



Connections

from our Home to Yours

President's Message

Addressing Community Need



John Guidugli
PRESIDENT/CEO

The Hamilton Community Foundation's Strategic Plan identifies four major objectives that help us focus our work and create the greatest positive impact in the community. These objectives are to:

- **Increase Assets to Increase Impact**
- **Create a Better Educated Community**
- **Increase Economic Vitality**
- **Enhance Community Quality of Life**

Each objective is important and reminds us to focus on our grantmaking and in our work in the community.

Examining one of the objectives a little closer – creating a better educated community – allows us to see many ways the Foundation works to ensure that education is valued and supported in our community. Our commitment to education runs the gamut from supporting preschool education to support for higher and lifelong education. Much of our work in this area is directed by our Education Committee. This group of dedicated volunteers is led by Kathleen Klink, and includes Scott Hartford, Bob Long, Heather Lewis and Sandy Sanders. This committee examines opportunities and makes strategic decisions of where to allocate limited resources to have the greatest impact.

Some of our education initiatives include:

Start Ready – This program supports preschool education by offering financial assistance to help families afford quality preschool programming.

Support for Elementary School Students - Through funding of various programs such as Boys and Girls Club, Booker T. Washington Community Center and Hamilton Living Water we provide essential funding to allow these organizations to provide homework assistance, tutoring and educational support to students.

Butler County Success Liaisons – The Foundation helps fund this program of the Butler County Educational Services Center that provides trained specialists to work with students and their families to deal with non-educational issues that may impact a student's success in school.

MindPeace – The Foundation is a funder of MindPeace. This is the entity chosen by Hamilton City Schools to coordinate mental health services for students throughout the district.

Scholarships – Our scholarship program continues to grow and offers financial assistance for students at the elementary, secondary, college and graduate level. Many of our scholarships are academic based, but we also offer opportunities for students pursuing technical training to prepare for a career.

Harry T. Wilks Hamilton Celebrates Education

For this program we partner with the Wilks Foundation to recognize outstanding educators throughout the community. In addition to recognition, grant money is provided to those selected to enhance their efforts in the classroom.

Talent Attraction Program (TAP) Scholarships

This innovative program helps pay down student loan debt for selected students while also attracting outstanding young people to the community.

In addition to these programs, the Foundation is always exploring new and innovative projects for potential funding. Education is extremely important to the Foundation, we are proud of the work we have supported in this area, and we look forward to continuing the critical work of creating a better educated community.

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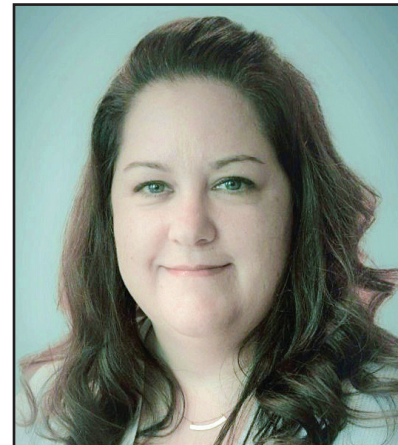
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YPC retreat

Meet new staff member

We are pleased to welcome Kasey Rouse to the staff of the Hamilton Community Foundation. Kasey joins us as the Scholarship Program Manager. She will be responsible for administering and managing the growing portfolio of scholarship funds at the Foundation. Kasey comes to the Foundation with five years of experience managing scholarship programs and we are pleased to have her bring that knowledge and expertise to us!

Kasey and her husband, Scott, are Hamilton residents and have three children including a Hamilton High School senior. Kasey is also a proud grandmother to a sweet granddaughter.

Please welcome Kasey to our team!



Kasey Rouse
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM MANAGER

Why Establish a Scholarship Fund with the Foundation?

Scholarship Funds provide a tangible link to the future. The gift of education that a scholarship bestows benefits not just the student, but the community as well. Whether creating a lasting memorial to a person or to meet current charitable needs, a scholarship fund provides access to educational opportunities for a wide variety of students --- from pre-school to post-graduate, locally, statewide, or regionally, or for special populations. The Foundation offers flexible, affordable options for you to realize your charitable intentions.

Our first scholarship was awarded in 1954 and now the Hamilton Community Foundation manages more than 200 individual, family, and company scholarships. Each year more than \$1 million in scholarships are awarded to students pursuing higher education.



Youth Philanthropy Committee holds retreat

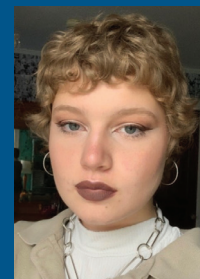


The Youth Philanthropy Committee (YPC) was created to provide an opportunity to teach area youth the importance of philanthropy. The goals are to teach young people about fund development for important projects, volunteer their time in the community and learn how to distribute funds to create the greatest impact in the community. YPC is made up of 20 high school students, and is one of more than 200 other youth grantmaking groups from around the country.

Students from area high schools – Badin, Hamilton, Ross and New Miami, are exposed to the work of the Foundation as well as area nonprofit organizations. Each year new members are recruited to join the committee and invited to the annual summer retreat. This year, students spent overnight at Hueston Woods Lodge and Conference Center learning how philanthropy impacts the community and how they can be a part of it. YPC members are empowered to grant dollars to area nonprofits serving the youth as well as exposed to community service activities and opportunities to enhance leadership skills.



Special thanks to Youth Philanthropy Committee member, Chloe Christen for creating a new modern look for YPC. "I wanted to include the Earth in my design because philanthropy is centered in making this Earth a better place for all," said Chloe.



Chloe is a Junior at Hamilton High School and joined the committee as a freshman. Chloe is the daughter of

Dr. Katherine Carr Christen and Keith Christen and the granddaughter of the late Dr. James and Anne Carr.



Scholarships provided beyond high school

Since 1954, the HCF has offered scholarships to area high school students pursuing higher education. We work with hundreds of donors who are passionate about education in our community. Thanks to them, we are able to offer more than 200 scholarships to graduating seniors, current college students, and adults returning to school.

Typically students receive multiple awards their first year in college but struggle to find additional funds for the remaining years. The Foundation recognizes this issue we encourage donors to consider renewable awards or those specifically for current college students. In 2021, nearly \$200,000 was awarded to students continuing their college education.

Thank you notes from our college student scholarship recipients:

Dear donors of the Patricia Parrish Everhart Excellence in Education Scholarship,

I am writing to thank you for your generous act of selecting me for the \$1,000 Patricia Parrish Everhart Excellence in Education Scholarship. I was very honored and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

Currently, I am working a few part time summer jobs trying to save money for my education and future. I will begin my third year at The Ohio State University next month. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying and becoming an active student at Ohio State.

By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus on my education in great depth. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Conner Robinson



Dear Richard C. and Mary C. Law Scholarship,

I am writing this letter to thank you for your generous Scholarship. I was beyond ecstatic and appreciative to hear I was selected for your generous scholarship.

Next year I will be finishing my undergraduate education at Ohio Northern University with a major in biochemistry and minor in biology. In the future, I hope to continue my education at the Masters or PhD level. The generous financial assistance you provide will help me tremendously in paying for future college expenses. This assistance will allow me to focus more of my time to studying and enjoying my senior year.

By awarding me your scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which will allow me to focus more on my academic endeavors. Your generosity has been an inspiration to me that will push me towards giving back to my community, just as you have to many students before me and will continue after me. I hope one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals just as you have.

Sincerely,
Melissa Gouge



Dear Charles and Margaret Koehler Family,

I am writing to thank you for your generous scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am majoring in Architecture with hopes of becoming an architect. I plan on receiving my degree from the University of Cincinnati. My first year of college was interesting and different because of the pandemic but I did not let that take away from learning and making sure I kept up in school. I had to adjust to my situation and once I did I was able to regain focus in school. I am excited for next year and look forward to it because I will be able to be on campus and have in person classes. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

By awarding me your scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Jabari Ashford



Dear Deanna Gilreath family,

Thank you so much for the generous donation on behalf of your loved one. I am so grateful to have people supporting me in my education. I am very excited to get back to school at Westminster College this year and complete my third year of nursing school.

My program allows us to take the NCLEX boards after this year which means I am so close to achieving my dream of becoming a nurse. I have been blessed to have great nurses to look up to in my life and I am sure your Deanna did the same for many others like me. I want to sincerely thank you for this scholarship, this allows me to have a little less stress and focus more on my academics.

Warm wishes,
Amanda Stevenson



Scholarships for adults returning to college

Those adults who decide to go back to school typically do not think of applying for scholarships. However, the Hamilton Community Foundation has scholarships available for this population. Unlike students that go to college right out of high school, adult students have a different set of challenges because they often have family and work obligations and more limited funding opportunities. Thanks to the many donors who support education, we can provide scholarships for our adult learners in Hamilton. Applications are accepted online on a rolling basis and are reviewed as needed.

Thank you notes from our adult scholarship recipients:

Dear Hamilton Community Foundation donors:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for being selected for the Metropolitan Women's Club Scholarship. This scholarship will assist me in completing my degree in Psychology as well as help me obtain my goal of assisting citizens of Butler County.

Once I completed my Bachelors' and Master Degrees in Human Services Counseling (MA) Marriage and Family Cognate, I plan to work with the Butler County Domestic Relations Courts in Coaching marital couples that have filed for legal separation. The goal is to serve as a resource in keeping our Butler County families together.

Sincerely,
Flora Butler



Dear Hamilton Community Foundation donors:

Thank you for your generosity with this scholarship. It will allow me to continue progress toward my Bachelor's of Integrative Studies and will be one of only six classes I have left to complete my degree. I look forward to making a difference in my new career with local nonprofits, and again I thank you for your contribution that helps make this possible.

Sincerely,
Grace Carr



Dear Hamilton Community Foundation donors:

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for selecting me to receive this scholarship. I have been planning to go back to school for a few years and have been trying to find a way to pay for it all. With the help of this scholarship, it is allowing me to go back and not have to worry about how I am going to pay the full balance. I will be able to devote myself fully to my studies and not have to stress about getting dropped from the classes due to having a balance or anything like that. I am so appreciative of this support.

Sincerely,
Michael Smiley, Jr.



Dear Hamilton Community Foundation donors:

My name is Leroy Brown. I am a forty-two-year-old African American male. I want to thank the Hamilton Community Foundation for the Brown/Latta Education Scholarship. This scholarship is definitely needed at this time, because I am in my last semester and my financial aid for this semester has exceeded its limit. This scholarship will pay for half of the remainder of my tuition cost, which will help me out a great deal.

Being an adult student, I spent a lot of time worrying about how I was going to pay for college. Having this scholarship allows me to focus on my school work instead of stressing about not having the money. The Hamilton Community Foundation has made a huge investment in my education, which supports my self-efficacy. This scholarship will help me graduate with my Bachelors degree in Social Work and contribute to the economy in Butler County.

Sincerely,
Leroy Brown



Grant Opportunity for agencies providing health services



The health of a community is an area of focus for the Health Services Endowment fund. Since its creation in 1998, the fund has provided nearly \$2 million in grant support to organizations providing health care services in the community. Recently the Hamilton Community Foundation moved its grant application process online and now has moved several grant opportunities online including the Health Services Endowment Fund. This new process allows for easy access to multiple opportunities offered through the Foundation.

"We are pleased to move our grant application online to better serve our grant applicants. The Foundation has been helpful in making this process easier for our grantees and our committee," said Greg Hull, Health Services Endowment committee chair.

The committee will review applications two times a year – May and November with deadlines to submit one month prior. October 1st is the deadline to be considered at the November 2021 meeting. Please visit the Grant section of the Foundation's website to learn more.

Women's Fund donors impacting women and girls in community



This marks the 24th year Women's Fund donors came together to support this fund to provide funding to women and girls in our community.

The fund began with a gift of \$20 and now has **GROWN** to more than \$400,000 thanks to generous gifts from the community.

Now more than ever women are committed to philanthropic collaboration to ensure the social and economic self-sufficiency for all women and girls in Butler County. Despite best efforts only 1.6% of charitable gifts worldwide are dedicated to women and girls. Thanks to our Women's Fund donors nearly \$300,000 has been awarded to local organizations serving the needs of women and girls.

"The importance of women's funding community could not be more crucial than in this moment of recovery," said Nikki Motley, Women's Fund Chair. "The Women's Fund is here to continue the work of building better systems and experiences for women and girls who have been further marginalized due to covid-19."

Women's fund grants awarded in 2021

Miami University	\$6,750.00	STEAM Studio Scholarships
Women Helping Women	\$10,000.00	Crisis Intervention Services
SELF (Supports to Encourage Low-income Families)	\$5,000.00	Build Up Academy
Girls on the Run Greater Cincinnati	\$2,500.00	Girls on the Run Provides Physical, Social, and Emotional Learning to Girls in Need

Art in the Park created fund to continue their work



The 17 Strong Microgrant Program funded many great projects making an impact in the community. One project is the Art in the Park program. What began in one park now takes place in 17 parks throughout Hamilton. It is a free summer event where kids from the ages of 6-12 can make free art projects. The events are held from 10am to noon one Saturday a month and feature unique and different art projects.

According to the program's creator, Robin Szary, "the purpose of Art in the Park is to keep the kids in the city engaged and doing something productive throughout the summer months. Many of the kids in our city lack productive things to keep them occupied over the summer. It builds community within the neighborhoods, and really helps to improve the parks that the events will be held."

In 2021, a fund was created at the Foundation to help ensure continued support from the community.

Art in the Park
HAMILTON, OHIO



Welcome New Funds

Starting a fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation is a simple process that allows donors to achieve their charitable goals. The following funds have been established this year to address a variety of charitable causes in the community.

- Art in the Park Fund
- Critters and Cruisers Fund
- Deanna Gilreath Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Friends Of Butler Tech Fund
- Goebel Family Fund
- Great Miami Rowing Scholarship Fund
- Gregory L. and Mariann J. Savage Family Fund
- Hamilton CSX Train Station Fund
- Inspiration Studios Fund
- Neal's Foundation
- Renneker Family Fund
- Venice Presbyterian Church Legacy Fund
- Venice Presbyterian Fund
- YWCA Hamilton Fund





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Address correction requested

Great way to give: Giving from your IRA

Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are back: Temporarily waived in 2020 under the CARES Act, these mandatory IRA distributions will once again need to be completed by year's end. Retirees who did not take their RMD in 2020 may also find they need to take an even larger distribution this year because their account balance has increased.

One solution to alleviate the potential tax burden of these distributions is to use your RMD to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). These tax-free distributions are a financially advantageous way for people age 70 ½ or older to turn their retirement savings into a meaningful gift to their favorite charities. But rather than making a one-time gift, consider using your QCD to establish a charitable fund that will benefit the causes you love for years to come.

Although QCDs cannot be made to a donor-advised fund, they CAN be used to establish other types of charitable funds at the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Contact your plan administrator or call the Hamilton Community Foundation to learn more.

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."