



Youth Philanthropy Committee – Ten Years of Building a Legacy

For the 200-plus students who have participated in the Hamilton Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Committee (YPC) over its first 10 years, the future is full of possibilities.

The group of 20 high school students learn, and put into practice strategic grant making. They gain experience in organizing, and running, effective meetings. Working together to research and assess community needs, they review grant applications from area non-profit organizations and, with guidance from their advisors, award up to \$35,000 annually to programs they feel are both impactful and sustainable.

"YPC is the reason that I am heavily pursuing social policy and non-profit work with my current college studies and career plans," says YPC alum and current Duke University student Corey Vernot. "It has empowered me to view myself as an agent of positive change and impressed upon me that all people have both the ability and responsibility to give back to those that are less fortunate than them and make a difference in the world."

YPC was started by the staff of Hamilton Community Foundation in the spring of 2005, and it was made possible through a bequest by Robert E. and Gail Ireland.

Each summer, YPC members attend a two-day educational retreat and meet monthly throughout the school year. The hail from several high schools: Hamilton, New Miami, Ross and Stephen T. Badin. The students receive guidance from their adult supervisors and listen guest speakers describe area needs and trends. To evaluate the plethora of grant applications they receive, YPC members may choose to make site visits and invite grant applicants to make presentations in person.

By involving teenagers in the grant making process, the Hamilton Community Foundation is assuring that the next generations of Hamilton's leaders are civically-minded and aware of the importance of philanthropy.

"The Youth Philanthropy Committee is a dedicated and committed group of high school students who take a great deal of their precious time to learn about philanthropy, volunteer in the community and help



YPC members visited the MDA Summer Camp to make a grant check presentation, and had fun visiting with some young campers. YPC members from left to right: Lauren Geraci, Kenny Pendergest, Austin Howard, Isabel Dingeldein, Libby Crank, Sky Rockey (sitting) and Emma Dingledein.

us make funding decisions that are impactful to our area youth. They are a vibrant and vital group to the foundation," said Foundation president and CEO John Guidugli.

YPC also provides its members an opportunity to hone public speaking and networking skills. The public speaking sub-committee is in place to assure group members are practicing professionalism and developing presentation skills that allow them to accurately represent YPC at community functions and in a professional setting.

YPC Alum and current University of Cincinnati Engineering student Chad McClain said being in YPC in high school has helped him in college. "As a freshman in YPC, one of my first assignments was making a call and setting up a speaking engagement, which was really awkward and I remember it well. But by the end of my time, it was really easy for me to present our mission and

come together as a team to show the community what we were doing. There was a certain level of responsibility involved learning to practice being in, and being comfortable in a professional setting, and that's exactly what I have to do now as a college student."

Throughout the past decade, the YPC has contributed to an astounding number of local non-profit organizations, providing nearly \$225,000 total dollars to programs focused on positively impacting the lives of Butler County youth. Projects funded in the past years range from theatre and arts programs, law camp, building a play structure at a Sojourner Recovery facility and to counseling for severely abused and neglected children.

Current YPC president and Ross High School senior Lauren Geraci is excited for the future. "Giving time, talent and treasure for the good of others is just the start of how amazing YPC is and what it means to be a part of it and this community. I have so much to thank this group for, and I look forward to see YPC change lives of even more youth in the years to come!"

YPC's carefully reviewed and selected awarded grants have become an asset to the Hamilton community. And, the YPC alums that stay in touch with Foundation staff report that after graduation, they are continuing to volunteer and give back, starting their own legacy of giving with a future of possibilities.

Bob and Pam Long learned about giving to others at a young age, and that lesson is practiced daily in both their professions and their lives.

Bob's dad had lifelong habit of helping those with few resources. He was a treasurer for a corporation and had a busy civic life, but in his free time he used his financial acumen to complete income tax returns for those in need.

"I never heard my dad say anything bad about somebody in poverty," says Bob. "He taught me that part of the purpose of life is to help other people."

"My mom was very big on compassion," adds Pam, emphasizing that she is most concerned about the poor and the vulnerable. "What can we do in order to help them so they can help us? They have much to teach us. It is important to build a relationship with them."

Because of this shared compassion for their community, this summer they established the Bob and Pam Long Donor Advised Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation. Their tax consultant, Melinda Fisher, told them about the Hamilton Community Foundation and the advantages of establishing a donor advised fund. Through a donor advised fund, donors can receive a tax deduction in their year they start the fund; the money is invested for maximum growth at the Foundation. As Bob and Pam's accountant told them, Foundation is continually aware of community needs and can let them know when there are needs, and at the same time, Bob and Pam can call the Foundation with grant suggestions from the fund.

The couple met at a softball tournament playing for opposing teams representing their workplaces. At that time, she was with the Hamilton Journal-News and he was with WMOH. Through the years, they have shared a home, family and a strong drive to listen and help vulnerable people, treating them with respect and compassion.

Bob now works part time as an instructor at Miami University and part time at Shared Harvest Food Bank. After reading about childhood poverty and talking with struggling families, he has seen the strong tie between a child's ability to learn and access to healthy



food. In addition, poor nutrition can compromise brain development over the long term.

"Working at Shared Harvest has opened my eyes to kids that need help," says Bob. He is especially fond of the backpack program, which provides the kids who qualify a backpack with an assortment of healthy snacks for the weekend. He also thinks about the kids in school who don't have snacks to bring in and must watch the other kids eat their snacks. "Whatever their circumstances are, it is never their fault," adds Bob.

Pam has been with the Catholic Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for seven years, and she has spent quite a bit of time working with people with disabilities. "People with disabilities have great spirit," she adds. She has traveled with Catholic Relief Services around the world, and her concerns are both local and global, including food sufficiency and fair trade.

This fall, Pam traveled to Washington, DC, to hear the Pope. "He's calling us to be better people," she says. When the Pope spoke about human dignity and developing a relationship with the needy, it resonated with her. "It's what I teach and what I love. To join with and say to someone else...your dignity matters."

She thinks it is important to work with people directly to determine needs and to listen to the community. "In effect, that is what the Hamilton Community Foundation is doing -- listening to our community and letting us know what the needs are so we can then say 'That is what we want to be a part of.'"

How can I start a Donor Advised Fund?

You can start a donor-advised fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation with a minimum gift of \$5,000. When you make a donation to your donor advised fund, you will receive a charitable tax deduction for the gift in that tax year. When your fund is established, we will be interested to know your philanthropic passions -- causes in our community reflecting your interests and giving priorities.

The fund in your name is held at the Hamilton Community Foundation. You can then make grant recommendations to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations from your Donor Advised Fund. If you desire, we can notify you as needs come up in our community reflecting your giving priorities.

Welcome to New Funds

Bob and Pam Long Fund

Gary Martin Memorial Fund

Josephine A. Osso Education Fund



Harry T. Wilks Hamilton Celebrates Education Event Honors Teachers

"Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives." - Andy Rooney

At the 13th Hamilton Celebrates Education event in October, educators were honored and their grant winning projects highlighted.

Eleven teachers were nominated for the Educator of the Year award, and each was recognized at the event. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of Ryan Britton as Educator of the Year. Mr. Britton teaches kindergarten at Ridgeway Elementary. "He changes the lives of students on a daily basis," said Britton's colleagues. "He will be remembered by each and every student for the positive impact he has had on their lives."



Educator nominees gather at the 2015 Hamilton Celebrates Education evening. Bottom row, seated from left to right: Susan McIntosh, Barbara Riemer, Brenda LaBoffe-Pierson and April Brooks. Top row left to right: Amanda Green, Karen Smith, Ryan Britton, Matt Hoover, Desiree Winterbottom and Rebecca Ware (not pictured: Jennifer Courtney).



This year's Harry T. Wilks grant recipients gather at the Hamilton Celebrates Education event. Bottom row, seated left to right are: Sarah Daniels, Kimberly Prewitt and Robin Szary. Top row from left to right: Kim Westrick, Christina Dennin-Mapes, Bridget Laake and Kristi Bunger. (not pictured: Jennifer Courtney and Abigail Gruner).

Seven classroom grants were awarded: Brookwood Elementary (Lego League and Sphero Education), Fairwood Elementary (High Interest Literacy Solutions), Hamilton High School (Adaptive Skills Learning Cohort and H2O Quality Study), Stephen T. Badin High School (Tilt-top Art Tables) and Ridgeway Elementary (Cooking through the Curriculum).

The advantage of a Donor Advised Fund is the flexibility it provides while at the same time, reflecting your charitable goals and passions, even if they change or grow over time. A Donor Advised Fund is a unique tool that the community foundation offers to help donors work toward their charitable goals in a very individual way.

A Donor Advised Fund is a personal method of giving that is a unique reflection of you. Your children can be involved in the grant making process now and can also be named as successor advisors to continue the family tradition of recommending grants. Upon the death of the successor advisors, the foundation's board of directors will continue to make grants from the fund in accordance with client wishes.



Educator of the Year for 2015 Ryan Britton with Kathy Wagonfield, principal of Ridgeway Elementary.



2015 David L. Belew Legacy Award *The Fitton Family*



Top row left to right: Lewis Vaden Woolsey, Mark Woolsey, Woody Fitton, Jim Fuhrman and Jim Fitton. Bottom row left to right: Katherine Fitton Mancera, Anne Fitton Woosley, Dianne Fitton, Dave Belew, Emily Fitton Fuhrman and Susan Fitton.

The Fitton Family received the 2015 David L. Belew Legacy Award at the Foundation's annual meeting in November.

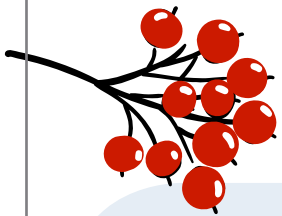
David Belew presented the award, remarking that the family's dedication to Hamilton has spanned five generations and 150 years, and that the Fitton family has been an integral part of the Foundation.

On Christmas Eve 1951, Cyrus Fitton was one of several friends who gathered to sign the incorporating papers for the Hamilton Community Foundation. Cyrus was one of five members of the Fitton family who have been on the Foundation board, for a combined total of 29 years of service. Other Fitton family members serving on the Foundation's board are: Donald Fitton, Richard "Dick" Fitton, and Jim Fitton, currently a trustee.

In addition, there are eight Fitton family funds at the Foundation.

"The Fitton family has a long history of leadership and generosity in our community. They continue to support numerous causes and organizations, contributing to the economic vitality of our area" said John Guidugli, president and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation.

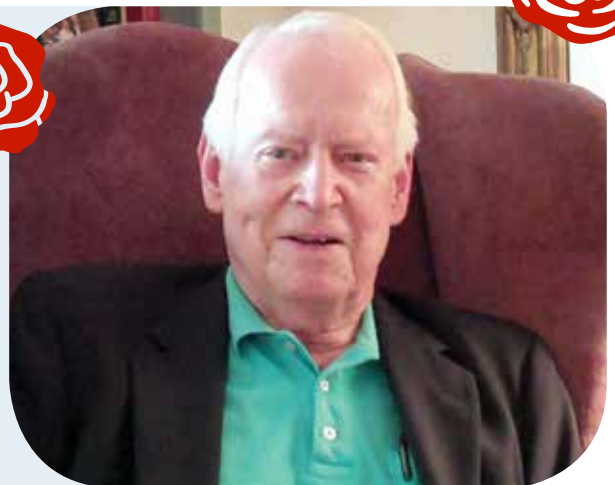
The greater Hamilton community has been enriched by family's leadership, volunteer time, generosity and successful fund raising efforts on behalf of many organizations such as the Fitton Center for Creative Arts, the Great Miami YMCA, Fort Hamilton Hospital, The Great Miami Rowing Center, The Butler County United Way and numerous civic organizations.



Remembering Vaden Fitton

1928-2015

Vaden Fitton will be missed throughout our community. The graduate of Hamilton High School, Princeton University and Veteran of the US Army, Vaden had a long and successful career at First National Bank. With his late wife, Grace, he was an active volunteer and philanthropist on behalf of many organizations. A kind and generous man, Vaden was great friend to the Foundation.

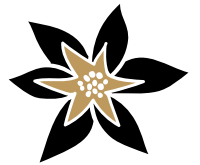


Annual Meeting 2015 – Celebrating our Success!

In early November, donors and friends of the Hamilton Community Foundation gathered to hear the latest news on impactful projects, fund and asset growth and progress on the Foundation's five strategic objectives.

Jim Fitton provided an update on the Hamilton Parks Conservancy, Superintendent of Schools Tony Orr reported on Foundation and school partnerships and Ian MacKenzie-Thurley discussed his family's experience with the CORE Residential Redevelopment Fund.

There was also time for greeting and conversing with friends both old and new:



Bob Cottrell, Woody Fitton and Nancy Cottrell catch up.



Scott Hartford, Lou Barich and Marvin Leshner visit.



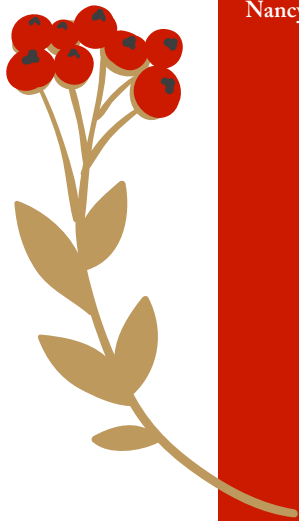
Joe and Marilyn Schmidt visit with Dave Belew.



Carlene and Bob Robinson at the Annual Meeting.



Paul Thoms, Marion Thoms and Phyllis Snyder enjoy each other's company as the program begins.



Community Impact: *A Drive Around Town,*

by John Guidugli, President/CEO

The Hamilton Community Foundation is celebrating 64 years of making a positive difference in our community. It is because of you and your support that the Foundation is able to do what we do every day, every month every year. And what is it that we do? In a word...lots.

Your community Foundation is important because of the impact we have on this community. We do things that matter - we do things that make a difference- we do things that are meaningful to this community and to the lives of those living and working here.

I hope you noticed the Foundation banners up along High Street over the past several weeks. We are always pleased to have those up and we want folks to see those banners and think about the Foundation and the impact that we have. But as I thought about it further, it occurred to me that even without the banners, the Foundation's impact is visible all around this community.

Then I thought about how great it would be if I could drive everyone through town and point out the Foundation's impact as we went.

As we enter Hamilton on westbound Route 129 we are greeted by the City Entrance with the Hamilton sign and the substantial landscaping - one of our 50th anniversary projects - welcoming you to Hamilton.

Crossing Route 4 and seeing the new East High corridor - a project just completed by the City of Hamilton - which was started after a study - funded by a Foundation donor - identified the need and a solution. It's taken a little while, but the result is great with improved aesthetics and traffic flow.



Enter the downtown business district and look around at impactful projects associated with the Foundation:

- The Mercantile Lofts
- Artspace
- Butler Tech School of the Arts
- Miami University Center for Civic Engagement
- Historic gazebo on the Courthouse lawn
- Former Elder Berman building - 150 High Street

Look to your left:

- Hamilton Visitors Center
- Soldiers, Sailors and Pioneers Monument
- Restoration of the Historic Log Cabin
- The Fitton Center for Creative Arts

Look to your right:

- Lentil Park
- The Courtyard by Marriott
- The Bikeway extension
- RiversEdge Amphitheater
- The future Marcum Park
- The Hamilton Mill

We could continue across the bridge and up Main Street and see the Partners in Prime Center and Armstead Park, or we could go a little further north and see Ft. Hamilton Hospital, Hamilton High School, West Side Little League and Jim Grimm Park.

Really, I could go on and on. I don't know where you could go in this community and not find a visible symbol of your community Foundation's impact.

But you know, it's much of what you can't readily see that I think creates the more substantial impact.





- The student who succeeds in high school and continues on to college because of the Foundation's YES program.
- The young person who gets a solid educational beginning because of our Start Ready program.

- The family receiving emergency assistance because of the Foundation's support of the Open Door Food Pantry or the Emergency Money Fund.
- Or maybe the impact felt by someone experiencing art for the first time because of our support for the Fitton Center and Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park.
- The many individuals who enjoy a concert because of our support for the Hamilton Fairfield Symphony Orchestra and for the RiversEdge Concert Series.
- The young person who realizes her dream of attending college because of a Foundation scholarship.

It is these impactful experiences that the Foundation is able to make happen because of the generosity of our donors, the leadership of our Board, the hard work of our staff and volunteers and spirit of our community.

We are able to meet many of the community's needs because of the financial resources that we have. We are so fortunate that our community is blessed with very generous donors who care deeply about providing the capital to make positive change occur. To those of you are here this evening – thank you for your generosity. Without you, none of this would be possible – all of these tangible and intangible outcomes could not be implemented and we would not be the impactful change agent that we have become. It is because of the generous gifts and wise investments we have the monetary capital to put with intellectual capital and vision that allow us to make significant progress.

Our success is directly related to all those who participate in the Foundation. Whether it is through financial support or through volunteering time and talent, we are a stronger organization because of the level of support we receive from this community. We are impactful in the community because of the impact the community has on the Foundation.



And this starts at the top – the leadership and vision of our Board of Trustees is what allows us to take chances, to stretch the possibilities... to imagine “what if” and “how can we make this better.” We are thankful to have a Board at the Hamilton Community Foundation who invests their time both with the Foundation and in our community. We have many, many volunteers who help us in our work – members of the Scholarship Selection Committee, the Harry T. Wilks Hamilton Celebrates Education Committee, the Investment Committee, the Education Committee, the Development Committee, the Women's Fund Committee, the Michael J. Colligan Fund Committee and others. It is only through their generous commitment of time that we are able to accomplish so much.

That brings us full circle to another very important group, our Youth Philanthropy Committee (YPC) featured on page one of this newsletter. They are a vibrant and vital group of the Foundation. We have a small staff, including Katie Braswell, Betsy Hope, Lindsey Lassiter, Debbie Mast and Dan Sander. Backed by great volunteer assistance and the generosity of this community, and we are able to accomplish much.

The Hamilton Community Foundation continues to be a philanthropic leader in this community. We continue to be a vehicle for positive change. We continue to fulfill our mission to build a better community through creative philanthropy, vision and leadership.

That is what we strive to do each and every day – and with your help it is what we will continue to do. I continue to be amazed at the versatility and flexibility of this organization and the impact that the Foundation has in this community.



So, the next time you are driving around town, take a moment to notice, and consider, the impact your community foundation – down to the very appearance of the downtown. And consider the changes that cannot be seen. I guarantee you will be amazed, too.



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'Tis the Season

Planned giving allows you to look to future and ensure that you and your family are secure now – while supporting the causes which are important to you. Giving through your estate is a way to make a difference in your community for future generations. You can make a planned gift through your will, your retirement plan assets or your life insurance policy. To learn more adding the Hamilton Community Foundation to your estate plan, or talk with us about tax-advantaged year-end gifts, contact us at (513) 863-1717, or visit our website, hamiltonfoundation.org.

Welcome New Legacy Members

Barbara Copeland
Betsy Hope and Don Garrett
Anne G. McAdams
Kathleen K. Walsh
Robert B. Wile
(since May 2015)

Scholarship Awards

Go to hamiltonfoundation.org to apply for Hamilton Community Foundation's scholarships for graduating high school seniors.
Online application deadline: **Friday, February 5, 2016**

FOUNDATION MISSION
STATEMENT

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



FOUNDATION VISION
STATEMENT

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