

The Foundation For Appalachian Ohio

Fostering Access To Opportunities

Annual Report

appalachianohio.org

Fall 2007-Fall 2008



An Open Letter to the Friends of Appalachian Ohio:

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), and we have so much to celebrate! As a result of the work of FAO's donors, grantees and volunteers, thousands of people in the Appalachian Ohio region have experienced unprecedented opportunities and significant improvements in their life circumstances.

As we reflect, we realize how much FAO has grown and strengthened in its ability to make a difference as the foundation serving Appalachian Ohio, and we recognize that 2008 has been a particularly meaningful year for FAO. While we've gone through a transition in leadership from a founding CEO to a new leader, we've taken time to dream, strategize and establish goals for FAO's future.

With this report, we celebrate a successful year, commemorate a very special anniversary and provide an overview of the opportunities ahead. We offer the report as a heart-felt thank you for all that has been given, and as an open invitation for all who are passionate about Appalachian Ohio to become involved with FAO.

Because this report is an open invitation for you to join in FAO's work, we are including basic information about FAO's capacities and strategies for making a difference in Appalachian Ohio, including "Quick Facts on FAO" and "Frequently Asked Questions."

FAO will make a significant difference by continuing to leverage the support, ideas and partnership of those who are passionate about our region's success. We are grateful for your time and attention in reading this report, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts about its contents and your ideas for how FAO can best serve our region.

We hope you will join us, or continue to support us, in fostering access to opportunities through FAO. All gifts - whether of time, talent or treasure - make a big difference and are appreciated. Thank you for all you have given to create opportunities for those who live in Appalachian Ohio. It is an honor to serve our region through FAO and in partnership with you.

With warmest regards,


Ronald Strickmaker


Cara Dingus Brook

Frequently Asked Questions about FAO

Q: What is the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio?

A: The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the twenty-nine counties of Appalachian Ohio. It is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt nonprofit organization governed by a regional board. FAO's mission is to enhance quality of life in Appalachian Ohio. FAO accomplishes this mission by Fostering Access to Opportunity.

Q: What is FAO's vision?

A: FAO's vision is to ensure Appalachian Ohio becomes a region where citizens have access to everything necessary to achieve a high quality of life; a place with leading educational systems, meaningful jobs, excellent health care, plentiful cultural experiences and wise stewardship of natural resources.

Q: What is FAO doing to realize this vision?

A: FAO is working to grow Appalachian Ohio's philanthropic capacity, educational opportunities and pride.

Philanthropic capacity

Appalachian Ohio's communities do not have access to the philanthropic resources necessary to address the challenges and opportunities they face. The region accounts for roughly 15% of Ohio's population but holds around 2% of Ohio's grantmaking assets. Within this 2%, of the region's assets are restricted for single communities or initiatives. Further, the region receives only 1% of the corporate grants given in Ohio¹. FAO is working to grow and nurture philanthropy - e.g. strategic charitable giving - to assist the region in improving quality of life.

FAO is growing regional funds to support community efforts to enhance quality of life. These funds will provide resources for many communities and organizations in the region to access educational, health, cultural and conservation opportunities. While growing these regional resources, we are also helping local communities grow funds to address their unique needs and opportunities, including community and school system endowments.

Educational Opportunities

Education is essential to overcoming generational poverty and to creating and sustaining a vibrant economy and high quality of life. Appalachian Ohio is seeing educational advancement, but it has not achieved the same levels of attainment and success found in the rest of the state, which is an alarming concern, given the dynamics of our global economy and the ever-increasing national struggle to remain economically competitive.

Of those aged 25-34 in Appalachian Ohio, just over 14% have graduated from college, compared to a national rate of 28%². FAO is working to close this education gap and position the region as a national leader in educational attainment while also supporting the region in developing an education system that maximizes our region's strengths and is globally competitive.

Regional Pride

Perceptions can significantly shape reality. Because Appalachian Ohio has experienced generations of poverty and isolation, we must work diligently to shape perceptions regarding our region's ability to move beyond these struggles to become a vibrant contributor to Ohio's economy and overall success.

FAO is committed to publicly celebrating the traditions, legacies, artistry, generosity and appreciation for natural beauty that are inherent to our region's culture. We do this to shine a light on the reality that our region is a place of many assets and much potential, and to replace negative stereotypes with positive expectations necessary for success.

Q: What will success look like?

A: FAO is in its tenth year of service to Appalachian Ohio. As FAO anticipates the work of the next ten years, it has set the following targets:

1. Significantly increase the philanthropic resources available to support the region. This includes growing FAO's assets from \$5 million in charitable funds to \$32 million in charitable funds, and growing the right mix of philanthropic resources to support our region, including:

- Local funds held for the benefit of communities so all counties have access to a source of sustained philanthropy to meet unique local needs and opportunities.
- Regional funds to support organizations and communities across Appalachian Ohio in efforts to enhance quality-of-life.
- A strategic portfolio of educational investment funds addressing barriers and opportunities faced in our region, including: mini-grants, large grants, scholarships, school system endowments and funding to enable leadership and convening activities and support to educators.

2. Help Appalachian Ohio not only overcome current educational attainment gaps, but lead the nation in participation in post-secondary education. To achieve this goal, FAO plans to:

- Facilitate funding to hundreds of community-based efforts that open doors of educational opportunity for thousands of youth.
- Support and nurture community-based education collaborations.
- Grow permanent resources to support educational access and success, including scholarships and school system endowments.

3. Increase regional pride to produce a climate in Appalachian Ohio that is ripe for success.

Externally, Appalachian Ohio will be known as a region of opportunity—as a region inhabited by educated, innovative people who are proud of their rich heritage and hopeful for their future—and as a region where people are actively employing talents, treasure and time in productive and fulfilling ways.

Within the region, all citizens - especially youth - will expect success, and they will understand that a "people" network is accessible to them to ensure no barriers to success stand in their way.



THE FOUNDATION FOR
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OHIO 

What are FAO's strategies?

1 Nurturing Philanthropy

by growing permanent funds and resources to support communities in enhancing quality of life.

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2 Creating Educational Opportunities

by helping the region leverage collective strengths to overcome barriers, promote innovation and secure funds and resources to solve problems and realize opportunities. FAO serves as the region's convener, fundraiser and partner in educational success.

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3 Promoting Regional Pride

by championing the region's assets to create positive expectations and by networking those passionate about the region to create relationships and funds that support the region's progress. FAO promotes regional pride through its signature *I'm a Child of Appalachia®* program, which includes a public relations campaign, programming in schools and a growing network of donors - the *I'm a Child of Appalachia Network®* (ICAN!).

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Nurturing Philanthropy



The core of FAO’s business as a foundation for our region is to provide charitable stewardship and fund management that enables donors to make the most of the financial gifts they make. Essentially, FAO is an umbrella of funds to support charitable activities in the Appalachian Ohio region.

FAO’s funds are established by individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits. They are created with a variety of gifts, including: cash, bequests, property or other assets. Further, FAO’s funds are advised in several different ways. For example, some are advised by regional committees and others by local committees or by the donors who established them.

While the tools of philanthropy often appears technical and cumbersome, FAO works to simplify the process of giving so donors can focus on what matters to them - making a difference. FAO has many resources to assist donors in leveraging and maximizing charitable contributions.

FUNDS

Currently, FAO manages the following funds on our region’s behalf:

Designated

Designated Funds are created to support specific nonprofit organizations, efforts or communities. These funds are frequently advised by the organizations or communities they benefit. Creating an endowed designated fund to support a favorite charity, such as a senior center, provides donors a way to create lasting support for causes they care about without adding administrative burden to these organizations.

Non-endowed designated funds:

- Leadership Guernsey
- The Athens Conservancy Fund
- The Guernsey County Foundation Fund
- Havar Fund
- Gallipolis/Gallia County Bicentennial Fund

Endowed designated funds:

- COAD Appalachian Development Fund
- Appalachian Community Visiting Nurses Association
- Hocking Area End of Life Care Fund
- DEVOTE Fund
- Future Generations Fund
- SPUR Fund
- Guernsey County Senior Citizen Center Fund
- United Seniors of Athens County
- New Haven School Fund
- The Guernsey County Foundation Endowment Fund
- The Morgan County Foundation Endowment Fund
- Byesville Rotary Fund
- Havar Endowed Fund
- Haven of Hope Endowment Fund

Scholarship

Scholarship Funds are created to support individuals in educational pursuits. Currently, donors can choose the option of having their fund advised by FAO’s scholarship committee, which includes representation from around the region, or the option of establishing an advisory committee unique to the scholarship fund they have established.

- Ariana R. Ulloa Scholarship Fund
- Bob Evans Memorial Fund for Scholarships
- Bellisio Scholarship Fund
- Forest Bachtel Scholarship Fund
- Cambridge High School Class of 1957 Scholarship
- Madison High School Alumni Scholarship
- Mary Kackley-Brill Scholarship
- Winnie Mae Sharpe Education Scholarship Fund
- Ora E. Anderson Scholarship Fund
- Cambridge Singers Scholarship Fund
- Jenny Cornelius-Woltz Memorial Scholarship
- Wayne F. White Scholarship Fund
- Doug Steele Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Endowments

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio Endowment is a growing fund that provides a permanent source of funding to support FAO in its mission to enrich quality of life in Appalachian Ohio.

Field-of-Interest

FAO Field-of-Interest Funds are created to provide grants through FAO that address challenges and opportunities shared by many communities in Appalachian Ohio. Currently, FAO has funds to support the areas of interest listed below. Grants from these funds are advised by FAO’s grants committee and professional staff. Any donor can give to these funds, or create a fund within these broader areas to target specific interests. The majority of FAO’s field-of-interest funds are endowed, permanent sources of regional funding

Education Funds

- Access to Education Mini-Grants Fund
- Economic & Community Development Fund
- Leadership Fund
- Support to Children, Youth and Families Fund

Health and Human Services

- Support to Children, Youth & Families Fund

Arts, Heritage and Cultural Interests

- Yellow Root Fund

Conservation

- AEP Access to Environmental Education & Stewardship Fund

Basic Needs

- September 11 Fund
- Emergency Needs Fund

FAO’s funds are established by individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits

Donor Advised

Donor Advised Funds are created to support donors in taking a more “hands on” approach to giving, by suggesting organizations to receive grants. Many donors find assistance from FAO staff to be helpful in making the greatest impact with their funds, and many have found the impacts of giving as a family to have great meaning.

- St. Dymphna Fund
- Southeast Ohio Hunger Relief Fund *(advised by group of donors, including faith based entities)*
- Kevin Ritz Family Foundation Fund
- Huffman Family Donor Advised Fund
- Virgie Lee McLaughlin Fund
- Sara Lee Stevens-Young Memorial Fund

Legacy

Legacy Funds are created to celebrate the memory of loved ones. The following legacy funds operate like field-of-interest funds at FAO with the exception that FAO seeks guidance on grant investments from external fund committees formed to support and direct activities of these funds.

- The Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- The Donald R. Myers Fund to Support Partnership in Appalachian Ohio



A basic charitable fund at FAO can be opened with a \$10,000 contribution.

Endowed funds exist into perpetuity, with the earnings and interests of these funds providing a permanent stream of support.

Many FAO donors say establishing a permanent fund - or planning to establish one through their will - is one of the most meaningful life experiences they’ve had.

New Funds at FAO

Growing Community Funds

Helping Local Communities Develop Funds

While the communities in our region share many of the same needs, particularly around educational access, they all also have unique needs and aspirations. FAO helps communities develop their local philanthropic capacity with fund management assistance, counsel, networking and encouragement.

Q: Why do many communities in Appalachian Ohio lack foundations?

A: Managing a community foundation is an administratively burdensome process, requiring significant expertise. Without a large base of assets, it is difficult for communities to provide staff to support and strategically invest charitable funds. Many communities in Appalachian Ohio do not have large bases of charitable assets and must pursue non-traditional approaches to growing community grantmaking, often mixing together many gifts and talents.

Q: What are Families of Funds at FAO?

A: Families of funds are clusters of charitable funds placed with FAO that are designated for a certain geographic community. Families of funds are a relatively new concept FAO has implemented in order to provide communities in our region the ability to receive the benefits of locally-driven community philanthropy. FAO has piloted the approach in Guernsey County, Ohio, through support from the Ford Foundation and others. In the summer of 2008, FAO partnered with the Morgan County Community Improvement Corporation in opening a fund for Morgan County. FAO is now assisting several other communities that are organizing to create families of funds.

Q: How do Families of Funds work?

A: Each family of funds has an “engine” fund advised by a board of local community members. The mission of this board is to develop grant resources to meet local needs and encourage others in the community to practice charitable giving. Those they encourage often create scholarships or other funds for specific local causes or organizations.

By clustering the funds, the community creates energy for giving and attracts additional investment. FAO assists by assuming the administrative responsibilities of fund management.

Guernsey County Celebrates Million Dollar Milestone & Embarks on Endowments

In the fall of 2007, the Guernsey County Family of Funds, a collection of charitable funds benefiting Guernsey County that is held with FAO, grew to \$1 million in charitable assets. Today, the Guernsey County Family of Funds encompasses 15 separate funds and annually awards more than \$27,000 in scholarships.

One exciting development for the Guernsey County Family of Funds in the last year was the establishment of the Citizens for Rolling Hills Endowment Fund, which will support educational activities for children in the Rolling Hills School District. The fund will provide grants in all educational areas, with an initial emphasis on enhancing math and science capacities and providing resources not currently supplied through public support.

The Citizens for Rolling Hills Endowment Fund made its first grants this year, supporting an “exploring science” program for



▲ The Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship Fund was created in late 2007 through a bequest to the Guernsey County Family of Funds. This spring, it awarded 16 scholarships, totaling \$19,000.

Jamie Bates, a 2008 recipient of the Ellwood Scholarship met with the FAO Board to discuss the difference the scholarship made to her. “I am from a farming family, and though I always dreamed of going to college, it would not have been possible without this scholarship.” Jamie is attending Muskingum College and is majoring in Neuroscience.

second, third and fourth graders and also the purchase of scientific calculators for algebra students. These investments make a big difference in a time when the average school teacher spends up to \$1,000 out of pocket per year on school supplies and enrichment materials.⁴

With the Citizens for Rolling Hills Endowment Fund as an example, the Guernsey County Foundation Fund is supporting donors in beginning school system endowments for other districts in Guernsey, and FAO is supporting other communities around the region in replicating the model.

The Guernsey County Family of Funds:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| The Cambridge Foundation | Mary Kackley-Brill Scholarship | Doug Steele Memorial Scholarship |
| Guernsey County Foundation Fund | Blaine and Martha Neillely Scholarship | Jenny Cornelius – Woltz Memorial Scholarship |
| McManus-Shepard Fund | Winnie Mae Sharpe Education Fund | The Haven of Hope Endowment Fund |
| Kevin Ritz Family Foundation Fund | CHS Class of 1957 Scholarship | The Cambridge Singers Scholarship Fund |
| Guernsey County Senior Citizen Fund | Madison High School Alumni Scholarship | Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship Fund |
| Leadership Guernsey Fund | Byesville Rotary Fund | The Citizens for Rolling Hills Schools Endowment Fund |

Morgan County Creates Fund to Enhance Economic Development

In the summer of 2007, the Morgan County Community Improvement Corporation established the Morgan County Community Foundation Fund. Here is what local leaders had to say at a meeting commemorating the fund:

“The Community Improvement Corporation has created 450 new jobs in the last 18 months. This economic success is phenomenal, and in order to sustain it, we need to also develop the arts and cultural aspects of our community. That is what the Morgan County Foundation is designed to do for us. It will be a powerful leveraging and sustaining element to our economy.”

Mike Workman, Director of the Morgan County Community Improvement Corporation

“Our goal to grow this fund to a million dollars in three years is not far fetched. There are a lot of people in the community who are very successful. I think people are going to start making gifts because this fund has opportunity to make good things happen.”

Mayor John Wells with the City of McConnsville

“Economic development is not going to give you everything. You need cultural development along with it. Without it, you are not going anywhere.”

Mayor Richard Wetzel from the Village of Chesterhill

Q: What are School System Endowments?

A: School system endowments are permanent sources of funds to support educational activities of school systems. The funds are typically advised by community members and alumni, who work to prioritize the fund’s uses to meet local needs, in order to provide meaningful financial support to teachers, administrators and students.

This economic success is phenomenal, and in order to sustain it, we need to also develop the arts and cultural aspects of our community



▲ Commemorating the Opening of the Morgan County Foundation Fund

From left to right: Howard Troutner, Director of School Improvement, Morgan Local Schools; Mike Workman, Director of the Morgan County Community Improvement Corporation; John Wells, Mayor of McConnelsville. Seated: Cara Dingus Brook, President and CEO of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio; Linetta Gilbert, Senior Program Officer with the Ford Foundation.



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4 The Need and Our Solution, Crayons to Computers, www.crayons2computers.org

New Funds at FAO

Growing Regional Funds

Regional Fund Continues Economic Development

Leader's Passion for Collaboration and Addressing Basic Needs



The family of the late Donald Myers -

Daughter, Kelly, seated left, wife, Linda, and son, Eric - pose for a picture after a memorial service, where the new legacy fund at FAO was announced. Pictured from left to right: Lisa DuVall of the governor's office; State Rep., Mark Okey; State Rep., Allen Sayre; Holmes County Commissioner, David Hall; Congressman, Zack Space; Columbia Gas representative, Ray Frank; the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President, Cara Dingus Brook; and Dale Hileman, executive director of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance.

Mr. Donald R. Myers was a passionate advocate for Appalachian Ohio who dedicated himself to improving the region, especially by championing its needs and bringing community leaders together for partnership and educational opportunities. When he passed away unexpectedly in April 2008, many people felt his loss deeply. As a way to continue Myers' legacy, several of his colleagues partnered with FAO to establish the Donald R. Myers Fund to Support Partnership in Appalachian Ohio. Columbia Gas of Ohio contributed the initial \$10,000 to open the fund.

The fund in Myers' name will provide a permanent source of

funding to support the region's nonprofit and government organizations in collaborative activities that benefit quality of life. Investments from the fund will be advised by a committee of private and public sector leaders from around the region, including representation from two organizations Mr. Myers led, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association and the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance. The committee's initial goal is to utilize the fund to initiate and support efforts that address basic needs of children living in poverty, with a focus on education.

New St. Dymphna Fund

Addressing Mental Health Barriers in Appalachian Ohio

One of the FAO's newest donor advised funds is the St. Dymphna Fund, which was established by Frank and Christine Cugliari. St. Dymphna is the patron saint of mental health, an issue the Cugliaris want to address because of the impact it has had on their families.

According to Christine, one purpose of this fund is to annually give an award to an individual who has done outstanding work to increase the awareness of mental health concerns and needs. This award would be given in May, which is mental health awareness month.

As the fund grows, it will also provide grant money to increase awareness of mental health. Some examples of how funds might be awarded include for community events such as public speakers or workshops and educational activities at public and private secondary schools.

At this point, all distributions from the fund will be concentrated in Gallia, Tuscarawas and Coshocton counties. Christine is from Gallia, Frank is from Tuscarawas and they reside in Coshocton. They welcome the contributions of others to expand the ability of the fund to impact other communities in Appalachian Ohio.

A "New Day" and New Fund

Addressing Hunger in Appalachian Ohio

More than 30% of Appalachian Ohio's population lives below the poverty line. In ten of the region's counties, one-third of all residents are served by food pantries.³ While FAO is typically focused on long-term, sustained efforts, the crisis of food shortages that hit food pantries this year called for special assistance from FAO. As one board member phrased it, "how can we educate kids if they're hungry?"

In early 2008, food pantries and banks reached unprecedented shortages as demands for their services increased. Many were forced to close and cut back on distributions. While the news hit all areas of our state, it especially impassioned donors living in the Columbus area. As a result, FAO was able to partner with donors at the Columbus Foundation to establish a fund at FAO to help meet emergency hunger needs. Since the partnership began, FAO and the Columbus Foundation have provided over \$30,000 in grants to the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank.

One of the most high-impact grants from this fund established a permanent food purchasing program for the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank, which serves 200 pantries in Appalachian Ohio. The program will enable the food bank to purchase food strategically in order to earn income for future food purchases. When the food bank's director, Dick Stephens, met with FAO to announce the grant, he declared it was a "new day" for the food bank.

Another "new day" in hunger relief came to our region in late summer of 2008. After a trip to southeastern Ohio - where he saw over 700 cars lined up in Logan, Ohio for a food distribution from the Smith Chapel - Jeff Davidson was inspired to make a change. As a result of that trip, Davidson and his wife, Helen, who live in Dublin, Ohio, have started the Southeast Ohio Hunger Fund. Distributions from this fund are being used to assist food pantries in the region with bulk purchases in collaboration with a network of faith-based entities. The Davidsons welcome and are actively seeking contributions to their fund.



Celebrating a delivery of ground turkey

From left to right, Troy Dugan of World Harvest; Marilyn Sloan of the Southeast Ohio Regional Food Bank; Dean Cole, board member for the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio; Bob Rite of World Harvest; Holly Duell, director of donor services and outreach for the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio; Tom Yaskoff of the Southeast Ohio Regional Food Bank; and Jeff Davidson of the Southeastern Ohio Hunger Fund.

Regional Fund Will Continue Naturalist's Legacy

Environment, Passion and Stewardship

Ora Anderson was a well-known and loved advocate for the environment whose passion for conservation and the natural world influenced thousands of people. Anderson's dedication to preserving the natural beauty of Appalachian Ohio dated back to the 1930s, when he was a young reporter covering the establishment of the Wayne National Forest. Over the next seven decades, Anderson was a tireless advocate for conservation and a keen observer of nature, authoring several essays and poems and carving replicas of the birds to share his passion with others.

When he passed away in 2006 at the age of 94, his family and friends decided to continue his legacy of helping people to appreciate the natural world, by beginning an endowed fund to support such activities.

The Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio - which has received contributions from across the state and



▲ Ora Anderson

marketing and other support from the Hocking Valley Bank - will provide a permanent source of charitable funding for conservation activities and programs in the areas of watershed restoration, sustainable forest practices and promotion of the region's cultural and environmental history. Through this fund, Anderson's legacy of celebrating and protecting the natural beauty of Appalachian Ohio continues.

Anderson's legacy of celebrating and protecting the natural beauty of Appalachian Ohio continues

AEP to Support Environmental Education

FAO will draw on the endowment to provide mini-grants to schools and community youth organizations



▲ Celebrating a Million Dollar Commitment

From left to right, Dave Celona, Vice President of External Affairs for AEP Ohio and FAO trustee; Jennifer Simon, FAO Vice Chair; Cara Dingus Brook, FAO President and CEO; Joe Hamrock, CEO, AEP Ohio; Ron Strickmaker FAO Board Chair; Mike Brooks, FAO "Child of Appalachia" honoree and volunteer.

In July 2008, American Electric Power committed over half a million dollars to the region through a field-of-interest fund at FAO. This endowed fund will be a permanent source of grant support for efforts to protect and preserve Appalachian Ohio's natural resources.

Over the next several years, FAO

will draw on the endowment to provide mini-grants to schools and community youth organizations for activities that encourage environmental stewardship and increase awareness of and appreciation for local natural resources. As the endowment grows, so will the size and number of grants available.

In addition to this endowment, AEP will provide \$150,000 over four years to support FAO's growth and efforts to enhance the quality of life in Appalachian Ohio, including support of its *I'm a Child of Appalachia®* Network program.

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Creating Educational Opportunity

FAO Grants

The POWER of small grants

Since 2005, FAO has focused its discretionary grant capacity to support efforts that encourage and enable students of all ages in our region to access educational experiences. FAO has found relatively small investments – “mini-grants” ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 – can have a significant impact when fueled by the energy, ideas and passion of this region’s communities and citizens.

Over the last three years, FAO has invested over \$193,407 through 76 education-related mini-grants.



Removing Barriers & Encouraging Success in Scioto County

In 2006, only 17.2% of the students at the Scioto County Technical Center were continuing their educations beyond high school. Most students at the school had parents who had not attended college. In order to encourage and enable students to explore post-secondary opportunities, the vocational school applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from FAO to support a Promoting Academic Student Success (PASS) initiative.

With the grant funding, the school provided remedial coursework, including tutoring for the ACT college entrance exam, and

took 74 students on a college campus visit. The school also helped students and their families explore financial aid options and paid the ACT fees for students who could not afford to take the test.

Students learned about the importance of ACT participation in transitioning to higher education and the relevance of college preparation. As a result of these efforts, over 26.7% of Scioto County Career Center students who graduated in 2007 pursued education beyond high school.

Encouraging Students to Dream in Perry County

Lynann Bolyard, a guidance counselor at Miller High School in the Southern Local School District, is on a mission to encourage students in one of Ohio’s most economically challenged school districts to “Dream Big,” particularly when it comes to attending college. In a school where the parents of only two students in the 2006 graduating class had bachelor’s degrees, Bolyard finds her personal interventions and encouragement can make a difference in students’ decisions to pursue postsecondary education.

In 2007, Bolyard applied for a \$5,000 grant from FAO to create the Southern Local Dream Big Project. The goal of this project is to increase the number of graduates who go to college by making students aware of the myriad career and post-secondary education options available to them.

FAO awarded funding to Bolyard, and the impact of the grant is evident in the fact that 41 of the 53 seniors who graduated from Miller High School in the spring of 2007 pursued higher education. Also, more students are taking the ACT and attending college, going to both two and four year institutions.

A shining example of the Dream Big project is seen through a student who had a learning disability but excelled in math and science. With the help of Dream Big, he was able to take the ACT college entrance exam with appropriate accommodations for his learning disability. This resulted in increasing his score from 17 to 26. After this success, Dream Big helped him secure financial assistance for college.

The student now attends a university in the region, where he is studying to become a high school science teacher. Lynann and the Dream Big program encouraged the student to dream of the career opportunities in

2008 FAO Mini-Grants

FAO planted many additional seeds with Access to Education “mini-grants” this year. At the time this report went to press in 2008, FAO had awarded the following mini-grants for projects that support access to education, with plans to award several more grants in the calendar year. The grantees are listed below by county.

Athens - \$500 to Athens County Farmer’s Market for Kids Can Cook! Campaign, including summertime cooking classes called the “Farmers Market Lunch Bunch.”

Belmont - \$500 to Ohio State University Extension to provide educational materials for a wellness seminar for high school girls in Belmont County.

Clermont - \$1,000 to Batavia Elementary School to provide transportation support to enable low-income children to attend an after school enrichment project.

Columbiana - \$733 to Community Action Head Start to purchase books for “Head Start Reads,” which will provide 444 children with three free books each over the course of the program year.

Coshocton - \$2,500 to Coshocton Head Start to purchase educational software for 20 donated computerize, making possible a computerized reading and learning program for preschoolers.

Gallia - \$1,000 to support the “FACTS/New Alternatives” Gallia Jackson Mentoring Project in providing activities and mentors for “at risk” youth in Gallia and Jackson counties.

Gallia - \$1,500 to support the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center in establishing a Families Reading Every Day Parent Center at Vinton Elementary where parents can meet and acquire training and materials related to literacy skills.

Hocking - \$1,750 to the Juvenile Drug Court for an innovative Reclaiming Futures Initiative that will support at-risk youth in developing socialization behaviors.

Holmes - \$1,000 to Wayne College Holmes Center for the College Readiness Partnership, which will encourage individuals to go on for secondary education by providing information about the college experience.

Jackson - \$1,250 to Southeast Regional Library Systems to purchase materials to be included in Reading Adventure Treasure Chest kits to encourage literacy and learning.

Lawrence - \$2,500 to Ironton Lawrence County Community Action Organization Family Guidance Center to support the YEA After-School Program, which provides a safe, structured environment and mentoring for students.

Meigs - \$650 to the Meigs County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program to provide supplies for fourteen third grade classes to make wall hangings with assistance from senior citizen volunteers through the Seniors in Schools program.

Morgan - \$1,500 to the Multicultural Genealogical Center to create the I’m a Child of Morgan County program, which will have 5th and 6th graders interview the oldest members of their family, create books and give a school performance.

Muskingum - \$1,500 to Zane State College to support Zane State College and partners in offering a series of five college-access workshops for high-school students, including a “College Prep Crash Course” workshop and a “Financial Aid 101” workshop.

Perry - \$1,915 to Crooksville High School for the purchase of equipment needed for the “Click it to achieve it” program, which supports test preparation with fun learning experiences and immediate feedback.

Pike - \$2,500 to South Central Ohio Computer Association to partially fund online technologies to be used by the South Central Ohio Computer Association Blackboard Consortium, which consists of 30, mostly low-wealth, Appalachian school districts.

Ross - \$1,692 to the Ross County Health District to support a life skills program for 7th-grade students in Huntington School District that teaches drug resistance, personal self-management and general social skills.

Scioto - \$1,500 to Northwest Elementary to enable Project B.A.T.S., or “Bridging Authors To Students,” which connects Ohio authors with school children as part of an annual reading week.

Tuscarawas - \$930 to Indian Valley High School to develop a project that will increase cultural awareness by involving high school classrooms in teaching younger students about different cultures, including the Hispanic Culture.

Washington - \$2,000 to Frontier Middle School for a project to encourage student success and interest in scientific subjects with a focus on helping students master Ohio Achievement Test content.

FAO Grants Review Committee Members Include:

- Jennifer Simon, *Chair, CEO, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce and President, Athens Economic Development Council*
Bob Garbo, *Director, Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Agency*
MarJean Kennedy, *Marketing & Business Development Manager, Holzer Clinic*
Jeff Doose, *Partner, ADENA Ventures* • Holly Plant, *Nurse, Perry County*
Valerie Heiby, *Director of Development, Finance Fund* • B. J. Smith, *Director of External Affairs for AT&T Ohio*

Q: What are FAO’s Goals for its Access to Education Mini-Grants Program?

A: The goal of FAO’s education mini-grants is to open doors of educational opportunity for students by supporting community groups and nonprofits in educational access projects. FAO is working to secure sponsors of its program in order to increase its mini-grants output to \$300,000 over the next three years.

Q: Where does FAO get funding for its Education Access Mini-Grants?

A: FAO uses several sources of funding, including contributions from private individuals and corporate partners, as well as FAO’s Education Grantmaking Endowment. Anyone can make a gift to this fund.

Q: Who advises FAO on its Education Access Grants?

A: FAO works with a diverse committee of citizens from the region to make decisions. This committee draws from a broad range of experiences and expertise, including from the fields of poverty relief, education, business and nonprofit management.

2007-2008 Grants from FAO

John Glenn High School Orchestra.....	\$500
Cambridge Rotary Foundation.....	\$1000
Cambridge Area YMCA Development Foundation	\$2000
Zanesville Thursday Music Club	\$2500

OSU- James Cancer Hospital.....	\$20,000
Union Local Middle School.....	\$500
Westview Elementary School	\$500
Blaine & Martha Neilley Scholarship Fund	\$500
Miller Middle School.....	\$500
Athens Middle School.....	\$500
Fairland West Elementary	\$500

East Muskingum Student Endowment Fund.....	\$10,000
WOUB Center for Public Media.....	\$3500
Hocking Athens Perry Community Action.....	\$42,165
Cambridge Little League	\$3200
National Multiple Sclerosis Society.....	\$50
John Gee Black Historical Center.....	\$1100

French Art Colony.....	\$1400
Gallia County Genealogical Society.....	\$2500
Ohio Valley Resource Conservation	\$500
Ohio University Office of Research & Sponsored Programs	\$1000
Casa de Esperanza de los ninos Foundation	\$50

FAO Scholarships

2008 High School Scholarship Recipients

Research shows that the lack of financial aid and the awareness of financial aid is a major barrier in our region. This barrier only increases as the cost of tuition increases. FAO has found that even modest scholarships can make a significant difference between whether or not a student attends college.



Karen Guerrero
Ariana R. Ulloa Scholarship



Julie Mann
Ariana R. Ulloa Scholarship



Angela Young
Bellisio Foods Scholarship



Chelsea Milligan
Doug Steele Memorial Scholarship



Amy Barr
Forrest Bachtel Scholarship



Kirk Legar
Forrest Bachtel Scholarship



Steven Stewart
Forrest Bachtel Scholarship



Molly Scholl
Jenny Cornelius-Woltz Scholarship



Cody Fehrman
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Janelle Givens
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship
Cambridge High School Class of '57 Scholarship



Jamie Bates
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Jarrod Gray
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Jessie Piccin
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Kristina Mason
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Kyle Frame
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Meghan Fedorke
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Philip Biggs
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Sarah Nichols
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Taryn Stone
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Traci Thompson
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Loren West
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Emily Box
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship



Mary Bowen
Ora E. Anderson Scholarship



Kylie Drake
Wayne F. White Scholarship



Michael Krak
Lester D. and Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Samantha Elliot
Bellisio Foods Scholarship

Ashley Jochim
Bellisio Foods Scholarship

Talisha Beha
Forrest Bachtel Scholarship

Kara Dolan
Lester D. & Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Amber Urdak
Lester D. & Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Kayla Moffett
Lester D. & Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Tim Nealey
Lester D. & Thelma I. Ellwood Scholarship

Brandon Ogdon
Madison High School Alumni Scholarship

Rory Cox
Mary Kackley-Brill Scholarship

Sarah Mauk
Ora E. Anderson Scholarship

Danielle Moore
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Eric Ousley
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Kayla Lowery
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Lauren Zink
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Lindsay Collart
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Meika Travis
Wayne F. White Scholarship

Shanna Newell
Wayne F. White Scholarship



Q: How are FAO scholarship requests reviewed and recommended to FAO's Board of Trustees?

A: Currently, scholarship funds at FAO can be advised in two ways: 1) by FAO's regional scholarship committee, which includes a diverse groups of citizens with expertise in education, or 2) by a committee established specifically to formulate recommendations regarding a particular scholarship. If the scholarship draws from its own committee, the fee for administering the fund is 1.5%. If FAO's scholarship committee assists, the fee is 2.5%.

Q: How can I establish a Scholarship Fund?

A: Scholarship Funds can be established with a gift of \$10,000. Donors can name their fund and work with FAO staff to design criteria and eligibility requirements. Please note, FAO's policies recommend scholarships should grow to \$15,000 - \$25,000 before making awards; the threshold that needs to be met depends on how the scholarship will be advised (a higher threshold if the scholarship is drawing on FAO's committee).

Bellisio Foods Company Scholarship Celebrated

From Left to Right: Amanda Beers; Marianne Campbell, FAO Scholarship Committee Chair; Jonathan; Brooke Sollars; Christina Highland and Joel Conner, CEO, Bellisio Foods

FAO serves as the region's convener, fundraiser and partner in educational success.

FAO has invested 1.3 million in grants and scholarships since 1998.

Over the last three years, FAO has invested over \$193,407 through 76 education-related mini-grants.

Promoting Pride in Appalachian Ohio

One of FAO’s core values is pride in our region. FAO is committed to publicly championing Appalachian Ohio - its traditions, legacies, artistry, generosity and natural beauty - to “shine a light” on the region’s many assets and vast potential. To ensure people hold high expectations for what the citizens of Appalachian Ohio can accomplish, FAO has developed a signature public relations and outreach program, *I’m a Child of Appalachia®*. Through the *I’m a Child of Appalachia* campaign, FAO prompts conversations about Appalachian Ohio’s strengths and what the region’s citizens are capable of accomplishing, particularly if they pursue educational opportunities.

Although education and opportunity go hand-in-hand, in Appalachian Ohio, the absence of economic opportunity has often meant lack of educational opportunity. While financial challenges are significant, cost is not always the biggest barrier to college attendance. A culture of low expectations persists, and many students have little confidence in their academic capabilities. The *I’m a Child of Appalachia®* initiative is working to change these expectations and perceptions. By showcasing “real life” success stories and prompting conversations and reflections among students about their life aspirations, we encourage young people to pursue their dreams.

The *I’m a Child of Appalachia* initiative has grown to create a network of supporters, the *I’m a Child of Appalachia® Network*, or ICAN! The goal of this group of donors, who support FAO with annual gifts to fund FAO’s programs, is to ensure there is a full network of financial support and motivational encouragement in the region to eliminate any barriers between its citizens and their dreams.

2007 “Child of Appalachia®” Honorees Senator John and Annie Glenn

Appalachian Ohio’s greatest asset is its people, so each year FAO honors outstanding citizens from our region as “Children of Appalachia.” As we honor these individuals for the difference they have made, we share their stories and emphasize how educational opportunities have been important aspects of their lives.

In fall 2007, FAO recognized United States Senator John Glenn and his wife, Annie, as our *I’m a Child of Appalachia®* honorees during the annual *I’m a Child of Appalachia®* celebration held in Zanesville, Ohio.

The Glenns are natives of Muskingum County and graduates of Muskingum College. Mrs. Glenn, who once struggled with a severe stuttering problem, is an inspiring model of success in overcoming challenges and has been a dedicated and effective advocate for those who struggle with communicative disorders.

Senator Glenn, who was a fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean conflict, became the first astronaut to orbit the earth in 1962. He later served four terms as a U.S. Senator for Ohio and, at the age of 77, he became the oldest human to venture into space.

When accepting the recognition, the Glenns spoke of the importance of encouraging Appalachian Ohio students to find their passions and talents and to follow their dreams. “Organizations like the Foundation are literally changing lives and providing stepping stones to better things through grants and scholarships,” said Senator Glenn. “We have to take responsibility to give our students the education they deserve.”

The Glenns join an ever-growing family of honorees who are from the region and have made a difference in their communities and the world.

I’m a Child of Appalachia 2008 Essay Contest

As part of the *I’m a Child of Appalachia®* public awareness campaign, FAO holds an essay contest each fall for students in grades four through eight. The students respond to a prompt that encourages them to reflect on what they aspire to achieve and what it means to grow up in Appalachian Ohio. By prompting classroom and family discussion in these issues, FAO is working to create positive expectations for success.

More than 900 students from all 29 counties of Appalachian Ohio submitted entries to the 2007 prompt which asked: “Who in your life has been a positive influence, planting seeds of encouragement for you?” Students and faculty in the English education department of Muskingum College screened the essays and selected one winner and several honorable mentions from each grade level.

Thanks to sponsorship from American Electric Power and Edward Jones, winners in each grade received a \$100 savings bond and their teachers received a \$500 classroom grant. The top 40 essays were compiled into a booklet, which is available as a PDF document on the Foundation’s Web site www.appalachianohio.org



Essay contest winners with Senator Glenn and his wife ▲

Top winners of 2007 essay contest where the students answered the question, “Who in your life has been a positive influence, planting seeds of encouragement for you”. In grade order—4th Grade: Benjamin Beaty, Fairland West Elementary, Lawrence County; 5th Grade: Amy Hill Smith, Westview Elementary, Jackson County; 6th Grade: Seth Hardman, Union Local Middle School, Belmont County; 7th Grade: Emily Swackhamer, Miller Middle School, Perry County; 8th Grade: Anne Li, Athens Middle School, Athens County

Essay Excerpts

“I was talking to her and she was looking at me hard and seemed like she was trying to put it together in her head. I felt she was really listening to me.”
— Fourth grader Peter Manchester
in an essay about his grandmother.

“She has taught me...I get to pick what kind of person I want to be. Nobody else can make me be somebody I don’t want to be.”
— Fifth grader Katie Pittman
in an essay about her mother.

“On the side of the barn my mom painted ‘The Sky is the Limit.’ I believe that is true.”
— Sixth grader Samantha Goings in an essay about her mother.

Past Children of Appalachia



David Wilhelm

“The story of Appalachian Ohio is a story of boom and busts and chicken coops, but it is also a story of people who cared a great deal about education. I think we come out of the southeastern Ohio hills with some lessons in life that give us a competitive edge.”



Mike Brooks

“Growing up in Nelsonville taught me to value and appreciate small-town America and the importance of educational opportunities to ensure the success of our region’s families and hometowns. “



Bob Evans 1918-2007

“As a former member of the Ohio Board of Regents, I know the importance of education to open the minds of our youth in Appalachia. A college education is crucial to their future job success.”



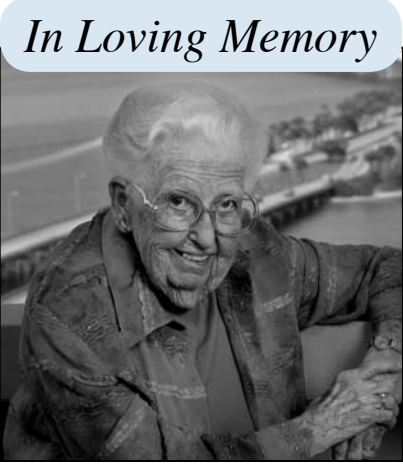
Wayne White 1942-2004

“Appalachians are proud, patriotic, hardworking, honest individuals. However, these attributes are not sufficient for Appalachians to fully participate in the current economic growth our country is experiencing. In today’s fast-paced and technology-driven economy, advanced skills and a lifelong commitment to training are essential to secure and keep a meaningful, living-wage job.”



Nancy Zimpher

“Since my mother was a teacher at my high school, I learned, early on, the value of higher education and chose to take advantage of every educational opportunity.”



In Loving Memory

Leona Hughes

Leona Hughes, a child of Appalachia from Oak Hill in Jackson County, passed away at the age of 99 on July 24, 2008. Hughes is lovingly remembered as a dedicated philanthropist with a strong interest in education. She and her husband were instrumental to founding Ohio University’s Leona and Lewis Hughes Manasseh Cutler Scholarships, including four annual tuition scholarships to students from Oak Hill. When interviewed on her support for children in Appalachian Ohio, she said:

“I think if [Appalachian Ohio students are] given a chance, they will surprise us. There is talent, there is interest, there is willingness to give back. You take a chance on every one of them. It’s the ones who succeed you have to pay attention to because they can make the beginning of a change.”





The I'm a Child of Appalachia Network (ICAN!)

In her 2006 *I'm a Child of Appalachia®* Essay, contest winner Katie Lambert from Pike County wrote the most special thing about Appalachian Ohio was, “The people here who support me...I will succeed because I’m from Appalachia Ohio.” With the ongoing support of donors and volunteers, FAO will continue to remove barriers and build resources necessary for success.

The *I'm a Child of Appalachia Network* is a group of citizens working to accomplish Katie’s vision; to ensure Appalachian Ohio communities have the support necessary to accessing all opportunities. These citizens accomplish this vision by fueling FAO with gifts of their time, talent and treasure.

ICAN! Members:

James Adornetto	Connie and Johnnie Freeman	Lumpe and Raber, Esq	Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Miner-	Straker Charitable
AEP	Bob Garbo	Allix Magaziner	als Association	Foundation
Ron Amstutz	Alan Geiger	Blair Magaziner	Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	Ron and Calista Strickmaker
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U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown	Valerie Heiby	Robert and Gayle	Roy Palmer	Kim Toussant
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We thank all who gave designated gifts for specific charitable funds and activities this past fiscal year:

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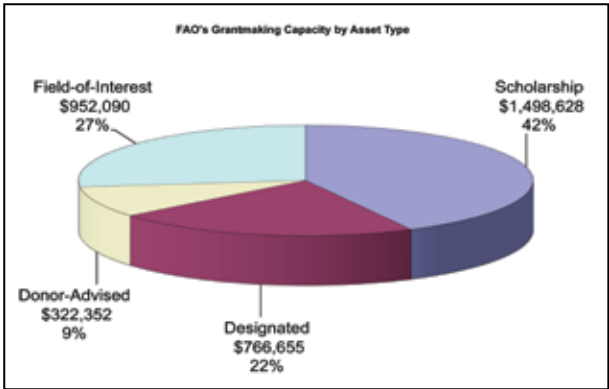
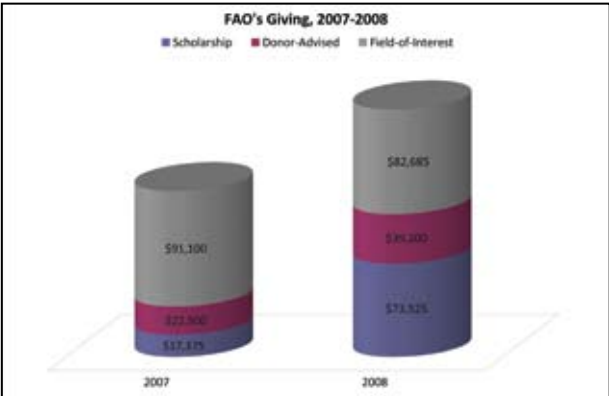
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Regis Woods
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Glenn Youngs

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
Statement of Financial Position

	2006	2007	2008
Assets			
cash and cash equivalents	197,469	169,710	342,768
pledges, grants and other receivables	382,677	259,617	398,548
Investments	1,015,452	1,115,897	1,013,611
Investments-endowment	1,948,737	3,168,119	2,920,300
Property and Equipment, net	10,063	8546	6,524
Total Assets	\$3,554,398	\$4,721,889	\$4,681,751
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts payable	\$15,453	\$3,524	\$6,185
Grants payable	\$500	\$500	\$50
	\$15,953	\$4,024	\$6,235
Net Assets			
Unrestricted net assets	879,082	759,149	715,606
Unrestricted net assets, board designated	565,267	633,430	567,992
Temporarily restricted	823,764	1,097,181	540,445
Permanently restricted	\$1,270,332	2,228,105	2,851,474
Total Net Assets	\$3,538,445	\$4,717,865	\$4,675,516
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,554,398	\$4,721,889	\$4,681,751

FAO’s fiscal year runs from October 1- September 30
Complete audited financial statements are available upon request



www.appalacianohio.org

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