



Connections

from our Home to Yours

'Tis the Season for Year End Gifts

As you prepare to gather with family and friends over the holidays, we invite you to reach out to the Hamilton Community Foundation team for suggestions on how to incorporate charitable giving into your festivities.

There are a number of ways to make year-end giving a tradition. Here are a few ideas:

–Discuss community needs as a family. Have each family member talk about a local program or service that means something to them.

–Discuss pooling funds as a family to make a year-end gift.

–Make a charitable donation in someone's name in lieu of presents. This is a particularly good idea for the impossible to buy for person in your life.

–Establish a fund at the Community Foundation as a family. There is still plenty of time to put this in place to meet your year-end tax planning and charitable giving needs.

–If you are over the age of 70 ½, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. QCDs, available up to \$100,000 annually per taxpayer, are an excellent way to bypass required minimum distributions and the corresponding income tax liability.

Remember that gifts to the Hamilton Community Foundation are poured back into the local community via grants and scholarships. It is always the season to give the gift of philanthropy!

Visit hamiltonfoundation.org to make an online year-end donation.



New engineering equipment for Butler Tech programming at Hamilton High School thanks to an HCF grant.

Inside Stories



Pages 2
Woody Fitton,
New Board member



Page 4-5
Annual Meeting
photos



Page 6
Kathy Klink,
Belew Award Winner

Message from President and CEO, John Guidugli



Affiliates Provide Welcome Growth

In a matter of months the Hamilton Community Foundation grew by two affiliate organizations. The Ross Community Foundation and the Fairfield Community Foundation have come under the HCF fold and as a result we are working hard to promote awareness and growth in the communities of Ross, Fairfield and Fairfield Township.

The Ross Community Foundation is a newly established group of dedicated citizens committed to supporting the Ross community. They have gone from non-existent to amazing in a very short time and I credit their tenacious board of trustees

for setting and achieving objectives in a steadfast manner. The RCF has established a goal of raising \$500,000 by the end of the year and they are making strides toward that goal daily. Their desire to make their first grant to a Ross organization in 2023 is driving them and we continue to be impressed by their progress. We look forward to working closely with the RCF in the future.



The Fairfield Community Foundation became an affiliate of the Hamilton Community Foundation on July 1st of this year. They bring a history of tradition and support for the communities of Fairfield and Fairfield Township. They will continue to have a board of dedicated Fairfield residents to oversee their growth and success. As an existing organization

we will honor the institution they have established while providing the best guidance our experience permits.

For both affiliate organizations the Hamilton Community Foundation is providing guidance, staffing and expertise. I credit our visionary board of trustees for considering the addition of these two organizations and recognizing the potential for growth in both communities.

As we move forward I encourage you to learn more about these affiliations, particularly if you live or work in one of these communities. Dollars raised by and for the Fairfield and Ross community foundations will support their respective local programs and services. Supporting them and their funds means supporting local organizations which is precisely the benefit of a community foundation.

We'd be happy to discuss with you ways in which you can be part of their growth.

rosscommunityfoundation.org

fairfieldcommunityfoundation.org

HCF is Growing!



Crystal Reece

The Hamilton Community Foundation has welcomed two new faces to the team. Crystal Reece has been hired as the Director of Finance and Amy Berlean has joined the Foundation as the Director of Communications.

Crystal has been with HCF since May and she hit the ground running! She came to the Foundation from Baker and Associates Accounting. Crystal is revolutionizing the Finance department with her attention to detail and experience. Crystal can be reached directly at 513-805-0222 or by email at creece@hamiltonfoundation.org

Amy Berlean fills a brand new role for the Foundation as Director of Communications. Amy is no stranger to non-profit marketing or community foundations, having worked in the non-profit field for more

than 20 years and for the Middletown Community Foundation for five years. Amy can be reached directly at 513-216-4087 or by email at aberlean@hamiltonfoundation.org



Amy Berlean

*The Foundation is thrilled to have both ladies on the HCF team.
Help us welcome them!*

Welcome, Woody Fitton, to the HCF Board!



The Board of the Hamilton Community Foundation welcomes Vaden "Woody" Fitton to the Board of Trustees.

Fitton is certainly no stranger to the Hamilton community, serving as the President and CEO of the Great Miami Valley YMCA from 2005 to 2022 and

Senior Vice President at First Financial Bank prior to that from 1986 to 2005.

Today Fitton says he is a retired community volunteer and aspiring golfer. His retirement is the Foundation's gain.

"Woody brings such vast experience to the Board," says Cynamon Trokhan, Board Chair of the Hamilton Community Foundation. "He has a proven passion for this community and experience serving on a number of Boards. We're happy ours in now one of them."

Fitton says he looks forward to leveraging his skills and experience for the Foundation and sees the rich history, strong community support, highly regarded brand and willingness to be open and flexible toward community needs as the Hamilton Community Foundation's greatest strengths.

Fitton's personal aspiration as a board member is to ensure that our community is stronger and more sustainable for the next generation of citizens.

Aside from the Hamilton Community Foundation, Fitton also serves as Board member and Vice Chair of Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Board member of Alpha Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Board member of Valley Central Bank, Volunteer director of Hamilton LINKS among other volunteer and leadership roles in the community.

Fitton will serve a three-year term for the Hamilton Community Foundation with the potential to serve two additional three-year terms.

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Hamilton Community Foundation Annual Meeting took place at the Marriott on Tuesday, October 18. The program focused on the Foundation's growth with the addition of two new affiliate organizations, Fairfield Community Foundation and Ross Community Foundation, as well as the year's highlights.

New Strategic Focus: Increase Assets to Increase Impact

Goals:

1. Increase leadership assets to drive community progress
2. Increase financial assets to better respond to community needs
3. Increase awareness assets to inspire community philanthropy
4. Increase staffing assets to better serve the community



"As we move forward today, I reach out to each of you and ask you to join our community. Help us support the new and emerging needs and opportunities. Agree to step up and be part of the next generation of courageous and generous individuals who will make a difference going forward."

John Guidugli,
President and CEO





Leadership Updates

The following officers were appointed at the 2022 Annual Meeting

Cynamon Trokhan, Chair
Attorney, Parris, Marcum & Trokhan, Co., LPA

Robert Long, Vice Chair
Retired, Miami University

John Kirsch, Secretary
Kirsch CPA Group

Andrew Schuster, Treasurer
President, Matandy Steel and Metal Products

Special thanks to Sandy Sanders for his service to the Board.



Hamilton LINKS *Brings Local Leaders Together*



The 16 members of the newly created Hamilton LINKS (**Lead, Inspire, Network, Knowledge, Support**) program are already leaders in their respective fields. The LINKS program hopes to enhance those leadership skills and create a local cohort of Hamilton's leaders in the process.

"What we'd like to see happen with the LINKS program is a community collaboration between local leaders," says John Guidugli, President and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation and co-creator of the LINKS program.

The program, established by the Hamilton Community Foundation and the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce has three objectives:

1. Sharpen leadership skills through interesting information and activities
2. Tackle relevant topics through discussion with other leaders
3. Build a strong cohort creating trusted relationships among Hamilton leaders

The program is facilitated by Monica Scalf, founder of Work Well Group. Scalf is an executive educator and coach who has worked with teams at eBay, P&G, Lexis Nexis, Great American and more. Guidugli believes Scalf's involvement elevates the program.



Monica Scalf

"Monica definitely brings a level of professionalism and added value to LINKS," he says. "We know the program will be successful with her commitment to the process."

Along with Scalf, local leader Vaden "Woody" Fitton is serving as the volunteer Director of the program. Fitton most recently served as the Executive Director of the Great Miami Valley YMCA and is a new board member for the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Members of the inaugural Hamilton LINKS program are:

Jason Crank, *United Heartland Insurance*

Stephen Roller, *Primary Health Solutions*

Heather Sanderson Lewis, *Millikin & Fitton Law Firm*

Mike Holbrook, *Hamilton City Schools*

John Kirsch, *Kirsch CPA Group*

Mark Lippert, *Hamilton Caster & Mfg*

Andy Schuster, *Matandy Steel and Metal Products*

Joshua Smith, *City of Hamilton*

Marni Durham, *Butler Tech*

Ande Durojaiye, *Miami University Regionals*

Lisa Guliano, *Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities*

Drew Guthridge, *thyssenkrupp Bilstein of America*

Brett Kirkpatrick, *Community First Solutions*

Boyce Swift, *Great Miami Valley YMCA*

Mitch Vocke, *Telhio Credit Union*

Erik Balster, *Butler County*

David L. Belew Award Goes to Educator and Community Volunteer Kathleen Klink



The David L. Belew Award, named after its first recipient, was created to recognize an individual or family who has made significant contributions of time, talent or resources to improve the quality of life in the community. The 2022 recipient certainly fits that description.

Kathy Klink spent 47 years as an educator in the community, making a lasting impact on hundreds of students throughout the years. As if that weren't enough, she also volunteers her time generously through the Parks Conservancy, the Fitton Center, Hamilton Community Foundation, the 17 Strong Neighborhood initiative and many others.

Tradition of Honoring Local Educators Continues



L to R: Gabby Simms, Heather Adams, Mike Neri, Melissa Carmody, Sarah Martin, Karen Bultman, Kristy Bailey, Emily Balsbaugh, Zac Mills, Amy Soldner, Michelle Beck, Cara Kerchner, Krisstina Monnig, Michelle St. Laurent, Melissa Moser, Tracy Francis

Not pictured: Becky Huber, Wendy Tuttle, Paul Zimmerman

The 2022 Harry T Wilks Hamilton Celebrates Education ceremony honored 19 educators from local schools on Wednesday, October 19. The annual event was created from a conversation between Wilks and HCF President and CEO John Guidugli about how to recognize local educators who go above and beyond in the classroom and community.

"Harry was very interested in doing something to celebrate local educators," says Guidugli. "We discussed ways in which we could recognize excellence in education on an annual basis and the Hamilton Celebrates Education program began."

Now in its 20th year, the event aims to recognize anyone in the field of education who does more than just what is expected in their role. Sometimes it's a nurse, at times it's a counselor, administrators have been recognized and of course teachers.

"We continue to be impressed by the caliber of nominees we see each year," Guidugli says. "I know Harry would be proud."

The 2022 nominees were recognized at the Hamilton Celebrates Education event at the Hamilton Marriott. More than 250 people were in attendance.

2022 Recipients of the Excellence in Education distinction:

Heather Adams, *St. Peter in Chains School*
Kristy Bailey, *Crawford Woods Elementary School*
Emily Balsbaugh, *Bridgeport Elementary School*
Michelle Beck, *Linden Elementary School*
Karen Bultman, *Fairwood Elementary School*
Melissa Carmody, *Garfield Middle School*
Tracy Francis, *The Miami School*
Becky Huber, *Highland Elementary School*
Cara Kerchner, *Brookwood Elementary School*
Sarah Martin, *St. Joseph Consolidated School*
Zach Mills, *Ridgeway Elementary School*
Krisstina Monnig, *St. Ann Catholic School*
Melissa Moser, *Queen of Peace School*
Mike Neri, *Hamilton High Main Campus*
Gabby Sims, *Hamilton High Freshman Campus*
Amy Soldner, *Immanuel Lutheran School*

"I think Kathy could move mountains with her foresight, vision, determination and courageous leadership," says Belew. "She is an optimist who can see past the clouds and a relentless cheerleader for the community she so loves."

Upon receiving the award at the Hamilton Community Foundation Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 18, Klink shared that things happen when like-minded community volunteers work side by side sharing ideas and learning from one another.

Ever the volunteer, she received the award with an invitation for everyone to get involved.

Klink is the 12th recipient of the David L. Belew Legacy Award.

Past participants are:

2010 – David L. Belew
2011 – Parrish Family
2012 – Joel and Marilyn Schmidt
2013 – Ralph "Pat" Carruthers
2014 – Joseph Marcum
2015 – Fitton Family
2016 – Thomas B. Rentschler
2017 – Wilks Family
2018 – Judge John R. "Jack" Moser
2019 – Jack and Karen Whalen
2021 – William A. Groth



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



Address correction requested

Up and Coming

The Hamilton Community Foundation will be closed in observance of holidays on the following days:

Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25, 2022
Monday, December 26, 2022
Monday, January 1, 2023

November is National Philanthropy Month

Thank you to all who give your time, talent & treasures!

German Village Christmas Walk

Sunday, December 4, 2022
the Lane-Hooven House will
be open from Noon – 3pm.

**Scholarship applications for
graduating seniors will be accepted**

December 13, 2022 - January 15, 2023



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."