



# Connections

*from our Home to Yours*

## *Scholarship Reception Moves to Accommodate Growth*



The 2023 Scholarship Reception was moved from Hamilton High School to Fairfield High School to accommodate a larger audience.

"With the addition of Fairfield and Ross scholarships we knew we needed a larger space," says Kasey Rouse, Scholarship Program Manager. "Fairfield has a

beautiful, spacious Performing Arts Center and they were kind enough to host the event this year."

The Scholarship Reception is a program that recognizes scholarship recipients and their donors.

"It's a chance for our students to meet the donors who made their scholarship possible," says Rouse. "The students always love the opportunity to thank their donor in person and the donors love meeting the students. It's a nice event bringing them together."

Approximately 650 guests were welcomed by Fairfield High School Principal Ryan Bellamy. Justin Krueger, Fairfield Community Foundation Board Chair and President of Mercy Health Fairfield & North Market was the keynote speaker. He encour-

aged the students to be open to change as they learn and grow in their lives and careers. Volunteers Kathleen Klink and Bob Long presented the students with their certificates and the emcee for the evening was Lee Sanders. Music was provided by the Steven Colwell Trio.



We thank everyone who helped to make this event a success, particularly the scholarship donors who have made our scholarship program so impactful in the lives of college bound youth. Because of you the Foundation awarded 299 scholarships to deserving students.



***The 2024 Scholarship cycle will open from December 9, 2023 to January 7, 2024. Information about the application and the 2024 Scholarship Reception will be announced by the end of this year.***

### Inside Stories



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**Jacob Stone-Welch,**  
New staff member



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**YPC**

# Message from President and CEO, John Guidugli



## Legacy Gifts Pack a Lasting Punch

The Hamilton Community Foundation recently received a very generous Legacy gift from the estate of Dr. Carole Kuhn, a lifelong Hamilton resident. Carole was an extremely intelligent and fascinating person. She established the Foreign Language Department at Fairfield High School where she taught French, Russian and Spanish. She travelled and studied all over the world and shared her passion for languages with others, both professionally and as a volunteer. She chose to make a Legacy gift to the Foundation to support the City of Sculpture organization. A gift like this can be transformative and is one of, if not the most, impactful gifts a person can make.

We have a robust Legacy Society at the Hamilton Community Foundation and for that we are truly grateful. When a person chooses to remember an organization in their estate plan it's a very personal decision, and one we do not take for granted. Legacy gifts have a profound impact on the long-term viability of an organization because they are, as the name states, meant to leave a lasting legacy in the memory of the donor or a donor's loved one. Legacy gifts create endowments. Endowments create longevity, and longevity creates lasting impact.

Sometimes we are the recipient of a Legacy gift with no prior knowledge of the designation and no way to effectively thank the donor. These "surprise" gifts are certainly a welcome occasion but believe me, we would much rather thank a donor for choosing to remember us in this way.

Choosing where your treasure goes at the end of your life is a decision of great magnitude. If you have a heart for your community or a heart for charitable giving, we believe that we offer a great option for you. We accept and administer these dollars with a great deal of respect. You can count on your gift being utilized for the purpose you intended. We welcome conversations about this topic and suggest that you discuss such a gift with your trusted advisors.

It's not always an easy topic to discuss, Legacy planning. Just know that should the Hamilton Community Foundation be the recipient of your lasting legacy; it will be put to the best possible use in your memory. We have some incredibly generous members of our Legacy Society. It would be our honor to include you.

## Estate Gifts Making a Difference

*The Michael J Colligan Fund makes Hamilton's 4th of July Parade and Fireworks possible each year.*



*The Jerry E and Marlene Lee Moore Fund provides financial assistance to the annual Hamilton Fairfield Antique and Classic Car Parade.*



# New Funds in 2023!

The Hamilton Community Foundation team is consistently meeting with potential donors to create new funds to support the community. Here is a list of new funds so far in 2023:

**Albert L and Shirley M Roy Fund**

**Black History Re-Engagement Luncheon Fund**

**Chisholm Farmstead Field Trip Fund**

**Christian's Corn Stand Jam Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Corn Stand Jam Mental Health Fund**

**Daniel Monnin Police Academy Fund**

**Dean Kees Advised Fund**

**Dr. John Long Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Fitton Trade Scholarship Fund**

**Gerry and Gerry Hammond Legacy Fund**

**Hamilton Hometown Heroes Banner Program Fund**

**Hamilton Promise Fund**

**HUGS F2S with Hamilton City Schools Fund**

**Katherine Schindler Memorial Advised Fund**

**Kathleen L Klink Advised Fund**

**Leadership Hamilton Class 31 Fund**

**Mallory Greenham Acorn Fund**

**Morgan Township Community Park Fund**

**Tonya S Engel Memorial Playground Fund**

*Thank you to the donors who have entrusted us with facilitating your charitable goals!*

## Welcome Jacob Stone-Welch to the HCF Team!



The Hamilton Community Foundation team has expanded again to better serve the community. This is the third newly created position for the Foundation and the second that comes as a result of the 2022 Strategic Plan that encourages employee expansion to make way for the growing organization.

The newest employee to join the Hamilton Community Foundation is Jacob Stone-Welch as Director of Donor Services. You might recognize Jacob as a 10-year employee of the City of Hamilton who has held the roles of Customer Experience Manager and Public Communications Specialist.

"We have had the opportunity to work with Jacob over the years, so we knew his work ethic and enthusiasm for the City of Hamilton was there. We were pleased when he expressed interest in the position and really look forward to seeing what he does with this new role," says John Guidugli, HCF President & CEO.

City of Hamilton Director of Neighborhoods Brandon Saurber says he's glad Jacob will still be serving Hamilton.

"Jacob has proven himself as a non-stop force for good in our city. I am happy that he will continue to wield his boundless positive energy in our community, just from a different desk."

The Director of Donor Services will work directly with donors to ensure that they are reaching their charitable goals. Jacob's professional experience, along with his ability to create relationships in the community make him a good fit for the position.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have the chance to work alongside donors and help them make their philanthropic visions a reality," he says. "The Hamilton Community Foundation has a remarkable legacy of making a genuine difference in our community, and I feel honored to be a part of it."

Jacob is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated with a master's degree from Miami University in 2013. In addition to his tenure with the City, he has been actively involved in community initiatives like City of Sculpture and Great Miami Riverway Coalition. He has also been an invaluable volunteer with the Fitton Center for Creative Arts and the Dayton Lane Historic Area. He is a resident of Historic Rossville.



# Engel Family Donates Inclusive Playground to Morgan Township Park Project



The Engel Family, owners of Diamond Heavy Haul in Morgan Township, have created a fund through the Hamilton Community Foundation for the creation of an inclusive playground to the Morgan Township Community Park.

Named "Tonya S. Engel Memorial Playground," in honor of the late Tonya S. Engel, the playground incorporates carefully designed elements to accommodate children of all abilities and is set to become the first of its kind in the township. Features of the playground are inspired by Tonya, including her favorite color purple, a flower shade structure, and a custom camper play structure harkening back to her family camping trips.

Reflecting on the contribution, Mike and Kaylin Engel, said, "Mom loved kids and nothing brought her more joy than seeing them happy. We know this park would be something that she would want and is our way of remembering and honoring her spirit."

The Hamilton Community Foundation holds funds for both the Community Park and the playground. Contributions can be made to these funds at <https://hcfhf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate> - search Morgan Township Community Park Fund and/or Tonya S Engel Memorial Playground Fund.

## More than \$400,000 Granted to Local Organizations So Far this Year

The Unrestricted Grant Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation makes it possible for the Foundation to award local grants throughout the year. With five grant cycles per year, organizations have the ability to request funds for programs once per year. Thus far grants have been awarded to the following organizations:

**StreetSpark Program** - \$90,000 over three years. StreetSpark is a public art program that encourages local art installations throughout the community.

**Fittion Center for Creative Arts** - \$50,000 for youth programming.

**Butler Philharmonic** - \$25,000 for the holiday concert and community outreach.

**Hope's Closet** - \$20,000 for a foster parent recruitment campaign.

**Fairfield Community Foundation** - \$25,000 to assist the Foundation with a community grant.

**Ross Community Foundation** - \$10,000 to assist the Foundation with community grants.

**Animal Friends Humane Society** - \$37,720 to assist with revamping the adoption kennel.

**GMV YMCA – Booker T Washington Center** - \$100,000 over 15 months to support programming.

**Inspiration Studios** - \$20,000 for the purchase of a large-scale printer.

**Ross Local Schools Choral Association** - \$20,000 to purchase new equipment.

**Lonely Entrepreneur** - \$25,000 to support local minority owned businesses.





# Youth Make Great Impact in Hamilton



The Youth Philanthropy Committee of the Hamilton Community Foundation meets monthly throughout the school year to learn about needs in the community. The Committee is comprised of students from grades 9 – 12 from Hamilton, Ross, New Miami and Badin High Schools.

"It's great to see students from different schools interacting and collaborating with one another," says Katie Braswell, VP of the Hamilton Community Foundation and facilitator of the YPC program.

With the assistance of board member Susan Vaughn, Braswell oversees the monthly meetings and keeps the students on track for learning about needs in the community.

"Susan and I certainly have our responsibilities," says Braswell, "but the students really do the work of planning meetings, recruiting new students and planning volunteer opportunities for the group."

The culmination of each year is the awarding of grants to local organizations serving youth.



*Chloe Christen and Natalie Jansenn  
2023 grads*

Congratulations to the 2023 YPC graduates, Chloe Christen from Hamilton High School, Natalie Jansenn from Ross High School and Ava Sanders from New Miami High School. The 2023-2024 class of Youth Philanthropy Committee will begin meeting in September.

*The Youth Philanthropy Committee has been making an impact for more than 15 years by teaching youth the importance of philanthropy and volunteerism. The YPC is responsible for making funding recommendations for grants from several Funds at the Foundation: Christopher Courtney Memorial Children's Fund, Butler County Children's Home Fund, the Exchange Club Fund, Melvin J and Mary Helen Hauser Memorial Fund, Charles and Elizabeth Heitsman Fund and the Albert Stuhlmuehler Memorial Fund.*

## 2023 Youth Philanthropy Committee Grants Total \$30,175

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County** - \$5,000 for site-based mentoring at Riverview Elementary School.
- **Fitton Center for Creative Arts** - \$5,000 for summer camp.
- **Girls on the Run** - \$2,500 for entry fee for local girls to participate.
- **Hamilton Living Water Ministry** - \$3,275 for summer camp.
- **HOPEfull Pastures Therapeutic Farm** - \$2,650 for automatic watering system for livestock.
- **JEE Foods** - \$5,000 for Miami University Regionals food pantry.
- **Ohio State Extension Office** - \$2,750 for a youth food safety and safe cooking program.
- **Parachute:CASA** - \$1,500 for gift certificates for advocates to take clients out to eat or for ice cream during their visits.
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** - \$2,500 for supplies to make beds for children who don't have one.

# First LINKS Program is Time Well Spent



The inaugural Hamilton LINKS (Lead, Inspire, Network, Knowledge, Support) program has wrapped and its 16 participants agree the seven session curriculum was worthwhile and helpful.

John Guidugli, President and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation, created the Hamilton LINKS program with Dan Bates, Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce President, with 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

Sessions were inspired by participants themselves, helping to make the program topical.



*Brett Kirkpatrick*

Brett Kirkpatrick, President and CEO of Community First Solutions says it was an amazing experience.

"There are a lot of 'leadership programs' available," he says, "but they are generic in nature and they don't always use real world or regional factors within their model. The LINKS is about so

much more than leadership from a book – it's networking with other local leaders while talking about issues we are having right here in Butler County."

"One of the more interesting sessions dealt with how to have



*Marni Durham*

difficult conversations," says John Guidugli. "This was a concept that seemed to resonate with everyone, and as folks shared their experiences and suggestions I felt a sense of empathy and appreciation from everyone."

Aside from addressing tough and/or relevant topics the program created a camaraderie amongst the participants.

"The Hamilton LINKS program yielded several long-lasting relationships that have served as a resource for my business needs as well as allowed me to form personal relationships," says Marni Durham, Butler Tech Assistant Superintendent. "I am truly grateful for the experience."

**Along with Durham and Kirkpatrick, the roster includes:**

**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**

**Ande Durojaiye, Miami University Regionals**

**Lisa Guliano, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

**Drew Guthridge, thyssenkrupp Bilstein of America**

**Joyce Swift, Great Miami Valley YMCA**

**Mitch Vocke, Telhio Credit Union**

**Erik Balster, Butler County**

## Reasons to Choose HCF for your Donor Advised Fund

1. **Mission.** We are mission driven, not dollar driven.
2. **Service.** We provide outstanding customer service and stay well versed on the needs of the community.
3. **Investment.** Earnings on your investment go back into your Fund so it continues to grow.

The Hamilton Community Foundation is the local expert on charitable giving. To talk to someone about moving your Donor Advised Fund, or creating a new one, call Katie Braswell, Vice President at 513-805-0220.



# Women's Fund Increases Scope



The Women's Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation was

created in 1997 by Joan Witt and Karen Whalen to address the needs of women and girls in the community. Through the years loyal donors have helped to make the Women's Fund a successful resource for organizations addressing the needs of local women.

"There is no shortage of need in this community for women struggling with issues ranging from poverty and drug addiction to homelessness and the threat of eviction," says Katie Braswell, VP of the Hamilton Community Foundation. "The Women's Fund Committee is focused on addressing any and all of the challenges our women and girls face."

The Women's Fund has poured more than \$280,000 into local organizations that serve women.

"This community is fortunate to have some incredible organizations working diligently and passionately day in and day out to provide a ladder of support on which women can climb out of their circumstances," says Niki Motley, Chairperson of the Women's Committee.

The Women's Fund Committee is comprised of Motley, Liz Hayden, Nancy O'Neill, Founder Joan Witt and Carrie Zancan. In 2023 the Committee decided to expand their focus to include a new initiative, Women Inspiring Philanthropy (WIP). WIP will usher 15 local women through a 10 month program geared toward encouraging female leadership in local organizations.



- **More than 30** organizations have received grants from the Women's Fund, many have received more than one.
- **62** grants have been awarded since the Fund's creation.
- **More than \$280,000** has been awarded through the Women's Fund.
- Some of the organizations the Women's Fund have supported are **YWCA, Support to Encourage Low-income Families (SELF), Women Helping Women, Girls on the Run, GirlsCan Program.**

BY THE NUMBERS

"We have an incredible pool of local women who love and are passionate about this community," says Motley. "We want to provide these women with the tools and empowerment to strive for a seat at the head of the board table for local organizations, particularly organizations with a female focused mission."

The first WIP session will begin in September of 2023. Each month the ladies will meet for a couple of hours in the afternoon to learn about local organizations, leadership opportunities and information about how to engage in leadership positions.

"Women are instrumental in the philanthropic sector," says Braswell. "They are proven to give more and more often. It just makes sense that they would be taking on leadership roles in charitable organizations."



Scan to donate

If you would like to support programs for local women and girls, scan this QR Code or go to [hamiltonfoundation.org](https://hamiltonfoundation.org) Donate Now and search Women's Fund.



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



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Address correction requested

## David L Belew



*This plaque recognizing David L Belew has been displayed in the Briggs Conference Room where the Hamilton Community Foundation Board meets. The plaque is but a small recognition of the more than 60 years Mr. Belew has given to the community and the Community Foundation, including two terms as HCF Board Chair. Mr. Belew is the first and only Trustee Emeritus of the Foundation. Much of who we are today is due to his leadership and we are incredibly grateful for his service.*

## Up and Coming

**Tuesday, September 19 & Wednesday, September 20 - Fund Raising for Small Nonprofits**

**Tuesday, October 17 - 2023 Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 18 - Harry T Wilks Excellence in Education event**

## 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."

