



Fostering Access to Opportunity

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

OUR GRATITUDE

2024 marks the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio’s 25th year of partnering with you, our community of givers, to foster access to opportunities and ensure our region’s people and communities flourish.

This is more than a moment in our collective history. It is a momentous testament to our collective impact. Because of your generosity and commitment to our mission, 2023 was a transformational year for our people and communities.

FAO started with visionaries who believed the people of our region have the same potential as people anywhere, but not always the same opportunities. The extraordinary journey they pioneered has brought us to this unprecedented year of support for the people and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

Guided by our founders' vision and our Pillars of Prosperity, we are nurturing an Appalachian Ohio where children and families have access to educational opportunities and arts and cultural experiences previously unavailable to them. Where strong, vibrant communities provide job and social opportunities that call our young people home. Where residents of all ages live longer, healthier lives and our natural environment is maintained for future generations.

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are transforming lives, building stronger communities and creating an Appalachian Ohio abundant in opportunities for all who call our region home today and for generations to come. And we are forever grateful.



Cara Dingus Brook
Cara Dingus Brook
President & CEO
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



Ronald Strickmaker
Ronald Strickmaker
Board Chair
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



Watch FAO’s State of the Foundation address from Giving Tuesday 2023.

OUR PILLARS OF PROSPERITY

Together with our community of givers, we advance lasting change across five areas that increase quality of life, known as our Pillars of Prosperity.



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

OUR BOARD

- Ronald Strickmaker, *Chair*
- Kristi Tanner, *Vice Chair*
- TJ Conger, *Treasurer*
- Nancy K. Lahmers, *Secretary*
- Jeffery Chaddock
- Tera N. Coleman
- Teri Geiger
- Megan Kvamme
- Christopher P. Mooney
- Marc D. Reitter
- Ken Taylor
- Sarah Wills
- Jo Ellen Diehl Yeary
- Nancy Lusk Zimpher

EMERITI

- Marianne Boggs Campbell
- Ron Cremeans
- Robert “Mick” McLaughlin

A record-breaking \$9.5 million was awarded in grants, scholarships and fellowships across our 32 counties.

A new program was launched to engage our youth as community builders.

A new fellowship program was developed to recruit, retain and support young leaders in 29 counties.

Our mobile vision clinic partnership made history and is being expanded statewide.

Today, FAO stewards \$105.5 million in charitable assets and more than 700 charitable funds.

OUR MISSION

We seek to unleash the potential within Appalachian Ohio by growing and leveraging gifts that advance sustained transformation.

OUR VISION

Appalachian Ohio is abundant in possibility for all who call our region home, today and in perpetuity.

Marianne Boggs Campbell

July 28, 1926 - Jan. 29, 2024

Marianne Boggs Campbell was among FAO's earliest and most long-standing believers, givers and doers.

If you knew Marianne, you know of the countless lives and hearts she touched through her love, generosity and commitment to community. If you never had the pleasure of knowing Marianne, know that your life, your community and the lives of future generations of Appalachian Ohioans are better because of her. We carry forward her vision, her love and her legacy – today and always.

“

Marianne taught us so much about how to live a good and joyous life. She found happiness in giving her gifts where they were needed. And she loved being part of a team advancing something far greater for the future. Her legacy is one of love, and her spirit and way of moving through the world has left an imprint on our community and on our hearts.

”

— CARA DINGUS BROOK, FAO PRESIDENT AND CEO





From birth, Marianne was a Child of Appalachia. Born and educated in Pittsburgh, Marianne found her way to Gallipolis in 1948 and spent the next 75-plus years seizing her moments of opportunity and creating mountains of opportunity for others.

She was a trailblazer – in her career and in her beloved Gallia County.

Marianne was instrumental in helping to establish WJEH-FM in Gallipolis, serving as general manager for 17 years and returning in her retirement years to host “Talk of the Town.” She was the first woman elected to the board of the Ohio Association of Broadcasters, the first to be elected director to the board of the National Association of Broadcasters and to the Radio Code Board, and the first woman to be president of the Broadcast Educators Association.

Marianne spent the second half of her career with Holzer Medical Center, where she helped establish its fundraising arm, known today as the Holzer Heritage Foundation.

Upon retiring, she jumped from career

to community, becoming a full-time volunteer for the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce and the Community Improvement Corporation of Gallia County. She went on to become the first woman president of both organizations.

Marianne understood many people in our region faced barriers to opportunities. Her wisdom and her genuine love of people placed Marianne among FAO’s earliest supporters and one of our most steadfast champions and visionaries.

A founding FAO board member (1999-2010) and one of our first board chairs (2004-2006), Marianne left her mark across our region and on our organization. FAO awarded just a few thousand dollars in support annually during our earliest years, but that total topped \$9.5 million in 2023, growth that can be attributed to the dedication of long-time leaders like Marianne. A brilliant marketing and communications professional, she even helped pen our first tagline, “Fostering Access to Opportunity,” and develop our award-winning *I’m a Child of Appalachia*® campaign.

Marianne was instrumental in founding FAO’s scholarship program and served as our first scholarship committee chair. Like all her other roles, she performed her duties as chair with immense energy and dedication, meticulously reviewing applications and working to ensure scholarship dollars were stretched as far as possible. She even called each scholarship recipient to congratulate them and encourage their future success.

Marianne shared FAO’s vision of ensuring every county in Appalachian Ohio be supported by a local community foundation and was an early champion for the creation of the Gallia Community Foundation. She also played a key role in establishing many local and regional endowments, including the Bill C. and Marianne B. Campbell Memorial Endowment Fund, which supports our work to remove barriers and create opportunities across our Pillars of Prosperity.

In 2014, FAO bestowed its highest honor – our *Child of Appalachia* Award – on Marianne in recognition of her lifetime commitment to serving others. She taught us how to live a life of joy and how to give deeply and fully.

Everything in this annual report – and all our past and future reports – would not have happened without Marianne’s early and continuous leadership. Her generosity, as

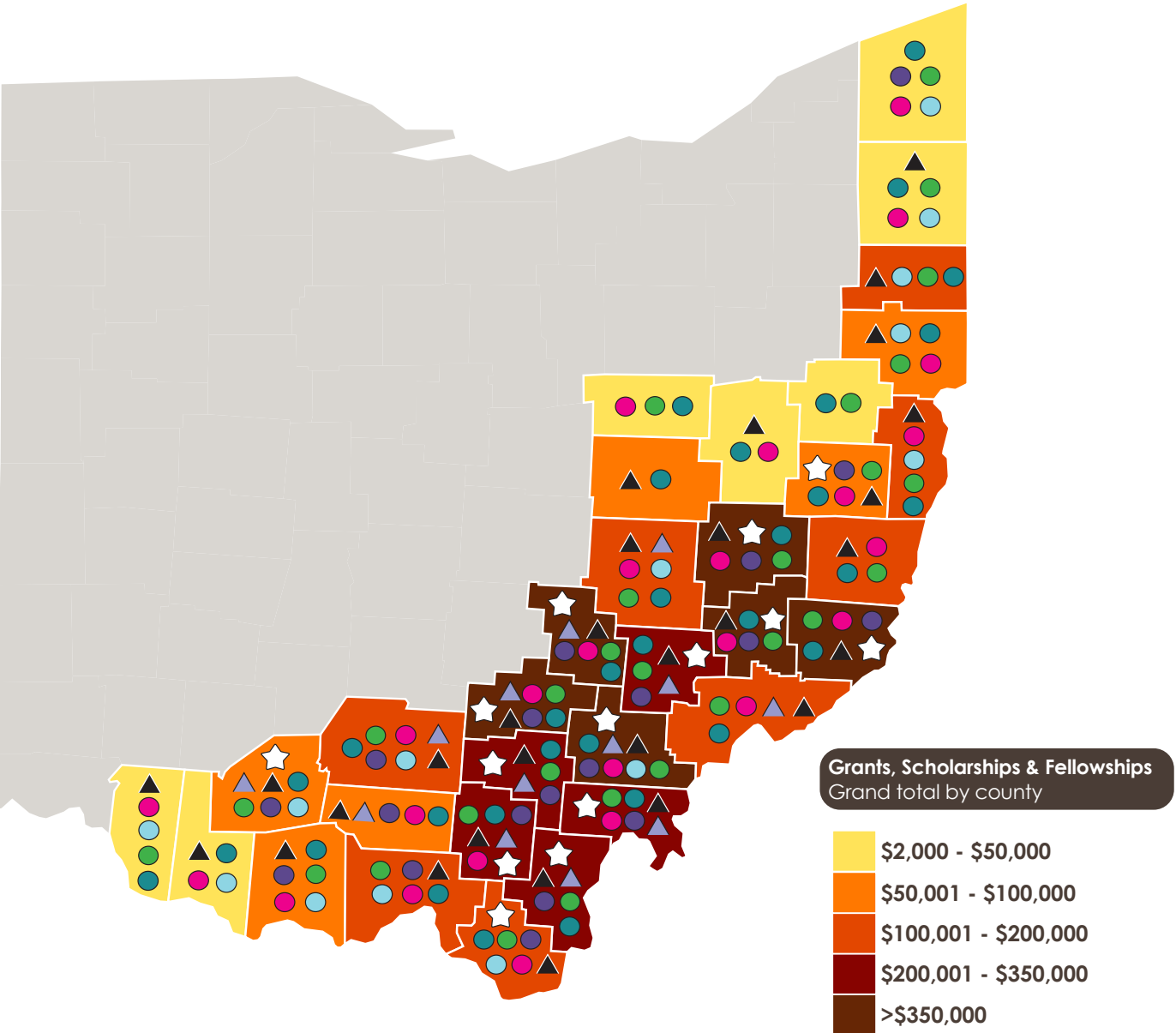
both a servant and a leader, has impacted the lives of all who call our communities home, today and forever. We are eternally grateful for and guided by our dear friend, our mentor, our Marianne.



Marianne Boggs Campbell embodied FAO’s *Child of Appalachia* Award to the fullest. Here, she is pictured receiving the award in 2014 with FAO President and CEO Cara Dingus Brook, FAO Board member Nancy Lusk Zimpher and Mary Ann Jorgenson.

Marianne Boggs Campbell was a woman of many firsts – and a woman determined to ensure that there was a second, third, fourth, etc. Dedicated to the outcomes of every task, she was equally as dedicated to the growth and success of the individuals involved.

Mapping your generosity in action



Community Affiliate Partners

FirstBook Registrations

Grant Recipients

Growing Home Fellows

Youth-Led Grants

Scholarship Recipients

AACF Grants

Mobile Vision Clinic Visits

Investing in our region's young leaders

In 2023, FAO partnered with our 15 affiliate foundations to award grants supporting projects developed and implemented by youth under age 18. These investments empower our young people's good work today and inspire them to embrace future roles as community builders. Thirty youth-led grants were awarded in 2023, including:



Fueling youth-established nonprofits and encouraging community service

Grants from the Jackson County Community Foundation are supporting two nonprofits established by local high school students to fulfill community needs: Kicks 4 Coats provides warm coats to Jackson County children ages 1-18, and Southern Ohio Soles Inc. gives shoes to students in need in Jackson County's public schools.



Equipping the next generation to preserve, share local history

A youth-led grant from the African American Community Fund is supporting a program that is training youth to become docents at Ashtabula County's Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum – investing in the preservation of local, state and national history and passing it on to the next generation.



Giving to the community while making county history

The Harrison County Community Foundation awarded a grant to a service-learning project spearheaded by four Harrison Central High School seniors who are creating the county's first-ever StoryWalk in partnership with their peers in the school's shop class.

GROWING HOME FELLOWSHIP



Our inaugural class of Growing Home Fellows gathered for its first retreat at Salt Fork State Park in Guernsey County in August 2023. In exchange for committing to live, work and volunteer in our region for five years, the fellows receive a financial stipend and access to a leadership program.

Activating our Growing Home Fellowship

While every Appalachian Ohio community is different, all share a need to retain and attract young leaders. That need inspired the creation of our Growing Home Fellowship, an investment to create a wellspring of future community builders in the region.

In 2022, the inaugural class of 121 fellows, the “Classroom to Community Cohort,” was selected. The fellowship’s leadership program, fueled by visionaries across Ohio and beyond who are giving their time, expertise and encouragement to the fellows, kicked off in 2023.

Watch our 2023 Growing Home Fellowship speakers

The first year of the Growing Home Fellowship saw leaders and visionaries across Ohio and beyond give their time, expertise and encouragement to our fellows – gifts that will inspire all those committed to our communities.



An inaugural gathering in the spring provided fellows a chance to network with one another, explore strength-based leadership and hear from individuals who are leading in their fields and in their communities.



An August retreat focused on health and wellness featured a lineup of healthcare leaders from across the state.



An October commissioning ceremony was followed by a keynote address by *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David Brooks.

The year ended with fellows developing service projects that will advance opportunities across our Pillars of Prosperity and our communities in 2024.

Classroom to Community Cohort Profile

18-35
year-olds who work
with our communities’
K-12 population

29 of 32
of our region’s counties
are served by
Growing Home Fellows



The desires of the second mountain are different: to lead a life of significance, to orient our lives toward the highest good, to commit to and serve ideals that are higher than the self.

- DAVID BROOKS

Convening community and inspiring engagement

Our vision transcends financial giving and asks us all to consider committing what we can to strengthen our communities and to be community to one another. FAO has a long history of being a conduit for community – of bringing people together to share ideas, to encourage one another and to build connections.

We took that vision to a new level last fall, hosting an evening focused on community building featuring *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David Brooks. As he shared insights from his book, “The Second Mountain,” he described how to build a meaningful life through service to your community, which Brooks described so simply but elegantly as “a group of people looking out for each other.”

Brooks’ presentation called us to think about how we can use our “second mountains” to build a bright future in our communities.



Watch our full event with David Brooks

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio hosted an evening celebrating and inspiring community building with *New York Times* columnist and best-selling author David Brooks on Oct. 7, 2023, at Logan High School.



In 2023, each of FAO's geographic affiliates hosted community events. Pictured here are Morgan Community Fund committee members at an event celebrating the Growing Home Fellows serving in Morgan County.

Affiliate foundations across the region



- African American Community Fund
- Gallia Community Foundation
- Guernsey County Foundation
- Harrison County Community Foundation
- Highland County Community Fund
- Hocking County Community Fund
- Jackson County Community Foundation
- Lawrence County Community Foundation
- Meigs County Foundation
- Monroe County Community Foundation
- Morgan Community Fund
- Nelsonville Community Foundation
- Noble County Community Foundation
- Community Foundation for Perry County
- Vinton County Community Fund

Supporting our affiliate foundations

FAO was founded upon our belief that access to local philanthropy is vital to a community's well-being. That mindset has fueled our work to establish 15 affiliate foundations across our region, culminating in 2022 with us meeting our goal of ensuring every county in Appalachian Ohio is served by a local community foundation.

In 2023, we built on these transformative partnerships, supporting our affiliate leaders in growing philanthropic resources for their communities. The result? A record-breaking year for our affiliates' grantmaking, which created many new opportunities across the Pillars of Prosperity.

186 Grants totaling \$528,348 Awarded in 2023



Want to learn more about our 15 affiliates?
Scan the QR code or visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

Championing Black philanthropy

Since its founding in 2020, the African American Community Fund (AACF), with support from the AEP Foundation, has awarded 70 grants to Black-led and Black-serving organizations whose programs and projects are addressing racial disparities and improving the physical, economic and structural conditions affecting quality of life across communities in Appalachian Ohio.

In 2023, AACF awarded a record 31 grants totaling more than \$175,000, including 10 capacity-building grants with funding from the U.S. Bank Foundation. AACF grants are providing nutritious foods for senior citizens in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties; supporting youth mentoring in Youngstown; creating access to career exploration opportunities in Muskingum County; advancing violence-prevention programming in Adams, Brown and Clermont counties; and more.

{ 70 GRANTS } awarded to Black-led and Black-serving projects across Appalachian Ohio since 2020.

Members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society joined artist Keith Wilde, Passion Works artists, local students and community volunteers to create faux stained-glass windows that will be installed on the church's historic windows while they are being preserved – a project that received grant funding from AACF.



Advancing our shared commitments

In 2023, donors created 62 new charitable funds at FAO. Behind each of those funds is a partnership rooted in our shared commitment to increasing opportunities for people and communities across Appalachian Ohio. Among those new funds and partnerships are:



MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Fund for Environmental Stewardship, managed by FAO, is a \$5 million endowment that is advancing the district's and FAO's commitment to enhancing conservation efforts throughout the region.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2023 and planted seeds for the future, investing \$5 million to create a new fund at FAO. The district's board of directors was presented FAO's 2023 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in celebration of its transformative gift and partnership.



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Edge of Appalachia – Adams County Fund, a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and FAO, provides an annual funding stream supporting Adams County residents and organizations by investing in projects that focus on people and nature, education and reducing disparities.



OHIOHEALTH

OhioHealth committed \$6 million to support the newly developed Southeast Ohio Health and Wellness Foundation Fund at FAO to advance health and wellness activities in the newly renamed OhioHealth Southeastern Medical Center's service area.

Contact our office to create your own fund and hear about our 2024 match opportunities!
740.753.1111 | info@ffao.org | www.AppalachianOhio.org | 35 Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764

Bringing vision care to the children of Appalachia – and beyond

2023 was a game-changer in our quest to ensure every child in Appalachian Ohio has access to vision care. What began as a pilot program sparked by an anonymous donor who had struggled with poor eyesight as a child has made Ohio history.

Last year, iSee with Vision To Learn, which provides students with free vision screenings, eye exams and prescription glasses through mobile vision clinics at schools, became the first program to successfully complete the Ohio Treasurer's Office's pay-for-success ResultsOHIO program. And in July 2023, the Ohio Legislature appropriated funds to begin statewide expansion of the program.

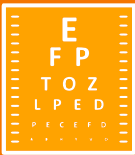
To celebrate the partners whose unique gifts made this program successful, FAO awarded its 2023 Changemaker of the Year Award to the Ohio Optometric Foundation and Association, Vision To Learn, Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague and his office's ResultsOHIO program.



TO DATE, ISEE WITH VISION TO LEARN HAS:



Distributed prescription glasses to **6,060** students



Provided **7,509** students eye exams



Need a reason to smile?
Watch this video of children trying on their glasses for the first time.



20 years of fueling educational and career goals

In 2003, Dr. Harry Keig left a bequest that established the Bachtel Scholarship – the very first scholarship fund at FAO – that supports the educational dreams of young people in Meigs County. Twenty years later, we are celebrating a total of 4,311 scholarships awarded through FAO across all 32 Appalachian Ohio counties thanks to donor generosity.

From our very beginning, FAO and our supporters recognized that one of the most impactful things we can do to create flourishing communities is to encourage our region's young people to believe in their potential and empower them to succeed. FAO's more than 280 donor-established scholarship funds are investments in future generations of our communities' leaders, workforce and changemakers.



\$593,000
in scholarship funding was awarded to 337 students in 25 Appalachian Ohio counties in 2023.





FAO President and CEO Cara Dingus Brook presents the Child of Appalachia Award to Dr. John Kopchick at his Ohio University laboratory surrounded by his team of students, postdoctoral fellows and investigators at the Edison Biotechnology Institute.

Celebrating our newest
Child of Appalachia Honoree

During our 2023 Giving Tuesday virtual celebration, we honored FAO's newest *Child of Appalachia* Honoree, Dr. John Kopchick – an exceptional man with a brilliant mind and generous heart whose story and successes are remarkable examples of what Appalachian Ohioans can achieve.

Born into a coal-mining family in western Pennsylvania, Kopchick was called home to Appalachia by opportunity. And he has been building opportunities in the region ever since.

One of Ohio University's first eminent scholars and a distinguished professor of molecular biology, Kopchick's ground-breaking discovery of a growth hormone antagonist became a life-saving drug used to treat acromegaly, a rare condition caused by excess growth hormone. His discovery also shows remarkable promise for the treatment of other diseases, including cancer.

A world-renowned scientist, Kopchick has received numerous awards and has used the royalties he's earned to create scholarships that are nurturing future scientists and innovators.

“
I just encourage other children of Appalachia to go with your passion. Go where your heart leads, and do something that may change the world.”

- DR. JOHN KOPCHICK



Watch our conversation with Dr. Kopchick.

A lifetime and legacy of love



Dorothy Rosalie Gettle lived a life of unwavering love and service to her hometown. Her commitment to make life better for her Nelsonville neighbors lives on through her lifetime achievements – and in the legacy she left behind.

When Nelsonville's historic school buildings faced demolition, Dorothy and two fellow Nelsonville High School graduates, Betty Jo Parsley and Anita McDonald, formed a nonprofit to preserve this treasured piece of local history. In 2016, a developer purchased the property and transformed it into affordable housing. Dorothy and her fellow community champions used proceeds from the sale to establish the Nelsonville Community Foundation at FAO.

Today, the Nelsonville Community Foundation has grown to nearly \$1.4 million in assets. And in 2023, it awarded more than \$29,000 across its family of funds to create opportunities for those residing in Nelsonville and the surrounding communities of Buchtel, Carbon Hill and Murray City.

Dorothy served on the Nelsonville Community Foundation committee from day one until her passing in August 2023, when she gave her last – and a lasting – gift to her beloved community: a planned gift through her will to forever support the foundation's work and mission.

To join Dorothy and many others in leaving a lasting legacy to the communities and causes closest to your heart, visit <https://ffao.giftlegacy.com/>.



Statements of financial position
as of December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,604,717	\$17,833,620
Current portion of pledges and grants receivable	729,963	496,693
Current portion of note receivable	264,101	260,171
Grant receivable	1,140,388	164,039
Prepaid expenses	29,188	22,794
Total current assets	11,768,357	18,777,317

OTHER ASSETS:

Investments in marketable securities	91,690,186	59,647,234
Pledges receivable, net of current portion and allowance	818,923	1,120,299
Note receivable, net of current portion	449,062	713,163
Total other assets	92,958,171	61,480,696

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Property and equipment	1,224,901	1,209,131
Less accumulated depreciation	(406,478)	(376,628)
Property and equipment, net	818,423	832,503
Total assets	\$105,544,951	\$81,090,516

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Agency funds	\$7,096,049	\$6,295,351
Accounts payable	71,581	81,702
Grants payable	237,911	47,458
Accrued benefits	38,149	45,522
Total current liabilities	7,443,690	6,470,033

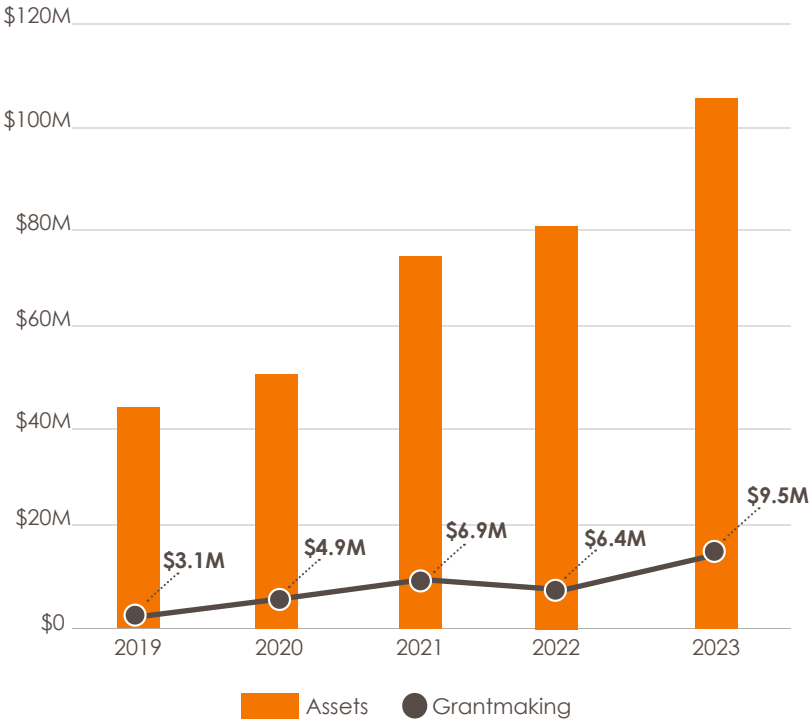
NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	33,778,134	14,540,621
With donor restrictions	64,323,127	60,079,862
Total net assets	98,101,261	74,620,483

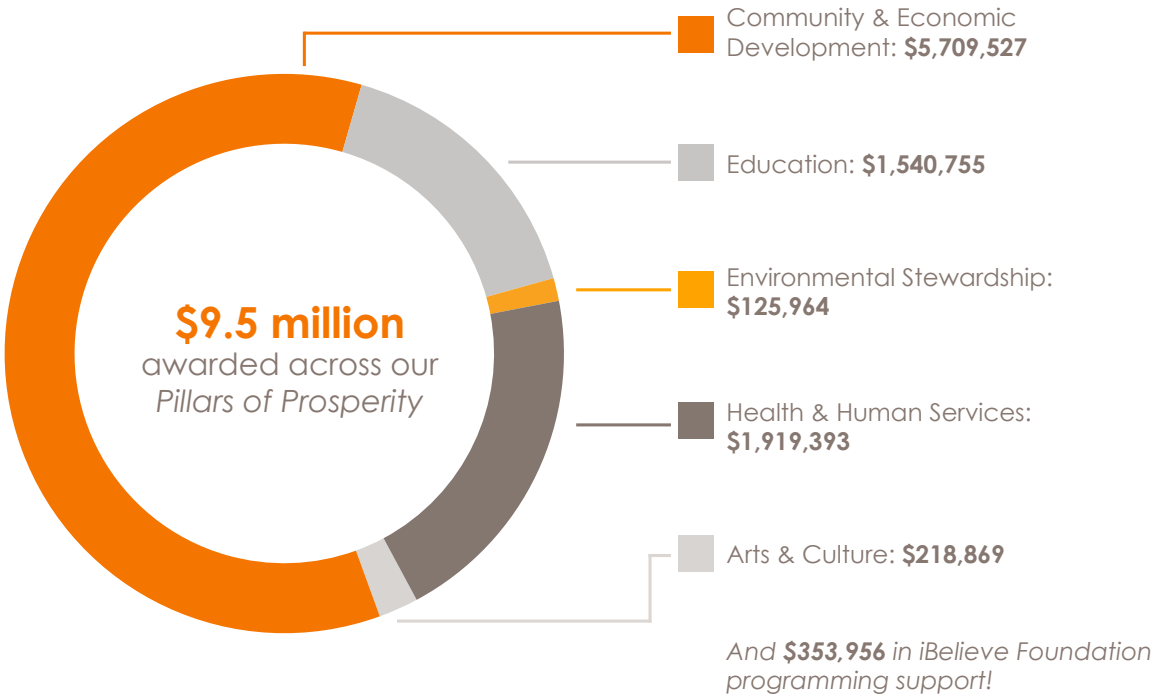
Total liabilities and net assets

\$105,544,951 **\$81,090,516**

Asset and grantmaking growth



2023 grants by pillar



The financial statements are audited annually by an independent public accounting firm, currently Rea & Associates, Inc. A copy of the 2022 audited financial statements may be obtained on the Foundation's website. A copy of the Foundation's 2022 tax filing, Form 990, may be obtained by contacting the Foundation's office. The Foundation is currently in the process of completing the 2023 audit and tax filings, which once completed will be available online.

Thank you, 2023 affiliate foundation partners!

Our affiliate foundations and the visionaries and leaders behind them are a vital part of our community of givers and our mission to create an abundance of possibilities for all who call our region home.

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY FUND

Ernest A. Bynum
Rosetta Carter
Tee Ford-Ahmed
Lawrence Funderburke
John Jackson
Ruth Lomax
Ken Mason
Michele Reynolds
Ralph Smithers Jr.

GALLIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Brandon Bartee
Olivia Rees
Nick Roach
Arun Sharma

GUERNSEY COUNTY FOUNDATION

William Black, Ex Officio
Cindy Bond
Dave Caldwell
Bryan Conaway
Matt Dolan
Jeff East
David Ellwood, Ex Officio
Joel Losego
Mandy McGlumphy
Jeremy Morrow
Dan Padden
Rory Stelzer
Dave Wilson
Maribeth Wright

HARRISON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Allison Anderson
Todd Dunlap
Lori Milleson
Kris Puskarich
Matthew Puskarich
Karli Ray
Jim Rocchi
Sam Smith
John Tabacchi
Sandi Thompson

HIGHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND

Marty Bailey
Lindsay Cloud
Ron Coffey
David Daniels
Susan Davis
Shawn Priest

HOCKING COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND

Kristi Brooks
Laurel Danes-Webb
Keith Hood
Libby Hosler
Alison Kanaan
Katy Kudlapur
Abby Saving
Bailey Venzin

JACKSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Marilyn Boggs
Kyle Exline
Judy Hamilton
Brianna Jenkins
John Jones
Seth Michael
Susan Stockmeister
Carol Wright

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Sandy Blackburn
Mackenzie Coakley
Colton Copley
Donna Dingus
Shirley Dyer
Dan Evans
Joe Freeman
Jim Galloway
Deanna Holliday
Dan Jeffries
Bill Jessie
Ralph Kline
Mike McKee
Shannon Smith
Terri L. Taylor

MEIGS COUNTY FOUNDATION

Brandon Bartee
Frank Blake
Ryan Buckley
Susan Clark
Candice Hess
John Hoback
Tricia McNickle
Barbara Musser
Dru Reed
Paul Reed
Charlene Rutherford
Jennifer Sheets
Laura Sheets
Cinda Stevens
Perry Varnadoe, Emeritus
Linda Warner

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Nikki Baker-Lude
Tracy Blackstone
Diane Burkhart
Leanne Harper
Mick Schumacher
Alyssa Stephens
Gwynn Stewart

MORGAN COMMUNITY FUND

Cinda Erickson
Sarah Griesmyer
Tyler Hickerson
Chris Penrose
Quincy Robe
Adam Shriver
Kelsey Wells
Mike Workman, Emeritus

NELSONVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Stuart Brooks
Steven Cox
Kevin Dotson
Bill L'Heureux
Jennifer L'Heureux
Kevin Lowry
Anita McDonald
Betty Jo Parsley

NOBLE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

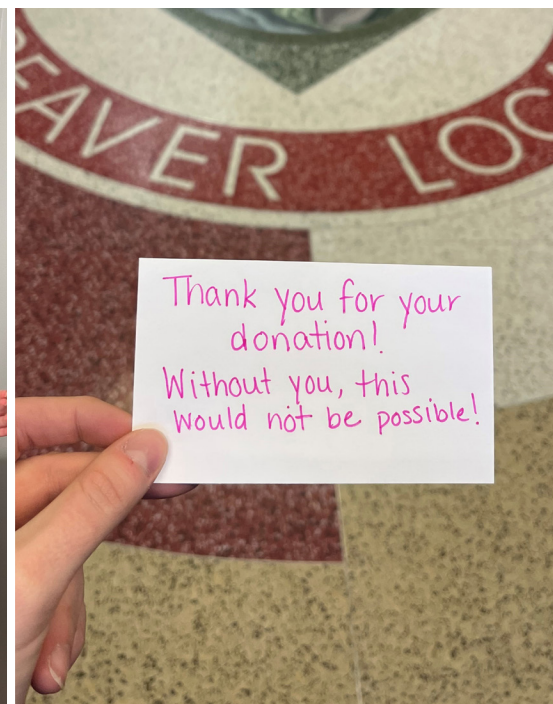
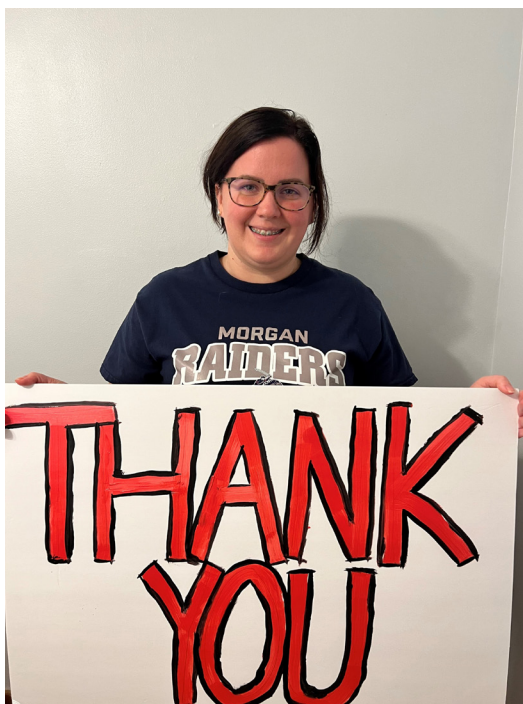
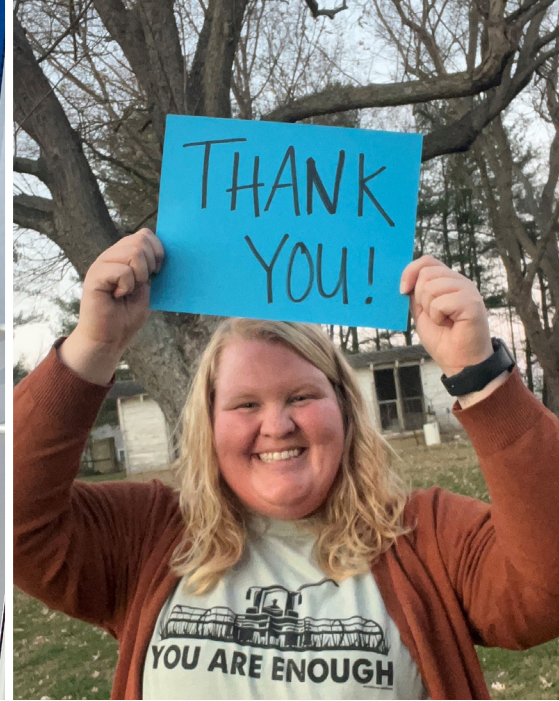
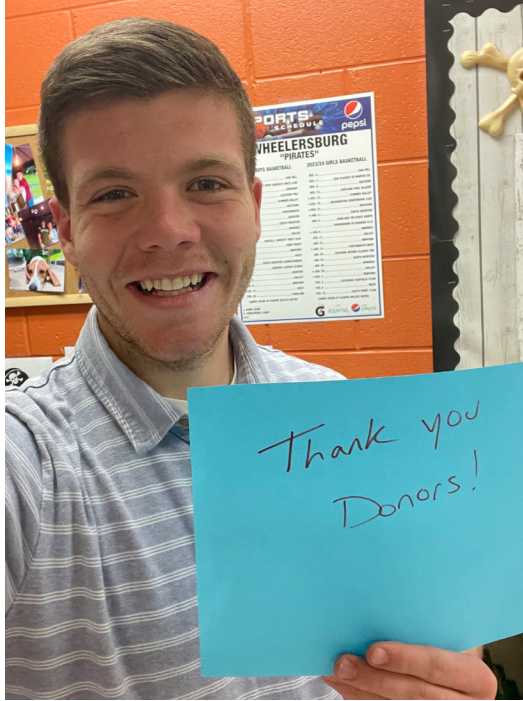
Aerica Bates
Trevor Black
Michael Buckey
Kirby Moore
Kenneth Perkins
Shawn Ray
Andrea Seder
Sherri Starr
Gwynn Stewart
Don Ullmann
Jim Warren

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR PERRY COUNTY

Jeanette Addington
Luann Cooperrider
Jeff Dennis
Tony Fiore
Theresa Kane
Tim McLain
Chris Mooney
Julie Paxton
John Winnenberg
Kevin Wood

VINTON COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND

Ashley Ervin
Bill Garrett
Bruce Knox
Bryan Radabaugh
Cindy Strausbaugh
Deanna Tribe
Jeremy Ward
Rich Weller



Stay connected to our #CommunityOfGivers

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

@FDNforappalachianohio

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