forget.

[**Read more.**](#)

Featured Program



Member Call: Coronavirus Response

Monday, April 6 | 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Join your colleagues for up-to-the minute information on how the state and philanthropy are responding to the growing challenges related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

[**View all upcoming programs.**](#)

New fund created to support African American communities throughout Appalachian Ohio

Father and son, Ernest E. and Ernest A. Bynum, have long been passionate about supporting African American and other minority communities in Appalachian Ohio.

The pair co-founded the Minority Business Resource Network of Southeast Ohio to increase the diversity of the region's business community.

Now, they are continuing their advocacy with a new effort to grow resources dedicated to serving Appalachian Ohio's African American communities, founding the African American Community Fund at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

As of 2017, over 86,000 African American individuals were living in communities throughout Appalachian Ohio.

Appalachian Ohio's history has been shaped in significant ways by its African American population. Among countless examples, African Americans played a critical role in making Appalachian Ohio a major hub of the Underground Railroad, and also shaped the region's musical and cultural history, including through the development of bluegrass music.

Now, the African American Community Fund has been established at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio to serve African American communities throughout Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties.

The Fund will serve as a vehicle for African American individuals throughout the region to invest in and support their communities by promoting dialogue and connections to create racial harmony, and by supporting and enhancing initiatives in Appalachian Ohio's African American communities that strengthen not only African American populations in the region, but entire communities.

In partnership with FAO, the African American Community Fund has the potential to secure a major investment for the future of Appalachian Ohio's African American communities before the end of May 2020. Thanks to matching funds awarded to FAO by the Ohio legislature, all gifts to the African American Community Fund's endowment through May 31, 2020 will be matched dollar-for-dollar while the \$50,000 in available matching funds lasts.

To help the African American

Community Fund grow its ability to support Appalachian Ohio's African American communities with grants each and every year, and to see your gift matched dollar-for-dollar, mail your donation to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, PO Box 456, Nelsonville, OH 45764 and designate the African American Community Fund.

Gifts can also be made online at www.AppalachianOhio.org by selecting the African American Community Fund when donating.

For more information about the match opportunity currently available for gifts to the African American Community Fund, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/AACF or 740-753-1111

or info@effao.org.



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New fund created to support African American communities throughout Appalachian Ohio

🕒 April 8, 2020 👤 Administrator 💬 1 Comment



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https://www.newswatchman.com/community/article_68c8f95e-0870-5970-91bf-5736a5ea3af9.html

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to support region's response to COVID-19 crisis

Submitted by FAO
Apr 8, 2020

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio has launched the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund because there are urgent needs facing our communities, and our region's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet this expanding need head-on.

Across the country, we see needs that have emerged in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appalachian Ohio's communities, however, face the increased needs of their citizens with an added challenge – a significant philanthropy gap. With nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita than the rest of Ohio, our region does not have the same capacity for the grants and partnerships that are so crucial in responding to moments like this one.

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) has been working to change that every day, but this philanthropy gap makes it all the more important for our region to band together to support the nonprofits and public organizations responding to the current crisis. Through many gifts coming together, there will be a far greater impact. As everyone looks to find a way to help, a gift to



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“Our nonprofits are feeding our neighbors, serving our seniors, providing vital childcare, and protecting all of our health,” said Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President & CEO Cara Dingus Brook. “They play an essential role in our communities every day, but now we see them all stepping in to grow their services, reach more individuals and families, and help us all weather these unprecedented times. They cannot do it alone. I hope those who are able will join us with a gift to provide the help that is needed now more than ever.”

FAO and the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund serve Appalachian Ohio’s 32 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington counties.

The Fund was created with dollars from FAO and a number of individual donors, who are showing their support for their neighbors and the communities they love. This week, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations joined FAO as a partner in our work to grow the Emergency Response Fund and connect funding to nonprofit and public organizations that are meeting the ever-growing needs of the people who call Appalachian Ohio's communities home.

Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will allow the Fund to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund with a gift today, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at info@ffao.org or 740.753.1111.

The children of Appalachian Ohio, past and present, have a history of banding together. Together, we can do more. With a gift, we can show our support for the nonprofits and community organizations protecting our seniors, caring for patients, feeding our children, and carrying Appalachian Ohio forward.

FAO announces new fund for African American communities

BY ALEKSEI PAVLOFF
PERRY COUNTY TRIBUNE REPORTER

NELSONVILLE — A new fund has been created at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) in an effort to support African American communities. With the new establishment, gifts to the Appalachian Ohio's African American Community Fund are being matched dollar-for-dollar.

The new fund under the FAO was created by a father and son duo who have been passionate about supporting the African American Community as well as other minority communities in the Appalachian region. Ernest A. and Ernest E. Bynum co-founded the Minority Business Resource Network of Southeast Ohio in an effort to increase the diversity of the business sector in the region.

The duo is still advocating for minority business owners with more resources for access. Resources will provide growth and services dedicated to African American communities. The new African American Community Fund at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio aims to help minority business owners.

According to FAO, as of

2017, approximately over 86,000 African Americans were reported to be living in Appalachian communities in Ohio. African Americans have had a main role in the history of Appalachian Ohio.

African Americans were essential in making Appalachian Ohio a major hub in the underground railroad. The populations also shaped the region's musical and cultural history which involves the development of bluegrass music.

The African American Community Fund will serve African American communities in all of 32 counties in Appalachian Ohio.

Money from the newly established fund will provide individuals with the opportunity to invest in communities. Funds will also help support communities by promoting dialogue and connections in an effort to create "racial harmony."

In the partnership with FAO, the African American Community Fund has the possibility to assure big investments for the future of minority communities. The FAO is matching, dollar-for-dollar, all gifts through May 31. Matching will go as far as \$50,000 in available matching funds, according to the

release.

Local community members can give gifts to the African American Community Fund. Locals can mail in donations to the FAO, PO Box 456, Nelsonville, Ohio 45764 and designate the African American Community Fund. Gifts can also be made online at appalachianohio.org by selecting the African American Community Fund for donations.

The father and son duo have been involved in making resources available for minority citizens living in Appalachian Ohio since 1998. In that year, they created the Minority Business Resource Network of Southeastern Ohio.

"We wanted to show our organized effort in working with minorities," Ernest A. told *The Perry County Tribune*.

While the network started out assisting minority community members, the non-profit has since encompassed all who live in the region. The Appalachian region has been lacking in technology making it difficult for locals to get a hold of information that could benefit them. Ernest A. hopes to improve the current situation through the partnership with FAO.

"A lot of times, being in the Appalachian region, we are behind, technology wise and information wise... we want to try and get the information where everybody can benefit from our efforts," Ernest A. emphasized.

The African American population is very scarce in the region. Ernest A. and his father opted to partner with the FAO in order to give all African Americans the ability to access resources as a whole.

"That way we can have a larger impact in our giving," Ernest A. said. "Because we want our giving to go towards all of Southeastern Ohio, not just African Americans."

He added that his vision for the African American Community fund will be one that brings all residents closer together. For many years, the region has been riddled with poverty stricken communities that have affected all races. Through the struggles, Ernest A. hopes to see a unified community where people share available resources to those who need it.

"We haven't had one large donor that will just give \$5 million," Ernest A. commented. "Our journey has relatively been the same... we are close and that's what we want to show."

The process to establish the fund took a couple years, according to Ernest A.. He added that his work with the FAO has been "fantastic" and hopes to see the relationship blossom in the near future.

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio has launched the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund because there are urgent needs facing communities, and the region's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet the expanding need head-on.

Across the country, needs have emerged in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appalachian Ohio's communities, however, face the increased needs of their citizens with an added challenge – a significant philanthropy gap. With nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita than the rest of Ohio, the region does not have the same capacity for the grants and partnerships that are so crucial in responding to moments like this one. The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) has been working to change that every day, but this philanthropy gap makes it all the more important for the region to band together to support the nonprofits and public organizations responding to the current crisis. Through many gifts coming together, there will be a greater

impact. As everyone looks to find a way to help, a gift to the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund, which can be made at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus, is a powerful way to make a difference.

The Emergency Response Fund will make grant awards to help 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations whose resources are, and will continue to be, strained by this unprecedented event, as they work to expand and modify how they deliver their services. The fund will begin making grant awards over the coming weeks, focusing on immediate needs, including basic necessities and the health and safety of the most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 outbreak. Nonprofits and public organizations that are interested in sharing their needs or learning more should visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus.

“Our nonprofits are feeding our neighbors, serving our seniors, providing vital childcare, and protecting all of our health,” said

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President & CEO Cara Dingus Brook. “They play an essential role in our communities every day, but now we see them all stepping in to grow their services, reach more individuals and families, and help us all weather these unprecedented times. They cannot do it alone. I hope those who are able will join us with a gift to provide the help that is needed now more than ever.”

FAO and the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund serve Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.

The fund was created with dollars from FAO and a number of individual donors, who are showing their support for their neighbors and the communities they love. This week, the Osteopathic Heritage

Foundations joined FAO as a partner in its work to grow the Emergency Response Fund and connect funding to nonprofit and public organizations that are meeting the ever-growing needs of the people who call Appalachian Ohio's communities home.

Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will allow the fund to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund with a gift, visit

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at info@ffao.org or 740-753-1111.

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

Submitted by Daniel Kington, communications and programs associate, Foundation For Appalachian Ohio.



Monroe County Beacon

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APPALACHIAN OHIO EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND TO SUPPORT REGION'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CRISIS

Thu, 04/09/2020 - 12:00am

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio has launched the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund because there are urgent needs facing our communities, and our region's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet this expanding need head-on. Across the country,

Across the country, we see needs that have emerged in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appalachian Ohio's communities, however, face the increased needs of their citizens with an added challenge – a significant philanthropy gap. With nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita than the rest of Ohio, our region does not have the same capacity for the grants and partnerships that are so crucial in responding to moments like this one.

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"Our nonprofits are feeding our neighbors, serving our seniors, providing vital childcare, and protecting all of our health," said Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President & CEO Cara Dingus Brook. "They play an essential role in our communities every day, but now we see them all stepping in to grow their

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2:01 PM Mon Jun 8

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services, reach more individuals and families, and help us all weather these unprecedented times. They cannot do it alone. I hope those who are able will join us with a gift to provide the help that is needed now more than ever."

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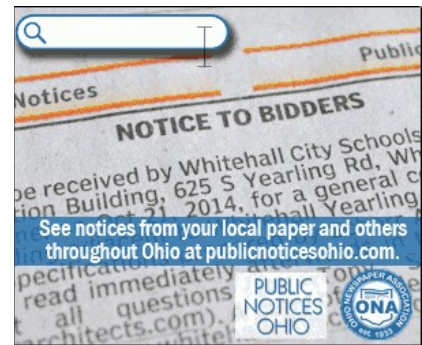
The Fund was created with dollars from FAO and a number of individual donors, who are showing their support for their neighbors and the communities they love. This week, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations joined FAO as a partner in our work to grow the Emergency Response Fund and connect funding to nonprofit and public organizations that are meeting the ever-growing needs of the people who call Appalachian Ohio's communities home.

Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will allow the Fund to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund with a gift today, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at info@ffao.org or 740-753- 1111.

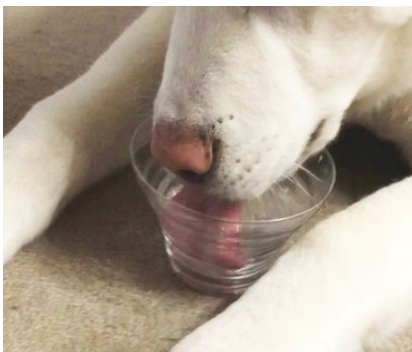
COVID-19 NEWS

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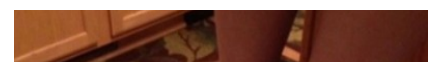
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Ohio Philanthropy News - April 10, 2020

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

Ohio non-profits: How [Richland County Foundation](#) and [Ashland County Community Foundation](#) are mobilizing during coronavirus.

[Cleveland's COVID-19 rapid-response fund](#) releases \$1.2M more in aid.

[United Way of Coshocton County](#) announces emergency fund awards; contributions received thus far include [Coshocton Foundation Johnston Fund](#), the [Simpson Family Foundation](#), [Schooler Foundation](#), [Buckeye Brine](#), [Century National Bank](#) and about a dozen individuals.

Ronald Wolfe's passion lives on through an [Ashland County Community Foundation](#) grant to a dog shelter.

Jarvis Landry donates \$15K in supplies for East Cleveland kids and families through the [Cleveland Browns Foundation's](#) Get 2 School, Stay in the Game! Network.

\$250K emergency loan fund created for artists and musicians by Arts Cleveland, the [Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation](#) and Noteworthy Federal.

[Lubrizol](#) pledging \$2M to help fight coronavirus.

The county will use federal money to pay the hotel bill for the homeless and prevent COVID-19 spread; the [United Way of Greater Cincinnati](#) helped pay a large portion of the costs the first two weeks.

SICSA Pet Adoption and Wellness Center receives grant from the [CareSource Foundation](#).

[The Muskingum County Community Foundation](#) steps up to feed their community during coronavirus pandemic with a check from the Community Cares Fund to the Hunger Network.

Elyria YWCA moves sheltered women to hotel rooms, funded by [The Nord Family Foundation](#).

The Cleveland Cavaliers, WTAM 1100 and 100.7 WMMS hosted a live telethon and raised \$156K for the [United Way of Greater Cleveland](#), the [Greater Cleveland Food Bank](#) and other entities that are providing crucial resources for those in need as a result of the extensive impact of COVID-19.

The Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC Community Commitment Fund delivered four \$5K checks to the Pike County Community Action, Scioto County Community Action, Jackson County Food Pantry and Clothesline and [the Chillicothe-Ross Community Foundation](#).

[Marietta Community Foundation](#) awards \$10K grant to Community Action.

[United Way of Greater Cleveland](#) commits \$3M over three years to promote housing stability.

[The Cleveland Foundation](#) announced the 2020 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award winners.

The African American Community Fund has been established at the [Foundation for Appalachian Ohio](#) to serve African American communities throughout Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties.

[The Dayton Foundation's](#) COVID-19 fund passes \$1M in donations.

[Community Foundation for Crawford County](#) redirects funding for COVID-19 relief.

[Meigs County Community Fund](#) awarding grants to provide relief during COVID-19 crisis.

Columbia Gas of Ohio supports COVID-19 relief through local contributions from the [NiSource Charitable Foundation](#).

[First Federal Bank and Home Savings Bank](#) committed \$100K from the Charitable Foundation to help local nonprofit partners in many areas of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan address the COVID-19 challenges.

[Samuel Adams](#), in partnership with the [Greg Hill Foundation](#), is giving one-time \$1K grants to Ohio service industry workers impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.

[United Way of Marion County](#) is working to build a better community.

Spanish-speakers gain access to DeWine coronavirus briefings thanks to the [United Way of Central Ohio](#), WOSU Public Media and with US Together.

FAO establishes emergency response fund

BY ALEKSEI PAVLOFF
PERRY COUNTY TRIBUNE REPORTER

NELSONVILLE — As people around the county scatter to find the supplies and necessities they need, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) has initiated an emergency fund aiming to support the needs of locals in the southeastern region of Ohio.

The FAO is a “regional community foundation” which serves a total of 32 counties in the state of Ohio. FAO is a 501©(3) and creates opportunities for citizens in southeastern Ohio along with communities by supporting philanthropy.

The FAO is also an organization that strives to produce philanthropic resources for the residents who live in the Appalachian Ohio region. During this time, locals in the region have been caught off guard as the coronavirus (COVID-19) has seemingly closed all non essential businesses.

Appalachian Ohio is home to a vast catalogue of public and private busi-

nesses scattered throughout each small town and village. Some public agencies and entities have been left open in order to address the needs of locals during the Stay at Home order produced by the Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton.

While locals and organizations stress over supplies for the coming days, FAO has quickly established its Appalachian Ohio Response Fund.

Unlike the rest of the state, Appalachia Ohio has “nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita,” according to FAO. Because of this, responses to this pandemic ultimately do not have the response necessary to effectively and efficiently address the ever growing pandemic.

FAO stated that in order to address the growing needs, organizations and nonprofits must “band together” to support all entities responding to the current national situation. By combining resources, the FAO hopes to make a bigger impact. People can donate to the emergency re-

sponse fund at appalachianohio.org/coronavirus.

The Emergency Response Fund is going to create grant awards to help 501©(3) nonprofits along with public organizations whose own funding has been affected by the pandemic’s unprecedented spread. Some have gone as far as to expand and modify how they deliver their services.

The FAO stated that grant awards are going to be constructed over “the coming weeks” while it focuses on immediate needs. This includes necessities as well as the health and safety of the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Those public and nonprofit organizations who are experiencing hard times during the pandemic and are interested in sharing needs or learning more can visit appalachianohio.org/coronavirus.

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund will serve 32 counties located in the southeastern region of the state. This includes Adams, Ashtabula,

Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington counties.

The new fund was conceived with dollars from the FAO as well as a “number” of additional donors. Last week, according to the press release, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations merged with the FAO as a partner to grow the emergency response fund. The partnership will also provide a connection of funds to nonprofit and public organizations.

The FAO is encouraging any and all donations large and small. To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Fund, locals can visit appalachianohio.org/coronavirus or contact the FAO at info@ffao.org or call 740-753-1111.

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Ohio Philanthropy News - April 24, 2020

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

Yellow Springs Community Foundation is providing help for local tenants and landlords.

Musician and native Mariettan to perform a virtual orchestra thanks to the financial support of the **Marietta Community Foundation**.

The Troy Foundation approved over \$277K in grants to 23 organizations.

Front-line Licking County organizations receive relief grants from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, established by the **Licking County Foundation, United Way of Licking County** and several community partners.

Timothy L. Tramble Sr. named president and CEO of **Saint Luke's Foundation**.

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio assists nonprofits with emergency response fund.

Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund awards nearly \$500K in the fourth round of coronavirus grants.

Richland County Foundation funds COVID-19 rapid response grants.

Shelby County United Way provides COVID-19 emergency funding and joins with the **Community Foundation of Shelby County** to help start the Recovery 2020 Fund.

Paul G. Duke Foundation, a supporting foundation of **The Columbus Foundation**, supports **The Troy**

Foundation's Troy Emergency Response Fund.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation gave \$1M to Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Amy Acton received **The Columbus Foundation's** Spirit of Columbus Award and a \$50K donation will be made in her honor to the Star House.

The Dayton Foundation and the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area's COVID-19 Response Fund awards additional \$111K to local nonprofits.

Curbside Concerts is bringing live music to seniors throughout the Columbus area thanks to **The Columbus Foundation, Smart Columbus, Greater Columbus Arts Council and Douglas and Monica Kridler**.

Fairfield County Foundation and the United Way of Fairfield County create COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Arts groups will receive \$1.6M from **The Columbus Foundation** and \$200K from **Greater Columbus Arts Council's** COVID-19 emergency relief fund to help cope with COVID-19's impact.

Upper Arlington Community Foundation reports its Good Neighbor Fund has experienced an increase in monetary donations and gift cards in the past month.

Swagelok Foundation kicks in \$100K for 6 local nonprofits on front lines of global pandemic.

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation and the United Way of Hancock County gave \$115K from their emergency fund.

New Blog Post



Philanthropy Ohio

We are happy to announce our newest Philanthropy Ohio staff member, Kaylin Bittner, who joined the team last month.

[***Read more.***](#)

Featured Program



Health Initiative Meeting

Tuesday, May 12

10 a.m. - noon

Zoom meeting

Community fund awards \$22,000 in grants

Six organizations receive funding

POMEROY — The Meigs County Community Fund announced that six projects serving Meigs County have received funding through their annual grant round. These grants will support projects related to education, food access, sustainability, and first responder safety. “There are so many people and organizations working to make a difference across Meigs County, and we are so pleased to support and uplift their incredible work,” said Jennifer Sheets, president of the Meigs County Community Fund. “I hope more people who hold Meigs County close to their hearts will help us expand our impact even further with a gift to the Fund. As we are currently working to award emergency grants responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Meigs County, it is becoming all the more plain how crucial it is that we work together to build the long-term resources that can better position our community for moments of uncertainty.”

The six grant recipients of the Meigs County Community Fund’s first grant round of 2020 include Eastern Local Schools, the Meigs County Farmers’ Market, Meigs Primary School, Southern Local Elementary School, the Village of Pomeroy, and the Village of Pomeroy Fire Department. The Meigs County Community Fund awarded a total of \$22,296 to support these organizations. Eastern Local School District was awarded \$7,500 to support the creation of a sensory room for the Eastern Local School District. The sensory room will provide a place for students to calm their minds and bodies in order to successfully return to the classroom to learn. The Meigs County Farmers’ Market was awarded \$2,500 to strengthen and expand children’s programming, increase access to healthy food, and continue to grow the weekly farmers’ market in a way that incorporates the assets and potential of the communities it serves.

MCCF awarding grants to provide relief during COVID-19 crisis

\$25,000 available to support Meigs County projects

Staff Report

POMEROY — There are urgent needs facing Meigs County's communities, and our county's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet this expanding need head-on. With \$25,000 in funding from Sisters Health Foundation, the Meigs County Community Fund is pleased to offer grants to nonprofit and public organizations working to meet the most pressing needs facing Meigs County during the COVID-19 crisis.

Grant awards will focus on four critical areas: food access and distribution; the needs of our seniors; mental health and addiction-related needs; and our community's health care infrastructure (i.e. health departments, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers).

Because the Meigs County Community Fund is focused on

responding quickly and flexibly to critical needs across Meigs County, the Fund is not currently hosting a formal application process. If your nonprofit or public organization is working to meet the needs described above for Meigs County, simply email the Meigs County Community Fund at

MeigsCountyCommunityFund@gmail.com. Please include:

- A brief description of your Meigs County organization;
- The type of organization you are (eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) nonprofits and other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations and other public entities);
- What population(s) and area you serve;
- What your greatest need is now;

- The amount of funding that would be needed to meet that need; and
- Contact information.

Grant requests will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the Fund will begin making grant awards over the coming few weeks.

The Meigs County Community Fund is a local community fund of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). The Meigs County Community Fund provides a way for anyone to give back to the community and invest in nonprofits, schools, and community organizations through grants.

If you are interested in making a gift to help the Meigs County Community Fund expand the funding available for the current round of emergency grants, please contact FAO at 740.753.1111 or info@ffao.org. To learn more about the Meigs County Community Fund, visit

www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs.

About the Meigs County Community Fund

The Meigs County Community Fund was created in 2011 to increase and advance philanthropic activities in Meigs County. The Meigs County Community Fund works to attract philanthropic resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community.



POSTED ON [APRIL 6, 2020](#) BY [POMEROY DAILY SENTINEL](#)

MCCF awarding grants to provide relief during COVID-19 crisis

NEWS

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Pomeroy, OH

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Meigs County Community Fund Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis

By **Staff Report** - April 6, 2020



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Meigs County Community Fund Awarding Grants to Provide Relief During COVID-19 Crisis

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[\\$25,000 Available to Support Meigs County Projects](#)



Pomeroy, OH – There are urgent needs facing Meigs County's communities, and our county's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet this expanding need head-on. And with \$25,000 in funding from Sisters Health Foundation, the Meigs County Community Fund is pleased to offer grants to nonprofit and public organizations to meet the most pressing needs facing Meigs County today.

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About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

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Grant funds used to upgrade electric on parking lot

New electrical will improve access at festivals, events

By Sarah Hawley –
shawley@aimmediamidwest.com

POMEROY — The Village of Pomeroy recently completed electrical upgrades on the Pomeroy parking lot, utilizing grant money from the Meigs County Community Fund.

During the 2019 grant round, the Village of Pomeroy received \$2,800 from the community fund to support Pomeroy's historic riverfront by increasing electrical capacity for events along the riverfront which promote community and economic development.

Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson said that there were four new 220 circuits put in along the parking lot. Each has its own power feed to allow for voltage to remain steady for everyone who is running off the power supply.

Anderson explained that the old electrical system could not handle the load on it during the festivals and events which take place over the summer on the parking lot.

Contractor Rob Harris completed the work for the village. In addition to the electrical upgrades, the village installed a sign on the

lower end of the parking lot to promote the Meigs County Farmers' Market which utilizes the space on Saturdays from May through October.

The Meigs County Community Fund was created in 2011 to increase and advance philanthropic activities in Meigs County. The Meigs County Community Fund works to attract philanthropic resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community. It helps everyone give back to Meigs County so the community can invest grants to benefit Meigs County residents.

Gifts to the Meigs County Community Fund are tax deductible and can be made in many ways, including cash, bequests, and life insurance. Donations can be made online by designating the Meigs County Community Fund when donating. To mail your donation, please designate the Meigs County Community Fund and mail to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, PO Box 456, Nelsonville, OH 45764.



Meigs County Community Fund representatives are pictured with Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson and contractor Rob Harris. Pictured (from left) are John Hoback, Charlene Rutherford, Anderson, Harris, Linda Warner, Paul Reed and Susan Clark.



POSTED ON [APRIL 8, 2020](#) BY [SARAH HAWLEY](#)

Grant funds used to upgrade electric on parking lot

NEWS, TOP STORIES

New electrical will improve access at festivals, events

By Sarah Hawley - shawley@aimmediamidwest.com



Meigs County Community Fund representatives are pictured with Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson and contractor Rob Harris. Pictured (from left) are John Hoback, Charlene Rutherford, Anderson, Harris, Linda Warner, Paul Reed and Susan Clark.

Sarah Hawley | Sentinel

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In addition to the electrical upgrades, the village installed a sign on the lower end of the parking lot to promote the Meigs County Farmers' Market which utilizes the space on Saturdays from May through October.

POMEROY — The Village of Pomeroy recently completed electrical upgrades on the Pomeroy parking lot, utilizing grant money from the Meigs County Community Fund.

During the 2019 grant round, the Village of Pomeroy received \$2,800 from the community fund to support Pomeroy's historic riverfront by increasing electrical capacity for events along the riverfront which promote community and economic development.

Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson said that there were four new 220 circuits put in along the parking lot. Each has its own power feed to allow for voltage to remain steady for everyone who is running off the power supply.

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resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community. It helps everyone give back to Meigs County so the community can invest grants to benefit Meigs County residents.

Gifts to the Meigs County Community Fund are tax deductible and can be made in many ways, including cash, bequests, and life insurance. Donations can be made online by designating the Meigs County Community Fund when donating. To mail your donation, please designate the Meigs County Community Fund and mail to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, PO Box 456, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

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Sarah Hawley is the managing editor of The Daily Sentinel.

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Grant funds used to upgrade electric on parking lot

New electrical will improve access at festivals, events

By Sarah Hawley –
shawley@aimmediamidwest.com

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Meigs County Community Fund representatives are pictured with Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson and contractor Rob Harris. Pictured (from left) are John Hoback, Charlene Rutherford, Anderson, Harris, Linda Warner, Paul Reed and Susan Clark.

POSTED ON [APRIL 8, 2020](#) BY [GALLIPOLIS DAILY TRIBUNE](#)

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NEWS, TOP STORIES

New electrical will improve access at festivals, events

By Sarah Hawley - shawley@aimmediamidwest.com

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Sarah Hawley | Sentinel

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CFI among first grantees of emergency funding

CFI Receives Funding to Enhance Food Security in Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, and Washington Counties

NELSONVILLE — The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's first four grants support nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities and ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Among the first grantees is Community Food Initiatives (CFI), which received funding for a project to enhance food security in Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, and Washington counties. Through this round of funding, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) awarded over \$23,000 to four nonprofits working to make a difference across 11 counties in Appalachian Ohio. In addition to CFI, grantees include Hocking County Community Hospital, the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio, and St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County. "COVID-19 has presented

very real and significant challenges in our region," said Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President and CEO, Cara Dingus Brook. "As we assess the work that needs to be done now and in the future, we are bolstered by our region's greatest asset – the incredible love we have for each other. The strength of this love is so clearly demonstrated by those working on the frontlines, in our food pantries and health care systems. We are grateful for them and for all of the donors who joined their efforts through a gift to the Emergency Response Fund to make this first round of grants possible." Community Food Initiatives will be ensuring that fresh produce reaches 45 pantries, 13 schools, and local donation stations serving Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, and Washington counties for the next two months. This produce will supplement shelf stable food items while also supporting local farms.

By purchasing the food directly from local farmers and producers, Community Food Initiatives will support farmers whose businesses have suffered disruptions to usual revenue streams without being able to sell to restaurants and others.

Hocking County Community Hospital received funding to increase its capacity to treat an expected surge of COVID-19 patients; the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio received funding to supplement food pantry operations in Columbiana, Guernsey, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties; and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County received funding to provide assistance with food, clothing, medicine, and housing.

The immediate and long-term needs resulting from COVID-19 will be felt across Appalachian Ohio's communities for quite some time and with additional gifts the Emergency Response Fund will be here to help. Because of the generosity of donors, FAO continues to have funds available and encourages nonprofits in need of assistance to reach out and share their needs.

"We at FAO hope that everyone reading about our Emergency Response Fund will consider getting

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For more information about FAO's Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund and how eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations may request funding, or to support the fund with a gift today, visit

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Information provided by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.



POSTED ON [APRIL 14, 2020](#) BY [POMEROY DAILY SENTINEL](#)

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NEWS

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News Briefs: Zanesville Schools continuing meal program

Staff Report Published 1:45 p.m. ET April 15, 2020

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FAO awards grant funding

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Among organizations receiving money was Community Food Initiatives which serves Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton and Washington counties. It provides fresh produce to 45 pantries, 13 schools and other local donation stations.

MEOAG offering emergency funding

ZANESVILLE - The Muskingum Economic Opportunity Action Group of the Community Action Agency of Muskingum County has established an emergency services program with funding through a Community Services Block Grant.

Funds will be available through Dec. 31, 2021, or when money is exhausted. Households can receive assistance with rent when facing eviction, necessary vehicle repairs, necessary childcare expenses and laundry. Funding is income based and available for those who fall at or under 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

For more information, contact Lauren Gildow with the CAA at 740-454-1310, ext. 112.

Linn joins Graham and Graham

ZANESVILLE - Ryan H. Linn of Zanesville has joined the firm of Graham & Graham Co. LPA.

Linn's legal practice covers business and individual matters with a focus on real estate transactions, estate planning and probate, business law, oil and gas and civil litigation.

Linn is a member of the Muskingum County Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association. A graduate of West Muskingum High School, Linn earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Denison University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo College of Law.

Linn is a board member and treasurer of the United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties and serves on the boards of directors for the Zanesville Goodwill Welfare Organization and the Abbot Home and Abbot Senior Living.

Zanesville Schools continuing meal program

ZANESVILLE - Zanesville City Schools has announced that its meal distribution program will return to its regular schedule on Friday.

the job network

Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Chillicothe, OH

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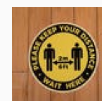
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June 8, 2020, 6:33 a.m.



Two area pharmacies weather the coronavirus pandemic to help its customers

June 7, 2020, 1:11 p.m.



Sports flashback: State track meet 1992

June 7, 2020, 11:31 a.m.



Mayor announces review of CPD use of force policy during Black Lives Matter protest

Students may pick up a five-day food allocation on Fridays, consisting of primarily shelf-stable breakfast and lunch meals. Meals will be distributed in a drive-up manner at Zanesville High School, Zanesville Middle School, Zane Grey Intermediate, Zane Grey Elementary, National Road Elementary, John McIntire Elementary and the War Veterans Park. Pickup is 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The district has also partnered with the Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority to distribute meals to students who reside in those neighborhoods.

June 6, 2020, 7:43 p.m.

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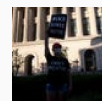
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June 8, 2020, 1:11 p.m.



Cincinnati's curfew will not be extended

June 8, 2020, 11:45 a.m.



UC research details possible hope for pancreatic cancer

June 8, 2020, 11:36 a.m.



Montgomery stabbing victim is recovering, police say

June 8, 2020, 11:10 a.m.



Coronavirus updates: Coney Island opening; protesters should get tested

June 8, 2020, 11:03 a.m.



Lawsuit: City curfew 'unconstitutional,' punished protesters

June 8, 2020, 11:38 a.m.

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St. Peter Parish in NR among COVID-19 grant recipients

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's first four grants support nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities and ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis, including a nonprofit in New Richmond.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio awarded over \$23,000. Grant recipients include Community Food Initiatives, Hocking County Community Hospital, the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio, and St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in New Richmond.

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The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in New Richmond received funding to support the most vulnerable in their community by providing assistance with food,

clothing, medicine, and housing to those in need across their service area in Clermont County.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Coshocton, OH

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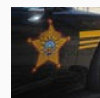
Local News Briefs

June 8, 2020, 12:34 p.m.



Public Record: Marriage Licenses Issued in May

June 8, 2020, 9 a.m.



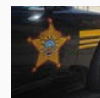
Crime Reports: Public Records

June 8, 2020, 8:32 a.m.



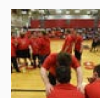
Peaceful protest unites Coshocton

June 8, 2020, 11:23 a.m.



Springfield couple injured in motorcycle crash

June 6, 2020, 9:13 p.m.



Hopewell keeping athletes involved

June 6, 2020, 9:09 a.m.

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News Briefs: Zanesville Schools continuing meal program

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Freemont, OH

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Gibsonburg HS adapts graduation to new normal

June 8, 2020, 1:24 p.m.



Terra State to reopen campus for fall semester

June 8, 2020, 1:23 p.m.



Oak Harbor High School announces 2020 scholarships

June 8, 2020, 12:18 p.m.



News Briefs: Fremont updates fireworks info

June 8, 2020, 12:02 p.m.



Community Roundup: Rotary awards scholarships

June 8, 2020, 11:48 a.m.



Six men charged with aggravated riot at Put-in-Bay

June 8, 2020, 10:56 a.m.

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Lancaster, OH

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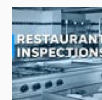
FCA staff adapted to teaching in pandemic

June 8, 2020, 11:24 a.m.



American Guinea hogs added to college campus

June 8, 2020, 6:56 a.m.



Fairfield County restaurant inspections June 8

June 8, 2020, 6:46 a.m.



Bennetts took a risk in starting food business

June 8, 2020, 6:46 a.m.



Fairfield County marriages, divorces

June 7, 2020, 1:08 p.m.



Remember When: The Cincinnati Redlegs in 1954

June 7, 2020, 12:52 p.m.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Mansfield, OH

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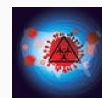
Most Wanted: Four fugitives still being sought

June 8, 2020, 1:37 p.m.



Mosquito spraying slated for this week

June 8, 2020, 1:20 p.m.



Report: Morrow Co. jail was 100% COVID positive

June 8, 2020, 1:13 p.m.



Man's thumb cut after argument with wife

June 8, 2020, 10:51 a.m.



Here's how Senators Brown, Portman voted

June 7, 2020, 12:59 p.m.



Three teens say they were sexually assaulted

June 7, 2020, 12:54 p.m.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Marion, OH

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Marion County restaurant inspections: May 2020

June 8, 2020, 1:41 p.m.



Briefs: Mosquito spraying starts Wednesday

June 8, 2020, 10:53 a.m.



Coaches see progress, hope in race relations

June 7, 2020, 3:14 p.m.



Our view: Marion's next step in race relations

June 7, 2020, 1:11 p.m.



Officer: Private Marion prison a 'powder keg'

June 7, 2020, 1:04 p.m.



Pastor: Protest important to heal racial divide

June 7, 2020, 1:18 p.m.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Newark, OH

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Rural Ohio towns join racial equality protests

June 8, 2020, 11:16 a.m.



Briefs: TrueCore opens Deo Drive branch

June 8, 2020, 9:42 a.m.



Aces: Parks builds relationships at Coughlin

June 8, 2020, 6:53 a.m.



State OKs \$2.8M for COTC Pataskala campus

June 7, 2020, 11:13 a.m.



Nonprofits feeling pinch from festival cancellations

June 7, 2020, 11:04 a.m.



Our view: Public input has value in chief hire

June 7, 2020, 10:55 a.m.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Freemont, OH

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Lakeside holds vigil for peace and justice

June 8, 2020, 1:14 p.m.



Prayers for unity offered in Port Clinton

June 8, 2020, 11:06 a.m.



Lake Erie algae expected to be smaller in 2020

June 7, 2020, 10:35 a.m.



Art council team with city to create art center

June 5, 2020, 1:04 p.m.



Track your county's unemployment amid COVID-19

June 4, 2020, 10:35 p.m.



Ottawa County Fair to focus on youth events

June 4, 2020, 12:57 p.m.

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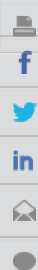
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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Bucyrus, OH

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Flower sale and food trucks liven up fairgrounds

June 7, 2020, 10:33 a.m.



Four fire departments battle house fire

June 7, 2020, 10:17 a.m.



Bucyrus protest peaceful and welcoming

June 7, 2020, 11:35 a.m.



Peoples Savings and Loan names new CEO

June 6, 2020, 5:37 a.m.



Security cameras will monitor Schines Art Park

June 5, 2020, 2:04 p.m.



Pair charged with aggravated robbery

June 5, 2020, 12:11 p.m.

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Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Zanesville, OH

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American Guinea hogs added to college campus
June 3, 2020, 9:28 a.m.



Land bank worked with AG's office on lawsuit
June 3, 2020, 7:28 a.m.



Butterfield describes local spread of COVID-19
June 2, 2020, 4:17 p.m.



Local News Briefs: Free sports physicals for students
June 2, 2020, 1:30 p.m.



Daycares impacted by regulations, reduced clients
June 2, 2020, 5:28 p.m.



AG files suit against former Lear property owners
June 2, 2020, 4:48 p.m.

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Provided via Community Food Initiatives' Facebook page.

04.16.20 / 9:00 pm

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio assists nonprofits with emergency response fund

Keri Johnson

 FACEBOOK

 TWITTER

Local business owners and employees are starting to feel the impact of the [coronavirus pandemic](#). For certain regions like Appalachia, the [toll of the pandemic](#) cannot be underestimated.

Appalachia is a cultural region in the U.S. that encompasses parts of 13 states and has a population of approximately 25 million people. According to the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), Appalachia's poverty rate is higher than the national average and has seen both increases and decreases in certain areas of the region over the past decade.

Athens County is one of 32 counties in Ohio that is designated Appalachian. In nearby Nelsonville, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, or FAO, 35 Public Square, has [launched an emergency response fund](#) for regional nonprofits in need.

The FAO is a regional community foundation that supports economic growth through philanthropy, Megan Wanczyk, vice president of communications and programming at FAO, said. Its Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund provides grant award resources available to a wide variety of nonprofits that are under financial strain during these times.

Regionally, Appalachia sees a lower rate of philanthropic donations, Wanczyk said.



“(The FAO) were started because there was a striking philanthropy gap in our region per capita,” Wanczyk said. “There's a ninefold (difference in our) region.”

A large philanthropy gap indicates a gap in equality as well, like educational opportunities to crisis response time, Wanczyk said. With its emergency response fund, the FAO is helping a wide variety of local nonprofits, from hospitals to food pantries.

“(We’re including) an intentionally broad, wide breadth of needs,” Wanczyk said. “We’ll see those needs increasing and changing over time, too.”

One local organization that has received an FAO grant is [Community Food Initiatives](#), 94 Columbus Rd. Community Food Initiatives, or CFI, is a nonprofit organization that

helps foster access to locally produced food, MaryAnn Martinez, executive director of CFI, said.

Food access is a pressing issue in Appalachia. According to a 2017 [Feeding America survey](#), Athens County is the most food-insecure county in Ohio. Nearby Appalachian Ohio counties, such as Vinton and Meigs, rank high in food insecurity as well.

For Martinez, CFI's involvement in the local food system is crucial right now. Not only does CFI aid in food access, but it also supports local farmers by buying their products.

“(We’re) not just feeding people,” Martinez said. “We’re supporting (our) local food economy with no gap in services.”



Martinez said local food pantries are able to keep a wider variety of food as well as fresh food through CFI's work. Martinez also said CFI is making local food more accessible to those who cannot always make it to the Athens Farmers Market.

CFI also works in educating local children in growing their own foods and provides seeds and information packets for people to start their own gardens. But when the pandemic hit, CFI canceled or modified most of its school food programs, Martinez said. CFI has shifted to online learning.

“It’s not the same because (gardening) is really hands-on,” Martinez said.

CFI's food access work has continued, though, Martinez said. CFI is working to distribute local food with no direct contact to its receivers. CFI's work is made possible through donations like grants it received from the FAO. Generous donations have continued CFI's work into April, Martinez said, but she isn't sure if CFI will have the resources it needs come summer for its usual summer programming.

For Wanczyk, the FAO does the important task of addressing the ever-changing needs of people in the region. There are needs and gaps in resources that must be kept up with, especially during times of uncertainty, such as the pandemic. The FAO relies on donations to maintain its impact.

“As more gifts come to fund, we’ll be able to reach more and more organizations,” Wanczyk said. “For folks looking for what they can do — gifts of all sizes are going to make a great difference.”

Another recipient of grant funding from the FAO was Hocking Valley Community Hospital, 601 OH-664 N, Logan. The hospital is grateful to the FAO for its support during these times of uncertainty, Latricia Johnston, chief public relations officer at Hocking Valley Community Hospital, or HVCH, said in an email.

“Funds were requested to assist with build out in our Emergency Department in preparation for COVID surge,” Johnston said in an email. “Additionally, funds were needed to provide COVID-19 staff training, and purchasing hand sanitizer dispensers due to the difficulty of securing hand sanitizer for our current dispensers.”

For HVCH Emergency Department Director Michelle Matheny, with the help of the FAO grant, the hospital will be able to construct a negative pressure room in its Emergency Department. Negative pressure rooms help keep staff and patients safe from the virus during the pandemic.

“Negative room pressure is a type of isolation technique used in hospitals to prevent cross-contamination,” Matheny said in an email. “It allows ventilation that produces a negative pressure, which allows air to flow into the isolation room, but not escape.”

Grant awards are being reviewed and issued on a rolling basis, Wanczyk said. The next round of grant receivers should be announced sometime next week.

Wanczyk said grants cannot be received by individuals, only nonprofit organizations. But individuals in need are welcome to check out the [FAO website](#) for additional information.

[@_kerijohnson](#)

kj153517@ohio.edu

[Home](#) » [News](#) » Ohio Philanthropy News - April 17, 2020

Ohio Philanthropy News - April 17, 2020

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, United Way of Greater Cincinnati and other Tri-State funders' COVID-19 Regional Response Fund donates \$2.5M to area nonprofits in just three weeks.

Pickaway County Community Foundation and United Way of Pickaway County join forces with new food initiative.

Burton D. Morgan Foundation announces grants to address COVID-19 pandemic.

Ashland County Community Foundation and United Way of Ashland County team up to aid Ashland nonprofits.

Nonprofits to get help from groups like the **Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation**.

Marietta Community Foundation announces grants to help children as third phase of the foundation's COVID-19 community plan.

The board of trustees of the **Greater Toledo Community Foundation** approved grants totaling \$62K from the COVID-19 Response Fund to support Northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations, bringing the total distributed in three weeks to more than \$200K.

How Columbus is handling the coronavirus crisis, including financial support to nonprofits serving those in need in the community through **The Columbus Foundation's** Emergency Response Fund.

Ohio Association of Foodbanks will receive hand sanitizer made by distillers.

Richland County Foundation relaunches Richland Gives to help nonprofits raise operating revenue.

Scotts Miracle-Gro sends 9,000 face shields to areas of critical need.

New Cleveland company gets federal approval to produce ventilators during coronavirus pandemic and the product's development was funded by a **Cleveland Foundation** grant.

Masking the village — **Yellow Springs Community Foundation** brings together people to make masks and to fight the virus.

University Hospitals receives \$5M in donations to fight coronavirus; funders include **the Cleveland Foundation, UH community hospital foundations, Elyria Medical Center Foundation, Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation, Portage Medical Center Foundation, Samaritan Hospital Foundation, Rainbow Babies, Children's Hospital Foundation, Vinchel Family, Amy and Michael Southard, Bank of America and Hyundai Hope on Wheels.**

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio awarded over \$23K to four nonprofits working to make a difference across 11 counties in Appalachian Ohio.

Duke Energy is keeping the lights on in this time of crisis and donating \$25K to the **Greater Cincinnati Foundation.**

Dayton-area shelters receive funding to limit spread of COVID-19; institutional support comes from **Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, The George Gund Foundation, The Sisters of Charity of Cleveland Foundation, National Low Income Housing Coalition, The Columbus Foundation, The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, UnitedHealthcare, CareSource, JPMorgan Chase and Co., Nationwide Children's Hospital, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation, Affordable Housing Trust, Wallick Communities, RiverHills Bank and the Tidwell Group.**

United Way of Fulton County gets grant from the **Greater Toledo Community Foundation** to aid those impacted by COVID-19.

Coshocton EMS receives grant for chest compression device from the **Coshocton Foundation.**

The Pickaway County Community Foundation has donated \$20K to aid in closing some food insecurity for Pickaway County residents.

Healthy Lakewood Foundation responds to COVID-19.

The Browns Foundation launched the "Hats Off to Our Heroes" Fund, which will focus on aiding health care professionals, first responders, educational professionals and other groups who are serving as community leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chamber of Commerce to offer emergency relief grants to small businesses thanks to funding from **the Nord Family Foundation, KeyBank Business Boost and Build powered by JumpStart, Northwest Bank, Achieve Credit Union and the Lorain County Chamber.**

Battelle donating \$1M to support Central Ohio organizations during pandemic.

Trumbull County Community Foundation, Northern Trumbull County Community Foundation, Trumbull 100, Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH and the United Way of Trumbull County launch COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund.

Sisters of Charity Foundation and the Stark Community Foundation collaborative announce second round of funding for COVID-19 provided by the **Paul and Carol David Foundation, Deuble Foundation, Gessner Family Foundation, William and Minnette Goldsmith Foundation, Health Foundation of Greater Massillon, Hoover Foundation, Massillon Rotary Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, Stark Community Foundation and Timken Foundation of Canton.**

Middletown Community Foundation provided \$20K stimulus grant to assist 'vulnerable' Middletown downtown businesses.

Community West Foundation awarded a \$6K grant to Joseph's Home, a facility which cares for medically-vulnerable homeless men in Northeast Ohio.

United Way of Summit County's Akron Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund reaches \$1.3M.

Columbus nonprofits report \$8.3M in lost fundraising due to COVID-19, resulting in program cuts and layoffs, according to a survey conducted by the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County and the **United Way of Central Ohio.**

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

Public Policy Update - June 9, 2020

Public Policy Headlines



POSTED ON [APRIL 23, 2020](#) BY [SARAH HAWLEY](#)

Community fund awards \$22,000 in grants

NEWS

Six organizations receive funding

Staff Report

POMEROY — The Meigs County Community Fund announced that six projects serving Meigs County have received funding through their annual grant round. These grants will support projects related to education, food access, sustainability, and first responder safety.

“There are so many people and organizations working to make a difference across Meigs County, and we are so pleased to support and uplift their incredible work,” said Jennifer Sheets, president of the Meigs County Community Fund. “I hope more people who hold Meigs County close to their hearts will help us expand our impact even further with a gift to the Fund. As we are currently working to award emergency grants responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Meigs County, it is becoming all the more plain how crucial it is that we work together to build the long-term resources that can better position our community for moments of uncertainty.”

The six grant recipients of the Meigs County Community Fund’s first grant round of 2020 include Eastern Local Schools, the Meigs County Farmers’ Market, Meigs Primary School, Southern Local Elementary School, the Village of Pomeroy, and the Village of Pomeroy Fire Department. The Meigs County Community Fund awarded a total of \$22,296 to support these organizations.

Eastern Local School District was awarded \$7,500 to support the creation of a sensory room for the Eastern Local School District. The sensory room will provide a place for students to calm their minds and bodies in order to successfully return to the classroom to learn.

The Meigs County Farmers’ Market was awarded \$2,500 to strengthen and expand children’s programming, increase access to healthy food, and continue to grow the weekly farmers’ market in a way that incorporates the assets and potential of the communities it serves.

Meigs Primary School was awarded \$2,000 to support the continued development of a trauma-



art, music, and more by creating play areas designed for children to enhance self-expression and their ability to overcome barriers and succeed.

Southern Local Elementary was awarded \$3,000 to support the installation of a “peace corner” in each elementary classroom. The peace corners are nooks that will provide students with a dedicated space to manage their emotions to be able to return to learning.

The **Village of Pomeroy** was awarded \$2,800 to install a water fountain at the end of the Pomeroy Walking Path. Inspired by a citizen suggestion, this Waterworks Park Water Fountain will ensure all users have access to water while also increasing sustainability in the community by reducing the need for plastic water bottles because citizens using the path will be able to fill reusable water bottles, which is not currently an option.

The **Village of Pomeroy Fire Department** was awarded \$2,500 to replace the department’s automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in its three front line fire trucks that are used by first responders throughout Meigs County. An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart in order to reestablish a regular heartbeat following a sudden cardiac arrest.

With funding from the Sisters Health Foundation, the Meigs County Community Fund is currently working to award additional grants that support nonprofit and public organizations working to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in Meigs County. Grant awards will focus on four critical areas: food access and distribution; the needs of our seniors; mental health and addiction-related needs; and our community’s health care infrastructure (i.e. health departments, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers). To learn how your public or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization can request assistance, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs.

Additionally, the Meigs County Community Fund will be holding an additional grant round in the fall. Funding will be available for projects across five areas – arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environmental stewardship, and health and human services.

For more information about the Meigs County Community Fund or to support the Fund with a gift, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs to learn more and give today.

About the Meigs County Community Fund

The Meigs County Community Fund was created in 2011 to increase and advance philanthropic activities in Meigs County. The Meigs County Community Fund works to attract philanthropic resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community.

About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio’s citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

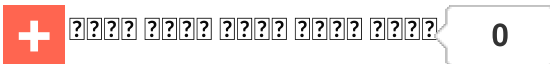
Information provided by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

RECENT NEWS

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio announces grants

APRIL 24, 2020

126



The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's first grants support nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities and ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio awarded over \$23,000 to four nonprofits working to make a difference across 11 counties in Appalachian Ohio. Grant recipients include Community Food Initiatives, Hocking County Community Hospital, the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio and St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County.

"COVID-19 has presented very real and significant challenges in our region," Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President and CEO Cara Dingus Brook said. "As we assess the work that needs to be done now and in the future, we are bolstered by our region's greatest asset: the incredible love we have for each other. The strength of this love is so clearly demonstrated by those working on the front lines, in our food pantries and health-care systems. We are grateful for them and for all of the donors who joined their efforts through a gift to the Emergency Response Fund to make this first round of grants possible."

The Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio received funding to supplement food pantry operations in Columbiana, Guernsey, Jefferson and Tuscarawas counties. Economic disruptions from COVID-19 have dramatically increased the number of people relying

on local pantries for food and basic needs.

The immediate and long-term needs resulting from COVID-19 will be felt across Appalachian Ohio's communities for quite some time, and with additional gifts the Emergency Response Fund will be here to help. Because of the generosity of donors, FAO continues to have funds available and encourages nonprofits in need of assistance to reach out and share their needs.

"We at FAO hope that everyone reading about our Emergency Response Fund will consider getting involved by sharing word of it with the nonprofits in their communities who might need help or by giving a gift," Brook said. "Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will enable the fund to award more grants and continue to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio."

For more information about FAO's Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund and how eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations may request funding or to support the fund with a gift, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or call or email FAO at 740-753-1111 or listening@ffao.org.

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ARTICLES

Southern Ohio Makers awarded grant

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's second round of grants supports nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities to ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Among the second round of grantees is the Coalition, which was started by professor Josh Montgomery at Southern State Community College, received funding to create face shields for medical professionals throughout Southern Ohio using 3D printers.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation of Appalachian Ohio (FAO) awarded more than \$26,000 to six nonprofits working to make a difference across 13 counties in Appalachian Ohio. In total, through both this round of grants and awards announced last week, the Emergency Response Fund has now awarded nearly \$50,000 to 10 nonprofits serving 19 Appalachian Ohio counties, and more awards will soon be announced through additional rounds of grants in the weeks to come. The Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition serves 17 counties including Athens, Brown, Clermont, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Washington counties in Appalachian Ohio. A grassroots coalition of 139 educators and others with access to 3D printers, funding will support the purchase of filament to print 1,000 face shields for medical personnel, first responders and others at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19.

In addition to Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition, grantees through this round of funding include the city of Belpre, Guernsey County Senior Center, Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter, National Church Residences, and Welcome Home SIS.

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Submitted by Lauren Flum, communications intern, Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

POSTED ON [APRIL 24, 2020](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

Southern Ohio Makers awarded grant

FEATURES

Submitted story

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For more information about FAO's Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund and how eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations may request funding or to support the fund



https://www.athensmessenger.com/spotlight/appalachian-ohio-emergency-response-fund-announces-second-round-of-grant-awards/article_11bbc0e6-b2e5-581b-ad41-b05b9e231e33.html

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund Announces Second Round of Grant Awards

Apr 25, 2020



The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is housed in the former Peoples Bank building on the Public Square in Nelsonville. With renovations complete, they can now offer their downstairs space to local nonprofit and community groups as a gathering place.

Messenger photo by Samantha Taylor

Through two rounds of grants, the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund has awarded nearly \$50,000 to ten nonprofits serving 19 Appalachian Ohio counties.

Grants have responded to nonprofits' expressed needs as they work to provide basic necessities and ensure the health and safety of our most vulnerable populations. In its most recent round of grants, the Fund awarded over \$26,000 to support the six organizations and initiatives, in addition to the first round of disbursements that awarded four other such entities.

- The City of Belpre, Washington County, received funding to purchase additional protective equipment for first responders as they respond to emergency calls in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Guernsey County Senior Center received funding to support senior meal deliveries, which have doubled during the current crisis.
- The Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter received funding to support increased personnel expenses as it expands its hours to serve those experiencing homelessness 24 hours a day during the stay-at-home order.
- National Church Residences, serving Belmont, Muskingum, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Washington counties, received funding to support the purchase of basic needs items for seniors in six senior housing communities and one assisted living community, as it has become more challenging for those at-risk to access staples and basic needs.

The Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID

- Coalition serves 17 counties including Athens, Brown, Clermont, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Washington counties in Appalachian Ohio. A grassroots coalition of 139 educators and others with access to 3D printers, funding will be used to purchase materials to 3D print face shields for medical professionals.
- Welcome Home SIS in Guernsey County helps women transition from the criminal justice system to their lives outside, and received funding to support additional clients and to purchase computers to increase access to telehealth and counseling appointments, online education, and job searches essential for rehabilitation on-site.

The first round of Emergency Response Fund grant awards went to four local organizations:



- Community Food Initiatives received funding to ensure that fresh produce reaches 45 pantries, 13 schools, and local donation stations serving Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, and Washington counties for the next two months, all while supporting local farmers and producers.
- Hocking County Community Hospital received funding to help increase its capacity to meet the needs of COVID-19 patients.
- The Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio received funding to supplement food pantry operations in Tuscarawas, Columbiana, Jefferson, and Guernsey counties.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County received funding to support individuals and families with assistance in accessing food, clothing, medicine, and housing.

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund is continuing to review requests for funding from nonprofits and award grants on a rolling basis.

hwillard@athensmessenger.com

HVCH among first grantees of response fund

LOGAN — The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's first four grants support nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities and ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Among the first grantees is the Hocking Valley Community Hospital, which received funding to enhance Hocking County's COVID-19 preparedness.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) awarded over \$23,000 to four nonprofits working to make a difference across 11 counties in Appalachian Ohio. In addition to Hocking Valley Community Hospital, grantees include Community Food Initiatives, the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio, and St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County.

"COVID-19 has presented very real and significant challenges in our region," said Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President and

CEO, Cara Dingus Brook. "As we assess the work that needs to be done now and in the future, we are bolstered by our region's greatest asset – the incredible love we have for each other. The strength of this love is so clearly demonstrated by those working on the frontlines, in our food pantries and health care systems. We are grateful for them and for all of the donors who joined their efforts through a gift to the Emergency Response Fund to make this first round of grants possible."

Hocking Valley Community Hospital received funding to increase its capacity to treat an expected surge of COVID-19 patients. Specifically, funding will help the hospital convert existing spaces to negative pressure rooms, create additional sanitizer stations, and supplemental training and education for hospital staff.

Community Food Initiatives received funding to enhance food security in Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton, and Washington counties; the Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio received funding to

supplement food pantry operations in Columbiana, Guernsey, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties; and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter Parish in Clermont County received funding to provide assistance with food, clothing, medicine, and housing.

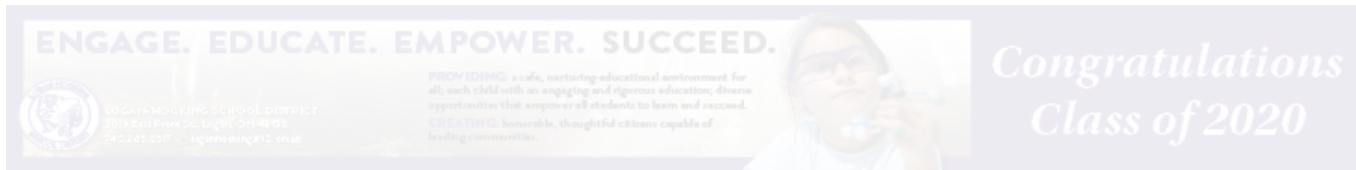
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"We at FAO hope that everyone reading about our Emergency Response Fund will consider getting involved by sharing word of it with the nonprofits in their communities who might need help, or by giving a gift," continued Brook. "Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will enable the Fund to award more grants and

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Apr 27, 2020 0



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Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition among grantees of the Appalachian Emergency Response Fund

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's second round of grants supports nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities to ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Among the second round of grantees is the Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition, which received funding to create face shields for medical professionals throughout southern Ohio using 3D printers.

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visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at 740-753-1111 or listening@ffao.org.

About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.



HOME > COMMUNITY > Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition among grantees of the Appalachian Emergency Response Fund

Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition among grantees of the Appalachian Emergency Response Fund

🕒 April 29, 2020 👤 Administrator 💬 0 Comments



Submitted by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund's second round of grants supports nonprofits that are working to provide basic necessities to ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. Among the second round of grantees is the Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition, which received funding to create face shields for medical professionals throughout southern Ohio using 3D printers.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation of Appalachian Ohio awarded over \$26,000 to six nonprofits working to make a difference across 13 counties in Appalachian Ohio. In total, through both this round of grants and awards announced last week, the Emergency Response Fund has now awarded nearly \$50,000 to ten nonprofits serving 19 Appalachian Ohio counties, and more awards will soon be announced through additional rounds of grants in the weeks to come.

Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition serves 17 counties including Athens, Brown, Clermont, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Washington counties in Appalachian Ohio. A grassroots coalition of 139 educators and others with access to 3D printers, funding will support the purchase of filament to print 1,000 face shields for medical personnel, first responders, and others at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19.

In addition to Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition, grantees through this round of funding include the City of Belpre, Guernsey County Senior Center, Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter, National Church Residences, and Welcome Home SIS.

The immediate and long-term needs resulting from COVID-19 will be felt across Appalachian Ohio's communities for quite some time and with additional gifts, the Emergency Response Fund will be here to help. Because of the generosity of donors, FAO continues to have funds available and encourages nonprofits in need of assistance to reach out and share their needs.

For more information about FAO's Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund and how eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations may request funding, or to support the fund with a gift today, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at 740-753-1111 or listening@ffao.org.

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Ohio University's Voinovich School provides resources for mental health and addiction

By OHIO News
Apr 15, 2020



As COVID-19 continues to spread across the United States, mental health and addiction services professionals understand all too well the uncertainty that is taking a toll on people's mental health.

Health care providers in Kentucky recently reported a 20 percent increase in calls to suicide prevention hotlines in their state, and while Ohio hasn't yet measured a direct impact, its local mental health community is working together feverishly to build an arsenal of tools and resources to help people cope with increased fear and anxiety.

Dr. Holly Raffle, Professor of Leadership and Public Affairs, leads the Programmatic Partnership for Community-Based Prevention for Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs.

With a staff of six employees and the support of five students, the Partnership has a wide reach across the state of Ohio. Their work centers on building processes to help communities develop long-range strategic plans and programs that inspire civic involvement to address real issues. Since 2008, the Partnership has generated nearly \$11.5 million in external project funding from state and federal organizations. Additional funding from the state legislature's Appalachian New Economy Partnership is also helping to support the ongoing work.

"Our work is providing resources and support to create strong prevention, treatment, and recovery communities across Ohio," Raffle said. "We are working with our community partners now to leverage work that was being accomplished before the COVID-19 pandemic to develop new tools and resources help children and families adjust to the new normal."

Before COVID-19 started to spread like wildfire across the globe, the Partnership worked with the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop an initiative and to help strengthen and sustain suicide prevention coalitions across the state. There are 17 county-wide coalitions participating in the initiative, including four coalitions representing Ohio's Appalachian region: Ashtabula, Clermont, Lawrence, and Wayne counties.

Raffle said the focus of her team's work has now shifted to finding new ways to connect people to one another. For example, the team has organized virtual discussion sessions for communities to share expertise and resources with each other.

Partners are connecting other ways too. For example, they are providing suicide prevention hotline information and messaging with lunches that schools are providing to families during the pandemic, finding ways to connect with families in a virtual space when there is a suicide death within a community, and identifying open communication channels where people who have experienced a suicide loss have an opportunity to discuss their feelings.

Raffle said she is proud that the Voinovich School has resources to bring these communities together to see each other as experts at this important time.

"We are working with our suicide prevention coalitions to plan virtual interactions and check-ins because we've never seen anything like this," Raffle said. "This is a unique confluence of events, where we have this economic fallout at a time when we also want people to self-isolate, and human beings need other people. It's almost like we need to look at this —

situation as a health crisis combined with an economic recession, which is really concerning because no one can really predict what we are going to see. Time will only tell, and we are just trying to be really ahead of it on the prevention side as much as possible.”

In addition to providing mental health outreach and assistance, Raffle’s team is connecting with local communities to implement, evaluate, and sustain evidence-based efforts for prevention, treatment and recovery.

For example, they recently hosted a meeting with substance abuse coalition partners in Adams and Lawrence counties where they heard concerns from attendees about the ability to continue their work during this crisis. Partners talked about their efforts to engage early elementary school students in grades K-3 in virtual activities one hour every week, which also provided their parents with positive coping skills that will lower substance misuse and increase mental wellness.

“This is about restructuring what it is that we do, providing outside perspective,” Raffle said. “The University is helping prevention providers that are already doing good work see things through a new lens. Their contributions are essential during and after the crisis.”

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and Ohio University have co-invested in youth-led prevention programs through the Ohio Adult Allies Initiative, which supports young people in leading community change efforts. Need for this programming continues to grow, and adult allies rely on OHIO’s Partnership for Community-Based Prevention to help engage their youth through virtual calls and town hall meetings.

“In this case, we are providing a platform for people to connect and amplify the good work they’re already doing in their communities,” Raffle said.

“Sometimes, these folks just need confirmation that they are doing good work.”

Ohio University recently connected community partners with community resilience grant funding opportunities from ServeOhio, in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service, Honda of America Mfg. and AEP Foundation, to support and encourage community service and volunteerism for youth.

The Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) has partnered with OHIO during the pandemic to identify ways to continue evidence-based programs that support family reunification for incarcerated parents and their children. When Ohio’s prison system stopped allowing programming in the prisons due to COVID-19, the Partnership identified a new funding opportunity with AEP Foundation, which, if funded, will provide these families with letter writing materials to write to each other to stay connected when there’s no visitation.

“It’s really the Voinovich School just being a connector,” Raffle said.

“Learning about these opportunities and getting these applications out – in all of these cases, we supported people who needed technical assistance. This was a really short application, but it’s amazing how a short application creates anxiety, but it’s also really amazing what a \$2,000 grant can do.”

The Voinovich School has a project funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help communities in Sandusky, Seneca, Fairfield, Washington, and Ashtabula counties implement the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. Prior to COVID-19, the grant was

working to support communities with holistic substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery solutions. The community partners recently completed a study to ensure that they were providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to deliver messaging that resonates with different cultures and is accessible in multiple languages. They were so pleased with this accomplishment because when COVID-19 came, there was a real need to get their messages out to all members of the community and they had learned they could have a whole website translated by the click of a button.

“It’s those awesome little things we find — by working together and working through,” Raffle said. “What we provide is a space for communities to work through their issues related to drugs and mental health in a systematic way.”

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Food Shortages? Nope, Too Much Food In The Wrong Places

April 3, 2020 · 1:16 PM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



DAN CHARLES

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Together Inc. food bank workers distribute food at a drive-through location in Omaha, Neb., last week. Disruptions in the agricultural supply chain caused by the coronavirus pandemic are making it difficult for food banks.

Nati Harnik/AP

Updated at 8:30 a.m. ET on April 10

In recent days, top U.S. government officials have moved to assure Americans that they won't lack for food, despite the coronavirus.

As he toured a Walmart distribution center, Vice President Pence announced that "America's food supply is strong." The Food and Drug Administration's deputy commissioner for food, Frank Yiannas (a former Walmart executive) told reporters during a teleconference that "there are no widespread or nationwide shortages of food, despite local reports of outages."

"There is no need to hoard," Yiannas said.

In fact, the pandemic has caused entirely different problems: a spike in the number of people who can't afford groceries and a glut of food where it's not needed.

Dairy farmers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Georgia have been forced to dump thousands of gallons of milk that no one will buy. In Florida, vegetable growers are abandoning harvest-ready fields of tomatoes, yellow squash and cucumbers for the same reason.

"We cannot pick the produce if we cannot sell it, because we cannot afford the payroll every week," says Kim Jamerson, a vegetable grower near Fort Myers. Those crops will be plowed back into the ground. "We'll have to tear 'em up," Jamerson says. "Just tear up beautiful vegetables that really could go elsewhere, to food banks, and hospitals, and rest homes."

Article continues below

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The country's food distribution system, in normal times, is a marvel, efficiently delivering huge amounts of food to consumers. But it relies on predictability, like a rail system that directs a stream of trains, on set schedules, toward their destinations. Now, some of the biggest destinations — chain restaurants, schools and workplace cafeterias — have disappeared, and supply chains are struggling to adapt.

Jay Johnson, with JGL Produce, a vegetable broker in Immokalee, Fla., is the kind of person who makes this system work — matching buyers with sellers. "You're getting phone calls, text messages, emails, all day and all night," he says. " 'What's your price on this? What grade? Can you do a better deal?' You're doing all these micronegotiations throughout the day."

On Tuesday, March 24, he says, that all changed. "Everything got quiet. Wednesday, the 25th, superquiet. Thursday, now we're getting nervous."

Normally, chain restaurants buy a steady supply of produce, week after week. But most have shut down — and did so just as Florida's vegetable harvest shifted into high gear. "Now you're sitting there with all this production, perfect weather, and everybody's like, 'Oh no, ' " Johnson says.

He told vegetable grower Mike Jamerson, Kim's husband, that "we're in trouble here. And it's to the point where I'm going to fill my warehouse up and I'm going to have to tell you to stop picking." That's when workers stopped picking yellow squash on Kim Jamerson's farm.

A week after Jamerson told NPR that they'd have to "tear up" their crops, the situation had improved a bit. Workers have resumed picking, but it's now a "salvage

operation," Jamerson says. Workers are discarding vegetables that weren't picked in time. The vegetables that they salvage will be sold at cut-rate prices, with some going to food banks.

Something similar has happened to dairy farmers. Milk sales in supermarkets have increased, but not enough to make up for the drop in sales of milk to schools and cheese to Pizza Hut. Factories that make milk powder can't take any more milk. So some milk cooperatives have told their farmers to dump the milk that their cows are producing.

The situation is especially dire for Florida's tomato growers, who sell 80% of their production to restaurants and other food service companies, rather than to supermarkets. "Think about all the sandwiches that people eat at lunch when they go out. Burgers, or salads at restaurants," says Michael Schadler, from the Florida Tomato Exchange, which represents some of the state's largest growers. "Many of those food service items have tomatoes."

Schadler says growers already are "walking away from big portions of their crop," writing off huge investments.

Meanwhile, food banks and pantries are having trouble supplying enough food to people who need it, including millions of children who no longer are getting free meals at school and people who've lost jobs in recent weeks.

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, a network of food banks and charitable meals programs, says that these programs normally receive large donations of unsold food from retail stores. In recent weeks, though, as retailers struggled to keep their shelves stocked, "we're seeing as much as a 35% reduction in that donation stream from retail," Babineaux-Fontenot says.

Food banks are trying to claim more of the food that is stranded in the food service supply chain, either through donations or by buying it.

"We are capturing some of that. I know we're not capturing all of it, but we have a whole team of professionals whose job is to try to make sure that we capture as much of it as we possibly can," Babineaux-Fontenot says. "So we're having conversations with major restaurants. We're having conversations with major producers, with trade associations, the whole gamut."

Kim Jamerson thinks "it's just a shame" to have enough food, but not be able to get it to the people in need. "A woman who's got two kids how can she live on unemployment, go into a grocery store and pay 90 cents for a cucumber? She just can't do that."

Part of the problem is that it takes labor to move produce from one place to another, and people are still figuring out who will pay for that. Jamerson says she can't afford to pay workers to pick a crop that will be donated. She wants the government to step in, provide workers or the money to pay them, and make sure food gets to where it's needed. "The government could send the food to the hospitals, the rest homes, to the food banks, to the churches," she says.

Jay Johnson, the produce broker, says there are signs of hope. The food banks in Florida, he says, are starting to buy some of his vegetables and figuring out new ways to distribute them.

They asked Johnson to pack some vegetables in smaller packs, so food banks don't need so many volunteers to repack them. "They're understaffed, and don't have warehouse space, and they're having to think creatively," he says.

"I see a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel here," he says, adding that he won't make money on those sales to food banks. Farmers won't either, but at least they'll be able to keep their workforce employed until, hopefully, better times arrive.

The Columbus Dispatch

Coronavirus for kids without internet: Quarantined worksheets, learning in parking lots

By Erin Mansfield and Shelly Conlon, USA TODAY Network, Dean Narciso, Columbus Dispatch

Posted Apr 17, 2020 at 3:06 PM

Corey Shepherd teaches fifth graders in rural Alaska in a school district the size of Indiana. The terrain there is so rural that only airplanes and snowmobiles connect the district's 11 tiny villages.

Shepherd is one of more than 7,000 teachers in his state trying to make the most of teaching his students since the governor closed schools to in-person learning to stop the spread of the coronavirus. One method he isn't relying on: online learning.

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"Around half of my students have access to the internet on some device at home," Shepherd said. "Internet service is very expensive in rural Alaska and comes with data caps. Internet service is also prone to interruptions due to weather."

For those who already have service, there's help: Across the nation, many internet providers have agreed to waive late fees and end disconnects for families in financial hardship. But millions without high-speed internet at home, especially in rural Appalachian communities, have been left to fend for themselves as governments shut down their school buildings and mandate distance learning.

A study by Microsoft in 2018 estimated that about half of Americans -- 163 million people -- do not have high-speed internet at home.

In the Symmes Valley Local School District in Lawrence County, in southern Ohio, Superintendent Darrell Humphreys estimates that less than 15% of his 800 students have "good internet," capable of streaming video.

"That's the key," he said. "Without it, you can't do all the things that other districts are able to do."

The rural district has Wi-Fi in its two-building campus, when it's open. But within a 30-minute drive there is no McDonald's or other fast-food place that has an internet hot spot. In fact, "a large part of the district doesn't even have cellphone service," Humphreys said.

Instead, assignment packets, about 20 pages each, have been mailed to each student's home. It's an honor system that he hopes will be taken seriously.

Broadband usage by Ohio county

The map shows the percentage of people who had high-speed internet service at home in each Ohio county in 2018, according to research by Microsoft. Minimum broadband speeds are adequate for video conferencing and video streaming.

Source: Microsoft

CARLIE PROCELL/USA TODAY NETWORK

In Ohio, a decades-old debate over equity in school funding is again being played out amid closed schools and businesses.

“That debate has gone on my entire career,” said Humphreys. “I think we have leaders who are recognizing, starkly, that there are inequalities in opportunity. If they can’t recognize that there’s a problem now, then they don’t want to.”

The federal government’s \$2 trillion stimulus package doesn’t address this digital divide, even though nearly all American schools are closed. A \$2 billion proposal from Democrats to help expand online access didn’t make it out of the Senate, according to Politico. A \$50 million proposal from the Trump administration didn’t either.

In Southwestern City Schools, which includes Grove City, 58% of the 22,000 students are considered economically disadvantaged. About 150 satellite-driven portable Wi-Fi devices have been sent to families. And 15,000 Chromebook laptops also have been handed out.

For those still lacking wireless, parents park outside schools, enabling their kids to capture one from a school for homework or online classes, said Sandy Nekoloff, schools spokeswoman.

Earlier this month, Google said it would help address the problem in California, where in-person school is expected to be canceled for the rest of the academic year. The internet search company will provide free Wi-Fi to 100,000 rural California families through the end of the school year, plus 4,000 Chromebooks for students.

The problem stretches beyond rural America. In Phoenix, three high school students were found huddled under a blanket outside a closed elementary school, the president of the city's school board said. They couldn't connect to the internet from home, so they camped out to access the school's Wi-Fi to do their homework.

They need broadband now. They've waited for years.

Tens of millions of people across the United States have waited for access to broadband internet for as long as their friends and loved ones in other places have enjoyed home service.

Congress declined to regulate the internet as a utility in 1996, a decision that means no agency can force providers to run broadband cables to homes or set pricing.

The Federal Communications Commission decided in the early 2000s not to regulate the internet as a telephone service, a decision that would take an act of Congress to change.

Instead of utility-type regulation, the FCC has spent hundreds of billions of dollars paying incentives to encourage internet service providers to improve access to rural areas. Often, that money does not require companies to offer speeds high enough to allow a videoconference or the streaming a video.

Many families can't afford high-speed internet service or have chosen not to get it. But the FCC estimated in 2017 that at least 21 million Americans could not hook up because there were no connections nearby and there was no likelihood a company would provide one anytime soon.

When it comes to online learning, speed matters. Amelia Ross can do her schoolwork from home -- she just has to make sure no one else is online first.

"We have internet," Amelia said of her home in Milton, a hamlet in rural eastern Indiana. "It's just very slow. If anybody else in the house is on the internet, it's really hard to do things."

In Athens County in southern Ohio, Alexander Local Schools, where no more than a third of surveyed students said they had reliable internet, the district decided early in the virus crisis to paper-only learning, said Lindy L. Douglas, superintendent

"As parents are working from home and students are working on classwork, the service that they do have was very slow and could not accommodate more than 2 people on the internet service at a time."

Instead, custodians, janitors and bus drivers are helping compile and send out more than 1,500 learning packets, each containing two weeks' work.

Not 'even \$1 billion' to connect students

Congress could pay companies to extend high-speed lines as part of a stimulus package. The federal lawmakers did so in 2010, in an almost New Deal-like response to the Great Recession. But neither of the first two coronavirus relief bills that went through Congress addressed students' access to broadband.

"I cannot understand how the U.S. Senate can approve a \$2 trillion emergency package and not find even \$1 billion to ensure that every school child in America can connect to the internet on a functioning device," James P. Steyer, CEO of Common Sense, a nonprofit education advocacy group, said in a statement last week.

"Up to 12 million lower-income and many rural-based kids do not have adequate access to broadband or modern devices, impacting student outcomes and exacerbating economic inequality," Steyer said. "Now that most American schoolkids must learn from home because of COVID-19, it is an even bigger problem."

The stimulus bill, known as the CARES Act, provides \$200 million to boost telehealth services. The FCC will have the authority to fund telehealth programs across the country quickly, freeing up inpatient capacity at hospitals, Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement.

In his own statement, Commissioner Geoffrey Starks called on the FCC to provide its own "connectivity stimulus" to help bridge the digital divide for Americans, including schoolchildren. He said the FCC should assess its legal power and "take bold action to respond to the current crisis."

Meanwhile, the FCC is extending a deadline to apply for a federal program called e-rate that helps schools and libraries afford to upgrade their connections. The FCC is also relaxing rules to allow the general public to use those connections.

In Ohio, InnovateOhio kicked off in December its Ohio Broadband Strategy to expand and enhance the state's services, said Lt. Gov. Jon Husted. Shortly after, the pandemic hit.

"This has really put a spotlight on the problem," he said. "We're still desperately short of the resources that we will need to make the progress at the speed we need to make it."

He'd like to see a state bidding process to get providers to serve low-income areas, subsidized by government.

"They have to get a return on their investment to put it in the ground," he said of companies' typical \$65,000 per-mile costs that need to be recovered in seven years.

He's hoping a portion of the federal recovery stimulus package can be used to help fund public-private initiatives to bring broadband into all homes, especially those in remote and struggling areas.

"If we want these children to be our workforce of the future, we need to get them access to these technologies."

Companies and schools step up

Without a government mandate, some of the nation's largest internet service providers and the smallest public schools are helping low-income families connect amid the pandemic.

Comcast, one of the largest providers in the country, is offering a package with 25 megabits-per-second download speeds and 3 megabits-per-second upload speeds, the threshold for high-speed internet service, for \$9.95 a month. The company also is upgrading its other packages to those speeds.

Cox has introduced a no-contract plan for \$19.99 a month designed for low-income customers. The downloading speed is up to 50 megabits per second. The company also will relax data caps for many of its existing customers.

Through June 30, Verizon is tripling the data allowances for tablets and laptops at school districts that receive federal grants because they serve large populations of low-income students. The company estimates 116,000 students will benefit.

Other districts are turning to paper.

In Parkston, South Dakota, the district surveyed families to find out which ones did not have internet access in order to design an e-learning program, according to superintendent Shayne McIntosh.

To serve those students, the district prints out hard copies of work and puts them in packets for the students to do at home. Families pick up and drop off students' work at the school, and if they can't, a staff member will deliver.

After families turn the completed work back in, teachers wait 72 hours to grade it to make sure any virus on the schoolwork has died.

Reporters Arika Herron of The Indianapolis Star and Timothy Chipp of the Abilene Reporter-News (Texas) contributed to this story.

For Joe Burrow, the N.F.L. Draft Offers a Path Home

L.S.U.'s Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback grew up near Athens, Ohio, which gives fans of the Cincinnati Bengals more reason to take heart that their team has the No. 1 pick.



By **Billy Witz**

April 22, 2020

The Cincinnati Bengals' tiger stripes run deep for the Luehrman twins, Adam and Ryan. Growing up near Athens, Ohio, they shared Carson Palmer and Chad Johnson jerseys and had a passing chance of correctly spelling T.J. Houshmandzadeh. They know of the playoff pratfalls, the crushing injuries, the ownership's tightfisted ways and the decades of rotten (sometimes tragic) luck.

And now they hear the not-uncommon whispers around town that the local boy Joe Burrow, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback who is the presumptive top pick in the N.F.L. draft, would be better off ending up just about anywhere else than in Cincinnati, which is expected to select him first on Thursday night.

"Oh, his career is ruined because he goes to the Bengals," said Adam Luehrman, who like his brother has known Burrow since they were third graders.

Of course, maybe, just maybe, Burrow is the right player to lift the Bengals above the weight of their own history. Or he is, as Boomer Esiason, the former Cincinnati quarterback, boldly suggests, the chosen one.

"It's the same as LeBron James," said Esiason, who made clear that he was not comparing their talent, but their circumstances — Ohio kids picked first over all who can effect change not just in their arenas but in their communities.

"LeBron basically saved the Cavaliers. If this kid is what I think he's worth, he's going to accept this challenge and be the reason the Bengals go as far as they go."

It would not be the first time Burrow has taken up such a task. He carried Athens High, which when he arrived hadn't been to the playoffs since 1990, to the state championship game as a senior. And after transferring from Ohio State, he led Louisiana State — long defined by its Paleolithic offense — to the national championship last season by shredding the best defenses in the country, throwing an N.C.A.A. record 60 touchdown passes.

Yet his most powerful moment was his Heisman speech, when he pointed out that children in Appalachian towns like his too often come home to not enough food on the table. Within weeks, more than \$500,000 poured into the county food pantry, more than five times its annual budget. The windfall proved to be provident when the coronavirus pandemic hit, allowing the pantry, which was feeding families once a week in November, to increase to four times a week.



A mural of Burrow appeared in Athens, Ohio, after he used his Heisman Trophy acceptance speech to call attention to chronic hunger issues in the community where he grew up. Andrew Spear for The New York Times

Once he is drafted, Burrow plans to lend his name to causes related to hunger and poverty, and a base in Cincinnati could give his efforts more weight.

“In southeast Ohio, Joe and his family are considered real heroes,” said Karin Bright, the board president of the Athens County Food Pantry. “If he would decide to continue on with some philanthropic activity, it would get major attention because his story is just that compelling: the kid who didn’t get to play, goes to another school, wins the Heisman, undefeated season. He’s going to have that kind of voice whatever he chooses to do with it.”

That voice has found far greater resonance in the last year.

In early September, Burrow was just another college quarterback trying to make the most of his final season. He arrived at L.S.U. as a graduate transfer in 2018 after being unable to rise to the top of a stacked depth chart in three years at Ohio State. His first season with the Tigers was solid, and he finished with a flourish. Still, his odds of winning the Heisman were long at the start of the 2019 season: 200-to-1. Some N.F.L. scouts did not consider his arm strength sufficient.

For a window into what has fueled Burrow’s ascent, consider his favorite athlete, the one he gushes over, proudly wearing his T-shirt and photoshopping his idol’s face onto his own high school football photo. It is not Drew Brees. Or Aaron Rodgers. Or Patrick Mahomes. Or even Tom Brady.

It is Matthew Dellavedova, the scrappy Cleveland Cavaliers reserve guard.

“I saw him dive on the floor and punch someone in the face, and it got me going,” Burrow, an all-state point guard in high school, once told The Cleveland Plain Dealer (though none of Dellavedova’s on-court scraps appeared to have escalated quite that far).

Burrow’s appreciation for the rugged elements of sports comes, in part, from being raised in a football family that grew up on the other side of the ball. One older brother, Jamie, was a linebacker at Nebraska, and the other, Dan, was a defensive back there. His father, Jimmy, played in the secondary at Nebraska, too, and was the defensive coordinator at Ohio University for 14 seasons.

To them, there was little surprise when Burrow bounced up after taking a huge lick along the Auburn sideline last season — a hit that drew a gasp from a capacity crowd at Tiger Stadium. “Joe’s always played the game like a defensive guy,” Jimmy had said after an earlier game.

Burrow on a run in a tough game against Auburn last fall. “Joe’s always played the game like a defensive guy,” his father, Jimmy, has said. Chris Graythen/Getty Images

That grit, though, is sometimes well hidden — behind a baby face, a predilection for cartoon-character clothing (“Looney Tunes” T-shirts and the “SpongeBob SquarePants” socks he wore to the Heisman ceremony), and a swagger embodied by his casual puffs on a cigar as he rolled into the news conference after the national championship game.

By then, of course, he had built a legion of fans in southern Louisiana, where they preferred to spell his name Burreaux. Still, few believe in him more ardently than the Luehrman brothers — not because they know the Bengals so well, but because they understand Burrow so deeply.

Nobody has caught more of Burrow’s passes than the twins — for four years as receivers at Athens High, including a pair of touchdown catches each in the 2014 state title game, and many more over the last five summers when Burrow would return home from college and the Luehrmans, who are tight ends at Ohio University, were looking for ways to get better.

Those workouts reconvened after the coronavirus prompted Burrow to return home last month from Southern California, where he was preparing for a since-canceled workout in front of N.F.L. scouts. He has been throwing regularly to the Luehrmans — first at their high school field, until the recently renamed Joe Burrow Stadium was shuttered, and then at another empty field. The workouts often take place before an audience of one: Burrow’s father.

That everyone involved wants to keep the workouts a secret speaks to Burrow’s rise.

Burrow won the Heisman after leaving Ohio State for L.S.U., because he did not see enough opportunity to move forward with the Buckeyes. Adam Hunger/Getty Images

In the lead-up to the championship game, Burrow put his growth down to two factors: a new scheme that the assistant coach Joe Brady brought to L.S.U. from the New Orleans Saints, and a full off-season to work with his receivers. They established a familiarity that echoed when a September game at Texas was in the balance and, facing third and 17, Burrow stepped away from a blitz and knew exactly where Justin Jefferson would be — hitting him over the middle for a clinching 61-yard touchdown.

“He did stuff like that in Athens all the time,” Ryan Luehrman said. “When we were in high school, every route — if we didn’t get it 100 percent, we were going to do it until we did, whether it was staying after practice, coming in on Saturday. Everybody sees how much he puts into it and follows suit. There was probably a lot of that at L.S.U.”

There was indeed, said L.S.U. Coach Ed Orgeron.

He noted that Burrow sat for three years at Ohio State and arrived in Baton Rouge with only one assurance — that he could compete for the starting job, a position he did not win until a week before the season opener.

“Joe wasn’t the Heisman Trophy winner when he got here,” Orgeron said. “He developed, he got better, he kept his mouth shut. Joe has not had a silver spoon in his mouth all his life.”

Orgeron added, “He came here with faith and built a championship team, and I don’t see why he couldn’t do it in Cincinnati.”

From a distance, what stands out to David Anderson, a former N.F.L. receiver who works for Gains Group, a sports technology consultancy, is Burrow’s ability to handle chaos: avoiding second-down sacks, fumbles or poor throws that lead to tipped balls or offensive pass interference.

(After the N.F.L. cognoscenti went into a tizzy at the news that Burrow’s hands were measured at a smallish nine inches — prompting a Burrow joke on Twitter about retiring — Anderson noted how well Burrow carries the ball near his front shoulder, making it less susceptible to being stripped.)

Burrow at the N.F.L. scouting combine in Indianapolis two months ago. Brian Spurlock/USA Today Sports, via Reuters

Most impressive, Anderson said, was a 23-20 win over Auburn, whose defensive linemen Derrick Brown and Marlon Davidson — first-round draft candidates themselves — generated heavy pressure in a scheme that puzzled L.S.U. early.

But Burrow’s top four receivers that night caught eight, seven, seven and seven passes each, and his only touchdown went to

another receiver, Terrace Marshall Jr. Even under duress in a tense game, Burrow rarely deviated from good decisions.

“A game like that gives you context,” Anderson said. “A lot of quarterbacks, when the going gets tough, they abandon their rules, abandon what they’ve been taught and throw it to their favorite receiver. You watch the third and fourth quarter, and he’s making his reads. That’s a guy you bet on.”

And so, it appears, the Bengals will.

Burrow is poised to have the chance to do what their last two longstanding quarterbacks, Carson Palmer and Andy Dalton, who largely fulfilled expectations, could not: contend for a title. Though the Bengals have long shed their Bungle label, the starting quarterback in their last playoff victory was Esiason. It came after the 1990 season — or nearly six years before Burrow was born. That drought is the longest in the N.F.L.

“Somewhere it goes sideways,” Esiason said.

Though he has been a frequent critic, Esiason said the team’s owner, Mike Brown, and his family are true to football roots of their late patriarch, Paul Brown. “This isn’t Jerry Jones or Robert Kraft,” Esiason said, referring to a pair of the N.F.L.’s flashier owners. “They’re probably still driving Buick Skylarks and wearing khaki pants and blue Oxford shirts. They were always frugal, but when you look at the nuts and bolts, they knew their football.”

Thus it was noteworthy when the Bengals, who generally draft well, made rare splurges in free agency by signing defensive tackle D.J. Reader to a four-year, \$53 million contract and cornerback Trae Waynes to a three-year, \$42 million deal.

The offense also has some building blocks in place: running back Joe Mixon and the returning star receiver, A.J. Green, who was slapped with an \$18 million franchise tag, and last year’s first-round pick, left tackle Jonah Williams, who missed all of last season with injuries.

How much the Bengals bounce back from last season’s 2-14 record, and how far they go in the seasons beyond, will involve more than that — whether it is by performance or example or force of will.

“Joe Burrow has to be the reason it doesn’t go sideways,” said Esiason, whose only quibble with Burrow is that he did not stick it out at Ohio State. “He has to be bigger than all of it — carry himself like Tom Brady, like he’s going to change it just like he did at L.S.U. It’s a big ask, and it’s a lot of pressure, but that’s what makes it so awesome, such a unique opportunity for a hometown kid.”

Closed Hospitals Leave Rural Patients ‘Stranded’ as Coronavirus Spreads

A for-profit company bought three struggling hospitals in West Virginia and Ohio. Doctors were fired, supplies ran low and many in need of care had to journey elsewhere. Then the doors shut for good.

By **Sarah Kliff**, **Jessica Silver-Greenberg** and **Nicholas Kulich**

Published April 26, 2020 Updated April 27, 2020

Michael Nuzum had spent weeks fighting coronavirus-like symptoms — a wracking cough, terrible chills, an exhausting fever — before collapsing at his home in rural West Virginia.

Mr. Nuzum, a 54-year-old animal control worker, was already in cardiac arrest when the emergency workers arrived on April 3. That left them with a difficult decision: Should they transport their patient to the nearest hospital, 30 minutes away?

“There’s only so much one paramedic can do in the back of an ambulance,” said Michael Angelucci, who leads the Marion County rescue squad that cared for Mr. Nuzum. The two-person team that responded decided it couldn’t risk the long ride and instead tried to revive the patient at the scene. But the workers couldn’t save him.

Two weeks earlier, the options would have been different. Fairmont Regional Medical Center, just five minutes from Mr. Nuzum’s home, would still have been open. Mr. Angelucci, who is also a state representative, can’t help wondering if the hospital and its emergency room could have given the man a fighting chance.

“It’s incredibly frustrating that this entire community is stranded without a hospital,” he said.



Bonnie Armstrong with a photograph of her nephew, Michael Nuzum, who died after experiencing coronavirus-like symptoms. He lived near the closed Fairmont hospital. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Fairmont was one of three hospitals that have shut down in this corner of rural West Virginia and Ohio since September. They delivered hundreds of babies each year, treated car crash and gunshot victims, repaired hearts and knees and offered addiction treatment and psychiatric care.

They had been acquired by a for-profit company, Alecto Healthcare Services, beginning in 2014. Employees expected the new ownership to put the institutions on solid footing after years of financial struggle. Instead, decisions made by Alecto wound up undercutting patient care and undermining the hospitals' finances, according to more than two dozen interviews with doctors, nurses, other staff members, government officials and patients, as well as a review of court records.

Doctors were pushed out to save on salaries; many patients followed them elsewhere. Medical supplies ran short. Vendors went unpaid. Finally, one after another, the three hospitals ceased operating. At the request of the governor, the West Virginia attorney general's office is investigating the company's decision to close them.

The shutdowns — besides Fairmont, Alecto owned Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, W.Va., and East Ohio Regional Hospital in neighboring Martins Ferry, Ohio — have forced the region to fight a coronavirus outbreak with 530 fewer licensed hospital beds than it had a year ago.

The counties they serve have already recorded 171 coronavirus cases and nine deaths. Hundreds of people whose lungs were scarred by decades in coal mines are vulnerable to a devastating respiratory syndrome caused by the virus, doctors said.

"We've now got a hospital that existed for over 100 years that, in the middle of a pandemic, sits empty," said Jonathan Board, chairman of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, referring to Fairmont.

Dr. John Wolen, the former trauma chief at Ohio Valley, now works at Wheeling Hospital and is bracing for an influx of patients. "The extra capacity that we will absolutely need is not going to be there," he said.

Dr. John Wolen was the trauma chief at the closed Ohio Valley Medical Center. He said the area would not have capacity for a surge in patients. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Across the United States, hospitals serving rural areas have spent decades trying to provide medical care and produce enough revenue to stay open. They have closed in increasing numbers in recent years as local populations have declined. About 170 rural hospitals have shut down since 2005.

Some nonprofit or community-owned hospitals, like the three Alecto had bought in West Virginia and Ohio, turn to for-profit hospital chains as a lifeline, hoping that a focus on generating revenue could help them survive.

But for-profit hospitals are more likely to close than the others, one recent federal study showed. It found that for-profit facilities accounted for 11 percent of rural hospitals but 36 percent of closures among the group. Within the past year, rural hospitals have closed in Pennsylvania and Tennessee after selling to for-profit chains.

“There is something very concerning to me about having more for-profit companies in rural health care,” said Jill Horwitz, vice dean at the University of California, Los Angeles, law school. “The more rural a hospital, the more people depend on it for lifesaving care.”

Ms. Horwitz’s research found that for-profit rural hospitals were less likely to offer needed but unprofitable medical services, such as hospice and inpatient psychiatric care.

“The goal of the for-profit is to make money,” Ms. Horwitz said. “That doesn’t mean they’ll do anything to make a buck, but they have a different goal from nonprofits.”

East Ohio Regional Hospital is a third institution that closed after it was bought by Alecto Healthcare Services, a for-profit company. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Michael Sarrao, Alecto's general counsel, said the company had done everything it could to turn the three hospitals around but ultimately found the financial challenges insurmountable. Slow reimbursements by health insurers and cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates were factors, he said.

He contended that the institutions would have closed years ago had Alecto not purchased them, and that the company lost tens of millions of dollars investing in the facilities.

"Alecto has and continues to be focused on saving distressed community hospitals so that they can continue to provide care to the patients who need their care the most and has done its best to achieve this goal," Mr. Sarrao said in a statement.

Alecto's chief executive, Lex Reddy, worked for more than a decade at a larger hospital chain, Prime Healthcare. He stepped down as Prime's chief executive in 2012, during a federal investigation that would result in a \$65 million fine by the Justice Department to settle allegations that the company had falsely submitted Medicare claims. The settlement did not make a determination of wrongdoing.

Mr. Reddy, who was not implicated in the scandal and declined through a spokesman to be interviewed for this article, helped found Alecto the same year he left Prime.

Alecto purchased Fairmont Regional Medical Center while it was in bankruptcy in 2014, and bought the larger Ohio Valley Medical Center and East Ohio Regional Hospital in 2017. The acquisitions expanded Alecto's reach across the country, from the four hospitals it already owned or managed in California and Texas.

Alecto's hospitals generally serve low-income communities, with most patients covered by Medicare or Medicaid. In Marion County, for example, the population once served by Fairmont has higher-than-average smoking and obesity rates. The state also had the country's highest rate of drug overdose deaths in 2018.

Staff members recalled initially feeling optimistic about the new owners.

"We were in very bad straits," said Martha Connors, who was a mental health technician at Ohio Valley for 13 years. "We fought to have Alecto buy us because no one else wanted to."

Martha Connors, a mental health technician at Ohio Valley said her hospital was in “very bad straits” when Alecto bought it. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

That hope quickly evaporated as the quality of care at the hospitals began to decline, employees recalled. At Fairmont, with 207 licensed beds, and Ohio Valley hospital, with 200, employees said Alecto let staff physicians go, a decision they described as shortsighted. While Alecto may have saved on salaries, the hospitals lost many elective surgeries — a critical revenue generator.

“We went from having about 40 doctors on staff at the hospital to about a dozen in the course of six months,” said Dr. Waid McMillion, who ran Fairmont’s emergency department until it closed. The hospital replaced only a portion of them with contract physicians, who did not bring in nearly as many patients or surgeries.

Two surgeons at Ohio Valley recalled arriving each morning in 2018 to find the surgical scheduling board almost blank. Dr. Joseph Petersen, a surgeon there, said patients had to be moved to other hospitals farther from their homes because there weren’t enough staff members to care for them. “It was very disruptive for patient care and for their families,” he said.

Staff cuts at the Ohio Valley hospital forced it to move many patients elsewhere before it closed, further straining revenue. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Dr. Wolen, of Ohio Valley, said the hospital lost its status as a level-two trauma center — requiring it to transfer some seriously injured patients to other hospitals — in part because it no longer had a full-time plastic surgeon and a full-time neurosurgeon.

With fewer patients bringing in less revenue, staff members noticed regular supply shortages that affected care. Two employees at East Ohio recalled three days in 2018 when the intensive care unit had to bring some ventilator patients out of medically induced comas because it was running short of sedatives like fentanyl and hydromorphone.

When such patients wake up, they often try to pull out their breathing tubes, said Joyce Younkens, who worked as an I.C.U. nurse there. During that stretch, staff members had to put restraints on the distressed patients. “It’s not something you ever want to have to see,” she said.

In her six years at the hospital before Alecto took over, Ms. Younkens and others said, nothing similar ever happened. “There was never a lack of supplies, never a lack of anything we needed,” she said. “Under Alecto, you had to worry about having enough IV bags, needles, syringes, salines, drugs, even toilet paper.”

The Coronavirus Outbreak >

Frequently Asked Questions and Advice

Updated June 12, 2020

- **My state is reopening. Is it safe to go out?**

States are reopening bit by bit. This means that more public spaces are available for use and more and more businesses are being allowed to open again. The federal government is largely leaving the decision up to states, and some state leaders are leaving the decision up to local authorities. Even if you aren’t being told to stay at home, it’s still a good idea to limit trips outside and your interaction with other people.

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One health care technician recalled buying toothpaste and feminine hygiene supplies for patients when the hospital ran out. Another said he purchased a roll of ultrasound film off eBay for \$63.

“Everybody wants a picture of their baby when they come for an ultrasound,” said Paul Porter, the ultrasound technician. “I hated having to tell them I can’t give you a picture today.”

As supplies at the hospitals ran low, Paul Porter, an ultrasound technician, said he bought ultrasound film on eBay so a patient could see her baby. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Alecto also at times fell behind on payments for employees' health insurance, so their coverage lapsed, according to multiple former staff members.

And Jeremy Wendel, who worked as a registrar in the Ohio Valley and East Ohio emergency rooms, said that Alecto was deducting his \$550 child support payment from his paycheck but not passing the money on to the state. It took two months to resolve the situation, he said. "It felt like they were stealing from me," he recalled. "I was paying this money, but they weren't sending it to my ex, so where was it going?"

Mr. Sarrao of Alecto conceded that while there "may have been some administrative issues at O.V.M.C. that caused some delays in payment, these issues have been resolved and payments reached their correct destination."

Lawsuits against Alecto seeking unpaid bills piled up. Xerox filed a case in August 2019, claiming the company owed more than \$500,000. The lawsuit is pending. PatientMatters, a medical debt collection firm, sued weeks later, similarly claiming a large debt. That case was later resolved.

Hospital workers traded whispers, wondering if their employers would soon close shop and worrying what would happen to their patients.

Last September, Alecto closed the Ohio Valley hospital. It happened so suddenly that one longtime employee learned he no longer had a job while checking Facebook. Three weeks later, East Ohio closed.

At Fairmont, many feared they would be next. Alecto shut the doors on March 19, despite local leaders' pleas that the hospital should stay open to weather the pandemic.

The closures have left 1,800 people seeking work in a struggling economy and local governments fighting to recoup Alecto's unpaid taxes.

Martins Ferry, Ohio, on the West Virginia border. Closures have left the region with 530 fewer licensed hospital beds than it had a year ago. Kristian Thacker for The New York Times

Wheeling is currently trying to collect \$821,000 its mayor says Alecto owes the city, including \$425,000 in parking fees and \$140,000 in water and sewer fees. Martins Ferry is trying to recoup more than \$200,000 in local income taxes, according to the city auditor. S.E.I.U. District 1199, the union representing Fairmont workers, is still pursuing retirement fund contributions that were never paid.

With the hospitals closed, some former patients have struggled to find new providers.

Joyce Faber, 60, who is confined to a wheelchair, hasn't been able to see a gynecologist since last year. A survivor of breast cancer, she takes drugs that put her at a higher risk of ovarian cancer. She used to have regular gynecology appointments at Ohio Valley, which had a special table that allowed Ms. Faber, who is paralyzed, to be examined. She has been unable to find a nearby hospital with similar equipment.

Heidi Porter recently had to bring her elderly mother, who has bipolar disorder and experiences hallucinations, into Wheeling Hospital. With no psychiatric beds available there — Ohio Valley had operated the county's only unit — she was transferred to a facility two hours away in Columbus, Ohio.

West Virginia University's health system, about 12 miles from Fairmont, plans to reopen part of the Fairmont hospital but will not be able to do so until late May.

For now, the three communities face a stretch of months where hospital beds could be scarce in the midst of a global pandemic. Jennifer Henderson Hayes, who was the chief pharmacist at East Ohio, now works at the remaining hospital in Wheeling.

She has already seen greater strain on the emergency room there. "You see people, potentially sick with Covid-19, waiting for

eight or 12 hours just to be seen.”

2020 PROTESTS

Why The Small Protests In Small Towns Across America Matter

People who've watched and participated in the Black Lives Matter movement say that this time feels different. And the prevalence of these small protests is one of many reasons why.



Anne Helen Petersen
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on June 3, 2020, at 1:31 p.m. ET





Black Lives Matter demonstrators in Lewiston, Maine, June 1.

Andree Kehn / Sun Journal via AP

Dorian Miles arrived in Havre, Montana — a windy farm town, population 9,700, along what’s known as Montana’s Hi-Line — just five months ago, a young man from Georgia coming to play football for Montana State University–Northern. “I was nervous about walking around,” he told the Havre Daily News. Like many small towns in Montana, Havre’s population is aging and, generally, friendly. But Miles, who told the paper his uncle had been shot and killed by a police officer in Atlanta, knew that strolling its streets as a young black man with tattoos and dreadlocks could be risky.

On Sunday night, though, he said he felt safe. Over 100 people showed up to a rally in Havre, organized by Melody Bernard, a Chippewa Cree Tribal Member from the nearby Rocky Boy Reservation.

After the rally, Miles posted photos and a message to Facebook. “SPEAK AND YOU WILL BE HEARD!” he said. “Today we did what had to be done in Havre. A SMALL town of predominantly older white Americans stood with me to protest the wrongdoings at the hands of police EVERYWHERE....Today we stood together for an injustice. Today people who don’t look like me or

relate to me showed love and support. I was overwhelmed to see the people I saw today marching in protest to the public lynchings that have been done by the only people whose job is to PROTECT and SERVE their community.”

The movements and marches that convulse big cities don’t usually (or ever) make it to Havre. Nor do they usually make it to hundreds of other small towns across the country. But the protests following the death of George Floyd, who was killed in police custody on May 25, are different.

All over the country, people are showing up — often for the first time in their lives — to protest police brutality and injustice. In tiny ag towns like Havre and Hermiston, Oregon, but also in midsize cities Topeka, Kansas, and Waco, Texas; on island hamlets (Friday Harbor, San Juan Island; Nantucket, Massachusetts; Bar Harbor, Maine); and in well-to-do suburbs (Lake Forest Park, Washington; Darien, Connecticut; Chagrin Falls, Ohio). They are showing up at the courthouse. They are kneeling and observing eight minutes of silence — a reference to how long Floyd was pinned to the ground in a knee chokehold by the Minneapolis police officer who was later charged with his murder. They are marching down interstates and waving signs on street corners. Sometimes, like in the town of Alton, New Hampshire (population 5,335), where one woman organized a protest just two months after being

hospitalized with COVID-19, only seven people come. Sometimes, like in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, there are thousands.

These protests are covered by local news outlets, but amid the deluge of national news — major protests in major cities, guard tanks and helicopters, tear gas and rubber bullets, looting and destruction in select cities, the president's reaction, massive economic anxiety and unemployment, all against the backdrop of the continued spread of COVID-19 — it's hard for these stories of smaller, even silent, protests to break through.

When, for example, the New York Times compiled a map, published on June 1, of where protests had happened over the weekend, it missed dozens of protests across rural, small-town, and midsize-town America. It's hard to fault them: My attempt to keep track has consumed the last three days of my life, with people flagging more every hour.

There have been protests in Belfast, Maine. In Farmington, New Mexico. In Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In Bentonville, Arkansas. In Lubbock, Texas. In Idaho Falls, Idaho. The biggest anyone can remember in Paducah, Kentucky, in Bozeman, Montana, in Pendleton, Oregon, in Frisco, Texas, and in Ogden, Utah. In Tacoma, Washington, pastors knelt in the rain, pleading with God. In Bowling Green, Kentucky,

three rolling days of protests. In Owatonna, Minnesota, a student-led protest lasted for 10 hours. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, thousands gathered on the 99th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre. In Myers Park, one of the wealthiest neighborhoods of Charlotte, North Carolina, where black people were prohibited from owning property for decades. And in Petal, Mississippi, where protesters have spent days calling for the resignation of Mayor Hal Marx, who tweeted last week that “If you can talk, you can breathe.”

These protests cut across demographics and geographic spaces. They’re happening in places with little in the way of a protest tradition, in places with majority white population and majority black, and at an unprecedented scale. People who’ve watched and participated in the Black Lives Matter movement since 2015 say that this time feels *different*. And the prevalence of these small protests is one of many reasons why.





Protesters gather on the steps of the City/County Building in Helena, Montana, May 29.

Thom Bridge / AP

Jordan Miller grew up in Carrollton, Ohio, a town of about 3200 people on the eastern side of the state. When he graduated from high school, he was one of just 75 in his graduating class. He's amassed a following of over 20,000 on Facebook covering news all over Ohio as local news outlets are gutted. In the past week, he's documented protests and interviewed participants all over the state. On May 31, he was in New Philadelphia, whose population is just over 17,000, and hundreds had assembled to march. The county sheriff, Orvis Campbell, and his deputies marched beside them.

"It was amazing," he told me. "To see a town that is predominantly white come out in flocks and march — they understood the importance. They can never understand the feeling of being black in America. But they did understand that they could use their privilege to get the importance of protests out there."

But he also went back to his hometown, where there were just two people protesting — and a mass of people with guns strapped to their hips, "guarding" the buildings against them. One of those men told Miller they were fine with him being there, because his

family was “from” there. They just didn’t want other black people, *outsiders*, around. That experience was disheartening, but only served to convince him how important these small-town protests are. “I’m black, and I know the only reason I’m treated with any respect is because of my platform,” he said. “I’ve seen ‘outside’ black people treated differently than me. It’s sad. I remember what it’s like to be in their shoes.”

Still, he explained, the fact that even two people were protesting in his hometown, along with so many others in nearby communities, makes everything feel “totally different.” “People’s thinking has evolved,” he said. “They want change just as much as the black community does.”

Alliance, Ohio, population 21,616, is a 40-minute drive north from Carrollton. It’s more than 80% white. Last week, Ande’ Green and Essence Blue had been watching protests pop up in bigger cities nearby, but were wary of making the trip. Blue tweeted about potentially putting something together in Alliance, and they decided to give it a shot. They made a flyer announcing that they would gather at the post office downtown, then walk around it five times — once for each time that George Floyd pleaded for his life. They posted the information all over social media and texted everyone they knew.

“We didn’t really know what to expect,” Green said.
“But over 300 people showed up!”

“People didn’t understand the point of us protesting in Alliance,” she added. “But we wanted them to know that we are taking a stand for our nation. For those who look like us who lose their lives to police brutality.”



Protesters hold signs at a rally at a park in Lawrence, Kansas, over the death of George Floyd, May 31.

Orlin Wagner / AP

Tyler, Texas, is a town of 105,000 out on the eastern edge of the state. It’s quiet, conservative, and, according to Drew Steele, who works in auto detailing, a town of “quiet racists,” with little tolerance for anything or anyone that deviates from the norm. His high school was named for Robert E. Lee. There’s a brand-new building in town intended to

commemorate plantation life. There's a long history of lynching. But on Monday night, Steele joined hundreds of others for the third night of protests in the city.

The protests in Tyler, he explained, are about so many things: institutional racism, but also unlivable wages, and just growing frustration and desire for change.

Steele thinks it's essential for these protests to happen in places like Tyler — and for other people to know about it. “Small towns tend to be old-fashioned,” he said. “And racism is an old-fashioned way of controlling others.” But others need to know that there's another path forward, and that it's okay to be different, in any number of ways. “That's why it's so important that so many people showed up,” he said. “We won't be shoved under the rug.”

Riverton, population 11,000, is surrounded by the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming. Like a lot of towns that border Native American reservations — it can feel, as Steele put it, “old-fashioned.” But on Monday, more than 150 people showed up to protest. Some were from Riverton; others drove from the reservation and as far away as Lander. An older white woman had written “THIS WYOMING NATIVE KNOWS BLACK LIVES MATTER” on the back of her T-shirt.

In September 2019, a Riverton police officer shot and killed a Northern Arapaho man outside the local Walmart after he allegedly had attempted to stab the officer, giving new life to long-standing complaints about the mistreatment of tribal residents by off-reservation police. (Native Americans are killed by police at a higher rate than any other ethnic group in the United States.) In November, the city met with the Northern Arapaho tribal council to attempt to improve relations between the two. But as Layha Spoonhunter, who is Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho, and Oglala Lakota, told me, there was significant skepticism and racism from people in town.

Spoonhunter decided to put together the event, along with Micah Lott, as a way to “bring to light issues that we experience as people of color,” he said. He said the overwhelming response from the city, where you still regularly see Confederate flags hung in windows and in trucks, was positive. “There were people who shouted, ‘Hope you get the ‘rona,’ he said. “But most people honked in support, or raised their fist, or if we shouted ‘black lives matter’ or ‘justice for Floyd,’ they would open their windows and yell it back.”

“As Indigenous people, we wanted to stand in solidarity with Black Lives,” Lott told me. “We put it on in Riverton, because of its older white conservative

population and its prejudice toward Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.”

Protesters in Riverton, Wyoming, May 31.

Savannah Maher / Wyoming Public Radio

In other towns, too, they keep showing up. Last night alone, there were protests planned in Whitefish, Montana; in Gunnison, Colorado; in Pasco, Washington; in Brea, California; in Cranford, New Jersey; in Albany, Oregon; in Bethel, Vermont; in Fairfield, Connecticut; in Ketchum, Idaho; in Annapolis, Maryland; in Flagstaff, Arizona; and in dozens of other places, large and small.

It might not seem like people from outside care what happens in these places far from the national spotlight. But as Ande’ Green, one of the organizers of

the protest in Alliance, Ohio, put it, “These small towns matter because it’s *a lot* of small towns. All of these small towns coming together, it’s what we need to make a change.”

Or, as Melody Bernard, who organized the protest in northern Montana, said, “Protests like these need to happen in places like Havre because racism and injustice happen in places like Havre. There’s complaints, maybe some meetings, and then it dies down. People forget it about it and then it happens again. But we can’t let it die down this time. We just have to keep pushing.”

June 4, 2020, at 11:42 a.m.

Correction: Riverton is surrounded by the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming. Its relation to the reservation was misstated in a previous version of this post.



Anne Helen Petersen is a senior culture writer for BuzzFeed News and is based in Missoula, Montana.

Contact [Anne Helen Petersen](#) at anne.helen.petersen@buzzfeed.com.

Got a confidential tip? [Submit it here](#).

NATION

'It got ugly': What happened when Black Lives Matter protests came to small town Ohio

Dan Horn Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 2:47 p.m. ET Jun. 17, 2020 | Updated 12:01 p.m. ET Jun. 18, 2020

BETHEL, Ohio – Donna Henson sat on her front porch last weekend, as she always does when the weather is nice, and watched dozens of her neighbors walk by with bats in their hands or guns strapped to their sides.

They were married couples, friends and relatives, young people and old. All heading up Union Street, toward the center of town.

Henson, 78, figured they'd heard the same rumors she had, the ones about busloads of people coming to her town to join small Black Lives Matter protests on Sunday and Monday. Word was hundreds could arrive from Cincinnati or Columbus or Detroit.

Henson was afraid, and she guessed her neighbors were, too. If they didn't do something, if they didn't show up armed and ready, the unrest they'd seen on TV for weeks on far off American streets could come to Bethel, a village of 2,800.

"Everybody had a gun," Henson said Tuesday, recalling the scene. "Like a cowboy show."

A movement that had swept into many of the nation's big cities was about to reach a small town, a rural enclave where the message from demonstrators would be heard not as a wake-up call or a rallying cry but as a challenge to a way of life.

In Bethel, peaceful protesters would be seen by some as no different from looters and rioters. They represented chaos, the problems of other people from other places.

The protesters call for police reform, decry racism and criticize President Donald Trump. Many from Bethel support the police, say racism isn't a problem here and fly "Trump 2020" flags in their front yards.

"We just want it to stop," said Brad McCall, a carpenter and longtime resident who joined counterprotesters. "We got a peaceful town. We don't want our town destroyed."

As it turned out, there were no busloads of protesters, there was no invasion by outsiders. Police estimated 80 to 100 people showed up to support Black Lives Matter, including the organizer, a 36-year-old substitute teacher from Bethel who makes arts and crafts.

They were met by the much larger crowd Henson had seen from her front porch. Hundreds of them, counterprotesters and curious townspeople, many on motorcycles and brandishing weapons.

Some yelled at the protesters to leave, blocked their way when they were marching and pushed and shoved them to the ground. A man with a Confederate flag covering his face ripped up one of the protesters' signs while the crowd cheered.

"I felt like we were walking a gantlet," said Lois Dennis, 63, who attended the demonstration with her daughter.

Images of the confrontation went viral on social media, in part because few had seen anything quite like it since the protests over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis began almost a month ago.

Suddenly, tiny Bethel was another act in an unfolding national drama. Critics called the town a racist backwater. Supporters praised residents for standing up to ignorant protesters. Townspeople, for the most part, were stunned by all the attention.

Before this, Bethel, about 30 miles east of Cincinnati, was known mostly as the home of Ulysses S. Grant's father, though the nation's 18th president and commander of Union forces during the Civil War lived here only a short time. Bethel

also was a stop on the Underground Railroad, a bit of history some protesters said made it a logical choice for a Black Lives Matter rally.

History didn't matter much last weekend. Counterprotesters said they didn't understand why anyone would want to protest police brutality against African Americans in a small town like this one.

Bethel is 97% white, according to the U.S. Census, and almost 0.5% of the population identifies as Black.

"Why bring it to Bethel?" McCall said. "Why not go to Chicago? Look how many Black people are getting killed in Chicago. Black people are not getting killed in Bethel."

'They don't want change'

Sharon Middleton listened Tuesday afternoon as McCall spoke in a parking lot not far from the site of the protests the previous days. Middleton was born and raised in Bethel and still lives in the house she grew up in.

She said the demonstrations were a mistake but not for the same reason McCall did.

"It's not a tolerant community," she said.

Middleton, who is white, has been living for years with Jon Richardson, an African American man. She said most people don't give her trouble about it, but some do, including her mother, who hasn't spoken to her in months.

When she read about the Black Lives Matter protest on Facebook, Middleton figured the protest organizers didn't know her town as well as she did. "They were naïve," she said. "They think they can put their Black Lives Matter signs up and change people's minds."

Richardson said he went to the protest and took some photos, but he said he wasn't going to carry a sign. Since only a handful of the protesters were people of color, Richardson said, he would've stood out and been an easy target if things got ugly.

"I live here," he said.

Richardson said he saw neighbors who never carry guns carrying them for the first time at the protest. “A lot of it is foolishness,” he said.

For Middleton, the guns and the anger are all about the fear of change. She said Bethel hasn’t changed much in her lifetime and that’s fine with most of its residents. “They don’t want change,” she said.

Richardson put his arm around Middleton and kissed her cheek.

“People are just people,” she said. “He just has a little more melanin in his skin.”

'A sad day for Bethel'

Chris Karnes hasn’t lived in Bethel as long as Middleton, but he said he’s more hopeful the town’s residents can find common ground.

He moved here with his wife, a native, about 10 years ago, and he likes the place. He said his neighbors are friendly, even if they don’t share his more liberal politics. “It’s Trump country,” he said Tuesday. “You have to learn to live with people’s differences.”

Karnes wasn’t encouraged by the response to the protests. He saw people he knew, some better than others, swearing at protesters and trying to intimidate them. He saw punches thrown at a man who did nothing but carry a sign.

“You live in a small community like this, you get to know a lot of people,” he said. “I don’t know. It was a sad day for Bethel.”

As he spoke, Wayne Sulken, who’s lived in Bethel for almost 30 years, parked his pickup and got out. He listened to Karnes for a few minutes before speaking.

“I know it got ugly,” he said. “But there were thugs on both sides.”

Sulken said he went to the protests Sunday and Monday, bringing his pistol Monday, not to cause trouble but to keep the peace. He said that’s why most residents showed up: They had heard outsiders were coming to stir things up.

“We didn’t know what was going to happen,” Sulken said. “Are our homes going to get burned down? Are our stores going to get looted? We heard the rumors they were going to bus them in.”

Sulken told Karnes he thought outsiders were behind the protests, namely antifa, a loose-knit anti-fascist group Trump has blamed for protests and unrest. Whoever was behind it, Sulken said, Bethel residents didn’t want any part of it.

Karnes and Sulken were on opposite sides of the protest, but they agreed on one thing Tuesday afternoon. Sort of.

“The worst thing is the impression the world is getting from Bethel,” Karnes said. “I’d say it was the actions of a few violent individuals.”

“On both sides,” Sulken said.

“Ahhhhh,” Karnes said, shaking his head. “I thought you might say that.”

Before parting ways, the two men shook hands. Karnes walked toward his home a few blocks away and Sulken climbed back into his pickup.

Hope for more conversations, less anger

As evening approached Tuesday, Bethel Police Chief Steve Teague responded to a noise complaint about a man with a bullhorn across the street from the Grant Memorial building, where protesters had gathered on previous days.

He found an African American man shouting, “Black lives matter” on the sidewalk. He told him about the complaint and asked him to stop.

Then the two sat down on the steps with a few other Bethel residents and talked about what was happening.

“Everybody was respectful,” Teague said. “We welcome all of them, as long as they’re peaceful.”

He said most have been. Despite the images circulating on social media, Teague said, most interactions were nonviolent and only a few counterprotesters got physical with demonstrators.

Teague, a former jet engine designer at GE, has been chief in Bethel for a year. The past few days are unlike anything he's faced on the job, and he knows it doesn't look good for the town he's called home for the past six years.

He got emails and texts from people he's never met from all over the country, saying, "I can't believe your town is racist."

"Those people have a 15-second clip, and they're judging our entire town," Teague said. "That's just not right."

A few blocks away, Donna Henson was on her front porch again, watching evening fall on an empty Union Street. It was another beautiful afternoon.

She sat next to her boyfriend, Mike Luck, surrounded by flower boxes and an American flag flapping in the breeze. Her dog, a Pekingese named Goldie, roamed the porch.

'It's what I think': Mississippi official doubles down on racist comments after Confederate statue vote

Rayshard Brooks video: Legal scholars break down key moments in shooting timeline

Henson said she's watched the protests on TV for weeks and struggles to understand why everyone has been so upset for so long. She's lived in Clermont County her whole life and, until now, the protests and unrest had seemed distant, like someone else's problem.

"I've never been around Black people," she said. "I just wish everybody could get along."

She said she was appalled by the video of George Floyd's death, but she wants the protests to end. She wants her town to get back to normal, back to the way it's always been.