

Hamilton community foundation REPORT *to the* COMMUNITY

2015



“Life in us is like water in a river.”

- Henry David Thoreau

MISSION

Building a better community through creative philanthropy, vision and leadership.

VISION

Continue to be the trusted resource for growing philanthropy and leading change to improve our community.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Increase assets to increase impact.

Create a better educated community.

Increase economic vitality.

Enhance community quality of life.





MESSAGE *to the* COMMUNITY

ON DECEMBER 24, 1951, seven community-minded leaders met to sign the incorporation papers creating the Hamilton Community Foundation. After nearly 65 years, the vision and wisdom of those men is evident through the continuing impact the Hamilton Community Foundation has on the lives of Butler County residents. People often say it would be hard to imagine this community without the Hamilton Community Foundation. They're right. It would be difficult to contemplate our community without all of the positive contributions of the Foundation and its donors.

Where would we be without the millions of dollars in scholarships that allow deserving students to realize their higher education dreams? Where would we be without the ongoing support of non-profit organizations serving our most vulnerable residents? Where would we be without the leadership in the economic development and community revitalization areas?

Thankfully we don't have to answer those questions. The Hamilton Community Foundation not only exists, but continues to thrive and make an ongoing positive impact in our community.

Each year we pause and review the accomplishments of the last year and look forward to the opportunities of the future. Each year, we try to capture a little of the magic of this community's philanthropic spirit in the pages of our Report to the Community. Each year we humbly thank the generous donors who make all the work of the Foundation possible.

With the confidence of our past successes and the hope of fulfilling our future dreams and aspirations, we offer this report to the community – a small snapshot of the important and exciting work of the Hamilton Community Foundation. We invite you to join us as we review the information in this report and we invite you to join us in the important work of building a better community through creative philanthropy, vision and leadership.



John Guidugli
President and CEO

Sandy Sanders
Chair, Board of Trustees

FOUNDATION EDUCATION *initiatives*

HELPING ALL AGES EXCEL

Three of the Foundation's education initiatives -- Hamilton Start Ready, Youth Exploring Success, and FASFA assistance (college financial aid forms) support students from the beginning, around detours and to the finish line. "The Foundation has a rich history of investing in educational opportunities from preschool to college," says John Guidugli, Foundation President and CEO.

STARTING EARLY

Hamilton Start Ready was created in 2013 to address a sobering statistic: only 28% of 900 students were ready for kindergarten. Through a partnership among the Hamilton Community Foundation, Butler County Educational Service Center, Colonial Schools, Fitton Family YMCA, Hamilton City Schools, Hamilton Living Water Ministry, Immanuel Lutheran School and Presbyterian Preschool, efforts began to reduce cost barriers and raise awareness about the value of quality preschool. The goal: make preschool available to all in the Hamilton City School District.



The program has made a big impact in three years: nearly 200 youngsters have benefitted from Foundation preschool scholarships; a new classroom is in place at Booker T. Washington Community Center and 30 children participate each year at Hamilton Living Water's Head Start Program.

This fall, through collaboration between the Foundation, Butler County Education Service Center, Butler County United Way, Hamilton City Schools and the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, cost-free quality preschool will be available to all students at the four Hamilton elementary schools, as well as the Booker T. Washington Center and the new Hamilton Learning Center in the Presbyterian Church.

Foundation staff and its Education Committee, including Chair Kathleen Klink, Sandy Sanders, Heather Lewis, Steve Timmer and Scott Hartford have worked tirelessly for years to bring universal preschool to the community. "We are excited to see the hard work of our board come to fruition for the children in our community," said John Guidugli, President and CEO.



THE IMPACT: *Each year, as a result of FAFSA Days in our area schools, more than 200 families become aware they are eligible for more than \$500,000 in federal dollars to support their education.*

YOUTH EXPLORING SUCCESS

Lindsey Lassiter was hired in 2011 by the Hamilton Community Foundation as the Youth Exploring Success (Y.E.S.) Advocate counselor for students in grades 9-12 at Hamilton High School. Her job is to assist potential first generation college students navigate and graduate high school, and be fully prepared for their next step: college or vocational training. Four years ago James Haley, then a Hamilton High school senior, had taken the ACT twice without improving his score. “Things were not looking too good,” he remembers. “I was worried about not getting accepted into my dream school: Ohio State University. However, Ms. Lassiter tried to open my eyes to other post-secondary options. She would frequently call me down to her office and check up on the search process as well as my well-being. “James said he was questioning if Ohio State was the right choice for him.

As it turns out, Miami University Hamilton was the best fit. He realized he could get a great education close to home in the major he wanted.

“I saved a great deal of money on tuition and as my time in college progressed, I began to understand what she had prepped me for: adult life. She wanted me to think of college almost like a game of chess. Not only do you have to think in the moment but also the end game, or long term. **Honestly there are no words...that truly describe my appreciation for what Ms. Lassiter has done for me,**” said James.

“Things are very different for me now,” he said. Next, year he will be a college graduate with an electro-mechanical engineering technology degree. “I am working in the industry as an engineering intern. When I graduate, I will be almost debt free thanks to the wonderful advice from Ms. Lassiter. I hope to be a mentor to students in the future, as she was to me.”



James Haley, now a senior at Miami University Hamilton and an intern at Teron Lighting, Fairfield.

CLEARING THE HURDLES

Breaking the cost barrier to post-secondary education is the primary focus for the implementation of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) days throughout the Foundation's service area. More than 1,000 students have received hands-on assistance to complete the application process, resulting in millions of dollars in federal financial aid that could be used to support their education.

The fear that higher education is too expensive prevents many students from applying for college. The Hamilton Community Foundation has been working for several years to help high schoolers clear this hurdle. Through collaboration with area high schools, the expertise of Dave Murray and his staff from the National Center for College Costs and Miami University's admissions staff, support and encouragement are provided to help students navigate financial aid and entrance into the post-secondary system. Costs for the ongoing program are paid for through an annual grant by the Hamilton Community Foundation. Informational talks are presented at area schools by National Center for College Costs staffs, who also conduct individual hands on work sessions with students and parents to help them complete the required financial aid application.



The results speak for themselves! Since 2011, more than 450 families have participated in the FAFSA day at Hamilton High School resulting in more than \$1.8 million in federal dollars available for these students. Since 2012, FAFSA Days at Ross High School netted more than 80 families who participated and more than \$130,000 in federal dollars identified for these students.



COMING TOGETHER *through* EXPERIENCE

The Experience Fund was recently created at the Hamilton Community Foundation to help encourage positive experiences for the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton.

Started by Hamilton residents Bret and Krista Parrish, the goal of the Experience Fund is connecting children in our community with the larger community in which they live. "As a former teacher I know the importance that positive experiences and connections have on young people. Bret

experienced a similar feeling after he participated in a church mission trip," said Krista. "We decided to become more intentional in our service work and create this opportunity to connect kids in our community with exciting opportunities and experiences," she added. Bret and Krista chose to partner with the Hamilton Boys and Girls Club and the Hamilton Community Foundation in the formation of the Experience Fund.

EXPERIENCE was founded to expose area children to activities they would otherwise not have the opportunity to enjoy, such as:

Going to camp

Exploring archery, canoeing, swimming and zip lining

Discovering the wilderness

Enjoying horseback riding

Sitting around a camp fire

Attending the theater

Taking a tennis lesson

Participating in an art class

Visiting the zoo

Cheering at a Reds' or Bengals' game

Touring a college campus



Bret and Krista Parrish with their children Paige and Andrew.

EXPERIENCE is the bridge between the Boys and Girls Club and organizations such as the Fitton Center for Creative Arts, The Cincinnati Zoo, Brick Street Experience and the Great Miami Valley YMCA. It can open up the children's world and show them things they may never have had the opportunity to experience before. It can help them see themselves in a new light and make them aware of endless possibilities.

Every child who participates at one of the Boys and Girls Club's three locations can have the opportunity to earn participation in these experiences by:

- Attending the after school educational programs
- Participating in the homework/reading club
- Demonstrating positive behavior

Experiences thus far have included Brick Street Experience, trips to Miami University Oxford and YMCA Camp Campbell Gard. Typically about 25-30 fourth to sixth graders participate in the experiences with supervision from Boys and Girls Club staff. Community volunteers also participate and help create the sharing of experiences with these young people.

Karen Miller, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, is an enthusiastic supporter of the opportunities presented by this fund. She noted that these positive experiences are so important to young people and that they can create memories for a lifetime. Karen expressed her gratitude to the community for their support for the Boys and Girls Club and for the new opportunities created by the Experience Fund.

Initial funding for these experiences was generously provided by Bret and Krista, but more funding would mean more opportunities for experiences. Contributions to the fund can be made through the Foundation's website – hamiltonfoundation.org – or by mailing a tax deductible contribution to the Foundation. If you would like to learn more about the activities of Experience you are invited to visit their Facebook page.





ART CAMP – AROUND TOWN!

Art Around Town is not your grandmother's summer camp. This collaboration between three area organizations— the Fitton Center for the Creative Arts, Pyramid Hill and the Fitton Family YMCA engages the whole child through art, music and motion.

Partially funded through a \$38,000 grant by the Hamilton Community Foundation, the camp was created in response to a need for a full-day art camp, said Jeni Barton, director of programs and administration at Pyramid Hill. Two years ago, Pyramid Hill conducted a community survey to discover how they could make a greater community impact. A summer kid's art camp rated high as a wanted addition, so in collaboration with the other organizations, many meetings and much planning, the camp is now a reality.

The campers, ages 7 to 12, start their day with physical movement at the YMCA and spend the rest of the morning engaged in art projects at the Fitton Center. They take the bus to Pyramid Hill for outside games led by Y staff. After lunch, they have two more hours of art camp at Pyramid Hill and end their day back at the YMCA.





Kate Rowekamp, director of education at the Fitton Center, said that the creations by the campers at the Fitton Center incorporate items found in nature into weavings, paintings, wind chimes and bird feeders.

The camp gives young participants the opportunity to paint, draw and sculpt with a professional artist at the Fitton Center, engage in physical activities and games both at the YMCA and the large grassy expanses of Pyramid Hill, and end the day with activities combining both nature and art.

The week-long full-day camp offers both 2-D and 3-D visual art experiences and physical activity, and serves 30 children per week. There are two separate camps offered during the summer, and kids can go to one or both. Scholarships are available for families who need financial help. Each week provides a new experience, with themes such as “Fairy Tale Fantasy” and “Creature Creations.”

“With this collaborative effort, we are bringing the ‘best of the best’ together in Hamilton to give the kids a great experience,” says Amy Durbin, executive director of the Fitton Family YMCA. The children start and end their day at the YMCA, and Y staff accompanies the kids throughout the day, riding on the bus with them to the Fitton Center and Pyramid Hill.

“It is utilizing the expertise in the community,” she added explaining that the YMCA staff are experts at providing a quality overall camp experience, but the difference with this camp is that the arts and crafts activities are led by professional artists in arts venues.

The campers come from Hamilton and surrounding communities. “At the end of the day, the kids come off the bus carrying their art projects and acting both excited and tired,” added Amy. “They are pretty proud of the art they have created.”



WATER EDUCATION *and* OUTREACH FUND

Every fall, more than 1,000 fourth graders descend upon Miami University Hamilton to learn about our area's most valuable resource: *water*.

It's all part of the Children's Water Festival, which is sponsored in part by The Water Education and Outreach Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation. The fund was established nine years ago by the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium to support educational events about the safety of drinking water in Butler County.

"We extend an invitation to all schools in Butler County," says Tim McClellan, Groundwater Consortium manager. "We are trying to pique kids' interest in water and protecting water resources."

The students arrive with their teachers and rotate around campus to more than 30 different half hour long activities. The workshops are held back to back, each focusing on a plethora of environmental and natural science issues affecting water, wildlife, the environment and human health.

Event expenses include everything from bus transportation for presenters to supplies, to food and volunteer t shirts. Other financial support comes from area businesses and government agencies, such as the Butler County Storm Water District and the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District.

The day's activities are kept flowing through the efforts of volunteers from the Public Education Committee for the Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium, plus staff and students from Miami University Hamilton.

Event presenters are encouraged to fit their teaching modules into the STEM curriculum. In fact, all participating teachers receive a packet of educational resources to help them incorporate the teachings into the classroom.

Presentations include displays, science seminars and water related activities put on by several Butler County and Hamilton County agencies and companies. The Cincinnati Zoo conducts several presentations where animal ambassadors discuss the role each species plays in our environment and their need for water as well. Representatives from the organizations talk about the vital water cycle for humans and all animals, emphasizing how youth can play a part in protecting water resources. "There is not one single living species that cannot live without water," adds Tim.

The Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium consists of seven area water suppliers, who provide water service to nearly one half million people in northern Hamilton County and Butler County. "This is the consortium's biggest and most successful event," says Tim.

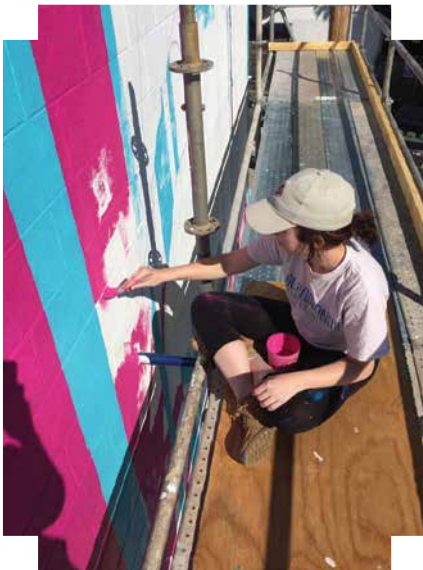
VIBRANT COMMUNITY CENTERPIECE



Hamilton is home to several parades and festivals which bring hundreds out to enjoy the downtown area while Billy Yank watches over from the monument.

Hamilton Community Foundation's mission is building a better community through creative philanthropy, vision and leadership. Two of our strategic goals supporting that mission are: *Increase economic vitality and Enhance community quality of life.*

Besides strategic grant making, we bring our vision and leadership as partners with the city, residents and business community to help make Hamilton a better place to work, live and play. Both longtime residents and occasional visitors to Hamilton have remarked on a renewed vibrancy and life at the heart of our city. As partners with CORE (Consortium for Ongoing Reinvestment Efforts), the Hamilton Artspace Lofts, RiversEdge concerts, and the Hamilton Flea, we are pleased to join in the revitalization.



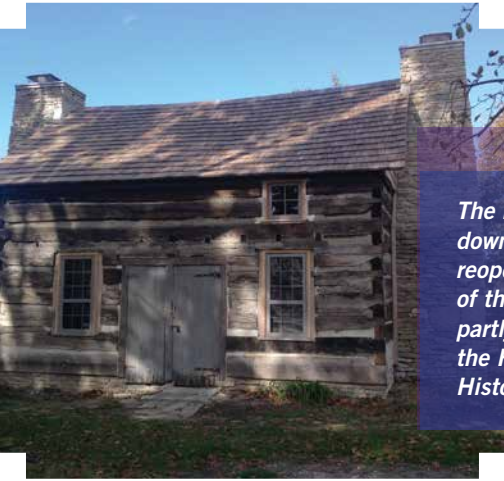
This past year saw the beginning of the StreetSpark program, which brings hand painted murals – this one of Alexander Hamilton – to our downtown.



The Almond Sisters, which opened in 2015, is a sweet addition to downtown.



Regular concerts at RiversEdge are now a hometown tradition.



The historic log house downtown was recently reopened. Restoration of the house was done partly by a grant from the Foundation to Historic Hamilton.



Alive After Five is a monthly family friendly party downtown. Here, shoppers make a find at Made to Love.

This Hamilton Community Foundation is right in the center of the new monthly Hamilton Flea, a curated vintage, arts and food market at Third Street Plaza at German Village.



EVERY SCHOLARSHIP *has a* STORY

THE DANA H. AND MARTHA M. MEHL SCHOLARSHIP

Every year, the Hamilton Community Foundation awards more than one million dollars in scholarships. The first wave is in May to college bound high school students graduating from Hamilton, Badin, Ross, New Miami, Fairfield, Talawanda, and outlying districts such as Edgewood, depending on the ever changing group of applicants. The second wave comes later in the summer, when scholarships are awarded to current college students from our area as well as adults going back to school. The largest single allocation of Hamilton Community Foundation funds is for scholarships to area students. Since 1951, scholarships totaling more than \$12 million have been granted to college-bound students. This past year was the first time scholarship applicants were handled completely online from start to finish.



From left to right: Martha Mehl, Maggie Jones and Dana Mehl.

Inside every electronic application stuffed with details of grades, volunteer work and financial need documentation, there is a story.

One of the 180 scholarships awarded this spring is the Dana H. and Martha M. Mehl Scholarship. Mehl Scholarship recipient, Margaret (Maggie) Jones is graduating from Ross High School and is headed to Miami University to study Engineering. "I am very honored to win this scholarship and it feels really encouraging," says Maggie. "It means a lot to me and it was a really good experience to meet the Mehls." Maggie is the youngest of three and the first to attend college.

"This experience exceeded our expectations," said Dana. He and his wife Martha fund the scholarship and this year, it was given for the first time. Dana says that after the scholarship selection committee chose the recipient, the couple received written information about Maggie. They learned she has a 4.1 GPA and is graduating 4th in her class of 221, participates in swimming and track and field, and is an active and passionate volunteer. They became increasingly excited to meet her in person at the Foundation's recent Scholarship Awards Night.

"She is just so sincere with her thanks," he said. "She told us thank you many times. She's full of energy and plans." As the first in his family and extended family to attend college, Dana says he can relate to Maggie. "We do not have children of our own," said Martha. "I do not think anything prepared us for how great this was going to feel. We are just two hard working people and we have given to other things before. The neat thing about this is the feeling of joy, pride and actually seeing the student."

SCHOLARSHIPS: A TANGIBLE LINK *to the* FUTURE

THE HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION awards more than \$1million in scholarships annually -- for students from preschool to post-graduate and unlimited areas of study locally, statewide or regionally. Each spring at the Foundation's scholarship reception, college bound students have the opportunity to meet and thank scholarship donors.

CHASE WALLACE, a graduate of Ross High School, shakes hands with DR. GEORGE MANITSAS. Chase received the Manitsas Health Services Scholarship and is headed to Ohio State University.



Badin High grad and incoming Vanderbilt University freshman GARRETT ERNST talks with DAVE LIPPERT of Hamilton Caster. Garrett was awarded the Hamilton Caster & Manufacturing Company Scholarship and the Madge Shaper Schaeuble Memorial Scholarship.

Hamilton High School graduate SHELBY MORGAN received the Benjamin Peter Flick Memorial Scholarship and the Marie Iutzi Memorial Scholarship. She will attend the University of Cincinnati. Here, Shelby visits with PATTI FROELKE.



CONTINUING HER EDUCATION: *Michelle Collopy*

MICHELLE COLLOPY worked as an LPN for nearly 10 years when she felt it was time to go back to school to become an RN. She loved her job at Berkeley Square and felt that with more education she could deepen her knowledge and commitment to the field she loves.

It was fortuitous, then, when Berkeley resident Margaret “Peggy” Koehler told Michelle about the scholarships available at the Hamilton Community Foundation, for those wanting to continue their education later in life.

Michelle went through the Foundation’s scholarship process, applying for those available for nontraditional students. In 2015, she was awarded the Hamilton Rotary Scholarship, Metropolitan Women’s Club Scholarship and the Helen Limerick Memorial Scholarship, all one year scholarships. She has applied for scholarships again this year and the selection process is now underway.

“I cannot express how fortunate I feel that Peggy told me about these scholarships,” she says. “I work hard in school with the understanding that I am able to be in attendance through the kindness and generosity of the donors involved with the Hamilton Community Foundation.”



In her early thirties and with a young family at home, plus the work at Berkeley she loves, going back to school is a juggling act but worth it, says Michelle. She is starting her second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at Miami University, where she is enrolled part time. “Without these scholarships, it would be unlikely that I would be able to continue my education to better assist the older adults in our community,” she adds.

Nurse Michelle Collopy and resident Marty Brown at Berkeley Square.

Please contact us if you would like to contribute to the Foundation’s scholarship program, or if you would like to start your own unique scholarship fund!

NEW MIAMI YOUTH BASKETBALL *A Gift to Many*

An estate gift George and Sudie Flick left to the Hamilton Community Foundation a decade ago continues to support the community they loved. Because of their generosity, more than 100 children ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade in the New Miami school district were able to participate in a winter basketball league.

After learning the youth basketball program was not going to be able to be offered any longer by the school, the athletic director felt there must be a way to hold a winter program. The basketball program was an opportunity for an after-school activity and a healthy way for students and families to stay involved with school.

Through a partnership with the New Miami Athletic Department and leadership of the New Miami boosters along with financial donations, volunteer coaches and referees a successful winter basketball program was held.

According to Penny Gray, New Miami Booster member, the grant received from the George and Sudie Flick Fund held at the Hamilton Community Foundation made a big impact on the organization.

“We are a low income community and most kids would not have been able to participate if it weren’t for the grant,” says Penny. “We were thrilled to have 105 kids in K-6th grade participate. With the funds we were able to purchase basketballs, score books, trophies and uniforms as well as have a pizza party at the end of the season banquet. We are all very grateful to the Hamilton Community Foundation and look forward to working with them next season.”

Volunteer referee Austin Howard is used to giving back to his community. He volunteers with many activities at his school and he is also a member of the Hamilton Community Foundation’s Youth Philanthropy Committee. “I was glad to see so many kids sign up for the program this year. I think it was more than we had in the past. The kids seemed to have a great time and I enjoyed them all,” stated Austin.

Throughout the years, many organizations have been impacted by the George and Sudie Flick Fund. While the Flick’s did not have children of their own, they would be pleased to know this grant is impacting the lives of many children and families in the community they loved.



Austin Howard, volunteer referee and New Miami High School Junior enjoys the end of season banquet with his cousin, Connor Martin. Connor is a first grade student who was proud to show off the t-shirt he received through the program.



The historic Crawford House

GRANT *for* HISTORIC RESTORATION: CRAWFORD HOUSE

Hamilton is a city rich with historic sites. One of the most centrally located is the 181-year old Crawford House on Hancock Avenue. Set back from the road and surrounded by 58 acres of rolling lawn and trees, the Federal Vernacular style house is on the state's register of historic homes.

A recent grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation to Historic Hamilton will help ensure that the Crawford House is here for all to enjoy for the foreseeable future. The Trustees of the Hamilton Community Foundation approved a \$32,890 grant to Historic Hamilton, Inc. In collaboration with the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Parks Conservancy, Historic Hamilton has taken the lead in the restoration of the Historic Crawford House. **The grant, coupled with funds Historic Hamilton has already raised, will help bring Crawford House back to period standards and upgrade it to comply with current building code requirements.**



The Hamilton Parks Conservancy, neighbors, and volunteers organized by the city of Hamilton have helped with the Crawford House's grounds cleanup.

The 10-room structure on Hamilton's east side has four fireplaces, a necessity in its day due to lack of central heating. Originally known as Forest Cottage when it was built in 1835, Crawford House was sold to David Crawford and Jeanette Giffen Crawford. Over the years, it was lived in by three generations of the Crawford family. They welcomed townspeople over for summer picnics, winter sledding on the hilly grounds and Easter celebrations. The Crawfords also gave public tours of the house, and over time Crawford House became an extremely important part of Hamilton.

Later, the house and grounds were donated to the City of Hamilton. Crawford Woods, the park next to house, was recently upgraded by the Hamilton Parks Conservancy. The Conservancy, volunteers organized by City of Hamilton and neighbors have all worked alongside each other to clean up the grounds at the Crawford House.

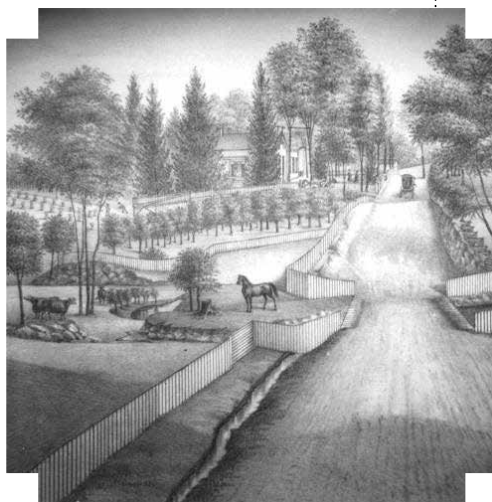
However, Crawford House has been empty for many years. Through the work of Historic Hamilton, donations and grants, this resource will ultimately have several possible community uses, such as:

- **RESIDENTIAL HOUSING** for interns working with the Hamilton Parks Conservancy.
- **A MUSEUM** for Miami University's Appalachian Studies program, documenting the history and culture of the Appalachian people and their migration to the Miami River Valley. The possibilities include Appalachian musical, theatrical or literary performances, or an arts and crafts fair, says Curt Ellison, chair of Miami University's Appalachian Studies Steering Committee.
- **AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE** for the Butler County Historical Society, Butler County MetroParks, schools and Hamilton Visitors Bureau.
- **TOURS AND MEETING SPACE** for the community.

“Restoration of the Historic Crawford House has the potential to significantly benefit the East End neighborhood in several ways. Once utilities are restored, the house and environs will be well-lit, safer, and more secure,” said Jim Fuhrman, president of the Historic Hamilton Board of Trustees. “Crawford House will certainly serve as a frequent field trip destination for Crawford Woods Elementary students.”

The Hamilton Parks Conservancy is partnering with Historic Hamilton to do in kind work for the restoration of the home's interior. The laundry list of needs for the inside of the home includes: reconstruction of the porch, roof and structural repairs, masonry tuck and repair, painting and rebuilding shutters and windows. Finally, electric, insulation and HVAC work will bring the building into compliance so to make it possible for use as a museum, meeting space, public tours and living quarters.

Fuhrman says that when the restoration is complete, there will be a public unveiling of the historic home and its surroundings. Once again, Crawford House will serve as a link to the past and an important part of Hamilton's future.



**Site drawing of Forest Cottage
(courtesy of the 1875 Butler
County Atlas)**

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT *with a* LASTING LEGACY

Members of the Hamilton Community Foundation's Legacy Society gathered at the Courtyard by Marriott to enjoy dinner, listen to young musicians who received 2016 Hamilton Community Foundation Scholarships and celebrate their membership in our Legacy Society. Who may join the Legacy Society? Anyone who wishes to ensure they are continuing their charitable giving into the future. The Legacy Society is comprised of generous individuals who have informed us that they have included the Foundation in their estate plans and wishes to be designated as members.



LOIS *and* AUSTIN GLEASON



ROBERT *and* NANCY COTTRELL



BILL WILKS *with*



JOEL *and*

The Legacy Society is composed of individuals who have designated the Hamilton Community Foundation in their estate plans. These are special people who want to ensure that the important charitable work they support today will continue in the future.

HOW IT WORKS:

- You include the community foundation in your will as a bequest; we can help you or your attorney with recommended language.
- You determine the type of fund you would like to establish with your gift.
- Upon your death, we set up a special fund in your name, in the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.
- Your charitable gift is excluded from your assets for estate tax purposes.
- Our professional program staff considers your charitable wishes and determines the areas of community need that would be most impacted by grants from your gift.
- Our board issues grants in the name of the fund you establish (if you prefer, grants can be made anonymously).
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift—and all future earnings from your gift—is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.



CINDY PARRISH

There are many different ways to become a member of the Legacy Society. Simply inform the Foundation of the type of gift you have chosen to leave, which may include: cash, securities, life insurance, IRA, or other bequests. *We advise consultation with your financial advisor or attorney.* Today, the Legacy Society continues to grow as more individuals make plans to leave a lasting impact. Please consider joining this special group! A full list of Legacy Society members may be found on our website: hamiltonfoundation.org

To become a member of the Legacy Society, please contact the Hamilton Community Foundation at 513-863-1717 or stop in person at 319 N. Third Street, Hamilton in the historic Lane-Hooven House.



MARILYN SCHMIDT



CAROL KUHN with CLARENCE HUENING



DR. ROBERT LERER with KAREN WHALEN

LEGACY SOCIETY: THE GIFT THAT LASTS

Including a charitable bequest in your will *is a simple way to make a lasting gift to your community. When you make this gift through your community foundation, we establish a special fund that benefits the community forever and becomes your personal legacy of giving.*

Becoming a member of the Hamilton Community Foundation Legacy Society has many advantages:

FLEXIBILITY – Through the Foundation you can serve several charitable interests in one place.

INVOLVEMENT – Donors can choose the level of involvement according to their preferences.

NAMING RIGHTS – Funds can be named as desired; for an individual, a family, a purpose or an organization.

EXPERIENCE – The Foundation's Board of Trustees and staff are experienced with philanthropy in the Hamilton area.

TAX SAVINGS – The Hamilton Community Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization and qualifies as a public charity under federal tax law.

PERMANENCE – As we have done for 65 years, the Foundation will continue to respond to community needs of the future as they evolve.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Back row, from left to right:
Heather Lewis,
Thomas Rentschler, Jr.,
Sandy Sanders, Craig Wilks,
Jim Fitton, Cindy Parrish,
David L. Belew, Scott Hartford.

Front row, from left to right:
Sara P. Carruthers,
John Kirsch, Steve Timmer,
Kathleen L. Klink.

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Herman R. (Sandy) Sanders, Chair

Retired Owner, Butler County Lumber Company

Heather Lewis, Vice Chair

Attorney, Millikin & Fitton Law Firm

Scott Hartford, Secretary

Owner, Hartford Steel Sales

Craig Wilks, Treasurer

President, Wilks Insurance

Sara P. Carruthers

Community Volunteer

Jim Fitton

Community Volunteer

John Kirsch

Managing Director, Kirsch CPA Group

Kathleen L. Klink

Community Volunteer

Cindy Parrish

Service Excellence Ambassador, Community First Solutions

Thomas Rentschler, Jr.

Vice President of Marketing, FORTE

Steve Timmer

Director, Hamilton Parks Conservancy

David L. Belew – Trustee Emeritus

Retired President, Beckett Paper Company

Lee H. Parrish - Legal Counsel

Attorney, Parrish, Marcum, Hirka & Trokhan Co., LPA

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF

John Guidugli, President/CEO

Katie E. Braswell, Vice President

Betsy Hope, Vice President of Strategic Communications

Lindsey Lassiter, MA, Youth Exploring Success Advocate

Deborah Mast, Administrative Program Manager

Daniel J. Sander, CPA, Vice President of Finance

BY *the* NUMBERS

Assets	2015	Liabilities and Net Assets	2015
Current assets		Current liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,251,433	Current portion of grants payable	\$1,822,916
Current portion of notes receivable	1,254,276	Accounts payable	1,300
Prepaid expenses	456	Accrued expenses	64,487
Total current assets	5,506,165	Total current liabilities	1,888,703
Property and equipment, net	5,615,402	Grants payable, net of current portion	292,000
		Total liabilities	2,180,703
Other assets		Net assets	
Investments	65,817,291	Unrestricted	22,335,006
Notes receivable, net of current portion	8,008,582	Temporarily restricted	41,781,168
Accrued interest, net	445,394	Permanently restricted	19,324,407
Cash surrender value of life insurance	228,450	Total net assets	83,440,581
Total other assets	74,499,717	Total liabilities and net assets	85,621,284
Total assets	85,621,284		

**Our 2015 financial statements, audited by Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC, are available for review by calling the Foundation office.*



COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING

Throughout the year, the Hamilton Community Foundation awards grants from its unrestricted funds in response to applications we receive from community organizations. These grants make an impact in the areas of arts and culture, social services, education, youth and community development. In 2015, the Foundation's Board of Trustees made unrestricted grants including the following:

Butler County Transit Alliance \$25,000 – for its Job Connector Program

The Hamilton Mill \$40,000 – for the creation of the Hamilton Mill Innovation Fund

People Working Cooperatively \$25,000 – for the Home Repair and Modification Program

Hamilton Parks Conservancy \$64,500 – to purchase playground equipment for Jim Grimm Park

Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton \$40,000 – to support ongoing programming

Greater Hamilton Safety Council \$11,000 – for the resurfacing of Safety Town at Officer Bob Gentry Park

Booker T. Washington Center \$100,000 – for collaborative programming at the community center

Open Door Food Pantry \$20,000 – to purchase a box truck to allow needed deliveries

Hamilton Economic Development Corporation \$30,000 – for the Main Street Area IMPROVE program

Fitton Center for the Creative Arts \$25,000 – to support children's programming

Hamilton Flea \$14,900 – for the creation of an urban flea market in Hamilton

TvHamilton \$30,000 – for ongoing operations of local Hamilton programming





319 N. Third Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
513.863.1717
hamiltonfoundation.org

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Address correction requested

WATER *and* HAMILTON: *they just go together!*

WATER PLAYS **A PIVOTAL ROLE** IN HAMILTON'S HISTORY. *From the early days of this mill town on the Great Miami River, THE POWER OF WATER has been an important ingredient in our strong industrial past, when Hamilton proudly made many things, including paper, tools, steam engines and safes.*

WATER EVEN PLAYED A ROLE IN HAMILTON'S MOST TRAGIC EVENT. *Throughout our community, you can see flood level signs on various buildings marking where water rose on MARCH 25, 1913.*

TODAY, WE STILL **HARNESS THE POWER OF WATER.** *The new Meldahl Hydroelectric Plant, upstream in Foster, Kentucky, plays a key role in our municipality's power, supplying **STRONG, CLEAN ENERGY.***

HAMILTON'S TAP WATER HAS WON **WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION**, *including gold medals in 2010 and 2015 for "Best Tap Water in the World" from Berkeley Springs International.*

WHILE LISTENING TO CONCERTS DOWNTOWN **at RIVERSEDEGE**, *we view the scenic riverfront of the Great Miami which runs through town, enjoyed by many who boat, fish and row.*

THIS YEAR, HAMILTON'S FIFTH **SPRAYGROUND** OPENED AT OUR CITY'S PARKS, *providing a summer cool off spot for hundreds of children.*